



RIPCORD REPORT



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

Number 99

Fall 2014

Billy Joel Concert in Philadelphia Citizen Park (Phillies ballpark) Salutes Veterans

Ripcord Veterans Dennis Bloomingdale and Frank Marshall on stage with Billy Joel



Photos by Thomas Collins

Langhorne Rod and Gun Club Honors the Ripcord Veterans

On Saturday, July 26th, 2014, Langhorne Rod and Gun Club in Holland (Southampton), PA held a commemorative Practical Rifle match titled "Firebase Ripcord" to honor all of the brave warriors who have fought and sacrificed so much for our beloved country and specifically for the warriors in that battle. We were honored to be joined at our event by three men who fought in that horrendous campaign: Frank Marshall, Don Holthausen and Jim Roach. Our appreciation and respect for these three men and for all of the men & women currently serving and our veterans, is immeasurable.

From our Practical Rifle Chairman Gary Bissig, his assistant Tim Land, his Practical Rifle Committee members & volunteers, the participants of the event, our club officers, our Board of Trustees and from me, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. May God bless you and all of our Military and Veterans.

Respectfully & gratefully,

David M. Esposito

LR&GC President



FROM THE EDITOR

Author Chris Brady, whose father was in A/2-506, is writing a new book telling the story of Firebase Ripcord and the battles around the firebase. Chris has interviewed over 100 Ripcord veterans so far and is looking to interview many more. Get in touch with me at frank@ripcordassociation.com to schedule an interview by e-mail, phone or in person. Time is running out.



The documentary *The Ghosts of Ripcord* is still being worked with professional finishing touches and should be completed very shortly.

The photos on the front page of this issue show Dennis Bloomingdale and me on stage with Billy Joel, wow what a great time that was. Also on the front page is a photo of a few of us at the Rifle match in honor of Firebase Ripcord by the Langhorne Rod and Gun Club in Langhorne, PA. Another great time and wonderful tribute.

Please do not waste any more time and register for the reunion now. The hotel is filling up fast. Our reunions are a lasting memory of fun, love and unity for all.

Dennis Bloomingdale is working on the 2013 reunion yearbook. Paul Buhr did a fantastic job taking the photos and it should be available for sale at the 2014 reunion. You may request one on line or by contacting Lee Widjeskog as soon as they are available. I will post more info on our website.



Visit our website at
www.ripcordassociation.com

Read the **Ripcord Report** on line
Daily updates History
much more

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

by Chris Brady



More than 100 Ripcord veterans have contributed to the book project and for that I'm incredibly thankful. With each and every conversation, email or picture provided, more is learned. With that, our work is not done. I'd still like to hear from more of you.

If I have not contacted you, or failed to reach you, take time to reach out to me at cbrady@windstream.net and we can set something up. You can also contact me through Frank Marshall at the Ripcord Association.

No one person's story is bigger or smaller than another. It all aids to put the pieces together. It is my aim to provide your stories to the public.

Thanks and I look forward to meeting you in person at Myrtle Beach.

Chris Brady

cbrady@windstream.net

2014 Ripcord Reunion

Oct 8 thru 12, 2014

Myrtle Beach, SC

Registration forms are in this issue
on page 6 and 8

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

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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.

- Wilburn Wall
- Ben Peters C 2/506
- Bill Williams B 2/506
- Bill Hand
- Gary Madsen D 1/506
- Paul Buhr A 2/506
- Thomas McGuire
- Dick Cable E 2/506
- Dan Esposito 2/11 FA
- John Fowler C 2/506
- Chuck Hawkins C & A 2/506
- Robert Seitz B & E 2/506
- Andrew Hegedus remembering Jerry Risinger, Chuck Schlueter & Steve Geroel
- George Murphy in memory of (father of Freddie Gilbert) Frederick Gilbert Sr. WWII veteran.
- Audrey Wrightsell in memory of David (Big John) Johnson A 2/11 FA
- James McCall in memory of Rembert Rollison D 2/506

Checks payable to "Ripcord Association".

