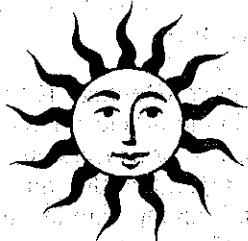


# RIPCORD REPORT

For friends and survivors of Fire Support Base  
Ripcord, 12 Mar.-23 July 1970.

No. 41 ..... Nov. 1995

## Colorado Reunion Turns Out Record Number of Ripcord Veterans



*Battle, memorial service featured on local television news broadcast.*

GOLDEN, Colo. (19-23 July 1995)--There was enough beer, but just barely, for the 50-plus veterans and their family and friends who showed up for the 1995 reunion in Golden Colorado. When the beer-o-meter in the bathtub in the hospitality suite at the Ramada Inn showed near empty, someone, somehow, always managed to refuel and restock before things reached crisis proportions.

But the five days of fellowship--making new friends and seeing old comrades--was not lost in an alcoholic haze. Other events filled the days and nights. Food, and there was plenty, day trips and night excursions gave added enjoyment to the Vietnam veterans who gathered on the 25th anniversary of the battle they had fought in the jungles of northern I Corps military zone.

The nearby Colorado Rockies beckoned to some, who spent a day touring Rocky Mountain National Park. (There was sleet at 11,000 feet, and six-foot snow drifts lay alongside the narrow roadway, reminders of the tough winter months not so recently past.)

The amusements of Central City, a restored frontier town, tourist attraction and gambling resort, provided an afternoon and evening's worth of entertainment. The best bet, by far, was a prime rib dinner for \$2.99.

World War II vet Charlie Devlin made a welcome appearance. Since jumping into Normandy with the 502d on the night of 5-6 June 1944, Charlie has

become (among other things) a bit of a hustler on the golf course. This testimony from the other three of the foursome who had to learn by experience for themselves.

Fred Spaulding, the assistant operations officer for air operations for the 3d Brigade, made his first appearance at a reunion. It was good having his perspective on the battle, particularly the crucial last days. By his account, Fred wishes he had come to earlier reunions.

The battalion chaplain for the 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry, Lee Fox, joined and led us in a moving memorial service at Golden's Marine Corps Memorial. He and his wife then attended the Saturday night banquet. Lee was reminded that, while ministering to his flock in Vietnam, it was usual to see him armed with a 9mm automatic and long-legged Randall knife--a real soldier's chaplain!

A remarkable number of members of D Co., 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, showed up, about 14 in all. There's one of the many untold, or poorly told, stories having to do with the Ripcord experience. Tony Cox and Merle Delagrange were two of the Currahees who helped locate and organize the Delta Company group, and their presence was very welcome. Other members included Jim "Curly" McCoy, Jim (the mail clerk) Podelin, Tim Runyard of Wisconsin ("are you from Minnesota?"), John Smith (platoon leader), Randy "Lt. Cherry" Thompson (who dances with mules along the Grand Canyon), and Davis "Sugar Bear" Bryant.

Former platoon sergeant Jerry Wise kept good order among Delta's members. Ask Jerry about vapor lock during the trip through the Rocky Mountain National Park.

## Reunion '96 is being planned for Indianapolis, Ind., for October. Stay tuned for details.

We were also blessed by the presence of Delta stalwarts Dale Tauer, Bob Erickson, Dean Finch and Leonard Foster. John (the vegetarian) Chamless rounded out the Delta contingent.

Bob Smoker journeyed from Red Lion, Pa., to make the reunion. Bob served in Charlie Company, 2d/506th, and was on Hill 902 during the devastating sapper attack the night of 1-2 July 1970. Another Charlie Company stalwart making an 11th hour appearance was Charlie Lieb, former platoon leader of 2d Platoon and assistant operations officer for air operations for the battalion. Kent Rowland, once a Charlie Company lieutenant, and Jerry Moyer (2d Platoon and veteran of the long night on Hill 902) completed that outfit's contingent.

Alpha Company of the 2d Battalion was represented by Bill Heath and Chuck Hawkins. Martin "Doc" Glennon, a HHC medic who served in

Continued on next page ...

