



RIPCORD REPORT



For Friends and Survivors of the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord
Republic of Vietnam 12 March - 23 July, 1970

Number 103

August 2015

JERSEY RAMBLINGS

by Lee Widjeskog A/2-506



Some of you may have noticed that in the last edition of our newsletter there were no "Ramblings". We just ran out of space once we had included all that was necessary. Part of that "necessary" was the Bylaws. I hope everyone has taken time to review the Bylaws we have put together for our organization. This was done as part of the process of incorporating the Ripcord Association to protect the meager assets of the organization as well as the people within the organization. It allows the Ripcord Association to take possession of items such as movie rights, DVD's and other items if offered. Before this the flags and guidons, though purchased by the Association, belonged to no one except whomever has them. Presently we own the following; one 2TB external hard drive, photo backdrop & stands, 1 laminator, a 22" JVC television with built in DVD player, a full set of flags, guidons, poles and stands and three easels. Not a lot, but necessary to put on the reunion and get out the newsletter.

In the Bylaws you see there is a slot for President, Vice-President, and Secretary/treasurer. To start with, at this time the following are in Acting slots: President: Peter Meloro (C 2/506), Vice-president: Frank Marshall (A 2/506) and Secretary /Treasurer: Lee Widjeskog (A 2/506). These slots will need to be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held this year in Springfield, MO.

The present board of directors consists of Lee

Widjeskog, Frank Marshall and Peter Meloro. Each year at the annual meeting, those positions that need filling will be done by a vote of the members present at the Annual meeting held on the day of the reunion banquet. Anyone wishing to run for any of these offices, contact Frank or me on the website, call or write.

That's the status of our organization right now. Financially we ended last year with a balance of \$42,671.26. Annually our expenses for the newsletter and website amounted to \$1,296.22. There are other miscellaneous costs in postage, putting on the annual reunion, the year book, shirts and hats etc. When all is said and done, we break even or make a few dollars. This is due to the generosity of the donations we receive and the money the Ripcord Ladies generate each year with the Chinese Auction.

Well, that's it from Jersey for now. Kathy and I are gathering gear in preparation for our trip to Springfield. Get your room reservations and reunion reservations in so we can plan well for the event. If you know a Ripcord veteran who has not attended and would like to but cannot due to finances, contact me and we will see what can be done. We have money available for those less fortunate to cover their room and registration if they can get there. Only my wife and I know who the organization pays for and we do not tell anyone. So let us know if there is a fellow in your unit who wants to come but just can't dig up the dough. We want everyone to get a chance to attend at least once!

Enjoy the warm weather, 'cause winter is here before you know it!

**2015 Ripcord Reunion
Oct 7 thru 10, 2015 Springfield, MO
Registration form on page 12 and on our website**

Make your reservation for the Reunion NOW!

Hotel Reservations

UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL &
CONVENTION CENTER
333 John Q. Hammons Parkway
Springfield, Missouri 65806

417-864-7333 (Ask for Hotel Reservations)

Refer to Group code: RIPCORD

Group Room Rate:

\$82 per day (King or 2 double beds) +16.46% tax

\$114 per day for King Suites + 16.46% tax

Ripcord meets from Wed. Oct 7 – Sat. Oct. 10

A Credit Card Number is required

to guarantee this reservation.

Call by September 5, 2015.



Visit our website at
www.ripcordassociation.com

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Please continue to send your letters and
comments to: frank@ripcordassociation.com
Everyone would love to hear from you.

Opinions expressed in submitted material are not necessarily
those of the editorial staff. We reserve the right to reject any
material deemed to be inappropriate. We also reserve the
right to edit all submissions, but we will make every effort to
maintain the writer's concept and meaning. Please be brief
and concise.

Update on the new Ripcord Book



“Remembering Firebase Ripcord”

“Remembering Firebase Ripcord” is in the process of being published and should be ready prior to the reunion. Stay tuned for information on how you can pre-order a copy. Copies ordered through the Ripcord Association will feature a portion of proceeds going to the association.

If all goes as planned, orders will be taken prior to the reunion and copies made available at the reunion. Chris Brady will be on hand to discuss the project with those interested.

Currently the book is over 420 pages and features interviews with over 200 Ripcord veterans. This project features the memories of those who were there. Less a historical narrative, it reflects the memories and activities of everyone from officers to those who humped the hills surrounding Ripcord and served in the artillery batteries on the firebase.



RIPCORD REPORT

Ripcord Report is a publication of the **Ripcord Association**, and is the authoritative voice of history for the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord.

Ripcord Report
www.ripcordassociation.com

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Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Chritchlow



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ripcordassociation/>



Summer is sure going fast. The wife and I are looking forward to this year's reunion. We are planning to bring some Idaho wines for Friday's silent auction.

