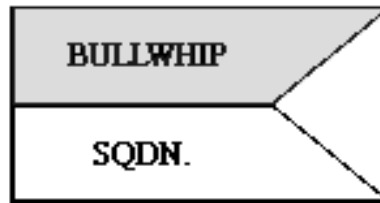


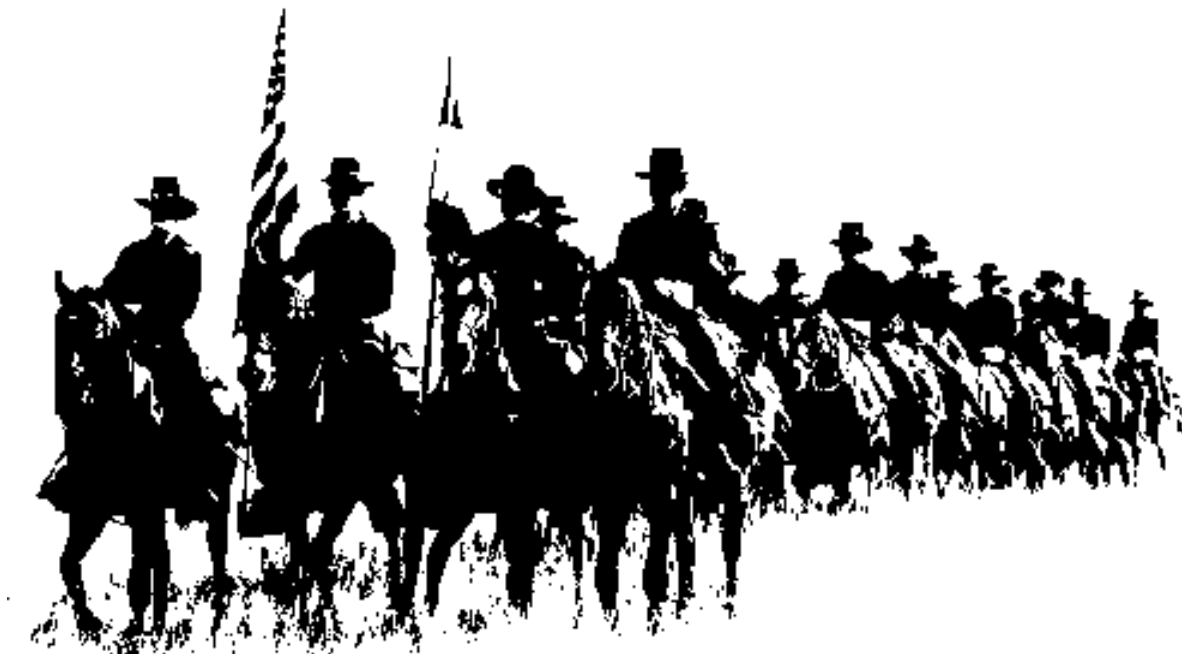
3rd/17th --- 1st/9th
Air Cavalry Squadron



THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

The official News Magazine of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

May 2003



Contribution (again)

**I am a small and precious child,
my dad's been sent to fight...
The only place I'll see his face,
is in my dreams at night.
He will be gone too many days
For my young mind to keep track.
I may be sad, but I am proud.
My daddy's got your back.**

**I am a caring mother.
My son has gone to war...
My mind is filled with worries
that I have never known before
Everyday I try to keep
my thoughts from turning black.
I may be scared, but I am proud.
My son has got your back.**

**I am a strong and loving wife,
with a husband soon to go.
There are times I'm terrified
in a way most never know.
I bite my lip, and force a smile
as I watch my husband pack...
My heart may break, but I am proud.
My husbands got your back...**

**I am a soldier... Serving Proudly, standing tall.
I fight for freedom, yours and mine by answering this call.
I do my job while knowing, the thanks it sometimes lacks.
Say a prayer that I'll come home. It's me who's got your back.**

Author Unknown

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Adjutants Call

In 1991 we had a 100 hour war. Here in 2003 we have had a 4 week war. In 12 years little has changed. The location is the same, the enemy the same, and the Army did a great job as did the Marine Corps. The US Navy and the Air Force and as has been the case in most armed conflicts, the U S Cavalry led the way in being the eyes of the ground forces. One big difference between our war and today's war is the fact that we had no "imbedded" reporters. We had no CNN or Fox or MSNBC to report on our every movement. When I say report, I mean repeat. Repeat over and over and over again.

If Gen Harry W O Kinnard had access to CNN in 1965 he would have known where the Scouts were before the Scouts knew where they were.

Another thing about the 2003 war that was different, was the endless list of retired armchair Generals telling the public what the people on the ground should be doing. I never realized we had so many experts. It is amazing just how wrong these "ex" generals were.

I hope you agree with me that before the next war, Gen Dave Allen, who is better looking than all of the old Generals, and the men who made the 1st/9th great, are asked for their opinion. A lot less helicopters and men would be lost.

We Can, We Will, We Did !!

FOR THE COMMANDER,
DICK D GRUBE
ADJUTANT

"Soldiers Like Him"

Although his hair was graying and his legs weren't strong,
His heart was powerfully full of Patriotic song.
He had pride for his Country, the same one for which he'd fought,
Laying down his life, so Freedom could be sought.
When others began to stare, it changed his mind none,
For he had earned the right; he had carried the soldier's gun.
With his shaky right hand, he applied it to his chest,
Stood as straight as he was able,
His pride for Nation was above the rest.
He had crawled through the mud, on his belly so cold,
To protect Old Glory, while she flew so bold.
Each star and each stripe, waved forever in his mind,
And his wheelchair carried the results of a long ago land mine.
But he mustered the strength, from a place the others would never understand,
For he still traveled with the nightmares, of the Iwo Jima sands.
While the others remained seated, it was he that was in awe,
For he knew if it wasn't for Soldier's like him, this Nation would surely fall.

Author Unknown

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. Being “politically correct” is no longer acceptable to a free society. Remember 9-11.

Here you will find articles that concerns race, religion, or that deals with politics. These areas drive today’s environment and cannot be ignored. These three areas are deciding the life, or death, of our country. You will find several articles on Islam and the threat as seen by historians, to America.

The constitution gives every citizen the right to free speech. It is the citizen’s duty to speak out and fight for their beliefs through congress, the courts or by being in the military.

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 not only your prerogative but your responsibility, to sound off with your opinion in the next issue.

Our lifestyle and freedoms have been drastically changed by the aftermath of 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.

May God Bless America.

BWS

There is only two great adventures in a person’s life. The first is being born. The second is the idea of death. Every moment after each is unknown, but a great adventure.

Death is but the start of the second great adventure. It is a continuing from life.

TAPS

None this period.

On this Memorial Day, God help me, I will remember. From this day forth I will carry the memory and spirit of my brothers with me as a living memorial to their sacrifice and dedication to God, country, duty, and honor. They shall not pass gently into the night as long as I have breath in my body to shout to the world...

REMEMBER, REMEMBER...For God's sake Remember. 1996 By James E. Leiker



FROM THE COMMANDER

I'm sure that all the members of the BWS sat glued to the TV as the Iraqi war unfolded right before our eyes. The quality of the embedded news reporters on the whole were superb—what a difference from the Vietnam War era! We did have several that covered the 1st Air Cav Division that were particular outstanding to include our honorary BWS member Joe Galloway and Charles Black of the Columbus, Ga. Enquirer. However, most of the journalists that I came in contact with, didn't know a bayonet from a P38 can opener.

I recall one particular reporter who wanted to fly a gunship mission with A Troop while the Squadron was laagering in the Tea Plantation vicinity prior to the Ia Drang ambush. The troop commander, Major Guy Beardsley asked me to fly this young reporter and cameraman during a "normal" recon mission. This was before the M23 fixed gun mount for the M60 machinegun was adopted and our door gunners had the bungee cord attached to the M60 and to the cabin roof. With no fixed stops these were occasions that bullets holes were discovered in the blades, skids, and sometimes in the back of the pilots armored back racks from free wheeling guns. Our maintenance CWO-2 Loel Ewart never appreciated our self-inflicted wounds to "his" aircraft fleet (yes the same Loel, our VP, who is now a retired LTC)).

My policy was that if any holes in our 10 gunships could be attributed to the crews firing, then the A/C had to buy the crew a case of beer (where we got the beer is another story).

I flew left seat with a Thompson .45 caliber submachine that I had exchanged something with a SF captain. Anyway back to the story. As luck would have it that particular day with the news crew, our H13 armed Scouts located a group of PAVN black pajama soldiers, reconned by fire, got returned enemy fire and requested Red gunship support. Two UH1B birds were launched, I in the 48 rocket hog and the wingman with the flex M6 machine gun system. The little birds led us to the enemy site with their standard "in the trees" low level approach, dropped a smoke grenade, and slid off to the side to let us roll in hot. Just a typical gun run that we juiced up a bit with Dave Fields as pilot, pickling off the 2.75 FFAR, the door gunners spraying the area with

their M60's, and I with the Thompson shooting out the copilots side window.

The noise was horrendous, with rockets leaving the tubes, shell casings bouncing around, and of course loud radio traffic. We broke hard left to allow the wingman to cover our ass and came back around in the standard daisy chain maneuver.

Dave Fields was really whipping #034 thru some great low level turns which allowed me plenty of firing opportunities out my window.

As we finished up on the last run, SGT Jerry Stewart my door gunner who had been with me during the 11th Air Assault days at Ft. Benning, said "Red, look back here at the news guys." They were huddled together, faces ghost white, and had both thrown up. We returned to the laager site to refuel, rearm, and await the next mission. Jerry inspected the aircraft, approached me and said under his breath "Red, you owe us a case of beer, look at the left skid." Sure enough there were at least 6 holes in the skid. I showed them to the news guys who immediately upchucked again. They didn't even know the difference between entry holes and exit holes-and I didn't tell them the difference. They left the area without even saying thank you for allowing us to fly them on a typical Air Cav day!

JBS was proud of us, but Loel wasn't too happy having to replace another skid WE damaged. Not an untypical encounter with the Saigon news reporters.

Let me close by saying how proud as old warriors we are of how well our troops performed. Technology has changed so much since our days, but the fighting spirit of well-trained troopers led by their leaders will always win.

So until the next news magazine, and looking forward our next reunion in '04.

I remain,

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

From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers,

Our next reunion will be held in October 2004. It is time now to be planning to attend our "next" reunion.

Those of you that missed our 02 reunion missed a great time of old stories and seeing old friends. It was indeed the greatest reunion yet, with many of our troopers attending for the first time. It made my heart sing to see so many brothers in arms at one time and location.

Loel and AL have already started planning for the 04 reunion and are definitely looking for a bigger turnout (and better) than '02.

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 now over the 440 point and still growing.

Troopers, it is very important for us to support our military associations; NCOA, MOAA, American Legion and other retired associations, to make sure that Congress lives up to, and does not change the law and our benefits are not lost! What Congress gives, it can take away, especially in these times of military spending increases caused by the Iraq war and 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

God willing, I am looking forward to again seeing all my old soldiers at the October 2004 reunion.

CSM Kennedy
Bullwhip 7

From the Chaplain:

My Fellow Bullwhippers,

Dear Bullwhip Veterans/Troopers,

Like most of you, I spent much of the first March and April 2003 before the television watching the war in Iraq on television and reading e-mails from many of you about what we were seeing and feeling. I had plenty of time for watching because the doctors at the local VA Hospital wheeled me into surgery right at 1800 Hours, 19 March 2003, which just happened to be the moment the war began in Iraq. Coincidence?

We relived and re-felt the sensations and horrors of combat, and naturally compared what we saw on the screen to what we went through in and over the jungles, paddies and mountain of Vietnam. And just possibly, we envied or resented the advantages of some of what we saw in Iraq. We saw weaponry that could "reached out and touch" way beyond anything we could have imagined in the 1960s and early 1970s. We saw wide-open fields of advance and fire, and precision bombs and rockets in abundance. From our perspective as veterans of Vietnam, it was hard to imagine overwhelming home front support for our troops in Iraq. As casualty rates remained amazingly low throughout the amazingly rapid advance toward and into Baghdad, and points beyond, we Vietnam veterans may have experienced a tinge of resentment, and wondered if perhaps God was more attentive to mothers' prayer that he was when we "were soldiers once, and young." On the other hand, some of us, at least one whom I know intimately, occasionally felt bouts of superiority as we compared what we watched to what we ourselves endured and did.

Then we wonder how home front support would have held up had the war in Iraq dragged on for months and years, with casualty ratios comparable to what we suffered in Vietnam. Would we have

done what the “greatest generation” did to us; bite our tongues amidst wavering convictions while the media and protester maligned our sons and daughter “over there?” All these questions and emotions are giving me a headache, so I’m changing the subject.

Troopers, I’m forced to admit/confess (though I’m not Catholic) that the U. S. Marines do something better than we did. Whether by design of chance, they seem to always capture the durable image. During World War II it was the flag raising on Iwo Jima. In Iraq it was the flag draping over a statue in Baghdad.

I called my wife Helga when live on television I watched Iraqis attempt to pull down a statue Saddam using human power. We cried, me quietly and Helga openly. Much greater was Helga’s identification with what the Iraqi people were feeling, she being a native of Berlin, Germany. Then we cheered inside when the tank retriever arrived, obviously to help the natives.

I was stationed in Berlin before the wall went up. We were in Germany when the wall was breached, and got to the scene as quickly as we could. As a soldier, I was under order to keep my formerly cotton-picking hands off the wall. Helga was free to do as she pleased. With hammer and chisel and overpowering emotions, Helga attacked that hated, infamous monument to evil, and discovered that the communists really knew how to build walls. Standing watch in civilian clothes, I held back as long as I could. Then taking the tools from Helga, I attacked, and to my amazement discovered just how well the German communists built wall of enslavement.

As a Lieutenant Colonel, I knew what I was doing was against orders, but it felt so right. Just so, I suspect that the marine lieutenant knew he was violating orders when he handed the flag to the corporal, who in turn draped it over Saddam’s image for a moment. These marines probably knew they could get them in hot water, but it must have felt so right and worth the risk. When the marines unfurled the American flag “ in Baghdad, I said, “Uh oh,” but it felt so right!

May we remember what we went through in the 20th Century, and thank God for low casualty rate in Iraq, and petition His influence on those who lead our sons and daughters, that He through the leaders may continue to answer prayers the soldiers’ behalf. And may He bless and be with the families of those

still missing and those who came home the hard way that we remember so well.

Until next time.

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

From the Sergeant Major:

I was Stunned and Amazed. This happened to me just prior to the Big Shock and Awe started in Iraq, but in quite a different way.

We received a request from a high school teacher, a Mr. Bob Allan in Bothell, Washington, for a speaker to speak to his senior class on the Vietnam War. This part of the country had a lot of protesters in our era, only now they are called Tree Huggers (to save the trees and owls).

So now, here are their offspring wanting to know about something about what they knew nothing or very little of, and too, if they had any knowledge of the war, it was from an entirely different perspective.

The way it all started was amazing. Bob Allan is the brother of one of our troopers, Richard Denning, who resides in California. Bob called Richard seeking advice on how to go about getting someone to speak. Richard referred him to Loel Ewart, and Loel in turn referred him to me. So, the search begins, and then out comes the roster.

There were three troopers in the area. Trooper number one was Doug Ricks, but being an attorney, with his trial schedule, could not totally commit. Trooper number two was Bruce McKenty, residing about twelve miles away from Bothell, fully retired and plenty of time.

BINGO!!! We had our speaker, the search is over. After talking to Bruce, he was more than happy to speak, so we put them in touch with each other, to work out their own arrangements. We sent Bruce some information that he requested, along with the Col. J. B. Stockton book, and a copy of Col. Bert Chole's 1/9th History In Vietnam, 1965 to 1972.

Results were, as I am sure will make all of you proud, and you can read articles from both Bruce McKenty and Bob Allan in this issue. After reading their after action reports, I was in awe, so to speak.

We "THANK" all three, Col. Mckenty, Mr. Allan and Richard Denning for making this such a successful event. Richard is still scouting, as he led the way.

Now, let me move on to the Big Shock and Awe of which I'm sure, like myself, you found yourself glued to the TV, with the embedded reporting, watching a war come to you in your home, and looking for the Air Cavalry Sqdn., and what role it would play in this war. I quickly learned it wasn't the same as ours was. Then came the downed Apache gunship of the 227th with the crossed sabers and the 1st Cavalry Division Patch. As I looked at the crossed sabers, the thoughts took me back many years to our era, where history began in many ways for the Cavalry units of today. The first unit within the 11th Air Assault Division with any nose art on the unit aircraft was the 3/17th Air Cavalry Sqdn., forerunner of the 1/9th Air Cavalry Sqdn., and the only unit in the division with Crossed Sabers was the Air Cavalry Sqdn. The Real Cav. Further thoughts came to mind about the wearing of the handlebar mustaches, which started with the Sqdn. The wearing of the Stetsons once again, started with the Sqdn. You couldn't even hire anyone from outside the Sqdn. unit to even consider wearing one, because of the flak received from Division Hqs., and to top it off, so to speak, we the Sqdn., took a mascot, Maggie the mule to RVN, only to have her adopted as the Division mascot. All the above were somewhat displeasing to the ADC who later relieved our Sqdn. Commander, Col. J.B. Stockton for something he should have been given a medal for. However, now the Division takes great pride in the accomplishment of Col. J.B. Stockton's Air Cavalry Squadron.

Now comes the Cream of the Crop. There are many crossed sabers on A/C now, the entire 1st Cav. Div. wears Stetsons, along with the Air Cavalry Sqdn. in all other Divisions. This includes past and present. Speaking of the past, I have noticed at the Ft. Hood, TX. Reunion's, the same ADC I spoke of earlier, appears to wear his proudly also. This has often made me wonder just how he must feel attending these events, and seeing all the crossed sabers and Stetsons everywhere. There is no Maggie the mule, but in her place is a very beautiful horse, named Bullwhip (donated to the 1st Cav. Div. Horse detachment by the BWS (in honor of Col. John B. Stockton (Bullwhip 6). He is proudly ridden in all ceremonies, and often times by the Commanding General.

Can't seem to get away from J.B. Stockton after 35 + years. Yes, the 1/9th Air Cavalry Sqdn. has done it's own share of Shocking and Awing.

On a further note, read the article by Col. Bill Gillette in this issue for more information on the birth of the Stetsons, started by a young Capt. and a Sqdn. Co.

See photo on back cover of Col. Gillette seated in middle with one of the first Stetsons.

Until Next Time

As Ever,

Al DeFleron
SGM BWS ASSOC.

We can - We Will !- We Did!!!

"..It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."

Samuel Adams

From the Vice President:

The Association continues to find those troopers who do not know of us. We are presently seeing new members weekly. All our troopers are dedicated to carrying on and sustaining the CAV tradition.

Year 2003 has started out as another banner year for new members.

Members are what make the Association. As of May 2003, our active membership is over 442 with 312 of these being lifetime. We have increased by 7 new members since January 1, 2003, with 4 of these joining for lifetime . Well done! We could not do 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 * (312) by troopers names. Think about becoming a lifetime member.

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 far 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 losing some of the best due to ravages of time. May they stand tall as Cav troopers and at our time, 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 correct spelling. And yes, when you join for lifetime, you receive a new certificate that says "lifetime".

All work performed in the Squadron is strictly voluntary and the money taken into the Squadron through dues and merchandise 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 year's dues

Many of our troopers either move or change their e-mail addresses. As all our mail is sent by bulk mail, it will not be forwarded by the post office if you have changed your address (and not notified the Association). This means that someone in the postal service gets to read your newsletter, and not you.

Please let the Squadron Association know of any changes in address. This will keep your newsletter coming.

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 member's addresses or phone numbers, except to other BWS Association members when they call in for a member's individual number.

Until the next news mag.

Loel Ewart
LTC (Ret)
V.P.

From The Public Affairs Officer

In the previous PAO article, there was a request for the help and support of our troopers to get the word out about our squadron organization. So far, no one has responded, so here goes again.

As I mentioned, we are pursuing two PAO efforts: one is to find troopers who should become members of the Bullwhip Squadron and the other is to publicize the squadron's accomplishments especially during the Vietnam era. To accomplish both of these objectives, some of you in selected areas will be contacted to assist in getting notices and full articles in your local outlets. However, the effort can be greatly expanded if you will volunteer to assist from where you are in your local area. Your ideas and comments are solicited and are welcome.

On a new point, some of our members have written articles about the Bullwhip Squadron that has been published in newspapers and magazines. It would be greatly appreciated if you would share the articles or information about them, when and where published, etc., with the undersigned. That way we can let our members know what you have done and perhaps inspire others to publish their remembrances.

You may contact any time via mail, e-mail, or by phone.

Ken Bedsole
305 Oakwood Drive,
Enterprise, AL 36330
dotken@juno.com
334-347-7949

Keeper Of The Rock

I know the reconnaissance squadron of the 1st Cavalry Division has not been the 1/9 for many years; however, I have a feeling when Col. Stockton looked down from above a few weeks ago at the Apache helicopter which had gone down in Iraq and saw that 1st Cavalry Division patch with the yellow crossed sabers, there must have been a certain feeling of pride. It certainly was a feeling of pride for me. I only regret that the 1st Squadron, 9th United States Cavalry does not continue to occupy the position that it earned in battle many years ago.

Keeper of the Rock,
Gene Smith

The 9TH CAV'S "SABER" Column

The SABER will return next newsletter. The following article is for your enlightenment.

About the author: In 1936, the NBC network invited Alistair Cooke to do a weekly broadcast of reflections on British life called London Letter. Cooke then emigrated to the United States in 1937, and asked the BBC to let him do the same thing in reverse. Eventually he succeeded, and 'Letter from America' is now the longest running radio broadcast in human history. In the process it has won a faithful worldwide audience of several million and many friends in high places. When Cooke was awarded an honorary knighthood in 1973, the Queen is reputed to have expressed bewildered admiration at his ability to sit down, week after week, and communicate so directly with his audience.

PEACE FOR OUR TIME

By Alistair Cooke
BBC Broadcaster
(he is ~95 years old)

I promised to lay off topic A - Iraq - until the Security Council makes a judgment on the inspectors' report and I shall keep that promise.

