



# RIPTCORD REPORT

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



Number 75

Winter, 2008

## REPORT FROM NEW JERSEY

by Lee Widjeskog

As I write this Veterans Day is only a week away. Our country is once more involved in a war that is losing support at home among the media types and politicians. This is due in part because the politicians running the war have done a poor job of defining goals and over extending our military. This can make it difficult for the young men and women on the ground trying to win this action. For those of us who survived Vietnam and are still around today, we can remember a similar circumstance years ago. Therefore, we should not forget the young soldiers who are fighting for our country today. While they are volunteers, better paid, smarter and better trained than we were, they still feel pain, sorrow, loneliness, disappointment, and frustration while trying to do their duty. They too feel bad if they believe the people back home does not support them. Be sure to do to them what you wish someone had done to you years ago. Thank them for their work and dedication. It may not seem like a lot to others but we know how important that thanks is to our service men and women.

Here on the East Coast, winter is slowly making its appearance. Our weather has been mild and essentially dry. Perhaps this is to prepare us for the reunion planned for 2008 in Laughlin, Nevada. As you should know it will be held from October 9 through 12 in an area with many attractions as noted on the last page of our last newsletter. I feel the bigger attraction will be all the Ripcord survivors who will find time to attend. If you haven't had time to attend in the past, this might be the one for you! It would be perfect if every survivor could attend at least one reunion. Do your best to help us reach that goal!



### Ripcord Reunion Laughlin, NV October 9 – 12, 2008

River Palms Resort & Casino  
2700 Casino Drive - Laughlin, NV 89029  
1 (800) 835-7904

**Don't Miss This One!!!**

Registration forms will be in the next newsletter and on the Ripcord Association website.

### National Geographic Channel "Inside The Vietnam War"

**Monday, February 18 at 8:00 PM ET/PT**

This three hour program will be taking a historical look at the Vietnam War from the early '60s to the Fall of Saigon in 1975 and will include the Battle of Firebase Ripcord.

Several Ripcord Veterans including Ben Harrison, Fred Spaulding, Ben Peters, Frank Marshall and Fred Behrens were interviewed for this show.

For more information visit our website  
[www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)

# FROM THE EDITOR

What can I say? Another year gone by, they sure seem to go by faster and faster. But the memories of 37 years ago is like it was yesterday.

The next Reunion in Loughlin, NV is going to be great. Fred has outdone himself once again by finding a great location. Make sure you register early to help us make our plans and agendas.

Producers for the National Geographic Channel were at the last reunion and some of us were interviewed. More information is in this newsletter.

Also, very important! I need your e-mail address. If you are not receiving updates and information about the Ripcord Association via e-mail, you may be missing out on a lot of news. Please go to our website and update your information.

## ARTICLES

Deadline for the April issue will be March 1, 2008. Please send all articles, photos, incoming mail and interesting reading to:

**Frank Marshall**  
224 Derry Hill Ct  
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054  
or e-mail to: [frank@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:frank@ripcordassociation.com)

## DONATIONS:

Checks payable to "Ripcord Association".

Mail to:

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

## 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**  
224 Derry Hill Court, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054

[www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)

*Editor:* Frank Marshall  
*Phone:* 856-273-4426

*E-mail:* [frank@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:frank@ripcordassociation.com)

*Writer:* Lee Widjeskog  
*E-mail:* [leewidjeskog@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:leewidjeskog@ripcordassociation.com)

*Design:* Dennis Bloomingdale  
*E-mail:* [denb@verizon.net](mailto:denb@verizon.net)

**Donations, the life blood of our Association** came from the following generous members during the past three months:

Marsha Alexander  
Bill & Sheila Williams  
Sam Brown  
Judith Clark  
Alan Dozoretz  
D. Reina  
Peter Meloro

