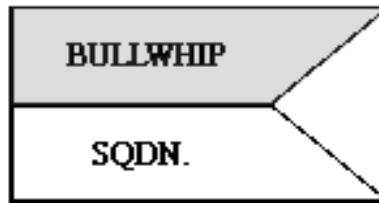


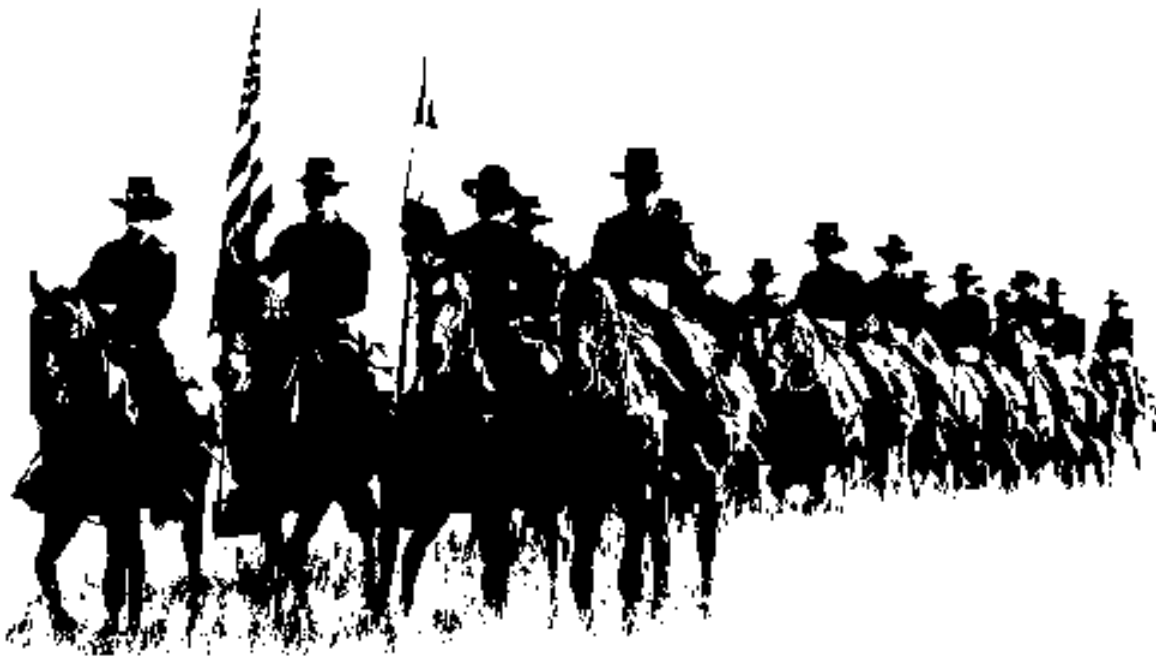
3rd/17th --- 1st/9th
Air Cavalry Squadron



THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

The official News Magazine of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

March 2002



Why I Love Her (America)

**You ask me Why I Love Her? Well, give me time and I'll explain.
Have you seen a Kansas sunset or an Arizona rain?
Have you drifted on a bayou down Louisiana way?
Have you watched a cold fog drifting over San Francisco Bay?
Have you heard a bobwhite calling in the Carolina pines,
Or heard the bellow of a diesel at the Appalachia mines?
Does the call of Niagara thrill you when you hear her waters roar?
Do you look with awe and wonder at her Massachusetts shore,
Where men who braved a hard new world first stepped on
Plymouth's rock?
And do you think of them when you stroll along a New York City
dock?
Have you seen a snowflake drifting in the Rockies, way up high?
Have you seen the sun come blazing down from a bright Nevada sky?
Do you hail to the Columbia as she rushes to the sea,
Or bow your head at Gettysburg at our struggle to be free?
Have you seen the mighty Tetons? Have you watched an eagle soar?
Have you seen the Mississippi roll along Missouri's shore?
Have you felt a chill at Michigan when on a winter's day
Her waters rage along the shore in thunderous display?
Does the word "Aloha" make you warm? Do you stare in disbelief
When you see the surf come roaring in at Waimea Reef?
From Alaska's cold to the Everglades, from the Rio Grande to Maine,
My heart cries out, my pulse runs fast at the might of her domain.
You ask me Why I Love Her? I've a million reasons why:
My Beautiful America, beneath God's wide, wide sky.**

John Wayne



Adjutants Call

Adjutants Call will return next newsmagazine.

This benediction was given by Pete Peterson (former POW, now ambassador to Vietnam) at the recent Daedalian luncheon in Las Vegas. I understand it was taken from a prayer offered by a Marine Chaplain. I believe it is appropriate to start this news magazine with this benediction.

BWS

BENEDICTION

MY FRIENDS, IT WAS ONCE SAID....'O LORD, WE HAVE LONG KNOWN THAT PRAYER SHOULD INCLUDE CONFESSION'. THEREFORE ON BEHALF OF THE AVIATORS AND THEIR GUESTS GATHERED HERE THIS AFTERNOON, I CONFESS THEIR SINS:

"LORD, THEY'RE JUST NOT IN STEP WITH TODAY'S SOCIETY. THEY ARE UNREASONABLE IN CLINGING TO OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS LIKE PATRIOTISM, DUTY, HONOR AND COUNTRY.

THEY HOLD RADICAL IDEAS BELIEVING THAT THEY ARE THEIR BROTHERS KEEPER AND RESPONSIBLE FOR THE AVIATORS ON THEIR WING.

THEY HAVE BEEN SEEN STANDING WHEN COLORS PASS, SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AT BALL GAMES, AND DRINKING TOASTS TO FALLEN COMRADES.

NOT ONLY THAT, THEY HAVE BEEN OBSERVED STANDING TALL; TAKING CHARGE AND WEARING THEIR HAIR UNFASHIONABLY SHORT.

THEY HAVE TAKEN TEDDY R'S AND JFK'S WORDS TOO SERIOUSLY AND ARE OVERLY CONCERNED WITH WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR THEIR SERVICE AND COUNTRY INSTEAD OF WHAT IT CAN DO FOR THEM.

THEY TAKE THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO HEART AND BELIEVE THAT THEIR OATH IS TO BE HONORED. AND....THEY KNOW WELL WHAT THE DEFINITION OF 'IS' IS.

FORGIVE THEM, LORD FOR BEING STUBORN MEN AND WOMEN WHO HOLD THESE VALUES AS GENUINE. THEY ARE AWARE OF THE PRICE FOR HONOR AND WITH TOTAL COMMAND OF THEIR SPIRIT, THEY HAVE BEEN WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE. AFTER ALL, WHAT MORE CAN YOU EXPECT?

THEY'RE AVIATORS! O LORD OUR GOD, BLESS THESE MEN AND WOMEN, CONTINUE TO RAISE UP IN THIS NATION STRONG LEADERS AND DELIVER US FROM "ME FIRST" MANGERS AND 'DON'T ASK ME' LEADERS.

BE OUR HONORED GUEST TODAY, OH LORD, AND JOIN WITH US IN LAUGHTER,GOOD FOOD, GOOD DRINK, AND TELLING OF TALL TALES AND LEGENDS THAT MAY OCCASIONALLY EXCEED THE TRUTH.

WE BOW OUR HEADS TO THOSE AVIATORS AND TROOPERS WHO WERE LOST IN PLACES TO PROTECT OUR FREEDOM AND OUR ABILITY TO PRAISE YOU. WATCH OVER AND KEEP SAFE ALL THOSE WHO WEAR THIS NATION'S UNIFORM WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THEIR FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES EVERYWHERE.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACE DURING THIS CONVENTION AND ALL THE DAYS AND NIGHTS IN OUR FUTURE. GOD BLESS YOU, GOD BLESS THIS GREAT NATION AND GOD BLESS THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Sent in by;
Joe Reames

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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

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

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

God Bless America.

BWS

TAPS

Gary Hayes C Troop, 65-66

Passed on 15 February, 2002

"Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans, and must be that of every free state."

--Thomas Jefferson

"I can't stand bureaucracy. I appreciate the hardworking people who work for the federal government, ... but what I don't like is systems that get so cumbersome that those who are trying to help you don't get the product out."

President Bush at a town hall meeting with unemployed workers in Florida.



FROM THE COMMANDER

Your BWS Assoc. staff has been gearing up in preparation for the 11-13, October 2002 reunion. The planning process starts about a year out once the reunion site has been approved by the BWS membership. We use the backward planning process starting with the reunion date to determine what we can put into the LZ, and then work our way back through the 12 months identifying those critical events that must be nailed down to ensure a successful reunion. We e-mail, fax, phone, and meet face to face continuously thru out that 12 month period, with the majority of the effort in the last 8 months prior to the reunion. Motels are selected, rooms reserved for the BWS, meals coordinated with the club system and, prices are established for the various events, golfing date selected and reserved with the appropriate golf club, food catering business is selected, VIP guests are invited, color guard detail planned for and notified, memorial date and site coordinated, buglers are requested, guest speaker requested, etc. Each year we get better in identifying those critical events that need to be resolved early on, that if not resolved, could derail the entire operation. Once those critical tasks are completed, we call together those Wiregrass members who are available in the local area to form the planning group and assign specific tasks to be completed. We believe that our efforts will result in another outstanding reunion.

To say, that this is definitely not a small undertaking, would be an understatement. Our own Loel Ewart and AL Defleron are the charging horses and drive this program to total success.

Now to other interesting subjects. In late October of 2001, Ft. Rucker hosts a 2 day retiree event that attracts approximately 500 people from the Florida panhandle, Mississippi, Georgia and Alabama. The Army Aviation Heritage Foundation based near Atlanta, GA, was invited to provide several legacy Army Aviation Aircraft for static display on the Ft. Rucker Howze parade field in front of the Aviation Center Post Headquarters. Aircraft that participated were:

our own OH-13 armed scout helicopter (which was at our 2000 reunion), AH1 Cobra, UH1D, OH6, L4 Grasshopper, and a U-10 Helio Courier restored by our own A Troop (65-66) lift platoon pilot Joe Salomone (the originator of the Headhunter logo on the radio compartment cover). Joe and his son painted the aircraft fuselage and tail in yellow with a large 1st Cav patch on the vertical tail. Joe also had painted on the door A Troop 1/9th Cav with crossed sabers along with his Army decorations. I believe that A Troop has the only U-10 in the squadron. Another first! -eat your hearts out!

Next, the local Wiregrass Chapter of the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation is steadily growing in memberships and now boost 115 members. We received our first completely restored OV-1B Mohawk on 24 February, 02. It is in a hanger at the Dothan Airport until our hanger is erected at Ozark, Blackwell Airport. We have 1.5 acres, which has been cleared of trees in preparation for pouring the foundation and erecting the 100' x 125' hanger. The main chapter in Atlanta will split the cost of \$100,000 dollars, and our Wiregrass Chapter will raise \$50,000 of that. We have pledges so far of approximately \$10,000 dollars from various Wiregrass businesses and Ft. Rucker based aviation organizations (Dyn Corp, Ratheon, LSI, Sikorsky, etc). If any of you have any \$'s leftover from your retirement pay we would love to hear from you!

Hopefully, the hangar will be completed prior to the BWS October reunion and be available for all of you to visit.

We have an airshow scheduled for 18 May (Armed Forces Day) at Cairns AAF. Two years ago we had 14,000 in attendance and with plenty of advance publicity, this year will be larger.

One final warning – due to the post high security status, if you want to visit Ft. Rucker and the Army Aviation Museum, it is a lot easier if your vehicle has a DOD tag. If you don't, your vehicle will be thoroughly inspected-i.e., hood raised, trunk opened, etc. and you must have proof of insurance and tag receipt to get on post. That will slow you down, but with ID cards you can still enter the post. And yes, the museum is opened 7 days a week and has a gift store for

grandparents to shop around for those special gifts.

You will be happy to hear that the dam at Lake Tholocco has been replaced and the lake is almost full of water. The opening ceremony is scheduled for 18 May. The original dam was destroyed in 1994 due to massive rain and floods. Thanks to MG Tony Jones, CG of Rucker who made this possible during his tenure at Rucker. Restocking of the lake is underway and this will return the lake to its former status as a great fishing area within 2 years.

The BWS web page is looking better every day, so recommend you take a look at it, www.bullwhipsquadron.org. You should also look at the museum Web page at www.armyavmuseum.org plus the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation Web page at www.armyav.org. All of these web sites give you a sense of belonging, for they are all about you and the times that were, and are, important to you. We were soldiers once,...and young, but still soldiers in heart and mind..

Start your plans to attend the October reunion now. We have reserved lots of rooms, over 200 in 3 motels, with the Holiday Inn still the Headquarters. The rooms are going fast so get your reservation in now. – the early bird gets the worm, and in this case, the motel of their choice. See Loel's article on the motel rooms and phone numbers.

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

I remain,

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

Picture

Joe Salomone's U-10 Helio Courier

From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers,

It's now March 2002 and the BWS team is well in the planning stage for our next reunion in October. Look for the registration with the schedule of events and pricing, out in April, to provide information on the reunion setup. It will definitely be the best yet and one that everyone will remember. And again, we will see many new members for the first time. You do not want to miss this reunion!

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

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

Loel tells me that the membership is still steadily growing towards the 400 point, however we have 25 troopers who have not paid their dues for this year! Dues were due in January, 2002. If you haven't paid your dues, stop procrastinating!! If you troopers feel that the newsmagazine is worth the \$15 yearly dues, help us get the stray troopers back in the family.

All of you troopers who make up the 1st/9th Air CAV Squadron make this old soldier proud. You have always been first for our country.

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

Loel Ewart
381 Lakeland Hills Dr.
Ozark, Al. 36360
Ph. # 334-774-0328
e-mail lewart@charter.net
Or

Al Defleron
1145 Holland Rd.
Newton, Al. 36352
Ph. # 334-692-5685
e-mail aldefleron@snowhill.com

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

CSM Kennedy
Bullwhip 7

From the Chaplain:

My Fellow Bullwhip Members,

Please excuse me, fellow 1/9 Cav troopers, but with the demands of my new position (I'm a chaplain again, of sorts) I missed the deadline for writing a piece for this edition of Bullwhip. Consequently, I'm excerpting a story from It Took Heroes: Volume II. Here goes.

On October 10, 1969 I took off with Squadron Commander James (Pete) Booth in his C&C chopper to visit crewmembers that had been wounded the day before, but NVA interrupted our plans. A slick ship with eight men from Charlie 2-5 had been shot down and was burning north of LZ Buttons. One of Major George O'Grady's Saber pink teams (Bravo Troop) was en route to provide danger-close support," said Booth.

Moments later, Booth quickly showed that he could support the commander nearer to the ground without usurping his authority and responsibility. As the situation developed, he ordered in Charlie (Cavalier) assets and turned them over to O'Grady. Then he moved Alpha (Apache) Troop assets into the area to stand by prepared to become OPCON to O'Grady, if needed.

From the air, we saw a mangled chopper burning in a small clearing and several apparently dead bodies lying on the just south of it, opposite from where rockets from the pink team Cobra were already exploding and where a continual stream of tracer rounds from the LOH was impacting. As we watched, the LOH took hits and crashed near the burning Huey. Three crewmembers quickly scrambled out of it and joined the surviving 2-5 Cav grunts and Huey crewmembers who were hugging the ground among their own dead.

A second Saber pink team arrived on-station and added the firepower of another LOH and Cobra to the support of the troopers on the ground. Booth continued: "The Saber Blues, led by Lieutenant Maurice (Mike) Murphy (call-sign Saber Blue) of Peach Tree City, Georgia were just seconds out, en route to secure the crash site and rescue the survivors. But with two choppers down in the small clearing, the Blues would have to rappel in because there wasn't room for the Hueys carrying them to land, but hovering over or near the clearing was out of the question due to intense enemy small-arms, rocket and machine-gun fire from very close range. To make matters worse, the nearest clearing that might serve as an acceptable LZ was at least fifteen clicks away. Fortunately a very small clearing with two overlapping bomb craters in it was about one and a half clicks from the clearing that the Huey and LOH had gone down in. Unfortunately, though, the potential LZ was barely large enough for a Huey to land. Limbless trees stood like telephone poles around the craters. The Blues would have to rappel in and then tear their way through trackless jungle to reach the downed infantrymen and chopper crews.

"Saber pilot Kenneth Caudill of Oklahoma hovered his chopper high enough above the clearing to insure that the rotor blades barely cleared the surrounding jungle, while the chopper crew lowered four ropes, two from each side, and the first four Blues rappelled to the ground.

"The second set of four Blues, one being Lieutenant Murphy, were standing in the doors and hooking up to go down the ropes when the NVA opened fire. Suddenly, the Huey tipped sharply to the left and crashed straight down into the clearing. The momentum of the dip and crash almost threw Lieutenant Murphy up into the main rotor blade. In 1998 Murphy told me [Booth], 'It threw me up almost into the rotor. Still attached by the rope, I landed on my back across the hot transmission and engine. It was hot!'

"Hot was nothing compared to what happened to one of the two Blues dangling from the left door of the crashing chopper. The chopper landed on top of him and pinned him against the side of a crater or depression, and promptly covered him with a growing pool of inflammable JP-4 aviation fuel.

"Quickly scrambling off the hot engine, Murphy took stock of the situation and scurried into a crater both for cover from heavy enemy small-arms fire and to communicate with his troop commander, O'Grady, who was nearby in the air. Murphy knew the trooper pinned beneath the chopper had to be gotten out very quickly. He knew it wasn't possible to lift the ship off the trooper with the manpower available on the ground and that the volume of incoming enemy fire would render that impossible, even if they could. Rescue efforts were further complicated, he realized, because the downed chopper took up most of the tree-studded clearing.

"The two remaining Saber liftships returned to Quan Loi to pick up more Blues. Coming in at Quan Loi, one of the pilots flared his ships too steeply and drove the tail rotor into the ground. O'Grady now had one liftship left.

"About that time, while circling the contact areas," Booth continued, "I made a wide left turn and saw the big red ball of the sun just touching the horizon to the west and starting to sink. Thinking that this was going to be a very long night. Fortunately, I had my artillery FO on board. He did a beautiful job of calling in and coordinating massive artillery. But as the commander there was nothing else I could do. If those pinned-down Blues, 5th Cav grunts, and aircrews were to be rescued, it would be up to individuals to take the initiative and do what American soldiers do when it becomes necessary. 'White-Six just let down and brought out two wounded,' radioed O'Grady. It was starting to happen."

It was happening on the ground too. While Murphy coordinated and worked the radio, four of the remaining Blues on the ground fought off the NVA and provided cover fire for the men pinned beneath the chopper. The other two Blues each grabbed a fire extinguisher from the downed chopper, threw themselves to the ground by their buddy who were pinned beneath it, and lay in the open ready to protect him if fire broke out. No doubt those two Blues knew that those fire extinguishers would be of little use if the fuel in the depression caught fire. They knew that if the fuel caught fire they would likely die with their trapped buddy in the resulting explosion. But that guy beneath the chopper, immersed in fuel,

needed support; and he got it, despite the risks involved to those who gave it.

Captain Niles carefully lowered his LOH over the bomb craters, down among the limb-less trees, to hover motionless a few feet above the ground while wounded troopers were loaded on. He explained. "I used my rotor blades to widen the hole for the chopper [by chopping branches and leaves off the trees that surrounded the clearing] and then hovered a few feet above the ground because there was no place to set down.

"Niles balanced one skid on a log and had his front seat gunner hold it steady," said O'Grady. Niles continues, "The pilot of the slick ship leaped over a log with his arm above his head as he ran toward me. There was nothing I could do as I watched my rotor blades chop off his fingers. After the wounded were loaded on, I called over to Blue Six, 'What do you need?' 'Chain saw and hydraulic jack,' Murphy called back."

Mike Hanlon, Niles' crew chief, stayed on the ground after helping load the wounded. Then he added his machine gun and a lot of ammunition to the defense of those in the small clearing. O'Grady said Niles left both crewmembers behind to join with the infantry in the clearing.

After lifting out of the clearing, Niles dropped the wounded at the 15th Med at Quan Loi. "Then I picked up the chain saw and hydraulic jack, part of a packet I had prepared for situations like this and returned. Meanwhile, all the Cobras had expended their rockets, leaving a temporary lull in the danger close air support while they rearmed at LZ Buttons. From my position behind and between pilot and copilot, I watched as Booth and his co-pilot filled the gap, repeatedly diving and placing flechette rounds and mini-gun fire where we hoped they would do some good without injuring our own.

Meanwhile, Niles reentered the clearing and deliver the chainsaw and hydraulic jack, and, "Blues and crewmembers started cutting down trees to expand the LZ while others attempted to free the two troopers by jacking up the chopper. The jack did not work, so they took one of the trees that had just been cut down and, using the jack as a fulcrum, they lifted the chopper high enough to pull out the fuel-soaked troopers," Niles said.

Next, while other ships extracted the 2-5 Cav and crews from the larger clearing, three Charlie

Troop liftships took turns entering the slightly enlarged, hot LZ to lift out the Blues and downed liftship crew. It turned pitch dark as warrant officer Smith piloted the last bird up and out of the LZ.

This story shows that when the commander has done all he can, soldier(s) will stand up and save the day," said Booth. It also shows that a tremendous amount of action can be squeezed into the few short minutes between when the sun touches the western horizon and full darkness.

Afterward LTC Booth highly praised Major O'Grady for the way he handled the multi-faceted situation. O'Grady extolled the contributions of his artillery FO and Lou Niles. O'Grady considered recommending Niles for the Medal of Honor for his deeds that day. However, my sources said twenty-year-old Niles prevailed on O'Grady not to make the recommendation because 1st Cav policy required the removal from combat of anyone who was recommended for that award.

During a discussion of the events of October 10, 1969, Booth described Niles as a fantastically daring and effective helicopter scout/fighter. Niles describes himself as a smart scout leader who applied good sense and tactics to survive and keep his men alive. "I established a school for scout pilots that candidates had to pass before they flew scouts in Saber Troop. None who completed the course were killed during my time as their leader; quite a change for you, Chaplain. No more weekly memorial services for Bravo Troop."

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

From the Sergeant Major:

Preparation Time Troopers

The cold weather has been very unusual for this part of Alabama this year, as it has been around the country, However here at the BWS, it has been a bit on the warm side due to the fact that our 4th BWS Reunion in Ozark, is just

around the corner. This means many arrangements must be made for the incoming troopers and their family members. Because of this we haven't had time to really get cold, as all have been on the move, preparing for our reunion in October.

You will all receive more information to include an itinerary, the first part of April. One thing that should be noted by all is, that since September 11, the security around all military posts has increased greatly, and Mother Rucker is no different than the other military installations. If you already have a post sticker from any military installation you will have no problem entering Ft. Rucker, after showing proper ID at the gate.

If you don't have any military installation stickers, you can count on having a thorough inspection to include, automobile registration, insurance, search under the hood, trunk and inside of vehicle along with picture ID. You must have proof of vehicle registration and insurance in your vehicle

If you are driving a rental car, you will need your contract of rental agreement, this will be in lieu of a vehicle registration, along with picture ID, but will still be subject to vehicle search as stated above.

There will be a couple of changes this year in the Hospitality Room in the Holiday Inn. This year it will be a "NON SMOKING AREA" Troopers, this means if you want to smoke, you must go outside the building on the patio. We ask all troopers to support us in this area.

Our items of sale merchandise will be on a set time schedule, which will be posted in the Hospitality Room. If any of you require shirts with names, jackets, hats or items such as troop Guidons, please order them as soon as possible, to allow time for them to be shipped to you before the reunion, or to be picked up as you arrive at the reunion.

Anyone needing merchandise, can contact me to order, either by phone, snail mail or e-mail, or even fax (we aim to please). This will help to speed things up for all involved.

This is already shaping up to be our Biggest and Best Reunion ever and I am looking forward to seeing the old faces and as well as the new.

Throughout this newsmag you will see the words "don't procrastinate". There is much

truth in this. If you do, then probably you will not be in the motel of your choice, we will not receive your registration paperwork in time to prepare a reunion packet for you, and you may be last to be fed at the Bar-B Q and dinner. We, the BWS, do not want this to happen, So, **DON'T PROCRASTINATE.**

As Ever
Al De Fleron
SGM BWS ASSOC.