But I must tell you that throughout the past fortnight I've listened to everybody involved in or looking on to a monotonous din of words, like a tide crashing and receding on a beach - making a great noise and saying the same thing over and over. And this ordeal triggered a nightmare - a day-mare, if you like.

Through the ceaseless tide I heard a voice, a very English voice of an old man - Prime Minister Chamberlain saying: "I believe it is peace for our time" - a sentence that prompted a huge cheer, first from a listening street crowd and then from the House of Commons and next day from every newspaper in the land.

There was a move to urge that Mr. Chamberlain should receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

In Parliament there was one unfamiliar old grumbler to growl out: "I believe we have suffered a total and unmitigated defeat." He was, in view of the general sentiment, very properly booed down.

This scene concluded in the autumn of 1938 the British prime minister's effectual signing away of most of Czechoslovakia to Hitler. The rest of it, within months, Hitler walked in and conquered. "Oh dear," said Mr. Chamberlain, thunderstruck. "He has betrayed my trust."

During the last fortnight a simple but startling thought occurred to me --every single official, diplomat, president, prime minister involved in the Iraq debate was in 1938 a toddler, most of them unborn. So the dreadful scene I've just drawn will not have been remembered by most listeners.

Hitler had started betraying our trust not 12 years but only two years before, when he broke the First World War peace treaty by occupying the demilitarized zone of the Rhineland. Only half his troops carried one reload of ammunition because Hitler knew that French morale was too low to confront any war just then and 10 million of 11 million British voters had signed a so-called peace ballot. It stated no conditions, elaborated no terms, it simply counted the numbers of Britons who were "for peace".

The slogan of this movement was "Against war and fascism" - chanted at the time by every Labour man and Liberal and many moderate Conservatives - a slogan that now sounds as imbecilic as "against hospitals and disease". In blunter words a majority of Britons would do anything, absolutely anything, to get rid of Hitler except fight him.

At that time the word pre-emptive had not been invented, though today it's a catchword. After all the Rhineland was what it said it was - part of Germany. So to march in and throw Hitler out would have been pre-emptive - wouldn't it?

Nobody did anything and Hitler looked forward with confidence to gobbling up the rest of Western Europe country by country - "course by course", as growler Churchill put it.

I bring up Munich and the mid-30s because I was fully grown, on the verge of 30, and knew we were indeed living in the age of anxiety. And so many of the arguments mounted against each other today, in the last fortnight, are exactly what we heard in the House of Commons debates and read in the French press.

The French especially urged, after every Hitler invasion, "negotiation, negotiation". They negotiated so successfully as to have their whole country defeated and occupied. But as one famous French leftist said: "We did anyway manage to make them declare Paris an open city - no bombs on us!"

In Britain the general response to every Hitler advance was disarmament and collective security. Collective security meant to leave every crisis to the League of Nations. It would put down aggressors, even though, like the United Nations, it had no army, navy or air force.

The League of Nations had its chance to prove itself when Mussolini invaded and conquered Ethiopia (Abyssinia). The League didn't have any shot to fire. But still the cry was chanted in the House of Commons - the League and collective security is the only true guarantee of peace.

But after the Rhineland the maverick Churchill decided there was no collectivity in collective security and started a highly unpopular campaign for rearmament by Britain, warning against the general belief that Hitler had already built an enormous mechanized army and superior air force.

But he's not used them, he's not used them - people protested.

Still for two years before the outbreak of the Second War you could read the debates in the House of Commons and now shiver at the famous Labour men - Major Attlee was one of them - who voted against rearmament and still went on pointing to the League of Nations as the saviour.

Now, this memory of mine may be totally irrelevant to the present crisis. It haunts me.

I have to say I have written elsewhere with much conviction that most historical analogies are false because, however strikingly similar a new situation may be to an old one, there's usually one element that is different and it turns out to be the crucial one. It may well be so here.

All I know is that all the voices of the 30s are echoing through 2003...

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Julie

Family Contacts Committee Helps People Share Memories

"I never forgot him." To a sister, brother, parent, wife or child of a Vietnam War casualty, those words mean a lot. The Family Contacts Committee of the Vietnam Helicopter Flight Crew Network (VHFCN) helps connect family members and buddies of helicopter personnel who never came back. I am proud to have been a member of this committee since it was formed in 1997.

Our 12-member committee has worked with more than 375 families and friends of helicopter-related KIAs/MIAs, helping them find answers to 30-year-old questions, to reach peace with the past and with their loss. Often, it's the small things that do it. They come to us to learn how someone died, and take away the treasure of knowing how they lived.

For detailed information about the casualty incident we use the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association database, government casualty records, and eyewitness reports from members of VHPA or VHCMA (Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association). We try to find men who served in the same unit in Vietnam, or who were in the same flight school class or attended the same technical school. We cannot release the names of VHPA or VHCMA members, so we mail out the letters or make the first phone calls ourselves.

Some family members have been searching for years; others just started. Some are looking for details about the casualty incident while others are trying to find out, "What kind of a person was he? What did he like? Or dislike? What made him laugh? Or cry?" Parents who lost a son, brothers and sisters who lost a sibling, sons and daughters without a father, they are all seeking information, knowledge, and healing.

More and more, our work is proceeding in the opposite direction: we are fielding requests from helicopter veterans seeking to find families members of the buddies who didn't survive their tour. Perhaps it's only to pass along a special memory or a photo. For others, it sparks a long-term connection. While we are sometimes - miraculously - able to provide an immediate connection between a veteran and a buddy's brother, sister, son or daughter . . . at other times, we are only able to take the point-of-contact info for safekeeping, until a family member should come forward and start asking the questions. We are more than happy to do this.

We will keep whatever information you wish to provide and, if his family or friends should inquire of our Family Contacts Committee, we would have a great head start in helping them to learn about his life in Vietnam or flight school: You. We will record the link and will know to get in touch with you if we are contacted about the KIA/MIA. And we will contact you first and let you decide what is appropriate at that time.

If you can provide information or share memories on any of the following persons, please contact me, Julie Kink, email Kink100@aol.com, 224 N. Harriet St., Stillwater, MN 55082, 651-439-2268. Or, visit the committee's web site at <http://www.VirtualWall.org/contacts>. There is an email link on the web site for our Committee Chairman, Gary Thewlis, which also may be used to make an inquiry or offer information.

Please note that some of the names on the list below are there because a fellow veteran has already made himself available should the family come forward seeking information. **(If you have contacted us in the past about one of our cases, there is no need to do so again.)**

For some, the date under "KIA date" is the date they died after tour.

Unit	Name	KIA date
1/9 CAV	Lewis Beasley	1/ 1/70
1/9 CAV	Norman R. Coons	1/ 1/80

1/9 CAV	William E Jr Hingston	1/24/67
1/9 CAV	Michael Finlay Field	10/16/67
A/1/9	Ronald Dwight Bruce	4/18/67
A/1/9	Bobby Lyn Mc Kain	5/ 3/68
A/1/9	Harrell Samuel Mefford	6/29/69
A/1/9	James Russell Mcquade	6/11/72
A/1/9	Leonard Allen Monnett	2/19/71
A/1/9	Otto William See	4/ 7/68
A/1/9	Jeffrey Allen Hawk	11/19/67
B/1/9	Darwin Harold Engman	5/ 6/66
B/1/9	Lawrence Babyak	11/29/69
B/1/9	Frank Lee Blevins	8/ 8/66
B/1/9	Joseph Breski Jr.	6/ 6/69
B/1/9	Donald Dawson Burnham	10/ 4/78
B/1/9	James Perry Cryster III	11/14/67
B/1/9	Philip Anthony Harris	4/ 9/70
B/1/9	Larry Gene Harrison	2/26/71
B/1/9	Eric Reinhard Nordman	8/ 8/66
B/1/9	Kenneth James Patton	1/16/74
B/1/9	Robert Leslie Poxon	6/ 2/69
B/1/9	Joe Harold Pringle	10/26/78
B/1/9	Joseph David Puggi	6/12/78
B/1/9	David James Pugh	3/15/69
B/1/9	Jon Edward Swanson	2/26/71
B/1/9	James Walter Godfrey	4/16/67
B/1/9	Danny Raymond King	6/ 2/71
B/1/9	David Fred Popp	3/14/69
C/1/9	James Robert Jr Dean	12/30/69
C/1/9	David Robert Kink	8/ 3/69
C/1/9	John Ernest Anderson	7/21/69
C/1/9	John Gary Buchanan	12/24/70
C/1/9	Ernest Doom Burns	7/14/69
C/1/9	William Joseph Cahill	10/18/70
C/1/9	Ray Gene Davis	7/14/69
C/1/9	Charles F De Amaral Jr.	10/ 4/65
C/1/9	Thomas Moody Felton	7/14/69
C/1/9	John Currie Hansen	7/15/69
C/1/9	Gary Mathis	1/ 1/74
C/1/9	Edmond J Mc Derby	5/23/71
C/1/9	Gary Lee Mc Kiddy	5/ 6/70
C/1/9	Stephen True Moody	7/ 2/69
C/1/9	Thomas Edward Soma	12/30/69
C/1/9	Jon Stewart	1/ 1/85
C/1/9	Robert Acquinn Thompson	8/ 9/67
C/1/9	James Robert Whitmore	1/ 4/70
C/1/9	Jeffrey M Young	1/ 1/73
C/1/9	John Anthony Jelich	4/ 1/72
C/1/9	Charles Perry Hood Jr.	12/12/69
C/1/9	Michael Hunter	1/28/70
C/1/9	Billy Joe Nave	6/27/66
C/1/9	William Don Potter	3/27/69
D/1/9	Vincent Hauser	12/ 6/67
D/1/9	Clyde Harold O Brien	1/20/67
F/1/9	Steven Michael Larrabee	3/24/71
F/1/9	William David Smith	3/24/71

Thank you for helping us remember these fallen Cav troopers. Your willingness to share memories is appreciated more than you know. As one daughter put it, "Please tell the vets they have the power to pass on our fathers' hugs."

Little Sister,
Julie Kink
e-mail; KINK100@aol.com
Sister of WO1 David R. Kink, C Troop 1st Squadron 9th Cavalry, 1st Cav. June to July 1969. Killed in Action 8-3-69
Honorary Life Member Bullwhip Squadron
Honorary Life Member of VHPA
Honorary Member 9th Cavalry Regiment
Member of Family Contacts Committee of the Vietnam Helicopter Flight Crew Network
website: <http://www.VirtualWall.org/contacts>

Just wanted to inform you that, "Lil Sister" Julie Kink has been honored by our Minnesota chapter of the 1st Cav.

March 15, 2003 we held our chapter meeting at Camp Ripley, it was a beautiful day and had a great lunch and a good turn out of troopers along with their wives. During the meeting I made a motion that we make Julie an Honorary Life Member of our chapter and I gave a brief outline as to why, motion was seconded by Bob Hathaway-(228) and a vote was called and passed!

During my brief I mentioned, we have a Cav chapter here and we need to take care of our own!!

It was also brought up that we need a "Advisory Coordinator", which would inform those that live out of state of chapter meetings, events, outings and parades. I was named to do the Southern part of the state.

Belle Plain which is south of me about 18 miles on 169, some Vietnam Vets have erected a memorial park right off the highway with all the flags. There is kind of a low spot and they mounted a restored Huey lift repainted and with markings 11th ACR-BlackHorse also has 7 tube rocket pods also has figures made up like pilot and co-pilot in the cockpit!

God Bless America and our troops and their families. "Lest we forget"!!
We can We will We did

Ken Olson

"We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother".

[William Shakespeare](#)
(1564-1616),

From The Swamp

The Swamp will return next newsletter. An article from Iraq is provided. Our new attack helicopter is supporting the troops.

BWS

Apache's

The soldier's weather-beaten face was streaked with tears of gratitude. Just days earlier, separated from his buddies and pinned down by intense fire from al-Qaida soldiers in the ridgelines around the Shah-e-Kot valley, he thought he was going to die.

Then, like fire-spitting avenging angels, Apache attack helicopters sliced through the thin mountain air pouring rocket and chain-gun fire on his would-be killers.

"We came in and took the fire away from him," said Capt. Bill Ryan, the commander of those Apaches. He said it matter-of-factly, as if there were nothing remarkable about piloting a helicopter through hails of bullets and rocket-propelled grenades to save a man's life. Now safely back at Bagram Air Base, that soldier had come to thank his deliverers.

As Operation Anaconda wound down, a string of well-wishers stopped by to pay homage to the dozen or so Apache pilots who had kept the al-Qaida troops at bay.

Not every visitor broke into tears. But all echoed the sentiments of Lt. Col. "Chip" Preysler, commander of 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment. Preysler's battalion was one of two that flew into the teeth of entrenched al-Qaida positions March 2, the first day of the operation. Their very lives depended on Ryan's seven Apaches for close air support. When he came out of the battle nine days later, Preysler immediately sought out Ryan. With a

smile on his face and his hands spread wide, he said, "You guys have huge balls."

The Apache exploits on the first day of the battle of Shah-e-Kot have done much to bolster the reputation of an aircraft that saw its battlefield role called into question after its role in Albania in 1999. In that bleak period in the helicopter's history, 24 Apaches were sent to Task Force Hawk for use in the war against Yugoslavia. But the choppers were held back from combat after two crashed and two pilots died during mission rehearsals.

The Apache community complained that ignorant journalists and casualty-averse Pentagon officials had unfairly turned their beloved killing machine into a scapegoat.

Now, three years later, the contrast could not be starker. The Apache drivers are being lauded as heroes, and their helicopter is receiving what to many pilots is praise long overdue.

With al-Qaida fighters so close to U.S. troops that close air support from "fast mover" jets was often out of the question, the Apaches became the only fire support available to ground commanders.

In the crucial hours of that first day, when the carefully scripted battle plans had been rendered irrelevant and the outcome hung in the balance, Apaches saved the day.

"The weapon that changed the face of the battle for us was the Apache," said Col. Frank Wiercinski, commander of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)'s 3rd Brigade and in charge of all conventional U.S. troops in the battle.

"I was just so impressed by its capability," he said. "I had never seen the Apache in combat before, though I've always trained with it. I am a firm believer right now that a brigade combat team commander needs his Apache battalion in an air assault division - its ability to protect us en route, its ability to set the conditions on the landing zones and then its close combat attack capability to take out fires.

"Artillery is a wonderful asset, but you need an observer, you need a sensor, and then you've got the artillery [tube] as the shooter. An Apache can do all of that, and it's always moving."

On station in the valley from dawn on the battle's first day, the Apaches flew again and again through withering small arms, heavy machine-gun and rocket-propelled grenade fire to provide fire support to the beleaguered infantry troops.

Five Apaches were present at the start of the battle, a sixth arrived later that morning and a seventh flew up from Kandahar to join the fight that afternoon. None of the helicopters was shot down, but four were so badly damaged they were knocked out of the fight.

The fire the Apaches braved was so intense that when the day was over, 27 of the 28 rotor blades among the seven helicopters sported bullet holes, said Lt. Col. James M. Marye, the commander of the 7th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment. Marye's aviation task force included the Apaches of Ryan's A Company, 3rd Battalion, 101st Aviation.

Beneath the cold numbers are tales of heroism and extraordinary achievement. None are more dramatic than the story of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jim Hardy. At about 6:45 a.m., an RPG exploded under the nose of Hardy's Apache, sending shrapnel slicing through the helicopter's innards.

"I looked up and there was a black puff of smoke, like World War II flak," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Hamilton, who was flying nearby. "There was major damage to that aircraft," Ryan said. "They had lost the weapons systems and the target-acquisition systems."

Despite the fact that Hardy's Apache was now essentially unarmed, he stayed on station. He later told Hamilton that his plan was to fly up the valley and draw fire, allowing the other Apaches to engage enemy gunners once they had revealed themselves.

About 10 minutes after an RPG struck Hardy's aircraft, another hit the Apache piloted by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keith Hurley, smashing into the left Hellfire missile launcher. "The RPG struck me on the left, rocked the aircraft, and a microsecond after that, a bullet came through the cockpit," Hurley said. By the end of the day there were 13 bullet holes in Hurley's aircraft. Lights immediately started flashing on Hurley's control panel, warning him that he was hemorrhaging oil. Hardy, one of the company's most experienced pilots, realized Hurley was in trouble, and got on the radio. As Hurley recalls it, Hardy told him, "I've got to go back to the [Forward Arming and Refueling Point], fall in trail and follow me, and we've got to go quick."

The two wounded Apaches headed for the FARP, a way station for the helicopters roughly halfway between the valley and their temporary base in Bagram, north of Kabul. They didn't make it very far. About a mile west of "the Whale," the humpbacked ridgeline that marked the western edge of the valley,

more lights came on in Hurley's cockpit, including one that told him he had no fluid left in his transmission. "I called off the lights to Mr. Hardy and he said, 'You've got to land, you've got to land now,' " Hurley said. The two landed in a dried-up riverbed, within range of the al-Qaida positions. With bullets flying around him, Hardy, who Hurley described as "the unit maintenance god," shut the helicopters down and went to work on Hurley's aircraft.

"He did sort of a triage of the aircraft, examining it like a doctor," Hurley said. Hardy took the three one-quart oil cans that each helicopter carried as spares and poured all six quarts into Hurley's engine. Then he told Hurley they were going to swap helicopters and fly back to the FARP. "He told me, 'Don't dick around, when I get it started, I'm going,' " Hurley said. Hardy was drawing on his deep knowledge of the Apache to take a calculated risk. With Hurley's chopper leaking fluid like a sieve, he knew the six quarts of oil he had just poured in would not last long. But he also knew that the Apache's engine was supposed to last 30 minutes without oil before seizing up.

Hardy was gambling that he could nurse Hurley's Apache 50 miles to the FARP in less than half an hour. The alternative was to strap two of the four pilots onto the side of Hardy's helicopter, leaving Hurley's Apache behind as a dead loss. Hardy's gamble paid off. Twenty-six minutes after taking off under fire from the riverbed, the two damaged Apaches landed safely at the FARP. Hardy's colleagues were in awe. "There are not a lot of folks out there who would have taken that aircraft off the ground," Ryan said. "It was an incredible action by Mr. Hardy." Hamilton said: "He's a hero, no doubt about it." Marye recommended Hardy for a Distinguished Flying Cross. He also recommended Ryan, who continued flying despite being nicked on the chin by a bullet, for a Silver Star and several other pilots for the Air Medal with "V" device.

Sean D. Naylor
Times staff writer

We Can, We Will! We Did!!

A.J. Welch
SwampFox

SMOKY

Smokey has 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

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

"War is nothing but a continuation of politics with the admixture of other means".

Karl Marie von Clausewitz
Prussian general (1780-1831)

Legally Speaking

1. Good Advice

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company:

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last

four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box use your work address.

Never have your SS# printed on your checks (DUH!) -- you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month.

Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this).

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was

stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; Experian (formerly

TRW): 1-888-397-3742;

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289; Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

2. **Your Credit:** Personal Information goes public starting July 1st, 2003, the four major credit bureaus in the US (Equifax, etc.) will be allowed to release credit info, mailing addresses, phone numbers, etc., to ANYONE who requests it. If you do not want to be included in this release of your personal information, you can call 1-888-567-8688. Once the message starts you will want option #2 (even though option #1 refers to this email, push #2) and then option #3. Protect yourself.

3. Please read the article below. Hope I'm not crying wolf here, but.. better safe than sorry, when it comes to our troops.. NEVER, NEVER give out SSNs to anyone over the net, especially to a web site such as this. Times like this, seems like the scam artists come out of the woodwork..

3. **Avoid This Web Site**

THREAT: This website may be used for information gathering on US soldiers and family members for nefarious purposes.

BACKGROUND: The NACEC.org website is claiming to provide emergency notifications in order to support military families. This site requests; service members names, addresses, Social Security Numbers (SSN) as well as the names and addresses of family members, and other privacy act information. The site also request the service member provide the content of a message which is to be sent to family members.

Website Quote: "With the drastically increasing numbers of U.S. Armed Forces overseas, the North American Center for Emergency Communications (NACEC) has put their military family support 'Flash Mail Service' back on line, as of this week. This will help those members of the military stationed overseas

and the military families that have members serving overseas."

This site is **NOT** associated with the federal government and should **NOT** be trusted. The site represents itself as being owned by a not-for-profit corporation (which means they haven't filed for non-profit status and made the necessary disclosures). The registrant for the website is an individual in Minnesota who may or not be an American national. DoD personnel should not enter any personal information on a non-federal website for emergency notification of families or any other reason.

Any information provided to this site could be used for identity theft, intelligence gathering by a foreign nations or terrorists and could pose a threat to service members, their families and their privacy.

4. **Phone Privacy**

If you go to www.google.com and type in your telephone number it will actually pull up directions to your house - there is a way to have your number removed. Many people are unaware of this danger. I was, in fact!

Go to www.google.com then type in your phone number (separated by hyphens, including area code) and click on Google Search. If your phone number is listed it will show your name and address and give you two map options. Yahoo and MapQuest. See how accurate the map is to your home. VERY SCARY!!!

Any person wishing to discover the physical location of a phone number, be it a home or business address, could use this feature to locate a physical street address, and receive directions on how to get there from anywhere in the country. In the age of the Internet communication we all know the dangers of this - for adults and CHILDREN!

Google has made available an option that will allow anyone to REMOVE their telephone number from the database that is linked to the mapping feature.

You will first need to check if your number is listed in this manner by attempting a search-entering your full telephone number separated by dashes (e.g., 555-555-5555). If the number appears in the mapping database, an icon resembling a telephone will appear next to the first or second entry on the results page.

Clicking on this icon will take you to a page containing a description of the service, and a link to request your number be removed from the database.

So far unlisted numbers and cell phone numbers, do not show up. Happy searching! Be safe!

5. MOAA Files Brief for Class Act Group

The Military Officers Association of America, formerly TROA, has filed an amicus (friend of the court) brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a lawsuit by a group of veterans who have sued the U.S. Government over promised health care. The suit, filed by retired Air Force Col. Bud Day, a Medal of Honor recipient and former prisoner of war, hopes to force the government to provide free lifetime medical care to retirees who entered service before mid-1956 and served at least 20 years, and their spouses. He is appealing a federal appeals court ruling that recruiters' promises of lifetime medical care made to that group were not legally binding on the government. MOAA is deeply disappointed with the federal court's decision, and filed the amicus brief in support of the Class Act Group's appeal to the Supreme Court, according to a spokesperson.

