

RIPTCORD REPORT

United We Stand

For family, friends and survivors of the
Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord.
RVN, March 12-July 23, 1970.

No. 59 - /

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



ROMANCE IN VENICE - HEART BALL 132 02/20/03



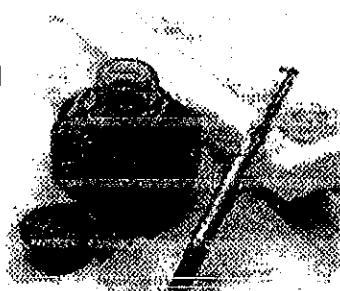
Ripcord Report



Patricia Radford

FRANK MARSHALL

Address service requested.



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Blah blah



Dear "Ripcorders and Ripcordettes", Repeated and constant effort to get the newsletter out on time; has fallen on deaf ears ... The first newsletter should have been out BEFORE Thanksgiving; the second one should be sent out to arrive around VALENTINES DAY, as I write this, it is Feb 10th, which means that we should be sending out the SECOND NEWSLETTER and we haven't got the FIRST ONE OUT YET...The reason for sending the newsletters out on time, is because we have a godly amount of people, that need to put in for their "time off", or Vacation time, 9 to 12 months in advance...They can't very well do this, if they do not have the information... So, here's the information... October 8-11 ,2003 ...Charleston South Carolina...Enclosed is a Hotel Registration Form and a Individual Registration Form.... As we discussed so many times before...Please, fill out COMPLETELY, all the information that is requested on the form...

A sequence of events for the reunion is as follows...Hospitality room opens everyday at 1200, last one out close the door and shut off the lights...Thursday afternoon, BBQ / cookout at the pool...Friday Tour of downtown historic Charleston ...There are

numerous other tours that you can take on your own...Ft Sumter and Drayton Hall Plantation are truly spectacular...Saturday morning, for those that want to, there is golf...I haven't got a price for that yet but it won't be much (30-50)...Saturday afternoon, will be a "Business Meeting", as to the direction we are going or want to go...This will also be an opportune time to rectify the newsletter problem....

As for future reunions...2004 Des Moines, Iowa (Bridges of Madison County) Birth Place of John Wayne...2005 Indianapolis Indiana 500 Motor Speedway...I haven't looked at anything past 2005, mainly because, I had planned on turning the operation over to someone else....

I got the following "Paul Harvey", writing; from an email Gen. Harrison, sent me...I thought it was well worth sharing....

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better. I'd really like for them to know about hand me down cloths and homemade ice cream and left over meatloaf sandwiches. I really would. I hope that you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope no one gives you a brand new car when you turn sixteen. It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in. I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him. When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I

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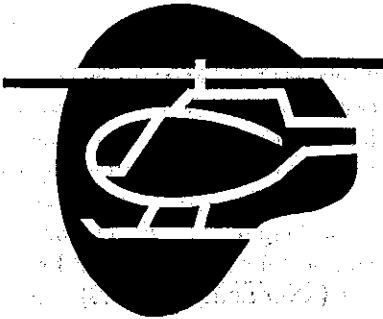
hope you'll let him/her. I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely. On rainy days, when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away, so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom. If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books. When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head. I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy/girl, and when you talk back to your Mother, that you learn what Ivory soap tastes like. May your skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole. I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend. I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your uncle. May you feel sorrow at funerals and joy at holidays. I hope your Mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through a neighbors window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Hanukkah/Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand. These things I wish for you tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life. Written with a pen. Sealed with a kiss. I'm here for you. And if I die before you do, I'll go to heaven and wait for you. We secure our friends, not by accepting favors; but by doing them.

RIDDLE OF THE DAY (Answer Below)

When asked this riddle, 80% of Kindergarten Kids got the answer; compared to only 17% of Stanford University Seniors.... What is greater than God, More evil than the devil, The poor have it, The

rich need it, And if you eat it, you'll die?
(Answer-.....,.....)

(NOTHING!!!!!!)