Today is the 6th of august. We now have 515 members in our Face Book page. Thanks to all members of our FB page. You are the people that make our page interesting. Keep the comments and pictures coming? If you have any one you think would like to know our page please tell them to join.

Dennise and I will be driving to Springfield. I like a nice road trip. Just hoping for no snow on I 70 when we go through Colorado. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone in October. See you there. Be safe.

Anna Britt Nolan Trust

by George and Mary Murphy



It's hard to believe another year has flown by and Anna Britt Nolan is another year older and another year closer to going to college. She finished her first year of high school with awards in Science, Math and English (for her writing). Keith would undoubtedly be proud to see that his daughter shares his interest in writing.

Once again we will be having a raffle at the reunion for the Anna Britt Nolan Trust Fund. Donations of items for the raffle will be greatly appreciated so we can continue to watch this Trust Fund grow.

See you soon in Missouri!

The address where donations may be sent for the trust fund is:

Anna Britt Nolan Trust

c/o First Bank

**6211 Mid Rivers Mall Drive
Saint Charles, MO 63304-1102**

Donations

the life blood of our Association

The following have given donations to the Ripcord Association since the last newsletter. These donations help keep the website and newsletters published to keep all our Ripcord members up to date.

Dale Tauer D/1-506

Dave Fishlock E 2/501

Bill Combs A 159 AHB

Wilburn Wall C 2/501

Bill Williams B 2/506

Bill Hand B 2/506

Bill Helvey A 2/506

Ralph H. Forbes 2/94 FA

*In memory of Paul Kosanke & Willie Austin
FSB Barbara 29 April 1970.*

Dave Corradetti C 2/506

In memory of Steve L. Steward C 2/506 6 April 1970

Joe Minia C 2/506

In memory of Patrick A. Martin

Audrey Wrightsell A 2/11 FA

In memory of brother Sgt. David E. (Big Jim) Johnson A 2/11 FA 21 July 1970

Checks payable to "Ripcord Association".

Mail to:

Lee Widjeskog,

493 Stillman Ave.

Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Our members enjoy reading letters to the Editors, so why not take a few minutes and send us a letter to let other members know about you, your thoughts about the Ripcord Association, our reunions or anything you like to share.

Send your letters to: frank@ripcordassociation.com

2015 Springfield reunion Signups

David & Sophia Kenyon 326 ENG	Rudy & Linda Forsman D 2/506
Bob Tarbuck & Paige Corkhill C 2/506	Russ & Maryann Dixon 2/319 FA
Terry Stanger 159 ASHB	Tommy and Judy Counts D 2/506
George & Mary Murphy B 2/320 FA	Lisa Hill Guest
Al & Sondra Martin A 2/11 FA	Merle & Ruth DeLagrange D 1/506
Dave & Lisa Snyder A 2/11 FA	Bob Leibecke C 2/506
Tex Campbell D 2/506	Joseph & Marion Minias C 2/506
Jim & Michelle McCoy D 1/506	Dave & Cheryl Corradetti C 2/506
Bob & Red Judd B 2/506	Ben & Lillian Peters B 2/506
Lee & Kathy Widjeskog A 2/506	Mark & Denise Skinner D 2/506
Ken & Connie Miller 3rd Bde Air	Robin Graham & Sheryl Washburn HHC 2/506
George & Sheila Potts B 2/319 FA	Ken & Maryann David D 1/506
Mike & Liz Womack C 2/506	Paul & Laura Hansmann B 2/506
George & Sheila Potts B 2/319 FA	Bill, Pam & Adam Baldwin A 2/506
David & Linda Yonts A 2/506	Bob & Jackie Wallace C 2/506
David & Wendy Yonts guests	Rick & Betty Kellogg B 2/506
Anthony & Denise Critchlow HHC 2/506	Audrey Wrightsell A 2/11 FA
John & Kathy Williams Guests	Bob Romig D&E 2/506
Don & Rich Kiefer A 2/506	John & Annette Kuennen C 2/506
Dale & Sue Cooper C 2/506	Bruce & Jennifer Whipple E 2/506
Bill Boles D 2/506	Troy & Barbara Porter C 2/506 & 3rd BDE Air
Bob & Mabel Lemon C 2/506	Kent Rowland D 2/506
Uwe & Diane Meyer B 2/506	Donald & Linda Holthausen C 2/506
Bruce & Chris Brady A 2/506	Ron & Linda McCroy E 2/506
Tim Bohan Pathfinder	Leonard & Carol Moore 3rd BDE Air
Daniel Bohan Pathfinder	Fred & Micki Spaulding HHC 3rd BDE
Chuck & Jean Holman A 159 AVN	Gene & Star Marshall B 2/319 FA
Doug & Iris Puffer D 2/506	Andy Hegedus C 2/506
Lee & Debra Tremblay 3rd Bde Air	Rex & Carol Flansburg D 2/506
Ben & Carolyn Harrison 3rd BDE	Mike & Cathy Chiarelli B 2/506
Polly Atkins Guest	Bob & Janice Counts A 2/506
Murphy & Phylis Majoria Guest	Bill & Lynn Hand B 2/506
Floyd & Diane Alexander 2/319 FA & A 2/506	John & Debbie Fowler C 2/506
John & Barbara Hedrick E 2/506 Mortars	Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld 326 ENG
Paul Buhr A 2/506	Billy & Margaret Helvey A 2/506