I will leave the thoughts of the Blues with you.
Until the reunion,

AL

1st of the 9th

Four Troops of the 9th Cav,
what a beautiful sight.
Four troops of the 9th Cav,
just itching to fight.

Our job is re-con-do,
And we are the best.
Laying waste to the cong,
whom we never let rest.

We traveled so light,
and swooped down form the sky.
We saw hundreds and hundreds
of our enemy die.

Gun ships rolled hot,
our gunners shot straight.
Blue is waiting to mop up,
but now it's to late.

Sometimes our Blue
was the reaction force.
Our mounts had wings,
on our patch is a horse.

Four troops of the 9th Cav,
The best of the best.
Four troops of the 9th Cav,

it's time for a rest.

Four troops of the 9th Cav,
it's time for a toast.
Four troops of the 9th Cav,
We're better than most.

rja

We can - We Will !

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

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

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

We now have a "War on Terrorism". Will we fall victim to this concept of Sun Tzu? I hope not. The future of America rests of the resolve of it's citizens.

BWS

Keeper Of The Rock

This article is presented for Gene. Gene Smith will return next news magazine.

Breath of the Dragon

It was a friend of mine formerly of the Royal Navy who first pointed out that the casualty count on this incident exceeds that of Pearl Harbor. Yes, my country has taken a big and costly hit, and somewhere, perhaps in South Asia, some people are exchanging high-fives and having themselves a good laugh. And maybe they're entitled to it. Like Pearl Harbor, it was a well planned and well executed black operation.

But, you know, they've made the same mistake which Japan made back in 1941.

It's remarkable to me that America is so hard for some people to understand. We are the most open of books, after all. Our values and customs are portrayed on TV and movie screens all over the world. Is the character of my country so hard to grasp? Japan figured that they could defeat us not physically, but morally, that America was not tough enough to defeat their death-seeking warriors, that we would be unwilling to absorb the casualties. (In this they were right: we didn't absorb all the casualties they tried to inflict-but that was because we killed their samurai much more efficiently than they were able to kill our men.) An enemy willing to die in the performance of his duty can, indeed, be a formidable adversary, but, you see, we've dealt with such people before. They die just like everyone else.

Perhaps the American sort of patriotism, like the British sort, just isn't bombastic enough for our enemies to notice. We don't parade about thumping our chests and proclaiming how tough we are, whereas other people like that sort of display. But they don't seem to grasp the fact that they do it because they have to-they evidently need to prove to themselves how formidable they are. Instead, our people, like yours, train and practice their craft every day out in the field at places like Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Irwin, California. I've been to both places and seen our people and how they train.

The difference between a civilian or a common ruffian and a soldier, you see, is training. A professional soldier is as serious about his work as a surgeon is about his. Such people are not, in my experience, boastful. If you ask what they can do, they will explain it to you, usually in quiet tones, because they do not feel the need to prove anything. Off duty they are like everyone else, watching football on TV and enjoying a quiet beer with their pals. They read books, and shop at the local supermarkets, and cut the grass on their lawns. They all enjoy a good laugh. They make the best of friends. They look physically fit - and, indeed, they are physically fit - because their job requires it; and every day they do something tiresome in the field, working at some more or less demanding field exercise, again and again and again until

every aspect of their job is as automatic as zipping one's zipper is for us people in, civilian life.

But, you know, inside all of these people, like the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, or the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Stewart, Georgia, there burns a little flame. Not a big one, like the pilot light in a gas stove. And when you put more gas there, the flame gets bigger, enough to cook with. Inside every one of these people is something else, something you have to look for - pride. They know that they are good at their work, in the event they ever have to do it for-real. This doesn't happen very often, and, indeed, they do not ordinarily lust to do it, because it's a serious, nasty job. The job is the taking of life. Military organizations exist for only one mission: killing people and breaking things. This is not something to be undertaken lightly, because life is a gift from God, and a lot of these people - kids, really - can be found in church on Sunday mornings.

But their larger purpose - the reason these kids enlist, both in my country and in yours - is to preserve, protect, and defend their countries and the citizens who live there. It's not an easy job, but someone has to do it, and typically the hardest jobs attract the best of us. Mostly they never have to kill anybody, and that's okay with them. It's knowing that they are able to do something difficult and dangerous that gives them their pride. This purpose, defending their country, is something they don't talk much about, but it's always there, and with it comes a quiet, steely look in the eyes.

Especially when something like this happens. That's when their sense of self is insulted, and these are people who do not bear insults well. Protectors, when those whom they are sworn to protect are hurt, then comes the desire-the lust-to perform their mission. Even then it's quiet. They will not riot or pose before TV cameras or cry aloud for action because that's not their way. They are the point of the lance, the very breath of the dragon, and at times like this they want to know the taste of blood. Their adversaries just don't appreciate what they are capable of. It's something too divorced from their experience. This isn't like hosing civilians with your machinegun or setting off a bomb somewhere, or killing unarmed people strapped and helpless inside a commercial aircraft. This means facing

professional warriors at a time and place of their choosing and that is something terrorists don't really prepare for.

The day of Pearl Harbor the commander of the Japanese navy told his staff not to exult too much, that all their beautifully executed operation had accomplished was to awaken a sleeping dragon and give it a dreadful purpose. Perhaps alone in his country, Isoroku Yamamoto, who had lived briefly in America, knew what his enemy was capable of, and for that reason, perhaps he was not surprised when the .50 caliber bullet from Tex Lamphier's P-38 fighter entered his head and ended his life.

Whoever initiated this operation is probably not quite as appreciative of what he has begun as Yamamoto was - because the dragon is now fully awake and its breath is too hot for men to bear. America is now fully awake. Our quiet patriotism is a little louder now, but it will not get too loud.

Why spoil the surprise?

Sunday Mail, London, Sep 14, 2001.

By Tom Clancy

Tom Clancy 9-14-01

Interesting news article from the Toronto newspaper.

America's Advantage

In a sense, Afghanistan has been a "classic" colonial war. The United States has been sparing of its own troops, instead taking sides and choosing local allies as its proxies, while using its own incontestable technological superiority to help them quickly win. The resemblance to the way the British took India in the 18th and 19th centuries -- one tribal patch or princely state at a time -- ends there. The Americans have no long term plans to rule the place, and are happy to let anyone else send "peacekeepers".

This is what the Europeans and Canadians turn out to be good for, this time around. We have the equipment, the manpower, and the budgets, to do sentry duties. (As a retired Canadian officer told me after the federal budget was tabled Monday, "It's all very well for the Americans to spend a fortune on defence, they

have to defend the free world from terrorism. We only have to defend our own smugness.")

Except for the most elite British special forces -- a small handful of men -- help would just get in the Yankees' way.

Moreover, the two per cent or less of the West's Afghan campaign that was offloaded on the British (and a few French special forces, too), was essentially unnecessary. The help was accepted as a political favour, in answer to British and French supplications.

This was probably made clear when the British defence secretary, the aptly-named Geoff Hoon, told BBC breakfast television on Sunday that if Osama bin Laden fell into British hands, he would not be turned over to the U.S. for trial -- unless the U.K. first received assurances that Osama would not face the death penalty. I would have liked to be a fly on the line when George Bush called Tony Blair about that one. I doubt we'll be hearing anything so unctuous from Mr. Hoon again.

Offers of British and other NATO aircraft were politely declined. They have inferior equipment and pilots, and as the U.S. learned over Serbia, you can't really fight a war while waiting for 19 different defence ministers to sign off on each target.

What has changed, in the last decade, and especially in the last two years (the technological developments since the Balkan campaign in 1999 were greater than those between that and Desert Storm in 1991), is the status of the United States as a military power.

At the beginning of the 1990s, after the fall of the Soviet Union, the U.S. emerged as the world's only superpower. Now it has become what the French call a "hyperpower". It is not only at the top of the international "top ten" in military spending. It outspends the other nine, combined, and can afford to, given the present scale of the U.S. economy. Not the British, at the height of their empire, nor even the Romans, contesting with distant Medes and Parthians, enjoyed such military predominance.

And yet, this quantitative comparison actually understates the U.S. advantage. For there is a real qualitative difference, not only in American equipment, but in the skills of its troops. The Pentagon made use of the contractions in general manpower through the 1990s, and applied the

"peace dividend" to hone a much more skilled and variously specialized fighting force. The U.S. does not employ "grunts" any more, only soldiers who call themselves "grunts" with a certain droll pride.

At the officer level, Europeans visiting the American military academies have been tremendously impressed by what they have seen, over the last decade. And one may see this for oneself by visiting the various institutions on the Internet. Unlike his European or Canadian opposite number, the contemporary West Point or Naval War College graduate is familiar with Thucydides, Machiavelli, Clausewitz, Fuller, Liddell Hart --and with Sun Tzu and Mao-tse Tung for that matter. Nor is it just a showy "book-learning", for the courses are designed to make the students apply what they study, consistently and imaginatively, to the circumstances the U.S. might face today. I have myself been tremendously impressed to read theses posted here and there on the net, by young cadets who could obviously skate rings around your average "politically correct" humanities professor.

On the ground level, in Afghanistan, it has become increasingly evident that the U.S. was able to parachute troops who could speak Pashto, Persian, Arabic, Urdu. They needed these both for making contacts with potential allies, and for interrogating prisoners who fell into their hands. They could also use translators effectively (this is actually a skill), as well as ride fast horses and put pack mules to work carrying high-tech gear.

A remarkable interview which the Washington Post obtained with Capt. Jason Amerine, an injured member of the U.S. Army's 5th Special Forces Group on his sickbed in Landstuhl, Germany -- gives some hint of the ground capabilities. This was the unit that went into the mountains of Oruzgan to rendezvous with Hamid Karzai, now Afghanistan's prime minister-designate. (They didn't need Pashto because he speaks fluent English.)

In five short weeks, this little vanguard of less than a dozen men, mostly in their mid-twenties, were able to recruit and organize and (through air drops) equip an Afghan fighting force that liberated the provincial capital, then marched on Kandahar. They also ordered and set up distribution for emergency food and medical

supplies for the civilian population, while calling down airstrikes on a Taliban convoy and other positions, almost in their spare time.

"We could go in there naked with flip-flops, and as long as we have good radios we could do our job," Capt. Amerine said of their survival training. His unit made up for unfamiliarity with the local physical and cultural landscape with a crash course in Pashtun anthropology in the days before going in.

Hunks, yes, but these are nothing like Europe's idea of "G.I.'s. Indeed the U.S. Marine general force now camping in the Rigestan desert are probably up to the special forces calibre of a generation ago.

Technology plays no small part. Some 91 per cent of munitions the U.S. has dropped in Afghanistan have been pinpoint targeted -- compared with six per cent on Iraq. Even gravity bombs dropped from B-52s can now be placed within a few metres of the crosshair, thanks to advances in computer calculation. And yet the "garage workshop" spirit is kept alive with the invention of weapons like the "Daisy Cutter" -- hand-made with old-fashioned welding tools, and perhaps the most awkward-looking 15,000-pound explosive we shall

ever see (it resembles the water-tanks on the roofs of old New York City apartment buildings).

The U.S. armed forces are thus not only strong, but extremely adaptable. Yet even this is to understate the U.S. advantage, for it is likely to grow in the coming years.

Prior to Sept. 11, the U.S. defence secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, was fighting a nearly impossible uphill battle against Congress to transform the whole organizational structure of the U.S. military. His goals are to eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy, replace surviving conventional with many more special forces, and vastly increase the capacity of the military to respond to unexpected threats, or recover quickly from unexpected hits. The terrorist strikes on New York and Washington, and his performance since, have vindicated his position, and the overhaul is now proceeding.

The French may have to invent a word for what comes after a "hyperpower".

David Warren
Ottawa Citize

Horse Statues; War Time Heros

* If a statue in a park or elsewhere of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.

* If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.

* If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Smoky

Troopers

Many of you have asked where Army Aviation received their colors from. The following article tells the story.

BWS

Army Aviation Colors

Based on the 1966, Department of Army Flag Study, which embraced a study of the entire Army, the colors ultramarine blue and golden orange (the traditional colors of the former Army Air Force (Air Corps)) was approved for all Army Aviation elements - color bearing and non-color bearing (units authorized a flag). These colors replaced the then authorized teal blue color (for Branch Immaterial/Branch Unassigned) on the distinguishing flags. The color change pertained to units authorized a flag (battalions, brigades, groups) and is reflected on our (TIOH) flag drawings.

It appears however, at this point in time, the guidons for Aviation units remained teal blue (Branch Immaterial). In February 1967, the guidons were also changed to ultramarine blue and golden orange and the "Aviator Badge" insignia was centered on the company guidons. So after this date, teal blue was no longer used for any Aviation unit.

When Aviation became a branch in April 1983, the colors (ultramarine blue and golden orange) were officially adopted as the branch

colors. A branch insignia was designed and this was then used on the Aviation guidons.

The branch colors were used by the Army Air Corps during its existence; however, that organization is not currently active - so technically the colors are not still the colors of the Army Air Corps. The United States Air Force uses ultramarine blue and yellow for their official colors.

Bonnie Henning
Research Analyst
The Institute of Heraldry
HenningB@tioh.belvoir.army.mil

Sent in by Smoky

SMOKY

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

The available tapes are;

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

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

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

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

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

1). COL STOCKTON & CSM KENNEDY speak about how the 1/9 Cav was put together prior to shipping out to Vietnam. Also they explain how the Stetson Hats that we wear today got started and now everyone else that is Cav wears. Plus about how the saddle bags and crossed sabers were started by troopers who were in the unit at that time. Also they talk about the Ia Drang campaign, the hospital battle started by B Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Jack Oliver, on Nov 1, 65, that 1/9 was involved in. Also the ambush sight that 1/9 was involved, started by C Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Chuck Knowlen. A, B, C Troops were all involved in it together.

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

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

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

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

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

"Bullwhip".

7). Also updated the KIA list that runs through 1972. This tape is \$20.

SEND CHECKS TO:

Jerry Schmotolocha
23 Congressional PKWY
Livingston, N.J. 07039
Phone: (973) 535-3926

Some of the proceeds will go to the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund to help run the BWS newsmagazine. In order to receive the tape, you must be a member of the Squadron Association. It has the most informative newsletter that

explains what's happening with the 1/9 CAV troopers that served in the Vietnam

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

Much thanks, Smoky.

BWS

"Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anyone else expects of you. Never excuse yourself."

Henry Ward Beecher

Legally Speaking

GUARD YOUR DD 214 !!!

Historically, VA, FFSC, RAO's, and other military affiliated groups, have always encouraged separating and retiring personnel to file their DD 214's with their county courthouse so that they would always have access to a legitimate copy in case their original is ever lost. We have always encouraged personnel in TAP class to do this; however, here's a reason we might want to re-think it.

I had a retired Master Chief (Bud Racquer) come by my office this morning with a scary story. His identification was stolen the beginning of September. He received a call from a lady at American Express because someone had established credit with them (in his name) and was trying to cash a \$9,000 check in his name in early September, made out to a Muslim/Arabic-sounding name. The lady flagged the check because apparently she had a different address on file for Bud Racquer than what showed on the check. When she called him, he of course reported it.

Last night, Bud Racquer received a call from an investigator telling him that they finally tracked down the fellow who stole his identification.

The guy was a lawyer and had a lap-top computer with several thousand MILITARY names, SSN's and other information. Each military person was a separatee or retiree and their common link was that they had their DD 214's filed with a county clerk. Bud Racquer was told that this lawyer had accessed the DD 214 information through the public court computer system.

I called our Camden County courthouse this morning and asked about their procedures for DD 214's. The clerk there told me that although DD 214's were not put on their computers, they were public record. In fact, with the exception of adoption papers, anything filed through the courthouse was public record. A check with the county clerk in Brunswick revealed the same information. In fact, when asked directly if someone could obtain a certified copy of a DD 214, the answer was "yes." The clerk did say that they would verify the SSN (which of course you could look up on the public record first!).

This is really scary stuff, and it gets scarier. I called PSD here and asked them what a retiree would need to replace a lost I.D. card and asked specifically if a certified court-copy of a DD 214 would suffice. I was informed that they usually ask to see a picture i.d. but would probably issue the i.d. card without it, so long as the member had a certified copy of his DD 214! I told the I.D. card section leader this story and warned him to be careful. This was Bud's Racquer's main concern that it appears that it would be easy for others to steal your identity and get a valid I.D. card to get access to military bases.

I notified the RAO, Bob Hurley, the VA Representative, Sandra Charles, and the TAMP Manager, Debbie Lucas. Bob called Dennis Mills, the Retired Activities Program Director at BUPERs and gave him a heads-up on the situation. Sandra is notifying her superiors at the VA. Debbie has brought the matter to the attention of the TAMP Program Manager in PERS.

Please help warn folks. Unfortunately, the down side to not filing the DD 214 with the county court is the hassle it can take to replace a lost DD 214. It can take months to get one replaced, if at all. The bottom line is safeguarding this important document. Have folks make copies

and keep the original in a SAFE place (kid/animal/fire proof, etc...).

Caren Warakomski
Transition Assistance

Replacing Your DD214

If you need a copy of you DD 214 here is how to get it.

Telephone:

Army 314-538-4132

Air Force 314-538-4218

Navy 314-538-4200

USMC 314-538-3155.

Be prepared to provide complete name, SSN, Branch of Service and dates of service.

Good Advice

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.

A corporate attorney sent this out to the employees in his company. I pass it along, for your information.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed us in your name, address, SS#, credit, etc.

Unfortunately I (the author of this piece who happens to be an attorney) have firsthand knowledge, because my wallet was stolen last month and within a week the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

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

providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never ever thought to do this) Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#.I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me 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 2 weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done.

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

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

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

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

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

From: Janet Hall

jhall.sca@verizon.net

Scam Alert

This directly effects military retirees. This is information you need.

Alert - Possible Scam on Retirement Issues

The Army Benefit Center - Civilian was just alerted to the fact that there are phone calls being made to government employees from some company (possibly out of Arkansas) telling employees that they have been contracted with (this one said contracted by the Corps of Engineers) to provide retirement counseling and estimate services. They ask about your grade, salary, length of service, etc. and say they can provide you with an estimate of your retirement earnings. Please be aware that the only offices that currently could contact you regarding this would be the Army Benefits Center and it would not normally be unless you had specifically

requested information from them. However, keep in mind that the ABC counselors do work from 6:00 a.m. Central Time to 8:00 p.m. Central Time so there may be calls after what you might think are "normal working hours". Even the Office of Personnel Management would not normally place calls to you unless you had already retired. So please be cautious when responding to anybody calling asking for personal information unless they can clearly identify themselves.

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

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

Military News Report

1. RETIRED MILITARY ALMANAC - FREE DOWNLOAD NOW AVAILABLE!

Due to the overwhelming response of our offer of the FREE Retired Military Almanac (electronic version) to everyone in the military community, we've been asked to make it even easier for you to get this unique publication. It is now available for IMMEDIATE DOWLOAD from our website!

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Courtesy of MilitaryHandbooks.com

Highlights from the Military Report.

2. **Congress reaches deal on military base closings;** By George Cahlink

Congress approved military base closings in 2005 and, for the first time, require that some Energy Department facilities be reviewed for shuttering, according to congressional and industry sources.

The House and Senate have been deadlocked in recent weeks over closing military bases. The Senate narrowly approved closing military bases in 2004 as part of its version of the 2002 Defense authorization bill, but the House rejected a similar proposal in its budget. After weeks of stalled conference negotiations, lawmakers have forged a compromise in recent days that could be approved by both legislative bodies by the end of this week.

Like previous base closure rounds in 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993 and 1995, the proposal would require lawmakers to appoint a nine-member independent commission to come up with lists of bases to close that would then be either approved or rejected by the President and Congress in its entirety.

3. **Congress approves base closings in 2005;** From Congress Daily

Congress gave final approval to a \$343 billion defense authorization bill that provides for a new round of military base closures starting in 2005, military pay raises, funding for President Bush's missile defense program and anti- terrorism money.

The Senate's 96-2 approval, in the midst of a procedural tangle, came after the House voted to approve the conference report, 382-40, earlier in the day. The measure now goes to the President.

White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer said Friday that President Bush would sign the bill, even though he would have preferred a quicker

timetable for closing what the administration views as unneeded military bases.

4. **Americans to feds: Go ahead and censor the media;** From NationalJournal.com

Americans tend to favor some censorship by the U.S. government in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, according to a poll from National Public Radio, the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Kennedy School of Government taken at the end of November.

Pollsters asked respondents whether the government should be able to censor certain types of news stories. The majority favored censorship of troop deployments or military plans (71 percent) and of the names of people arrested for terrorist actions (55 percent).

Fifty-two percent said the U.S. government should be able to stop the media from broadcasting statements from Osama bin Laden or his Al Qaeda lieutenants.

5. **Newer recruits less satisfied with military life;** By George Cahlink

Military officers and enlisted personnel are more satisfied with their careers the longer they stay in the service, according to a new study from the General Accounting Office.

The report, "Military Personnel Less Satisfied With Military Life Than Those In Mid Career," (GAO-02-200) found that 41 percent of first-term enlisted personnel were dissatisfied with the military way of life and only 14 percent planned to spend 20 years in the military. However, nearly two-thirds of all mid-career military personnel, both enlisted personnel and officers, said they expected to serve at least 20 years.

The top reasons for joining the military among first-term personnel included education benefits and job training opportunities, GAO said. For mid-career personnel, a desire to serve their country was among the top reasons for staying in the armed forces, the study found.

6. **Marines' martial arts training aims to make the tough tougher;** By Stuart Taylor, National Journal

QUANTICO, Va.--Capt. Louis E. Isabelle is in the ring, pounding furiously at Staff Sgt. Clive D. Mitchell. Fending off most of the blows with his heavy gloves, the sergeant gives as good as he gets. A few feet away, about 10 other members of Isabelle's "team" shout out repetitions as they struggle through a succession of drills designed to

be not merely strenuous, but impossible: more 50-pound-weight curls, more "Korean jumping jacks," more "Australian push-ups," more contortions of other varieties than even an iron man could do in the time allotted. Buckets of sweat pour down heavily muscled arms and chests. The roar is deafening.

Boxing gloves and padded headgear are not the weapons that any Marine would choose for jobs such as hunting down Al Qaeda in Afghanistan or executing amphibious landings on hostile shores. But in the fog of war, close-in combat is always a possibility, notes Lt. Col. George H. Bristol, "starting with assault-rifle fire at maybe 10 yards and moving in to where you're fighting with the weapon, being up in an enemy's face and having to either smash him or take him to the ground to finish him off."

Martial arts techniques of the nonlethal variety can also be invaluable in peacekeeping duty, disarming agitated civilians, dispersing angry mobs, transporting prisoners, or handing out food rations to crowds of starving people.

7. In intelligence revamp, technology challenge is just the beginning; By Neil Munro, National Journal

In the debate about restructuring U.S. intelligence agencies, many of the most-heated disputes center on the role of technology. Some experts see technology as a vital remedy, while others say it can be a hazardous distraction.

Technology helps intelligence experts gather, analyze, and share important data in new and innovative ways, say its advocates. Those on the other side of the issue say that technology can foster a risk-averse culture that favors high-tech gizmos over agents who gather information on the ground in dangerous parts of the world.

At stake is the control of a large bureaucracy: The high-tech spy agencies currently run out of the Pentagon have budgets totaling at least \$10 billion a year.

Technology is a critical component of any overhaul, but "the most important [need] is to build a culture that is programmed to constantly challenge assumptions," Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, told National Journal. "We've got to break down the [bureaucratic] culture" of inflexibility, said Sen. Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala., the committee's ranking member.

"It will take leadership, it will not be done overnight, [and] it will involve moving people out and new people in," he said. "Will we do it? I'm not sure."

8. Transportation Department kicks off campaign to hire baggage screeners; By Jason Peckenpaugh

If you are interested in joining a new corps of federal baggage screeners at airports, Uncle Sam wants your address.

The Transportation Department kicked off its campaign to hire thousands of baggage screeners over the weekend by asking potential candidates to register with the department. Everyone who signs up with DOT will be sent a formal job application when they are ready, which should be by the end of the year.

By encouraging applicants to register now, DOT will have a database of potential candidates by the time it is ready to accept applications.

