



RIPCORN REPORT



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

Issue # 123

August 2020

COVID-19 AND RIPCORN REUNION

As all members should know, there is a pandemic sweeping around the world and across the United States. Due to the uncertainty of the impacts of this disease, we felt it was best to cancel the 2020 reunion of the Fire Support Base Ripcord Association. This decision was not easy since it was to celebrate the passing of 50 years since the battle ended. But, we decided, if the worlds athletes were not going to hold the Olympics, us old timers might want to wait a bit.

At this time the best hope we hear is that a vaccine will be available in early 2021. With that as our assumption, we are now planning on a reunion in October 2021 starting on 6 October and finishing on 9 October. It will be held at the University Plaza Hotel as originally planned. They are not taking reservations until January 2021, so do not try calling just yet!

Those who sent in reunion registration money and did not request a refund, are paid up for the 2021 reunion registration. I will get letters out to all of you in February so you know that you are included.

In the meantime, take care, wear a mask, practice social distancing and wash your hands. If you don't do this for yourself, do it for others who might not be as resilient as you are.

JERSEY RAMBLINGS *by Lee Widjeskog A/2-506*



Memorial Booklet

The memorial booklet for the 139 men who died during Ripcord will be completed this winter and available at the reunion. I now need photos of Jimmie Lee Robinson of C2/501 who was killed on 4 July. The picture on the internet is incorrect. Jimmie was black and the picture is of a white man. His remaining relatives have not responded so if you have one let me know (856-541-1108). I also need one of Pham Van Long the Vietnamese interpreter for A2/506. He was a Sergeant First Class in the Army of the Republic of Viet Nam (ARVN) assigned to work with us. He died on 22 July.

Election

We have two board of director member positions that are up for election. Bill Boles (D & HHC 2/506) and Jim McCoy (D1/506) have offered to continue in their positions for another three year term. If anyone else wishes to be considered, contact me by 1 October 2020.

The election is slated to take place during the reunion. However, since we are unable to hold the reunion, the vote will be by mail if we have more than two candidates. Otherwise, the President will ask the secretary to cast the ballot and the two candidates will be elected by affirmation.

2019 Yearbook

Paul Burh, Frank Marshall and I are working to get this completed. It will be available at the 2021 reunion. If anyone has photos to share with us from the 2019 reunion, send them to Lee or Frank and we may incorporate them in the book. It does not have to be at the hospitality room and just include some of the members.

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.

- Leigh Freeman C2/506
- Frank Salinsky B2/506
- Robert Anderson A2/11 FA
- Ken Hamilton C2/506
- Fred Edwards B 326 ENG
- Larry Hulsey 426 S&S BN
- Joe & Jami Defrancesco In Memory of Michael Griffin HHC 2/506

Checks payable to "Ripcord Association".

Mail to:

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



**Visit our website at
www.ripcordassociation.com**

Read the **Ripcord Report** on line
Daily updates ● History
and 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.



Join us on Facebook group
Ripcord Association

**Visit our website at
www.ripcordassociation.com**

Please continue to send your letters and
send your comments or articles to:

ltwidjeskog@aol.com

or

postal mail to:

Lee Widjeskog
493 Stillman Ave
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Everyone would love to hear from you.

RIPCORD REPORT

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

Ripcord Report

www.ripcordassociation.com

Editor: Lee Widjeskog

Phone: 856-451-1108

E-mail: ltwidjeskog@aol.com

Design & Layout

Frank Marshall

E-mail: mail@ripcordassociation.com

Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Chritchlow



www.facebook.com/groups/ripcordassociation

Boy this summer is going fast. Today is 1 August and its going to be hot today 104 degrees.

Our Facebook page continues to grow. As of today, we are up to 942 members. They are mostly friend or family members of our Ripcord vets. I do want to remind our members that if you request someone to join you still need to answer my little question. It goes like this. Why do you want to join our page? Also make sure these people want to be on our page. Ask them. In the past I have gotten messages from new members asking why the hell am I on your page. I did not ask for this. So again, make sure they want to be here. And answer the question. Members keep posting pictures and asking questions.

Lee's posts of the last 23 days of Ripcord were great. I learned a lot of what was happening in the jungle around us.

The last week of July had me a little bummed. I really wanted to be in Springfield this last week. The wife and I will be at the next reunion in 2021.