Military News Report

1. Legislation of interest to military retirees: Release No. 4-13-03

Both houses were scheduled to reconvene to consider legislation including the following issues compiled by The Retired Enlisted Association as being of possible interest to members of the military community. More information on these bills are available at www.trea.org and www.moaa.org.

S 56, Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services. Introduced by Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD) on 1/7/03. At this writing, there are 6 co-sponsors. Also on that date, HR 58, a companion bill, was introduced in the House by Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX). This bill currently has 152 co-sponsors.

S 392, Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2003, to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability. Introduced by Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) on 2/13/03. There are 53 co-sponsors. The House companion bill is HR 303, introduced by Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL) on 1/8/03. At this time there are 258 co-sponsors.

S 445, Reservists Retirement and Retention Act of 2003, to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service. (Reserve Components) This bill would set requirements for a combination of minimum age and years of service, to allow eligible retired members of the Reserve components to receive retired pay prior to age 60. This bill was introduced by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA) on 2/25/03.

S. 451 (Olympia Snowe (R-ME) Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2003: to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan. A companion bill, HR 548, was introduced by Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL).

S. 585 (Bill Nelson, D-FL) Military Retiree Survivors Relief Act of 2003: to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of SBP survivor annuities by Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

S. 647 (Edward Kennedy, D-MA) To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for Department of Defense funding of continuation of health benefits plan coverage for certain Reserves called or ordered to active duty and their dependents.

S. 715 (Lindsey Graham, R-SC) To amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the calendar year limitations on the use of commissary stores by certain reserves and others.

HR 331 (Joe Wilson, R-SC) Armed Forces Retirement Equity Act: to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide that military retired pay for nonregular service (Reserve Components) shall be paid without regard to the age of a person otherwise eligible for such retired pay, rather than commencing when an otherwise eligible person attains age 60.

HR 742, to amend title 10, United States Code, to reduce the age for receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service (Reserve Components) from 60 to 55. Introduced by Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) on 2/12/03.

HR 1059, to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide increased access to military commissary stores for members of the Ready Reserve, persons who would be eligible for military retired pay (but for the fact that they are under 60 years of age), and their dependents. Introduced by Rep. Martin Frost (D-TX) on 3/4/03.

H.R. 1111 (Cass Ballenger, R-NC) Uniformed Services Divorce Equity Act of 2003: To amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the rules relating to the court-ordered apportionment of the retired pay of members of the uniformed services to former spouses.

H.R. 1653 (Jim Saxton, R-NJ) to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan from October 1, 2008, to October 1, 2003.

H.R. 1726 (Henry Brown, R-SC) Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act ,to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation.

2. MOAA's Legislative Update

Budget Committee Drops Spending Cut Bomb. The House Budget Committee approved a plan envisioning cutting nearly \$470 billion over 10 years from the President's proposed budget, with implications for veterans' health and disability programs, federal civilian workers' and retirees' health and retirement programs, and especially for Medicare and Medicaid.

SBP Amendment Doesn't Survive. A proposed House Budget Resolution amendment to increase military survivor annuities didn't survive in the face of the proposals for massive cuts in other mandatory spending programs.

MOAA, Coalition Testify Before Senate. Top priorities include BP fix, health care improvements, military pay and end strength upgrades, Guard/Reserve initiatives, and concurrent receipt. Meanwhile, the entire veterans community, federal civilian associations and unions, seniors groups, and the whole health care industry will be mobilized against the House Budget Committee proposals. That's a lot of water still to flow under the budget bridge in the next month or so before the Budget Resolution is finalized. You can support this effort by contacting your legislators through MOAA's Web site at:

<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/> . Scroll down to the Health Care section, click on S. 623 and/or H.R.1231, enter your ZIP code and click "Go."

3. Red Cross Statement On Military Families

Hoax Washington, D.C., Thursday, April 3, 2003-

The American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services has received word from the

National Guard Bureau about a disturbing hoax. There have been several recent incidents where family members of deployed service members received a phone call from individuals claiming to be "a representative from the Red Cross." Callers informed these families that their deployed service member was MIA (Missing in Action). In one case, a son's mother was told her son had been killed in action and in other cases families have also been alerted that their service member was either missing in action or a prisoner of war.

When such events actually occur, the U.S. military - not the American Red Cross - is the organization that notifies families regarding the status of their military loved ones; this notification is almost always accomplished in person by military casualty officials.

The American Red Cross is requesting that families or individuals who receive these hoax calls to immediately contact their local military liaison. In addition, individuals should call a special Red Cross toll free number to report the incident - that number is 888-309-9679. The Red Cross will relay this information to appropriate authorities.

4. Commissary Elimination Proposed

The Congressional Budget Office released a list of options for cutting federal spending that last week includes a cap on military pay raises at 2 percent for several years.

Another option was to close down military commissaries. This would lead military exchanges to increase on-base grocery sales. Since exchange foodstuffs are generally 10 percent higher than similar commissary sales, about half of the \$1.1 billion saved through commissary closings would be funneled back to service members through a grocery allowance of \$500 a year.

The CBO's reports generally get mixed responses from Congress.(Armed Forces News March 14, 2003)

5. Pentagon weighs increased presence in Africa

By David Morris, Congress Daily

As Congress and the Pentagon consider closing or downsizing some bases in western Europe, officials are looking at stepping up the U.S. military's presence in Africa.

"I think Africa is a continent that is going to be of very, very significant interest in the 21st century," Gen. James Jones Jr., head of the United States European Command, told the Senate Military

Construction Appropriations Subcommittee last week.

While he stopped short of saying the United States would open its first base on the continent, Jones said he believes "that we're going to have to engage more in that theater," in part because large ungoverned sections of Africa "could become terrorist breeding grounds."

6. **1099R/1042S/W2 Update:** Service members, military retirees and annuitants can find their account statements and tax information online via the Defense Finance and Accounting Service's myPay, a secure online system. Active-duty and reserve members can view and print current-year W-2s, while retirees can view and print their account statements. Annuitants can view and print their account statements, their 1099R tax statements, and their 1042S tax statements. They also can print copies of their reports of existence and submit them. Service members, DoD civilian employees, military retirees and annuitants can use their Social Security numbers and personal identification numbers to log onto myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. For questions about myPay, call customer support at (800) 390-2348 Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. EST [Source: Armed Forces News 2 JAN 03]

7. **VA Means Test Thresholds 2003**

Current law requires VA to increase the Means Test Threshold amounts by the same COLA percentage made to other VA compensation and pension payments. The new rates were announced in VHA Directive 2002-081, with an effective date of 1 January 2003. The Means Test Thresholds are used to determine a veteran's eligibility for free VA health care for nonservice connected medical conditions and have two definitions:

Below the Means Test Threshold is defined as those veterans whose attributable income and net worth are such that they are unable to defray the expenses of care and therefore are not subject to co-payment charges for hospital and outpatient medical services.

Above the Means Test Threshold is defined as those veterans whose attributable income and net worth are such that they are able to defray the expenses of care and must agree to pay a co-payment for hospital care and outpatient medical services.

The following are the 2002 Means Test Threshold. The amount of the threshold is increased beginning with the second dependent is \$1,653. Veterans with no dependents:

Below Means Test Threshold: \$24,644 - Above Means Test Threshold: \$24,645.

Veterans with one dependent:

Below Means Test Threshold: \$29,576 - Above Means Test Threshold: \$29,577.

Contact a VA representative at the toll free number 1-800-872-1000 for more information about the VA Means Test and how it may apply to you. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 20 DEC 02]

8. **Vietnam Cross of Gallantry**

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1 MAR 61 and 29 MAR 73 are eligible to receive the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm Award. Vietnam veterans whose DD-214's do not reflect the award may receive government acknowledgement of this medal by requesting a DD-215 from the National Records and Personnel Center using a standard SF-180 form. The SF-180 form is available at <http://members.aol.com/forvetrs/htomr.htm> or www.nara.gov/regional/mprsf180.html [Source: The Old Breed News OCT 02]

9. **Enlistment Short Term**

A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country. Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act. The program would allow the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not serve due to the length of traditional enlistment options. The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active duty commitment of about 19 months. Following successful completion of active duty, service members may reenlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected Reserve for a 24-month obligation. Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the selected Reserve or transfer to individual ready Reserve for the remainder of their eight-year commitments. For more information, see http://www.news.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=5496. [Source: NAUS Update 31 JAN 2003]

10. **Military Records/DD-214**

All retirees and veterans need copies of their Report of Separation (DD Form 214 or equivalent) available and stored in a secure place known by their next of kin. The retained documents should be either the original or government certified true copies. If

you do not have them on hand you can obtain them by using a "Request Pertaining to Military Records Standard Form 180 (Rev-2/02)" which can be downloaded at;

http://www.archives.gov/facilities/mo/st_louis/military_personnel_records/standard_form_180.html

The mailing address is listed on the form. You can also obtain this form from your RAO/RSO. The multipurpose three-page form is applicable to all Active service, Reserve service, and National Guard personnel for submission by the individual concerned, next of kin, or legal guardian. Ensure you request three (3) Undeleted Copies under Section II. All copies provided by NPRC have a raised seal imprint signifying that they are certified true copies. If you are certain that your records are at NPRC, you can fill out a request using the web and then mail/fax in a signature page. This will speed up the processing time. To use this option, go to:

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/vetrecs/ (note there are underscores in both of these web site addresses.) At the bottom of the page, click on the red oval labeled, "Request Military Records". Figure on at least two to six months to obtain copies of your records dependent on what

you are requesting. A DD-214 takes about two months. This document or its equivalent will be required for you or your dependents/next of kin to obtain ID cards by mail, Social Security benefits, burial benefits and burial flag, VA benefits, educational benefits, medals, etc. For personnel who separated prior to FEB 1950 you will have to provide an equivalent. For service during WWII the Separation Document was generally War Department (WD) Form 53-55. NPRC will sometimes issue a Certificate of Service if the records were lost in the 1973 fire. This document is recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs as the legal equivalent of a Separation Document/DD Form 214. Check with the agency involved as to what is acceptable as there are 69 documents that were issued prior to this date that could be proof that the individual was a veteran. Copies of your other military records can also be obtained using the Standard Form 180. The address to write to is indicated on the back of the form and is dependent upon the providing custodian and record requested. A nominal fee is sometimes charged dependent upon the type of service requested for which you will be notified if applicable.

11. **Concurrent Receipt Update**

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., has introduced a bill to provide full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs. His bill, S-392, has 38 cosponsors. The House counterpart, HR-303, sponsored by Rep. Michael Bilirakis, R-Fla., has 120 cosponsors. Similar bills died in the last Congress in the face of threats of a veto by President Bush, although a bill for concurrent receipt for the most severely disabled retirees was passed. The preponderance of retirees (who did not benefit by last year's bill) forfeit one dollar of retired pay for every dollar of disability compensation they draw. Military retirees are the only class of retirees who must forfeit their retired pay to accept disability compensation from the VA. [Source: Armed Forces News Issue: 28 FEB 2003]

12. **SS Benefits for a Divorced Spouse**

Federal law overrides any legal paperwork from the lawyers. A divorced spouse can get benefits on a former husband or wife's Social Security record if the marriage lasted at least 10 years. The divorced spouse must be 62 or older and unmarried. She gets the same amount she would get if she were still married to him -- up to half of his benefit amount while he's still alive and possibly all of it when he dies. If the spouse has been divorced at least two years, he or she can get benefits, even if the worker is not retired. However, the worker must have enough credits to qualify for benefits and be age 62 or older. The amount of benefits a divorced spouse gets has no effect on the amount a current spouse can get. For more information, see Social Security Administration's online publication, "What Every Woman Should Know" at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html>.

13. **POW Special Compensation**

In the 107th Congress H.R. 5235 Former POW Special Compensation Act of 2002 was introduced to establish a three-tiered special monthly pension for former POWs. Chairman of the House Veterans Benefits Subcommittee. The new compensation was proposed to be administered and paid by the VA. Under it a former POWs detained 30 to 120 days would receive \$150 a month, 121 to 540 days \$300 a month, and more than 540 days \$450 a month. It would have been paid without regard to any other compensation and would not have been considered income for purposes of eligibility under any other federal or federally assisted program. According to congressional sources, there are an estimated 42,781

living American ex-POWs. More than 39,700 are WWII survivors, 2400 from the Korean War, 601 from the Vietnam War, one from Somalia and three from Kosovo. Approximately ten former American POWs die each day. This bill died with the close of the 107th Congress and has not been reintroduced in the 108th. Readers concerned with seeing compensation paid to former POWs should contact their legislators to promote reintroduction and sponsorship of a new bill. [Source: The QUAN Vol. 57-4 dtd JAN 03].

14. Purple Heart Postage Stamp

The U.S. Postal Service is set to issue a stamp honoring the nation's oldest military decoration - the Purple Heart. The formal first day of issue ceremony will be held at Mount Vernon, George Washington's home in Virginia. Washington ordered the creation of the Purple Heart citation in 1782, during the Revolutionary War. Originally a "badge of distinction for meritorious action," today, the Purple Heart is awarded to members of the U.S. military who have been wounded or killed in action. The \$0.37 stamp features a photograph of a Purple Heart awarded to Mr. James Loftus Fowler, a Marine lieutenant colonel, following action in Vietnam. The new stamp will be available at post offices nationwide beginning May 30th. [Source: VFW Washington Weekly, May 2, 2003]

15. Retirees Ask For Better Health Care

According to the Army News Service, the Army Chief of Staff's Retiree Council closed its 43rd meeting April 11 with a report citing health care and communication as the two primary concerns of retirees Armywide. The council also urged the chief of staff to support: (a) concurrent receipt of military retired pay and disability compensation and quick implementation of Combat-Related Special Compensation; (b) elimination of the reduction to the Survivor Benefit Plan annuity at age 62 to the maximum extent allowed by law and legislative language and acceleration of the start date of the paid-up provision of the plan; (c) a study group reviewing retirement benefits for the National Guard and Reserve; and (d) continued full-funding of TRICARE for Life.

16. DFAS Phone Calls

If you're calling somebody to ask questions, get a phone number or complain, the only thing more essential than having a pencil and paper is getting the name and phone number of the person you have reached. The DFAS customer service representatives

always give their name when answering the phone, but chances are this comes before you really start listening so don't ever be too embarrassed to ask for the name again. That way, you'll be able to ask for the same person should you need to call back or, if you don't get satisfactory results the first time around, you'll will be prepared to report that if necessary. With the number of people working for DFAS, it's impossible to track down who responded to your call without a name and if what was said was accurate or not. Regardless of how upset you may be in regards to your situation bear in mind the person you are talking to is most likely not responsible for it but is there to help you. Telephone courtesy and patience is always most effective when dealing with any agency. Always ensure you understand what is being told to you before you hang up. When retirees or annuitants contact DFAS (1-800 321-1080) and feel additional assistance is required, don't hesitate to ask the person (whose name you've previously jotted down) to forward your call to their lead technician or supervisor. DFAS employees are required to forward customers to their supervisor or lead technician if so requested. (Source: Bill Turner Editor, Air Force Retire News Feb 03)

"The Roman Republic fell, not because of the ambition of Caesar or Augustus, but because it had already long ceased to be in any real sense a republic at all. When the sturdy Roman plebeian, who lived by his own labor, who voted without reward according to his own convictions, and who with his fellows formed in war the terrible Roman legion, had been changed into an idle creature who craved nothing in life save the gratification of a thirst for vapid excitement, who was fed by the state, and who directly or indirectly sold his vote to the highest bidder, then the end of the republic was at hand, and nothing could save it. The laws were the same as they had been, but the people behind the laws had changed, and so the laws counted for nothing."

Theodore Roosevelt

Health

1. Department of Veterans Affairs

When filing a VA claim, request that you be represented by the American Legion. You do not have to be a member of the American Legion. They represent all veterans with VA claims.

The following information on the regulations may help some get through the maze at V.A.

Part 1 = CFR, Title 38, Parts 0 - 17

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/38cfrv1_01.html

Part 2 = CFR, Title 38, Parts 18 - 59

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/38cfrv2_01.html

Part 3 = CFR, Title 38, Part 3: Adjudication

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/38cfr3_01.html

Part 4 = CFR, Title 38, Part 4: Schedule for Rating Disabilities. Part 4 includes ratings for PTSD.

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_01/38cfr4_01.html

2. Atypical Pneumonia

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

You have probably read or heard of the outbreaks of a respiratory disease that is spreading in the Asian continent, with isolated cases in Europe and North America. The Department of Defense, through the Military Health System, is actively involved in monitoring this outbreak, and supporting both international and US health authorities as needed. I want to provide you with some important facts, as we know them today:

What is this outbreak?

"The outbreak, known as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), is a severe form of pneumonia that appears to have originated in China. Thus far, these outbreaks have spread primarily to close family contacts of the suspect cases, and healthcare workers involved in care of the pneumonia cases. It appears that direct, close contact with infected persons is necessary for transmission.

Where has the outbreak occurred?

"In mid-February, the People's Republic of China reported over 300 cases of atypical pneumonia, with five deaths, in Guangdong Province. Since then, the CDC has received reports of outbreaks in a number of other countries to include Hong Kong, (a special administrative region of China), Vietnam, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand and Canada.

"The United States has seen a number of cases, but no confirmed deaths at this time. All suspected cases of SARS are being actively investigated by state and local health agencies."

"Because cases have reached North America with eight cases and two deaths confirmed in Canada, the CDC has issued an alert for physicians and travelers in the United States to be cognizant of flu-like symptoms, to consider recent travel and contacts, to seek medical attention if ill, and to report possible cases. This alert offers information to the health community and the traveling population to make decisions regarding patient care and personal travel plans. These alerts and more detailed information, to include a brief case definition, are available on the CDC web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/>.

Is this a virus or bacteria?

"The World Health Organization (WHO) and CDC are still in the early stages of their investigation, and it is still unknown if this is a virus or bacteria. The pattern of transmission is what would typically be seen from a contagious respiratory illness or a flu-like illness. There is no evidence to suggest that this is a purposeful act of bioterrorism. At this stage, however, investigators are not ruling out any possibility.

How can I reduce my risks of acquiring the disease?

"As always, good hygiene involving frequent hand-washing, covering one's mouth while sneezing or coughing, and avoiding aerosol droplets of others who are experiencing flu-like symptoms, all help to prevent disease transmission.

3. Pharmacy – Canada Online Purchasing Update

The number of Americans using Canada to buy prescription drugs at prices up to half those at home continues to increase. Three of the biggest online sources are:

<http://www.thecanadiandrugstore.com/>,

<http://www.canadarx.net/>,

<http://www.canadameds.com/>.

However, one drugmaker is trying to halt the cross-border trade. Pharmaceutical giant Glaxo-SmithKline, producer of products like Aquafresh toothpaste and antacid Turns, has taken steps to cut off supplies to Canadian licensed pharmacies that continue to sell its medicines to Americans. If they are successful it is anticipated that other American drugmakers will follow their lead.

About 1 million Americans, mostly age 65 and older, now fill prescriptions by mail order from

Canada, according to the Canadian International Pharmacy Association (CIPA), a group that represents licensed pharmacies selling drugs to the United States via the Internet.

American-made prescription drugs normally cost less in Canada, where the government regulates prices.

U.S. law does not permit reimportation, but the rule is not enforced for individual consumers. The American drugmaker's rationale for stopping reimportation by individuals is it is in the interests of patient safety. However, CIPA contends that the exported drugs are the same quality and sent through the U.S. mail in the same way as American mail order drugs. CIPA is asking U.S. customers to protest Glaxo's attempts by writing the company or boycotting its products. (Source: AARP March 2003 Bulletin)

4. Long Term Care Insurance For Service Members

Long Term Care Insurance helps cover costs when an illness or disability requires home care or a nursing home stay. With average costs of a nursing home stay rising annually, long term care insurance can ensure that you can afford quality care for yourself, your spouse or parents. While the Federal government offers a Long Term Care plan to servicemembers, retirees, federal employees and their qualified family members, it is not the only LTC option available. [Servicemembers can compare insurance plans online](#), and get more information on the value of long term care at Military.com

5. New CHAMPVA Policy For Surviving Spouses
[The following article is provided courtesy of Armed Forces News. To sign up for a free subscription, visit the [Armed Forces News Website](#).]

Surviving spouses who lost access to the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs by remarrying before Feb. 4, 2003, now can be reinstated into the program if they remarried after becoming age 55 and if they apply for reinstatement by Feb. 4, 2004. Similarly, a surviving spouse who remarried after becoming age 55 and lost access to TRICARE benefits may now be eligible for CHAMPVA coverage. To be eligible for CHAMPVA, the individual must be a family member of a veteran who has a permanent and total service-connected disability, or who died of a service-connected condition, or who was totally disabled from a service-connected condition at the time of death. In general, CHAMPVA covers most health

care services and supplies that are medically and psychologically necessary.

For more information or an application contact VA's Health Administration Center at 800-733-8387.

6. TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy

Effective 1 March 2003, Express Scripts became the provider of the new TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy (TMOP) program [i.e. formerly NMOP]. If you haven't already done so, visit the Express Scripts website

http://www.expressscripts.com/custom/homepage/special_features/dod and review the list of common questions about TMOP at:

<http://www.expressscripts.com/custom/dod/tmopfaq>

Also, if you plan to use the TMOP you can register online by completing the website registration process. When finished, you'll see a page with a "Pre-Register with TMOP" link. Click this link and follow the prompts to submit your information. Each beneficiary that uses the TMOP program should complete both the website registration process. After registering you can use the TMOP website to:

- * Download forms to fill new prescriptions (available 1 March 2003)
 - * Order refills (available 1 March 2003)
 - * Check your order's status (available 1 March 2003)
 - * View the details of your TMOP benefit
 - * Read drug and health information
- [Source: NAUS Update 28 FEB 03]

7. New Tricare Pharmacy By Mail

American Forces Press Service

More than 400,000 military pharmacy mail order customers will be switched March 1, 2003, to a new TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program, according to Army Col. William D. Davies of the TRICARE Management Activity, Falls Church, Va.

Services will continue under the National Mail Order Pharmacy contract until Feb. 28, 2003, he noted. The next day, March 1, Express Scripts Inc. will provide services under the new TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy program, Davies said.