## Welcome New Members!

Bridges	William	B/426th S&S Bn
Fawver	David	D/2-506
Galle	Martin	B/2-506 HHC
Garraty	Eugene	C/4/77
Keedy	Herbert	D Hawks 101 Avn
Lawrence	John	62nd Avn XXIV Corps
Leiviska	Michael	B co 101st Avn
Lorenzo	Cesar	101st Pathfinder
Manbeck	John	B/2-506
Marlowe	John	B/2-501
Messenger	K.C.	265th RRC
Millard	John	D/1-506
Miller	Clint	C/4th Bn 77FA
Miller	Roy	E/2-506
Russell	Storm	62avn 212th CAB
Toraason	John	326 Eng / 158th Avn
Walsh	Richard	C/2-506
Weinhardt	Gary	HHQ Motorpool

## Membership Roster and Mailing List

I have updated and posted the Membership Roster on our website [www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com). On the roster, I have included your e-mail address.

I have been getting a lot of requests from our members to receive the mailing list, so they can get in touch with other members or to send out Holiday Greetings. I have also received requests from other members asking that their address and information not be sent out. So, **VERY IMPORTANT** if you do not wish for the members to receive your mail address or phone number, please let me know at [frank@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:frank@ripcordassociation.com)

I would really like and appreciate some input on this matter.

# INCOMING MAIL

Here is an important e-mail I received from Keith Nolan, the Author of "Ripcord", *Screaming Eagles under Siege*. Keith Nolan is one of the reasons the Ripcord Association is what it is today. His book "Ripcord" brought a lot of new members to our association.

## A Letter from: Keith Nolan

Just a quick note to all of you good guys I had the honor of meeting when writing the book about Ripcord. Wanted to let you guys know that I received a spot of bad news, as they might say in England: my doctor tells me that I have inoperable, stage-three lung cancer and to get my affairs in order: apparently, I will be in an urn on a mantle in the next year or two!

Holy shit!

In any event, no reason to reply. I mean, what is there to say?

I would be accepting this a little better if I did not have a little daughter to worry about. What she will have to go through because of this is the worst part.... though, truth be told, I must admit to being scared spitless. Needles, chemo, radiation, baldness: not my cup of tea!

As I say, it was an honor to have met you Ripcord veterans. I'm gratified that we were able to get your story in print. I will always be in your debt for all you did to make the book a reality, and for the warm welcome I was given at your reunions.

Warmest Regards,  
Keith  
Keith W. Nolan  
87 Deer Meadow Ct  
Weldon Spring MO 63304-7718  
KWNolan@aim.com

## Another Letter from: Keith Nolan

TO: All of you who have been good enough to write since I got my bad news

Sorry for this rather impersonal message, but I think this general reply is the only way I can catch up with my mail: I recently underwent chemotherapy, whereupon I fell asleep for five days, then wandered around like a groggy zombie for the next five days or so. Whew, no fun!

I have only now checked my mail; since I'm going to shortly get zapped with chemotherapy again (and thus go into hibernation again), I fear that I can't answer everyone individually.

In any event, thank you one and all for your kind messages. Very good for morale!

Not much to report. Was already involved in a nasty custody battle for my eight-year-old daughter when I got this bad news (Britt has lived with me since this summer, given my ex-wife's unfitness as a mother); given this one-to-two-year time span I was just handed, I have now

switched gears, legally speaking, to finding a good family to raise her. One of my doctors has offered to adopt Britt. Keep your fingers crossed that everything falls into place in that regard.

Hmmmm, what else? Well, I'm still trying to finish the manuscript-in-progress about the 1/1 Cavalry in Vietnam, but these chemo-induced hibernations are sure going to slow that effort down!

Incidentally, things could be much worse. Though the chemo knocks me out, and makes for sore joints and an upset stomach, I never did lose my appetite. In addition, my mom has been great about taking care of Britt when I'm knocked out, my girlfriend has been nothing but kind and supportive, and my brother is just the guy to go to when I want to rave and bitch about all of this!

I guess that's about it. Thanks again to all of you.... and Merry Christmas!

Warmest Regards,  
Keith  
Keith W. Nolan  
87 Deer Meadow Ct  
Weldon Spring MO 63304-7718  
KWNolan@aim.com

## New Member:

I just discovered this web site and all the information contained herein. This is wonderful news to me. I would like to know more and get more involved. I am very interested in attending the next reunion in Nevada.