People who want to be considered for the screening jobs can register with DOT by e-mail or phone. E-mail applicants should send their name and e-mail address to screener@ost.dot.gov. Phone applicants can call DOT at 202-366-9392 or 1-800-525-2878 and leave their name and mailing address.

9. Pentagon pushed to purchase unmanned planes; By George C. Wilson, National Journal

The curtain has just fallen on one high-stakes Pentagon drama--the awarding to Lockheed Martin of the contract to build the next-generation warplane, the Joint Strike Fighter. But a new drama opened last month when Boeing, the losing contractor, decided to go all out to sell the Pentagon a new family of unmanned aircraft. If successful, Boeing could grab a big chunk of the \$200 billion slated to go to Lockheed to build 3,000 JSFs for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and foreign militaries.

In another irony of this new contest between the two aerospace giants, retired Lt. Gen. George K. Muellner, who ran the JSF program for the Air Force when he was in uniform, will direct Boeing's development program for the competing Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle. TheUCAV is one member of a family of high-tech drones--collectively called Unmanned Aerial Vehicles--enjoying ascendancy in this new era, when world leaders worry to an unprecedented extent about

their pilots being dragged dead or alive through the streets of foreign capitals by screaming mobs.

10. House set to approve Medicare contracting overhaul; By April Fulton, CongressDaily

The House is poised to take up and pass a bill representing months of bipartisan negotiations between the administration and the often-sparring committees of jurisdiction that would dramatically reform the way the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services interacts with providers, contractors and beneficiaries.

"This is a fundamental first step to modernizing the Medicare program," said a Republican aide involved in the drafting of the bill at a briefing for reporters Monday.

However, the bill could fall by the wayside this year as it appears nowhere on the Senate's horizon.

11. Federal Judge halts Army's Promotion Policy

A federal judge struck down the Army's equal-opportunity promotion process yesterday, saying the policy gives undue preference to women and minorities at the expense of white, male officers.

The Army's written direction to promotion boards that urges them to consider the "past personal or institutional discrimination" faced by women and minorities is unconstitutional because the policy does not order the board also to consider possible discrimination against white men, the judge found.

"This undeniably establishes a preference in favor of one race or gender over another, and therefore is unconstitutional," U.S. District Court Judge Royce C. Lamberth wrote in a 68-page opinion.

The decision came in the three-year-old case of retired Lt. Col. Raymond Saunders, a white officer who was twice denied promotion to the rank of full colonel in 1996 and 1997. He retired in 1999 as a judge advocate general --an Army lawyer -- and then filed suit.

His case is one of several filed by white Army officers, and a fewer number filed by officers in other branches of the armed services, that allege the military has been giving too much consideration to race and gender in promotions.

Lamberth's ruling, which legal analysts said yesterday closely followed Supreme Court precedent, finds that Army policies emphasizing race and gender considerations were not justified

because the agency failed to show any history of discrimination against women or minority officer candidates.

If the ruling stands, it would require the Army to remove such considerations from its promotion process. It also would allow Saunders's lawsuit to proceed, and to deny his claim the Army would have to prove that he would not have been promoted anyway.

Relying on Army data, mostly dating from 1970 onward, that showed black officers being promoted at virtually the same rate as whites -- if not slightly higher -- Lamberth's opinion reasoned that there was no factual basis for the Army to take race or gender into account in its promotion process.

"This case will have enormous impact," said Eugene R. Fidell, a Washington attorney who specializes in military law. "It's likely to sound the death knell for military promotion decision-making where there's an actual or imaginary thumb on the scale."

The ruling could affect thousands of promotions in the Army in the past six years, analysts and lawyers involved in reverse-discrimination lawsuits said yesterday, as well as alter the playing field in days to come. The decision would not affect any officers already promoted.

"The court has declared the Army's officer promotion standards to be unconstitutional. A lot of other people are obviously going to be using this as a precedent," said Christopher A. Sterbenz, the attorney representing Saunders and nine other white officers in similar suits. The Army had not reached a decision yesterday on whether to appeal the decision, said Maj. Steven Stover, an Army spokesman. It was not immediately clear whether the Bush administration, which has been cool to some affirmative action programs but has let others stand, would become involved in the case.

The Army rule in question instructs members on promotion panels that the "[s]uccess of today's Army comes from total commitment to the ideals of freedom, fairness and human dignity," and says that they must be alert to past discrimination and take it into account. It also says that the number of promotions given should match the percentages of women and minorities in the pool of applicants if at all possible.

The ruling is not expected to have any implications for civilian affirmative action programs because it is narrowly tailored to the modern Army's recent history, civil rights attorneys said yesterday.

"It's a decision in the tradition of the Supreme Court and of the D.C. Circuit," said John Relman, a prominent civil rights attorney in Washington. "I think it's unlikely the decision would be overturned."

The Army's role in American attitudes on race has been historically profound, and gave yesterday's ruling an added dimension of irony. Black soldiers who served abroad in the first half of the 20th century found it intolerable to return to racism and segregation, and their resolve to be treated equally at home helped form the backbone of the civil rights movement. When the Army became one of the first federal agencies to officially desegregate, it set an example that would slowly be followed by the rest of society.

In the Saunders case, Army hiring reports from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s showed that racial discrimination in officer promotion had largely disappeared over time, according to the court's finding yesterday. That is significant because the Supreme Court has held that for an affirmative action program to be legal, it must be established in an institution that has a clear, demonstrable record of racial or gender discrimination.

Staff writers Thomas Ricks and Steve Vogel contributed to this report.

By Neely Tucker

Washington Post Staff Writer

12. **2002 Pay Raises Under Consideration**

The Pentagon's plan for targeted pay raises on January 1 has been approved by congressional negotiators working on the personnel portion of the 2002 defense authorization bill. The plan would provide minimum raises to 5 percent for officers and 6 percent for enlisted personnel, with larger raises aimed at mid-grade and senior enlisted members, and mid-grade officer and warrant officers. The average raise is 6.8 percent, which is the biggest jump in basic pay since 1981. W-1s with less than two years of service receive the biggest raise of 15 percent.

Although there have been no arguments about pay raise issues, the actual 2002 defense authorization bill may not be passed for some

time, as negotiations have been disrupted by the recent Anthrax incidents in Capitol Hill. A lengthy delay in passing the bill may result in a delay in basic pay changes.

In the past, it has taken as long as 45 days to make payroll adjustments. As of yet, there is not a firm date as to when 2002 pay raises will take effect.

13. **Update On 2002 Defense Authorization Bill**

House Armed Services Committee Chairman Bob Stump (R-AZ) has announced that conferees have reached agreement on the conference report to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 (S. 1438). The report is said to accomplish three goals: support U.S. military personnel through improved pay and benefits, restore U.S. military readiness, and boost efforts to defend the American homeland from terrorism and ballistic missile attack. The report provides the largest single-year increase to defense spending since the early 1980s. It boosts funding for programs to combat terrorism and defeat weapons of mass destruction, provides a significant military pay raise, substantially increases critical readiness accounts, and revitalizes efforts to research tomorrow's weapons and equipment even while providing the weapons and equipment the U.S. military needs today.

14. **"Chapter 61" Military Disability Retirees Need a VA Rating, Too**

According to a recent Pentagon legal ruling, "Chapter 61" retirees who served at least 20 years on active duty and received at least a 70-percent military disability retirement from their parent service must also have been awarded VA disability compensation to be eligible for the new \$100 to \$300 monthly "special compensation for certain severely disabled retirees".

Some chapter 61 retirees never applied to the VA, or did not accept VA disability compensation because they saw no advantage in it (much of their military retired pay was already exempt from taxation). But such people will be delayed in receiving the new \$100-300 monthly special compensation until they apply for and receive VA compensation.

Unfortunately, the average time to process a VA disability claim is now about 9 months. However, once the VA payments are authorized, military finance officials will make retroactive

"special compensation" payments for qualifying retirees -- back to the effective date of the VA disability award or Oct. 1, 2001, whichever is later.

TROA has asked the House and Senate Armed Services Committee for corrective legislation to avoid the necessity for the VA award in such cases. Our view is that the special compensation should be paid if either the VA or the service award a 70 percent or higher rating to an otherwise-qualifying member. But there's no guarantee Congress will fix it this year.

For now, qualifying medical retirees who haven't already applied for VA disability compensation should do so immediately.

15. TRICARE For Life Claims Update

We are now two months into implementation of TFL -- the equivalent of a Fortune 500 company, started from scratch in less than one year, affecting 1.3 million beneficiaries worldwide. It would have been surprising if there weren't some initial administrative hiccups in a program of this complexity and size (\$3.9 billion dollars annually), and there have been some.

In October, DoD discovered that 13 percent of TFL beneficiaries were temporarily omitted from the electronic claim process whereby their TFL cost shares would be paid automatically if Medicare paid its share of the claim. We're pleased to report that these beneficiaries have now been included in the automated process for claims from now on. Beneficiaries in this group who had doctor visits or other TFL-covered services between October 1 and December 1 must file paper TRICARE claims -- for those visits only. All members affected have been notified by letter.

Another initial hiccup affected 3 to 4 percent of beneficiaries who visited doctors who do not "accept Medicare assignment". Providers who don't accept assignment may charge up to 115 percent of the Medicare-allowable charge. TFL will cover this extra 15-percent charge. However, the TRICARE claims processors initially didn't get the word, and initially denied the extra payment. All of these underpaid claims have been identified, and TRICARE is reprocessing them to make the correct payments. Beneficiaries affected do not need to do anything, since all affected claims can be identified and fixed centrally.

Through Nov. 29, 2001, over a million TFL claims had been received, and a half million already have been processed and paid. As the initial "speed bumps" are resolved, the process will only get better.

For TFL-related questions, contact the DoD TFL Call Center toll-free at 1-888-DoD-LIFE (1-888-363-5433).

16. Strong Gains for Veterans in 2001

House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee leaders capped a strong year of legislative activity on behalf of veterans' with passage of H.R. 1291, the Veterans' Education and Benefits Expansion Act; H.R. 2540, Veterans' Compensation Rate Amendments of 2001; and H.R.2716, the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act.

House Committee Chairman Chris Smith (R-NJ) originally introduced H.R.1291 to increase Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) education benefits over a three-year period. Among many other provisions, the final version of H.R.1291:

- *Boosts educational benefits under the MGIB over the next three years. The maximum monthly rate increases to \$985 on 1 Oct 2003, a 46% hike over current benefits;

- *Increases the VA home loan guaranty from \$50,700 to \$60,000 and extends the VA home loan authority for Selected Reservists to year 2011.

- *Adds Adult Onset Diabetes Type II to the list of service-connected conditions for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; and

- *Increases the monthly rates of survivors' and dependents' educational assistance.

H.R. 2540 authorizes a 2.6% COLA for disabled veterans and their survivors.

H.R. 2716 authorizes funding, housing, and related assistance for homeless veterans.

17. Long Term Care Insurance Progress

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has announced that The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and John Hancock Life Insurance Company have been selected as the carriers for the government Long-Term Care (LTC) Insurance program for military and federal civilian beneficiaries that will start up late next year. Together, the two firms have formed a third corporation called Long Term Care Partners, LLC. The new company's sole responsibility will be operating the federal program. The

contract is for seven years. Premium rates and benefit options could be released in late winter (Feb 2002). Coverage will be effective on October 1, 2002, but program sign-ups could begin much sooner, according to the OPM.

H.R.2559 exempts federal long-term care insurance premiums from state and local income taxability. It also expands eligibility to include gray area reservists, as well as federal civilian retirees with deferred annuities.

(Gray area reserve retirees have served 20 or more qualifying years and are eligible to receive retired pay when they become 60 years of age.)

13 million federal workers and annuitants – including active and retired service members and their family members – will be eligible to purchase the long-term care insurance at group-discount rates when the program commences on Oct.1, 2002. OPM expects the government program's premiums to be lower than those of commercial plans.

18. The following is a synopsis of selected bill provisions of interest to the uniformed services community.

*Statutory language prohibiting the Secretary of Defense from implementing any initiative to force military retirees to choose between military or VA health coverage as the source of their health care. The Armed Services Committees agree that retirees have earned and deserve continued access to both programs.

*January 2002 pay raises of at least 6% for enlisted members and 5% for officers, with higher raises (up to 10%) for some grade and longevity combinations, including certain warrant officers and senior NCOs.

*Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage for survivors of members who die on active duty before attaining 20 years of service.

*Option for post-1986 service entrants who elect a \$30,000 career retention bonus after 15 years of service (in return for somewhat reduced retirement benefits) to receive the bonus in annual increments to permit tax-free deposit in the military Thrift Savings Program (TSP).

*Authorizes full funding for the TRICARE military health care programs (including TFL) for the first time in many years – an increase of \$6 billion over last year.

*Provides active duty beneficiaries medical equipment such as hearing aids, prosthetic

devices and rehabilitation as covered benefits under TRICARE.

*Reduced requirements for non-availability statements (NAS) to enhance freedom of TRICARE beneficiaries to choose civilian health providers without prior approval from military hospital commanders. Eliminates all requirements for NAS for maternity patients.

*Statutory language prohibiting the Secretary of Defense from implementing any initiative to force military retirees to choose between military or VA health coverage as the source of their health care. The Armed Services Committees agree that retirees have earned and deserve continued access to both programs.

*Expansion of Special Compensation for Certain Severely Disabled Retirees to provide \$50 per month (effective February 1, 2002) for retirees who served at least 20 years on active duty and received disability ratings of 60% within 4 years after retiring. (Current authority provides \$100 to \$300 per month for members so rated at 70% or higher.) The provision also would provide modest increases in special compensation amounts for certain eligible retirees in 2003 and 2004.

*Authority for a new round of base realignments and closures in 2005.

*Concurrent Receipt Focus Shifts to White House. The Defense Authorization Act specifies that the disability offset to military retired pay will end if the President submits the necessary legislation and funding as part of his FY2003 budget request. You can use TROA's Web site to urge the White House to fix this serious inequity. Congress failed to take action to end the 100-year old practice of making disabled military retirees forfeit a dollar of their earned retired pay for each dollar received in VA disability compensation. The FY2002 Defense Authorization Act, now awaiting the President's signature, specifies that this will only happen if the President includes the necessary legislation and funding in his FY2003 Budget Request (which is due to Congress in February). The Administration is already on record as opposing any change to the current law, and it likely will be difficult to change that position in the next two months. But we won't know if we don't try.

19. VA Extends Open Enrollment, Lowers Outpatient Co-Pays

The White House has given the green light to extend the open enrollment program for veterans who seek VA health care, according to The Retired Officer Association (TROA). It has also been announced that outpatient co-pays are being lowered from \$50 to \$15 effective December 1. About 129,600 uniformed services retirees are enrolled in the category at issue, known as Priority Group 7 (PG-7). VA outpatient co-pays for PG-7 enrolled veterans and some PG-6 veterans being treated for non-service connected conditions will have the co-pay change. The VA is also raising prescription co-pays from \$2 to \$7 for medications for non-service-connected conditions, effective late January 2002.

20. President Signs Legislation For Vet Medical Benefits

President Bush recently signed legislation that adds \$1.4 billion to expand and strengthen health care programs for the nation's 25 million veterans. The new law, H.R. 3447, will allow the VA will lower co-payments for hospital inpatient care by 80 percent for veterans meeting a new regional means test. This could translate into an out-of-pocket savings of over \$600 for each hospitalization. Other improvements include a trained service dog program for disabled veterans; a National Commission to enhance recruitment and retention of nurses at VA facilities; establishing chiropractic services within the VA health care system on a nationwide basis; and specialized medical programs (i.e. for mental illness, spinal cord injuries and prosthetics) in each of the VA's 22 health care networks.

21. TRICARE Catastrophic Cap Reduced

TRICARE has reduced its fiscal year "catastrophic cap" from \$7,500 to **\$3,000** for uniformed services retirees, their family members and survivors. The cap is the maximum amount of out-of-pocket costs these beneficiaries are required to pay for medical care during a fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). The catastrophic cap reduction is retroactive to October 1, 2000. Retirees, their family members and survivors who have paid more than \$3,000 out-of-pocket for TRICARE-covered services are eligible for reimbursement. Beneficiaries who have saved their receipts and choose to initiate a request for reimbursement may do so by

contacting their regional claims processor for guidance on where to submit their receipts and claims. For those enrolled in [TRICARE Prime](#), there is an enrollment year cap, which begins on the anniversary date of enrollment in TRICARE Prime and applies to all enrollees. Catastrophic caps, both fiscal year and enrollment year combined, will not exceed \$3,000 in a given 12-month period for retirees, their family members and survivors. For additional information, beneficiaries are encouraged to contact the [nearest TRICARE service center](#) for assistance.

NOTE: As we lean forward next spring, we will be looking to the leaders who control the purse strings to support funding for substantive concurrent receipt progress in next year's Budget Resolution. We'll need the support of all grassroots activists to remind their legislators that there needs to be a much better linkage between what they say and what Congress does.

Many of these items were also extracted from the Military Report. You may subscribe to the Military Report by e-mail at:

subscriptions@militaryreport.com
Military report is a publication of MR Group, LLC, A Veteran-Owned Small Business. Editorial questions:

editor@militaryreport.com
Website: <http://www.militaryreport.com>

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

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BWS

Quote for the Day!

A traitor's destiny was to "go down to the vile dust, from whence he sprung, unwept, unhonored, and unsung."

Sir Walter Scott

From the Swamp

This article is being provided for A.J. He will return next news magazine.

Philosophy

From the Late Charles Schulz

This puts things in proper perspective. Take this quiz:

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do? Not too well? The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolade and certificates are buried with their owners.

Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people with whom you enjoy spending time.
6. Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? What is the lesson?

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. People who made a difference are the ones who care.

Pass this on to those people who have made a difference in your life. And don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Australia.

Charles Schulz

Editors Note:

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

Veterans Sound Off

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

BWS

For this issue, we have a movie review that, while long, is very timely for our troopers.

REVIEW - We Were Soldiers Once.....and Young

If a better movie has ever been made.....on any subject.....I haven't seen it.

This review is intended to enhance your enjoyment of the movie by giving you some insights so you will recognize and appreciate certain key features of the film. Many things obvious to Vietnam veterans would never be noticed by people who did not serve "In Country." I submit that the majority of Vietnam veterans will not notice some of the nuances identified in this review. This is not a critical media review; rather it is an unbiased peer review of sorts.

The movie recounts the experiences of the men of the 1st of the 7th Cavalry, of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in the first major battle of the Vietnam war, which occurred in 1965, beginning on November 14.

The battalion (or is it Squadron?) (400-plus men) walks into an ambush by a reinforced North Vietnamese Regular Army (NVA) Regiment (2,000 men). The relentless intensity of the encounter rages on for three days and nights.

The movie begins by familiarizing you with the main characters and their families in the States, as they train in preparation for deployment to Vietnam. You will feel the anxiety that accompanies the approaching departure from the States, and you will later sense the fear and anxiety which precedes a combat infantryman's baptism by fire, the men's recognition of the presence of God, and you will understand why men don't fight for mother, country and apple pie, they fight for each other.

For the first time in my life, I watched a "true-story" movie in which a star character is someone I know in real life. In this case, I personally know three of the four lead characters, and I served nearly three tours in Vietnam as well. These two factors give me an unusually keen appreciation for the movie.

Mel Gibson portrays the real-life character of Harold G. (Hal) Moore, then a lieutenant colonel and commander of the battalion (retired as a three-star general). Hal later authored the best selling book "We Were Soldiers Once....and Young," the story the movie tells, with Joseph Galloway as a contributing co-author.

I have met Hal. I have spent time with him in social settings, involving direct conversation. As recently as June 12, 2001.....at the Infantry's annual Doughboy Awards Dinner (a civilian clothes black tie affair attended by more than 70 general officers).....I discussed with him, and with CSM (Retired) Basil Plumbley, their screening of the raw, unedited footage of the combat scenes. They were thoroughly satisfied, they said, with the filming of the combat scenes, even though editing of the movie was just getting under way at that time.

Hal is a genuine military leader of the highest order, with a one-of-a-kind irresistible personality. Mel Gibson must have spent endless hours with him, studying his habits, the way he speaks, his gestures, his mannerisms, his walk, his movements, and his facial expressions. Mel portrays the man so superbly that it was like seeing Hal Moore with Mel Gibson's face. Mel deserves an oscar for this career-best

performance, one he's not likely to surpass in his lifetime. This is not the Mel Gibson you are accustomed to seeing.

Colonel Moore's battalion sergeant major was Basil Plumbley. I met Plumbley in 1969 when I was assigned as a first sergeant in his brigade. The Command Sergeant Major program had debuted in 1968, and he was then a CSM. I knew him to be a highly decorated veteran, but I did not then know any of the details of his experiences. Plumbley is currently retired here in the Columbus, Georgia, area and I see him occasionally still. Sam Elliott plays Sergeant Major Plumbley, and his portrayal of the man presents a remarkably accurate resemblance, both in stature and in character.

You will love both Elliott, the actor, and Plumbley the Sergeant Major. Watch his actions and listen to his dialogue. You will come to appreciate a professional (command) sergeant major who is, indeed, one-of-a-kind.

Next is Ernie Savage. The name of the actor who portrayed Ernie escapes me at the moment. I have known Ernie since 1972. He, too, lives in this immediate area. I believe he is still employed by the military at Fort Benning, but he may have retired recently. I haven't seen him now for some six months. Ernie was a three-stripe buck sergeant when the ambush began. Within hours, he was the company commander, because he was the highest ranking man in his company still alive.

While discussing the footage with General Moore last year over drinks during happy hour, I mentioned that I knew Ernie Savage. General Moore put his finger firmly into my chest, looked directly into my eyes with total concentration, and said "Ernie Savage is the finest blankety-blank soldier ever to shit between a pair of jump boots." He meant it. When you've seen the movie, you will know why.

The fourth key character.....and the one I have never met.....is Joe Galloway, a civilian war correspondent who accompanied the battalion on the mission to find and kill the enemy. He began the mission with only a camera and a pad and pen. He became an effective rifleman and seasoned combat infantryman in very short order, however. Galloway is played by Barry Pepper, the actor you may remember as the cold, calculating, emotionless southpaw sniper in

"Saving Private Ryan." He is an outstanding actor in this film as well.

One of the most striking single aspects of the film.....and the one which distinguishes it from all other war movies.....is its accuracy. The uniforms, weaponry, helicopters, vehicles, and scenes depicted are authentic and circa 1965. The deficiencies and inaccuracies I noted are so minor and insignificant that they are not worth mentioning. The sounds are authenticchoppers, jets, direct-hit and ricocheting bullets, tracers, hand grenades, mortars, artillery, rockets, and blossoming flares.

The appearance and effects of napalm, foogas, and white phosphorus are seen. The movie captures the effectiveness of air support and the early use of helicopters as lightly-armed and jerry-rigged gunships, before the heavily-armed factory-made gunships appeared on the scene. Back then, airmobile tactics and techniques had not yet come of age, and any written manuals or doctrine that may have existed were still in the conceptual stages.

Heroism, sleep deprivation, and physical exhaustion blend into a mixture that few men in history have experienced; a combination that few have endured and survived.

The true nature of raw professional military leadership under pressure and under fire is vividly demonstrated, and the undeniable facts that success is often born of necessity, and that real men rise to the occasion when called upon, are painfully evident.

Unusual camera angles used are inventive, display extraordinary perspective and detail, and represent a departure from many of the tired old standards.

The innovative use of muffled sound.....to trigger the sensation of momentarily floating in a dream, a nightmare.....is both astounding and quite effective. You'll even see the emergency employment of combat coolant for overheated mortars, when the men urinate on the 81mm mortar tubes.

Efficient evacuation of the wounded, by chopper, and the crisis treatment of the wounded in field medical facilities are shown, austere and often crude, as they were then actually improvised and hastily assembled.

Hell, they even got the dust right. How they managed that is beyond me, but it could not have

been more realistic. The best dust sequences occur after the battalion has arrived in Vietnam and set up a base camp, but before they embark upon the search and destroy mission that leads them into the NVA trap. Helicopters kicked up clouds of dust where you didn't even think there was dust, and 99.9% of it finds its way into the beads of sweat which cover your body in 110-120 degree heat. Clean is a feeling you lose 30 seconds after a shower.