Express Scripts Inc. of Maryland Heights, Mo., won the \$275 million, five-year contract in September to provide mail order pharmacy services for TRICARE beneficiaries. The director of DoD pharmacy programs, Davies said beneficiaries who have refills remaining on prescriptions on March 1 will be transferred to Express Scripts so they can continue ordering medications on time, with a few exceptions.

"We can't transfer narcotics or other controlled substance prescriptions. Nor can we transfer compounded prescriptions -- those that are physically prepared by the pharmacy," said Davies, a registered pharmacist with more than 23 years of active duty service.

Medication that requires refrigeration is shipped through priority mail or a courier service, such as FedEx, the pharmacist said. "That's one reason we don't send medications that require refrigeration to APO and FPO addresses overseas," he noted.

TRICARE beneficiaries living and working overseas can use the mail order pharmacy if they have an APO, FPO or a U.S. embassy address. But the prescription must be written by a provider licensed to practice in the United States.

In early January, current users should receive a post card announcing the new services. That will be followed by a mailing which will include a registration form, a description of benefits and a brochure covering the TRICARE program.

Those eligible to use the current mail order program or the retail benefit are eligible to use the new TRICARE mail order program. New customers have to register for the program. Information will be provided through the TRICARE service centers, military treatment facilities pharmacy as well as their marketing points of contact.

The usual delivery time for medication is five to seven days. The easiest way for patients to ensure they don't run out of their medication is to have the provider write for up to a 90-day supply with up to three refills. The beneficiary can request a refill once 75 percent of the medication has been used.

"So about Day 70 into their medication, they can request a refill," Davies said. "That provides them a cushion." He said all medication is screened for potential drug interactions or therapeutic overlaps that could produce an adverse drug reaction. He said patients' complete beneficiary profiles are entered into the Pharmacy Data Transition Service, which enhances patient safety by keeping their medication records current, on file and readily available..

The new contract saves taxpayers' dollars because it calls for purchasing drug products at federal prices. Best federal prices are at least 24 percent below average commercial wholesale prices Davies estimated.

The TRICARE Management Activity will manage the new contract. The current, national contract has

been managed by the Defense Logistics Agency's Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia.

Patients can fill prescriptions three ways: by direct care at military treatment facilities, or the retail pharmacy network or the mail order program, Davies noted. The direct care system serves the bulk of the beneficiary population, he said. About 2.5 million beneficiaries use the retail pharmacy network because they don't have access to a military facility.

Most of the 400,000 beneficiaries who use the mail order program do so for chronic medication or maintenance medication needs, Davies said.

"We want beneficiaries who have long-term medication needs to consider using the mail order program. It provides up to a 90-day supply of most medications for a single co-pay, whereas they only receive a 30-day supply for a single co-pay in the retail network pharmacy system," he said.

Under the TRICARE Mail Order Pharmacy system, the co-pay for up to a 90-day supply for most medications is \$9 for branded products or \$3 for generics. Exceptions include controlled substances, and active duty members pay no co-pays.

For more information, including a complete section on the co-pay structure, visit the [TRICARE Web site](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) at www.tricare.osd.mil. Reservists can check the site for details of their benefits under the program.

Beneficiaries can also use the [Express Scripts Inc. Web site](http://www.express-scripts.com) by clicking on the DoD seal at www.express-scripts.com after the site debuts Jan. 15, 2003.

8. VA Tinnitus Compensation Eligibility

The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims has announced a decision in the case of *Wanner v. Principi*. At issue was whether service connection or compensation for tinnitus should be allowed only for "head injury, concussion or acoustic trauma." The Court held that persistent tinnitus, no matter how it was acquired during service, entitles a veteran to compensation under the rating schedule. Accordingly, in claims for service connection for tinnitus filed before June 10, 1999, including those now on appeal, claimants will now be entitled to service connection without regard to how the tinnitus was acquired. The court did not decide whether veterans are entitled to separate ratings for service-connected bilateral tinnitus (tinnitus in each ear). [Source: Armed Forces News Issue 28 FEB 2003]

9. CHAMPVA - Remarried Widows

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently stated that some military spouses who were beneficiaries under TRICARE or Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA (CHAMPVA), but lost their benefits upon remarriage, may be eligible to be reinstated for benefits. A provision in the Veterans Benefit Act of 2002 authorizes this reinstatement if the former beneficiary's remarriage was on or after his/her 55th birthday, provided that the original marriage was to a veteran who was permanently and totally disabled or died from a service-connected condition. Eligible spouses must enroll before 4 February 2004, and can obtain an application for benefits by calling (800) 733-8387. [Source: FRA News-Bytes 27 FEB 03]

10. VA IVM Program

The VA has published Income Verification Match (IVM) program procedures for determining how they will meet provisions of the law (Title 38 United States Code (U.S.C.) 1722), which sets forth eligibility requirements for certain veterans receiving cost-free VA health care. The veterans affected are those with non-service connected disabilities and those with a zero percent service connected disabilities that receive no monetary compensation. The law allows the VA to verify a veteran's income information with the IRS and the Social Security Administration for when that information indicates the veteran is eligible for cost-free VA health care. The VA intends to verify those veterans' income through computer matching activity with IRS and SSA. To read the VA Directive governing this program, visit VA's web site at:

<http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/health/direct/1909b.pdf>
[Source: MOAA Benefits Update 3 MAR 03]

11. Tricare Claims & TPL

One of the more common issues that complicate the processing of TRICARE claims is the requirement to document possible Third Party Liability (TPL).

If a TRICARE beneficiary is injured as a result of an action or the negligence of a third person, the TRICARE contractor must consider possible liability prior to processing the claim. If appropriate, the contractor must pursue the Government's recovery rights under the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act. If the liable third party has other health insurance (OHI)—including auto or homeowner's medical insurance, no-fault auto, or uninsured motorist coverage—that does not cover all expenses, TRICARE

will coordinate as secondary coverage. If the OHI pays the bill in full, TRICARE will pay nothing.

To the beneficiary, the visible evidence of this requirement is a letter from the claims processor requesting a completed DD Form, 2527 (Statement of Personal Injury-Possible Third Party Liability). A copy of the DD Form 2527 can be downloaded and printed from the web site: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/claims/>. If the requested TPL form is not received within 35 days of the initial request, the claim must be denied.

The decision whether or not to request a TPL determination is based upon the diagnosis on the claim. All inpatient claims with a diagnosis code between 800 and 999 require an evaluation of TPL. The same is true for any outpatient claim with the same range of codes, in which the TRICARE liability exceeds \$500. The 800 to 999 code range includes fractures and dislocation, sprains, most injuries and wounds, contusions, possible complication of injury such as shock or embolism, poisonings, and complications associated with surgical or medical care. Using the completed TPL form, the TRICARE contractor can determine whether or not to pursue reimbursement.

The most common complaints about this process are "I just slipped and there was no other person involved. Why do I have to complete the form..?" or "..I have already sent a form, why must I send another...?" Concerning the first complaint, TRICARE has no way of knowing whether a broken wrist or head injury was caused by a driver rear-ending you at a stop light, or whether you slipped in your own yard and hurt yourself. The TPL form helps make this determination. In the second complaint, each claim in an episode of care is processed independently. If the claims processor does not make the connection between two or more claims, it may send out duplicate requests for a TPL form.

The easiest way to face this situation is to make a copy of any correspondence sent to the TRICARE claims processor. Rather than try to coordinate with the contractor to locate lost or misplaced paperwork, it is often easier just to mail or fax another copy of this form. If you have a specific problem or question about this process, contact either the Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC) at the nearest military hospital or send an email to THEMES at TRICARE Help@amedd.army.mil. An online BCAC directory is available at:

<http://www.tricare.osd.mil/BCACDirectory.htm>.

(Source: THEMS Newsletter Feb 03)

12. Tricare Standard Placed on Sick List

Veterans organizations and military retiree groups are telling Congress that Tricare's fee-for-service plan, Tricare Standard, is a sick stepchild of Tricare. Problems brought before the House Armed Services total force subcommittee include communication weaknesses, insufficient reimbursement rates and bureaucratic roadblocks. Meanwhile 44 percent of respondents to an online survey conducted by the Military Officers Association of America said they were unable to find a primary care provider and 51 percent couldn't find a specialist that would take Tricare Standard patients. Improvements suggested: (1) increase payments to providers; (2) require contractors to assist users in finding providers; (3) maintain a current list of providers who accept Tricare Standard; and (4) educate providers about Tricare Standard.

13. VA Copay (Low Income Vet)

As a result of a recent change in the laws governing the Department of Veterans Affairs, beginning October 1, 2002 lower income veterans may qualify for a reduction in the VA inpatient medical care co-payments. Generally, a non-service connected veteran or a non-compensable zero percent service connected veteran with income qualifying for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) low-income housing benefits will now be charged only 20 percent of the current inpatient co-payment.

This equates to \$2.00 per day plus \$168 for the first 90 days of hospital care and \$84 for each subsequent 90-day period up to one year. This law did not change outpatient care and medication co-payments.

The current per visit co-payment for outpatient basic primary care is \$15 and \$50 for outpatient specialty care. The medication co-payment is currently 7 for each 30-day or less supply of medications. For questions or concerns regarding your inpatient co-payments contact the VA Health Benefits Service Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387). To read VHA Directive 2003-005 in its entirety, visit <http://www.va.gov/publ/direc/health/12003005.pdf> on the VA web site. (Source: MOAA Benefits Update 3 Mar 03)

14. VA to Grant Benefits To More Vietnam Veterans

Air Force Retiree News reports that based upon a recently released review of scientific studies, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has decided to extend benefits to Vietnam veterans with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL). The ruling means that veterans with CLL who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War don't have to prove that illness is related to their military service to qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation. Principi ordered the development of regulations to enable the VA to begin paying compensation benefits once a final rule takes effect. Publication of that regulation is expected in the near future. The VA will publish further details, when available, on its Website. In the meantime, veterans with questions about health-care, compensation and survivor benefits may call a toll-free help line at 1-800-749-8387 for information. The VA also encourages Vietnam veterans who have not done so to request a subscription to Agent Orange Review, the VA's free newsletter that will keep them abreast of developments on this issue and other policies and scientific findings in the future. Additional information about Agent Orange is available at the Agent Orange Page.

15. Tricare Spina Bifida Study

A procedure being studied now with DoD involvement may one day help correct or prevent the problems of children born with the debilitating disorder myelomeningocele and spina bifida. In a case of spina bifida, the fetus' spine and spinal canal fail to close properly. In minor cases, that's all that's wrong. In more serious cases, the spinal cord's protective sheath herniates and is affected. In a case of myelomeningocele, the severest form of spina bifida, both the cord and sheath herniate and protrude from the victim's back. Although mild spina bifida is not usually life-threatening, babies born with myelomeningocele typically experience lifelong and sometimes devastating physical disabilities: weakness or paralysis in their lower limbs, numbness, loss of bladder and bowel control, and hydrocephalus (water on the brain), which causes mental retardation. Some children also have skeletal deformation, sexual dysfunction and mental impairment. The Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 2002, established a presumption of service-connection for hearing loss associated with certain military skills (to be determined by the VA in consultation with the

National Academy of Sciences) and authorized compensation for servicemembers who have a rated hearing loss in both ears. [Source: Hanscom AFB Retiree Newsletter Summer 2001 & Naval Hospital Bremerton ltr, and Milton Bell msg. Dtd 4 FEB 03]

16. Leukemia, Agent Orange Link

WASHINGTON - Researchers have found a link between a type of leukemia and Vietnam soldiers exposed to herbicides like Agent Orange, prompting the Veterans Affairs Department to announce it will extend benefits to veterans with the illness.

The veterans diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or CLL, would start receiving improved benefits, such as disability compensation and priority health care services, in about a year, Secretary Anthony Principi said Thursday.

17. Hepatitis C Drug Breakthrough

According to University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center scientists, new drugs to fight hepatitis C reduce the virus to nearly undetectable levels in a matter of days. Clinical trials are currently under way to examine the effects of these new drugs on patients with the virus. Tests carried out in the United States suggest they will have a dramatic impact on the health of people with hepatitis C. They belong to a class of drugs called protease inhibitors, which have been used to treat patients with HIV.

The drugs work by blocking a part of the virus called the protease enzyme. With the protease enzyme blocked, hepatitis C makes copies of the virus that are defective and cannot infect new cells. Since hepatitis C blocks the immune system the result is to enable the body to fight back using its own natural defenses. Virus levels are reduced within days.

The findings will offer hope to thousands of people with hepatitis C around the world. At present, 85% of those who are infected with hepatitis C develop chronic infections that are not responsive to drugs. Around 70% of these go on to develop liver cancer and nearly 3% of those with long-term infections die of related illnesses. There is currently no cure for hepatitis C although a number of companies are working on potential vaccines. The virus is found in the blood and can be passed on by intravenous drug users who share needles, from contaminated blood products, and by sexual contact. The study is published on the website Science Express. [Source: Colonel Dan Veteran Issues msg. APR 03]

18. Hearing Aids: Veterans may be entitled to free hearing aids from the VA if they meet any of these categories: Service connected for hearing loss; ear disease or Tinnitus, Service connected - any medical problem at a rating of 10% or more, Former prisoner of war and All WWI veterans.

19. Tricare Online

Tricare Management Activity [TMA] now has a website that links DoD beneficiaries, managers, and health care providers with an array of interactive features. TRICARE web site is at:
www.tricareonline.com

“There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell. You can bear this warning voice to generations yet to come. I look upon war with horror”.

William Tecumseh Sherman
(1820-1891),
U.S. General

Sick Call

Our troopers need our thoughts and concerns through their illness.

Gordon Stone
David Johnson
Claude Newby
Terry Young

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

BWS

Note to all. James Conner continues with a very hard medical time and would appreciate a letter or card. You can write him at;

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

BWS

Don't know for certain if this is factual but it's worth reading.

BWS

TAPS

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings. Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harris's Landing in Virginia.

The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead.

The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out.

Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army. The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" ... used at military funerals was born. The words are ..

Day is done ... Gone the sunFrom the lakes ...From the hills ...

From the sky .. All is wellSafely rest ... God is nigh ... Fading light...

Dims the sight ... And a star Gems the sky ...Gleaming bright ...

From afar .. Drawing nigh ... Falls the night ...Thanks and praise ...

For our days .. Neath the sun Neath the stars ... Neath the sky

As we go ... This we know ... God is nigh...

I, too, have felt the chills while listening to "Taps" but I have never seen all the words to the song until now. I didn't even know there was more than one verse. I also never knew the story behind the song and I didn't know if you had either so I thought I'd pass it along. I now have an even deeper respect for the song than I did before.

REMEMBER THOSE LOST AND HARMED WHILE SERVING THEIR COUNTRY. And also our veterans and those presently serving in our Armed Forces.

Eddie D. May
Eddie.May@robins.af.mil

BWS

Written by the wife of the Commanding General, United States Army Europe and 7th Army (General B.B. Bell) in Germany. Too bad the press isn't sharing this with our fellow citizens. It sure keeps our success in perspective. Katie Bell is the real article. She just happens to be married to a General.

BWS

Letter From a General's Wife

Dear Family,

We are so grateful for your concern and for your prayers. Most of our German friends are so puzzled by their government's decision. The hoards of demonstrators we have had are, for the most part, young. The older folks know how we saved Europe

some 60 years ago. My opinion is that the younger generations see us as having everything they want. I am convinced that their hatred stems from envy, on several layers.

There have been, lately, instances of Americans being heckled in towns. These incidents have not been anything but words. Americans are cautioned to keep a low profile and we are warned to stay away from some areas, like Hamburg, but we mainly go about business as usual. If any of this changes B. B. may have to put certain places off limits. I believe that we will see some repositioning of our troops in Europe in the next year or two or three. There may even come a time when families won't be allowed to accompany their soldiers over here and those soldiers will just come for a "short" tour, much like we do in Korea. All this is very sad but was actually in the planning before all these latest contingencies.

To answer your question, Anne, I feel safe. As I have told all of you, this house is a fenced (with barbed wire) compound behind B. B.'s office building. There are MPs on the gate all the time. And the gate can only be opened by them or by our remotes. So we are safe that way. B. B. never drives. He has a driver and a bodyguard that ride with him and there are what are called, "chase cars" in front of him and in back.

I have been pretty much free to come and go as I pleased until about a week ago. That is when I was assigned a bodyguard. She drives me everywhere I go now and though she is just darling and wonderful, it is a pain to have to plan instead of just going spontaneously. She is about 5' 1" tall, really adorable, maybe weighs 100 pounds and is, as B.B. says, "tough as woodpecker lips." When she runs with him her little legs are one solid muscle. She is a crack shot and attended and was the number one graduate of the elite British Counter Terrorism School. She grew up on a farm in Missouri, has hunted since she was a little girl and told me about helping butcher hogs. So I feel pretty safe with little, bitty Angel, which is her name. I don't know how long we will have this arrangement. I hope it is not for too long for both our sakes.

I want to tell you all about today. Today was a defining moment for me; it ranks with my wedding day and the day Buck was born as a day so meaningful that I am filled with too much emotion to handle. B. B. and I went to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, one of the three Army hospitals left in Germany. As you all know this hospital is where

almost all injured soldiers are brought from operations in the Middle East. We arrived there around 1:30, were briefed by the hospital commander about the patients we would see and then headed up to the second floor.

The first patient we saw had had his hand crushed. It was wrapped up in bandages as thick as a pillow but you could see the black fingers. They are trying to save it. He faces skin grafts and maybe worse if they can't save it. He was medivaced from Kuwait a week ago and two days ago his wife gave birth to their second child in Weiden, Germany. His was anxious to see her and the baby, to get well and to head back to the front. He did not complain at all about his pain and had such a positive attitude.

The next fellow we saw was a marine who had been run over by a tank in the desert. Only the softness of the sand saved his life. His entire pelvic area was crushed, creating many urology nightmares. He has had a colostomy and faces months of surgeries. The Docs believe he can fully recover, a miracle if you think about the tonnage that rolled over him. He was absolutely adorable. He was from Kansas and he and B. B. got into pheasant and deer hunting right away. His spirits are good and he kept trying to sit up tall in the bed even though it was apparent he was in pain. He kept asking about his unit, "where are they?", "How close to Baghdad?" B.B. asked me to leave the room a couple of times so that he could talk top-secret stuff with this soldier.

The next fellow we saw was from Alabama. A bullet entered his lower abdomen and traveled up and exited through his back. He was on oxygen but pulled the mask off and refused to put it back on. He wanted to tell B.B. that he had met him at Fort Knox when he was there for his initial training. He was 21 years old and had been married for one year. He was frantic to know about his buddies, where they were, how they were doing. He said he had such guilt about leaving them. He looked at me as if he were deciding whether he should say something or not. Then he somehow raised himself up on an elbow, took B. B.'s hand and said, "Sir, when I got hit I want you to know that I took a couple of the sons of bitches down." His commitment and his focus were still there and all he can think of is getting well and rejoining his unit.

The last two guys were in Intensive Care. Their rooms, by request were side by side. The first one had no legs. He had stepped out of his track onto a mine. He does not remember anything but the pain. He choked up when he told B. B., "Sir, what I did was

stupid." B.B. assured him that "stupid" was thinking that he did anything wrong in a war where there was so much to think about and sleep was a rare commodity.

As he lay there in the desert, a medic ran up to him, stepped on a mine and lost a leg too. These were the guys who were side by side. The soldier who had lost both legs said, in response to B. B. asking him what he could do for him, "Sir, I am fine. I have everything I need. I have nothing to complain about."

Well, that was it for me. I just cried. I left the room but the soldier asked me to come back. "M'am. don't cry for me. Let's pray for all who are carrying on." Even now I have to cry. I wear a Hooah pin that Patty Shinseki gave me and I took it off and gave it to him.

Today, for the first time ever, I was in the presence of real heroes, indescribable bravery and I can't tell you how honored I am to have touched them. I held their hands and told them all how proud we, and the nation are and that I love them. At the end of the visit I was totally wrung out and just wanted to get home and go in my room and be by myself and thank God for these young men and women who are giving so much. My blood boils with the protests of the Hollywood elite whose easy and privileged lives exist because of these soldiers lying in that hospital. They have no idea how they hurt these men and women and their families with their rhetoric. Their shallowness is sickening after being in the presence of true character and heroism.

One last thing I want to tell you. B.B. collected the names and numbers of all their parents and two wives and came back and called them all. I love that he did that. There is no one I know who loves soldiers more than he does and the soldiers are like dogs and children. You can't fool them. They know who really has them in their hearts.

Well, sorry for that soapbox soliloquy. It has been that kind of day. B.B. intends to visit weekly and I hope I am able to go with him every single time. They tell me that Katie Couric was there, setting up for broadcast from Ramstein, where Landstuhl Hospital is located. Glad I didn't run into her either!

Again, thank all of you for your concern. B.B. and I are fine. Continue to pray for our military forces. They are just now beginning to get into the scary part of this war.

Katie

"We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

George Orwell

Religion, a Deadly Topic

The following articles are provided to make you think about the future of America. We are at a crossroad and which way we go will determine the future of our society and our way of life.

Which way do we go? That decision is being made now by politicians, special interest groups, foreign governments, terrorist and forces that are not necessarily supporting, or for, a free Republic and democratic America.

This is an area that journalist refuse to mention. No one wants to be branded an anti-Muslim or intolerant, because today, the attitude in media is that you must be tolerant in all things.

The future is for our children and grandchildren. Can we allow any entity or any group to destroy their future?

The Editor

The future is Muslim, European or American
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The world's future is being decided at this time.

Such moments are extremely rare in history. And when they have occurred, they have between two, not three, competing ideologies.

But there are now three ideologies competing to shape the future of mankind. They are militant Islam, Western European secularism and socialism, and American Judeo-Christianity and capitalism. The first is being spread both peacefully and violently, the second is being spread peacefully, and the third is not being spread.

Though most people ignore the fact, almost all of the world's believing Muslims believe that all of mankind should be Muslim. This, in and of itself, is not troubling - after all, most Christians would like

the whole world to be Christian, and most Westerners would like the whole world to be democratic. What is troubling is that if only 10 percent of these Muslims are prepared to use violence to impose their religion on others, we are talking about 100 million people.