In early July 1970, as an FNG on my way to Delta company in the field, I spent a night on Fire Base O'Reilly before being choppered to Delta and joining the already ongoing battle. I was on the first chopper going in on the LZ when we captured the 51 cal. I was on the right side of the chopper and the squad RTO and the squad machine gunner were on the left, the side the 51 cal. was on, with the three of four NVA in the fighting position shooting at us but not using the 51 cal. I remember that moment like it was yesterday. We later found out that the 51 cal. firing pin was broken. It was a crazy wild time!

I was on the rescue of Alpha, as you know we walked around 3 clicks to get to you guys in Alpha. By this time I was the squad M60 machine gunner. I took that position when we went in after a sister battalion earlier, I think Delta 2/501, and the machine gunner was injured from a mine exploding. This is where we captured the 51 Cal. at the LZ. We were not too far down the ridge line trail from the LZ when this mine went off. We thought it was most likely command detonated.

During the rescue of Alpha you recall the crazy LZ we had where the choppers had to hover high up above the tree tops and then come down to a log landing pad and then do

*(Continued on next page)*

# INCOMING MAIL

it in reverse to get out. There was enemy fire going all the time during the evacuation of Alpha and then Delta. The chopper I went out on was hit in the tail we think on the way in and had to shut down after getting back to Currahee Pad. We were most likely lucky the chopper made it back. It was a hell of a day for everyone in Delta but not as bad as what the folks in Alpha went through.

A lot of memories for sure.

David Alan Fawver  
dsfawver@comcast.net

## New Member

Hi, my name is Storm Russell of Jefferson City Missouri. My partner John Lawrence of Alaska and I flew with the 62nd Aviation Co. (Royal Coachmen) out Phu Bai and Marble Mountain Da Nang during 1970. He was crew chief and I was gunner on a huey slick. We flew bizarre solo missions all over the A Shau. We are almost certain we flew into Ripcord at least once around April/May 1970. It was a dramatic landing as about the time we came in 105s' began blasting away firing almost straight up. John swears one round went right past the nose of our ship. About the same time, a whole section of the perimeter (claymores) went off right under us blasting down hill. We got the hell out of there like a rocket and finally landed on a small pad near the arty which was blasting away. Our pilots dropped of some kind of paperwork to your TOC or somebody. Our huey was shaking and compartment doors popping open from arty, and we thought the thing would start breaking up. Our pilot finally came back and stood there a moment watching the arty work out, then said, Lets get the hell out of here. We did!

Long story short, does your membership include any 62nd Aviation Company (XXIII Corps) personnel? Was there a small landing pad next to your arty? We were at several 101st fire bases around the A Shau. Maybe we are getting senile but we are almost certain this dramatic experience was FSB Ripcord. In April or May 1970. I think we would like to join as friends of your association, but only if we were there. We are not wannabees whom we detest. Please know that we followed the subsequent travails and tragedies of the following months. It was all so hush hush though. I really feel for all the guys that were there. All that sacrifice then leaving it and leveling it. I don't get it. I guess you fellows know more about that though. Great site.

Sincerely,  
Storm Russell  
Jefferson City MO.  
1st Inf Div 69-70, 1st Aviation Brigade 70

## Dear Frank,

I love the website additions, the newsletter, and the great reunion update. I'm sorry we weren't able to attend this

year, but we were thinking of you. I just can't express how much it warms my heart to hear of more first-timers attending the reunion...knowing how much you all changed my dad's life after he started attending. You all are a great group! Please keep the updates coming.

Take care! Give my best to Lee and the rest of the gang.

Julie Sadtler  
jedmister2@yahoo.com

## Dear Mr Widjeskog

Enclosed is a check donation for the Ripcord Association in memory of Irene Newman, the mother of one of your members (Timothy Newman A/2-506) We would very much appreciate it if you could notify the family that a donation has been made in memory of Tim's mother. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Judith Clarke  
Alan Dozorety

## Frank:

Thank you for my latest edition of the Ripcord newsletter. I get great pleasure reading it every time and really appreciate and admire your commitment to getting it done. Do you know if I have ever submitted my set of photo's for the collection? I have some black and whites that I took when Rich Scaglione and I commandeered a helicopter during a stand-down.