You may not even detect the conspicuous absence of the drug use that has permeated, even dominated, most of the other Vietnam war movies you have seen. How this film escaped the anti-American sentiment normally injected by the liberal Hollywood power structure is beyond me. Considerable drug use existed in Vietnam, but was found mostly in support and rear echelon units.

Its presence in infantry "grunt" units was limited to non-existent in the units with which I was affiliated and to which I was exposed. Men depending upon one another, daily, for their very survival seldom permit each other to become impaired in any way, except in the safest of environments.

You'll observe the dedication and professionalism of the well-trained and highly motivated North Vietnamese Regular soldier, and be aware of augmentation of the Regiment by local Viet Cong (part-time citizen soldiers).

You will see the gore and horror that is the dead and the dying, and the agony that often precedes death when it isn't instantaneous. Men engulfed in flames flounder in severe pain as they exhale their final breaths. You'll feel the intensity of the threat of imminent death. You'll see hand-to-hand combat in its rawest form, up close and personal, and almost feel the sting of sharp bayonet points penetrating your flesh.

You will witness many acts of heroism and uncommon valor, by the leaders, the soldiers, and the often unsung heroes that were the young chopper pilots who delivered the troops to the landing zones, vulnerably hovering or landing while under blistering small arms fire. These young pilots, warrant officers predominately, were valiant, dedicated, unselfish, and much appreciated by the troops. This applies to the medevac, or "dust-off," pilots as well.

Unlike any war movie I have ever seen, there is a moving segment the ladies should love, and for which the men should gain a new-found appreciation. As did many units, the 1/7th deployed to Vietnam, in tact, leaving the wives in government quarters here at Fort Benning. While Hal Moore commanded the men in Vietnam, his wife mothered the wives left behind, after having befriended them all earlier during the time their husbands were training here in preparation for deployment. The camaraderie which held those brave women together is something to behold, especially when the telegrams from the Secretary of the Army begin to arrive in the most unexpected of ways.

I saw nothing in the movie I would characterize as "filler;" that is, I'm aware of nothing which was inserted to fill space or to absorb time. Everything was realistic and necessary to the story and its actual real-life plot and sub-plots. Before the movie has ended, you will have seen.....almost experienced..... more emotion within a two-hour time span than you could ever have imagined possible.

Remarkably.....and this will come as a surprise.....every last one of you will understand, with indelible clarity, why the military so strongly abhors the press corps. You will discover a new-found distaste for the inconsiderate media whores and the pain, the damage and destruction, they inflict upon those most deserving of sympathetic consideration, and most will loathe them for their total disregard for the privacy of anyone.

Finally, I must give you my best estimate as to why the movie failed to mention the only soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor during that three-day encounter with hell itself. He is Colonel (then second lieutenant) Walter J. Marm, Jr. I have met him on two occasions. I have read the citation describing his conspicuous gallantry, at risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, and the individual actions which merited his recommendation for the Country's highest military award for valor against a hostile enemy, and its eventual award two years later. I have no doubt he deserved the award.

However, every single man who survived that nightmare was a hero of the highest possible order, having endured intense mortal danger for every single minute of nearly 72 hours, most

without a wink of sleep, and all held little hope of ever seeing home again. All truly deserved the greatest measure of recognition and the highest awards their country could bestow upon them.

To have recognized a lone hero would have been to disparage all the heroes, and would have decried the singularly outstanding and unselfish devotion to duty exhibited by each and every brave individual, down to the last man. The decision to omit the bravery of this one man was not intended, I think, to slight him in any way but, instead, was intended to preserve the honor of the elite group of American heroes that was the immortal 1st Battalion of the 7th Cavalry Squadron of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. That is my ever so humble opinion, and I have nothing upon which to base it but pure logic and a thorough understanding of pride, appreciation, motivation, and leadership.

See the movie. Then see it again. You may well never see a better one in this life.

Fred D. Marshall Jr.
Command Sergeant Major
United States Army, Retired

Great insight from the NVA perspective into the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley-Oct 1965---the basis of General Moore's/Galloway's book "We were soldiers once and young" and now the movie "We were soldiers" as hopefully, you all agree is the best description of Infantry close quarter fighting ever written----

THE FOG OF WAR

The Fog of War: The Vietnamese View of the Ia Drang Battle by Merle L. Pribbenow

For the past 35 years the US Army and the North Vietnamese have claimed victory in the October to November 1965 Ia Drang Valley Battle. While the United States' side of the battle has been extensively documented, the Vietnamese version has remained obscure. Although heavily colored by communist hagiography and propaganda, recently published People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) accounts provide answers to many questions and acknowledge a number of North Vietnamese Army (NVA) mistakes and command failures.

When added to information from US sources, these accounts reveal how greatly the fog of war, over-optimism and blind fate influenced the battle. The B3 Front Plan According to PAVN, the Ia Drang Battle grew out of the B3 (Central Highlands) Front's plan to lure US and South Vietnamese forces into battle on terms favorable to the communists. The plan included besieging the remote Plei Me border outpost south of Pleiku in South Vietnam's Central Highlands and forcing US and South Vietnamese forces to come to the rescue. The goal was to annihilate five or six US companies.

1.) The NVA 320th and 33d Regiments were to launch the campaign, but one of the NVA's finest units-the 304th Division-would reinforce the B3 Front. In August 1965 the 304th received orders to move south to the Central Highlands. The 304th's lead element, the 66th Regiment, was scheduled to arrive in time for the campaign's final phase.

2.) Aware they could not match newly arrived US forces' power, NVA commanders knew their strategy was risky. During political indoctrination sessions before the campaign began, 320th Regiment troops expressed serious doubts.

3.) Stunning Blows; The troops had reason to be skeptical. The 33d Regiment, launching the Plei Me siege on 19 October 1965, was stunned by unexpectedly powerful US air strikes that inflicted heavy losses and totally disrupted communications between regimental headquarters and forward units. After the battle, B3 Front headquarters admitted that this loss of communications with front-line units severely hampered its ability to make timely and informed command decisions during this phase of the battle.

4.) The 320th Regiment's ambush of a large South Vietnamese relief column on 23 October also resulted in heavy NVA casualties.

5.) On 26 October, two days after the 1st Brigade, 1st US Cavalry Division, arrived in Pleiku, the B3 Front commander decided that discretion was the better part of valor and ordered troops back to the Ia Drang base area.

6.) From 24 October to 9 November, 1st Brigade, 1st US Cavalry Division, heliborne airmobile elements

fought a series of engagements against retreating communist troops in the Ia Drang Valley. The 33d Regiment bore the brunt of the US attacks. The regimental hospital was overrun on 1 November. On 4 November, US 2d Squadron, 12th US Cavalry Regiment forces engaged two 33d Regiment, 3d Battalion companies in a stiff battle. On 6 November, two 2d Squadron, 8th US Cavalry Regiment companies estimated several hundred NVA 1st and 2d Battalion, 33d Regiment forces killed. Twenty-six US soldiers were killed; 53 were wounded.

7.) The B3 Front viewed the 4 and 6 October engagements as victories and claimed that from 29 October to 9 November five US platoons had been annihilated and that 385 US troops were killed or wounded.

8.) Actual 1st Brigade losses were 59 men killed and 196 wounded.

9.) The NVA 33d Regiment suffered catastrophic losses, being reduced to less than half its authorized strength.

10.) Post battle NVA analyses conclude that US helicopter leap-frog attacks into the heart of the base area had thrown the NVA back onto the defensive, disrupted command and control, and prevented the NVA from concentrating! forces.

11.) The US 1st Brigade withdrew, setting the stage for the arrival of the two principal participants in the Ia Drang Battle-the 1st US Cavalry Division's 3d Brigade and the NVA's 66th Regiment. The Battle Heats Up The NVA attacked on 12 November. Twenty-six NVA sappers, armed with four mortars and guided by local guerrillas, raided the new 3d Brigade Headquarters at the Catecka Tea Plantation, killing seven US soldiers and wounding 23.

12.) Earlier, on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the 66th Regiment had dropped its heavy equipment, lightened its packs and proceeded by forced march to the battlefield.

13.) The 66th crossed into South Vietnam on 1 November and headed for assembly areas. During the approach the regiment suffered its first losses. On 3 November, the 8th Battalion was ambushed by a US reconnaissance patrol, provoking a vicious night engagement that led the 8th Battalion to believe it had annihilated a US platoon.

14.) On 10 November, the 66th Regiment arrived at the Chu Pong Massif on the southwestern side of the Ia Drang Valley near the Cambodian border. The Chu Pong, a massive terrain feature, housed B3 Front Headquarters, its support units and supply warehouses. The regimental headquarters and the 7th Battalion occupied adjacent bivouac areas on the mountain's southeastern face. Five kilometers away, the 9th Battalion occupied the eastern face. The 8th Battalion established a base in the Ia Drang Valley itself, perhaps eight miles away. Although tired and hungry from the long forced march, the troops began building huts, digging fortifications and transporting rice and ammunition from the B3 Front's supply caches.

15.) While the 66th Regiment's battalions were at almost full strength-500 men with from 120 to 125 men per company-and well-equipped with AK-47 and SKS rifles, light and medium machineguns, RPGs, 82-millimeter mortars and recoilless rifles, Central Highlands jungles were foreign to them. Most of the men were as unfamiliar with the terrain as US troops were. The 1st Battalion, 7th US Cavalry, arrived at landing zone (LZ) X-Ray, a clearing less than one kilometer below the 9th Battalion's positions. This fact played a significant role in the coming battle.

16.) NVA histories reveal that contrary to claims that the NVA lured US troops into a trap, the NVA were completely surprised by US troops' 14 November landing at LZ X-Ray. When the first US helicopters arrived, 66th Regiment and 9th Battalion commanders were surveying the terrain several kilometers away on the banks of the Ia Drang River. The 66th Regiment Political Officer Ngoc Chau and the 9th Battalion's deputy political officer were also away from their offices.

17.) From his new headquarters atop the Chu Pong, B3 Front Forward Commander Nguyen Huu An watched in dismay as US air strikes and artillery blasted the 9th Battalion area and as waves of US helicopters swooped out of sight behind the mountain.

18.) Once on the ground, 7th US Cavalry troops advanced straight up the slopes of the Chu Pong toward 9th Battalion positions. Under heavy bombardment, unable to see what was happening because of the thick jungle vegetation and with

its forward outposts eliminated in the initial US attack, the 9th Battalion did not detect approaching US troops until they were only 100 meters away. US troops advanced in two columns, one headed for 9th Battalion's 11th Company; the other headed for the 9th Battalion Headquarters area. Just as the shooting began, the 9th Battalion almost collapsed. Acting on his own, the 11th Company commander launched a fierce counterattack against US troops, but the 9th Battalion political officer, who in the absence of the military commander was in charge of the battalion, panicked. He bolted from the command post, leaving the battalion leaderless.

19.) A lesser unit might have broken and run, but 9th Battalion troops were among the NVA's best. A first lieutenant, the senior officer left in the command post, immediately took charge. Calling for help from the unengaged 13th Company, he ordered all headquarters personnel-cooks, runners and medics-to grab weapons and fight. One by one, the battalion's four companies joined the battle as work details returned and commanders pieced together what was happening. The 9th Battalion commander, racing back from the banks of the Ia Drang, reached the 11th Company an hour later but never returned to his command post, and he never reestablished contact with all of his units. At 1700, US troops finally withdrew. The 9th Battalion's units also began retreating, scattering in all directions. The 66th Regiment commander bypassed the 9th Battalion to return directly to his regimental command post, got lost and did not find his way back to his headquarters for two days. Some isolated troops, not realizing their units had left, remained behind and continued to engage US forces in scattered firefights until late that night. The 9th Battalion reported destroying one US company and crippling another.

20.) After the battle, the 9th Battalion commander was severely criticized for failing to regain control of his battalion and allowing it to disintegrate.

21.) Meanwhile, B3 Front Forward Headquarters and the 66th Regiment were trying to control the battle. Learning that the commanders were not at their command posts, Deputy Regimental Commander Pham Cong Cuu, who was at 7th Battalion Headquarters when the attack occurred, alerted the battalion to

prepare to move out. Taking a group of 7th Battalion officers with him, Cuu went forward to assess the situation. He arrived in the 9th Battalion area in the early afternoon and found it in a state of confusion, with many wounded moving to the rear and no one sure what was going on. The wounded deputy battalion political officer could tell him only that the enemy troops were all US forces (no South Vietnamese) and that they were aggressive and well-armed.

22.) Chau, arriving in the area! later, encountered the 9th Battalion's retreating 13th Company and directed it to leave one platoon behind to maintain contact with US forces. During the 66th Regiment commander's absence, Chau assumed command.

23.) Late in the afternoon, B3 Forward Headquarters ordered Chau to attack the US position with available forces. Chau sent 7th Battalion troops forward to join the scattered 9th Battalion elements. He placed Cuu in direct command of the assault.

24.) The attack was originally scheduled to begin at 0300 on 15 November, but because of the unfamiliar terrain and continuing US artillery bombardment, it was almost daylight before troops were in position. Two 7th Battalion companies and 9th Battalion elements prepared to assault one side of the US perimeter while the 7th Battalion's weapons company deployed on the other side as a blocking force. This would also allow them to provide machinegun grazing fire across the position.

25.) At this point it becomes difficult to reconcile NVA accounts with what actually happened. The accounts say 7th Battalion assault companies overran the US position and briefly swept the area before withdrawing at 0645 under heavy US air attack. Surviving US troops were said to have fled into the jungle. Cuu claims he reported by radio to B3 Front Headquarters that his men had overrun the US position, captured more than 70 weapons and that he had 150 effectives left in his force, which indicated losses of from 300 to 400 men. Cuu admits B3 Front was at first incredulous about his report, asking if Cuu had personally checked the report or if he was just relaying reports from subordinate elements.

26.) In fact, a section of the 1st Battalion, 7th US Cavalry's perimeter had been briefly overrun,

but the penetration was quickly repaired and the US position held. Forty-two US soldiers were killed and 20 were wounded.

27.) After what was thought to be a victory, the NVA attack force withdrew, leaving only one platoon behind to maintain contact with the US force. According to NVA accounts, the 66th Regiment's commanders were unaware of a new US battalion's arrival on foot-the 2/5 Cavalry-and the "lost platoon's" rescue. They knew only of the incessant US bombing and shelling their stay-behind element endured and of the helicopters arriving at LZ X-Ray to evacuate bodies and bring in reinforcements.

28.) The Second Attack B3 Forward Headquarters ordered a second attack on LZ X-Ray and ordered the 33d Regiment to attack two nearby US artillery fire bases to support the LZ X-Ray attack-a mission the 33d Regiment could not carry out.

29.) With most of 7th Battalion destroyed, the 66th Regiment was forced to use the 7th Regiment's unblooded 3d Company and one platoon of 1st Company as the main assault elements, supported by the 7th Battalion's heavy weapons. At 2000 on 15 November, NVA troops reached the assembly area and went forward to attack positions. However, the stay-behind force had not noticed that US defenders had pulled their lines back 50 meters in the perimeter section that was the second assault's primary target. This move, with the constant artillery bombardment, confused the attackers.

30.) Not until 0300 on 16 November did NVA troops get close enough to US lines to launch an assault. Although they claim to have inflicted numerous casualties before being driven back, NVA historians acknowledge that the assault was largely unsuccessful.

31.) While US forces actually suffered only six wounded; the NVA sustained significant losses.³² According to the Vietnamese, 7th Battalion, 66th Regiment elements returned to the area the night of 16 November to collect the dead and wounded but were detected and fired on, causing panicky US troops to fire wildly around the entire perimeter.

33.) This probably refers to an incident at first light on 16 November when US defenders at LZ X-Ray, firing a Mad Minute to preempt a dawn

attack, flushed out a large group of NVA hiding close to the perimeter.

34.) Vietnamese accounts admit that after this attack the 7th and 9th Battalions were hors de combat-the 7th because of its horrendous losses and the 9th because its units were still scattered and disorganized after the haphazard retreat on 14 November.

35.) Misperceptions engendered by the fog of war and the exaggerated victory claims that two NVA battalions made began a tragic chain of events. Although actual US losses were 79 killed and 121 wounded, NVA commanders believed the original US battalion at LZ X-Ray, the 7th US Cavalry, had been crippled.

36.) Blinded by US airstrikes and artillery, NVA commanders did not know that LZ X-Ray had been heavily reinforced, that the cavalry was being evacuated or that LZ X-Ray was to be abandoned the next day. Ignorant of these facts, An ordered the 66th Regiment's 8th Battalion-still fresh and waiting in the Ia Drang Valley-to move south to finish off what he believed to be a crippled US battalion.

37.) The 8th Battalion commander, Le Xuan Phoi, headed his men out on the evening of 16 November, but when US air and artillery strikes blocked his route, he was forced to stop and reorganize. At dawn the battalion moved out again, heading south in battle formation with the 8th Company acting as an advance guard some distance ahead of the main formation. The battalion's main body followed: the battalion headquarters, two infantry companies, a weapons company and the regimental 12.7-millimeter heavy machinegun company, attached to the battalion for this operation.

38.) For US troops left at LZ X-Ray, the night of 16-17 November passed quietly. The next morning the squadrons left LZ X-Ray on foot, heading north toward the artillery fire base at LZ Columbus about three miles away. While the 2/5th Cavalry proceeded directly to LZ Columbus, the 2/7th Cavalry-10 to 15 minutes behind-turned off about three kilometers out and headed for a clearing designated LZ Albany. Having seen the hundreds of NVA bodies rotting in the sun around the perimeter and after the quiet night at LZ X-Ray, the troops assumed the NVA was finished. Nearly 2,000 NVA soldiers, almost an entire regiment, had been reported killed.

After adding the number wounded, there should have been nothing left of the two NVA regiments.

39.) The march to LZ Albany would be just a "walk in the sun."

40.) Shortly before noon, the 2/7th Cavalry point element tripped over several hidden NVA soldiers who belonged to one of the five-man ambush teams from the 33d Regiment that had been assigned to cover potential helicopter landing zones. US troops captured two soldiers, but three escaped. The US column halted to interrogate the prisoners.

41.) Meanwhile, the NVA 8th Battalion's main body, 1 kilometer behind its lead company, encountered NVA 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 33d Regiment elements. The escaped NVA soldiers reported that two US platoons were just ahead and moving in their direction. Phoi immediately sent a runner to recall his point company and began deploying for battle. Poor visibility caused by thick vegetation and terrain hampered the NVA and US troops. Unaware he was facing a full US squadron and with little time, Phoi deployed from march formation. He put only the lead company on line, backed by the weapons company. He held the other units in reserve.

42.) The US column again moved forward. Phoi waited until US soldiers were yards away before opening fire. The two lead US platoons were shattered. Behind them more US troops advanced, firing as they came. Only then did Phoi realize that the two platoons were not alone. He moved another infantry company up immediately behind the first, then attacked.

43.) After receiving the battalion's recall order and hearing the sounds of gunfire, 8th Company, on point, sped back toward the battle. The company's lead platoon got lost and never made it into the fight. The other company ran straight into the US column's rear and immediately attacked. Phoi now committed ! 7th Company, shifting it into a line alongside 6th Company. Meanwhile, two companies of the nearby 33d Regiment, led by Cuu, also entered the fray.

44.) The NVA 8th Battalion was quickly decapitated. The commander died before the battle ended, and the political officer died within the first hour. Almost all company- and platoon-level officers lay dead or wounded. At an 8th

Battalion squad leader's request-an indication of how many 8th Battalion officers were down-the 1st Battalion, 33d Regiment, deputy commander assumed command of both battalions. Within hours he, too, was dead.

45.) Leaving the bulk of the 2/7 US Cavalry trapped between and hopelessly intermingled with NVA forces hidden in the tall jungle grass, US forces at either end of the column regrouped into two separate perimeters. Virtually leaderless and under heavy US air and artillery attack, the surviving NVA troops, their hatred of Americans fueled by communist tales of US atrocities in South Vietnam and party exhortations to become "Heroic killers of Americans," mindlessly slaughtered US wounded.

46.) Vietnamese accounts of the battle give contorted explanations of why so many US soldiers were shot in the head or in the back.

47.) A postwar review reveals that NVA commanders knew what really happened. During the battle there were "mistakes" in implementing the NVA policy on taking prisoners of war.

48.) The NVA took no prisoners. The next day, US forces counted 403 NVA bodies and hundreds of weapons left on the battlefield. In this instance, however, the NVA claim to have annihilated a US battalion was not entirely without foundation. The 2/7th US Cavalry and attached units suffered 155 killed and 121 wounded.

49.) The encounter, which Vietnamese histories admit was completely accidental, was one of the war's bloodiest battles.

50.) On 18 November, the US artillery fire base at LZ Columbus was hit by an attack that was easily repelled. Three US soldiers were killed and 13 wounded in exchange for at least 27 dead NVA.

51.) This unsuccessful attack was the 33d Regiment's belated effort to carry out the order it had been given three days before. The regimental chief of staff commanded the attack. Because of poor reconnaissance, one battalion's assault troops missed the perimeter entirely, hitting only thin air. Admitting serious morale problems, PAVN officers faulted the attack for inadequate coordination and the troops for not pressing the assault with sufficient resolution.

52.) The campaign's final battle was anticlimactic. On 20 November, South

Vietnamese airborne forces, supported by US artillery, encountered the 320th Regiment's 635th and 334th Battalions along the Cambodian border. The 635th's commander, whose unit had suffered heavy losses during the South Vietnamese relief column ambush in October, refused to engage the enemy and retreated without authorization, leaving the sister battalion alone on the battlefield. The two units lost hundreds of men and weapons, and it was several days before the 320th Regiment managed to reestablish contact with the 635th Battalion. A PAVN analysis admits the regiment "did not accomplish its assigned mission."

53.) The Aftermath An NVA review of the campaign found that in their first major battle with US forces, NVA commanders had seriously underestimated their opponent. Specifically, the NVA had been surprised by the 1st US Cavalry Division's armed helicopters' firepower; the use of B-52s to tactically support ground troops; the power of the 1st Cavalry's field artillery, which the NVA had believed would be unable to deploy and operate effectively in this roadless, jungle-covered region; and the incredible mobility of 1st Cavalry troopers who, even when their forces were caught at an initial disadvantage, used helicopters to concentrate rapidly and decisively to shift the balance of forces and turn the tide of battle.

54.) The North Vietnamese were also disturbed by leadership problems that surfaced during this campaign. All three regimental commanders were censured for their conduct during the campaign. The 66th Regiment commander received a severe reprimand for failing to command his unit during the LZ X-Ray battle. The 33d Regiment Commander was criticized for failing to maintain contact with his troops during the siege at Plei Me, for not personally commanding the attack on LZ Columbus and for delegating all decision-making responsibility to subordinates. The 320th Regiment commander was cited for failing to personally conduct reconnaissance of the terrain before ambushing the South Vietnamese relief column and for clumsily handling his unit throughout the campaign.

55.) A 1966 Central Highlands Front report claimed that in five major engagements with US

forces between 14 and 18 November 1965, NVA forces killed 559 soldiers and wounded 669.

56.) PAVN histories claim the United States suffered 1,500 to 1,700 casualties during the Ia Drang Campaign.

57.) The US military estimates that 3,561 NVA were killed and more than 1,000 were wounded during engagements with the 1st Cavalry. The US Army estimated 305 killed and 524 wounded for the 35-day campaign.

58.) Neither side believes the other's figures. The US military viewed the battle as proof that its helicopter-assault tactics and strategy of attrition could win the war. The NVA saw in the heavy US casualties inflicted at LZ X-Ray and LZ Albany vindication for its belief that communist troops could also inflict sufficient pain on US forces. Clearly, each side saw only the results it wanted to see, and each thought it had hurt the other more than it had. Later in the war, as firepower and attrition continued to take their toll,

the NVA realized it suffered from a problem common to all-the need for truthful reporting and a willingness to hear the truth. "Based on our experiences . . . we can see that reporting from subordinate commanders to their superiors did not accurately reflect the real situation. Successes were usually exaggerated and mistakes and failures were not reported. This had a not insignificant impact on our operations. It caused senior commanders to misjudge and miscalculate the situation, which in turn led them to make incorrect policy decisions and to set goals and objectives which were unattainable. . . . Commanders must listen to the opinions of subordinates. . . . They must not be afraid to hear negatives, they must not be willing to listen only to those things which are positive, and they must never accuse a subordinate of harboring harmful thoughts and opinions when the subordinate is only telling the truth. . . . Commanders . . . must not be afraid to discuss mistakes and failures. Time after time, after every victory we won, so often that it seemed to be the rule rather than the exception, we fell into the traps of subjectivism, over-eagerness and over-simplification."