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Alpha, had recently returned from a visit to old stomping grounds in Vietnam, including the former rear base of Camp Evans. He brought a video tape that shows how the country looks today.

John Mihalko, who lives in Lakewood and helped organize the reunion, and Frank Gonzales (HHC medic) represented the Recon Platoon at the reunion. Bob Seitz, a former Recon Platoon leader who could not attend, faxed a message that was read at the banquet.

Three other association members answered the call: engineer Ron Henn, 501st veteran David Sample and long-time association member Fred Behrens.

The second highest ranking member of the Ripcord Association, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Ben Harrison, the 3d Brigade commander, sent his regrets. He and his wife had previously planned a visit to friends in Europe during the July period.

Another active duty member of the association, Maj. Gen. Randy House, who commands the 1st Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, Kan., sent a letter along with his regrets. Randy was returning from an official visit to Moscow.

Joining in their regrets were Chip Collins (B/2-506) the founder of the Ripcord Association and newsletter; Jody Smith and Frank Marshall (A/2-506), Ray Blackman (D/2-501), Richard Green and Lloyd Rahlf (3d Bde.), and Mary Pahissa, mother of 1Lt. Bill Pahissa (A/2-506), killed on 22 July 1970.

We were also pleased to welcome friends and family, including: Mariella Moyer and her daughter and her husband; Janet Lieb; Debra Erickson; Ruth Delagrange; Tony Cox's son; Lila Henn; David Bryant's better half; Jim Podeln's bride; Dale Tauer's wife; John Smith's wife; and Fred Behren's and Tim Runyard's significant others.

Lest we forget... John Mihalko's wife, Kathy, and her mother also added greatly to the comradeship shared by all.

In fact, it was Kathy Mihalko, along with VFW Commander Jim Flynn, who arranged for one of the significant events of the reunion: coverage by Channel Two, one of Denver's local TV stations.

Although the Ripcord Reunion was competing with a reunion of Laotian veterans who aided downed American flyers in their country during the war, Channel Two gave the Ripcord vets a good three minutes of newstime during prime time on Saturday, 22 July. Interviews with John Mihalko and Chuck Hawkins were conducted and video coverage of the memorial service gave the broadcast the full flavor of what Ripcord veterans went through during those trying times 25 years ago. It was refreshing, after remembering the negative experiences of Vietnam-era press coverage, to receive positive treatment at the hands of the media. Happy trails.



## INCOMING

(Received prior to the reunion)

### Sister Interest

Just a note to ask if I might be put on your mailing list for *Ripcord Report*. My brother, Steven Morgan (101st veteran), loaned me his copy and I loved it. Send me the cost and I hope to hear from you soon. Jean Domingez  
Mount Vernon, Ill.

### Capt. 'K' Revealed

I believe the captain (Captain "K") quoted by Richard Green in the article "Victor Charlie, The Bee," is my old CO, Cecil Kalealua, who was commander of B Co., 2/506th, and assistant S-3 during 1968-69. I ran into him in Heidelberg, Germany, in 1987. He was deputy community commander (colonel, O-6). Small world. We had a nice visit trying to recall members of the company. Funny, we had no trouble remembering the names of the dead. The names of many who lived escaped us. Please pass this info on to Richard Green.

Hope the enclosed helps with newsletter expenses.

Currahee,

Jack Graves

Sumner, Wash.

### From the Currahee 1st Battalion

My name is Jim McCoy (also known as Curly). I served with Lt. Randy Thompson, D Co., 1/506th, during the battle of Ripcord, and watched him return from a patrol badly wounded. Four others were killed while on the same patrol. I was one of the few who returned to Camp Evans without being wounded from the two days of hell that Delta Company went through prior to the fire base being [evacuated]. The newsletter has been a blessing and I am astonished of all the people that are association members who were involved in the battle of Ripcord. Enclosed is five dollars to help with the cost of this wonderful publication. Please send me the December issue, for all I received was the cover page.

Jim McCoy  
Santee, Calif.

Continued on next page ...

More INCOMING ...