Mail to:

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

Ripcord Association Membership Roster

The Ripcord Association membership roster has been updated on our website. We have 666 members. There are 547 Ripcord veterans and 115 Associate members. Please go to our website under the membership roster page and if your name is under the "Not verified" list, that means I have not received your updated information. There are 245 non-verified previous members. Fill out the membership application on the website and hit submit. It is easy to do.

Newest Members since Jan 2014

<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Heeg	Brian	A/1-506
Mallard	Tom	2/501
Breaux	Raymond	B/2-501
Ross	Chris	B/2-501
Nyguard	Steve	C/2-501
Hegedus	Andrew	C/2-506
Blackburn	William	C/2-506
Romig	Robert	D & E/2-506
Hudgens Jr	Marvin	D/2-506
Hoskins	Ronald	E/2-506
Minch	Mark	B/2-319th
Dunphy	Edward	B/2-319
Martin	Frank	A/2-320
Harris	Tommy	Associate Member
Hof	August	Associate Member
Randolph	Jeff	Associate Member
Reynolds	Justin	Associate Member
Bohan	Timothy	Associate Member
Ortega	Joshua	Associate Member
Hanson	Luthor	Associate Member
Zoller	Barb	Associate member
Diefel	Eric	Associate Member
Whitener	Russell	A/2-94th FA
Esposito	David	Associate Member
Siegner	Andy	B/101
Boyd	Keith	B/158th Avn
Glennon	William	A/158th Avn
Ottis	Richard	C/4-77th ARA
Peterson	Orlan	C/2-17 Cav 101
Garzon	Larry	A/101 Avn Bn
Lewis	William	B/159th ASHB
Richards	Harvey	A/158th AHB
Long	Lawrence	265th RRC

**Grand Valley State University Veterans
History Project
Ripcord Interview Update and
Call for Volunteers**

July 2014

Submitted by Dr. James Smither, Project Director

We have now conducted over fifty interviews with members of the Ripcord Association, most of which are posted on our website, www.gvsu.edu/vethistory in our Veterans History Archive, and are also accessible from the Ripcord Association website. All of the interviews that we recorded in Indianapolis in 2011 and 2012 are posted, and the ones from Myrtle Beach in 2013 are either posted or in the pipeline, and should be up by the time of the reunion in October.

Each year we have attended the reunion, we wound up meeting more members willing to be interviewed than we could fit onto the schedule, so we are planning to return to Myrtle Beach this year to continue our work. As usual, Mike McGregor and I will interview the veterans. We are interested in interviewing not only the Ripcord veterans themselves, but also their wives, especially those who knew their husbands before they left for Vietnam. My wife, Dr. Janet Coryell of Western Michigan University, a specialist in American women's history, will conduct those interviews. Her interview with Carol Gilbert is on the website, so anyone interested can look at that to get a sense of how that type of interview will work. Our larger project covers home front experiences as well as those in country, and there is very little out there, whether in scholarly or popular literature, that tells the experiences of the wives of Vietnam veterans, so there is a real need for them to come forward and share their stories.

Our interviews are separate from the ones done for the documentary put together by the team from Temple University, and from the ones conducted by Chris Brady for his book project, and complement those other works in important ways. The book and documentary can only present small parts of each individual's military experiences, or even of their experiences in the Ripcord campaign, whereas the oral history interviews tell the full story, following each veteran from the time before he entered the service through training, active duty and out the other end. Our interviews are freely accessible on our website, so anyone who reads the book or views the documentary can learn the rest of each veteran's

story by viewing the interviews. So if you've talked to Chris or are featured in the documentary but have not recorded an interview with us, I encourage you to sign up if you plan to attend the reunion. For those not attending the reunion, I also sometimes do road trips, especially in the Midwest and Northeast, and may be able to interview you in your home.

If you are interested in signing up to be interviewed, please contact me by email at smitherj@gvsu.edu, or by phone at 616-331-3422 (please leave a voice mail message if I'm not in the office when you call). Chris Brady and Frank Marshall are working with me to identify likely candidates, and are sharing contact information with me, so don't be too surprised if you get an invitation from me to sign up. We will continue to sign people up once we arrive at the reunion, but it helps us to schedule more efficiently and record more interviews if we can make advance arrangements.