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the University of Washington, Seattle. His articles have been published in Vietnam Magazine and Parameters.

Editors Note: There were three pages of notes and references on the above. If you desire these, e-mail me and I will send them. Loel

Ia Drang Valley Reunion

Washington D.C., November 10, 2001

I thought I'd pass on my thoughts for the newsletter after attending the very emotional, very elegant Ia Drang Valley Reunion with my wife, Heidi, and COL (Ret) Doug Hill and his lovely wife, Brenda..

The keynote speaker at the reunion was Randy Wallace, the producer and writer of the screenplay, "We Were Soldiers" based upon Hal Moore and Joe Galloway's best seller, "We Were Soldiers Once and Young." All I will say about the movie, of which we watched clips is- It's going to be a humdinger that will keep audiences glued down from open to close. Not at all a fake like Apocalypse or Platoon and maybe even an academy award winner.

Wallace had everyone in tears with his talk, which came right on the tail end of tribute after tribute to the 7th Cav's late Rick Rescorla, who died a hero in the World Trade Center; which was the way he lived his life.. In Moore's book, he is described by Moore as : "The best platoon leader I have ever seen". Anyway, it was at least a 12 handkerchief dinner and the movie will be the same way.. It opens March 1st, 2002, and no cavalryman should miss the first showing.

It was a wonderful gathering. The company was great, the speeches were top notch and even the food, served to well over 500, was well above average; but I found myself getting pissed off as I drove home from DC the next day.

Why? Because even though it is called the Ia Drang Valley association, it is completely a 7th Cavalry Show. Even the banner shows only X-Ray and Albany, as if they were the only battles in that terrible place?

Where is the Hospital Battle of 1 November 1965? Where is the 9th Cavalry ambush of 3-4 November 1965? Didn't we leave a trail of

bodies in that valley? Wasn't the 7th Cav searching for a place called Anta Village that was marked on an enemy map found at the Hospital Battle site on 1 November, when they landed at a place designated X-Ray?

We have our own heroes of that campaign, guys like Larry Tasker, my wingman, who found the enemy and started the Hospital battle that day and Jack Oliver, who led 18 or 19 Blues into the site. I will always remember Jack's response to my call to him in which I said, "Blue, some of the people below me seem to be either sick or dead." His response: "They will be when I get there, Out." This was Jack's first battle- yet what confidence he radiated.

How about Steve Yarnell, who wrote so eloquently about that battle, who crawled down a ditch and popped an enemy officer who was chewing his men out or Thomas (spr?) who's body was found with 13 dead NVA around it. There were Dick Marshall and others who flew close support for the fight that was the first major contact between the Cavalry Troopers and the enemy. Remember, it was there that the map was found that led to the 7th Cav going to a place called X-Ray.

Two nights later, at a place called LZ Betty, Chuck Knowlen, Bob Zion and many others, including guys from the 2/8th who saved our butts, made history with a battle that was much more severe than the hospital.. Had the Division developed that ambush battle, X-Ray and Albany may never have happened. It was the same enemy Regiment, the 66th, that the 9th ambushed that night that later slaughtered the 2nd of the 7th under Colonel McDade.

Doesn't the 9th Cavalry deserve to be recognized at the Ia Drang reunions? Is it the fault of the 7th Cav that we are not? NO! They've got their heroes and terrible memories that bond them together. Isn't it time that the 9th Cav members who served in the Ia Drang Valley get off their butts and fill a few tables at these get togethers-? We've always been welcome and a few of us have even spoken at some of the get togethers. We belong there. Our history was forged there. Why are we giving that field of glory away by default?

Next year, let's see if we can't fill a few tables of our own. Two members of the squadron make

a pretty pathetic showing at a place where we should be shining and shouting!

Running Bear
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Battle of Hoa Hoi

As you may well know there has been some confusion concerning who started the battle at Hoa Hoi on Oct 2, 1966. I tried to set the record straight because I was the first Trooper on the ground at the LZ just east of Hoa Hoi but apparently my efforts failed. I was with A Troop, 1/9th Cav Blues. Back in 1987 I wrote to General Harold Fields in regards to after action reports regarding Hoa Hoi. Fields was one of the company commanders who came in to reinforce our A Troop Blues. Fields was quite a character. He used a rope to hold up his fatigues instead of a belt. Here is the content of his return letter to me, which was dated 7 August 1987.

" Dear Sergeant Christopher:

Thank you very much for your kind words of 30 July 1987. I have also read several accounts of the battle of Hoa Hoi and recently came across your name in General S.L.A. Marshall's account of the battle in his book, Fields of Bamboo. I do not have any after-action reports from the battle, although we were debriefed extensively.

As you well know, Hoa Hoi was a very hard fight, which, as many in the 1st CAV were, was initiated by elements of the 1-9th. My company was involved in very heavy fighting the day and night of 2 October. On that day, we were able to take a portion of the 18th NVA Regiment by surprise. I believe they were oriented on the fighting in B Company and the Blues sectors. Although I lost several soldiers, killed and wounded, we were able to inflict very heavy casualties on them during the day and again during the night when NVA attempted to break out through my company. On 3 October, we participated in the sweep through of Hoa Hoi and received only sporadic fire, and we captured a number of North Vietnamese, most of whom were wounded."

Captain Fields was the company commander of A Company, 1/12th Cav. He went on to retired a General. At the time of his letter to me he was the Assistant Division Commander of the 6th Infantry Division. I just wanted to pass on the contents of a letter from a General who was a Captain at the Battle of Hoa Hoi who stated and knew, that the Battle of Hoa Hoi was initiated on 2 October 66 by A Troop, 9th CAV Blues. The write up about Hoa Hoi is also in my book, which will be published soon, A TROOP (The Boldest Cavalrymen The World Has Ever Known) 9TH CAVALRY. A Troop Blues contact at Hoa Hoi also initiated Operation Irving. Capt Fred Mayer was the CO of B Company, 1/12 who came in first as the reinforcement unit.

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Ia Drang Fight Readied

Maj. Bob Zion slanted his helicopter out of Duc Co in approved cavalry style, tree-top high, and suddenly I was looking out of the open door at a river he had pointed out on the map, the Ia Drang.

The steam looked swift and about 100 feet wide. A heavy growth of bamboo jungle along its twisting course abruptly gave way to open woodlands in the hills to the north and south of its westerly current. White water around rocks jutting from a shallow stretch showed that it had fast water.

There was an old, triangular, mud-walled fort of to the north where a heavily traveled trail come down to a ford in the river and apparently ducked under the trees toward a good-sized mountain to the south west. The fort was a deserted relic of the French Army.

The crew chief, Sp5 Lynne A. DeFleron, grabbed my shoulder and pointed, shouting in my ear as he indicated the mountain.

Points out Valley; “That’s the one we looked at on the map, Chu Pong they call it,” he shouted. “That back slope goes into Cambodia. See that

valley? The one which runs on over into Cambodia? There is another one behind that other ridge just like it, and it’s all in Cambodia. Trails run up there that look like highways.” I could see the red ribbon of the beaten paths flashing under the trees in the deep green of the grass. Chu Pong is a steep-sided, heavily timbered ridge which sprawls like a figure “3” with its center bar being a ridge running along the border with two valleys opening to the north.

Zion edged his chopper over to the west and suddenly, with a big grin, whipped it into a tight turn. The door gunner, S-Sgt. Frank Knackstedt, turned to me. “By golly, we just almost violated all of that fine old Cambodian neutrality!” he shouted. “I believe we missed it by at least six inches.”

Zion got back to business and zoomed to grass-top level across a clearing about the size of a football field. Trees grew close to the edges of the irregular rectangle, pinching it in on the south.

Big anthills loomed up among black boulders and the grass was short, meadow like. The anthills in this country are a kind of compound product of ants, borrowing animals and erosion of the ground not held in by the brush and saplings, which grow on the anthill. They are 10 feet high mounds covered with the thick brush and grass and often are the major local terrain features and become important during fighting.

The rocks were coal black, rounded and weather beaten. One of them, six feet high and with a flat side, looked like a black monument. The chopper suddenly lifted over the trees again and circled around for another look. When my side of the chopper was turned toward the field, I saw six helicopters diving in and troops fan out in the familiar air assault landing. Then Zion was coming back into the clearing for his landing. He had picked a quiet field. A little red deer bounded across it as his helicopter settled at the south end. He landed close to the big boulder and a king sized anthill, which cropped up just where the trees began.

Conference; Lt. Col. John B. Stockton, commander of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry was already landing to have a last conference with Zion, Capt. Don Valley, Capt. John Oliver and Capt. Charles Knowlen, who were commanding the rifle platoons which would be involved in the night’s work. Knowlen would take his men from C Troop to the crossing I had seen from the air

and set up an ambush. Oliver would take the B Troop rifle platoon to a crossing about 1,000 yards downstream. Valley would keep his Troop A rifle contingent here, guarding the patrol base. I had heard reports that there was an entire PAVN regiment prowling this area, and knew that the nearest government out post was at Duc Co, 20 miles away through territory the Viet Cong had claimed for months. This added a certain tenseness to my own attitude concerning what the night would bring.

Volunteers Company; I decided I was nervous enough without listening to the commanders run through the program again, so I wandered over to the group P-Sgt. Jose Ortiz-Vasquez was with and volunteered my company for the night. Ortiz-Vasquez is a small, wiry, tough soldier with a big mustache. He has a way of making you feel he can get you out of trouble if you just stick with him. He introduced me to the rest of Capt. Oliver's platoon and I took down their last names from their name tags, saying that there would be plenty of time during the night to get the first ones. The night was long, but there never was time to add to the original list. The platoon roster included; Sgt. Kilcrease, Sgt. Gloyd, Sgt. Gee, Sp4 Phillips, Sp4 Chester, PFC Charles, PFC Lopez, PFC Cook, S-Sgt. Gray, Sgt. Carr, S-Sgt. Johnson, Sgt. Ashmore, Sp4 Dinkin, Sgt. Stanyard, Sp4 Yarnell, PFC J. Gray, PFC Daily, PFC Cercemont, PFC Ciccoto, PFC Bevers, PFC Mabe and Sp4 Byrd.

I had seen Byrd over on the hospital fight two days before. He had accounted for three PAVN's over there, one of them in a stand-up gunfight. Byrd had put a burst into the Communist as the man shot at him with an automatic rifle. He had also knocked a sniper out of a tree who had been causing us trouble.

One-Man Army; Sp4 Nolen King, who had been a kind of one-man army on that fight, was with Valley's platoon. Sp5 Jay Hockenbury, the medic, and Capt. Thomas Williams, the battalion surgeon, were out in the center of the patrol base field with Lt. John Tweedy's mortar platoon. (Tweedy was from Capt. Theodore Danielsen's Company A, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 8th Cavalry. This company was supporting the cavalry, guarding the Duc Co main base and reinforcing this operation.) Hockenbury, I found out, was the medic, I had seen knocked out by a mortar round

during the fight near Plei Me. He said he had no ill effects from it but that "somebody had put a KIA tag on me while I was unconscious." "I have to keep telling people it's really me, now," he grinned.

By Charles Black
Ledger-Enquirer Staff Writer

Sent in by "Doc" Hockenbury
San Jose CA

Ia Drang Afterwards

A few days before Thanksgiving this year (2001) will mark the 36th anniversary of the battle of the Ia Drang. As we all know this was one of the most savage and significant battles of the Vietnam War. Following is a brief account of an event that occurred shortly thereafter.

This shows what our 1st Cav troopers are made of and the bravery of all.

Marion M. Moore
CW4 USA Retired
B Troop, 1/9 Cav. 65-66

On November 24, 1965, Jerry Leadabrand and I, both H13 Scout Pilots with "B" Troop, 1/9 Cav. were given the job of reconning an area in and around LZ Albany. As I understood it, the Recon was to see if there was any enemy activity going on in that area at the time and to assess the effects of the airstrikes that had been going on in that area quite heavily the last few days. Jerry was a Captain at the time and by far the most experienced pilot. I was a WO1, 2 mos. in country, with maybe 150 hours out of Flight School and cheating Death every time I pulled pitch, as most Observers who rode with me would attest. But, that's another story.

We had circled wagons a few days earlier not too far away from LZ Albany, so it didn't take us very long to get there. What a sight! There were dead NVA soldiers everywhere. They were dressed out in khakis with helmets, web gear and trousers tucked neatly in their boots. All very dead. Up to this point we had not seen the enemy dressed this way.

A couple of them had been decapitated but neither the heads nor helmets were anywhere around. Probably blown to smithereens or dragged off by some hungry wild animal.

All the bodies were in an advanced state of decomposition and had swelled their uniforms to the bursting point. Body parts, such as heads or hands, if still attached, had turned black. At an altitude of 50-100 feet the stench of the rotting flesh was sickening.

The situation suddenly became very eerie. I had never heard of anyone leaving their dead on the battlefield for this long. It must have been a terrible battle.

And then, out of nowhere, a figure appeared. This one was dressed out in fatigues, no hat, helmet or visible weapon and waving what appeared to be a light green piece of cloth. Tex Helms was the Observer riding the right seat that day and had his M16 out the door and ready to fire at a seconds notice. We both immediately agreed that something was wrong with this picture and decided to think this one through before firing on him. He was of no immediate danger to us.

It didn't take long to determine that the green cloth that he was waving was, in fact, a previously white tee shirt that probably had been dyed putrid green on the boat during the voyage over from the U.S. to VN. This was unmistakably a shade of green that was the result of a foiled attempt of some Gung Ho commander to camouflage his troops. Well, at least he tried. The green tee shirt, along with the fatigues, was a dead giveaway that this guy was most probably a 1st Cav. Trooper that was trying to get out of a situation that had gone bad and stayed that way for much too long. Either that or he was a con artist with a set of kahones that wouldn't fit in a five gallon bucket. Tex had an itchy trigger finger.

By this time Leadabrand knew what was going on and had radioed back to S3 to see if anyone had a missing trooper. The response was that not one, but possibly two, Cav. Troopers were still in that area.

Our next job was to get this guy to move to a clear area so that we could get in and get him out of there. But how do we communicate this to him? We finally decided to write a message on the bottom of a box of "C" rations that we carried

around stashed in our chin bubble. We would then get over him and drop them down through the trees to him and hoped that he would see the message and then move to a clearing. No such luck. The first thing he did was grab the rats, back up to a tree, pull out his trusty P38 and commence to chow down on this manna from the sky. O.K. – Let's try this again. This time we'll write the message with a grease pencil- write the message in LARGE LETTERS, arrows pointing to it, anything to catch his eye.. Then we'll throw this one at him. Maybe he'll read the message this time. This is our last box of "C"s and the last chance we'll have for a quick extraction. If this doesn't work we'll probably have to call in the blues, which will take a considerable amount of time and probably stir up a Hornets nest. Not that the Blues couldn't handle it, because they could. And they did on many an occasion before and after that. But, that last box did the trick. He got up and looked in our direction.

We had moved a few hundred feet away from him and were hovering over a partially cleared area that could be used as a pick up site. He started to move towards us. Great!

I thought that Leadabrand had radioed for a slick to come out and pick this guy up, but he had other ideas. Jerry obviously didn't care for this area or situation anymore than the rest of us, especially the guy on the ground. When the guy reached the clearing Jerry Leadabrand was already descending down through the trees to pick him up. In a two place H13 that already had two on board. Like I said Jerry was an experienced pilot. If his skids ever touched the ground it wasn't for long. It appeared that the guy on the ground was climbing on board when the aircraft was five feet off the ground! He didn't care if that chopper had any seats at all as long as there was a place to hang on. And then they were off. I'll bet the Leadabrand pucker factor was off the scale on that takeoff. Damn good job!(DFC's and Silver Stars were earned for lots less.)

We left the area immediately and flew the passenger back to Duc Co. It turned out that the Trooper was Toby Braveboy, a part Creek Indian and fellow South Carolinian.

The following is an excerpt taken from LTG. Harold Moore's book "We were Soldiers once – and Young." Hope he doesn't mind.(If you

haven't read this book you should put it at the top of your to do list. You won't regret it)

- "On November 17, Braveboy – whose hometown, ironically, was Coward , South Carolina - was walking point for Captain Joel Sugdinis's 1st Platoon,(This was Alpha Company,2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry) the unit that disintegrated in the hail of enemy fire on the eastern side of Albany clearing as the enemy began the battle.

That initial volley of fire shattered Braveboy's left hand and his M16, and bullet fragments peppered his arm and thigh. Bleeding, weaponless, and in extreme pain, Braveboy crawled into thick brush and hid. When night fell on the seventeenth, he crept out and ran into three other American soldiers, all wounded.

He crawled away for help, toward the sound of the firing, and ran into more wounded Americans just as a North Vietnamese patrol moving through the area discovered them. Braveboy played dead for several hours, listening to the other wounded Americans around him being executed.

Finally, when things quieted down, Braveboy, who had lost all sense of direction, again started crawling through the tall elephant grass toward where he thought he would find his company. Bad choice. He was 180 degrees off and moving directly south , past the right flank of the Charlie Company survivors.

At daybreak he went to ground on the north bank of a shallow tributary of the Ia Drang, about five hundred yards from the Albany clearing. He had no food but did have two canteens and a small bottle of GI-issue water purification tablets. He wrapped his T-shirt around his bleeding left hand and stayed put, tortured by mosquitoes, ants and the chilling cold of the nights. Each day he watched enemy soldiers pass his hiding place in the brush along the creek bank. He could hear helicopters overhead.

On November 22, his fifth day alone, a North Vietnamese soldier on the tail end of a passing column looked into the hole in the brush and saw the American. Braveboy said : " Four walked by me and the last one looked me right in the eye. He stopped and pointed his rifle at me. I raised my wounded hand and shook my head no. He lowered his rifle and walked away. So young.

He was just a boy , not more than sixteen or seventeen."

The U.S. Air Force had begun targeting fighter-bomber missions on the entire Albany area. Braveboy said, " I don't know how I survived. The bombs were landing all around me. All I could do was lay flat on the ground and pray they didn't hit me." - End of excerpt.-

When we got Toby back to Duc Co, we were all extremely curious as to what happened to him , so we got him out of Leadabrand's aircraft and escorted him to the Special Forces Medic, listening the entire time to pick up any info that we could One thing was for sure, he didn't have a clue how long he had been alone in that area. We didn't either, until someone said – about seven days. No food for that long ? Right – I wouldn't have read the C – ration box either.

When we got him to the Aid Station and took a look at him, it was a miracle that he survived at all. The web of his left hand, between his thumb and forefinger, was blown away. The metacarpal bones of both these fingers were exposed. The stark whiteness of these bones was made more apparent by the gangrenous flesh that surrounded them. When they removed his shirt, his entire body was covered in pock mark wounds that were also infected. These could have been the mosquitoes and ants as well as shrapnel. He was a mess, but alive and very happy to be back among the friendlies.

After a brief stay at Duc Co he was Medvaced to Holloway and eventually Stateside. Somewhere along the way one of his fingers was amputated. This war was over for Toby Braveboy.

After Toby recuperated, he was discharged from the Army and returned to his hometown where I'm told he took up the roofing trade.

A couple of years later, I've also been told, he was invited down to the S.C. Senate to have breakfast with our Lawmakers. This was around Thanksgiving that year. A fitting tribute for a hero from Coward,S.C.

Almost ten years after surviving the battle of Ia Drang, Toby was killed in an automobile accident. All wars are now over for him. May he have a special place in heaven, for he has spent his time in Hell.

God bless Toby Braveboy.

Troopers

James was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam, serving with the 191st and 162nd AHC. He now works on Wall Street and was there on 9/11. Kith and kin to our own BWS Loel Ewart.

John Nielsen

As Seen Through The Eyes Of One Of Our Own

Sept. 11, 2001....My office is in the World Financial Center, slightly more than 100 yds from the north tower of the WTC, which is clearly visible from the 20th story and up. When the first plane hit I was headed outside for a smoke and a cuppa joe. Hundreds of people were milling around. They had seen a Cessna hit the WTC.

By the size of the hole, the raging fires and the volume of the explosion, in my heart I knew it certainly was not anything as small as that. As quickly as I could I went back upstairs, my fear being the darn thing was gonna topple and hit our building. A few other senior people were on various missions and saw the carnage, so it didn't take us very long to get everyone convinced to leave.

Believe it or not some wanted to wait for the Stock Exchange to call. Not suffering fools too gladly, I informed them, none too politely, that the S.E. would get the message when nobody answered the f'ing phone! We got everyone out in record time, just in time to see a second explosion. It was not apparent at the time what had exploded. Our initial thought was a secondary in the first building.

Our Evacuation Route took us down along the Hudson River, where I had an unimpeded view of the carnage. When I realized that another plane had hit the second tower, you have no idea the anger and frustration I felt. The scene was almost surreal, my eyes saw it, but my mind found it so inconceivable, I was denying in my self what my eyes so clearly could see.

It was amazing that there was no panic. Hundreds of people milling around, so stupefied by the sight in front them, no one thought to run screaming! The police kept us hemmed in on the riverside walkway. This allowed us to witness the ensuing debacle. For over an hour we

watched in abject horror the ensuing catastrophe. Both towers are engulfed in smoke.

Common sense tells you the poor bastards above the explosion are toast or on the roof. That would be in an amount of 700 to 1000 souls. Cantor Fitzgerald, which employed at least 700 folks and 10 or so of my friends. One Angel, (Chicky) Pabon, was a friend of 25 years. For him, nothing they do to Bin Laden would cause me to pause or be horrified!! We saw people hanging out of the upper floor windows waving anything white they had. For a brief moment we thought there was hope for the ones on the roof. Several police helicopters showed up, hovering around the top floors. After about 10 minutes they flew off, no attempt having been made to lift a soul.

Tough situation to criticize, my friends, but Dear Lord....TRY!! Perhaps I'm nuts, but it pleases me to think I, and all of you would have made an effort. That is how I felt then. Time has little tempered that thought. The worst took place after the choppers left. The wavers stopped waving, the fires seemed to burn brighter, and the jumpers started jumping. There are just no words to properly express the profound emotions that are instilled, when you see somebody give up all hope and Gracefully take their own lives. Can you imagine what thoughts must have crossed their minds as they made that fateful decision to die? From my area of view I saw at least 14 people jump, one couple went out hand in hand.

The first tower coming down spared me any further horror. At that point the police herded us all uptown, chased by a cloud of dust of gigantic proportions. It seemed quite obvious at that point the second tower must follow not too much later. It did of course, but was no less shocking but anti-climatic.

When I go into the city now, the effect of not seeing the tower is chilling. The feeling is so far resistant to time, and my feeling is that it will never fade. I will remember my departed friends forever, and hold them close in my heart.

Likewise I will never forget what terrorism has wrought, and I will never forgive the terrorist. For them only one fate is acceptable, and that ain't dinner at my house!!

James Ewart

Immigrants, Not Americans, Must Adapt

I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture.

Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others. I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to America. Our population is almost entirely comprised of descendants of immigrants.

However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, need to understand. This idea of America being a multicultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle. This culture has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

We speak ENGLISH, not Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society, learn the language!

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some right wing, political slogan.

We adopted this motto because men and women, on principles of freedom of choice, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented. It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because God is part of our culture, as is the right to worship how, when and to who you want.

If Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. This is OUR COUNTRY, our land, and our lifestyle. Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion and we will allow you every opportunity to do so.

But, once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about our flag, our pledge, our national motto, or our way of life, I highly encourage you to take advantage of one other great American freedom,

THE RIGHT TO LEAVE.

From one of our own.

My Opinion

Rather than resorting to international insults I'm going to address this to American citizens who just happen to be police officers. Hopefully that's all of you. Nationals from other countries can just hit the delete button, your opinions about my country good or bad are of no concern to me.

The U.S. has been receiving a lot of negative criticism as of late from various factions world wide. It seems like we just can't please anybody, and I personally could care less.