There have been no trips for us this summer. We have had the grandkids here with us for a few weeks. I have done a bit of maintenance on our atv's which I have been putting off. Now to get them registered so we can ride.

I hope everyone is safe from the corona. We just got to 1% of the population has it. So, we are not bad here. I keep the wife home and I go to get food and such. Please everyone keep save I want to see all of your in October of 2021.

To All members.

Please continue to send your letters and comments to: mail@ripcordassociation.com

Everyone would love to hear from you.

Juanita Tipton 1955 – 2020

We are sadden to tell of the passing of Juanita Tipton in Temple, Texas. She and her husband Charlie were early stalwarts of the reunions handling the flags and store materials, until new family obligations caused them to relinquish their help. Juanita is remembered for her "get it done" attitude and pleasant composure even when dealing with an occasional colonel. The association sends their sympathy to Charlie who now misses his wife of 47 years.



CHARLES & JUANITA TIPTON

Ripcord Association Membership

691 members in our Ripcord Association

574 are Ripcord Veterans

117 are Associate Members

141 receive newsletter via Postal Mail

550 receive the newsletter via e-mail

942 on Facebook "Ripcord Association Group"

New Members

Charles	Burger	B/159th ASHB
Edward	Harris	Associate Member
Flavio	Herrera	A/2-506
Jack	Overlie	E/2-501 Mortars
John	Schaffer	A/2-506
Jacob	Tryon	265th Radio Research Co

Membership is FREE!

Everyone is welcome to join.

www.ripcordassociation.com/membership-form/

July 1970 Day by Day

by Lee Widjeskog

July 1, 1970

- Fifty years ago the battle for FSB Ripcord just started heating up. The NVA started putting pressure on the base at 7am with mortars, small arms fire, RPG, recoilless rifles and heavy machine gun fire. As a result 15 men were WIA that day and a Chinook helicopter went down onto the firebase. In response we employed airstrikes, counter fire by artillery and mortars and ARA (aerial rocket artillery) at suspected NVA location. D2/506 held the security of the base for the artillery boys in A2/11 FA, B 2/319 FA and the E2/506 mortar units.
- Elsewhere, B2/506 was patrolling around Hill 805 east of Ripcord. They ran into NVA bunkers where they killed 1 NVA, captured a mortar tube and destroyed the bunkers. Two GIs were wounded.
- D2/501 was attached to the 506 and operated 5 kilometers northwest of Ripcord. Their day was quiet.
- D Troop 2/17 Cav was deployed 2 kilometers north of Ripcord where they found a bunker complex, machine gun pits and a 2 foot wide east-west trail. No NVA.
- The day before, C2/506 had reached Hill 902, west of Ripcord, where they spent the night. During 1 July they spotted mortars firing on Ripcord. They employed LAWs (bazooka) on the location from afar and quieted them. That night they were instructed to set up their NDP once more on Hill 902, not what was normally done. The unit had only 40 men plus about 7 in the command post so their perimeter covered the area of maybe a baseball infield. Some there thought the set up was too casual. Some dug in deep while others used existing holes or just set where it was convenient. At 10PM (2200) noise was heard outside the perimeter but nothing further was noted till after midnight.
- The remaining unit for 2/506 was Alpha Company and they secured FSB O'Reilly 6 kilometers north.
- Recon Teams B & D worked separately in the area north of Ripcord.
- The worst month of the battle was beginning.

July 2, 1970

- After the early evening movement on the 1st, the C2/506 perimeter on Hill 902 was quiet. At 0330 guys started hearing noise. Mantheiu, Tarbuck and Holtenhausen went on alert to the south. Herndon, Moyer and Steel to the southwest also alerted as did Mueller two holes over. Almost immediately satchel charges, grenades, RPGs and small arms fire erupted throughout the NDP. On the opening salvo, a RPG hit the command post killing Captain Hewitt and wounding other in the CP. His RTO Dreher and Medic Cafferty were wounded as was the forward observer Van Cleve. As they recovered they called for mortars and aerial flares to help stem the attack. The attack on the CP seemed to come primarily from the northeast.
- On the southwest side Herndon was hit as he moved to reinforce a position. He called for a medic and Doc Conrady rushed to help him even though others told him to wait. He died as he reached Herndon.
- At machine gun position manned by Lenz, Sumrall and Harber, a satchel charge landed in it killing Sumerall. Lez and Harber moved towards the CP to join Radcliff. On the move Harber took a direct hit from a RPG and died instantly. Lenz dove into a foxhole with Radcliff. As they set up a RPG hit, them killing both.
- The assault came from all but the north west. Here Mueller, "Shakey" and Mendez fought off the NVA. Next to them were Zoller, Smith and a third man. This trio was hit by small arms fire killing Zoller.
- An hour into the fight, the GIs were gaining control as the FO brought in ARA and other aerial support. Finally, by 0530 the perimeter was once again secure. US losses that night were 8 dead and 6 wounded. Shortly after daylight the Third Platoon was flown in to help with the cleanup. By noon C2/506 had been extracted from Hill 902 and A2/501 was inserted to take their place. They quickly received 32 rounds of mortar fire and had one man wounded.
- At Ripcord, 10 mortar rounds hit, wounding one man. An attempt to remove the CH-47 from the base was unsuccessful due to enemy fire.