## Delta Raiders Bought Time for Ripcord

I really enjoyed the recent account of D Co. (2/501st) and Hill 805. It brought back a lot of memories of that particular time. At the time I was in FDC (fire direction center) of the mortar platoon of E Co., 2/506th, and like everyone else was "stuck" on Ripcord. We monitored the TOC and all the companies' radios and realized early on the situation the battalion was facing. I can't speak for the others on Ripcord at the time, but I had a strong sense that Delta's actions and sacrifices bought valuable time for the fire base. Had it not been for Delta [Raiders] (and Alpha 2/506th, too) I believe that Ripcord would have experienced a possibly devastating, all-out ground attack early.

I noticed your next articles will be about the Chinook downed on top of the ASP (ammo supply point). I can't remember, but am very curious as to who finally policed up the firecracker rounds strewn about.

Am also enclosing a small donation to keep up the newsletter. Looking forward to the next issue.

James Killgore  
Jasper, Ala.

## Room to Expand

Keep working on expansion of the *Ripcord Report*.  
Paul Braim  
Daytona Beach, Fla.

## Right On the Money

Please send *Ripcord Report* to Jerry D. Moyer, Springfield, Mo., who was wounded on Hill 902 on July 2, 1970, and was in C Co., 2/506th. Enclosed is a check for \$8.40.

Thank you.  
Jerry D. Moyer  
Springfield, Mo.

## From 2/506 Recon

I really am glad you guys are keeping the *Ripcord Report* going. I served in the Army from August 1969 to August 1971; served in Vietnam in 1970 with E Co., 2/506th Inf. Recon Platoon, with some of the guys who have written over the years; John Mihalko is one of them. Lenny Long, DocWill and Frank Gonzales are a few others.

Keep up the good work. Here is a donation to help.

Take care and God bless,  
Bennie Hill (SP/4)  
Vansant, Va.

## He Was No Coward

I want to take a few minutes to try to set the record straight. I don't know first hand, as I wasn't there, but I did have an occasion to discuss this with the individual [after the event], and with the Ripcord reunion coming soon, I would like to speak out on behalf of the officer involved.

If we go back to the Nov. 1994 *Ripcord Report*, the detailed article by the then-3d Brigade commander, he states: "The early July attacks by Delta and Charlie Company, 2/506th, were very disappointing; resulting in several friendly casualties and the refusal of Charlie Company commander to lead his men up [Hill 1000]. He was relieved of command but at Lt. Col. Andre C. Lucas' request, I did not court martial him for cowardice."

In Sept. 1970, when I arrived in the 3d Brigade AO, the former company commander, now the assistant S-3 at brigade, informed me that Charlie Company was down to less than platoon strength. He was ordered to move his company up the hill, but because it was no longer a "company," he refused to carry out the mission, knowing that his "company" would not be able to succeed because of lack of personnel and that they would take more needless casualties. He further informed me that when he was relieved, the "company" was ordered to pull back and not attempt further attacks up the hill.

When I read other accounts, it seems that the other companies in the battalion were down to 40-50-man strength. From Feb. 1995 *Ripcord Report*, page 6: "When they were finally withdrawn after five days and nights of small-unit hell, company strength had been cut down to about 40 men ...". What the relieved captain told me doesn't seem to be out of line regarding the company strength. A marker on a brigade or division map showing a company-sized NDP doesn't tell the whole story about the status of that company.

So, was the relieved company commander a coward for not following orders and attacking up the hill with his platoon-sized company, or should he be considered a hero for refusing to carry out an order that he knew was impossible and would lead to numerous American deaths?

As I said, I don't know as I wasn't there, but there are some *Ripcord Report* readers who were, and I would like to hear from them.

Currahee!

Bob Lorbeer

Currahee is a Cherokee Indian word that means "stand alone." It was adopted as the 506th Regiment motto during World War II. The regiment trained at Camp Toccoa, Georgia.

Continued on next page ...

More INCOMING ...

## The Platoon That Got Away

Wish I could afford a donation to carry everybody for a year, but since I can't, I'll try to pay my way!

Sgt. Maj. Lloyd Rahlf and I got in touch through *Ripcord Report* ... we had overlapping tours with the 3d Brigade. I was in the A Shau when he was at Camp Evans. I was back with my aviation unit (after four months) by the time he moved to his "villa in the valley"!