This is the reason about 1 million non-Muslim Sudanese have been killed in the last 15 years - because they are resisting the violent imposition of Islam by the Islamic government in Khartoum. This is the reason for the Muslim-Christian violence in Nigeria - Christians there, too, are resisting the violent imposition of Islam. And this is the reason for Islamic terror - to weaken those countries, particularly the United States and Israel, that stand in the way of an Islamic takeover.

The second ideology seeking to dominate the world is secularism and socialism as practiced in Western Europe and supported by educated elites around the world. This is a primary reason for the anti-American demonstrations in Western Europe and in the United States. They were far more against America (especially the America of George W. Bush) than they were against war. Most of these people could not care less about the wars of the world. They have been silent throughout the mass murder of Sudan's blacks, during the genocide in Rwanda, during China's crushing of Tibet, and during Saddam's wars against Iran, Kuwait and Iraq's own Kurds. American and European "peace" activists have found those atrocities and wars quite boring.

Western European socialists and their American (and Canadian, and Latin American) supporters are as passionate about secularism and socialism as believing Muslims are about Islam. And they want to dominate the world as much as militant Muslims want Islam to. Their vehicles are the United Nations, the European Union, international treaties such as the Kyoto Protocols, and international institutions such as the International Court.

Regarding the American way, there are serious impediments to its success.

First, while the first two ideologies - Islam and socialism/secularism - dominate many countries, the third ideology only dominates one - America. There is no other country that claims to be Judeo-Christian and no other that has such strong support for capitalism and small government (the opposite of socialism). Therefore, while both the militant Muslims and the socialists/secularists have supporters around the world, American values have few. That is why America goes it alone - with the partial

exceptions of Israel and Britain, no other society has the same values as we do.

Second, neither Judeo-Christian nor capitalist values are secure in America. Many Americans, including almost its entire intellectual class, are as hostile to Judeo-Christian and non-socialist values as the militant Muslims and European socialists are.

Third, almost no one is teaching the next generation of Americans (as almost no one taught the present adult generation) what is unique, let alone superior, about American values. Our children are overwhelmingly educated by people who believe in Europe's values, not in ours.

As neither China nor the rest of Asia, nor Africa, nor Latin America are offering an ideology that can dominate the world, either Europe's, or the militant Muslims', or America's way of life will prevail.

But the American way can only prevail if Americans believe in it. That is why, as important as the military and ideological battles against militant Islam are, the most important battle is the ideological one within America. But with America's universities, unions, professional associations, mainstream news media, and one of its two major parties ideologically aligned with Europe, and with big businesses constantly undermining Judeo-Christian values, the battle within America itself for America's unique values is far from won. And given that only America offers a viable alternative to both militant Islam and secularism-socialism, if we lose the battle here, humanity has a very dark future.

Dennis Prager

One of America's most respected and popular nationally syndicated radio talk-show hosts, is the author of several books and a frequent guest on television shows such as Larry King Live, Politically Incorrect, The Late Late Show on CBS, Rivera Live, The Early Show on CBS, Fox Family Network, The O'Reilly Factor and Hannity & Colmes.

U.S. Fears Attacks From Muslims In Armed Forces

Excerpt from the Washington Times (APR. 09)

A U.S. military official said more than 4,100 Muslims are in the U.S. Armed Forces. 1,995 in the Army, 760 in the Air Force, 924 in the Navy and 486 in the Marine Corps.

U.S. intelligence and security officials fear attacks by Muslim U.S. soldiers opposed to the war in Iraq in the wake of a fatal grenade attack in Kuwait blamed on a Muslim U.S. Army soldier.

“There is concern that this may not be an isolated incident”, said one intelligence official familiar with the Kuwait investigation.

A brief report on concerns about attacks from American Muslims in the military was contained in an intelligence report sent to senior Bush administration officials earlier this month.

An article by: Annis Shores, a former Muslim, turned to Christ. From Nazareth, now living in Alabama. Reprint rights granted.

MUSLIMS

Can a devout Muslim be an American patriot and a loyal citizen? The answer is **NO**.

THEOLOGICALLY: No. Because his allegiance is to Allah, the moon God of Arabia.

EOGRAPHICALLY: No. Because his allegiance is to Mecca, which he turns to in prayers five times a day.

SOCIALLY: No. Because his allegiance to Islam demands that he make no friends of Christians and Jews. (Q. 5:51)

POLITICALLY: No. Because he must submit to the mullah, who teaches annihilation of Israel and the destruction of America, the great Satan.

DOMESTICALLY: No. Because he is instructed to marry four women and beat and scourge his wife when she disobeys him. ; (Q. 4:34)

RELIGIOUSLY: No. Because no other religion is accepted by his Allah except Islam-Intolerance. (Q. 2:256)

INTELLECTUALLY: No. Because he cannot accept the American Constitution since it is established on Biblical principles and he believes the Bible to be corrupt.

PHILOSOPHICALLY: No. Because Islam, Mohammed and the Quran do not allow freedom of religion and expression. Democracy and Islam cannot coexist. Every Muslim government is dictatorial except Turkey (and now Turkey is questionable after the last elections).

SPIRITUALLY: No. Because when we declare "one nation under God," the Christian's God is a triune God while the Muslim's is one entity called "Allah,"

who is never a heavenly father, nor is he ever called "Love" in the 99 excellent names.

Winning The War Against Radical Islam

Dr. Robert A Morey

Doctorate in Islamic Studies

The following are excerpts from his book.

Islamic Law is not democratic: It is a system rooted in a series of supposedly infallible and unchallengeable texts, established by an elite Body of Scholars, long since dead, and today interpreted and implemented by a similar elite.

Shi'ite Law is, if anything, less democratic than it's Sunni equivalent: Mujtahids achieve their positions, not by election, but by scholastic achievement.

Radical Islam does not buy into the religion of liberalism. It believes that it is the only one true religion on the planet and that it has a moral duty from its God, Allah, to force the entire world to adopt Islamic Law. The call of the Minaret is that no one has the right to worship any other God than Allah or to follow the teachings of any prophet other than Muhammad. It is exclusive and intolerant of any other religion. To Bin Ladin or any other fundamentalist Muslim, all other religions are false and evil in an absolute sense. Thus, they must be destroyed.

Many scholars are agreed that the stories found in the Qur'an were derived from the legends and myths of the Arabs, Jews, Persians and Christians. They did not come from Heaven but from Earth. Their source is not Allah but human storytellers. This is why many scholars view the Qur'an as a fanciful book of ancient tails.

If the Qur'an is a confused and jumbled record of ancient stories drawn from the various nations conquered by the Arabs, this becomes the most serious threat to Islam's claim of Divine Revelation. Mandudi stated, "once we identify the sources of the Qur'an it is no longer a revelation".

Islam, A Peaceful Religion, Or Not?

Our Constitution and Bill of Rights guarantees us many rights, of which one is the right of "freedom of religion". Unfortunately Islam must destroy both the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. These two documents cannot be tolerated by Islam, specifically because of the many rights to the individual guaranteed by these documents.

The world population is over 6 billion and Islam is "One Fifth" of the worlds population, or approximately 1.3 billion in population. Of this approximately 200 million are Fundamentalist. Islam is the fastest growing religion on the planet (in many cases, Convert or Die). Its potential impact on the world is yet to be known. In the United Kingdom, there are more Muslims than evangelical Christians.

Approximately 900 churches have been converted to mosques in the UK and over 1500 churches have been converted to mosques in the U.S.

Morgan Norval in the book, "The 15 Century War", states;

1. "Since the seventh century AD, Islam has been a bitter enemy of Christendom and, indeed, of anyone who does not believe Muhammad was a prophet of God. We are faced with the fact that Islam offers the non-believer the following choice: conversion or the sword".

2. "Large areas such as Egypt, North Africa, and the Near East were once solid regions of Christianity, and they fell, not to the teachings of Islam, but to its sword. The Islamic conquerors have remained as colonizers in the areas ever since".

3. "Islam is resuming its expansionist ways. In Islamic Sudan, black Christians are sold into slavery and many have been crucified. In Nigeria, followers of the prophet have sealed Christians in their churches and burned whole congregations to death. In other areas of the world, where Islam is gaining sway, they are offering the non-believer the same choice they have offered in the past: conversion or the sword".

4. "The terror attacks in New York City and Washington have brought Islam's violent crusade to the American homeland. No one knows the ultimate outcome of this, but it is likely to be eventful, chaotic and very bloody".

What are the implications for Christianity and Judaism in the 21st century? The Quran itself is the blueprint for the destruction of western society, Judaism and Christianity. There are many disturbing

commands given to Muslims in the Koran. For example;

1. "Fight and slay the pagans (infidels) wherever ye find them, and seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem of war". Quran, Sura 9:5

The infidel is anyone who is not of the Islamic faith.
Comments by leading influential Islamic leaders. This is also the standard Islamic belief;

1. "Allah is the only God that must be worshipped on earth, and the only way to guarantee this is to control all the land masses, air and sea and give Islam the proper channel to be heard by the people".

Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Masri,
Allah's Governance On Earth

2. "JIHAD and the rifle alone. NO negotiations, NO conferences and NO dialogue".

Sheikh Abdullah Azzam

Muslims coming to this country, or changing faith to Islam in this country, immediately move to a Muslim enclave. They do not mix in with the other U.S. communities. They stay by themselves. According to the Quran, all who are not Muslim are inferior and not to be associated with.

The Christian bible is classified as an unclean book and is not to be touched.

Millions upon millions of dollars have been traced from these enclaves directly to Al Quida terrorists. Are they good citizens or are they working for the downfall of this country

Christians specifically, and other religions, are not tolerated in any Muslim country, nor is the bible allowed into any Muslim country. In many of those countries, no Christian churches are allowed and Christians are being systemically and deliberately eliminated (being killed).

Do not despise Muslims, but you must fear the implications of this occultist religion. It is a religion by the sword, and by the Quran, you will change to Islam or die.

One note; For a Muslin to change faith to any other faith, by the Quran, the punishment is death.

Those of you that have not yet looked at the Quran (Islamic bible) are missing the truth of this religion.

If you disagree, read the Quran and try to find the passages that disproves these statements. I think you will be both surprised and very concerned about what our future holds, after reading just part of the Quran. (English version on the web)

Allah is not the Christian Almighty God but is "Allah, the Moon God", just one of the 360 gods of

the Arabs before the other 359 were removed by Muhammad. They pray to Allah. Christians and Jews pray to the one True God.

There is no such thing as "live and let live" under Islam. You decide. Is Islam a peaceful religion?

The Editor

"I would rather have a German division in front of me than a French one behind me."

General George S. Patton

Veterans Sound Off

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

BWS

Hello Loel.

Greetings from Irene and I to both you and Barbara. You will be content to note that we now have 45 degrees F. with drizzzzzle and fog. Go where you want. I am staying inside.....while I plan the next getaway to warmer dryer climes.

Loel, you asked me about writing something for the newsletter. I am not good at that, but here is something I put together. I can accept rejection (except from females) and criticism (except from people who have not retired yet).

I want to talk about our Flag.

Old Glory. The symbol of our Nation.

Since September I have seen our flag on display more than ever before in my life. I have seen it in all the expected normal places, in some unusual places and often in some unlikely places. Sadly, I have seen some that have been desecrated. People in America have the freedom to do that, whether in ignorance or deliberate malice.

With all this, I have had the occasion to think about the people of America---those who have flown the American Flag since last September.....

There are four categories:

The first are those that have always flown the Flag with pride and reverence.

The second category are the Flag carriers, those that are strong enough, both morally and physically to carry the Flag---to defend our great nation in other lands against tyranny and aggression, or to work at home to defend against those who would destroy our democratic way of life and our freedom.

The third category are the Flag wavers...those who wave the Flag because it seems to be the "right" thing to do socially. These seem to be the ones who so often desecrate the Flag---either from ignorance or lack of respect.

The fourth category seems to contribute a lot to the third category. They are the ones who hide, or run away when things get tough for our country. We saw a lot of these in the 1960s when we were called upon to defend democracy and freedom in Vietnam. The point here is not an issue of right or wrong, but that our country called and some refused to go. When it was safe to do so,.....when all their freedoms were guaranteed,...then they came out of hiding to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by a democracy. And now, at every occasion, they come out to wave the Flag.

I am proud to be an American. I am proud to see so many fellow Americans displaying the Flag. And I am especially proud to have been a Cav Trooper in the 1/9th Cavalry Bullwhip Squadron which, to the last man, is a tried and proven Flag Carrier.

Robert Garrett
1/9 Cav, A Troop
65-66

Bob

You have written with heartfelt eloquence. You have captured the thoughts and beliefs of many Cav Troopers. Stand tall, be proud of your accomplishments. You are a Flag Carrier.

We are with you.

Loel Ewart

HOME

On February of this year, me, my wife, my twin sons (one whom is in the navy), their wives (one whom is in the navy) and two of my grandsons, made our first trip to Washington, D.C.. Arlington National Cemetery was something else. Lincoln Memorial was spectacular, and the White House was just beautiful. Looking at the White House I didn't see a republican or a democrat. I saw where the Commander-In-Chief made world decisions. It was cold about 12 degrees and the wind blowing, as we all made it to the WALL. I hold those names on that WALL higher than anything I know, with HONOR.

But you know what I read in the Bullwhip news article, Return To V.N. by Barry McAlpine. I couldn't believe what I read, a deal on silk ? What kind of deal did they give our fallen troops whose names are on that WALL?

Anyone who would return to V.N. and brag on what a good time they had on shopping, eating and drinking. It is a slap in the face to those who fought in any war for this nation.

I have NO desire to see that communist country again. Especially to spend one red penny on any shopping or any deals. The only way I'd go back is to ride a nuke bomb like Slim Pickens did in the movie Dr. Strangelove.

Howard Holland
B troop, 1/9

P.S. The best deals are here in the USA.

A VISIT FROM THE FIRST CAV

By Bob Allan

My senior class at Cedar Park Christian School in Bothell, Washington was studying the Vietnam War as part of their Contemporary World Issues class. As the class instructor, I quickly realized that my students had very little background in that war and were sinking fast. Many of them were so bereft of understanding of that long ago Asian conflict, that they didn't even know the basics. Pleiku, Saigon, DaNang, and Hua, all were foreign names with little or no meaning. My class was at a standstill.

Out of desperation, I decided to call my brother, Dick Denning, in Hanford, California to ask for his advice. Dick had served in the initial deployment of

the 1st Calvary Airmobile units that had been sent to Vietnam in 1965. As a member of the 1st Squadron 9th U.S. Calvary---"The Bullwhip Squadron"---he had experienced the war at first hand. After hearing my complaint, Dick understood my need and suggested that I get some special speakers to come to the class in order to give a truly firsthand report. In a few moments Dick put me in contact with Al De Floren, former member of the Bullwhip Squadron presently residing in Alabama, who then put me in contact with retired Col. Bruce McKenty who was now living in Tacoma, Washington---a short drive to Bothell. In about twenty minutes I had my speaker.

Col. Bruce McKenty arrived at Cedar Park School at exactly 8:00 am on Monday morning. The Colonel was dressed in an all-black outfit and was sporting a cavalry hat. I noticed immediately that the senior class at Cedar Park and Colonel McKenty were a perfect fit. The students settled in and prepared themselves to hear from a true, living Vietnam resource.

Col. McKenty did not disappoint. His opened his lecture with a background of the war in Vietnam. The Colonel explained how the initial involvement of the imperialistic French resulted in the disaster at Dien Bien Phu. In clear and concise language he explained how the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations picked up where the French failed leading directly into the Lyndon Johnson full scale deployment that "put boots on the ground to a tune of 500,000 men."

After his introduction to the historical background to the Vietnam Conflict, Colonel McKenty broke down his lecture into four major parts: First, he gave the history of the Bullwhip Squadron and its relationship to the popular Hollywood film "We Were Soldiers." Secondly, he explained the reality of war (the sounds, the sights and the smells) that were common to all who fought in that conflict. The senior students at Cedar Park later commented that they could literally feel themselves "humping through the boonies" in search of "Charlie." Thirdly, the Colonel presented personal glimpses of his own war experience---giving full details of the daily grind of flying a chopper into countless battles above the rice paddies and jungle of Vietnam. The students sat on the edge of their seats as the Colonel described the helicopter crash that nearly cost him his life. Lastly, he opened up for questions. It was at this time that Colonel McKenty truly revealed his ability as a spokesman. I was amazed at how many questions my

students had. The Colonel answered them all with a flair of professionalism and candor. In a blink of an eye the lecture was over. My students stood to their feet and gave him a standing ovation.

It was at this time that Colonel McKenty called me up to the podium. He put his hand in his pocket and pulled out a coin that he placed in my hand. Colonel McKenty explained that the coin was a special memento of the Bullwhip Squadron. Emblazoned on it were the words: "Bullwhip Squadron 1965 Vietnam 1972. 'We Can We Will.'" The coin now occupies a special place of honor in my home.

The time was much too short but the mission was over. Colonel Bruce McKenty had represented his unit with honor and distinction and I and the senior class at Cedar Park Christian School had found a new friend.

Thank you Colonel Bruce McKenty...and many thanks to the proud men of the Bullwhip Squadron who served their country in those jungles so far away and so long ago. We will never forget you.

School Briefings

Al,

Thank you for the invitation to speak to the Cedar Park High School students in Bothell, Washington. It has got to be one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in a long, long time. It was a private Christian High School and probably had a lot to do with the great reception that I received and the warm sincere thanks that each period gave me afterwards.

I spoke about the US Army involvement in Vietnam from the early 1960's to the end in 1973, with emphasis on the 1st Cavalry Division and the 1/9 Cav. Since my father was an Col. on Gen. Abrahms MACV staff in 1969 - 1970, and my brother had two tours as an artillery officer and RVN Ranger Battalion advisor, I could speak about other experiences as well. Every session ended with a transition to our present involvement in the middle east.

I gave three different presentations to periods 1,2 and 4. The first session had about 25 students which was the normal class size. The second session had about 75 students, many sitting on the floor. The teacher later told me that the first period students told friends about the presentation and many skipped other classes to attend my presentation. The 4th

period again had more students than there were chairs, about 50 students.

I talked about We Were Soldiers Once and Young, LZ X-Ray and about the Easter Offensive in An Loc in 1972. I wore black slacks, my 1/9 Cav black shirt and Cav hat.

They loved the Cav hat. This was a great group of teenagers who went out of there > way to thank me and talk with me between periods. They loved my Vietnam > photo album and my 1st CAV album. Let the 1/9 CAV troopers know that if they ever get the opportunity to do a presentation like that, to do it. It is an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Bruce McKenty
F Troop

THE BEST WEAR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE

By Bob Allan

Integrity, honor, camaraderie, and grace. These words sound like relics of some long gone era. The general consensus among the pundits who analyze our times is that the people of the Twenty-first Century have forgotten the meaning of these words.

Is it true? Have we degenerated into a society that cares only for itself and has little room for others? Are the concepts of integrity, honor, camaraderie and grace the hollow leftovers of our past? I must admit that most of what I see and hear on the streets and television tubes of America points to that conclusion. But when all seems lost there is always a ray of sunlight that breaks through the gloom.

The rays of sunlight that I'm referring to was a special group of men and women who were highly visible on our nation's television screens during the recent Iraqi war. These special people lived and breathed the words---integrity, honor, camaraderie and grace. The difference in their comportment and discipline made a stunning contrast to the regular miscreants who clog the nightly news with their scandalous deeds.

Just who are these special people? They are the American men and women who wear the uniforms of the United States military. Whether members of the Air Force, Navy, Army and Marines these proud men and women personify the higher levels of American

culture. The world has seen a miracle. Thousands of American troops, at the helm of the world's most lethal war machine, engaged in the dismantling of a regime that was the scourge of the earth, still found the depth of soul to exhibit the best that America has. And they did it all with integrity, honor, camaraderie and grace.

Imagine the task. While faced with Iraqi atrocities perpetrated against their own captured comrades they were able to show fair play and kindness to the enemy troops they captured. While confronted with the terror of war they still pulled their wounded to safety, rescued their captured brethren and performed their duty in the most professional manner. While experiencing the Iraqi misuse of the rules of war--feigned surrenders, deadly attacks mounted from the inside of hospitals, mosques and schools, and the cowardly use of human shields--they scrupulously maintained the rules of engagement that protected innocent civilian lives. While being shot at by crazed Islamic terrorists bused in from every godforsaken hell hole in the Middle East, they still took the time to hug an Iraqi child and say a kind word to the citizens of Iraq. Never have so many lies and distortions been expounded about one group of people as those told in the world's media concerning the American military. But no matter what the liars have said--the American military, although often maligned and cursed--stands tall and proud like the mountains that cover our land.

It is often true that war brings out the worst in humanity, but it is also true that it can bring out the best. And the best wear the red, white and blue.

Immigration in 2003

Dear William Bedsole ,

Out-of-control immigration is one of the major problems facing our nation today. People all around the country feel alone as they attempt to change the system. Numbers USA was created to give all Americans the opportunity to reach a Congress that often is remote from the thinking and concerns of the average citizen. View our website now if you like, at www.NumbersUSA.com.

What is NumbersUSA? First, it is a website that allows you to contact your members of Congress on immigration issues. Learn the facts about over-immigration and communicate directly with your

Congressional Representative and two Senators. Concern over immigration has nothing to do with the national origin, race or other characteristics of current immigrants. How large are those numbers?

In the first 200 years of the U.S., 1776-1976, an average of about 240,000 people immigrated each year. That average made us the nation of immigrants we were proud to be. In the year 2002, even after the tragedies of 9/11/01, immigration policies increased our population by 2,500,000! That's a total of legal and illegal immigrants, births to immigrants, and "anchor babies". But this is a future that does not have to happen.

What can be done? Visit the user-friendly website right now at www.numbersusa.com. Look through some of the many pages providing information on this complex issue. Especially view the recommendations of the Presidential Commission chaired by the late Barbara Jordan. If you lack time or you're ready to get active, sign up to begin sending faxes directly to Congress. Click on the Fax Congress Free button near the top of the page.

Thank you for your interest in NumbersUSA and in the health and well-being of our nation.

Yours,
Roy Beck

Sent in by Ken Bedsole

Only A FAC

When you read this article. I would like anybody who remembers the incidents to contact me.