I'm not an advocate of "globalism". As far as I'm concerned this country has gone too far in it's failed attempts to remedy other nations misfortunes, most of which have been brought on by themselves. What is disturbing is the short collective memory of those nations that only exist through the perseverance of American effort, and our willingness of Americans to sacrifice for those who refused to sacrifice for themselves. The list of those nations is legion.

For all the negative rhetoric we seem to generate, we still find millions of foreign citizens trying to get into this country, legally and illegally. When those of other nations "screw their own pooch" they come to us on their hands and knees begging to be let in. They would have us believe that it is the "duty" of America to come to their aid and to ignore our own laws in the process.

I've come to the conclusion that we've become professional dupes. Foreigners have our number. They fully understand that we have a national guilt complex, and that we are so sensitive to criticism that we'll bend over backwards to satisfy every whim or outrageous demand made upon us. Our own government has even gone to the extent of giving millions of taxpayers dollars to the surviving members of the WTC disaster, which in effect implies that our own government was

responsible for the acts of terrorists. Are we just plain nuts or what?

It's not a matter of "compassion", if that were the case anybody and everybody in this country should expect a lot of bucks from the rest of us if they experience financial hardship for whatever reason.

There is no penalty for being our enemy. In fact some foreign leaders may conclude that it's better to be our enemy because of this "guilt complex" and they'll receive money from us as a result. They're usually right. We're not above purchasing "friends", unfortunately they're not "friends" for very long, a lesson we can't seem to learn.

It appears that we are terrified of even admitting that we have "enemies". We are constantly deluding ourselves by claiming that we have no quarrel with the "people" in those nations that are plotting to do us in, but just with their government or their leaders. What hog wash! If any of those nations were to be victorious over us their citizenry would rejoice!

As far as I can determine those who hate us are envious as well. While there are no bounds to their hate there are no bounds to their envy. Because we as a nation are merciful to those we defeat, does not mean that we would receive mercy in kind from those who would defeat us. To believe that hypothesis is as dumb as believing that if we treat terrorist criminals like prisoners of war the terrorists will treat our people like prisoners of war, or that the Geneva accords apply to criminals...the same terrorist criminals who fly a planes into buildings and murder thousands of people for some irrational belief that God approves of the slaughter of people whose only mistake was being born in the U.S. and going to work on September 11th.. Talk about "dumb and dumber"!

For some unknown reason we believe in the idiotic assumption that nations, like people, can be "rehabilitated". That's utter nonsense! If those we defeat eventually become our allies it's not because they've been "rehabilitated" but more likely because it's in their economic best interest to "see it our way" temporarily, or because we've removed our adversaries from power, equally as temporary.

I needn't go into naming the many nations that have made those types of decisions, all are

represented at the U.N., which of course just happens to be in New York. (Why not in Switzerland?) If any nation or its citizens thinks it can do it better let it stand up and take on the task and the responsibility! What? No takers? Then I guess they'll just have to take what we dish out.

From my viewpoint I'm a little fed up with the citizens of other nations who refuse to acknowledge that they have the responsibility to remove from their own government those dictators that deny them their own rights and freedoms and expect relief from other nations. One must anticipate risks if one is to expect the benefits of freedom.

Dictators succeed because the citizens of the countries that spawn them did nothing to prevent them from taking power, usually because they were having too good a time to worry about the possibility of there being an end to it.

The moral crusade is doomed to fail if the only weapons the moralist's have at their disposal are their morals. To remain a free nation it is imperative for those who would test us to know, beforehand, that they will not just lose, but that they will not survive! I firmly believe that this is the only clear answer to solving international conflicts. Essentially it is the theory of mutual destruction, which by the way seems to have worked very well during the past 50 or so years. If we do nothing with Iraq while the loony builds weapons to be used against us, we're no smarter than he was when he allowed us six months to bring our weapons into the Gulf to oppose him.

To do less only encourages our adversaries, who are always testing the heat of the water they're about to put their foot into. If they knew that our "water" is boiling and that "boiling" means "boiling" they'd find other places to put their feet, and they should also know exactly where we'll put ours!

We should not forget that we are a sovereign power and that we owe no allegiance to the world community any more that it does to us. It is arrogant to believe that the rest of the world must follow our lead. I'm more than satisfied to see them remain at the bottom of the pecking order, especially when it is obvious that they got there through their own efforts and by being there they are precluded from developing sophisticated weapons that might be used against us. I'd be

much happier to confront a China dependent upon rickshaws and rice as opposed to a technically secure China that aspires world domination.

I've watched the U.N. fail from its very inception. When push came to shove it was always the U.S. that had to make the tough decisions, with or without the approval of the U.N. And what if they didn't "approve"? In reality, so what? The U.N. was a non-player in the Gulf War, voting to stand by while the U.S. and a few allies took on the job. Our failure was to follow the U.N. mandate to just kick Saddam out of Kuwait. In Vietnam, as in Korea, it was only a few nations that took up the challenge. In South Africa it did nothing and does nothing now. The U.N. is impotent because it is required to satisfy everybody, an impossibility. It got kicked out of Iraq, confirming the "toothless tiger" syndrome. If we need a vote in the U.N. we can buy it simply because they are for sale, the price being continued trade with the nations with the crucial votes.

We're certainly not faultless in our approach to dealing with the rest of the world. Personally I'd be more inclined in knocking off our adversaries with an economic club as opposed to any other method. If you are an adversary...fine. No one from your country will be admitted to the U.S. under any circumstances, period! All those non-citizens who violate our laws are to be returned to their native soil. Maybe after the return they'll develop the incentive to cure the ills of their own country rather than try to intimidate us into changing our culture to theirs.

Countries that don't accept them will be economically isolated from the U.S. All that is necessary is the will and the courage to follow through. Unfortunately for us, our adversaries know full well that the people we put in office lack the will, much less the courage.

Right now non citizens are voting throughout this country. Worse yet, our leaders know it, and are doing nothing about it, some even endorse it because it means more votes for them based on ethnicity as opposed to qualifications. Recent history in California and in Florida go to prove the obvious.

Eventually, with a lack of border control and with the ability of non-citizens to infest our voting booths, we will wind up with the same

type of folks in our government that they had in their governments. That ought to scare the hell out of anybody, but it's still a logical consequence.

If it were up to me, our Constitution would only apply to our citizens and to those who are in this country legally. If it applies to everybody, then there is no need to be a citizen, nor is there any advantage to it. In fact, under those conditions the only thing a citizen has that non-citizens

don't have, are obligations to this country. Go figure! Illegal aliens have no legal obligations to the U.S.! Short of complying with our laws, that's it. To know that non-citizens vote is bad enough, but to know it and do nothing about it is much worse.

Today, in Collier County Florida, about a thousand Hispanics are protesting against the Sheriff, Don Hunter, because he advocates the enforcement of our immigration laws. That's the same thing as a thousand robbers protesting a policy that advocates their arrest. Gimme a break! As of this date I see no lawmaker coming forward to advocate the non enforcement of our immigration laws. Guess they want it both ways.

On another tack:

No folks, like it or not we ARE the big guy on the block. One of the concerns of the Founding Fathers was that it is in human nature to join alliances. Unfortunately that premise is not in our nations best interests, especially if we are the de facto policemen of the world.

Your own experience as police officers should make you realize that you cannot remain unbiased, as much as you'd like to. Sooner or later your preferences will surface while you're "on the job". So it is with the global community. Contrary to GWB's theory that we're targeted because we have liberty, we are targeted because of our choice of alliances, past and present. Our "preferences" cost us.

There will always be conflict between those that have and those that don't, and it is the destiny of mankind to generate a lot of folks that don't. It is also the history of man that tells us that those who don't "have", will try to take it from those that do, one way or another. We are a nation of "haves" and it is incumbent upon us to recognize these facts and to prepare for them, else we too will become a nation of "have nots".

Can this be proved? Sure! Look at our academic community where the standards have been revised downwards to accommodate those folks who are incapable of learning. Functionally illiterate college grads? Absolutely! Has the value of a college education been enhanced? Not hardly! The colleges are more interested in making a profit than they are in teaching. Don't believe me? Ask any of the college administrators if they're willing to give up their sports programs in lieu of a higher academic standing? What has this to do with all of the above? A lot! We cannot remain at the top of the heap without the intellectual resources that being at the top requires.

Right now our elected leaders are squabbling about who should be at the reins. By making promises they know will not be kept, they succeed in perpetuating their species, because we Americans refuse to acknowledge our own blunders. Can we trust these people to look out for our best interests in the global community, when they use their power for self gratification? The founding Fathers certainly didn't think so, and in those days "honor" meant a lot more in political life than it does now. Today you can call a politician whatever you want and know that you'll be at least partially right.

These ideas of course will agitate the few liberals among us, but that's what freedom of expression really involves.

Flame away me hearty's.....I'm immune out of choice, not circumstance.

Lou Orlando, Lt. (Ret.)
Willowick, Ohio P.D.

Gone With the War?

Ideas whose time has passed.

Over the last few months we have heard a litany of politically correct lamentations: The orcs were too predictably dark in Lord of the Rings, fiction which employed a "good" North and West against an "evil" East and South. The Somalians of Black Hawk Down were all black, their American opponents nearly all white. The photo of the three white firemen at Ground Zero

should be transmogrified, through sculpture, into representations of people of color.

A new word - "Islamophobia" - is needed to capture a spreading hatred toward those of Middle Eastern descent. And on and on. Footage of the burning Twin Towers became increasingly rare on our television screens - lest it inflame Americans. And perhaps it was also deemed unwise in that regard to show too often the pictures of the 19 terrorists, lest someone derive that they were all male Middle Easterners, or surmise that their comrades in Cuba were not really POWs.

Yet after September 11, such cosmetic efforts at political correctness have been both recognized and jeered at by the general public. Conventional wisdom suggests that the present conflict will not affect much the underlying and entrenched ideas beneath this daily Orwellian assault. But I am not so sure.

World War II destroyed fascism and Nazism as dynamic world creeds. The final victory at the Berlin Wall ensured Communism was ruined forever as a practical institution. So, too, the last five months have turned ideology upside down, as these calamitous events tested our most cherished contemporary assumptions as had nothing in recent memory. Many of those assumptions are now blowing away with this war.

The main tenet of multiculturalism - that there is no absolute standard for measuring the respective worth of any given culture - has been shattered by 9/11. It too will enter into American folklore, along with such other false knowledge from past ages as phrenology, séances, periodic enemas, and dream analysis.

After the liberation of Kabul, we saw that the most oppressed under the Taliban really did like the universal freedom of the West to watch movies, wear their hair the way they like, and listen to female radio announcers. Street vendors at risk in Afghanistan - like those now protesting in Teheran, and the Chinese students who once bravely sculpted the goddess Liberty - seemed to think that Americans are much more decent than do many of our own safe and comfortable journalists, academicians, and public intellectuals.

Regimes that are autocratic and theocratic - whether Syria's, Libya's, Iran's, or the Taliban -

are not merely different, but murderous. Reform-minded cultures that have kicked out Americans and rejected the West - as in Iran, Afghanistan, and Libya - made their people worse, not better, off. The only safe sanctuary for Muslim scholars to reexamine their religion is in the Christian West. Indeed, Christian countries treat activist and politically aware exiled Muslims far better than do most of their own (Islamic) native countries. Why else are reformist mullahs to be found in New York and Boston, rather than proselytizing in Mecca, Kabul, or Teheran?

A chief corollary of multiculturalism is that Americans have wrongly embraced a belief in the innate humanity of the West largely out of ethnocentric ignorance. But surely the opposite has been proved true - the more Americans learn about the world of the madrassas; the six or seven varieties of Islamic female coverings; and the murderous gangs in Somalia, the Congo, and Rwanda - the more, not less, they are appalled by societies that are anti-Western. Indeed, we now know that advocacy for multiculturalism depends upon romance, ignorance, and isolation - studying about Islamic fundamentalism in tree-lined Marin County rather than in Pakistan or Saudi Arabia; role-playing in costumes at safe and upscale suburban schools rather than avoiding the lash under burqas in Kabul; or lecturing about religious diversity on ivied campuses rather than witnessing Buddhas blown up in Afghanistan.

The more Americans find out more about Wahhabism, the Saudi royal family, the Dickensian Pakistani street, the Iranian mullahs, what Mr. Arafat really says in Arabic, Afghani warlords, the public parades of future Hamas murderers in Lebanon, and the Pravda-like nature of al Jazeera - the more they are shocked to learn that the multiculturalists, not the traditionalists in our schools, were the great deceivers. How ironic that multiculturalism demanded romance - not reason, parochialism - not inquisitiveness, and prejudice - not impartiality.

The rejection of a multiracial society united by a common adherence to Western values has formed the canon of our educational system for the last two decades. We were to embrace a "mosaic" of unassimilated special-interest groups rather than the blend of the melting pot. But

throughout this war we have seen the horrific wages of nations that are not really nations at all, but simply tribes of competing ethnicities, religions, and races whose traditions promote private agendas, rather than freedom and tolerance.

If we didn't learn from the horror in Bosnia and Kosovo, then at least we should have seen in Afghanistan, Somalia, the Congo, and elsewhere these last few years that wherever people give allegiance to skin color, religion, language, and tribe first, and the common culture second - corpses pile up.

The same logic used to defend racial enclaves in the United States leads elsewhere to Uzbek and Pashtun warlords, Indian Muslims against Indian Hindus, and Shiites versus Sunnis. Bilingual education, Al Sharpton's antics, reparations, separate graduation ceremonies and ethnic dorms, La Raza, the shake-down industry of Jesse Jackson, racial quotas, and unassimilated and illegal immigration all lead not to promised utopias, but to Kosovo, Kandahar, and Mogadishu.

The civilized work of creating a multiracial society under the aegis of one nation and culture is difficult, while the disintegration into multiculturalism is easy. The former requires men and women of genius and humanity, the latter little more than provocateurs and the half-educated. If this war has taught us anything, it is that there are valuable and enriching diversities - of food, literature, music, fashion, and art - that are quite different from the murderous and core diversities, such as the rejection of nationhood, a common language, and such shared political and intellectual traditions of the West as democracy, personal freedom, and secular rationalism. Mr. Karzai needs something like the U.S. Constitution and an Abraham Lincoln a lot more than he needs \$15 billion.

Prevailing anti-Americanism here and abroad held that Americans were largely a materialist and culturally backward people - isolationist, jingoistic, and parochial. We were thought to be an especially dangerous culture because our ignorance and selfishness were coupled with a grasping capitalist system, ample resources, and a large and growing population. That scary calculus made us as powerful as we were immoral nativists. Like some raging bull in the china shop

of the world, America possessed a great potential for damage - should it break loose from the halts and reins of the sophisticated Europeans and internationalists. They alone knew how to channel our naiveté into the properly constructive enterprises that were to take root at Durban, Kyoto, and other U.N. conferences.

But we suspect that should the United States withdraw from Afghanistan and leave Europeans to deal with motley Taliban leftovers, all their peacekeepers would leave Kabul tomorrow. We - not the U.N., the EU, NATO, or any other alphabet-soup collective - fought al Qaeda and will soon rid the world of Saddam Hussein. Moderates in the region (and Europeans) would rather trade with, than free, Iraq.

The pre-September 11 dogma argued that well-meaning and often valuable international groups like the Red Cross, the United Nations, Amnesty International, and a host of other organizations headquartered in Brussels, the Hague, Geneva, or London were both intellectually superior to, and far more moral than, almost any American institution - whether it be the U.S. Congress or the Peace Corps. But what we have seen instead from most of them is either inaction at best or abject hypocrisy at worst.

The United Nations did nothing after September 11 to prevent future attacks. NATO has proved a charade. The Red Cross worries about the mittens, hoods, and nutritional content of breakfast cereal for killers in Guantanamo - but says little about real torture and murder outside the gates, in Havana itself. They all talk tough to educated and decent American officers about triviality involving a few hundred - but are not so brave or effective about matters of life and death for starving millions in Africa, when confronted by 15-year old psychopaths with Kalishnikovs.

Had any of these international relief and rights organizations, or our supposed allies in Europe, possessed the moral fiber of the U.S. Army, then they would have exited Cuba and sent their entire staff to the Congo, where millions have been butchered in silence in the last few years - more dead than the entire population of the West Bank, and a sequel to the prior holocaust in Rwanda. We know that our enemies are strong and evil,

but it is disappointing to keep learning each day that our allies, though they sometimes mean well, remain continually weak.

Fire - not conferences - is the touchstone of any purported metal, and separates glitter from gold. And so this war has shown many of the creeds of the past to be mostly slag and dross. What, then, will replace the present bankrupt and amoral assumptions and ideologies? Let us hope perhaps that we can return to the honesty and realism of classical 19th-century Western liberalism, which, for all its naiveté and self-centeredness, still did not cause a fraction of the carnage as did the utopian promises of our most murderous 20th century.

By Victor Davis Hanson

Author most recently of *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power*

Fighting Terrorism

Extracted from Ralph Peters' book, "When Devils Walk the Earth," here is his list of 25 do's and don'ts .

III. Fighting Terror: Do's and Don'ts for a Superpower

1. Be feared.
2. Identify the type of terrorists you face, and know your enemy as well as you possibly can. Although tactics may be similar, strategies for dealing with practical vs. apocalyptic terrorists can differ widely. Practical terrorists may have legitimate grievances that deserve consideration, although their methods cannot be tolerated. Apocalyptic terrorists, no matter their rhetoric, seek your destruction and must be killed to the last man. The apt metaphor is cancer: you cannot hope for success if you only cut out part of the tumor. For the apocalyptic terrorist, evading your efforts can easily be turned into a public triumph. Our bloodiest successes will create far fewer terrorists and sympathizers than our failures.
3. Do not be afraid to be powerful. Cold War-era gambits of proportionate response and dialog may have some utility in dealing with practical terrorists, but they are counter-productive in

dealing with apocalyptic terrorists. Our great strengths are wealth and raw power. When we fail to bring those strengths to bear, we contribute to our own defeat. For a superpower to think small, which has been our habit across the last decade, at least, is self-defeating folly. Our responses to terrorist acts should make the world gasp.

4. Speak bluntly. Euphemisms are interpreted as weakness by our enemies and mislead the American people. Speak of killing terrorists and destroying their organizations. Timid speech leads to timid actions. Explain when necessary, but do not apologize. Expressions of regret are never seen as a mark of decency by terrorists or their supporters, but only as a sign that our will is faltering. Blame the terrorists as the root cause whenever operations have unintended negative consequences. Never go on the rhetorical defensive.

5. Concentrate on winning the propaganda war where it is winnable. Focus on keeping or enhancing the support from allies and well-disposed clients, but do not waste an inordinate amount of effort trying to win un-winnable hearts and minds. Convince hostile populations through victory.

6. Do not be drawn into a public dialog with terrorists, especially not with apocalyptic terrorists. You cannot win. You legitimize the terrorists by addressing them even through a third medium, and their extravagant claims will resound more successfully on their own home ground than anything you can say. Ignore absurd accusations, and never let the enemy's claims slow or sidetrack you. The terrorist wants you to react, and your best means of unbalancing him and his plan is to ignore his accusations.

7. Avoid planning creep. Within our vast bureaucratic system, too many voices compete for attention and innumerable agendas, often selfish and personal--intrude on any attempt to act decisively. Focus on the basic mission: the destruction of the terrorists with all the moral, intellectual and practical rigor you can bring to bear. All other issues, from future nation-building, to alliance consensus, to humanitarian concerns are secondary.

8. Maintain resolve. Especially in the Middle East and Central Asia, experts and diplomats will always present you with a multitude of good

reasons for doing nothing, or for doing too little (or for doing exactly the wrong thing). Fight as hard as you can within the system to prevent diplomats from gaining influence over the strategic campaign. Although their intentions are often good, our diplomats and their obsolete strategic views are the terrorist's unwitting allies and diplomats are extremely jealous of military success and military authority in their region (where

their expertise is never as deep or subtle as they believe it to be). Beyond the problem with our diplomats, the broader forces of bureaucratic entropy are an internal threat. The counter-terrorist campaign must be not only resolute, but constantly self-rejuvenating in ideas, techniques, military and inter-agency combinations, and sheer energy. Old hands must be stimulated constantly by new ideas.

9. When in doubt, hit harder than you think necessary. Success will be forgiven. Even the best-intentioned failure will not. When military force is used against terrorist networks, it should be used with such power that it stuns even our allies. We must get over our cowardice in means. While small-scale raids and other knife-point operations are useful against individual targets, broader operations should be overwhelming. Of course, targeting limitations may inhibit some efforts but, whenever possible, maximum force should be used in simultaneous operations at the very beginning of a campaign. Do not hesitate to supplement initial target lists with extensive bombing attacks on nothing if they can increase the initial psychological impact. Demonstrate power whenever you can. Show, don't tell.

10. Whenever legal conditions permit, kill terrorists on the spot (do not give them a chance to surrender, if you can help it). Contrary to academic wisdom, the surest way to make a martyr of a terrorist is to capture, convict and imprison him, leading to endless efforts by sympathizers to stage kidnappings, hijacking and other events intended to liberate the imprisoned terrorist(s). This is war, not law enforcement.

11. Never listen to those who warn that ferocity on our part reduces us to the level of the terrorists. That is the argument of the campus, not of the battlefield, and it insults America's service members and the American people. Historically, we have proven, time after time, that

we can do a tough, dirty job for our country without any damage to our nation's moral fabric (Hiroshima and Nagasaki did not interfere with American democracy, values or behavior).

12. Spare and protect innocent civilians whenever possible, but do not let the prospect of civilian casualties interfere with ultimate mission accomplishment. This is a fight to protect the American people, and we must do so whatever the cost, or the price in American lives may be devastating. In a choice between us and them, the choice is always us.

13. Do not allow the terrorists to hide behind religion. Apocalyptic terrorists cite religion as a justification for attacking us; in turn, we cannot let them hide behind religious holidays, taboos, strictures or even sacred terrain. We must establish a consistent reputation for relentless pursuit and destruction of those who kill our citizens. Until we do this, our hesitation will continue to strengthen our enemy's ranks and his resolve.

14. Do not allow third parties to broker a peace, a truce, or any pause in operations. One of the most difficult challenges in fighting terrorism on a global scale is the drag produced by nervous allies. We must be single-minded. The best thing we can do for our allies in the long-term is to be so resolute and so strong that they value their alliance with us all the more. We must recognize the innate strength of our position and stop allowing regional leaders with counterproductive local agendas to subdue or dilute our efforts.

15. Don't flinch. If an operation goes awry and friendly casualties are unexpectedly high, immediately bolster morale and the military's image by striking back swiftly in a manner that inflicts the maximum possible number of casualties on the enemy and his supporters. Hit back as graphically as possible, to impress upon the local and regional players that you weren't badly hurt or deterred in the least.

16. Do not worry about alienating already-hostile populations.

17. Whenever possible, humiliate your enemy in the eyes of his own people. Do not try to use reasonable arguments against him. Shame him publicly, in any way you can. Create doubt where you cannot excite support. Most apocalyptic terrorists, especially, come from

cultures of male vanity. Disgrace them at every opportunity. Done successfully, this both degrades them in the eyes of their followers and supporters, and provokes the terrorist to respond, increasing his vulnerability.

18. If the terrorists hide, strike what they hold dear, using clandestine means and, whenever possible, foreign agents to provoke them to break cover and react. Do not be squeamish. Your enemy is not. Subtlety is not a superpower strength but the raw power to do that which is necessary is our great advantage. We forget that, while the world may happily chide or accuse us--or complain of our inhumanity--no one can stop us if we maintain our strength of will. Much of the world will complain no matter what we do. Hatred of America is the default position of failed individuals and failing states around the world, in every civilization, and there is nothing we can do to change their minds. We refuse to understand how much of humanity will find excuses for evil, so long as the evil strikes those who are more successful than the apologists themselves. This is as true of American academics, whose eagerness to declare our military efforts a failure is unflagging, or European clerics, who still cannot forgive America's magnanimity at the end of World War II, as it is of unemployed Egyptians or Pakistanis. The psychologically marginalized are at least as dangerous as the physically deprived.

19. Do not allow the terrorists sanctuary in any country, at any time, under any circumstances. Counter-terrorist operations must, above all, be relentless. This does not necessarily mean that military operations will be constantly underway sometimes it will be surveillance efforts, or deception plans, or operations by other agencies. But the overall effort must never pause for breath. We must be faster, more resolute, more resourceful and, ultimately, even more uncompromising than our enemies.