- 3rd Platoon B2/506 near Hill 805 received RPG and small arms fire as they captured a .51 machine gun. No injuries.
- C2/501 worked the hill south of Re-Up Hill. D2/501 patrolled the jungle between Ripcord and O'Reilly.
- D Troop 2/17 headed behind Hill 1000 to seek reported caves.
- D2/506 secured FSB Ripcord and A2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly.
- Recon Teams B & D continued as the day before.
- GIs that died today were Conrady, Harber, Herndon, Hewitt, Lenz, Radcliff, Sumrall, and Zoller.



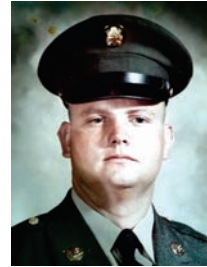
HEWITT THOMAS
7/2/1970



HERNDON THOMAS
7/2/1970



CONRADY RICHARD
7/2/1970



SUMRALL ROGER
7/2/1970



HARBER STEPHEN
7/2/1970



LENZ LEE
7/2/1970



RADCLIFF ROBERT
7/2/1970



ZOLLER ROBERT
7/2/1970

July 3, 1970

- Scattered through the day, FSB Ripcord received 11 75mm rounds without injuries. The downed CH-47 was finally retrieved and returned to Camp Evans. D2/506 maintained security on Ripcord and A2/506 remained on FSB O'Reilly.
- C2/506, now under Capt. Wilcox, moved from Ripcord to Hill 805 to work with B2/506. Around 1600, 1st Platoon B2/506 was leading out. Bob Utecht was point followed by Bob Judd. Judd noticed some fresh cuttings that Utecht had missed. He tried to stop him when the NVA opened fire killing Utecht and wounding one other.
- Later that day as the CO Bill Williams was on the radio, a bolt of lightning hit and destroyed the radio. Eight men were hit and the CO was knocked unconscious. No one required evacuation, but the CO was incoherent for a while. C & B 2/506 set up NDP on the hill.
- Team B Recon E2/506 working north of Ripcord killed one NVA
- D2/501 worked the jungles 5 kilometers north of Ripcord. A2/501 worked the area southwest of Hill 902 and C2/501 patrolled near Re-Up Hill. Both areas known to harbor NVA.
- Airstrike continued to be directed throughout the Area of Operations.



UTECHT ROBERT
7/3/1970

July 4, 1970

- FSB Ripcord received 40 rounds of mortar fire and 4 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle fire resulting in 3 WIA where D2/506 provided security and B2/319 & A2/11 manned the cannons.
- Recon team E, of E2/506 was inserted north of Triple Hill.
- Team F of the 3rd BDE Recon section was inserted at O'Reilly and moved off and later had one man, Lokker, was hit with an 81mm illumination canister ring and medevacked out that night.
- Airstrikes were put in between O'Reilly and Ripcord.
- C2/506 with a few new guys, was inserted onto Triple Hill, north of Ripcord.
- B2/506 remained in the Hill 805 area, denying the area to the NVA.
- Just before 10AM, C2/501 was moving to a LZ in the vicinity of Hill 902, while being led by scout dog "Fritz" and his handler Bill Ray. Apparently signals were missed or the scent was in the wrong direction, but a booby trap consisting of 5 82mm mortar rounds strung along the trail was command detonated. Killed instantly were Bill Ray, Jimmie Robinson, Carl Mickens, Gary Thaden and LT. Bill Sullivan. Five others and Fritz were WIA.
- A2/501 worked the area northwest of Hill 902.
- B2/501 had the region southwest of Coc Muen a large hill in the area and D2/501 remained north of Ripcord, below O'Reilly.
- A2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly and during a "mad minute" one man, Robert Wright, was hit with a piece of M-79 shrapnel.