Visit our website for updates for new updates of who registered
www.ripcordassociation.com

Ripcord Casualty update

138 Americans KIA

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the accurate number of casualties that occurred during March 12, 1970 and July 23, 1970 defending Firebase Ripcord, I have done a lot of research and spoke with a lot of members from different units. There were a total of 564 Americans died in I Corp between Mar 12 and July 23, 1970 from all branches of service. I researched each name one by one and locating their branch, their unit and if they were involved in Operation Texas Star. Then narrowed the search to those directly involved with Ripcord which tends to be 138 Americans killed.

My search of Operation Texas Star KIA (excluding the Ripcord KIA on my list) has another 252 Americans KIA **which still has to be verified**. Ripcord was part of the Texas Star operation and other battles that took place on other firebases should have and deserve to have their own recognition as part of Operation Texas Star.

The bulk of the Ripcord casualties incurred were under the operational control of Lt. Col. Lucas, the 2/506th battalion commander, when they were killed. The remaining casualties incurred were aviators supporting the Ripcord battle and those men from Otis Livingston's battalion who died in the battle while under the operational control of Ben Harrison during the month of July 1970.

PLEASE understand that if anyone has a specific soldier who they think belongs on the list, they need to contact me by ASAP to further discuss the issue about that particular soldier. I will do my best to correct any issues you may have. *My e-mail is frank@ripcordassociation.com or call Frank Marshall or Lee Widjeskog.*

DATE	NAME		grid	NOTES
3/12/1970	HEATER DANIEL NEIL	A 2 506	343194	1st Assault
3/12/1970	DAVIS DUDLEY	A 2 506	343194	1st Assault
3/12/1970	SHANOR GERALD DELMAR	C 2 506	419247	YD-419247
3/16/1970	STANLEY JAMES STEVEN	C 2 506	394244	YD 394244
3/26/1970	SHELL MARVIN	B 2 506	367178	YD367178 on patrol
3/31/1970	HAYES HARRY ELLIS	B 2 506	368162	YD368162
3/31/1970	TAPP NEWTON LEE	B 2 506	368162	YD368162
3/31/1970	SHRINER THOMAS JOHN	B 2 506	368162	YD368162
4/1/1970	SWAIN MILTON TRUMAN	B 326 ENG	343194	Ripcord assault
4/1/1970	WALL WILLIAM PENN III	B 2-319 ARTY	343194	FO with B 2nd Bn, 506th
4/1/1970	RATCLIFF TERRY WARD	B 2 506	343194	Ripcord assault
4/1/1970	RAGSDALE DONALD RAY O	B 2 506	343194	Ripcord assault Pathfinder
4/1/1970	HEIMARK DON RAY	B 2 506	343194	Ripcord assault
4/1/1970	UNDERDOWN G MICHAEL	B 2 506	343194	Ripcord assault
4/1/1970	BARNETT CARL EUGENE	B 2 506	343194	Ripcord assault
4/1/1970	MILLER JAMES CALVIN	C 2 319	343194	Ripcord assault
4/3/1970	WILSON JOHN WILLIAM	B 2 506	344194	YD344194
4/6/1970	STEWARD STEVE LEE	C 2 506	339191	YD339191
4/6/1970	GOODSON CARL BRADFORD	C 2 506	339191	YD339191
4/6/1970	CHRISTMAN LAWRENCE PAUL	C 2 506	339191	YD339191
4/8/1970	OSBORN LYNN ARTHUR	D 2 506	350187	YD350187 friendly fire
4/9/1970	SELMAN CHARLES GEORGE	B 2 501	368163	YD368163 Re-up Hill
4/9/1970	NELSON LEROY	B 2 501	368163	YD368163 Re-up Hill
4/9/1970	MACE JAMES DOYLE	B 2 501	368163	YD368163 Re-up Hill
4/9/1970	CLAY HERMAN ALLEN JR	B 2 501	368163	YD368163 Re-up Hill
4/10/1970	SISTRUNK DONALD WAYNE	B 2 501	368163	YD368163 Re-up Hill
4/15/1970	DAFLER DEAN BLAIN	A 2 506	480145	YD-480145
4/15/1970	STEFFLER CHARLES ERVIN	A 2 506	480145	YD-480145
4/15/1970	YOUNG BOBBY ARTHUR	A 2 506	480145	YD-480145
4/16/1970	HEINZ DENNIS RALPH	C 2 506	343194	Ripcord