Jeff Wilcox,  
www.JeffWilcox.com

## Hi Frank

I know I emailed you when I got back from the greatest time I ever had at the Ripcord Reunion.

It was really great to see all of you again. From the time I walked into the hotel till we departed the airport, those memories will always be with me and I can't wait till next year.

Again thanks for the memories.  
Take care and have a great year.  
John Beadle  
stretchbeadle@hotmail.com

## Hello Frank (Larry Witte visits Google Earth)

I sure have went back to the hill. I flew all over the place with out taking any rounds Ho! Ho! Ho! I went and marked all the place and sights that I saw in the two tours that I had there. Now I'm going to fly to your place when I get done with this chat and mark your place. This is really fun, to go all over the place and it's cheap air fare. I'm trying my best to make it there. It's in the fall and not in July. It's to hard for me

# INCOMING MAIL

to leave then, this is the time I get supplies in the freezer. All the fish and canning and smoking that I do for the winter. It's still like the old days when you need this to help fray the cost of food. As you know there isn't much summer time here to grow food and harvest it. I'm still a man of freedom and like my way of living. I hunt game here and when I do go out side I make sure it's not the heat that will kill me. I still remember Shree Port La. In Oct. it all most got to me then. When its 70 here it's almost to hot. Glad to see they are changing for next year for in Oct. Hope to bring my wife if not that's ok to.

I have an email address now. Why I don't know? I am learning as I go along. Great job you are doing with the group. Last person's I have talk to was Jean and Chuck Holmes from Wisconsin. He was the person that went down in the hook on Ripcord 18th of July. They came to Alaska before they went to the reunion. Had a great time before that it was Chuck Hawkins. His Mother past away. Chuck still has people here in Alaska. He was from this area as a kid. So how is the east coast? Still selling reality? If so you need to buy land here before it gets to high price like it is there plus there is little less people here. Do you have google earth if so look my address up and see what it's like in Alaska. Send me your address and I'll look you up. Till then buddy keep up the good work and thinking of the great people that belong to the Ripcord Family.

Currahee  
Larry Witte  
C/co. 159th AVN. ASHB  
Till then take care.  
Larry Witte

## Dear Lee,

Having just read the latest RIPCORD Report, I began to wonder if anyone has ever "Raised A Glass" to LTC Lucas. I recognize that everyone did not care for LTC Lucas but some of us did. Trying to put myself in his place at Ripcord under the stress from losses and wounded and possible loss of his command was a terrible strain on him personally I believe. How would any of us reacted to these circumstances?

Lest we forget... LTC Lucas gave the supreme sacrifice and was awarded the Congressional Medal Of Honor.

Sincerely  
James A. Williamson CSM RET.  
2/506

## Lee

You guys have a great website and I have downloaded several of your outstanding newsletters over the years. I was in B 1/506 8/69 - 8/70 and was on Ripcord twice during the Battle. My company was working the Maureen and Granite AO and were hit hard in our area too. We were pulled out on 7/23/70 with D 1/506 to form one company and both sent

to FB Bastogne to regroup. I remember the total of our 2 companies was under 70 men.

We that survived those summer months of 1970 were so lucky.

Please send me 3 Ripcord and 2 Hell on a Hilltop books. I am sending copies of both to my son-in-law who is an Army Helicopter Pilot flying medivacs out of Al Aspd airbase. I want him to see the bravery of us grunts and the pilots of our era.

Currahee  
Sam Brown  
B/1-506

## New Member

I was the S-3 Clerk for Maj.K during RIPCORD. I spoke with COL. Andre Lucas every day. I typed, and wrote, the unit report used by Nolan in his book. Believe me, the book told the facts the way I wrote them (I assume that they were the facts).

Prior to my wounding on 12/14/69, I was a grunt with B/2/506 under CPT. Archangel, and LT. B (I still can't spell his name).