Col Herb Koenigsbauer, U.S. Army Retired, Passed away this past November. Services were held near his home in Vermont. Burial followed, a few weeks later in Arlington National Cemetery. Since his passing, the Ripcord Association, has received nearly \$500.00, in donations from family and friends. He was survived by his wife Veronika, ("Roni"), and a son, who is a Major, and stationed in South Korea. Herb, will be missed by all who knew him. He was a fine soldier and an extremely capable and competent officer.

RIPCORD--ER OFFSPRING

Do you have a son, daughter or brother, presently serving in the Armed Forces(on our side, of course)...At present, I can think of a few...LTG.Charles Campbell "(HONDO)", CG. Of all Military Personnel in South Korea, brother of Jim Campbell,...Lt Campbell IV, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, with an Armored Division, and is presently preparing for shipment overseas, if they haven't already left. At Fort Stewart Georgia, with the 24th Mechanized Infantry Division, is Sp4 Stanger, son of Terry and Susan Stanger. The 24th is also "on the way". The last one that I know of is Sgt.Radford, of B Co, 75th "RANGERS" (I naturally had to capitalize that, because I was one, a long time ago). Sgt. Radford, has already been to Afghanistan and back ; and is now in preparation to ship to another overseas destination. Our prayers, will be with all of troops, as they go in harms way.....

These are the only one's that I know of; doe's anyone else have a son or daughter that is presently serving ? If so, send me the info and I'll see to it that it get's in the Ripcord Report. After all, the Ripcord Report, is for all the Ripcord Veterans, and their Families...

Fred Spaulding (CURRAHEE'RANGERS LEAD THE WAY...ETC...)

Subject: Airplanes

After every flight, all pilots complete a "gripe" sheet which is meant to list problems encountered with the aircraft during the flight. The mechanics use this checklist to make repairs and/or corrections. The actual form is a piece of paper that the pilot completes, and submits to the mechanics for action.

The mechanic MUST respond... in writing, on the lower half of the form... regarding what was done to the aircraft. The pilot reviews the gripe sheets before the aircraft is put back into service.

Never let it be said that ground crews and engineers, are lacking for a sense of humor. The following are actual logged maintenance complaints and problems, as submitted by QUANTAS pilots, along with the solutions recorded by the maintenance engineers. By the way, QUANTAS, is the only major airline that has never had a fatal accident.

P=The problem logged by the pilot.

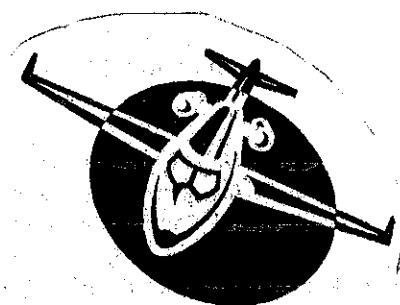
S=The response, solution and/or action taken by the engineers.

P: Left inside tire, almost needs replacement.

S: Almost replaced, left inside main tire.

P: Test flight OK, except auto land very rough.

S: Auto land not installed on this aircraft.



P: Something loose in cockpit.

S: Something tightened in cockpit.

P: Dead bugs on windshield.

S: Live bugs on back order.

P: Autopilot in altitude-hold mode produces a 200 fpm descent.

S: Cannot reproduce problem on ground.

P: Evidence of leak on right main landing gear.

S: Evidence removed.

P: DME volume unbelievably loud.

S: DME volume set to more believable level.

P: Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick.

S: That's what they're there for.

P: IFF inoperative.

S: IFF always inoperative in OFF mode.

P: Suspect crack in windshield.

S: Suspect you're right.

P: Number 3 engine missing.

S: Engine found on right wing, after brief search.

P: Aircraft handles funny.

S: Aircraft warned to straighten up, fly right, and be serious.

P: Target radar hums.

S: Reprogrammed target radar, with all the words.

P: Mouse in cockpit. S: Mouse installed.

MESSAGE FROM ENGLAND:

No matter what your views on President Bush's statement of upcoming war, this; from an English Journalist, is very interesting. Just a word of background, for those of you who aren't familiar with the UK's Daily Mirror. This is a notoriously left-wing daily, that is normally not supportive of the "Colonials", across the Atlantic.