My first assignment in Vietnam was to the 1/9th Air Cavalry Squadron. It consisted of three troops with one troop assigned to each Brigade. I lived at Phouc Vinh with the FACs at first and then with the 1/9th Field Grade Officers. The Headquarters of the Squadron was stationed at Phouc Vinh, C Troop, Squadron Maintenance and the headquarters of Company H 75th Rangers better known as the LRRPs which stood for Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols. They were six man patrols inserted into the jungle to keep track of enemy movements, ambush patrols to acquire documents for intelligence purposes and sometimes even capture prisoner for interrogation. The LRRPs were 5 or 6 man teams that were inserted

in the jungle to gather intelligence on enemy movements. They might set an ambush, kidnap a prisoner, gather documents or just watch and report. They were out for a few days or up to a week. Often they had to be extracted under fire after they were discovered. They were usually dropped off several kilometers from their target position and walked into it and set up a perimeter. They tried to sneak in and out but often that wasn't possible. They were armed with claymore mines, hand grenades and small arms. We periodically checked on them by radio and they always whispered or just clicked the mike if they had nothing to report or the enemy was nearby and they didn't want to talk. Often when they were discovered they had to withdraw while fighting and sometimes they had to run a long way to the LZ for pickup. They had to be in superb shape and fearless.

Volunteers would report to the Company Headquarters and be put through a rugged training program. The most visible part of their training was running around the base in the hottest part of the day carrying a pack filled with rocks. As part of their training I was asked to brief them on the need for USAF air strikes if they were in serious trouble. Most of the time they were able to return from their mission without any trouble or with organic 1/9th or Division firepower. I had ridden on UH-1 Lift ships on team insertions and extractions. I had seen them in their camouflage uniforms with their faces painted to match, loaded with ammunition and weapons and rations they would need for the several day mission. I also saw how tired and worn they were when they were extracted. So I was surprised one day to receive a radio call from the Squadron Tactical Operations Center asking me to contact the Troop Commander in the Area of Operations where I was doing my VR to help extract a LRRP team.

I had been flying a Visual Reconnaissance mission and really didn't expect to have any action because I had been briefed before take off that I probably couldn't get any air strikes for any target I found because all the strikes were allotted to a big action in some other part of Vietnam. I was scheduled to put in a preplanned strike on a target identified by the Division some time before. The Army jealously guarded these strikes because they were allotted so many per day for their targets. However the targets were often several days to two or three weeks old. Most of the time FACs referred to them as Monkey Killer Missions or Turning Trees into Toothpicks because there we were rarely able to report any

meaningful Bomb Damage Assessment. But the strikes were an agreement between the Air Force and the Army and the Army was very upset if they didn't get their allotted share of the strikes.

When I contacted the Troop Commander he told me the team had been inserted the night before and they had been surrounded by at least a company of enemy soldiers. They were receiving heavy fire and had several wounded. They needed help immediately. I asked him why artillery wasn't hitting the area and he said all the tubes were committed to other missions. Then I asked about inserting the Blue Platoon or the Quick Reaction Company on standby.

He told me the enemy force was considered too large for either the Blues or the Quick Reaction Company. Then I asked about attack helicopters and was told there were none available. All this sounded very strange to me because I knew the Army had a lot of assets and none was available in a desperate situation like this. Then it dawned on me. The Army had written the team off because they would probably kill them with friendly fire if they committed any of their assets and they had already had enough incidents of killing their own troops so let the Air Force take the blame. That made me angry and I decided I was going to get them out if I had to do it with a bluff of possible air strikes by firing my White Phosphorous marking rockets.

When I contacted the team it was immediately obvious to me how desperate their situation was. The radio operator was screaming, instead of whispering to conceal their position, because the enemy knew where they were and there was no need to try to keep it secret. I knew the radio operator was very near to losing his ability to think straight so I asked him in a very calm voice to tell me the situation. He said they were receiving fire from all sides and several team members were already wounded and perhaps dead. He expected to be over run at any moment. I asked him to pop a smoke so I could determine his position and he said he couldn't because of the heavy fire. I asked him to tell me some terrain features and after I thought I knew where he was I fired a marking rocket and he estimated his position from the white smoke and said that the enemy fire lessened for a short time but was now heavy again. His voice was rising again and I knew I had to calm him down. I told him I was going to get them out but when I started they must keep as low as they possibly could because I was going to have to put the bombs so close that a lot of shrapnel would be going over them. He said he was

already flat as a pancake and couldn't get any lower and still fire his weapon. He added that they were almost out of bullets anyway. They had fired their claymore mines and couldn't throw grenades because the fire was too intense.

I called the Division Tactical Operations center to make sure there was no organic firepower available and was assured that all the artillery and attack helicopters were engaged. I knew that probably wasn't true because I didn't hear much radio traffic showing battles in progress. I requested an air strike and was told there was nothing available and then I asked to use the preplanned strike and it was denied. I was given permission to contact the Direct Air Support Center (DASC) my luck there as a last chance to redirect the preplanned strike. When I contacted the DASC I was told the same thing. I said I had troops dying in the field and there must be something available. I was told there was nothing available for at least an hour and probably longer because all the alert birds were being refueled and rearmed. I then asked them to divert the preplanned strike and it was denied. I asked to speak to the supervisor and he came on the radio. Fortunately I recognized his voice as a FAC I knew. I asked him if his initials were BF and he said yes. I explained the life and death situation and asked again to divert the strike. He said he couldn't do it without getting into serious trouble. I told him to blame me and I was prepared to take all the heat and if he wouldn't do it I would make a stink by starting charges to publicize the situation.

I was sure neither the Army nor the Air Force wanted that to happen. Then he agreed to divert the preplanned strike that was due in minutes.

I went back to the LRRPs team channel and told the radio operator the strike was on the way and to reconfirm their position. His voice was calm now and I was shocked when he gave me the coordinates. He was calling the strike on his own position. I asked him if he knew what he was doing and he answered in a resigned voice, "It doesn't make any difference anyway. We're all dead anyway." I told him that wasn't true and reiterated that I was going to get them out and he said in the same voice, "OK". I told him again to hug the ground as I heard the flight check in. They had eight 500 lb bombs and 20 MM guns so I think they were F-100s but I'm not sure. I briefed them on the situation and told them I wanted the best bombs they ever dropped. I intended to mark for each bomb and the first pass for the lead aircraft was to be

from west to east and number two would attack from east to west. I knew that was hard for them to do so that was the reason I was marking each bomb. There were no questions so we went to work.

I put the first mark about 50 meters south of the teams position and told lead to put his bomb just to the south of my mark. He did and as he came off the target I rolled in and put a mark about 100 meters north of the smoke from the first bomb. When he was off the target I put a mark about 50 meters west of the target and told him to attack from south to north and put his bomb 50 meters west my mark. He did and then I put the next mark east of the target and told number two to drop from south to north and put his bomb just east of my mark. After that was done we had boxed the team's position and I put the next four bombs just outside that box. The radio operator came on the FM screaming that I had done it and they were running. I told the fighters to use half of their 20 MM to box the smoke that the enemy was running and that should send them on their way but I wanted them to hold the second half of their ammo to make sure the rescue birds got in safely. They did another magnificent job so I told the Troop Commander to get the Lift birds in there as soon as possible and he told me they were already inbound.

They picked up the team but I never knew how things turned out because one was KIA, four were WIA and the radio operator was babbling and repeating all the transmissions he had made during the action. They were all evacuated to Japan so I never got a chance to talk to them. After the lift birds made the pick up without any fire I told the F-100s to hose the area just in case any of the enemy were still running or still alive in the area. They did and I congratulated them on excellent bombing and gave them 50 KBA as an estimate. I couldn't get in to check for sure because the Army attack helicopters were busy continuing the chase. The Lift ships reported numerous dead enemy bodies in the area but had no real number because they were busy helping the team onto the helicopters. I wrote a letter to the squadron commending the pilots and another to the DASC commending the support but never heard a word from either the Air Force or the Army about the action. I considered it one of my best days as a FAC because I got all but one of them out alive though I thought we would be lifting bodies instead of soldiers.

Ray Janes, Rash 41 '69

The US & the United Nations

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 dollars of YOUR money, to primarily third-world dictators. This amount is 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 wishes of 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' records:

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 U. S. 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.

US Foreign Aid to those that hate us:

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

Jordan votes 71% against the United States and 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.

In the last year The Taliban terrorized the people of Afghanistan and gave safe haven to Osama Bin Laden, they received \$143,000,000 in US Foreign Aid.

Sudan voted 75% against the United States and 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 will receive \$500 million dollars in U.S. Foreign Aid over the next five years(!!!) Th is happened due to the Oslo "Agreement" of 1993, a deal which was endorsed and avidly supported by now New York Senator Hillary Clinton, who was then 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 Sept. 11th.

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

There is clearly no incentive for most countries to support the United States, 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?

Patrick M. Dailey
Credentialing Coordinator Columbia St. Mary's
Hospital Milwaukee Campus

Sent in by Steve Featherston

FRANCE, Friend or Foe?

According to the American Battle Monuments Commission

There are 26,255 Yankee dead from World War I buried in 4 cemeteries in France.

There are 30,426 American dead from World War II buried in 6 cemeteries in France.

These 56,681 brave American heroes died in their youth protecting France, and are buried in France.

Many thousands more dead soldiers were returned home and buried in the U.S.. All to liberate a country which is guilty of shameful unspeakable behavior in the 21st century.

May the people of the United States of America never forget the sacrifice of these true heroes, and never forget who our real friends are.

The French Forget To Remember

By Ralph R. Reiland
Monday, February 24, 2003

Germany declared war on France on Aug. 3, 1914. In April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany, the same month as The French Mutiny. A high school history book describes the insurrection by French troops: "French replacements marched past their generals bleating like sheep. They believed they were being led like animals to the slaughter. Some

30,000 men decided to leave their trenches and walk home. Some 54 divisions, about one-half of the French army, refused to obey orders from commanding generals."

By May 1918, more than 500,000 American soldiers were in France. Allied with forces from Britain and Italy, American troops threw the Germans back from Paris in August 1918. On Nov. 11, 1918, the Germans surrendered, effectively ending World War I.

SOME GAVE ALL; Altogether, 136,516 Americans lost their lives in World War I.

Near the village of Belleau in France is the 42-acre American Battle Monument Cemetery St. Mihiel. Nearly all of the 2,289 Americans buried there were killed in the battles of Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood in 1918. A Wall of the Missing in the cemetery contains the names of 1,060 Americans missing in action.

The largest American Battle Monument Cemetery of World War I is near Romagne-sous-Montfaucon in France. The 130-acre cemetery contains the remains of 14,246 American war dead. Engraved on the Wall of the Missing in the cemetery are the names of 954 unidentified or missing American soldiers.

The American Battle Monument Cemetery Oise-Aisne is 14 miles from Chateau-Thierry, where the majority of the 6,012 Americans buried at this 36-acre site were killed in action. A Wall of the Missing in the Oise-Aisne cemetery contains the names of 241 Americans.

Near the village of Bony in France, the 14-acre American Battle Monument Cemetery Somme is the final resting place for 1,844 American soldiers. The Wall of the Missing in the Somme cemetery lists the names of 333 American soldiers whose bodies were not recovered.

Most of the 4,152 American soldiers buried at the 40-acre American Battle Monument Cemetery near Thiaucourt, France, died in the September 1918 offensive that defeated the German forces that were threatening Paris. The Wall of the Missing in the cemetery lists the names of 284 Americans.

At Mont Valerin on the outskirts of Paris, the 7.5-acre American Battle Monument Cemetery Suresnes contains the World War I and World War II graves of 1,541 Americans. The Wall of the Missing in the Suresnes cemetery memorializes 974 American soldiers from both World Wars.

FRANCE, AGAIN

On May 12, 1940, the Germans crossed the French frontier. A month later, on June 14, 1940, the Germans entered Paris; the city was undefended. Eight days later, France surrendered to Germany; the conquered French government acquiesced in the plunder of the nation's resources, as well as in the sending of French forced labor to Germany.

Commanded by American Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Allies launched the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944; Paris was liberated less than three months later, on Aug. 25, 1944. Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945; Japan surrendered on Aug. 14, 1945.

All told, 405,399 Americans lost their lives during World War II.

On the northwest coast of France, overlooking Omaha Beach, where American forces came ashore on D-Day, a wall in American Battle Monument Cemetery Normandy is inscribed with the names of 3,724 Americans, missing in action. The 172-acre Normandy cemetery contains the remains of 9,386 American war dead.

Near the village of St. James, 220 miles from Paris, 4,410 American soldiers are buried in the Brittany American Cemetery. The names of 498 missing Americans are inscribed on the Wall of the Missing.

A wall in the cemetery near Epinal, France, lists the names of 424 American soldiers missing in action. The cemetery is the repository for the fatalities from the fighting at the Heasbourg Gap during the winter of 1944-45. It contains the graves of 5,255 Americans.

The American Battle Monument Cemetery Rhone contains the remains of 861 Americans. The Wall of the Missing in the Rhone cemetery lists the names of 294 Americans.

Near St. Avold, 10,489 U.S. soldiers are buried at American Battle Monument Cemetery Lorraine. The names of another 444 Americans are listed on the cemetery's Wall of the Missing. Most died while driving the Germans from the city of Metz, in northeast France. In one of the graves, three American soldiers are buried together, as they died. There are also 28 sets of brothers, buried side by side.

THE LESSON?

And so, what's the lesson? That the world would be goose-stepping without America? That war is hell? That ignoring Hitler in the early years only produced a larger hell? That another clash of civilizations is

under way? That, again, we're facing fascism? That war has been declared on the United States by militant Islam? That, again, we weren't paying sufficient attention in the early days, not listening when the Ayatollah Khomeini, 22 years before Sept. 11, 2001, came to power with "Death to America" as his battle cry?

Ralph R. Reiland,
the B. Kenneth Simon professor of free enterprise at
Robert Morris University,
E-mail at rreiland@aol.com.

What Price Glory? A Pro-France article

France has been a staunch ally of the United States since it's founding. It is sad to see how a few news media articles by narrow-minded media types can bring out the redneck mentality in so many people.

The French People know that the French Government came to the rescue of the rebels in the revolution against the British in 1778. They "remember" though, only through written history.

They know that the United States came to help them in WWI. Again, with possibly a few exceptions, they know this only through written history.

They know that the United States came to help them in WWII. While a whole new generation is in sway now, there is also a generation plus that have first hand knowledge of what happened then.

To say, *or even imply*, that they have forgotten is, once again, simply redneck rhetoric. One has only to visit the US Military cemeteries in Normandy, and throughout France, to see French people visiting and leaving flowers in remembrance. One has only to talk with the French people. One has only to get out of an overfed and *once secure* nation like the US and pay attention to the real world to know the true facts. *The French people have not forgotten.* How can we, who stand for Liberty and Justice for all, become so absurdly critical of the people of an ally and sovereign state that disagrees with the conduct of our foreign policies?

The official policy of the Government of France toward the Iraqi situation is to disarm and depose Saddam Hussein, and the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction. The *only policy disagreement* with the US is in the method of accomplishing this. This does not mean that France is an enemy. It

simply means they disagree. Their disagreement will not change the course of the United States in one way or the other. If one claims "my government, right or wrong", where would they stand if the Bush administration advocated overthrow of Hussein *without force*? Isn't that where the average French citizen stands? You will not find citizens of any country that are more fiercely patriotic.

The "government in power" elects to follow a certain course of action and then what would you have him do? Overthrow the Government? Let's use common sense here.

I was a soldier by profession and a Cav Trooper by choice. Twice. I saw enough war to know what it can do. If my country needs me, I will willingly fight again. But, as President Bush says, let's make it a "last resort". There is no glory in war. The price is too steep.

Robert Garrett

Dear American soldier,

You don't know me, but I know who you are, and I will not forget.

You are deploying from Fort Carson and Fort Hood and Fort Bliss and Fort Stewart. You hail from Middletown and Middleboro and Greenville and Redding and Thousand Oaks and Maple Tree. You are white, black, brown and yellow -- but always Americans first.

You are with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team and the 10th Combat Support Hospital and the 571st Air Ambulance Medical Evacuation Company. You are with the 1st Cavalry Division and the 3rd Infantry Division and the "Iron Horse" 4th Infantry Division. You are Black Knights with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment. You are engineers, drivers and medics in the 13th Corps Support Command.

Your motto is "We Will," "Steadfast and Loyal," "Swift and Deadly," "Always Prepared," "First to Fight," and "No Task Too Tough."

You will be joined overseas by thousands of sailors and Marines on the USS Boxer and USS Bonhomme Richard and USS Cleveland and USS Dubuque and USS Anchorage and USS Comstock and USS Pearl Harbor. You will get support in the Gulf from an airborne infantry brigade, a squadron of F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighters, and two squadrons of F-16CJ radar-jamming fighters.

You have friends on the USS Constellation in the Persian Gulf, and the USS Harry S. Truman in the Mediterranean Sea, and the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln stationed at Perth, Australia, and the USNS Yano en route to the Red Sea, and the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson on its way to a training mission in the Pacific.

You have classmates and colleagues and cousins who died at the Pentagon and in the Twin Towers on September 11. You have buddies who took bullets over the past year in Afghanistan and Kuwait and the Philippines during Operation Enduring Freedom. You have uncles and brothers and fathers and grandfathers who sacrificed their lives in past wars.

Their deaths haunt you. Their heroism inspires you. Their footsteps beckon and you cannot resist.

You have wives who are tough as nails and husbands who are enormously proud. You have toddlers who know the colors of the American flag and grade-schoolers who have memorized Army verses like these:

The hardest job, the dirtiest job
Since ever war began
Is picking 'em up and laying 'em down
The job of an infantryman
No mission too difficult
No sacrifice too great
Our duty to the nation
Is the first we're here to state
Our doughboys come from Brooklyn
Our gunners from Vermont
Our signals from Fort Monmouth
Our engineers DuPont
Against the foes of freedom
We fight for liberty
We make no peace with tyrants
On land or on the sea

As you pack your green Army duffel bags, press your desert camouflage fatigues, polish your boots and kiss your families goodbye, please take these words with you:

Thank you. Thank you for answering the call to arms. Thank you for being fit and young and brave and willing. Thank you for loving freedom enough to put your own life on the line to defend it.

Pay no attention to Sean Penn and Sheryl Crow and Baghdad Babs. Tune out the half-naked loonies and Flower Power leftovers. Stand tall. Fight hard. And know that there are legions of Americans who are

boundlessly grateful for what you have volunteered to do.

We know who you are. We will not forget. And we will pray every day for your safe return. Hoo-ah!

Michelle Malkin

Sent in by John Nielsen

9th Cavalry In Cuba

By Lionel DeLa Rosa

1866 was the beginning of many firsts that the 9th Cavalry would accomplish in its long and proud military history. Along with the 10th Cavalry, 24th and 25th Infantry it was the first time that Blacks were allowed to serve in the United States Peacetime Army. Prior to that time the blacks had served their country in segregated militia units. From 1867 till 1897 these men, now known as the Buffalo Soldiers, were the first to serve continuously in the Western Frontier. There was a good reason for this.

At the outbreak of war with Spain on April 1898, the country discovered that a large part of the United States Army was composed of Black Troopers stationed in isolated posts out in the northwest. Unlike their white counterparts, who were usually rotated to the civilized world, these black troopers would stay in the western frontier. Nobody wanted them stationed in their states. Consequently, these Buffalo Soldiers, who were destined to spend thirty-two years in the Western frontier and participate in nearly 200 major and minor engagements making them the most battle-experienced troopers that the U.S. Army had. These troopers were not only ready to be deployed, but were the first to be called and it would also be the first time that all four regiments would fight together in this nation's first global war. The U.S. Army also believes that the black soldiers were different than their counterpart and had the advantage of being immune to tropical diseases. This belief would cost many-a-life from the Buffalo Soldiers ranks. The regiment was alerted and departed Fort Robinson on 60 railcars destined for Florida. Their ride took them through several states in the northwest and the Midwest where the population would cheer the troopers with flag and flowers as they rode past towns and cities. Things turned ugly for the troopers as they rode through the

Southern States. The fact that their reputation as the best fighting men in the country had proceeded them did little to squash the hate for the black troopers. They were to fight in the first major war, on foreign soil against a foreign Nation, Spain.

The Spanish Soldier

Make no mistake about it; the Spanish soldiers had a reputation as the finest soldiers in Europe. What's more, the Spanish Soldiers in Cuba had the extra experience in having fought the determined guerilla insurgents in Cuba for many years. They were also experts in the use of cover and concealment by their extensive use of snipers on trees to harass their enemy, the wide-ranging use of barbed wire fences, entrenchments, rifle pits and blockhouses. In addition, the Spaniards were better armed than their American counterparts using the Spanish Mauser Rifle Model 1892, 7 x 57 mm, that was far superior to the American army Springfield trapdoor rifle and the Krag-Jorgenson rifle used by the American regular and the volunteer regiments since they used smokeless powder.

As for uniforms, the Spanish soldier wore a lightweight blouse and trousers, a straw hat and roped soled shoes more adaptable for the tropics, while the American Troops wore the heavy woolen coat and pants that was more of a hinder and easier to spot in the heavy jungle.

Las Guasimas

The 9th Cavalry was still landing its troops when the first engagement by the American forces was fought at Las Guasimas near Sevilla, Cuba. On the morning of June 24, 1898, General "Fighting Joe" Wheeler, the commander of Volunteers and dismounted Cavalry and a former Confederate Cavalry Officer, learned from his Cuban intelligence that the Spanish infantry and artillery held a ridge near Las Guasimas. He moved his brigade toward Las Guasimas in order to conduct a reconnaissance of the area. Two of his regiments, the 10th Cavalry, the 1st (regular) Cavalry followed a more northern route while the 1st Volunteer Cavalry followed a southern route. The American units had a hard time moving through the dense jungle as they made their way to Las Guasimas, yet managed to emerge from the jungle at about the same time.

The Spaniards had placed scouts on the approaches that allowed the Americans to pass and signal the Spanish army of their approach by using bird's signals. Unknown to the American regiments,

they were facing 1,500 well-concealed Spanish soldiers.

The American Hotchkiss battery opened fire on the road junction to initiate the attack and quickly came under heavy fire from the Spanish smokeless artillery. Unable to see the enemy's artillery, the cavalry's guns continued to fire under heavy counter enemy fire.