I still get a kick out of hearing CURRAHEE, since to us it meant a visit to the latrine. "It don't mean nothin'" is still in my vocab.

Why do I not recognize any of the name's of B/2/506th? Did they all get replaced (or KIA'ed). If you remember me (New Yorker) please e-mail,

Marty Galle  
PS Lt B is alive and well, so is CPT Archangel.

## From one of the First Association members

It is hard to believe that it has been over 20 years since Chip and I first talked about Ripcord and the newsletter. Chip was a great man and his idea lives on. I would like to be on the membership role once again and look forward to the next reunion that will be in Laughlin.

Currahee,  
Bill Heath.

## Good News

We are looking forward to our first reunion this next year in Laughlin. I have enjoyed the newsletter over the past years as my way of keeping up to date. I have not been able to communicate my Vietnam feelings even to my wife of 38 years, let alone strangers. But maybe this next year I can make a commitment. Thanks for the opportunity.

Robert Barrowcliff  
159th ASHC (Pachyderms)  
jimkw@comcast.net

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Charles Farring Hawkins, C Co., A Co., and HHC, 2/506

AKA: Chuck, Hawk, Charlie Oscar, Nanook of the North, Dumb\_\_\_\_, and a few other choice expletives.

In China I am called Hua Qin-si (Hawkins), after a well-known Confucian era Kung-fu master. But that's another story.

If you Google "Charles F. Hawkins" you will most often come up with a guy at the University of New Mexico with a Ph.D. in electronic engineering. That's not me.

I was raised in the great state of Alaska, and while some folks joke that I was "born in the belly of a moose," I was actually born of fairly normal humans in Carmel, California on August 1, 1946.

My father, James Edgar, mustered out of service with the 10th Mountain Division in World War II at Fort Ord, California. Mother, Mary Teresa Reinheimer, left a teaching position at State College, Pennsylvania to join Dad on the left coast.

Both parents were schoolteachers and in 1950 accepted a federal teaching assignment in Ninilchik, Alaska. (It's on the Kenai Peninsula, about 100 raven flying miles south of Anchorage.) By that time I had a little brother, Richard Michael (who later became a school teacher and Air National Guard rescue helicopter pilot). After we got to The Kenai and took a look around we decided we liked it, staked out a homestead, and stayed.

I grew up hunting and fishing, roaming the forests, working on fishing boats, planting and harvesting crops, and doing all the normal things a kid does in the wilderness. I had the makings of a good point man, until...

In 1964 I received an appointment to West Point through Senator Ernest Gruening (one of only two senators who voted against the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that got us into the Vietnam War). Sort of ironic...

On June 5, 1968 I graduated and put on the "butter bars" of a second lieutenant and the crossed rifles of an infantry officer. Hot damn! I was already airborne qualified when I graduated; then followed the obligatory Infantry Officer's Basic Course at Fortress Benning and Ranger School. Earning the coveted Ranger Tab wasn't so bad—I'd been on tougher moose hunts.

My first assignment was with the 4th Armored Division, 1/51st Infantry in Crailsheim, Germany. Within a year I had two sets of reassignment orders: one for flight school and the other for Vietnam. I decided not to become an aviator. It was time to go to war.

Has there ever been a good place to go to war? Probably not. But I had done some research, and when I got to Vietnam (geeze, it was hot!) I requested (demanded?) assignment to the 101st Airborne Division, then operating in the mountains of Thua Thien Province. On March 6, 1970 I reported to Lt. Col. Andre Lucas at the 2/506th rear HQ. Two days later I was on Rocket Ridge leading 2nd Pla-

toon, C Co., and Capt. Vasquez was my commander.

Most of you can pick up the story from here. It's familiar ground. We humped the boonies most of the time, and when we weren't busting brush with a 100-lb. ruck on our backs, we were building firebases. We humped and built more than we fought, and we fought a lot.

There were a lot of good guys in Charlie Co. Doc Shepherd, Rainwater, my RTO, and SSG Queen, my first platoon sergeant. But at the risk of their perpetual notoriety and embarrassment I will single out three: Bob (Gypsy) Wallace and Jim Campbell, two of the finest officers I have ever known, and SSG Paul Burkey, the best damn platoon sergeant, period!