20. Never declare victory. Announce successes and milestones. But never give the terrorists a chance to embarrass you after a public pronouncement that the war is over.

21. Impress upon the minds of terrorists and potential terrorists everywhere, and upon the populations and governments inclined to support them, that American retaliation will be powerful and uncompromising. You will never deter

fanatics, but you can frighten those who might support, harbor or attempt to use terrorists for their own ends. Our basic task in the world today is to restore a sense of American power, capabilities and resolve. We must be hard, or we will be struck wherever we are soft. It is folly for charity to precede victory. First win, then unclench your fist.

22. Do everything possible to make terrorists and their active supporters live in terror themselves. Turn the tide psychologically and practically. While this will not deter hardcore apocalyptic terrorists, it will dissipate their energies as they try to defend themselves and fear will deter many less-committed supporters of terror. Do not be distracted by the baggage of the term assassination. This is a war. The enemy, whether a hijacker or a financier, violates the laws of war by his refusal to wear a uniform and by purposely targeting civilians. He is by definition a war criminal. On our soil, he is either a spy or a saboteur, and not entitled to the protections of the U.S. Constitution. Those who abet terrorists must grow afraid to turn out the lights to go to sleep.

23. Never accept the consensus of the Washington intelligentsia, which looks backward to past failures, not forward to future successes.

24. In dealing with Islamic apocalyptic terrorists, remember that their most cherished symbols are fewer and far more vulnerable than are the West's. Ultimately, no potential target can be regarded as off-limits when the United States is threatened with mass casualties. Worry less about offending foreign sensibilities and more about protecting Americans.

25. Do not look for answers in recent history, which is still unclear and subject to personal emotion. Begin with the study of the classical world specifically Rome, which is the nearest model to the present-day United States. Mild with subject peoples, to whom they brought the rule of ethical law, the Romans in their rise and at their apogee were implacable with their enemies. The utter destruction of Carthage brought centuries of local peace, while the later empire's attempts to appease barbarians consistently failed.

Note: The author does not claim to be an expert on terrorism or on any other subject. He is

simply a former soldier who saw something of the world and then thought about what he saw.

Sent in by the son of one of our own.
Take time to look at your one dollar bill.

BWS

THE ONE DOLLAR BILL

Take out a one dollar bill, and look at it. The one dollar bill you're looking at first came off the presses in 1957 in its present design.

This so-called paper money is in fact a cotton and linen blend, with red and blue minute silk fibers running through it. It is actually material.

We've all washed it without it falling apart. A special blend of ink is used, the contents we will never know. It is overprinted with symbols and then it is starched to make it water resistant and pressed to give it that nice crisp look.

If you look on the front of the bill, you will see the United States Treasury Seal. On the top you will see the scales for a balanced budget. In the center you have a carpenter's square, a tool used for an even cut. Underneath is the Key to the United States Treasury. That's all pretty easy to figure out, but what is on the back of that dollar bill is something we should all know.

If you turn the bill over, you will see two circles. Both circles, together, comprise the Great Seal of the United States.

The First Continental Congress requested that Benjamin Franklin and a group of men come up with a Seal. It took them four years to accomplish this task and another two years to get it approved.

If you look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization. The Pyramid is un-capped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity.

It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." [Unable to display image] The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776.

If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States. It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National

Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments. Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons: First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it. Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England. Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation. In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM", meaning, "one nation from many people".

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one. [Unable to display image] Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

They say that the number 13 is an unlucky number. This is almost a worldwide belief. You will usually never see a room numbered 13, or any hotels or motels with a 13th floor. But think about this: 13 original

colonies, 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 13 stripes on our flag, 13 steps on the Pyramid, 13 letters in the Latin above, 13 letters in "E Pluribus Unum", 13 stars above the Eagle, 13 bars on that shield, 13 leaves on the olive branch, 13 fruits, and if you look closely, 13

arrows. And, for minorities: the 13th Amendment.

"Why don't you know this?" Your children don't know this, and their history teachers don't know this. Too many veterans have given up too much to ever let the meaning fade. Many veterans remember coming home to an America that didn't care. Too many veterans never came home at all. Share his with everyone, so they can learn what is on the back of the UNITED STATES ONE DOLLAR BILL, and what it stands for... Otherwise, they will probably never know...

GOD BLESS AMERICA !

Dan Ewart

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

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

BWS

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

Aristotle

**Everyone will experience the consequences
of his own acts. If his acts are right, he'll
get good consequences; if they're not, he'll
suffer for it.**

Harry Browne

Letters To The Editor

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

Our first letter is from our own Bob Thaxton.

Enjoy.

BWS

Dear Loel:

I am writing in reference to the request from Weaver Barkman (1/12) and the action of 30 Mar 66 at the Chu Pong. I was a gunship pilot with Bravo Troop. I will never forget that day for I lost a dear friend in Skip Blanton and two of our Blues pilots- Norvel and Hisey. Skip and I had just returned from R & R and went straight to the field, it was the last time I saw him.

That day, John Ghere and myself were flying runs in that area and spotted fresh foxholes. It really stood out for the fresh dirt was piled around the holes and other than a cover, no attempt was made to conceal their position. At no time did we ever see any personnel.

We called in the find and picked up more positions in the tree lines. I called in grid cord at center of mass and estimated at least a company or more. There was a trail that came around the mountain and crossed over a stream and they had a position on some high ground which had at least 8 single holes and two larger which were probably crew served positions.

I called OP's and requested to recon by fire on the position to see if we could create movement. At that time OP's called and said A troop would be given this mission. We left the area and went south. B troop was at Plei Mi SoF camp and we came in to refuel.

When I started toward the OP's, Cpt Fisher was running toward us and telling us to get airborne for all hell had broken loose and would brief us on the radio. We took off with a 1/2 fuel load. The radio net was over active but could see heavy black smoke in the area and a May Day call came over that a ship was going down and saw him and headed there. Upon arrival I saw the bird made it OK and the crew was waving

OK and went to the area and fired our load and back to Plei Me to reload.

Dick Chilton from our Blues got shot up and had to land and they made contact with friendly's and think they had to spend that night on the ground. Also a "Hook" got shot up and they also made it OK.

The next morning I went back and went to our ship that tried to bring out personnel and it was a picture I will never forget. There were infantrymen (about 7 or more) who looked as if they were walking in a skirmish line laying where they fell. It looked as if Charlie let them advance to within 20 feet of their position before firing.

Someone came over and asked if we could take some of the KIA's back and we loaded two, but at that time someone came up and said they found two Charlie's in a hole that had been wounded and requested we evac them out. I guess what stood out in my mind was when I told them they had to take the remains out for the two wounded Charlie's that there were some pissed off people. We took them back to Plei Mi and later found out they provided some good info.

I must assume when Charlie moved out that night he moved south and hit the river and stopped for we found them and again they were in shallow foxholes and this time we could see them laying in the holes. They had no where to run other than the river or into a area which looked like a dry lake bed.

A call was made to Sec Air and the FAC sent a Canberra with nothing but napalm. The call to the BDE Co, ended up with his map putting them in Cambodia and no troops were put on the ground and think that the Charlie's Co. knew he was in a neutral zone and dropped his guard. It was the only "turkey shoot" we had.

Looking forward to October. Have a great holiday.

In Brotherhood,

Bob Thaxton
"Fixer 6 X-ray"
"Fixer Red"

Hey fellas,

Here is my check for Life membership. I can't think of an organization that I know of which I would rather be a member. I am so very

proud to have been a part of 1/9 Cav. What a great bunch of guys.

The last reunion (my first) was far beyond any expectations that I had. I am looking forward to the great fellowship at the next one.

I can't explain how great I felt just to be able to look around and see the guys that were in Vietnam with me. Especially after so many years.

Keep up the good work. Thanks for what you do. See you in October.

Sincerely,

Jim Schlottman
A troop 66
McDonough, GA

Dear Loel:

In the November issue of the Bullwhip News a list of former Squadron Commanders is listed on page 53. The two periods of my Command are correct however, my name is shown as Robert W. Nevins and then as Bob Nevins. If Robert is used it should be Robert H. Jr. but I would prefer that I be listed only as Bob. Any problem with making that change?

You guys that put the newsletter together are doing a great job. I'm sure that all members of the Squadron, like me, look forward to each issue and any news of those who had the privilege of serving in the finest combat unit in the Vietnam Conflict. The highlight of my career, without a doubt, was the honor to serve twice as the Squadron Commander, and to serve as the first Honorary Colonel of the Regiment from 1987 to 1995, when I turned over that position to our current Honorary Colonel and a great Air Cavalryman and former Squadron Commander, Pete Booth.

Last April, I had the honor to escort Hal Kushner, our Squadron Flight Surgeon in 1967, and a longtime POW into the Army Aviation Hall of Fame during the Army Aviation National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Hal became the sixth former member of the Squadron joining Bob Shoemaker, Jim Smith, A.T. Pumphrey, SGM Lawrence Kennedy, and myself

as members in the Army Aviation Hall of Fame at Ft. Rucker.

Keep up the good work on the newsletter Loel and I look forward to being at our next reunion with you and all our troopers next fall. WE CAN-WE WILL (we did).

Sincerely;

Bob Nevins Jr
"Hawkeye Six"
Ottumwa, IA

Bob

The change from Robert to Bob has been made. Thanks for the good words. It takes all the troopers to make a good organization and also the newsletter.

BWS

Dear Loel:

I am enclosing my life membership dues for the BWS, and my new telephone number. Please pass on this new number to everyone. Thank you. We are doing fine up here in the North Country, not much snow this winter. We went out for supper with Dennis Sullivan last night and he is doing fine also.

I am responding to the letter in the BWS News from Weaver Barkman pertaining to the 1/9 & 1/12 Shootout. I was on a three ship mission that day flying with John Valaer, the second aircraft was flown by Dick Chilton, I don't remember who the co-pilot was, and the third aircraft flown by Ty Hisey and Clyde Norvelle.

We were in the Plea Jurang area, I hope I spelled that properly, and received a call to drop our Blues at the nearest safe area and to proceed to set of coordinates for an extraction.

As we approached the area you could see black columns of smoke from burning aircraft shot down prior to our arrival. Ty and Clyde was the first aircraft into the area and were shot down during takeoff with no survivors. Dick was flying the second aircraft in and they were shot down on takeoff also, but survived. John and I were in the third aircraft in and were receiving fire as we touched down.

I lost all communications while on the ground and felt someone hit me on the helmet and shout everyone was on and to get out of there as the enemy was coming through the tree line. I started my takeoff and as we passed through translational lift it felt like the hydraulics were shot out and the aircraft started rolling to the left. John was on the controls with me and once clear of the area, I discovered that the communications cord was shot off when a round came through the door post and hit the back of my helmet.

We didn't loose the hydraulic system. John was watching the forward end of the LZ as I watched the loading of the aircraft while on the ground. He saw the area where the heavy gunfire was coming from and made a hard left turn over and down into the trees as we took off avoiding the fate of the two aircraft ahead of us. John was my hydraulic failure, overpowering me on the controls, (we had no communications), making the turn, and saving everyone's life on the aircraft that day. It was a day I will never forget. I have no information on what happened after that once the 1/12 was in the area.

I talked to Al today but forgot to tell him my new telephone number, please pass it on. We are looking forward to seeing everyone this October in Ozark.

Sincerely

Larry Tasker
PO Box 24
Natural Bridge, NY
315 644-4228

Loel

Sorry about the late dues, just as well go lifetime and not worry about it. Wonder if you or another member has had experience in getting a surplus helicopter for display? Our Legion Post, Post 81, is building a small memorial park and would like to mount a Loach, Huey or Cobra for display. Who do we contact to start the process?

Gary Salmon
redsxyone@yahoo.com

Anyone who has info for Gary, you have his e-mail.

BWS

Loel

I had the pleasure of meeting Jesse Glance at the Ohio river LZ VHPA last week. Jesse was dressed in his Cav attire and was encouraging us former Cav guys to attend the Bull Whip events.

I would be interested in getting some info on the coming activities. I was in A1/9,1970 then brought the colors back to Ft. Hood with Maj. Chole in 71. Looking forward to hearing from you.

"The Real Cav"

Max Evans
mxmevans@yahoo.com

Troopers

Max is now a member and planning to attend the reunion.

BWS

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

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

This is also a way to find past friends and brothers. As usual if you do not want your letter to be printed, say so, and we won't.

BWS

Health

Military Retiree Health Care

Retired members shall, upon request, be provided any type of health care in uniformed services facilities that is provided active duty members, *subject to the availability of space and facilities and the capabilities of the medical and dental staff*, and subject to the provisions of

Executive Order 10122, April 14, 1950, as amended by Executive Order 10400, September 19, 1952, and Executive Order 11733, July 30, 1973.

Non-emergency care shall not be provided to this group at times and places where it would interfere with providing care to spouses and children of members who are serving on active duty or who died while serving on such duty or where it would interfere with the performance of the primary mission of the facility.

There shall be no charge for outpatient care provided or for inpatient care provided to retired enlisted members. Retired officers shall pay the current subsistence charge (\$11.45 per day for 2001) for inpatient care.

Former active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces, regardless of rank, who are in receipt of retired or retainer pay potentially have dual eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical benefits, as VA beneficiaries and as beneficiaries of the Department of Defense (DoD).

Applicants (including military retirees) who fall into the discretionary eligibility category are eligible for VA medical care as VA beneficiaries only after they agree to pay a co-payment for the medical benefit for which they apply. Should the military retiree not agree to make this co-payment, he or she would not be eligible as a veteran. The retiree may, however, be offered VA medical care as a beneficiary of the DoD and at DoD expense, but only on a space and resource available basis as determined by the facility director.

Note: Beneficiaries of the DoD, with the exception of those in need of emergency medical services, will be required to obtain DoD authorization prior to receiving VA medical care.

Dropping MediPlus coverage

TRICARE For Life (TFL) is a highly beneficial program for Medicare-eligible military retirees. The program began October 1, 2001, and will require some personal decisions from current MEDIPLUS Medicare Supplement holders about when to cancel their supplements. TFL will almost entirely duplicate the benefits provided under MEDIPLUS Medicare Supplements. Therefore, TROA fully expects and recommends that our members stop paying for their Medicare Supplement insurance and move to premium-free

TFL, after the October 1, 2001 implementation date.

Because TROA expects numerous members to cancel MEDIPLUS Medicare Supplements and use TFL, it eventually will become necessary to cancel any remaining MEDIPLUS Medicare Supplements. This is because there will be too few policyholders left to run a financially stable program without at least doubling or tripling premiums to cover fixed costs. It would be unfair to continue the TROA program when there will be less costly supplements available through other sources. What to do will be decided by our Board of Directors at their July quarterly meeting, and TROA will be providing this information in a letter that is being sent in August.

TROA sent in mid-August every MEDIPLUS Medicare Supplement certificate holder a letter of instruction and checklist of things to do to get ready for TFL with a simplified MEDIPLUS cancellation procedure in place which can be accomplished by phone.

Also, if a Medicare-eligible certificate holder has a spouse who is still TRICARE eligible, the certificate holder can cancel their MEDIPLUS Medicare Supplement and leave the spouse's MEDIPLUS TRICARE Supplement active and unchanged. There will be no change in TROA's MEDIPLUS TRICARE Supplement program.

Jane A. Symionow

The Retired Officers Association

TRICARE Senior Pharmacy

Sharing

I want to share something with you. Like many of you, I had supplemental insurance to Medicare. I did not cancel it the same day as Tricare for Life became effective, but did so December 1st. When I went to fill a short term prescription at the local pharmacy, I was told they still had me as having supplemental insurance. I was told to call TFL and check. I asked them if I was in the computer as having cancelled my supplemental insurance. They checked and said it had been cancelled. I explained the problem and they informed me that I had to call the Tricare Senior Pharmacy program at 1-877-363-6337 because there are apparently two different computer systems. So much for DEERS!. I did call the number and sure enough I was still being shown as having supplemental insurance.

The message is, that just because a claim against Ticare for Life has been successfully processed, you could have a problem with prescription drugs. If you do, call the number listed above and they will tell you what to do.

Two Reports On Gulf War-Related Illnesses

The DoD has released a report on the possible harmful effects on chemical agents during the Gulf War. The "Reported Chemical Warfare Agent Exposure in the 2d Reconnaissance Battalion" report, published May 31, 2001, focused on a group of Marines who reported experiencing injuries that originally appeared indicative of chemical warfare agent exposure. Investigators working for the special assistant for Gulf War Illnesses, Medical Readiness and Military Deployments, concluded the Marines involved in this incident were unlikely to have been exposed to chemical warfare agents. In March 2001, investigators concluded that U.S. service members definitely were not exposed to chemical warfare agents resulting from coalition air attacks on munitions bunkers at the Al Muthanna chemical weapons storage site in Iraq. These reports are part of DoD's efforts to inform the public about its investigations into the nature and possible causes for the illnesses experienced by some Gulf War veterans.

Military.com Resources

How To Survive A Heart Attack When Alone

What to do if you have a heart attack while you are alone.

The Johnson City Medical Center staff actually discovered this and did an in-depth study on it in our ICU. The two individuals that discovered this then did an article on it ...had it published and have even had it incorporated into ACLS and CPR classes. It is very true and has and does work. It is called cough CPR.

Let's say it's 6:15 p.m. and you're driving home (alone of course), after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far.

What can you do? You've been trained in CPR but the guy that taught the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself.

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed to be in order. Without help, the person whose heart is beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

From Health Cares, Rochester General Hospital via Chapter 240s newsletter "AND THE BEAT GOES ON" (reprint from The Mended Hearts, Inc. publication, Heart Response)

Sent in by John Nielsen

Conditions Recognized as Service-Connected for Vietnam Veterans Based on Exposure to Agent Orange or Other Herbicides:

1. Chloracne (Must occur within one year of exposure to Agent Orange).
2. Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.
3. Soft tissue sarcoma (Other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma).
4. Hodgkin's disease.
5. Porphyria cutanea tarda (Must occur within one year of exposure).
6. Multiple myeloma.
7. Respiratory cancers, including cancers of lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus (Must occur within thirty years of exposure).
8. Prostate cancer.
9. Acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy (Must appear within one year

of exposure and resolve within two years of date of onset).

10. Type 2 diabetes .

Conditions Recognized in Children of Vietnam Veterans:

1. Spina bifida (except spina bifidda occulta)
2. Other birth defects in the children of women Vietnam veterans (Pending; regulations should be published soon).

DoD's New Top Doc Urges Flu Shots For All

Dr. Bill Winkenwerder, the recently confirmed assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, urges everyone in the DoD family to get their yearly flu shot. Dr. Winkenwerder expects all military installations to have their required supplies. The department has ordered three million doses this year, he notes. Winkenwerder also stresses that although the public generally thinks of flu as a mild disease, it can be serious. "About 20,000 people in the United States die every year of influenza," he says. "That's a bit of a frightening thought." The best way to counter that risk is to get a flu shot, he adds.

For more on how to get a flu shot, see the Centers for Disease Control Flu Season 2001-02 Website.

Upon implementation of TRICARE For Life on October 1, 2001, TRICARE stops and MEDICARE begins for military retirees and dependents upon reaching age 65. MEDICARE is divided into two parts:

Part A: Hospital Insurance Protection

Part B: Medical Insurance Protection

Part A is provided without cost, until it is used, whereas

Part B is purchasable by paying a monthly premium. The basic premium in 2001 is \$50.00 per month.

Important Note: To participate in TRICARE For Life, eligible beneficiaries **must** be eligible for Part A and **must** be enrolled in Part B. For information on how to enroll in Medicare, Part B, visit the [Medicare](#) Website.

Under Part B there is an annual deductible of **\$100** in 2001. However, yearly mammograms for women age 65 and over and certain disabled women are covered with no Part B deductible. In addition, pap smears, pelvic and breast

examinations are also covered with no Part B deductible.

Part A, Hospital insurance begins automatically upon reaching age 65 if the retiree is unemployed. If you plan to continue to work beyond age 65, you will have to file an application for hospital insurance.

AGENT ORANGE HELP

Vietnam veterans with questions or concerns about Agent Orange-contact VA's Gulf War/Agent Orange Helpline. The national toll-free telephone number is 800-749-8387. A great deal of information is also available on our web page. It is located at;

<http://www.va.gov/agentorange/default.htm>.

Vietnam veterans (plus veterans who served in Korea in 1968 or 1969) concerned about possible long-term health effects of Agent Orange exposure- contact the nearest VA medical center and request an Agent Orange Registry health examination. More than 300,000 Vietnam veterans have already participated in this program.

Vietnam veterans who need medical treatment for conditions that may be related to their exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides used in Vietnam – contact the nearest VA medical center for eligibility information and possible medical treatment.

Vietnam veterans with illnesses that were incurred in or aggravated by exposure to Agent Orange or other aspects of military service – contact a VA veterans services representative at the nearest VA regional office or health care facility and apply for disability compensation. The representatives have information about the wide range of benefit programs administered by VA. The national toll-free number is 1-800-827-1000.

Vietnam veterans who encounter difficulties at a VA medical center- contact the "patient advocate" at the facility for assistance in resolving the problem. Ask the medical center telephone operator for the patient advocate or representative.

Vietnam veterans with children who have spina bifida – contact the new VA national toll-free hotline at 1-888-820-1756, or the nearest VA regional officer by calling toll-free; 1-800-827-1000. Additional information on spina bifida is available from the Spina Bifida Association of America at 4590 MacArthur Blvd, Suite 250,

Washington, DC 20007-4226; toll free telephone; 800-621-3141; e-mail address; spinabifda@aol.com and the web site; www.sbaa.org.

Representative of veterans service organizations, including The American Legion (1-800-433-3318), Paralyzed Veterans of America (1-800-424-8200), Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (1-800-VFW-1899), Disabled American Veterans (1-877-426-2838), Vietnam Veterans of America (1-800-882-1316), etc., have also been very helpful to Vietnam veterans seeking disability compensation.

Sick Call

Our troopers need our thoughts and concerns through their illness.

- Billie Williams.....Hip Replacement
- George Park.....Shoulder Operation
- Jesse Glance.....Illness
- Johnny Gower.....Extended Illness
- Gen. Jim Smith.....Surgery

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

Note to all. James Conner has had an especially hard time and would appreciate a letter or card. You can write him at;
James Conner
1304 15th Av.
Decatur, AL 35601-4321

BWS

A Class Actress

Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Viet Nam other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10 black & white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margaret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore. Richard wanted to see if he could get her to sign the

treasured photo so he arrived at the bookstore at 12 o'clock for the 7:30 signing. When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot, and disappeared behind a parking garage. Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and no memorabilia would be permitted.

Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home. Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as 2nd in line, it was soon Richard's turn. He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it".

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for "my gentlemen". With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to do about the bravery of the young men she met over the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he was the only one there.

Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big strong husband broke down in tears. "That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army", he said. Richard, like many others, came home to people who spit on him and shouted ugly things at him. That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margaret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband. I now make it a point to say Thank You to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country.

If you'd like to pass on this story, feel free to do so. Perhaps it will help others to become aware of how important it is to acknowledge the contribution our service people make.

The audience is now the troopers of BWS.

Keegan Quote

This quote comes from John Keegan's book. It is excellent and comes from Fields of Battle: The Wars for North America. It is on page 334, the last page of the book. This is such an excellent and appropriate passage from Keegan's book given the present times.

"Yet, even after forty years, after fifty transatlantic crossings, after uncountable transcontinental journeys, the sense of the American mystery remains strong with me. Canada I think I begin to understand, a bit of the European world implanted south of the icecap, alien in geography, familiar in custom and culture. The United States continues to elude me.

If I understand it at all, it is through the strange profession that has shaped my life, the study of war. War is repugnant to the people of the United States; yet it is war that has made their nation and it is through their power to wage war that they dominate the world. Americans are proficient at war in the same way that they are proficient at work. It is a task, sometimes a duty. Americans have worked at war since the seventeenth century, to protect themselves from the Indians, to win their independence from George III, to make themselves one country, to win the whole of their continent, extinguish autocracy and dictatorship in the world outside.

It is not their favored form of work. Left to themselves, Americans build, cultivate, bridge, dam, canals, invent, teach, manufacture, think, write, lock themselves in struggle with the eternal challenges that man has chosen to confront, and with an intensity not known elsewhere on the globe.