Mike, Janet and I have all enjoyed our visits to the reunions, and very much appreciate the welcome we have received from the Ripcord family. Your group is a unique one, and your story needs to be told, and we consider it a privilege to be able to help you tell it.

Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Chritchlow



Helloooooo from Idaho! It's vacation time. I truly hope you are having a great summer. My vacation starts on August 15. Although, retirement is a vacation.

Our face book page keeps growing. As of August 6, we have 427. I'm sure by the time this news letter get to everyone we will have many more.

I'm waiting on pins and needles for the documentary to be on TV. Keep the faith we will see it. Pleas keep posting your pictures. I would like anyone going to this year's reunion to take lots of pictures and post on our facebook page.. My wife and I are looking forward to attending in 2015. Have fun for the rest of your summer

Anthony Chritchlow

anthony2cu2@q.com

VETERANS HEALING NETWORK

Katherine Wilcox



Years ago I worked for an attorney involved in the Agent Orange Lawsuit. My job was to reach out to veterans and their families in Washington State to tell them about Agent Orange symptoms and to explain their rights in the lawsuit. At the same time Jeff was the director of the Seattle Veterans Action (Counseling) Center, so we often worked together, discussing Agent Orange and Post-Traumatic Stress.

In those days PTS treatment included drugs or talk therapy and rap groups. Recently I did some searches to learn what is known about Post-Traumatic Stress now? I didn't find very much that is new. There are a lot more therapy choices offered by the VA, and that's good to know, but I didn't find much that I would have benefited from years ago when Jeff came home from Vietnam. Before he left I asked the other military wives what I might expect when he returned from the war. I wanted and expected to be reassured that I had nothing to worry about. Instead, they told me what they had "heard from other wives". They talked about startle reactions, nightmares, outbursts of rage and what to do about it. This turned out to be invaluable information.

I began thinking of all the practical tips, pointers, appropriate coping mechanisms I have learned from other wives. The spouse rap groups I've participated in provided a great forum for sharing "what works". For example, someone told us how a simple shift in the way she talked with her husband reduced the stress level. Another told about a neat exercise she and her husband did that opened communication in new ways. Many wives have told me what a powerfully positive experience it was for their husband to attend a reunion.

We also started on-going topics for discussion. We asked ourselves questions like – There's stress in all marriages, what makes living with a combat veteran different from living with a civilian? What do you tell the kids/friends/family about PTS? How does the combat experience affect everyday life in a positive way? What decisions about the world, about life, about family did the veteran make since combat that has led to joy, well-being, peacefulness? We had very lively conversations.

This year I started a webpage vethealing.net to point to non-drug treatments of PTS. I found several non-medical sites that I thought were worth publicizing. For

example,

~ Col (R) Jill Chambers' job at the Joint Chiefs of Staff was to de-stigmatize PTS. Through grants, her organization [This Able Vet](http://ThisAbleVet.org) provides tools free of charge to empower vets and their families to take charge of their health. Jill also has had PTS and she lists quite a few resources that have worked in her healing process.

~ Michele Rosenthal is a non-veteran who "went on a healing rampage" for her PTS. Her [blog](#) has won a "Best PTS Blog" award.

~ A [PTS Success Stories](#) section was started on a very well respected mental health bulletin board. It's a great place for us to discuss what we've looked into and how it's worked.

Vethealing.net is linked to a Facebook page [Veterans Healing Network](#). Both of these are designed for input from you. The space is created. I invite you to participate.

It was moving to find out about "C" Company's Big Brother program for the old-timers and active duty soldiers. Now that our generation is older and wiser, I see it as a gift to pass on our wisdom. Like those caring wives who could speak to me honestly and directly about living with someone who has PTS, I wonder how we Ripcordettes can provide support especially to younger vets and their families?

I'm looking to connect with others interested in this project. Feel free to contact me if you have comments, suggestions or anything else. I'd love to hear from you.