On May 30 Lucas pinned captain's bars on my collar (it was before my regular promotion date; the term for this sort of early promotion is called "frocking"), and I took over Alpha Company. That's where I got the nickname Charlie Oscar, and it has stuck with me all these years among those with whom I served.

The men of Alpha Company were simply the most outstanding soldiers I have ever had the honor of serving with. I can't name you all here at the risk of missing someone important (yeah, I'm getting older and more forgetful). But you know who you are, and you were then and are now important to me. Some of you didn't come home, and I miss you the most. You did your duty. You supported your fellow soldiers. You fought like hell. You did not stain your sacred honor. I would serve with you again, anytime, anywhere.

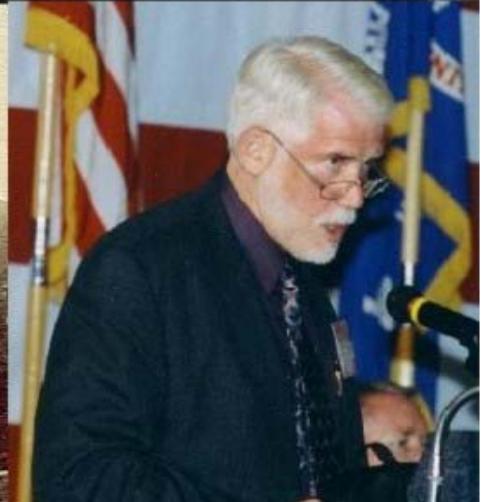
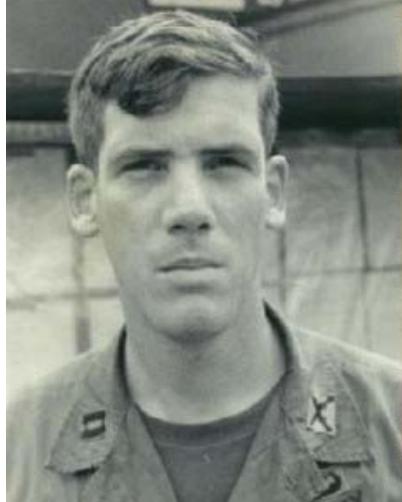
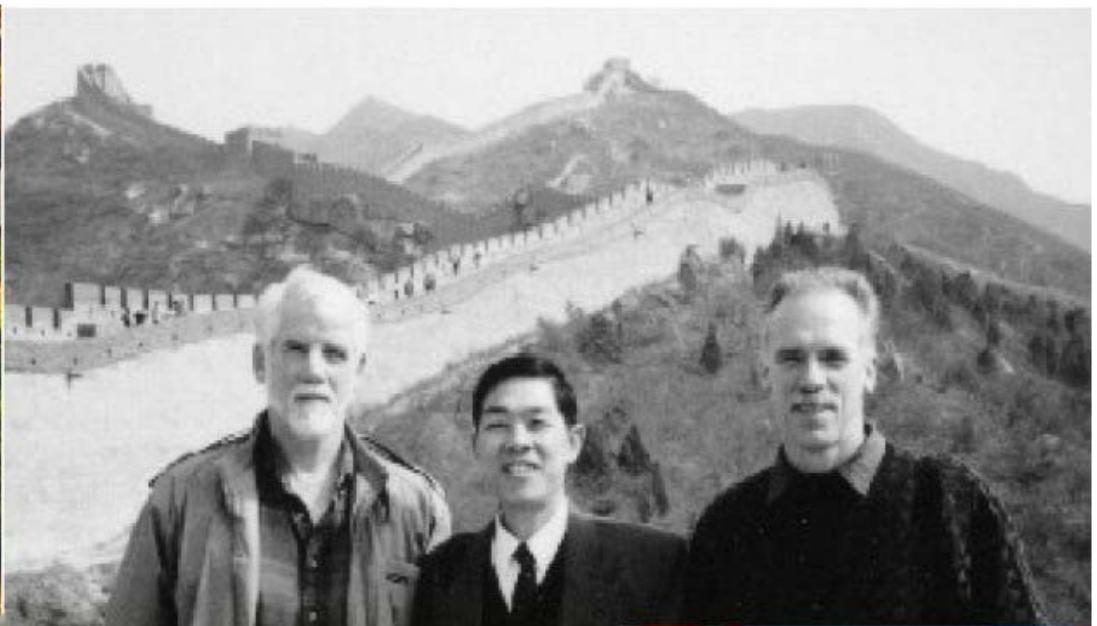
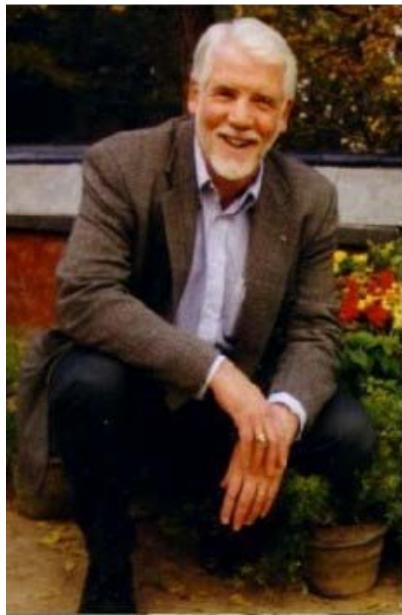
God bless all the men of Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry! I love you more than mere words can convey.