Our correspondence has pulled a lot of bad memories out of dark corners for me, and the healing process continues.

With the "Smaj" (I like that better than SGM, 'cause saying "Smaj" has a ring to it!); anyhow, with



the Smaj I felt comfortable with letting it all hang out. So, I could tell him how POed I got, how I fought over stupid decisions that I know caused future U.S. KIA/WIA, etc. As an old soldier, of 28, when I got to Nam, with lots of EM time to my credit, I wasn't

always wrong in my assessment of a situation ... but I wasn't always right either. But I fought for what I believed in.

My anger really came out over an incident when one of my pilots spotted an NVA platoon in the open, near the valley, in a no-fire zone. The NVA's closest cover was 1,000 yards over rough terrain and my pilot called for permission to engage. The brigade CO refused permission, preferring to call in an "eagle flight" from Evans.

So as Charlie struggled for the woodline and my pilot screamed repeatedly for permission to fire, the minutes turned into an hour, and the entire brigade staff went berserk attempting to get the brigade CO to allow the helicopter to engage the target. End result: the eagle flight arrived 1:05 hours after being called up ... the NVA platoon escaped into the woods five minutes before the eagle flight landed. The pilot flew back to Phu Bai, madder than hell and shortly thereafter quit the U.S. Army (discharge) and quit the U.S.A. (he lives in Australia).

I threw a fit, called a chopper from my unit to pick me up, left despite a direct order from the brigade CO not to do so! (Told him to call "his eagle flight" to shoot me 'cause I'd be gone before they arrived!) Flew back to Phu Bai to console my frustrated pilot; went up to the aviation group and made my report. I then proceeded over the the O-club and got drunk with my group commander.

I went back out to the A Shau for three-four more weeks. Partially to do my job as aviation liaison officer; partially so I could spit on the ground a lot when the brigade CO was walking by. I never spoke to him again. (Didn't realize how mad I still was until I saw his photo in the 101st magazine and later started writing Smaj Rahlf.)

I've always wondered, how many people did those NVA soldiers kill/maim/capture after that. And I wonder what war stories they tell their kids about stupid Americans! "There we were, trapped in the open, no where to hide, with two machine guns aimed dead at us, and those stupid Americans let us get away!"

Anyhow, I wrote about the above and much more to Smaj Rahlf and elaborated on the details.

In his response to the above, Rahlf got around to saying that he felt confident in saying that I could be "a real pain in the butt," adding it took one to know one!

I couldn't agree more. It didn't help my career, but I hope my hard-headedness had some positive impact along the way. Despite my many failings, I don't believe anyone can truthfully say that I ever failed to perform the mission assigned, or that I screwed up when the going got rough, or that I was ever less than a professional soldier. More importantly, I took care of my troops.

Anyhow, keep me on the mailing list. *Ripcord Report* has been a big help to me and the "grunts" you represent are the guys who made it all worthwhile.

God bless you all.

Richard A. Green

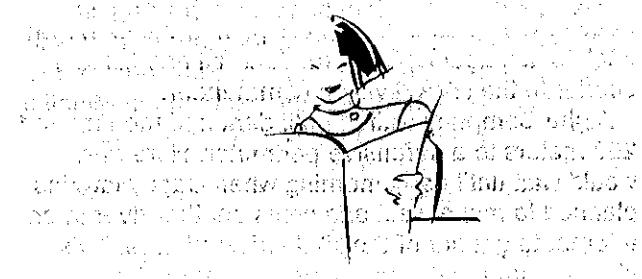
Major, U.S. Army, retired  
Lake City, Fla.

## QUOTES TO NOTE

The diplomat is the servant, not the master of the soldier.--Theodore Roosevelt, *Address to the U.S. Naval War College*, Newport, R.I., 2 June 1897

The man who trusts men will make fewer mistakes than he who distrusts them.--Conde Di Cavour, 1810-1861

Who hangs on, wins.--German proverb



Tell 'em you read it in the *Ripcord Report*.