Katherine Wilcox

wilcox_k@macatawa.org

269.857.2716

Anna Britt Nolan Trust

by George and Mary Murphy



Hi, Everyone,

Hope all of you are having an enjoyable summer. Our 2014 Reunion in Myrtle Beach is coming up quickly now and we just want to remind everyone to bring "goodies" for the Anna Britt Nolan Trust Fund Raffle, as well as "lots of money" for raffle tickets.

We can't wait to see you on the beach in October.

Thank you,

George and Mary Murphy

INCOMING MAIL

Lee-

My wife and I had a pleasant time at MB last year for a variety of reasons and Linda and I are planning to hit Myrtle Beach come October again. This time, if I can dig out my "Sanford & Son" man-cave – I will also bring my photo albums for passing around and review by members. Being in aviation, I had the opportunity to get around a lot. So there are varied places in I Corps and the Ripcord area from the air. The one shot I had taken of Ripcord is in face on the Associations website. The Pinnacle shot pf Ripcord. I have taken that and had a poster size of it (36x24) made for Chip Collins years ago. If I recall right, he ended up donating it to a VFW in Piscataway, NJ to hang on their wall. I found my first Ripcord reunion beer mug Chip sent me and I plan to bring it to MB.

Now for my question! Where and when will the 2015 reunion be held?

Thanks!

Tom Chase

163 AVN

(Editor's Note: The 2015 Ripcord reunion will be held in Springfield MO.)

Please help locate:

My uncle David C. McCranie, is listed as KIA on the FSB Ripcord Assn webpage. I was 10 years old when he was killed but his memory and sacrifice has been a important influence throughout my life. I would love to make contact with someone who served with him to glean any bit of information they could share about him and his final days there.

If there is anyway for me to do this, please contact me. It would mean so very much to me and to my son (who also served in the Infantry in Iraq).

With my utmost respect,

Judy Calhoun

judycalhoun59@gmail.com

To Editor:

I would like to know some members of Ripcord Association that were in my unit, that are members of Ripcord Association and addresses and tel. numbers of the same, so that I may communicate with them and to

know when the next meeting is. Thankyou

Ronald Hoskins

jannet1981@yahoo.com

E/2nd 506 INF

To Editor:

I was on FB just out of range to be any help, but neither were the bombers were they. They all flew right over us to make their drops. Some of you ended up in my section afterwards but were too Shell shocked to be much help. They picked you up after a few days and hopefully gave you a much needed R&R

Douglas Westfall

dougwestfall26@gmail.com

Associate Member

1/321 arty

Dear Mr Marshall Frank

I was Arvn ssgt interpreter Thuyet Nguyen 2/506 101 abn div (Camp Evans) with Lt James McCall HHC S5 commanding, before Lt McCall and me was in D Co, in the Ripcord battle we had one ARVN interpreter (Mr Long) was killed in action and I carry on his body from deathhouse (Camp Evans) to his family in Saigon, I think Mr Long was your interpreter A Co 2/506 .

I am happy when I meet all veterans 2/506 on the internet and on FSB Ripcord Association, I send the bestwishes to you and veterans 2/506, in this time of FSB Ripcord battle, I remember one story the helicopter rescue one kit carson scout (VC retournee or chieu hoi) as the last men on the fsb. I live at nhatrang city, if any veterans have a chance to go to tourist Nhatrang city please call to my phone 0903521364 my name Thuyet Nguyen adress chi cuc thue Dien Khanh district Khanh Hoa province.

Thuyet nguyen

nguyenthuyet1947@gmail.com

To membership:

PFC Patrick J. Bohan Pathfinder with the 101st Airborne died 7-10-1970 on Ripcord. He was 19, I was 15. I need to do more to honor his memory. I am going to Viet Nam, and hope to go to Ripcord.

Timothy Bohan

timelain@pacbell.net

Associate Member

INCOMING MAIL

Please help locate:

I am looking for a friend of mine that I served with in Vietnam. My name is Richard Kapp and his name is Ron Gessler and we were in Charlie Company with the 3rd 187th located at Camp Evans in 1970. If you can help me in any way or know of anyone who can please let me know.