General Wheeler knowing that the 1st Volunteer Cavalry (rough riders) had a more difficult route to reach his line of departure had held up his attack until they could catch up and under heavy enemy fire he personally moved up the 1st (regular) Cavalry and the 10th Cavalry (black regiment) through the dense jungle take the fight to the enemy. However, the dense jungle and the smokeless enemy rifle fire made it difficult for the Cavalry troops to spot the Spanish positions. This was especially true for the Rough Riders who were the first to reach and engage the Spaniards only to be pin down. On hearing the heavy firing the 1st regular Cavalry ran to join them and it too were subject to intense enemy fire. Then from the rear came a terrifying cry that only black throats can yell. With a rush the 10th Cavalry came up and after firing several volleys the three regiment rush the enemy. This was too much for the Spaniards who broke and ran.

On seeing the Spanish retreated, it is said that General Wheeler was so overcome by the successful charge that he forgot who he was fighting and yelled out to his men. **“Come on! We’ve got the damn Yankees on the run!”**

San Juan Hill

There were two battles played out that faithful day of July 1, 1898, San Juan Hill, which included Kettle Hill and El Caney. The first battle was to be against the town of El Caney.

General Shafter, the commander of the Fifth Army Corp, had planned the attack against El Caney with 5400 (which included 500 black troops from the 25th Infantry regiments) American Troops against 520 Spanish troops estimating that it would take one to two hours to take the blockhouse and the town after which the assaulting troops were to join in on the assault at San Juan Hill. Here General Shafter greatly underestimated the Spanish defense of El Caney that would have dire consequences on the American assault on San Juan Hill.

The battle for El Caney started at dawn and would take four assaults and all day to take the blockhouse and town, long after the battle of San Juan Hill was

over. Aside for their weapons, the Spanish had a stone church, now fortified, as the highest point in the area. They put up such a fight, that at times, it seemed that the attacking American forces were actually the defenders but take it they did.

750 Spanish Soldiers, with an additional 10,000 soldiers in the city of Santiago, defended the second objective, San Juan Hill, in well-fortified positions, which include large blockhouses. Against this positions the American had thirteen regiments (approximately 8,000 men) of which three were Buffalo Soldier's units, the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th Infantry regiment. These also included two regiments of volunteers, which included Colonel Roosevelt's 1st Volunteers Cavalry, Rough Riders. While it may seem that the American had the advantage in manpower, they would have to attack against a hill in the open of anywhere from 300 to 600 yards of open ground. The outgoing battle from El Caney could be heard in the distance as the assault troops left Pozo and started toward San Juan Hill. Even as they moved through the jungle the Spanish started to receive heavy sniper fire that would continue until they reached the crest of San Juan Hill. They were to stay in that position, taking casualties, waiting for the troops from the attack at El Caney to join them in the attack on San Juan Hill. When it became obvious that the troops attacking El Caney would not be able to participate in the San Juan Hill the order to assault the hill was given. According to after-action-reports, each of the assaulting unit describe what happen as begin they begin their assault and started the long climb up the hill. Taking heavy casualties the trooper stopped just long enough to cut through the barbwire and to seek shelter from the withering Spanish fire they continue to climb the hill. For a while things did look bad for the assaulting American troops.

Suddenly, a terrifying sound, strange to most of the attacking Americans, was heard coming from their rear. Three of Lt. John Parker's Gatling guns were firing suppressive fire on the Spaniards forcing them to flee or to take shelter in their trenches. Waving their hats and yelling, the assaulting American troopers stood up and charged the hill. The first object to be taken was Kettle Hill followed shortly by San Juan Hill. The 9th Cavalry takes credit on being the first to reach the blockhouse at San Juan Hill; yet judging by the number of assaulting regiments stipulates that, as the American troopers climbed the hill, they were to be intermingled by

regiment and color as they were wedged into a single objective.

It was during this charge when all attacking units merged into an unorganized single force that the 10th Cavalry gained an unusual distinction. Sgt. Berry, the regimental color bearer saw the sister unit color bearer for the 3rd Cavalry go down. He ran forward and retrieved the unit's color then, carrying the two regimental colors, he continued his advance up the hill yelling at the troopers to "rally on the flag boys". Upon reaching the hill he planted both colors and became the only known person to carry two standards through a battle.

After the initial battle, the troops from the 9th Cavalry, being regular army, remain in San Juan Hill trenches for several days, mostly under fire, throughout the siege of Santiago. It is interesting to note that the reporters gave the black soldiers credit for the successful assault at El Caney and San Juan Hill but that was quickly forgotten. A few months after returning to the states, the troopers from the 9th Cavalry were sent to the Philippines where these troopers, once hidden in the trackless, Wild West, would again demonstrate their dedication and courage to their Nation, but their actions would do little to diminish racial tensions.

In 1903 while some of the 9th Cavalry were in the Philippines several of 9th Cavalries Troops remained stationed at the Presidio in San Francisco where they had the honor of being the first blacks to serve as Honor Guard for then President Theodore Roosevelt.

This story was taken from after action reports, internet finding from El Caney, San Juan Hill, Buffalo Soldiers books, etc. is intended to view the courage of the 9th Cavalry black troopers during the assault of San Juan hill in a condense outline.

1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry
(Aerial Reconnaissance)

Arrived Vietnam: 15 September 1965
 Departed Vietnam: 28 June 1971
 Previous Station: Fort Benning, GA

Authorized Strength	1966	1968	1971
Squadron	792	792	851

The 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry served as the reconnaissance cavalry squadron of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). It possessed three air cavalry troops, each with an aero-scout ("white") platoon, an

aero-weapons ("red") platoon and an aero-rifle ("blue") platoon. The squadron also had a ground cavalry element, D Troop. On 10 April 1971 the assets of this squadron were turned over to the 1st Aviation Brigade prior to the division's departure from Vietnam.

Troop Type	Squadron	Service/Remarks
A	Air Cav	Sept. 65 – June 71
B	Air Cav	Sept. 65 – June 71
C	Air Cav	Sept. 65 – June 71
D	Ground	Sept. 65 – June 71
E (Prov)	Air Cav	1 Sept. 70 – June 71
F (Prov)	Air Cav	8 Dec. 70 – June 71

Troop D, 17th Cavalry
 (Reconnaissance)
 (Air Cavalry)

First Tour:
 Arrived Vietnam: 13 December 1966
 Departed Vietnam: 12 October 1970
 Previous Station: Fort Benning
 Second Tour:
 Arrived Vietnam: 15 December 1971
 Departed Vietnam: 20 March 1972
 Previous Station: Vietnam
 Third Tour:
 Arrived Vietnam: 30 April 1972
 Departed Vietnam: 26 February 1973
 Previous Station: Vietnam

Authorized Strength	1968	1971
	195	210

Troop D, 17th Cavalry was initially in Vietnam as the ground reconnaissance element of the 199th Infantry Brigade (Light). The troop was raised again as an air cavalry troop from assets of Troop D, 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry to support the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). Finally, Troop D, 17th Cavalry was activated in Vietnam using assets of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry to serve the 11th Aviation Group at Da Nang.

Troop E. 17th Cavalry
 (Reconnaissance)

Arrived Vietnam: 6 May 1965
 Departed Vietnam: 14 August 1971
 Previous Station: Okinawa

Authorized Strength	1966	1968	1970
Troop	171	201	210

Troop E, 17th Cavalry was the ground reconnaissance element assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade when it entered Vietnam. The troop was collocated with the brigade throughout its service in Vietnam.

Troop F, 9th Cavalry
(Air Cavalry)

Arrived Vietnam: 30 June 1971
Departed Vietnam: 28 February 1973
Previous Station: Vietnam
Authorized Strength: 260 (1971)

Troop F, 9th Cavalry was an air cavalry troop raised to provide reconnaissance for the separate 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) after the bulk of the division departed Vietnam. It served under the aviation battalion, then with the brigade, the 229th; in 1973 the troop was inactivated. It should be noted that Troop F was formed unofficially as Troop H, 16th Cavalry, a designation never approved by the Department of the Army, and remained known by this unauthorized title in Vietnam until about May 1972.

Sent in by Joel Stein

From the Wateree to the Pee Dee

By Lieutenant Colonel William P. Gillette III

The title of this article was taken from the operations of the 3/17th Air Cavalry Squadron during Air Assault II conducted by the 11th Air Assault Division in South and North Carolina in the fall of 1964. This was the final peacetime test of the air assault and air cavalry concepts. The next test was at An Khe. During this momentous exercise the Air Cavalry Squadron validated its operational techniques and expertly trained its troops. Aside from the operational magnitude of the squadron's Air Assault II experience, there occurred another significant event in the annals of the U.S. Cavalry. The cavalry hat was reborn.

In the ensuing years I have heard with amusement several tales concerning the genesis of the current Black Hat. Through the use of this article I hope to set the record straight. Some of the principle players in the reincarnation were Lt. Colonel John B.

Stockton (Squadron Commander), Major General Harry Kinnard (Division Commander), General Harold K. Johnson (Chief of Staff of the Army), and Captains Walter Harman and myself (Cavalrymen). The stage was a goat pasture on the shores of Wateree Pond and the time was November 1964.

After a period of intensive simulated combat, members of the squadron were authorized several days rest and recreation (R and R) on a staggered schedule. Since both Walt and I had wives at Fort Benning (our home station) we decided to return to the banks of the Chattahoochee for R and R. Walt went home a couple of days before me and must have rested quickly, for when I arrived, he was roaming around being a licensed cavalryman. Walt dutifully conducted a reconnaissance as he reamed about. His travel took him to the Fort Benning salvage store, where he found some olive drab, Montana peak drill sergeant hats for sale. Having purchased some of these hats he posted over to my quarters where we convened a planning session. It didn't take long for two dashing captains of Cavalry to decide that the motley specimens we held could be turned into the campaign hats of yesteryear. Initially there were three problems, the color and shape of the hats, and the necessary hat cords to designate general officers, officers, warrant officers and troopers by branch. The color soon resolved itself when we convinced our wives that if we got some black dye that they could easily dye our hats black. This was not as simple a task as it first appeared. It took several dryings before our first hats attained the proper color, and of course the dye pot had to boil over in the kitchen once or twice. About this time Walt and I thought it would be discreet if we conducted a deploying action as we were about to be decisively engaged on the home front. We withdrew smartly in an effort to solve our remaining two problems.

In Phoenix City across the Chattahoochee, we found a cleaning establishment which consented to block our hats into the prescribed shape. Not having any knowledge of how to solve the problem of the hat cords we conducted an area reconnaissance of Columbus. Somewhere in the back alleys of the city I located an owner of a second-hand shop who had a desk drawer full of hat cords and didn't know what to do with them. A bargain was soon struck and we were able to produce several specimens of what was to become the black cavalry hat.

Having reached the end of our R and R, Walt and I reported back to the squadron assembly area on the

banks of Wateree Pond. Back in our troop area, we sought the council of our troop commander, Major Robert Stoverink. We decided that the best way to propagate the black cavalry hats within the squadron was to give our squadron commander one for his birthday which would come to pass in the next couple of days. Colonel Stockton's birthday turned out to be a momentous occasion that year. In addition to the cavalry hat from B Troop, he received an old white mule from C Troop. He was delighted with both the hat and the mule. Walt and I were commissioned to produce hats for all of the squadron officers and the mule, (Maggie) was proclaimed the squadron mascot. This announcement presented C Troop with a problem. The C Troop officers had rented the mule from a local farmer and presented him to Colonel Stockton as a joke, knowing well that they could return it after the Colonel told them to get that mule out of his CP. However, since they didn't get the mule back, they had to return to the farmer and purchase Maggie.

The cavalry hat procurement went well until early spring of 1965 when we exhausted the supply of salvage hats at Fort Benning. Although I'll admit that it was a welcome relief for our wives who had to dye all of the hats. But it was good training for them because it wasn't long before they had to dye all of our underwear green prior to our deployment to Vietnam. Notwithstanding the procurement problem, the demand for cavalry hats increased drastically. The deteriorating situation necessitated that Walt and I hold another planning conference. We surmised that since the John B. Stetson Company had produced some of the salvage hats which we used, that they might be able to produce the cavalry hat. I took a picture of my hat and sent it to the Stetson Company with our request. The response was outstanding. The sales manager of the Stetson Company agreed to supply the prescribed hat with cord at a reasonable price. Thus, the machinery was set for the resurrection of the cavalry hat.

The story of the reinstatement of the black cavalry hat would be incomplete if some of the earlier wearing difficulties were not included.

As the 3/17 Air Cavalry Squadron's hats became increasingly visible at Fort Benning, our Division Commander, General Kinnard, became more forceful in his objections to the wearing of cavalry hats. Not desiring to irritate our commander, we became very careful where we wore the hats. They were essentially relegated to wear in the field and the

squadron area at Harmony Church (that was almost in the field). All went well until the squadron conducted a counterinsurgency exercise at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Being in the field, we wore our cavalry hats. Evidently, while there, a news photographer took a picture of members of the squadron wearing black cavalry hats. The aftermath of the Camp Shelby publicity took place at Fort Benning one Sunday morning several weeks later. That was the day Colonel Stockton picked up the telephone and heard the following. "Colonel, this is General Johnson. Don't you believe in the uniform which I have prescribed for the Army?"

DISCONNECTEDNESS DEFINES DANGER:

Problem areas requiring American attention (outlined) are, in the author's analysis called the Gap. Shrinking the gap is possible only by stopping the ability of terrorist networks to access the Core via the "seam states" that lie along the Gap's bloody boundaries. In this war on terrorism, the U.S. will place a special emphasis on cooperation with these states. What are the classic seam states? Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia.

TO WHAT PARTS OF THE WORLD can be considered functioning right now? North America, much of South America, the European Union, Putin's Russia, Japan and Asia's emerging economies (most notably China and India), Australia and New Zealand, and South Africa, which accounts for roughly four billion out of a global population of six billion.

Whom does that leave in the Gap? It would be easy to say "everyone else," but I want to offer you more proof than that and, by doing so, argue why I think the Gap is a long-term threat to more than just your pocketbook or conscience.

If we map out U.S. military responses since the end of the cold war, (see below), we find an overwhelming concentration of activity in the regions of the world that are excluded from globalization's growing Core-namely the Caribbean Rim, virtually all of Africa, the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and Southwest Asia, and much of Southeast Asia. That is roughly the remaining two billion of the world's population. Most have demographics skewed very young, and most are

labeled, "low income" or "low middle income" by the World Bank (i.e., less than \$3,000 annual per capita).

If we draw a line around the majority of those military interventions, we have basically mapped the Non-Integrating Gap. Obviously, there are outliers excluded geographically by this simple approach, such as an Israel isolated in the Gap, a North Korea adrift within the Core, or a Philippines straddling the line. But looking at the data, it is hard to deny the essential logic of the picture: If a country is either losing out to globalization or rejecting much of the content flows associated with its advance, there is a far greater chance that the U.S. will end up sending forces at some point. Conversely, if a country is largely functioning within globalization, we tend not to have to send our forces there to restore order to eradicate threats.

Now, that may seem like a tautology-in effect defining any place that has not attracted U.S. military intervention in the last decade or so as "functioning within globalization" (and vice versa). But think about this larger point: Ever since the end of World War II, this country has assumed that the real threats to its security resided in countries of roughly similar size, development, and wealth-in other words, other great powers like ourselves. During the cold war, that other great power was the Soviet Union. When the big Red machine evaporated in the early 1990's, we flirted with concerns about a united Europe, a powerhouse Japan, and-most recently-a rising China.

What was interesting about all those scenarios is the assumption that only an advanced state can truly threaten us. The rest of the world? Those less-developed parts of the world have long been referred to in military plans as the "Lesser Included," meaning that if we built a military capable of handling a great power's military threat, it would always be sufficient for any minor scenarios we might have to engage in the less advanced world.

That assumption was shattered by September 11. After all, we were not attacked by a nation or even an army but by a group of-in Thomas Friedman's vernacular-Super Empowered Individuals willing to die for their cause. September 11 triggered a system perturbation that continues to reshape our government (the new Department of Homeland Security), our economy (the de facto security tax we all pay), and even our society (*Wave to the camera!*). Moreover, it launched the global war on terrorism, the prism through which our government now views every

bilateral security relationship we have across the world.

In many ways, the September 11 attacks did the U.S. national-security establishment a huge favor by pulling us back from the abstract planning of future high-tech wars against "near peers" into the here-and-now threats to global order. By doing so, the dividing lines between Core and Gap were highlighted, and more important, the nature of the threat environment was thrown into stark relief.

Think about it: Bin Laden and Al Qaeda are pure products of the Gap-in effect, its most violent feedback to the Core. They tell us how we are doing in exporting security to these lawless areas (not very well) and which states they would like to take "off line" from globalization and return to some seventh-century definition of the good life (any Gap state with a sizable Muslim population, especially Saudi Arabia).

If you take this message from Osama and combine it with our military-intervention record of the last decade, a simple security rule set emerges: *A country's potential to warrant a U.S. military response is inversely related to its globalization connectivity.* There is a good reason why Al Qaeda was based first in Sudan and then later in Afghanistan: These are two of the most disconnected countries in the world. Look at the other places U.S. Special Operations Forces have recently zeroed in on: northwestern Pakistan, Somalia, Yemen. We are talking about the ends of the earth as far as globalization is concerned.

But just as important as "getting them where they live" is stopping the ability of these terrorist networks to access the Core via the "seam states" that lie along the Gap's bloody boundaries. It is along this seam that the Core will seek to suppress bad things coming out of the Gap. Which are some of these classic seam states? Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Morocco, Algeria, Greece, Turkey, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia come readily to mind. But the U.S. will not be the only Core state working this issue. For example, Russia has its own war on terrorism in the Caucasus, China is working its western border with more vigor, and Australia was recently energized (or was it cowed?) by the Bali bombing.

IF WE STEP BACK for a minute and consider the broader implications of this new global map, then U.S. national-security strategy would seem to be: 1) Increase the Core's immune system capabilities for

responding to September 11-like system perturbations; 2) Work the seam states to firewall the Core from the Gap's worst exports, such as terror, drugs, and pandemics; and, most important, 3) **Shrink the Gap**. Notice I did not just say *Mind the Gap*. The knee-jerk reaction of many Americans to September 11 is to say, "Let's get off our dependency on foreign oil, and then we won't have to deal with *those* people." The most naïve assumption underlying that dream is that reducing what little connectivity the Gap has with the Core will render it less dangerous to us over the long haul. Turning the Middle East into Central Africa will not build a better world for my kids. We cannot simply will *those* people away.

The Middle East is the perfect place to start. Diplomacy cannot work in a region where the biggest sources of insecurity lie not between states but within them. What is most wrong about the Middle East is the lack of personal freedom and how that translates into dead-end lives for most of the population—especially for the young. Some states like Qatar and Jordan are ripe for perestroika-like leaps into better political futures, thanks to younger leaders who see the inevitability of such change. Iran is likewise waiting for the right Gorbachev to come along—if he has not already.

What stands in the path of this change? Fear. Fear of tradition unraveling. Fear of the mullah's disapproval. Fear of being labeled a "bad" or "traitorous" Muslim state. Fear of becoming a target of radical groups and terrorist networks. But most of all, fear of being attacked from all sides for being different—the fear of becoming Israel.

The Middle East has long been a neighborhood of bullies eager to pick on the weak. Israel is still around because it has become—sadly—one of the toughest bullies on the block. The only thing that will change that nasty environment and open the floodgates for change is if some external power steps in and plays Leviathan full-time. Taking down Saddam, the region's bully-in-chief, will force the U.S. into playing that role far more fully than it has over the past several decades, primarily because Iraq is the Yugoslavia of the Middle East—a crossroads of civilizations that has historically required a dictatorship to keep the peace. As baby-sitting jobs go, this one will be a doozy, making our lengthy efforts in postwar Germany and Japan look simple in retrospect.

But it is the right thing to do, and now is the right time to do it, and we are the only country that can. Freedom cannot blossom in the Middle East without security, and security is this country's most influential public-sector export. By that I do not mean arms exports, but basically the attention paid by our military forces to any region's potential for mass violence. We are the only nation on earth capable of exporting security in a sustained fashion, and we have a very good track record of doing it.

Show me a part of the world that is secure in its peace and I will show you a strong or growing ties between local militaries and the U.S. military. Show me regions where major war is inconceivable and I will show you permanent U.S. military bases and long-term security alliances. Show me the strongest investment relationships in the global economy and I will show you two postwar military occupations that remade Europe and Japan following World War II.

This country has successfully exported security to globalization's Old Core (Western Europe, Northeast Asia) for half a century and to its emerging New Core (Developing Asia) for a solid quarter century following our mishandling of Vietnam. But our efforts in the Middle East have been inconsistent—in Africa, almost nonexistent. Until we begin the systematic, long-term export of security to the Gap, it will increasingly export its pain to the Core in the form of terrorism and other instabilities.

Naturally, it will take a whole lot more than the U.S. exporting security to shrink the Gap. Africa, for example, will need far more aid than the Core has offered in the past, and the integration of the Gap will ultimately depend more on private investment than anything the Core's public sector can offer. But it all has to begin with security, because free markets and democracy cannot flourish amid chronic conflict.

Making this effort means reshaping our military establishment to mirror-image the challenge that we face. Think about it. Global war is not in the offing, primarily because our huge nuclear stockpile renders such war unthinkable—for anyone. Meanwhile, classic state-on-state wars are becoming fairly rare. So if the United States is in the process of "transforming" its military to meet the threats of tomorrow, what should it end up looking like? In my mind, we fight fire with fire. If we live in a world increasingly populated by Super-Empowered Individuals, we field a military of Super-Empowered-Individuals.

This may sound like additional responsibility for an already overburdened military, but that is the

wrong way of looking at it, for what we are dealing with here are problems of success-not failure. It is America's continued success in deterring global war and obsolescing state-on-state war that allows us to stick our noses into the far more difficult subnational conflicts and the dangerous transnational actors they spawn. I know most Americans do not want to hear this, but the real battlegrounds in the global war on terrorism are still *over there*. If gated communities and rent-a-cops were enough, September 11 never would have happened.

History is full of turning points like that terrible day, *but no turning-back-points*. We ignore the Gap's existence at our own peril, because it will not go away until we as a nation respond to the challenge of making globalization truly global.