## EDITOR'S HISTORY CORNER

HQ, 2d BN (Ambl) 506th INF

APO San Francisco 96383

Unit History, March 1971

### THE 'OFFICIAL' HISTORY OF 2/506TH FOR 1970

Continued from No. 40

Alpha Company, in the meantime, had been sliding silently deeper into enemy territory. They destroyed numerous bunkers, and as they progressed farther to the southeast, the size of the enemy bunkers increased.

By mid-morning on the 20th [of July] the men of Alpha Company had moved to the base of Hill 805. Capt. Hawkins had moved part of his company across a small river that ran south by the base of Hill 805 and set the remainder of his men in ambush posture on the bank above the stream.

At approximately 1200 hours one of the forward elements found a high speed trail that showed signs of recent use, and running next to the trail was a strand of commo wire. The lead element had already rigged a wire tapping device and had set up a hasty ambush by the time the CP and Interpreter arrived.

For five hours the wire tap yielded information to the interpreter and one of the Kit Carson scouts. Contact was initiated twice during the wire tap, but they continued gathering valuable information. In the meantime, the remainder of the company initiated two far ambushes on watering parties as they approached the stream.

The information that had been gathered from the wire tap indicated that an entire NVA division, and not just two regiments as was previously thought, was waiting to attack Ripcord. Also relayed was the fact that the enemy division headquarters was at one end of the commo wire and a regimental headquarters at the other.

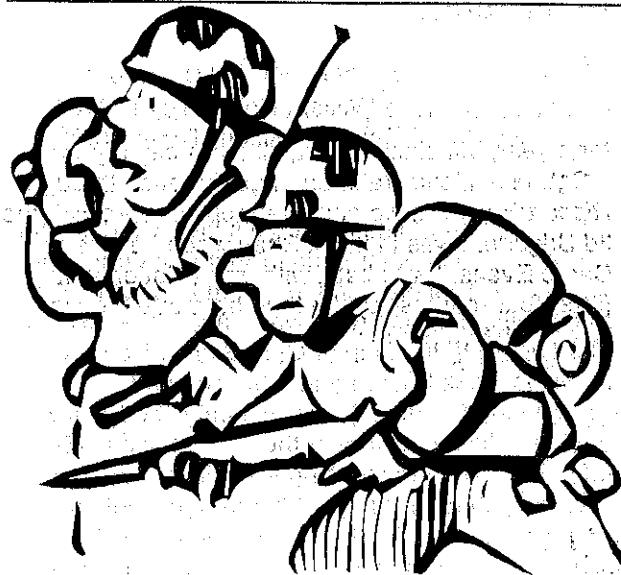
The night was uneventful and heavy artillery rained on suspected enemy base camp locations.

On the 21st a reconnaissance element from Alpha Company returned toward the scene of the previous day's activities. They had gone only a short distance when contact was initiated with three enemy. Two were killed and the team returned.

Later in the day an outpost for a day defensive position spotted two NVA. Well aimed fire by SP/4 Journell killed one of the enemy. A search of his body revealed diagrams and a plan of attack for the NVA to use against Ripcord. Journell had killed a courier to the NVA division commander.

Alpha Company waited until dark and then moved 200 meters to a defensive perimeter. Here they would wait until early morning when Capt. Hawkins planned to move west and cross another river in an attempt to get out of the NVA-infested area. This plan, unfortunately, was never to materialize.

To be continued ...



*Roger, captain. Have the medic send over some Prozac. Thorndyke's got that glint in his eyes again.*

## MILITARY TERMS & DEFINITIONS

**firing step**--In trench warfare, a small step, board or ledge about a foot from the bottom of a trench on which a man could stand to fire or look out.

**flag bag**--The chest or locker aboard ship in which signal flags are kept.

**flak tower**--A towerlike structure as many as 10 stories high, in which one or more antiaircraft weapons are mounted. Such a tower might also house the crew and store ammunition.

**flanchards**--Medieval defensive armor to protect the flanks of a horse in combat. The name first appears in a French text of 1302 as *flanchieres*.

**guerre de course**--The interruption of an enemy's seaborne commerce by the destruction of its merchant shipping. Such naval warfare is usually carried on by fast cruisers, capable of fighting small enemy warships, but able to avoid enemy capital ships by speed, maneuver or stealth (as in a submarine).