Thank you

Richard Kapp

jamie8579@aol.com

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Frank,

Steve Smith here. In 69 and 70 I was with Charlie Co., 1st of the 506th, 101st Airborne. Farmer and Zippo were my Commanders. Ranger did command C. Co for about a month in Dec. 69 when Farmer was on home leave. My call sign was Raider and I was the acting 3rd Platoon Leader from Dec 69 until I was wounded on 17 May, 70 just off FB Maureen (sp).

I was on Granite with C. Co. when we were hit in March 70 and a few days later my platoon took point when we walked off in the middle of the night. We ended up linking with a Company from the 2nd BN but I do not recall who the C.O. was. I do recall he met us just outside his own perimeter and that he carried a shotgun. It may have been Capt Hawkins but as I said I am unsure as to who it was.

You may know who the C.O. was and if you do I want to relay a huge thanks for what he did for us that night. I live in S.C. about two hours from Myrtle Beach and my wife and I intend to be at the 2014 Ripcord reunion.

Respectfully,

Stephen R. Smith

guntrain@bellsouth.net

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Hi Lee,

First of all, thank you immensely for your service... you and the others are true heroes in this country. My name is Jim Bush. I'm originally from Indiana and currently live in San Antonio TX. The reason I'm writing is I have read Keith Nolan's book twice now. I have special interest in the Vietnam War and always have because my uncle, John Bush, served there in the

101st 1969-1970. Unfortunately he passed away about 25 years ago from esophagus cancer. I was born in 1969 and my uncle John and my dad are twins so my uncle volunteered for service in Vietnam so my dad wouldn't have to go. Growing up, as long as I can remember I was fascinated by his service and experience. He never really talked about it, but he would get out his stuff for me when I asked and he would answer my questions.

You certainly can understand how he would get immediately nervous, wide-eyed, peeking around the corner to see if any of the younger kids were coming... he would be very protective of the young ones even knowing what we were doing. He would glance at me, almost as if he were upset that I asked him to get the "stuff" out, pictures newspaper articles, etc.

What I'm wondering and hoping for is if you can point me in the right direction to see what unit he was in. He had a picture of Ripcord, I believe, and also a picture of FSB Bertchesgaden. I really believe he was in the battle of Ripcord in some capacity...it all adds up from his pictures and clippings and the answers to my questions, but I would like to know exactly, if possible. My interest has always been so keen that I remember word for word nearly his answers to every question I asked.

For example, once he said while talking with my dad, "this helicopter crashed and fuel was everywhere...I said to myself, "this is it, one round hits and it's over... my mouth was so dry, Jim (my dad) after a sip from my canteen my mouth was still "f'n" dry (laughing). They called each other Simmy and Sohny since babies...they joked all the time. Anyway, I don't want to bore you. So it never hurts to ask....do you remember a John Bush from Gary Indiana? Any help would be greatly appreciated, Lee. Communication and logistics are difficult these days with my Aunt and cousin so far away...I may never get to see the "stuff" again...he even had some tape recordings from the field that he sent home while there that I wish I could listen to....my mom remembers the family gathering around listening, she said it was scary. Anyway, thanks again, Sir...and *God Bless you.*

Jim Bush

jbush@reagan.com

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Hello,

My name is Eric. My father Rod Lindell served in Vietnam. He recently brought up Ripcord to me as he

INCOMING MAIL

saw it briefly brought up in a documentary. He thought that he possibly imagined Ripcord as he would talk to other vets saying he was full of shit. He was there in the midst of all of it. I'm glad I stumbled across this sight. I was wondering if there are copies available of the documentary I could purchase for him or make a donation regardless. I would love to surprise him with it. Let me know. And thank you. All u VETERANS who served.

Sincerely,

Eric

eric_diefel@hotmail.com

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Hello,

I am the niece of PFC Dennis Morrill. He was not on Firebase RIPCORN, but actually on FIREBASE GRANITE when he died. I am wondering if he was flying back and forth from RIPCORN. It was also reported that his bunker was hit by a sapper attack on 3/20/70 and that is how he died. I am curious as I have seen that some of these operations during this time were covert. As a little girl in 1970, I often wondered why no one seemed to know where my uncle was other than that he was somewhere in the A Shau valley. I would like to confirm exactly where he was at the time of death and what Operation he was on. Was he part of Operation Texas Star even though this listing indicates that was Fire Support Base Ripcord? I have a map which shows both firebases pretty close together. Anyway, my mother received a letter from his commanding officer who died before finishing the letter so his replacement finished it. I suppose if I could find their names, it would be more helpful. Well, thank you for the information on my uncle and have a Blessed Memorial Day.