4/17/1970	PEERY NORMAN DOUGLAS	B	2	501	368163	YD362166 Re-Up Hill
4/18/1970	VAGNONE MICHAEL JOHN	A	2	501	362164	YD362164 supporting 2/506
4/18/1970	DANGBERG ROBERT LEE	A	2	501	362164	YD362164 supporting 2/506
4/19/1970	FREY DEAN LEE	A	2	501	363164	YD363164
4/19/1970	JOSEPH JEFFREY JOEL	B	2	501	368163	YD373162 Re up Hill
4/19/1970	JARRETT JAMES DALE	B	2	501	368163	YD373162 Re up Hill
4/23/1970	WORLEY GARRY LEE	A	2	501	362165	YD362165
4/23/1970	NICKS BENJAMIN ARNOLD III	E	2	501	382157	YD382157
4/28/1970	SUSI RAYMOND PETER	E	2	506	343194	Helo crash
4/29/1970	BERNER EDGAR DAVIDSON	HHC	101st AHB	367162	YD367162	
4/29/1970	KLAVES JEFFREY JOHN	HHC	101st AHB	367162	YD367162	
4/30/1970	STATON DAVID WALDEN	B TRP	2/17th CAV	474144	Hit by RPG	
4/30/1970	SENSING JOHN LESLIE	B TRP	2/17th CAV	474144	Hit by RPG	
4/30/1970	MASSETH ROBERT EUGENE	B TRP	2/17th CAV	474144	Hit by RPG	
5/8/1970	HUBERTY DAVID JEROME	HHC	3rd BDE	362148	YD362148	
5/11/1970	MILBURN ALBERT	D	2	506	351148	YD351148
5/14/1970	LOWE ROBERT ERNEST	A	2	506	362147	YD362147
5/16/1970	MAUNHEY GERALD CLINTON	A	2	506	362147	YD362147 WIA 5/14
5/18/1970	SAUNDERS NICHOLAS GABRIEL	C	158th AHB	296161	Helo disappeared resupplying	
5/18/1970	COLE ROBERT KENNETH	C	158th AHB	296161	Helo disappeared resupplying	
5/18/1970	GRAY CARLTON COE	C	158th AHB	296161	Helo disappeared resupplying	
5/18/1970	STONE HARRY JAMES	HHC	2 506	296161	Helo disappeared resupplying	
5/18/1970	DARLING JOHN EDWARD JR	HHC	2 506	296161	Helo disappeared resupplying	
5/26/1970	JOHNSON DAVID KEITH	326 MED	Eagle Dust Off	331217	medivac for YD338170	
5/26/1970	HAWKINS WILLIAM EDWARD	326 MED	Eagle Dust Off	331217	medivac for YD338170	
5/26/1970	O BRIEN EDWARD TERRY	326 MED	Eagle Dust Off	331217	medivac for YD338170	
5/26/1970	GRAHAM BRUCE ELLIOT	326 MED	Eagle Dust Off	331217	medivac for YD338170	
6/3/1970	NORRIS WIELAND CLYDE	A	2	506	340192	YD340192,
6/5/1970	RICHARDSON CHARLES A	B	2	17th CAV	343194	supporting infantry unit
6/5/1970	HOVEY VERNON FLETCHER III	B	2	17th CAV	343194	supporting infantry unit
6/8/1970	SMITH WINFRED LEE	A	2	506	347177	WIA June 7
7/2/1970	RADCLIFF ROBERT PAUL JR	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	HARBER STEPHEN JAMES	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	ZOLLER ROBERT WILLIAM II	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	LENZ LEE NEWLUN	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	HEWITT THOMAS THEODORE	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	HERNDON THOMAS HAYDEN	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	SUMRALL ROGER DALE	C	2	506	337172	Hill 902
7/2/1970	CONRADY RICHARD JOHN	HHC	2 506	337172	Hill 902	
7/3/1970	UTECHT ROBERT STEPHEN	B	2	506	360180	YD360180
7/4/1970	RAY WILLIAM CLAYTON	58TH INF			SCOUT DOG Handler with 2/501	Hill 902
7/4/1970	SULLIVAN WILLIAM LEE	C	2	501	337172	Ridge SE from Hill 902, vic.
7/4/1970	ROBINSON JIMMIE LEE	C	2	501	337172	Ridge SE from Hill 902, vic.
7/4/1970	MICKENS CARL LAWRENCE	C	2	501	337172	Ridge SE from Hill 902, vic.
7/4/1970	THADEN GARY DENNIS	C	2	501	337172	Ridge SE from Hill 902, vic.
7/5/1970	WAYMIRE MICHAEL KARL	HHC	2 501	343194	YD 343194	
7/6/1970	PORTER SANDY HILLY	B	1	506		teamed up with D/2-506
7/7/1970	RISINGER GERALD LEE	C	2	506	334221	YD334221
7/7/1970	HOWARD LEWIS JR	D	2	506	334194	Hill 1000
7/7/1970	GRIMM MICHAEL JOSEPH	D	2	506	334194	Hill 1000
7/7/1970	BEALS CHARLES ELBERT	D	2	506	334194	Hill 1000
7/8/1970	SCOTT RICKY LEROY	C	2	506	334194	Hill 1000
7/8/1970	HUPP JAMES EARL	C	2	506	334194	Hill 1000
7/9/1970	WILLIAMS TERRY EUGENE	E	2	501	343194	Non-hostile causes, at Ripcord