After the Battle of Firebase Ripcord was over (July 23, 1970; read Keith William Nolan's excellent account in *Ripcord, Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970*) Alpha Co. went back to the field with 39 men, nine old hands and 30 new guys. During the months of August through November we did more damage to the enemy than any other outfit in the battalion. (Was it a lust for revenge? Or...)

At the end of November I was reassigned to be the battalion S-1 (personnel officer). I finished my tour on February 20, 1971, and went back to the World.

I continued on active duty until September 1977, when I resigned my commission and became a real-life REMF. I served in the 1st Infantry Division from 1971-1975 where I commanded two more rifle companies (A/1-18th, and A/2-16th), then went back to Benning's School for Boys to attend the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course, and finished up as a staff weenie at U.S. Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Atlanta was a great place and a fun city. I enjoyed my



**Chuck: Smiling; At the Great Wall; Boy Commander A/2-506; FSB O'Reilly; Ripcord Reunion Talk**

time there, and "got into computers" in the early days of the PC. I joined the Georgia Army National Guard and commanded a fifth rifle company (B/1-121st Infantry) with Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade, the second finest unit I've ever served with.

In 1984 I moved to northern Virginia to work as a computer geek at the White House Communications Agency, and other government organizations (mostly classified). I shifted my Guard allegiance to Virginia and helped form the 1st Battalion, 170th Infantry, 29th Infantry Division. I retired as a major from the Army Reserve in 1990.

Bill Clinton was never my commander-in-chief. Hah!

Since that time I've done a lot of work for the defense and intelligence community. We call it "analysis," but it is really journalism disguised as analysis. And I've had the pleasure of going to many interesting places, including a lot of Europe and a good part of Asia. In the past decade I've logged nearly 500 days in China on over 30 trips, and have been to the Chinese-North Korean frontier a number of times. I have also been a regular part of the U.S. observer team helping the Taiwan military prepare itself for a

war with Mainland China. These efforts show no signs of abating.

In 2006 the U.S. Army Foreign Military Studies Office published a book I edited: *The New Great Game: Chinese Views on Central Asia*. Another book, *Asia Pacific Security: Observations and Opinions of an American Defense Analyst*, can be found at: <http://www.militaryconflict.org/publications>. Click on the title in the section.

I enjoy what I do. I'm thankful for the many blessings God has given me, and this includes the experience of leading outstanding American men in combat. Not a day goes by that I don't think about Ripcord and the men who served in that hellish place.

Chuck Hawkins

P.S., Although I'm settled into a comfortable spot on Kent Island, Maryland, I find myself going back to Alaska more frequently these days. The old homestead is now in my care, and it needs some work, as any 57-year-old log structure will. If you're ever of a mind to visit The Great Land, let me know. The cabin door is always open.