Tony Parsons, Daily Mirror, September 11, 2002
One year ago, the world witnessed a unique kind of broadcasting--the mass murder of thousands on live television. As a lesson in the pitiless cruelty of the human race, September 11, was up there with, Pol Pot's Mountain of Skulls in Cambodia, or the skeletal bodies, like garbage in the Nazi concentration camps.

An unspeakable act so cruel, so calculated and so utterly merciless that surely the world could agree on one thing--nobody deserves this fate. Surely there could be a consensus: The victims were truly innocent, the perpetrators truly evil.

But to the world eternal shame, 9/11, is increasingly seen as America's "comeuppance". Incredibly, anti-Americanism, has increased over the last year.

There has always been a simmering resentment to the USA, in this country; too loud, too rich, too full of themselves, and so much happier than Europeans--but it has become an epidemic. And seems incredible to me. More than that, it turns my stomach.

America, is this country's greatest friend and our staunchest ally. We are bonded to the USA by culture, language and blood. A little over half a century ago, around half a million Americans died for our freedoms, as well as their own. Have we forgotten so soon? And exactly a year ago, thousands of ordinary men, women and children--not just Americans, but from dozens of countries, were butchered by a small group of religious fanatics. Are we so quick to betray them?

What touched the hearts of those who died in the Twin Towers and on the planes, was that we recognize them. Young fathers and mothers, somebody's son and somebody's daughter, husbands, wives, and children, some unborn.

And these people brought it on themselves? Their nation is to blame for their meticulously planned slaughter?

These days, you don't have to some dust-encrusted nut job in Kabul or Karachi or Finsbury Park, to see America as the great satan. The anti-American alliance is made up of self-loathing liberals who blame the Americans for every ill in the Third World, and conservatives suffering from power-envy, bitter that the world's only superpower can do what it likes without asking permission.

The truth is that America has behaved with enormous restraint since Sep 11.

Remember...remember-

Remember the gut-wrenching tapes of weeping men phoning their wives to say "I love you", before they were burned alive.

Remember those people, leaping to their deaths from the top of burning skyscrapers.

Remember the hundreds of Firemen buried alive.

Remember the smiling face of that beautiful little girl who was on one of the planes with her Mum.

Remember,remember-

And realize that America, has never retaliated for 9/11, in anything like the way it could have.

So a few Al-Qaeda tourists got locked up without a trial in CampX-Ray? Pass the Kleenex.

So some Afgan wedding receptions were shot up after they merrily fired their semi-automatics in a sky full of American airplanes ? A shame, but maybe next time they'll stick to confetti.

America, could have turned a large part of the world into a parking lot. That it didn't, is a sign of their strength. American voices are already being raised against attacking Iraq-that's what a democracy is for. How many in the Islamic world will have a minutes silence for the slaughtered innocents of 9/11? How many Islamic leaders will have the guts to say that the mass murder of 9/11, was an abomination ?

When the news of 9/11 broke on the West Bank, those freedom loving Palestinians, were dancing in the streets. America watched all of that-and didn't push the button. We should thank the stars that America, is the most powerful nation in the world. I still find it incredible that 9/11 did not provoke all out war. Not a "war on terrorism". A real war.

The fundamentalist dudes talking about " opening the gates of hell", if America attacks Iraq, Well, America could have opened the gates of hell like you wouldn't believe.

The USA< is the most militarily powerful nation that ever strode the face of the earth. The campaign in Afghanistan may have been less than perfect and the planned war on Iraq, may be misconceived.

But don't blame the America, for not bringing peace and light to these wretched countries. How many democracies are there in the middle east, or in the Muslim World ? You can count them on the fingers of one hand, assuming you haven't had any chopped off for minor shoplifting.

I love America, yet America is hated, I guess that makes me Bush's poodle.

But I would rather be a dog in New York City, than a prince in Riyadh. Above all , America is hated because it is what every country wants to be- rich, free, strong, open, optimistic. Not ground down by the past, or religion, or some caste system. America, is the best friends this country ever had and we should start remembering that.

Or do you really think the USA< is the root of all evil ? Tell it to the loved ones of the men and women who leaped to their death from the burning towers.

Tell it to the nursing mothers whose husbands died on one of the hijacked planes, or were ripped apart in a collapsing skyscraper. And tell it to the hundreds of young widows, whose husbands worked for the New York Fire Department.