7/10/1970	RAYMOND FREDRICK CAROL JR	A	2/11th ARTY	343194	Ripcord
7/10/1970	DE FOOR VICTOR LEE	B	2	506	343194
7/10/1970	JOHNSON ROY ALBERT	E	2	506	343194
7/10/1970	BOHAN PATRICK JOHN		PATHFINDER	343194	Ripcord
7/14/1970	HUFFINE DENNIS WILLARD	B	2	501	326192
7/14/1970	PALM TERRY ALAN	D	2	501	362187
7/14/1970	GUIMOND PAUL GERALD	D	2	501	362187
7/14/1970	SCHNEIDER GARY LEE	D	2	501	362187
7/14/1970	UTTER KEITH EDWARD	D	2	501	362187
7/14/1970	JONES WILLIAM EDWARD	D	2	501	362187
7/14/1970	HEMBREE JAMES THOMAS JR	D	2	501	362187
7/14/1970	KEISTER JOHN LOY	D	2	501	362187
7/16/1970	TIMMONS RICHARD RUSSELL	A	2	501	West of Triple Hill vic.
7/18/1970	WALKER MICHAEL ALLEN	A	159th AHB	343194	Shinook shot down
7/18/1970	MILLER BURKE HOLBROOK	A	2	11th ARTY	343194
7/18/1970	BEYL DAVID ROBERT	D	2	501	334194
7/18/1970	ROLLASON WILLIAM DAVID	D	2	501	343194
7/20/1970	PLETT LARRY JOE	B	2	319 ARTY	343194
7/20/1970	FISHER DENNIS FAY	B	326TH ENG	343194	Ripcord
7/20/1970	CALHOON DURL GENE	B	326TH ENG	343194	Ripcord
7/20/1970	KNOTT JOHN CHARLES	D	1	506	376189
7/20/1970	BROWNING BILL GWINN	D	1	506	376189
7/20/1970	DE WULF PATRICK THOMAS	D	1	506	376189
7/20/1970	VALLE ELOY RUBEN	D	1	506	376189
7/21/1970	LAW BRENT ROBIN		326 MED	Eagle Dust Off	353177
7/21/1970	JOHNSON DAVID EARL	A	2	11th ARTY	343194
7/21/1970	KALSU JAMES ROBERT	A	2	11th ARTY	343194
7/21/1970	MCDOWELL LARRY J	B	2	506	
7/21/1970	FLORES ROBERTO C	B	2	506	343194
7/21/1970	MAUNE FRANCIS EDWARD	B	2	506	343194
7/21/1970	SCHULTZ RONALD JAMES	D	1	506	
7/21/1970	WORKMAN DONALD RENAY	D	1	506	376192
7/21/1970	HAYS ROBERT BRADFORD	D	1	506	376192
7/21/1970	ASHER FRANK LOUIS	D	1	506	376192
7/21/1970	HUK PETER PAUL	D	1	506	376192
7/22/1970	FRIES DANNY JOE	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	SPRUILL OVELL	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	JOURNELL ROBERT MASON III	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	BIXBY VIRGIL MARTIN	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	DRAPER MARK GREGORY	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	PAHISSA WILLIAM ANTHONY	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	SCHULTZ THOMAS RUSSELL	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	SINGLETON GERALD BLAINE	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	KRECKEL JOHN WILLIAM	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	BROWN ROBERT JOSEPH JR	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	BABICH JOHN MICHAEL	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	SEVERSON DONALD JON	A	2	506	353177
7/22/1970	OLSON STEVEN ALLAN	B	2/319 ARTY	353177	YD353177 A co / FO
7/22/1970	DIEHL STANLEY GENE	D	2	506	343194
7/23/1970	NEAL HARVEY RAY	A	2	506	Ripcord remains removed Aug 5
7/23/1970	ALLEN GUS	A	2	506	Ripcord Patrol
7/23/1970	WARNER WILFRED WESLEY JR	D	2	501	Ripcord Mortar attack
7/23/1970	TANNER KENNETH PAUL	HHC	2/506	343194	Ripcord Hill 805
7/23/1970	LUCAS ANDRE CAVARO	HHC	2/506	343194	Ripcord Mortar attack