Maurine McDermott

(Editor's note: this message came from roger.gaines@togetherweserved.com with the note below, please contact him if you can help)

I was hoping you could help me on anyone that knew Dennis and what really happened to him. His family wants to know. If you get a chance check out our website. We do support Associations. We can add yours. It is free.

roger.gaines@togetherweserved.com

Second request:

I posted this previously with no response. Once again I'm looking for 5 young men injured in a mortar attack on ripcord. Here are the details. I remember it like it was yesterday. My background. I'm WO Kenneth Mayberry (NE), call sign Phoenix 50, flying my aircraft 606, I was a Aircraft Commander with the Phoenix (blue dot on the tail boom) C/158 Avn Bn at Camp Evans. My right seat (pilot) was WO David Rayburn (GA) a new guy, first combat mission, my Crewchief this day was Sp4 John Ackerman and my Doorgunner Sp4 Wayne Wasilk both from a small town in SD. The Phoenix were 10 aircraft of 6 flights of 10 for this move. All 101 Avn assets were employed. Due to CC comms failure our flight lead, Cpt Randy House broke off to lead the evacuation. We were directed to report over a prominent waterfall in the area & were then directed to a pickup pad for extraction. We were the second flt of 10 to go in. The first flt all made a "go around" because of hostile mortar fire. I was directed to the log pad & as I turned final I had mortars impacting along a seemingly straight line paralleling my flt path. Boom Boom Boom I believe 4 or 5 mortars impacted. I instinctively intended to go around & then the mortars stopped, I seen the guys waiting for me so elected to go in. As I flared another mortar impacted knocking the men down like bowling pins. My left leg felt like a hot poker had been stuck in & I knew I had been hit by shrapnel. Over the intercom someone said "go around" & I said "no, get those guys first". Before my skids hit the ground I saw my crewchief & gunner dash past my wind screen & begun to carry the wounded guys into the aircraft. What I witnessed was the most courageous act I'd ever seen. 2 guys running across open ground carrying wounded trouper to our aircraft. If another mortar splashes down they are dead. Everything went into slow motion. I had people calling asking if we had trouble because we were on the ground so long. I was afraid to answer because I didn't want to break the spell. Finally John & Wayne got everyone loaded & we took off. These guys were wounded BAD! My crew tried their best to dress their wounds with our on board first aid kits. Blood was everywhere in the bay. I realized blood has a distinctive odor.

We went directly to Charlie Med at Camp Evans. Phoenix 44 followed me & checked my air craft out. At Charlie Med one of the Drs asked me if I was wounded (he saw the shrapnel holes in the chin bubble), I said "no". Compared to the guys we just brought in I would have been embarrassed. I flew back to the Nest to have

INCOMING MAIL

maintenance check my aircraft out.

They immediately grounded it, I had over 40 holes.

Its next flight would be under the belly of a Chinook sling loaded to DaNang for repair.

After a long wait maintenance finally released a bird for me to get back in the air. My Battalion called twice asking if I had been wounded, they had seen my aircraft. I lied and said no. By the time I got back in the air the evac was over but I got in on pulling the security force out that we had inserted before the evac had begun. By the time I got in that night my leg was really hurting so I got a beer & went to our medics' hootch & had the shrapnel extracted.

I tried to put Ackerman & Wasilk in for medals, I thought Silver Stars were appropriate, but my Plt leader told me he would have to put me in for a higher award so I dropped it. Medals were not a high priority then. I regret that now.

For over 40 yrs I've thought about those guys we brought in. What happened to them? They were horribly wounded that day. I would love to hear from them.

Can you help?