To our shame, George Bush, get's worse press than Saddam Hussein. Once we were told that Saddam gassed the Kurds , tortured his own people and set up rape-camps in Kuwait.

Remember, remember, September 11-

One of the greatest atrocities in human history was committed against America.

No, do more than remember... Never Forget!

CURRAHEE---Fred



FSB Ripcord Association Reunion 2003 - Charleston South Carolina
REGISTRATION



(send in this form with your registration fee)

Yes, I'll be there! I can't make it, but keep me on the list. Is this your first reunion? Yes No

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Unit in RVN: CO _____ BN _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Will a family member or guest be attending with you? Yes No

Names of all personnel attending with you (for name tag purposes only):

Arrival date/time: _____ Departure date/time: _____

Mode of transportation Airline _____ Flight# _____ POV Other _____

Transportation is available to and from the airport. Please use the courtesy phone at the airport.

DISCOUNTS FOR EARLY REGISTRATION: Before March 12, \$75 per adult; Before July 23, \$80 per adult; Before September 1, \$85 per adult. After September 1, \$90 per adult. **THE REGISTRATION FEE IS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 5, 2003.** The registration fee for individuals under 18 is \$50. Make your check

My registration fee of _____ is enclosed for _____ adults and _____ under 18.

Your registration fee covers the following events (except as noted). Please check the boxes for head count.

WEDNESDAY, October 8: Hospitality suite opens at **1200 hours**.

THURSDAY, October 9: Hospitality suite opens at **1200 hours**.

FRIDAY, October 10: There will be a tour of attractions in the **Downtown Historic District**.

Will attend. Number attending: _____. Will not attend.

SATURDAY, October 11: Hospitality suite opens at **1200 hours**.

GOLF: Yes. Number attending: _____. No. (*Golf is NOT covered by the registration fee. Cart and green fees TBA.*)

1500 hours: Business meeting for Association business, in the hospitality suite.

Banquet: Will attend. Number attending: _____. Will not attend.

1730-1830: Cash bar (*open until 2000 hours*)

1830: Opening remarks and invocation.

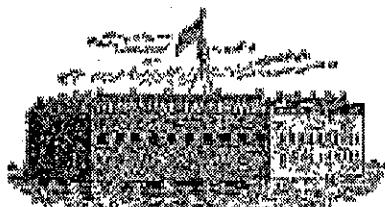
1830-1930: Buffet banquet.

1930: Presentation of Ripcord Coins to newcomers by Ben Harrison (Maj. Gen., USA, ret.)

1950: Raffle of clock, and lamp.

2000: Closing remarks.

SUNDAY, October 12: Departure. See y'all next year!



Ft. Sumter
SOUTH CAROLINA

Ripcord Association Reunion

October 7-12, 2003

Hotel Reservation form for

The Town & Country Inn & Conference Center

2008 Savannah Highway

Charleston, SC 29407

Phone: (800) 334-6660 Facsimile: (843) 766-9444

Group Room Rate: \$69.00, per room per day, plus 12% tax.

A Cash Deposit for first night's room and tax or a Credit Card Number is required to guarantee this reservation. For those paying with cash, the required deposit is \$77.28. Availability of overnight accommodations & group rates will not be guaranteed beyond the release date below.

Rate applies three days before and after group block dates.

Your Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ # Rooms: _____

Roommate Name(s): _____

Room Type Preferred: King/Smoking King Non-Smoking
 Double Queen Smoking Double Queen Non-Smoking

Suite & Other Special Requests:

*Although we cannot guarantee special requests, every effort will be made to meet your request. Group reservations are blocked several days prior to arrival. Although the Inn makes every effort to pre-block group reservations as close as possible, the Inn cannot guarantee the proximity of rooms due to numerous variables, including varying arrival dates and room types.

Deposit Enclosed: _____ Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Cardholder Signature Authorizing Hotel's Use of Credit Card: _____

Check-in Time: 3:00pm

Check-out Time: 12:00pm

Group # RIPCOR

To confirm accommodations, please return form to the hotel or call by September 7, 2003.
We look forward to seeing you in October!