Handicapping the Gap

My list of real trouble for the world in the 1990s, today, and tomorrow, starting in our own backyard:

HAITI Efforts to build a nation in 1990s were disappointing * We have been going into Haiti for about a century, and we will go back when boat people start flowing in during the next crisis-without fail.

COLOMBIA Country is broken into several lawless chunks, with private armies, rebels, narcos, and legit government all working the place over. * Drugs still flow. * Ties between drug cartels and rebels grew over decade, and now we know of links to international terror, too. * We get involved, keep promising more, and keep getting nowhere. Piecemeal, incremental approach is clearly not working.

BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA Both on the bubble between the Gap and the Functioning Core. Both played the globalization game to hilt in nineties and both feel abused now. The danger of falling off the wagon and going self-destructively leftist or rightist is very real. * No military threats to speak of, except against their own democracies (the return of the generals). * South American alliance MERCOSUR tries to carve out its own reality while Washington pushes Free Trade of Americas, but we may have to settle for agreements with Chile or for pulling only Chile into bigger NAFTA. Will Brazil and Argentina force themselves to be left out and then resent it? * Amazon a large ungovernable area for Brazil, plus all that environmental damage continues to pile up. Will the world eventually care enough to step in?

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA For most of the past decade, served as shorthand for Europe's inability to

get its act together even in its own backyard. * Will be a long-term baby-sitting job for the West.

CONGO AND RWANDA/BURUNDI Two to three million dead in central Africa from all the fighting across the decade. How much worse can it get before we try to do something, anything? Three million more dead? * Congo is a carrion state-not quite dead or alive, and everyone is feeding off it. * And then there's AIDS.

ANGOLA Never really has solved its ongoing civil war (1.5 million dead in past quarter century). * Basically at conflict with self since mid-seventies, when Portuguese "empire" fell. * Life expectancy right now is under forty!

SOUTH AFRICA The only functioning Core country in Africa, but it's on the bubble. Lots of concerns that South Africa is a gateway country for terror networks trying to access Core through back door. * Endemic crime is biggest security threat. * And then there's AIDS.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE Terror will not abate-there is no next generation in the West Bank that wants anything but more violence. * Wall going up right now will be the Berlin Wall of twenty-first century. Eventually, outside powers will end up providing security to keep the two sides apart (this divorce is going to be very painful). * There is always the chance of somebody (Saddam in desperation?) trying to light up Israel with weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and triggering the counterpunch we all fear Israel is capable of.

SAUDI ARABIA The let-them-eat-cake mentality of royal mafia will eventually trigger violent instability from within. * Paying terrorists protection money to stay away will likewise eventually fail, so danger will come from outside, too. * Huge young population with little prospects for future, and a ruling elite whose main source of income is a declining long-term asset. And yet the oil will matter to enough of the world far enough into the future that the United States will never let this place really tank, no matter what it takes.

IRAQ Question of when and how, not if. * Then there's the huge rehab job. We will have to build a security regime for the whole region.

SOMALIA Chronic lack of governance. * Chronic food problems. * Chronic problem of terrorist-network infiltration. * We went in with Marines and Special Forces and left disillusioned-a poor man's Vietnam for the 1990s. Will be hard-pressed not to return.

IRAN Counterrevolution has already begun: This time the students want to throw the mullahs out. * Iran wants to be friends with U.S., but resurgence of fundamentalists may be the price we pay to invade Iraq. * The mullahs support terror, and their push for WMD is real: Does this make them inevitable target once Iraq and North Korea are settled?

AFGHANISTAN Lawless, violent place even before the Taliban stepped onstage and started pulling it back toward seventh century (short trip) * Government sold to Al Qaeda for pennies on the dollar. * Big source of narcotics (heroin). * Now U.S. stuck there for long haul, rooting out hardcore terrorists/rebels who've chosen to stay.

PAKISTAN There is always the real danger of their having the bomb and using it out of weakness in conflict with India (very close call with December 13, 2001, New Delhi bombing). * Out of fear that Pakistan may fall to radical Muslims, we end up backing hard-line military types we don't really trust. * Clearly infested with Al Qaeda. * Was on its way to being declared a rogue state by U.S. until September 11 forced us to cooperate again. Simply put, Pakistan doesn't seem to control much of its own territory.

NORTH KOREA Marching toward WMD. * Bizarre recent behavior of Pyongyang (admitting kidnappings, breaking promises on nukes, shipping weapons to places we disapprove of and getting caught, signing agreements with Japan that seem to signal new era, talking up new economic zone next to China) suggests it is intent (like some mental patient) on provoking crises. * We live in fear of Kim's Götterdämmerung scenario (he is nuts). * Population deteriorating-how much more can they stand? * After Iraq, may be next.

INDONESIA Usual fears about breakup and "world's largest Muslim population." * Casualty of Asian economic crisis (really got wiped out). * Hot spot for terror networks, as we have discovered.

New/integrating members of Core I worry may be lost in coming year:

CHINA Running lots of races against itself in terms of reducing the unprofitable state-run enterprises while not triggering too much unemployment, plus dealing with all that growth in energy demand and accompanying pollution, plus coming pension crisis as population ages. * New generation of leaders looks suspiciously like unimaginative technocrats-big question if they are up to task. * If none of those macro pressures trigger internal instability, there is always the fear that the Communist party won't go

quietly into the night in terms of allowing more political freedoms and that at some point, economic freedom won't be enough for the masses. Right now the CCP is very corrupt and mostly a parasite on the country, but it still calls the big shots in Beijing. * Army seems to be getting more disassociated from society and reality, focusing ever more myopically on countering U.S. threat to their ability to threaten Taiwan, which remains the one flash point that could matter. * And then there's AIDS. **RUSSIA** Putin has long way to go in his dictatorship of the law; the mafia and robber barons still have too much power. * Chechnya and the near-abroad in general will drag Moscow into violence, but it will be kept within the federation by and large. * U.S. moving into Central Asia is a testy thing-a relationship that can sour if not handled just right. * Russia has so many internal problems (financial weakness, environmental damage, et cetera) and depends too much on energy exports to feel safe (does bringing Iraq back online after invasion kill their golden goose?). * And then there's AIDS.

INDIA First, there's always the danger of nuking it out with Pakistan. * Short of that, Kashmir pulls them into conflict with Pak, and that involves U.S. now in way it never did before due to war on terror. * India is microcosm of globalization: the high tech, the massive poverty, the islands of development, the tensions between cultures/civilizations/religions/et cetera. It is too big to succeed, and too big to let fail. * Wants to be big responsible military player in region, wants to be strong friend of U.S., and also wants desperately to catch up with China in development (the self-imposed pressure to succeed is enormous). * And then there's AIDS.

Our Soldiers and the men who lead them

If I were 'King' - this would be required reading for all 'Peaceniks' - Aren't you glad I'm not King? This is good though - check it out,
Bill Fowler

National Review
May 19, 2003 [as received]

The Men Who Won The War; An 'embed' looks at our soldiers
By Jim Lacey

Since returning from Iraq a short time ago I have been answering a lot of questions about the war from friends, family, and strangers. When they ask me how it was over there I find myself glossing over the fighting, the heat, the sandstorms, and the flies (these last could have taught the Iraqi army a thing or two about staying power). Instead, I talk about the soldiers I met, and how they reflected the best of America. A lot of people are going to tell the story of how this war was fought; I would rather say something about the men who won the war.

War came early for the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne when an otherwise quiet night in the Kuwaiti desert was shattered by thunderous close-quarters grenade blasts. Sgt. Hasan Akbar, a U.S. soldier, had thrown grenades into an officers' tent, killing two and wounding a dozen others. Adding to the immediate confusion was the piercing scream of SCUD alarms, which kicked in the second Akbar's grenade exploded. For a moment, it was a scene of near panic and total chaos.

Just minutes after the explosions, a perimeter was established around the area of the attack, medics were treating the wounded, and calls for evacuation vehicles and helicopters were already being sent out. Remarkably, the very people who should have been organizing all of this were the ones lying on the stretchers, seriously wounded. It fell to junior officers and untested sergeants to take charge and lead. Without hesitation everyone stepped up and unflinchingly did just that. I stood in amazement as two captains (Townlee Hendrick and Tony Jones) directed the evacuation of the wounded, established a hasty defense, and helped to organize a search for the culprit. They did all this despite bleeding heavily from their wounds. For over six hours, these two men ran things while refusing to be evacuated until they were sure all of the men in their command were safe.

Two days later Capt. Jones left the hospital and hitchhiked back to the unit: He had heard a rumor that it was about to move into Iraq and he wanted to be there. As Jones -- dressed only in boots, a hospital gown, and a flak vest -- limped toward headquarters, Col. Hodges, the 1st Brigade's commander, announced, "I see that Captain Jones has returned to us in full martial splendor." The colonel later said that he was tempted to send Jones to the unit surgeon for further evaluation, but that he didn't feel he had the right to tell another man not to fight: Hodges himself had elected to leave two grenade fragments in his arm

so that he could return to his command as quickly as possible.

The war had not even begun and already I was aware that I had fallen in with a special breed of men. Over the next four weeks, nothing I saw would alter this impression. A military historian once told me that soldiers could forgive their officers any fault save cowardice. After the grenade attack I knew these men were not cowards, but I had yet to learn that the brigade's leaders had made a cult of bravery. A few examples will suffice.

While out on what he called "battlefield circulation," Col. Hodges was surveying suspected enemy positions with one of his battalion commanders (Lt. Col. Chris Hughes) when a soldier yelled "Incoming" to alert everyone that mortar shells were headed our way. A few soldiers moved closer to a wall, but Hodges and Hughes never budged and only briefly glanced up when the rounds hit a few hundred yards away. As Hodges completed his review and prepared to leave, another young soldier asked him when they would get to kill whoever was firing the mortar. Hodges smiled and said, "Don't be in a hurry to kill him. They might replace that guy with someone who can shoot."

The next day, a convoy Col. Hodges was traveling in was ambushed by several Iraqi paramilitary soldiers. A ferocious firefight ensued, but Hodges never left the side of his vehicle. Puffing on a cigar as he directed the action, Hodges remained constantly exposed to fire. When two Kiowa helicopters swooped in to

pulverize the enemy strongpoint with rocket fire, he turned to some journalists watching the action and quipped, "That's your tax dollars at work."

Bravery inspires men, but brains and quick thinking win wars. In one particularly tense moment, a company of U.S. soldiers was preparing to guard the Mosque of Ali -- one of the most sacred Muslim sites -- when agitators in what had been a friendly crowd started shouting that they were going to storm the mosque. In an instant, the Iraqis began to chant and a riot seemed imminent. A couple of nervous soldiers slid their weapons into fire mode, and I thought we were only moments away from a slaughter. These soldiers had just fought an all-night battle. They were exhausted, tense, and prepared to crush any riot with violence of their own. But they were also professionals, and so, when their battalion commander, Chris Hughes, ordered them to take a knee, point their weapons to the ground, and start

smiling, that is exactly what they did. Calm returned. By placing his men in the most non-threatening posture possible, Hughes had sapped the crowd of its aggression. Quick thinking and iron discipline had reversed an ugly situation and averted disaster.

Since then, I have often wondered how we created an army of men who could fight with ruthless savagery all night and then respond so easily to an order to "smile" while under impending threat. Historian Stephen Ambrose said of the American soldier: "When soldiers from any other army, even our allies, entered a town, the people hid in the cellars. When Americans came in, even into German towns, it meant smiles, chocolate bars and C-rations." Ours has always been an army like no other, because our soldiers reflect a society unlike any other. They are pitiless when confronted by armed enemy fighters and yet full of compassion for civilians and even defeated enemies.

American soldiers immediately began saving Iraqi lives at the conclusion of any fight. Medics later said that the Iraqi wounded they treated were astounded by our compassion. They expected they would be left to suffer or die. I witnessed Iraqi paramilitary troops using women and children as human shields, turning grade schools into fortresses, and defiling their own holy sites. Time and again, I saw Americans taking unnecessary risks to clear buildings without firing or using grenades, because it might injure civilians. I stood in awe as 19-year-olds refused to return enemy fire because it was coming from a mosque.

It was American soldiers who handed over food to hungry Iraqis, who gave their own medical supplies to Iraqi doctors, and who brought water to the thirsty. It was American soldiers who went door-to-door in a slum because a girl was rumored to have been injured in the fighting; when they found her, they called in a helicopter to take her to an Army hospital. It was American soldiers who wept when a three-year-old was carried out of the rubble where she had been killed by Iraqi mortar fire. It was American soldiers who cleaned up houses they had been fighting over and later occupied - they wanted the places to look at least somewhat tidy when the residents returned.

It was these same soldiers who stormed to Baghdad in only a couple of weeks, accepted the surrender of three Iraqi Army divisions, massacred any Republican Guard unit that stood and fought, and disposed of a dictator and a regime with ruthless efficiency. There is no other army -- and there are no

other soldiers -- in the world capable of such merciless fighting and possessed of such compassion for their fellow man. No society except America could have produced them.

Before I end this I want to point out one other quality of the American soldier: his sense of justice. After a grueling fight, a company of infantrymen was resting and opening their first mail delivery of the war. One of the young soldiers had received a care package and was sharing the home-baked cookies with his friends. A photographer with a heavy French accent asked if he could have one. The soldier looked him over and said there would be no cookies for Frenchmen. The photographer then protested that he was half Italian. Without missing a beat, the soldier broke a cookie in half and gave it to him. It was a perfect moment and a perfect reflection of the American soldier.

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

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.

As always, if you send the BWS an e-mail, it is subject to going into the Letters to the Editor column. So if you do not want your letter printed, then let BWS know in the e-mail that it is confidential, and it will not be printed.

Our first letter is from our own George Hewlett.

Enjoy.

BWS

RESPONCE TO MIKE BOGDUE LETTER IN JAN
2003 NEWSLETTER

Al

I read the letter/comment from Mr. Bogdue in the Jan 2003 newsletter with some dismay. Whether freedom of speech and assembly has any stature outside of a court of law is questionable, but since it seems to be widely accepted by many antisocial groups to protect their opinions and disagreements, so should it provide equal protection to all. The intent of the founding fathers was to limit the powers of government and any institutions that would have undue influence over the functions of government. Their intentions were not to limit the expressions of the citizenry whether in groups or individually.

I did not know Col Stockton, but from all that I have heard about him I doubt that he meant to stifle expression. I think he probably meant that the organization would not take a stand on issues of race, religion, or politics. If Mr. Bogdue has a conviction or wants to express his opinions he needs to do so. It appears to me that those who have minority opinions in our society chose not to express them but would rather stifle the opinions of others.

Political Correctness is a cowardly way to eliminate confrontation. If there are those among us who have differing opinions they need to express them. Their opinions or disagreements need to be explicit, not covered with a broad brush of ambiguity. Maybe there is a reason for their candidness. Minority opinions take courage to express.

I don't recall Loel putting us in formation and directing us to pray to the east or west or reading the Bible everyday or voting Republican or Democrat. If a member cares to express his belief in God or approval of disapproval of a politician or political party he certainly has that right. I have never heard or read anything from Loel which I thought distasteful or inappropriate. The fact that Loel and Al have volunteered their time and energies to make our organization a success does not mean they have to give up any rights and privileges as members. I salute them both and encourage them not to be discouraged by this issue.

Please place this in the next issue of the Newsletter

George P Hewlett
F Troop
Sabrehew06@aol.com

Loel,

I wrote and published a book about my time in B Troop 1/9 Cav. It is not a definitive book on the Cav or any attempt at being a historical document. It started as me just writing down some of our war stories, so I wouldn't forget them in my approaching old age. I added some stories of getting drafted and going through flight school and some about growing up in Brooklyn and my decision to enter the Army via the draft. The name of the book is "Born in Brooklyn....Raised in the CAV! You can read an excerpt of it at www.xlibris.com/bookstore

It's my hope that as you read it some of your memories will kick in. I hope you will take the time and jot down your memories, or how your experience was different and fold the paper and put it in your book. This way your kids/ grandkids/ family will know a little more about your time in Vietnam with the 1/9 Cav, and my story and your story will become one, and help document what we experienced.

Here is the info:

"Born in Brooklyn Raised in the CAV" is now available for purchase from www.Xlibris.com/bookstore. (It also can be ordered through your local bookstore, or such on-line bookstores as amazon.com, Barnes and Noble etc. It is available at the Fort Rucker Museum gift shop.

For info on or to buy the Book go to: www.xlibris.com/BorninBrooklyn.html ; email: orders@xlibris.com By fax: (215) 923-4685 By telephone: 1-888-795-4274 option 5, By mail: Xlibris Corp. 436 Walnut Street, 11th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Thanks,
John

Loel:

Time moves on. Just think it has been 43 years since we all went to VN. But tell all the troops its been great to remember all the great soldiers in the 1/9 Bullwhip Squadron.

I am 80 years old and I only live for the great days of the 1/9 Cav.

SM Kennedy

Well Said, SM Kennedy.

BWS

Dear BWS:

Just pulled my head out of the sand: that is, working as an AARP volunteer helping the Texas Legislature do the right thing. Also, I try to “think and act as a responsible citizen and veteran of this great country.” I am qualified!

I was struck by this statement in the January issue of The Bullwhip Squadron News “make no mistake, we are under attack for our Christian way of life and beliefs.” That may or may not be true, but needs to consider some other facts, I am a Christian, but my “way of life and beliefs” and other loyal, responsible, citizens may not be the same as the writer.

The US 2000 census says, as our Constitution requires, this nation has no “official religion”. It also states that 85% of us are Christians of one ilk or another. That leaves 15% of “other” that includes Jews, Moslems, non- religious, and others. These people are Americans and their way of life may or may not be like mine, but they demand the respect of all Americans.

As a matter of reference, that 15% (42,000,000) is almost double the population of Iraq.

The same census states that 72% of we Americans are “non-Hispanic white”. That leaves 28% that are described as “non-Hispanic black”, Hispanic; Asian and Pacific Islander; American Indian and Eskimo. That is about 79,000,000 Americans that may or may not have the same way of life and beliefs of the others. Another matter of reference, 79,000,000 represents the population of Vietnam. Remember those guys??

I contend that what we do as a nation is to be damn sure we consider all of these people, not just the 85 or 72 percents categories. It is our Constitution that gives us our freedoms and our way of life.

I noticed the red stripe on my address label, so here is my dues check for 2003.

WE DID!!!

Harold “Hap” Rose 3/17 and 1/9

P.S. General Dick Hawley’s speech text should be required reading.

Harold, well said.

BWS

Loel:

Sorry my mind went blank again, Barbara and I talked about it. I thought I paid her in advance. It’s bad to get old.

I enjoyed myself, so did my wife and daughters. It was a treat. You and your staff did an outstanding job. Thanks for every thing. So sorry I did not send my dues but they are enclosed.

George Jarvis, HQ & A Troop 65-66

George, the less I remember, the older I get. It happens to most of us. And thanks for the good words. We look forward to seeing everyone in 04.

BWS

Loel:

The Bullwhip magazine is Good. The article by Air Force 4 star (nameless) was damn good. What a reminder for all of us. To get past the smoke of modern day gobblely gook language and perceptions.

Don’t advertise it but in your travels if anyone can send me a “dress” photo of soldier in Army Green Class? With Air Assault patch on with insignia etc. I want to reconstitute one for my little hang out (barn). Will show Larry Tasker when I finish it.

Dennis Sullivan
USMC

Lost and Found

None this period.

“Those who say that all cultures are equal never explain why the results of those cultures are so grossly unequal. When some cultures have

achieved much greater prosperity, better health, longer life, more advanced technology, more stable government, and greater personal safety than others, has all this been just coincidence? Moreover, people from other cultures are constantly migrating to these cultures, which fashionable dogmas say are no better than any other”.

Thomas Sowell

Magazine Update

More of our troopers are writing articles for each magazine. If you have a story to tell, then write it and send it in You can send it in by e-mail or by regular mail to me.

Next articles are due to me by 1 August 03.

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

The next BWS Reunion Will BE HELD in October 2004. There will be many there for the first time, many you haven’t seen for 39 years.

Time flies and days get shorter. Plan on attending the reunion!

BWS

Bullwhip Squadron Web Site

Our Association Web site continues to grow under the hand of Ms. Loretta Stager, our Web Master. 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.

We hope to make our web site a showroom for the 1st Cav Division, Air Cav Troopers and the 1st/9th.

“Nothing is ever done in this world until men are prepared to kill each other if it is not done”.

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

“There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell. You can bear this warning voice to generations yet to come. I look upon war with horror”.

[William Tecumseh Sherman](#) (1820-1891)

The following list of Association members is as of 20 May 2003

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)
Ronald L. Chapman (Dec.)
Ron Smith (Deceased)
Donald Chandler (Dec.)
Charles Covert (Deceased)
Charles Smith (Deceased)
John Teel (Deceased)
Marshall Wells (Deceased)
Gary Hayes (Deceased)
John York (Deceased)
Cowles Waldron (Deceased)
William D. Preacher (Dec)
Judson Lucas (Deceased)

Association Members

*Abernathy, George
*Adams, Bobby
*Adkinson, Charles
*Allen, David
*Allman, Darrell
*Alverson Jr., Frank
*Anderson, Jere
*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
Beck, Clyde
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
*Bowen, Joseph
Bowling, Billy
Bowman, Robert
*Branard, Thomas
*Bray, David
Breski (h), Harry
*Brown Jr, Albert
*Brown, Charlie
*Brown, Larry
*Bulkley, Morton
Burgess, Ronald
*Burke, Paul
*Burnett, Clark
*Burrow, George
*Busch Jr, George
*Bush, Pat
*Butt, Harry
*Byrd, William
Cable, Charles
*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
Connor, Terrence
*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
*Danielsen, Ted
*Davis, Gary
*Davis, Thomas
Day Jr., James
Deardorff, Ken
*Defleron, Al
Dehart, Bruce
Dela Rosa, Lionel
*DeMailo, Alfred
*Denning, Richard
*Derrick, Charles
*DeSloover, David
*Dettmer, Marion
Dillbeck, William
Diamond, Riley
*Dinsmore, Delamere
*Dishaw, Michael
*Doslop, Joseph
Drews, David
*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
Fournier, Albert
*Francis Jr, Jim
*Frank, Patrick
*Frazer, Bill
Frazier (h), Charles
*Frederick, Donald
Fullen (h), Barbara
*Funk, Paul
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
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