Kenneth L Mayberry

Phoenix50@neb.rr.com or kensue@neb.rr.com

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JERSEY RAMBLINGS

by Lee Widjeskog A/2-506



July has come and gone once more!! For many of the Ripcord Survivors, it is a month that stirs memories of 1970. For some March is the month and others April when we tried and eventually established the firebase. But things were also happening in and around Ripcord during May and June and as a result there are memories burned into our minds outside of July. There are "lucky" individuals who were present in the AO (area of operations) during the whole 5 month period. Some got wounded and returned to the field a week or two later. A few very lucky individuals actually managed to miss getting hit mostly through being in the right place at the right time. If anyone knows how it is done, I am certain the Army would love to hear your technique. Regardless if you were present a few days,

one or two months or the whole time, you did not come out of it without a lot of memories both good and bad. July, being the month of the most casualties is the month that haunts most of us in one way or another. As the years pass it is still there, not quite as vividly haunting as in the past, but still very much a part of our lives. It is a good time to remember those who did not make it past July. As long as there is someone who remembers them, then they are really never gone!

On a lighter note, Kathy and I took a three week tour via automobile to southwestern Utah to meet relatives and enjoy the rock formations of Zion, Bryce, and Capital Reef national Parks. While there we visited various petroglyph sites as well as the state parks of Snow Canyon, Dead Horse Point and Goblin Valley. It would be easy to spend two months just touring all there is to see without entering the larger cities. Kathy will tell you it is her favorite state to visit.

On our way out we stopped in to visit with Robin Graham in Kansas. He continues to update the annotated history he did of the 2/506. I am still amazed at the work he put in on this history and the great photos he provided to give a better perspective of the area.

Leaving Utah we stopped in to see Bill and Sheila Williams near Lake George, Colorado. They were kind enough to put us up for a few night and feed us as if we would have to fast after we left. We greatly enjoyed our visit and go to see their high altitude estate. At 9,200 feet in elevation, this low lander found if I went upstairs, came down and had to go up again without a break, I would find myself huffing and puffing as if I had just run. It does take a while to get used to the altitude!! In spite of the climbing, we will be certain to check on the Williams the next time we are in the area.

Next trip for us will be to Myrtle Beach in October. Hope to see you all there!!

2014 Ripcord Reunion

Oct 8 thru 12, 2014

Myrtle Beach, SC

**Registration forms are in this issue
on page 6 and 8**

**RIPCORD REUNION 2014
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA**

- Yes, I'll be there!
 Yes, I'll attend and have not received a Ripcord Coin.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ UNIT IN 'NAM _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____+

Will a family member(s) or guest be sharing your accommodations [] yes [] no?
How many including you? [], If yes what are their names? (For name tag purposes only).

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____
TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT IS PROVIDED BY COMPLEMENTARY AIRPORT
SHUTTLE. MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR PICK UP AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE
ARRIVAL! (1-888-265-8864)

Registration fee of \$ _____ is enclosed for # _____ Adults and # _____ children under 18.
\$40 for children under 18. For adults see discounts below!

DISCOUNTS FOR EARLY REGISTRATION:

Before June 30, 2014, \$75 per adult
July 1 through 31, 2014 \$80 per adult,
August 1 through 31, 2014 \$85 per adult.
After September 1, 2014 \$90 per adult

Your registration fee covers the cost of the hospitality room, snacks and beverages, and dinner on Saturday.

Registration fee due no later than October 3, 2014.

Make your check payable to "RIPCORD ASSOCIATION"

Mail your check with this form to:

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

If you have questions call Lee at 856-451-1108 before 5 October 2013

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 8: Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)
Thursday, October 9: Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)
Friday, October 10: Hospitality 1200 Hours. Ladies raffle 1900 hours (7PM)
Saturday, October 11: Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room.
Dinner with cash bar starting at 1730 hours done by 2200 hours.
Sunday, October 12: Homeward bound
Thursday golf outing (not included in the registration fee). Check here if you will play [] .