Bidden to make war their work, Americans shoulder the burden with intimidating purpose. There is, I have said, an American mystery, the nature of which I only begin to perceive. If I were obliged to define it, I would say it is the ethos --masculine, pervasive, unrelenting -- of work as an end in itself. War is a form of work,

and America makes war, however reluctantly, however unwillingly, in a particularly workmanlike way.

I do not love war; but I love America."

Lost and Found

Hello Loel & Al,

My father was in the 1st of the 9th during 1965-66, stationed in Vietnam. He was in HQ troop and my mother says she thinks he flew a gunship doing recon. His name was Capt. Theodore Donald (T.D.) Strennen, a helicopter pilot. He survived his tour and was promoted to Major, but died Sept. 1967 as a test pilot flying the Cobra in Savannah, GA (Ft. Benning). I was the oldest of 4 kids and 6 years old at the time. I am looking for others in his unit that knew him and could tell me what he was like and (perhaps) some of his experiences there. I've been told he was a quiet, serious, no nonsense kind of man. Any info or pointers to other people would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,
Eric Strennen
estrennen@ponymail.com

I received an e-mail from the son of an A troop Warrant Officer. He is asking what his dad's call sign was. The name is James Smith, 1st/9th in 66-67. Flew guns and lift. Any ideas? He signed the A troop web site guest book explaining that his dad has died. Like to help him, sounds like a good troop.

Thanks.

CW5 Chuck Adkinson
www.9thcav.com

Missing Trooper

On that faithful day of 9-11 there was a 7th Cav vet that worked on the site. He went home

afterwards and died of a heart attack. I believe he was sent back to TX for burial. Does anyone remember anything in the papers about this? If you have any information please contact me.

J.S.(Jim) Brigham Jr.
Vice Pres 7th US Cavalry Assn.
VP@us7thcavalry.com

Loel & "D",

Ed Kersey who served with C/2/17 in 70-71 is looking for any one who knew and flew with his brother, CW2 William R. Kersey, Jr., who flew guns with "B" 1/9th and was KIA on/about 1 Sept 1970.

Could you broadcast this out on the net.

And Ed, if you luck out and make contact with some of your brothers fellow pilots, then you should consider attending our reunion at Fort Rucker in October. Troopers, if you have any info, send to me and I will forward. Jack

Thanks

Jack L Kilcrease
rangerkilcrease@juno.com

Need Information

I am trying to locate, for SSG Clyde O'briens widow, someone who was with him in An Khe when he was KIA, 20 Jan 67. The info she has says he was in D Troop, 9th Cav of the 1st Cav. I am doing this as a favor to her. Can you help?

Thanks.
Larry Moses

Troopers

If you have any information on these, either contact direct, or the BWS. We will then forward the info.

BWS

TROOPERS

Remember our next BWS Reunion Is This October 2002 !!!

Recipe Corner

12 Bean Soup Mix

One pound each of the following: black beans, pinto beans, kidney beans, large lima beans, baby lima beans, navy beans, chick peas, field peas, split peas, blackeye peas, lentils and northern beans. Garbanzo beans may be substituted for the chick peas and field peas.

Mix all beans and store in large airtight container. Use as needed.

12 Bean Soup Recipe

- 1 ½ cup of bean mixture
- 8 cups fresh water
- 3 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1 15-ounce can mixed tomatoes and chilies
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 minced garlic clove
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Soak 1 ½ cups of mixed beans overnight. Discard water and replace with 8 cups fresh water. Add bouillon cubes and cook up to 12 hours on low in slow cooker or simmer for 2 ½ hours on stove top. When beans are done, add tomatoes, onion, garlic, salt and pepper and cook 30 to 40 minutes.

This is wonderful on a cold winter day with cornbread or crackers.

The next 2 recipes came from the Taste of Home "Light and Tasty" magazine Feb/March issue:

Hawaiian Baked Chicken

Here's a sweet and tangy way to dress up chicken.

- 12 skinless chicken thighs (3 pounds)

2 cans (8ounces each) crushed pineapple, undrained
 ¼ cup sherry or chicken broth
 ¼ cup spicy brown mustard
 ¼ cup honey
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, melted
 ½ teaspoon paprika

Arrange chicken in a shallow baking dish coated with nonstick cooking spray in a bowl, combine the pineapple, sherry or broth, mustard, honey and butter; mix well. Spoon over chicken, sprinkle with paprika. Bake, uncovered, at 400 for 35-40 minutes or until a meat thermometer reads 180. Yield: 6 servings

Carrot Raisin Pilaf

1 medium onion, chopped
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 2 ½ cups water
 2 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch julienne strips
 1 cup uncooked long grain rice
 ½ cup raisins
 1 tablespoon chicken bouillon granules
 ½ teaspoon curry powder
 ¼ teaspoon salt
 ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
 ¼ cup slivered almonds, toasted

In a saucepan, sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in the water, carrots, rice, raisins, bouillon, curry powder, salt and thyme. Bring to a boil, reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15-20 minutes or until rice is tender. Sprinkle with almonds before serving. Yield; 6 servings

I think the 2 recipes above would make a great dinner along with a salad.

Spiced Fruit Salad

1 ½ cups fat-free plain yogurt
 ¼ cup packed brown sugar
 ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 2 pounds ripe bananas (about 3 medium) sliced
 1 pound apples (about 2 medium) cubed
 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 1 pound red and/or green seedless grapes

In a small bowl, combine the yogurt, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Gently toss bananas and apples with lemon juice; add grapes. Divide among individual bowls. Drizzle with the yogurt mixture. Serve immediately. Yield; 12 servings.

This recipe was taken off the web at Light&Tasty on line

Oreo Dessert

20 Oreo cookies, crushed
 2 boxes (3.4-oz) instant chocolate pudding mix
 3 cups milk
 1 carton (8 oz) Cool Whip, thawed

Reserve a few cookie crumbs to sprinkle on top and pour rest into a 9"x13"x2" dish or pan and spread evenly over bottom. In large bowl, prepare pudding according to package directions using only 3 cups milk. Fold in Cool Whip, then pour over cookie crumbs. Sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 2 hours.

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

BWS

Bullwhip Squadron Web Site

Our Association Web site continues to grow under the hand of Ms. Loretta Stager, our Web Master. She is responsible for rebuilding and maintaining the site. Loretta asks for any ideas from our troopers as to what they would like to see on the site. If you have any particulars, give her a call at (909) 657-3014 or e-mail at Loretta@pe.net and discuss your ideas.

The web site address is www.BullwhipSquadron.org

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

Check the address from time to time to see how we are progressing. We hope to make our

web site a showroom for the 1st Cav Division, Air Cav Troopers and the 1st/9th.

TROOPERS

The next reunion is just around the corner, 7 months away. We are making preparations now.

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

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

1st/9th Squadron Commanders

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

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

Saepe Expertus, Semper Fidelis, Fratres Aeterni

“Often Tested, Always Faithful, Brothers Forever”

**Political Philosophies:
Updated**

Since the world situation is making us all think about how governments, religions and business affect us, this simplified explanation might help us understand better.

THE "TWO-COW THEORY" OF WHAT MAKES...

A CHRISTIAN:

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

A SOCIALIST:

You have two cows. The government takes one and gives it to your neighbor.

A REPUBLICAN:

You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. So what?

A DEMOCRAT:

You have two cows. Your neighbor has none. You feel guilty for being successful. You vote people into office who tax your cows, forcing you to sell one to raise money to pay the tax. The people you voted for then take the tax money and buy a cow and give it to your neighbor. You feel righteous.

A NEW REPUBLICAN (a.k.a. Compassionate Conservatism)

You have no cows because government cow ownership is wasteful. You divert government funds to religious organizations so they can purchase cows and pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting veal.

A COMMUNIST:

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

A FASCIST:

You have two cows. The government seizes both and sells you the milk. You join the underground and start a campaign of sabotage.

CAPITALISM, AMERICAN STYLE:

You have two cows. You sell one, buy a bull, and build a herd of cows.

BUREAUCRACY, AMERICAN STYLE:

DEMOCRACY, AMERICAN STYLE:

You have two cows. The government taxes you to the point you have to sell both to support a

man in a foreign country who has only one cow, which was a gift from your government.

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

AN AMERICAN CORPORATION:

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

A FRENCH CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You go on strike because you want three cows.

A JAPANESE CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You redesign them so they are one-tenth the size of an ordinary cow and produce twenty times the milk.

A GERMAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You reengineer them so they live for 100 years, eat once a month, and milk themselves.

AN ITALIAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows but you don't know where they are. You break for lunch.

A RUSSIAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You count them and learn you have five cows. You count them again and learn you have 42 cows. You count them again and learn you have 12 cows. You stop counting cows and open another bottle of vodka.

A MEXICAN CORPORATION:

You think you have two cows, but you don't know what a cow looks like. You take a nap.

A SWISS CORPORATION:

You have 5000 cows, none of which belongs to you. You charge for storing them for others.

A BRAZILIAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You enter into a partnership with an American corporation. Soon you have 1000 cows and the American corporation declares bankruptcy.

AN INDIAN CORPORATION:

You have two cows. You worship them.

THE TALIBAN

You have two cows. You turn them loose in the Afghan "countryside" and they both die. You blame the godless American infidels.

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all."

General George Washington

Service member' Websites Announced

The Department of Defense has announced an alternative to the "Any Service member" and "Operation Dear Abby" programs, which were suspended indefinitely in the wake of anthrax mail attacks. The Navy has developed a Web-based alternative benefiting members of all Services, and can be reached at the Navy LIFELINES Services Network. Those who want to send a message of support or holiday greeting to military service members will find a simple process for delivering messages at these sites. The "Any Service member" program allows participants to select from one or all branches of the military. To receive a message of support, service members will log onto the Website and choose messages for their branch of Service and home state. Those sending a message who wish to receive a response may include a return email address. Since all messages are viewed on the Web, the military's regular email service is not affected.

<http://anyservicemember.navy.mil/>

Bullwhip Year End Financial Report

2000 Year End Total Balance \$27,230.44

2001 Income

Lifetime Dues	\$5,380.00
2001 Dues	1,455.00
2002 Dues	345.00
2003 Dues	60.00
Bullwhip Fund	120.00
Merchandise & Postage	616.00
Coins	112.50
Newsletter Ads	<u>2000.00</u>
Total Income	\$10,088.50

2001 Expense

Office Supplies	\$ 652.10
Miscellaneous	2,386.30
CD # 3	12,000.00
Newsletter	3,456.23
Web Site	480.00
Office Supplies	<u>1,793.44</u>
Total	20,768.07
Transferred to CD	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	8,708.07

Checkbook Balance 1/1/01	\$16,243.62
Income	<u>10,088.50</u>
Total Income	26,332.12
Total Expense	<u>20,768.07</u>
Checkbook Balance 12/31/01	5,564.05

Total Bullwhip Money

CD # 1	\$ 2,927.58
CD # 2	8,892.15
CD # 3	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total Savings	23,819.74
Ck Book Bal.	<u>5,564.05</u>
Total Monies	\$29,383.79 (Year ending 2001).

WHEN WE ASSUMED THE SOLDIER, WE DID NOT LAY ASIDE THE CITIZEN

George Washington, 1775

I remember those days, and they were better.

BWS

Dirt Roads

What's mainly wrong with society today is that too many Dirt Roads have been paved.

*There's not a problem in America today, crime, drugs, education, divorce, delinquency that wouldn't be remedied, if we just had more Dirt Roads, because Dirt Roads give character.

*People that live at the end of Dirt Roads learn early on that life is a bumpy ride.

*That it can jar you right down to your teeth sometimes, but it's worth it, if at the end is home...a loving spouse, happy kids and a dog.

*We wouldn't have near the trouble with our educational system if our kids got their exercise walking a Dirt Road with other kids, from whom they learn how to get along.

There was less crime in our streets before they were paved.

*Criminals didn't walk two dusty miles to rob or rape, if they knew they'd be welcomed by 5 barking dogs and a double barrel shotgun.

*And there were no drive by shootings.

*Our values were better when our roads were worse!

*People did not worship their cars more than their kids, and motorists were more courteous, they didn't tailgate by riding the bumper or the guy in front would choke you with dust & bust your windshield with rocks.

*Dirt Roads taught patience.

*Dirt Roads were environmentally friendly, you didn't hop in your car for a quart of milk you walked to the barn for your milk.

*For your mail, you walked to the mail box.

*What if it rained and the Dirt Road got washed out? That was the best part, then you stayed home and had some family time, roasted marshmallows and popped popcorn and pony rode on

Daddy's shoulders and learned how to make prettier quilts than anybody.

*At the end of Dirt Roads, you soon learned that bad words tasted like soap.

*Most paved roads lead to trouble, Dirt Roads more likely lead to a fishing creek or a swimming hole.

*At the end of a Dirt Road, the only time we even locked our car was in August, because if we didn't some neighbor would fill it with too much zucchini.

*At the end of a Dirt Road, there was always extra springtime income, from when city dudes would get stuck, you'd have to hitch up a team and pull them out.

*Usually you got a dollar...always you got a new friend...at the end of a Dirt Road!

~by Paul Harvey~

The following list of Association members is as of 12 March 2002

Bullwhip Squadron
Association members

Honored Halls

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

Association Members

*Adams, Bobby
*Adkinson, Charles
*Allen, David
*Anzelmo, George
Arthur, Edward
*Avelar Jr, Jose
*Bagnal, Charles
*Banks, Larry
*Baron, Joe
*Barrett, James
Barton, Glenn
*Beardsley Jr, Guy
Bechberger, Paul
Beckwith (h), Karen
*Bedsole, Kenneth
*Berggren, Jerry

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

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

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

*Kuster, Robert
*La Vigne Sr, Barry
*Labak, Robert
*La-Bombard, Lloyd
*Lackey, Robert
Laidlaw, William
*Landor, Jamie
*Lanegan, Terrence
*Lanier, Michael
*Larensen, John
*Larose (h), James
*Lassiter, Norman
*Leadabrand, Jerry
*Lenker, Max
*Leonard, Thomas
Leyda, Craig
*Lindholm, Dale
*Lott, Claude
Lucas, Judson
Lundwall, Robert
Lynch, William
*MacLeod, Richard
*Maher, James
*Maldonado Jr, Paul
Marcum, Eugene
*Marshall, Richard
Martin, Thomas
Matlock, Craig
*McAllister, Bo
*McAlpine, Barry
*McAnally, Loren
*McGee (h), Robert
McIlwain, Blade
*McKee, Orvel
McKiddy, (h) Edgar
*McLaughlin, Davin
*McMullan, Robert
*McNinch, Jerry
*Metcalf, Marvin
Miller, Brian
Miller, John
*Mix, Robert
*Moore, Marion
*Moser, Frank
*Mundy Jr, G.G.
*Murphy, Maurice
Murtha, Paul
Nevins Jr, Robert
*Newby, Claude
*Nicholas, George
*Nielsen, John

*Nii, Elmer
*Niles, Louis
O'Grady, Steve
*Olenczuk, Anthony
*Oliver, John
*Olson, Kenneth
Orifici, Tony
*Oshiro, Clyde
*Owens, Ronald
Park, George
*Parnell, James
Pelkey, David
*Peterson, Robert
*Pettit, Richard
Phipps, Wayne
*Poe, Robert
Polisky, Simon
Poos (h), Robert
*Potts, William
Powell, John
*Pratt, James
*Pressman, James
Pryce, David
*Pumphrey, A.T.
*Quinn, Bill
*Racine, Maurice
*Rainwater, Ross
*Rawl, Joe
*Reid, Jim
*Retterer, John
*Rhoden, Joe
*Ribbeck, Rudolph
Rice, Charles
*Ricks, Douglas
Rittenhouse, Bill
Roble, Edwin
*Rochat III, Louis
Rose, Harold
*Rosebrough, James
*Rosher, Galen
Ryan, John
*Salmon, Gary
*Salomone, Joseph
*Salyer, James
Samuel, Lonnie
*Schellenberg, Woodrow
Schillereff, John
*Schlottman, Jim
*Schmotolocha, Jerry
Schwarz, John
*Scott, Kenneth

*Sellers, Robert
 *Shaffer, Nate
 *Shanklin, David
 *Shields, John
 *Shoemaker, Gen Robert
 *Silva, Robert
 *Smith, Rayburn Gene
 Smith, Ben
 *Smith, Cecil
 *Smith, Jim
 Smith (h), Kevin
 *Snow, Peter
 *Soltes, Charles
 Stager (h), Loretta
 St. Lauren, Bruce
 Stanfield, Neil
 Stanley, William
 *Steine, Joel
 *Stewart, Frank
 *Stewart, Patrick
 *Stockton (h), Rita
 *Stockton (h), Wootsie
 *Stone, Gordon
 Stoverink, Robert
 Sullivan (h), Dennis
 Sundt, Richard
 *Swain, Robert

Sweeney, Ronald
 Tadlock, Robert
 *Tasker, Larry
 *Tassin, Paul
 *Terry, Michael
 *Thaxton, Bob
 *Thomas, John
 *Timmons, William
 *Titchenell, Wallace
 Tromontano, Joseph
 *Tredway, Robert
 Treude, Harry
 Trombley, Thomas
 *Tucker, Douglas
 *Turner, Barrie
 Tuttle, Mike
 Tyrrell, Paul
 *Van Winkle, James
 *Vanasse, Eugene
 Vaughan, Lad
 *Waldron, Cowles
 *Walker, John
 *Wallace, John
 *Wardzala, Daniel
 Washington, Royall
 *Weeks, Jimmy
 *Weems, Neil

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

h - Honorary
 * - Lifetime

From the Vice President:

The Association has gone all out to find those troopers who do not know of the Association. We are presently seeing 4-5 new members a month, with the most new members around the reunion time. All our troopers are dedicated to carrying on, and sustaining, the CAV tradition.

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

Members are what makes the Association. The Association has increased it's membership rolls by 10 new members since January 1, 2002. **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 * (217) by troopers names.

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

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

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

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

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

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

As of November 2001 our active membership is 375 with 217 of these being lifetime. We have increased by 10 new members since January 1, 2001. Well done! We could not have done this without your support.

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

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

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

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

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

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

STOP PROCRASTINATING. Pay your dues and the news magazine will continue to be delivered. If dues aren't paid, this will unfortunately be your last news magazine.

I have been asked by our troopers if they can pay their lifetime member status in

installments. The answer is YES. Contact me if you would like to pay in installments. Also you can pay in more than one year (2,3,4, etc)

The Association does not sell or give away members addresses or phone numbers, except to other BWS Association members when they call in for a member's individual number.

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

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

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

Order your items now from AL so they can be delivered to you before the reunion or be picked u at the reunion.

BULLWHIP REUNION 2002

Troopers

The following e-mail was sent to all members that have an e-mail address with me. If you did not receive the e-mail, it was because I did not have your e-mail or the message was returned as a bad address. If you did not receive this e-mail from me, and you have an e-mail address, please send it to me at lewart@charter.net. Be sure to put your complete name and home address in the body. And title it as Address. I will immediately respond and place you on my mailing list. If you change your e-mail, send me the change.

Loel

BULLWHIP SQDN REUNION

Troopers

This mailing is being sent to all that I have an e-mail address for. Some of these will not be good addresses, so if you see one that is bad and know the correct address, forward it on. Also if you know of any who are not on this list please send to them.

This is a blanket mailing on 1st notice of motels. Recommend you call and reserve rooms ASAP. the Holiday Inn has reservations confirmed now and will fill fast. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE or you will not be in the motel of your choice. Reserve now! Or you will be one that did not get their choice.

There has been concern if the Holiday Inn will have a bar. The answer is YES.

The three motels have been locked in for rooms and price. We have over 200 rooms reserved. When you call, inform the desk that you are reserving for the Bullwhip Squadron reunion, dates 11, 12, and 13 October. Yes you can come earlier and stay later if you desire. A credit card will be needed for reserving, or prepay. The desk will answer all your questions.

The three motels are;

* Holiday Inn (our headquarters) \$51.84 per night. Includes Buffet breakfast. Hospitality Room.

Ph. # 1-334-774-7300 for reservations.

* Jameson Inn \$54 per night. Includes Continental breakfast. Hospitality Room.

Ph. # 1-334-774-0233 for reservations.

* All American Inn (formally the Best Western) \$48.60 per night. Includes deluxe Continental breakfast. No hospitality room. They also have economy rooms at \$29 for single and \$32 for double.

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

Call the above numbers only! Do not call the national numbers as you will be told that all rooms are reserved. Again, call the above numbers only!

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

All the motels are on highway 231 in Ozark and are within 3 short blocks of each other, same side of the road (west side). For you pilots that means if you are driving south, they will be on your right.

More information on the reunion will be in the upcoming newsmagazine.

The reunion registration forms will be out in late March with all prices for the reunion and a schedule of events.

Yes we are having a golf tournament Saturday morning 12 Oct.

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

NOTE: Send no money to me until you receive your reunion registration papers and figure up the cost!

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

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

Note: The Holiday Inn is now full, the Jameson is almost full and reservations are being taken at the All American. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE!!

Loel Ewart
LTC (Ret)
V.P. BWS
Editor of news magazine

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

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

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

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

Reunion planning is going in full swing and we believe this one will be the very best reunion yet.

Registration will start on Friday the 11th, with an honest to God Bar-B-Q that evening, catered by Larry's Bar-B-Q, a well-known southern business. We will have chicken, pork, beef, ribs, with all the trimmings.

Look for a short letter out in May with full itinerary and pricing.

Any trooper that would like to come in a day early and help with final setting up, is most welcome. Contact AL if coming early.

Come and have good fun, camaraderie, meet old friends and renew the brotherhood that kept all of us alive.

Magazine Update

You will also notice more of our troopers are writing articles for each magazine. If you have a story to tell, then write it and send it in. Don't worry about spelling, grammar and the likes, just do the best a trooper can and we will make the article into a silk purse. You can send it in by e-mail or by regular mail to me. I will sprinkle magic dust on it for printing and a fine article you will have. We encourage you to consider to writing a by-line article for each news magazine.

Next articles are due to me by the middle of June 02.

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

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

We encourage you to share the magazine with others.

May you enjoy your news magazine.

BWS

ADVERTISEMENTS

Troopers,

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

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

When you are in their area, support them as they support us. While many are not active members, their beliefs and ideals match our own. This is one nation, and we are seeing many of

the silent majority voicing their anger at our loss and at the same time, showing support for the military, especially in our Association.

Troopers, notice that over half of our advertisements are from our own, members of the BWS. They show their support for BWS by placing ads in our news magazine. When you see them at the reunion, say “thanks my brother”.

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

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

Our present news magazine cost over \$1000 for each printing and mailing. Without our advertiser supporters, we could not produce our present magazine.

The Association asks you to support the merchants that advertise in our news magazine when you are in their vicinity or at their location.

Lower Alabama, Ozark and the Wiregrass Area has truly become the home of the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

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

BWS

The Wall

They walk along the granite block,
past names all etched in stone.
Among so many others here,
but feel so all alone.
So many here to touch a soul,
that passed so long ago.
And tears now streak from off your cheek,
emotions, have to show.
There are so many people here,
who wish the pain to end.
Why not reach out a hand to them,
to listen, be a friend.
The Wall can bridge the largest gap,
it made our nation one.
We thank the nurses one and all,
and every soldier, son.
Whose names we see forever etched,
upon the granite stone.
Though painful make us realize,
that we are not alone.
The sacrifice, that you all made,
that bring us to this shrine.
Bring all those closer, left behind,
perhaps the grand design.
To help the friends and family,
to understand the call.
That took your names from off life's list,
and place it on this Wall.
You fought a war, unpopular,
in Nam so far away.
And now you have found the greatest peace,
as we stand here and pray.
Beyond the Wall we hope to find,
the reason for it all ...
Why you with pride went far away,
to answer duty's call.
Perhaps the flag that others burn,
became your symbol proud.
Why you gave life, proclaim your love,
of country, very loud.
So rest in peace, my Warrior,
my nurse and doctor too.
And rest assured forever more,
we'll all remember you.
The Wall means much to everyone,
these names on granite cast.
To keep your memories alive,
as long as time will last.
So look upon the granite face,
and touch the names with pride.
For all their spirits linger there,
beyond the Wall, inside.

Author Unknown

ONLY IN AMERICA, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!