INCOMING MAIL

Frank,

As you know July 22 is my birthday. To each of us that is a special day if only because it signifies when we got our start in this world. In 1970, July 22 was a significant day for many members of Alpha Company 2/506. After days in the jungle, this was the day we were originally scheduled for a re-supply. First platoon left our NDP around 8 or 9 AM to blaze a trail to the LZ that laid west of our position for the resupply. Word came down from Lt. Col. Lucas that we should instead move to the north and be extracted from the field. By the time 1st got back to the NDP it was 1PM and now 2nd would lead the way.

From my point of view and as I remember, I was thinking of only two things (1) It was my birthday and (2) with resupply would be mail which was always a high light of any day. Those were still my thoughts until we were told to head north. Then it was extraction and mail. I do not remember being aware that all the other line companies with the exception of Bravo on Ripcord had been removed to Camp Evans. I started the day anticipating maybe getting a letter in the mail or at least some Tastycake Krimpets!

The day I turned 24 I had 75 members of the A 2/506 infantry company to share my event! It looked like we would all take helicopter rides as part of the celebration and return to Camp Evans where we could relax in some semblance of comfort. However, this plan like many others went awry when hundreds of unexpected party crashers showed up as we walked towards the helicopter pick up point. This caused an immediate change in plans since we felt we just did not have enough supplies for all these new people. They appeared to be upset as we tried to persuade them not to join us. They rapidly let us know they were not happy with our decision. Since I thought I was the guest of honor (probably not really the case, but when it is your birthday you think everything revolves around you) I was not surprised to see these new guests tossing "potato mashers" and packages wrapped in brown paper with strips of bamboo and smoldering fuses. What was surprising was that all the "gifts" blew apart and left little for me to find if pieces did not get stuck in me or some of my friends. These explosions were quickly followed by rifle and machinegun fire, mortars and rocket propelled grenades.

Since I was certain my birthday was important to all, it took me some time to figure these party crashers were

not there to congratulate me but were there to make it my last birthday! Luckily my fellow soldiers in Alpha Company were quite incensed that the party crashers should be trying to end my days and they decided to return fire and throw presents of their own at the crashers. For the next 5 or 6 hours the party crashers and my friends from Alpha Company went back and forth trying to get the upper hand and run the party. Finally, Chuck Hawkins, our company commander, decided "Enough is enough" and called in artillery, Cobra gunships and F-4 Phantom jets to make the crashers leave. The crashers were finally persuaded to leave after a 250 pound bomb landed amidst their numbers. The party crashers left but by then it was getting dark and too late to take the promised helicopter ride. Plus by this time, most of us were exhausted from all the effort we used in chasing off the unwanted interlopers.

To make up for the lack of the rides during the day Captain Hawkins spared no expense in having aircraft fly over us all night dropping pretty white flares from the sky above us. While these light were quite beautiful it made it hard to sleep and most of my friends were unable to sleep before dawn. But no sooner did we sleep when who shows up but Delta 2/506 and their shotgun toting officers. They had heard we were unable to get the promised helicopter ride on my birthday. Thinking that such a happening was quite unfair, they decide to come join us and help construct a landing zone at our site. With that done we soon got the promised helicopter ride to Camp Evans.

I never had the chance before, but I would like to thank all the guys in Alpha Company for helping me celebrate my 24 birthday by allowing me to go at least one more year! Also, a big "Thank You" to Delta Company for helping all of us to finally get that helicopter ride we had planned to take the day before!

Lee Widjeskog

Second Platoon

A 2/506

In Search of:

My uncle Gordon Bryon Quackenbush was assigned to the third Brigade 101st Airborne Division during the battle of fire support base Ripcord. Do you have any information concerning him or his service during this battle?

Sandy Lawrence

sandy.lawrence1@att.net

INCOMING MAIL

Dear Frank,

Please send me the Ripcord News on a regular basis via "Snail Mail". My name was dropped from the web site membership. Please add my name again.

I wondered if you all know anything about Chuck Holman from A/159. He was rescued off Ripcord July 22, 1970 along with a few other of our guys.

Forgive my poor writing, last 10 years have been hit with MG, Bells Palsey and a stroke ... Oh! And getting older!

Take care guys!

William Combs,
A/159 Armorer
Feb70 – Jan 71.