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPERATELY AND BY September 8, 2014

CALL 1-888-265-8846

ASK FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND REFER TO THE GROUP

CODE: RIPCORD

2014 Myrtle Beach Signed Up as of 8/8/14

Jim & Irene Aanonson A 2/506
Bob & Red Judd B 2/506
Lee & Kathy Widjeskog A 2/506
Steve Pullen B 2/17th Cav
Dave & Lisa Snyder A 2/11FA
C. Ray & Sheila Potts B 2/319 FA
Ewe & Diane Meyer B 2/506
David & Sophia Kenyon 326 ENG
Bill & Linda Boles D 2/506
Russ & Mary Ann Dixon B 2/319 FA
Ron & Linda Hudson A 1/39 FA
Ben & Lilian Peters B 2/506
Bruce Bond 58th Scout Dog
Ralph Motta E 2/506 Recon
Chuck Shannon D 2/506
Polly Atkins guest
Ben & Carolyn Harrison 3 BDE
George & Mary Murphy B 2/329 FA
Bruce Brady & Karolyn Kruger A 2/506
Larry & Cheryl Brady Guests
Bob Layton B2/501
Jerry & Luci Rodgers 326 Med.
Bill & Lynn Hand B 2/506
Bob Tarbuck, Paige Corkhill & Rob Tarbuck C 2/506
Bill & Sheila Williams B 2/506
Chris Brady Guest
Dale & Sue Cooper C 2/506
Billy & Shea Helvey A 2/506
Craig & Sandy Vanhout B 2/506
Don & Linda Holthausen C 2/506
Bob & Jackie Wallace C 2/506
Doug & Iris Puffer D 2/506
Fred Spaulding HHC 3 BDE
Paul Buhr A 2/506
Jim & Michelle McCoy D 1/506
Joe & Marion Minias C 2/506
Ron & Linda McCrory E 2/506
Steve & Melinda Huggins E 2/506
Chuck & Jean Holmen 159 AVN
Merle, Ruth & Joshua Delagrange D 1/506
Kent Rowland C 2/506
Buzz, Charlene & Ronnie Ireland 159 AVN
Dick & Debbie Cable E 2/506
Leonard & Carol Moore 3BDE AVN
John, Annette & Angie Kuennen C 2/506
Rec & Carol Flansburg D 2/506
Dale & Janet Tauer D 1/506
Greg & Juliann Knott Guests
Bob Leibecke C 2/506
Audrey Wrightsell Assc. Member
Richard & Linda Hawkins Guests
Don Kiefer A 2/506
Ken & Constance Miller 3BDE Air
Rick & Betty Kellogg B 2/506
Frank Marshall A 2/506
John & Debbie Fowler C 2/506
Tom & Linda Chase 163 AVN
Chuck Hawkins C&A 2/506
Marc Skinner D 2/506
Bill Heath A 2/506
Janet Coryell W. Mich. Univ.
James Smither Grand Valley St. Univ.
Peter & Chris Meloro C 2/506
Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld 326 ENG
Jerry & Audrey Hill A 2/506
Bob & Jeanne Smoker C 2/506
Clem Neiderer HHC 2/501
James & Judy McCall D 2/506
Mike & Cathy Chiarelli B 2/506

Firebase Ripcord Association October 8-12, 2014

Hotel Reservation form for
Sands Ocean Club Resort
9550 Shore Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
Phone: (888) 265-8846
Group code: RIPCORDER ASSOCIATION

Group Room Rate: Sunday thru Sunday \$75 per day + \$2.14 access charge per day + tax.
(Breakfast included)

A deposit for the first night's room and tax or a Credit Card Number is required to guarantee this reservation.*
Room rate is available three days before and after the group-blocked dates.
Tell them you are with the RIPCORDER ASSOCIATION when you register.

Your Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ No. of Rooms _____

Roommate Name(s): _____

Room needs: _____

Although we cannot guarantee special requests, every effort will be made to meet your request.

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

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

***PLEASE NOTE: Those guests sending a cash deposit should be aware that a credit card imprint and valid , state issued ID will be necessary upon check in. Should you wish to pay for your stay with cash, a credit card imprint and valid ID will still be required upon arrival to secure your accommodations. All cash payments are accepted upon departure.**

Check-in time: 3:00 PM

Check-out Time: 11:00 AM

To confirm reservations, return form to the hotel or call by September 8, 2014.
We look forward to seeing you in October!