**guncotton**--A cellulose nitrate used in smokeless powder.

War is hell ... and then there is combat.

## Good Books

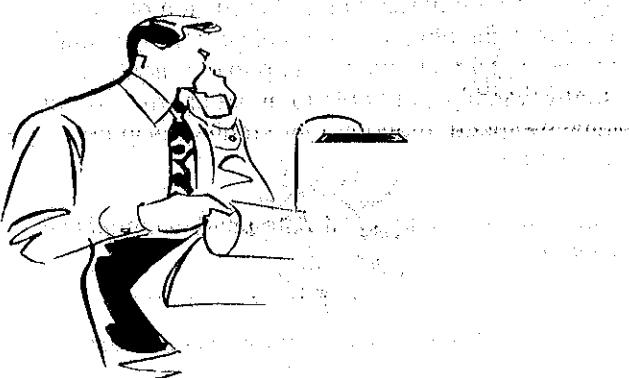
*Sappers in the Wire: The Life and Death of Firebase Mary Ann*, by Keith William Nolan, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, Texas, 1995, \$24.95.

For those Screaming Eagle vets interested in what was going on in other parts of Vietnam during the era of FSB Ripcord and Operation Lam Son 719, Keith William Nolan (who wrote about the 101st in *Into Laos* with the help of Gen. Sidney Berry, Chuck Hawkins, Jack Kucera and other Ripcord Association members), has just published a new book. It tells the history of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade (Light), Americal Division, from February 1970 through April 1971.

The first half of the book describes what it was like to serve in a grunt battalion during the pull-out from Vietnam by describing the 1/46th's operations west of Chu Lai. The morale problems of the last days of the war--fraggings, combat refusals, racial tensions and drug abuse--are examined in detail. The heavy combat the 1/46th saw along the Nam Nia River southwest of FSB Mary Ann in February 1971 is also extensively described.

The second half of the book is a minute-by-minute recreation of the infamous sapper attack on FSB Mary Ann that took place during the night of 27-28 March 1971. The 1/46th TOC was blown up, and the battalion commander wounded three times. The commander of the rifle company on the perimeter was killed, as were 29 other GIs. It was one of the most tragic incidents of the Vietnam War, and the book ends with an anatomy of the subsequent MACV investigation. The division, brigade and battalion commanders, and numerous staff officers, were all professionally beheaded by Gen. William Westmoreland, then serving as the Army Chief of Staff.

The book has maps and photos. *Sappers in the Wire* is being sold by Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, John H. Lindsey Bldg., College Station, Texas 77843-4354 for \$24.95 (Texas residents add 8.25% sales tax), plus \$4 for postage and handling (\$0.75 postage for each additional book). It can also be ordered by calling toll-free 1-800-826-8911.



## WHOA, THERE, PILGRIM

### *Situation report from the editor.*

DUMFRIES, Va.--As many times as the *Ripcord Report* has suffered temporary interruptions in publication, I suppose we ought to be used to it by now. But I know it is disconcerting when a routine is disturbed. Still, the challenges facing the association are such that it is difficult to maintain a rigorous publishing schedule. Lack of an adequate copying facility is the primary cause of the latest extended pause. Thanks to Charlie Lieb, this issue is finally getting in the mail--parts of which were prepared for publication this past April.

Yours truly is still putting the contents together and thanks to modern computer technology I'm able to prepare the finished master pages in my home office. So, keep the cards, letters and donations coming, and we'll keep the newsletter coming out as often as we can.

Address changes are important, too. It never ceases to amaze how often folks seem to move. Let us know your new address (it saves time and postage).

Many thanks for your patience and appreciation.

### RECENT FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Lloyd Rahlf, Richard Green, J. "Sneaky" White, Mary Pahissa, Tim Runyard, John Chamless, and others I may have forgotten. Thanks for your support.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jim Flynn, VFW Post 4171 in Golden for his assistance in making the reunion a success, Everett Simpson for arranging the color guard for the memorial service and to Waymon Griffin, American Legion Post 161 (Arvada, Colo.) for the firing squad. Bob Cowan (USMC, ret.) for suggesting the use of Golden's Marine Corps Memorial for the site of the Ripcord memorial service.