(Ed.note: We put him in contact with Holman!)

~~~~~  
Dear all veterans of Ripcord.

I was so glad when I met Mr Gary Radford my platoon sergeant D co 2/506 at Hue on 4th June, we had memories beautiful and I wish would see each other and with all veterans of batallion 2/506 especially Lt James Mcall my platoon leader D co, S5 chief and Steve Gunn, good healthy to you and all veterans

Nguyenthuyet Nguyenthuyet  
nguyenthuyet1947@gmail.com

### New Members Mail

I took my Abn Inf Tng at Ft. Gordon, Ga., in 7/69 to 9/69. I served a year with the 25th Inf Div and also took a team into Cambodia on several occasions. I extended my tour from 12/70 to 06/71. My Unit (2nd Bdg/2/bn 27th Inf ("Wolfhounds) stood down while on leave. I was assigned to the 101st Abn Div at Camp Evans attached to the 3rd Bde/506 Inf. I was a team leader of a 5-man tracker team and two dog handlers and dogs (a scout dog and a tracker dog named "Booger-bear") I am proud to be an associate member of the Ripcord Association because of its history and because of a close and good home-town buddy, Bruce McCorkle.

James Chaney  
66th Inf Plt Cbt Tracker-25th ID

I would like the family of Capt. David Rich to know that he was a great person. I am very proud to have served under him I'm very sorry to hear that he passed.

*Vito Stabile*

*B/2-319th Arty*

~~~~~  
I was one of the pilots taking guys off the hill. I had been there many times on re supply missions.

