

Greetings once again!

I'd like to start by thanking everyone who attended the last 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association reunion (July 25-30, 2011 in Columbus, GA). I have included a photo taken by Dave Regenthal (below). Co. F had about 42 guys in attendance - many brought their families as well.

**Co. F Fund** The Co. F fund currently has a balance of \$3,779.14. Thank you for your generous donations. All profits from the sale of "Co. F stuff" goes directly to the fund.

**Off Year Reunion** During the Co. F "business meeting" at the reunion we discussed an off-year reunion. It was decided that we should finally take  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cav up on its continuing offer to attend one of their reunions. This is the proverbial "win-win" situation for Co. F. They have done all the ground work, getting the accommodations, setting the agenda, arranging for activities... all that stuff. All we have to do is show up and enjoy. A little background; the  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cav association ("Mackenzie's Raiders") has been having reunions for, well, forever. They have invited "the LRRPs" from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Div (including Co. F) for the past several reunions. Marshall Huckaby has attended a few of these reunions and has had nothing but good things to say about them. So our next off-year reunion will be May 16-20, 2012 in Nashville. It might be too late to take advantage of the special  $\frac{3}{4}$  Cav reunion rate, but here's the reservation info:

Millennium Maxwell House Nashville  
2025 Rosa L. Parks Blvd  
Nashville, TN 37228-1505  
Phone: 615-259-4343

If the Millennium Maxwell House does not have any " $\frac{3}{4}$  Cav" rooms left they have made arrangements for an alternative hotel at:

The Spring Hill Suites  
250 Athens Way  
Nashville, TN 37228  
Phone: 615-244-5474

**Facebook** Dave Regenthal has started a Co. F Facebook page for us. Please contact Dave, Bill Mrkvicka or me to get access. We want to keep access restricted to only LRRP/LRP/Ranger guys, no family, friends, ex-wives, etc. And we're going to keep the content relevant to Co. F. No political ramblings, please. There are numerous other avenues for that kind of social networking. We have over 35 members so far! I understand that you have to already be on Facebook to be granted access to the 25thID/LRRP/Ranger page. So get

involved and join us on Facebook. It's a great way to keep up to the minute on all things LRRP/LRP/ Co. F.

**Co. F Swag** I have had a few requests for more patches, pins, coins, decals, stickers, belt buckles, t-shirts, polo shirts, bobbleheads and other Co. F stuff. Okay, maybe not so much the bobbleheads. Marshall Huckaby is looking into ordering coins, stickers, patches and belt buckles. If you're interested in buying any of those items, you can let me know on Facebook or by email at [twalshx2@comcast.net](mailto:twalshx2@comcast.net).

I have two of the "Cassilly" F/75 polo shirts available. Both are large, one is the "patriotic" (red, white and blue collar) and the other is white. Both have the F/75 scroll. You can see an example on our Quartermaster link from the lrrp.com page. Those polos are \$37.00 a piece.

**Banner** Speaking of Marshall Huckaby. He's been very busy doing some great things for the Co. F family. He had a company near him make a Co. F banner to use at reunions and other Co. F functions. He had our guidon sent to the troops in 3/4 Cav in Afghanistan. And also sent a box of cigars to the 3/4 Cav troops over in 'Stan. They certainly appreciate both, but are really looking forward to "lighting up" one of the cigars 11/11/11 in honor of all our fallen comrades. Thank you Marshall from all of us!

**Going back to 'Nam?** A recurring theme is the question of whether anyone would be interested in going back to Vietnam. I have had a couple guys tell me they have been back and liked it. One guy has been back twice. Once much earlier and again a couple of years ago. He says he's glad he went back early, because he didn't like it nearly as much the second time. So I'll ask the question; **Is there any interest in going back?** If there is, we may be able to arrange some sort of tour or package deal. Keep in mind that the one thing everybody who has returned to Vietnam says about going back is that it ain't cheap. My personal view is that I'd rather spend my limited vacation funds closer to home. And even if I hit the Lotto my preference would be to go back to Hawaii (Aloha, Pineapple!) or the Caribbean.

**Tropic Lightning News** How long has it been since you thought about the Tropic Lightning News? I had all but forgotten about it. I remember that it used to be a welcome bit of info, albeit filtered by the 25<sup>th</sup> Division. Co. F was featured in some of the issues and thanks to Gene Tucker who sent a bunch of them to me, I can share some of those stories with you. Here's the first installment:

**December 1966**

**LRRP Action Ends in 4 VC KIA, One Distinguished Flying Cross**

Routine patrol by members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP), 3rd Sqd, 4th Cav, resulted in the death of four Viet Cong and the second award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to a "Tropic Lightning" aviator involved in the action.

The recent skirmish took place 15 miles north of the Cu Chi base camp.

"The term had moved about 200 meters west of a river bank when it spotted four Viet Cong," said 1st Lt. Gerald D. Traxler, 22, of Fresno, Calif.

Lt. Traxler, who is the executive officer of LRRP, was observing the action from a command control helicopter overhead.

After observing the four enemy for some time, the team called for extraction. As it marked the landing zone, the team received heavy automatic weapons fire from the north, south and east. Returning the fire the LRRP team killed four VC to the front.

Two of the enemy were downed with one shot from an M-16. As the hostile machine gun fire became more intense it was evident that to save the patrol members, the extraction ship would have to set down in the lead-infested landing zone. This task was assigned to Maj. Myron E. Squires, 33, of St. Petersburg, Fla.

As aircraft commander, Maj. Squires landed his ship, which had become a target of the hostile fire, and enabled the safe extraction of the patrol.