# INCOMING MAIL

(Continued from page 5)

## More Good News

I hope to make another reunion, someday; I did make the one in Boulder, CO back in the mid nineties. My old company, many of whom fought in the Ripcord area, had a reunion out here in the Colorado Springs area in 2002.

It was a great time. Isn't it strange how getting together with the men you experienced horrible times with can be such a wonderful experience years later?

Take care,  
Jim Kwiecien  
A/2/501

## Frank

You have a great web-site here and have been a big help in my research of my uncle in Vietnam. I am looking forward to eventually meeting other men who fought beside my uncle in Vietnam. And I hope to learn all I can about his and others experience there. Thank you.

Cameron Alan Piatt  
cam76piatt@yahoo.com  
(Cameron is speaking of his Uncle Robert Ernest Lowe  
A/2-506 who was KIA May 70)

## New Member

See all at next reunion I have great pictures from Fire Base Ripcord contact me for more info

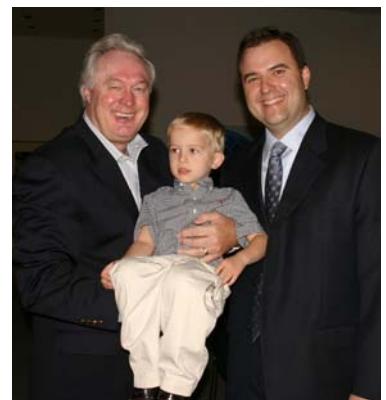
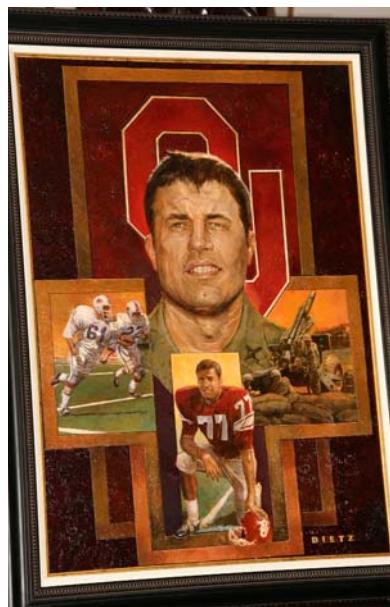
Gary Richard Weinhardt  
HQ Motorpool  
thejknmpalace@yahoo.com

## New member

I was at Ripcord for a day in 4/70. I was the parachute rigger from the 426th B Co. S&S Bn. After leaving Ripcord I was sent to Rakasan where the 8" tubes set up just for Ripcord support. Two weeks later I moved again to Camp Evans and worked at the pad hooking up chinooks with beans and bullets for Ripcord. There were 2 riggers there both named Larry and both from CA. After they were wounded Rick Byrd was sent in to finish out the evac. While at Rakasan I heard the news about Pat Bohan one of the pathfinders who we worked closely with died from shrapnel wounds. His call sign was Boner. This is a good web site, I wonder as why nothing had been said or written of the fire base during that time. I read Keith Nolan book as soon as I heard of it. Keep up the good work and "Airborne" !!

David Bridges  
David.Bridges@AlconLabs.com

## Bob Kalsu Memorial Painting



*Left: The Bob Kalsu Memorial Painting on display in the University of Oklahoma Army ROTC Armory.*

*Above (l-r): 1969 Heisman Trophy winner Steve Owens, Robert Kalsu III and Bob Kalsu Jr.*

Dear Sir,

I just wanted to show you a couple of pics from the painting presentation. The painting is proudly displayed in the OU Army ROTC Armory along with a framed copy of the sports illustrated story that was done a few years ago. Several hundred folks came through the armory to view it over the last couple of weeks.

Thanks again for your service to the nation and support for our project.

With great respect,  
KENNAN D. HORN  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
University of Oklahoma  
Professor of Military Science  
**"BOOMER SOONER"**



*Bob Kalsu's Daughter Jill and her husband, son Bob Jr. and all of Bob Kalsu's grandkids.*