Jeffrey Lacey

101 Airborne, C Company, Blackwidows

~~~~~  
I flew many Ch47 sorties into Ripcord and was part of the evacuation of Ripcord. Lately I've been thinking a lot about Vietnam and more specifically Ripcord. I recognize John Balkanol & Ireland's name from my unit.

*Frank Bernard*

*C/159th ASHB*

### Veterans Healing Net

*When Katherine and I retired in '13 we quickly became bored and decided to network on behalf of veterans. We're having more fun than we ever thought. We're discovering creative ways to engage veterans and their spouses.*

### Services

We have attended some large gatherings of people involved in personal growth. Everyone has a fond spot for veterans and almost everyone asks – what can I do? In many cases we have been able to network support based on what they care about. For example, we found a dentist who will work on indigent vets free in Allegan County, a kinesiologist who want to turn on muscles for amputees and a chiropractor who wants to volunteer at the VA. One woman will give a free aroma-therapy healing session to vets in West Michigan. Three of them are non-veterans.

We are particularly interested in people who offer their services more widely than locally. For example there is a woman in Los Angeles who does one-session trauma healing, either in person or over the phone. Katherine had a sample and thinks we should put her *(continued next page)*

to the test. The idea is for a vet to work with her (\$75 cut rate for vets) and a buddy works free. Do you know another guy who would want to check out her claim? We have been energized by Landmark Education – Live the Life you Love. We just learned that tuition is paid by the VA. Don't yet know eligibility requirements or how to apply, but if you want more info on the program or how to get the scholarship. Let us know.

### **Networking Needs**

A vet from Company C 1/506 came to visit recently and we were concerned by his insistence to talk about horrible things that happened in Vietnam. Here we are, all these years later, and he is stuck like glue in the “back then”. He really needs to tell his story with someone who wants to listen. The reunions are a great way to start this process for those who will attend. We meet many vets of all eras who aren't interested in reunions, yet are isolated and really need to connect with other vets. How can we put guys together so they can tell their story, be heard and become ready to move forward? Are you someone who could be a phone buddy?

### **Veterans Creating New Futures**

Jeff and I have been fortunate to be in a really cool online discussion group. The leader suggested a project called “Veterans Creating New Futures”. A vet is matched with a “committed listener” who conducts a guided conversation designed to cause a shift from stuck, to seeing possibility where none was seen before. This isn't therapy and it's not past-based. In one free phone conversation a pesky issue of today that looks insoluble is shifted. In the process, the vet learns a new skill that can be done with anyone. We had a very unhappy vet join us when we were learning how to do this and it is like magic when the shift occurs. It's easy. It's free and the potential is huge for vets. Let us know if you'd like to have one of these conversations and then let us know how it goes and if you see value for vets? Maybe you'd like to be a “committed listener” and create magic for others? You can check out the Facebook page Veterans Creating New Futures. It's just getting going.

### **Salons**

Jeff is building the local vet community. We're finding that a lot of vets aren't too excited about joining something, attending meetings to discuss stuff they're not interested in. We have been to several salons in the last year where people get together to discuss a particular topic just for the fun of it. It's a guided conversation where everyone gets to say something. The purpose is to have fun and build community. This month Jeff and

a vet buddy are hosting their first vet salon. Based on some recent articles where vets say they don't want to be thanked, the topic is “Thank you for your service”. There's enough meat that vets can talk and get to know each other without going down the old paths of what it was like in the service. Let us know if you'd like more info.

A wife Katherine met at a Company C reunion has reached out to see how spouses could be brought together at their next reunion. Given the interest of spouses to talk at last year's reunion Katherine would like to hear if spouses would be interested in a salon at the Ripcord reunion? A possible topic is “What's great about living with a vet?” Other topics? Let her know your thoughts.

### **Social Networking**

We're just catching up with social networking. Please let me know if you're doing service work or hear how people are supporting vets and I'll post on my Facebook page (West Michigan Veterans) and my webpage.

Katherine has been collecting therapies and tips for dealing with PTS. If you've heard of some treatments or life-style changes that have worked for you, neat links, or anything else useful let her know so she can post on Facebook – Veteran Healing Network and webpage [vthealing.net](http://vthealing.net). Also please like these pages and follow.

We're looking forward to seeing you in Missouri in October..

*Jeff and Katherine Wilcox*

*Jeff Wilcox - jeff@jeffwilcox.com*

*Katherine Wilcox – comments@vthealing.net*

### **Ripcord Association Newest members**

|             |         |                   |
|-------------|---------|-------------------|
| Chaney      | James   | Associate Member  |
| Lombardi    | Gene    | A/2-506           |
| Stabile     | Vito    | B/2-319 Arty      |
| Bernard     | Frank   | C/159th ASHB      |
| Tatum       | Herbert | C/2-506           |
| Lacey       | Jeffrey | C/101 AVN         |
| Blackwidows | Rich    | Associate Member  |
| Pozniakoff  | Robin   | Associate Member  |
| Rowe        | William | C/101 Blackwidows |
| Babcock     | James   | Associate Member  |
| Prieto      | Karen   | Associate Member  |
| Caballero   | Vencet  | Associate Member  |
| Joice       | Jim     | 1/506 Recon       |
| Bauer       | Jim     | 101 Avn           |
| Fairley     | Gerald  | C/158 Avn         |

## 2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Ripcord Shoot

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual FSB Ripcord shoot was held at the Langhorne Rod and Gun Club in Holland, PA. Two years ago the club members decided they wanted to hold a July shoot using the M-16 caliber and style semi-automatic rifles commemorating a battle in July in Vietnam. When they googled it on the computer up sprang The Battle of FSB Ripcord. They never hear of it before, but one of their members who had married Frank Marshall's sister had heard of it and told them to talk to Frank. They were surprised about the battle that hardly anyone had heard of being so big. Thus was born the annual FSB Ripcord Shoot.

Each year they have made a donation to our association from money taken in at the shoot. This year there were 9 Four person teams. They fire at targets and are limited to 240 rounds. There is also a time limit so you cannot spend a lot of time slowly aiming. The maximum score for a team is 720 points and this years winner tallied 650 points. The winning team was a family, consisting of Mom, Dad and two sons. They did not wear lots of gear, but they knew how to shoot! All shooters did well but the family was best by quite a few points. Kathy and I enjoyed our visit and before we left, Jay Wetherby, one of my Sergeants from A 2/506, dropped by to say "Hi!". It was a great day with nice weather and many appreciative people.



The range setup



Team Shooting



Shooters on the range



The winners  
The Frey family, Craig, Denise, Jason and Jesse.

# RIPCORD REUNION 2015 SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

Yes, I'll be there!

I have not attended a Reunion since 1997 and have not received a Ripcord Coin.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT IN 'NAM \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Will a family member(s) be attending? If yes what are their names? (For name tag purposes only).

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

THE HOTEL PROVIDES FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT.

Registration fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for #\_\_\_\_\_ Adults and #\_\_\_\_\_ children under 18.  
\$35 for children under 18. For adults see discounts below !

## DISCOUNTS FOR EARLY REGISTRATION:

**Before June 30, 2015, \$75 per adult**

**July 1 through 31, 2015 \$80 per adult,**

**August 1 through September 6, 2015 \$85 per adult.**

**After September 6, 2015 \$90 per adult.**

Your registration fee covers the cost of the snacks, beverages, hot hors doers on Friday night and dinner on Saturday.

**Registration fee due no later than October 1, 2015.**

Make your check payable to "RIPCORD ASSOCIATION"

Mail your check with this form to:

Lee Widjeskog, 493 Stillman Ave., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

Questions? Call Lee at 856-451-1108 before 1 October 2015. (After call 609-774-6951)

## AGENDA

**Wednesday, October 7:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)

**Thursday, October 8:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)

**Friday, October 9:** Hospitality 1200 Hours. Ladies raffle 1800 hours (6PM)

**Saturday, October 10:** Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room.

Dinner with cash bar starting at 1700 hours done by 2200 hours.

**Sunday, October 11:** Homeward bound

Thursday golf outing (a separate fee). Check if you will play [ ].

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPERATELY**

**BY September 5, 2015**

**CALL 417-864-7333**

Ask for HOTEL RESERVATIONS and mentions the

**GROUP CODE: RIPCORD**

(Price is \$82 per night plus tax: breakfast is included.)