For his daring actions, which were completed without loss of personnel or equipment, Maj. Squires received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

## **September 1966 LRRPs**

### **Recon Team**

## **Stronghold Found**

The five-man reconnaissance team was dropped into a suspected Viet Cong supply area 25 miles northwest of division headquarters. Their mission was to detect and report enemy activity and strongholds in the area.

As the team sifted through the dense jungle brush, it was stopped by a sudden noise. The men took cover in time to see a man clad in black pajamas disappear into the thick foliage. No one followed.

As the team approached the spot where the fleeing man was last seen, it discovered a rifle, a two-pound packet of classified documents, some medical supplies, a North Vietnamese flag and a hat.

The team radioed their find to a nearby Special Forces camp with instructions to have the information relayed to the intelligence branch of the division. The recons collected the captured material and continued their search.

Afterward the team uncovered a large rice cache. The team paused long enough to relay the information back to division headquarters. As they neared a small clearing, they spotted a well-armed squad of Viet Cong patrolling the perimeter of its jungle rest camp. Artillery was called in, but exact results were not known for the team was ordered back to the landing zone to be evacuated from the area.

The evacuation was timely, for heavy sniper fire accompanied them back to the chopper. Within minutes of their departure, an air strike was called in and shortly afterward "Tropic Lightning" troops swarmed into the area.

## April 1966 Lady Cong Fight Too

In the United States Army, the role of women is limited largely to clerical and nursing positions. Not so simple a part awaits the woman who serves in the Viet Cong guerrilla forces in Vietnam.

For instance, men of 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, recently killed four black pajama clad VC in operation Kahala near Boi Loi Woods. One figure drew the "Tropic Lightning" soldiers' attention when they noticed the squad leader had an unusual length of hair.

Further investigation proved the squad leader was a woman. No gentle miss this one, she was carrying a 7.92 Mauser rifle.

One night the middle of this month, the 3rd platoon, Company B, 1/27th, operating 200 yards from their base camp, had set up an ambush to be sprung on 10 enemy soldiers.

The advancing VC moved within range of a Claymore mine. The subsequent explosion struck approximately half a dozen of the enemy.

The following morning, a search of the area discovered the squad leader of the ambushed force was a fresh, sweet, all Viet Cong - girl. JERRY SPICER & GENE TUCKER

**Vietnam Magazine Oct. 2011 article - LRRPs** The October, 2011 issue of Vietnam magazine has a pretty good article about LRRPs. The story is about LRRPs from the 4thID, and it's very well written by Tom Corpora, UPI and NBC news correspondent in Nam from 1966-1970. If you get a chance, take a look.

**IMPORTANT! Ischemic Heart Disease** At the 75thRRA reunion in Columbus earlier this summer Dan Nate reported that the VA has recognized that exposure to Agent Orange while in Vietnam is presumed to contribute to the development of Ischemic Heart Disease. Ischemic Heart Disease involved a reduction of blood flow and oxygen to the heart. There is usually a buildup of cholesterol and other substances, called plaque, in the arteries that bring oxygen to the heart muscle tissue. Over time, this damages and weakens the heart muscle making it difficult for the heart to fill and pump blood to the rest of the body. I urge you to go to the following website to learn more about Ischemic Heart Disease from the VA:

[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/ischemicheartdisease.asp#research](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/ischemicheartdisease.asp#research).

**Joe Cassilly named Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year by the DAV.** Co. F's own Joe Cassilly has been named Outstanding Disabled Veteran of 2011 by the DAV. We congratulate Joe on his career as Assistant State's Attorney since 1982 and decades-long commitment to fight for disabled peoples' rights.

Photo taken at the 2011 75thRRA reunion in Columbus, GA

From left to right: Joe Gentile, Cliff Lawrence, Ron Harrison, Gene Reilly, Frank Hamilton, George Timmins (kneeling), John McGee (standing), Bob Spiegel (black hat), Dennis Petersen (sitting on floor) Tim Walsh (sitting), Rick Ellison (standing) Bob Gericke, Colin Hall (kneeling), Phillip Norton, "Pineapple" Gurrobat (sitting on floor), Bobby Ethridge, Fred Stuckey, Nick Demongeot, Ted Miller (kneeling), Bobby Byrd (sitting on floor), Tom Schommer (kneeling), Bill Eberhardt (standing back row), Dan Nate, Ron Zellner, Joe Cassilly, Phil Davis (standing in back), Dave Krein, Joe Little (standing in back), Tim Rowbotham (kneeling), Ray Armstrong, Jesse Salazar (standing in back), Jeff Sandell (sitting), Mike Turner, Dave Regenthal and Francis Jarvis

**More Important Information - scam alert!** A disabled veteran friend of mine (he was in the Air Force) recently received an official-looking letter in the mail. It was in an envelop from "VA Headquarters" in San Diego, California. The letter contained directions for filling out an official-looking form asking him for some very personal insurance and household income information (salary info for him and his wife), and what really tipped him off, they also wanted his social security number. The letter contained a warning that if he didn't comply, his VA benefits might be cancelled. He called the VA here in Detroit and the guy who answered the phone told him to "tear up that letter NOW". He said that the VA would never ask for anyone's SS #, they already have that. Before my friend ripped up the letter he took a careful look at it. It was not on official VA letterhead, but it looked pretty darn close, and it was a photocopy. So please be very cautious about anything you might get in the mail from "the VA". If you have any questions, please call your local VA office before you send anybody anything of a personal nature.

**Co. F Newsletter, Fall 2011**