## VIETNAM NEWS UPDATES

By Courtney L. Frobenius

U.S. Consulate--On Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1995, the American flag was flown for the first time since 1955 in Hanoi. In a subdued ceremony consular officials of the new U.S. Consulate in Hanoi along with military officers assigned to find the remains of missing servicemen in Vietnam raised the flag on a small balcony of the consular offices in downtown Hanoi. Our flag last flew here in 1955 when the United States closed its consulate after refusing to recognize the communist North Vietnamese regime.

Vietnam Infrastructure Summit--A series of infrastructure meetings took place during March 1995 in Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Roanoke, San Francisco, and New York City. U.S. sponsors for these summits included Federal Express, Mobile Oil and Westinghouse Corporation. Various Vietnamese central government figures as well as provincial government authorities attended the events.

Russian Naval Presence at Cam Ranh Bay--The size of the Russian naval presence at Cam Ranh Bay is estimated at two to three destroyers and 200 to 300 men.

McDonnell Douglas--McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation has made a presentation to Vietnam Airways for the sale of its passenger aircraft to replace Vietnam Airway's aging fleet of Russian planes. Currently Vietnam Airways flies 27 diverse Russian aircraft on its domestic and international routes. Vietnam Airways also leases aircraft and shares international routes with a number of international carriers, such as Philippine Airlines.

Toyota--Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet announced informal approval for Toyota to construct a \$170 million automobile assembly plant to produce 20,000 cars per year. Currently the demand for new vehicles in Vietnam is estimated at 10,000 units per year. The demand for new vehicles is expected to increase to 55,000 units a year by the year 2000.

Address of the U.S. Vietnamese Consulate--The address of the Vietnamese Consulate is 2251 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20005. The consulate occupies the former South Vietnamese Embassy. Le Van Bang is the Vietnamese consul to the United States.

20th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon--April 30, 1995, marks the 20th anniversary of Communist victory in South Vietnam.

Save the Tiger--On March 3d, 1995, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia agreed to work together in an attempt to save endangered wild tigers. The population of Indochinese wild tigers has dwindled to 1,000 in recent years because of hunting and human encroachment on the native habitat of the tigers.

Vietnam Seeks Regional Links--As part of an ongoing pattern, Vietnam has recently met with a

number of Southeast Asian nations regarding trade links. Some of the recent reported meetings have been:

... South Korea--Vietnam recently signed a customs accord with South Korea which will simplify customs procedures. South Korea is Vietnam's fourth largest investor with over \$860 million pledged in 92 different projects by the end of 1994.

... Burma--Burmese leader Than Shwe recently met with Vietnamese head of state Le Duc Anh and signed agreements which were not disclosed.

ASEAN--Vietnam has joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations whose members include Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

... Thailand--Vietnam and Thailand recently agreed to a joint maritime survey of their countries borders in the Gulf of Siam. Thailand and Vietnam have often been at odds over fishing rights in the gulf.

The foregoing courtesy of: Vietnam Tours (Courtney Frobenius and Ed Eaton), P.O. Box 995, Walla Walla, Wash., 99362; telephone: 509/529-3251; fax: 529-2984. Courtney and Ed both served in Vietnam.

## RIPCORD REPORT

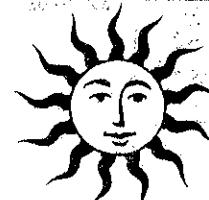
This publication is the authoritative voice of history of the Battle of Ripcord, March 12 to July 23, 1970. Over 60 men died and nearly 350 were wounded on and around the fire base. The newsletter is dedicated to their memory.

Ripcord was the major combat action for the 101st Airborne Division in 1970, and was one of the last significant battles of U.S. forces in the Vietnam War. In the end, 101st units conducted a successful fighting withdrawal, escaping the jaws of a North Vietnamese infantry division that had surrounded the scarred mountain top.

What terrible price the enemy paid may never be known.

## RIPCORD REPORT

Chuck Hawkins, Editor



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**RIPCORD REPORT**  
c/o Chuck Hawkins



Forwarding Address Requested



## Ripcord Report

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