RAY WILLIAM CLAYTON
7/4/1970



MICKENS CARL
7/4/1970



THADEN GARY
7/4/1970



SULLIVAN WILLIAM
7/4/1970

July 5, 1970

- A slow day at FSB Ripcord receiving only 4 mortar rounds and no injuries. Perhaps having men near Hill 902, 805 and 1000 is the reason. D2/506 provided security.
- Early 5 July, just after midnight, C2/501, located 1500 meters southeast of RE-Up Hill, had their night defensive perimeter probed by NVA when trip flares were set off. Small arms fire and satchel charges erupted on all side of the position. By 0100 the attack had broken off. Later at 0650 they received RPG from the west and a second attack. After beating it off, a sweep of the area revealed 5 NVA KIA. During the action Charlie Company had 14 WIA and one man killed. This was Mike Waymire. He was from HHC 2/501 and had arrived the day before to track down a serial number on a weapon. Weather conditions changed and he was not able to fly back so he stayed with the line company over night. During the attack he was apparently hit with small arms fire and killed.
- C2/506 located near Triple Hill located a bunker complex and two NVA killed by artillery.
- B2/506 continued to patrol in the vicinity of Hill 805.
- D2/501 patrolled north of Ripcord and south of FSB O'Reilly without incident.
- B2/501 worked the area southwest of Coc Muen.
- A2/501 worked between the big hill and Hill 902. They engaged NVA about 1 kilometer southwest of Hill 902. In the exchange of RPG and small arms and artillery, Alpha suffered 2 WIA and the NVA 5 KIA.
- A2/506 remained on FSB O'Reilly.



WAYMIRE MICHAEL
7/5/1970

July 6, 1970

- Things were in flux around FSB Ripcord today. Only 6 mortar rounds hit with no injuries.
- B2/506 moved onto Ripcord to take over security, leaving Hill 805 open to the NVA again.
- Over near Hill 1000, Recon Team B of E 2/506, engaged NVA on the north flank of the hill resulting in 5 WIA. 2nd Platoon D2/506 moved to assist them and get a medevac in. In the process of getting Recon out, a starlight scope was left behind and other equipment.
- D2/506 set up a NDP 400 meters southeast of Hill 1000 and received 3 mortar rounds for their efforts.
- South of Hill 902, A2/501 was hit by a company of NVA. After employing organic weapons and airstrikes contact was broken off by the NVA. 15 men were WIA and one more was wounded during the medevac that followed.
- B2/501 continued patrols south of Coc Muen.
- C2/501, recovering from the previous losses continued to work in the area of Re-Up Hill, south east of Hill 902.
- D2/501 remained between Ripcord and O'Reilly.
- C2/506 patrolled near Triple Hill and A2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly.
- On the far south east flank of the Ripcord Area of Operations, B1/506 lost Sandy Porter when his squad attempted to reenter the NDP and he was accidentally killed by nervous GIs who did not get word of the friendly troop's movement.



PORTER SANDY
7/6/1970

July 7, 1970

- From Ripcord, a number of artillery missions and air strikes were planned and conducted. At the same time the fire base received 42 mortar rounds, small arms fire and 3 75mm rounds on the site leaving 2 WIA.
- To the west D2/506 attempted to recover the equipment lost the previous day by Recon. They were met with small arms fire and RPGs from bunkered NVA. The exchange of fire continued for two hours where upon Delta drew back and employed artillery, air strikes and ARA. During the assault, Delta suffered 1 KIA, 2 MIA (presumed dead) and 13 WIA. Delta set up for the night and prepared to try again in the morning. Killed were Charles Beals, Lewis Howard and Mike Grimm.
- North of Hill 1000, C2/506 encountered 2 NVA around noon. As they engaged the area, they were hit with RPG and small arms fire leaving 4 WIA. Later as the 2nd Platoon waited on a medevac, they were hit again with RPG resulting in 5 more WIA. While attempting to retrieve some of the wounded, Gerald Risinger was killed. Overall, Charlie Company had 15 WIA and 1 KIA.
- Earlier A2/501, just southwest of Hill 902, engaged one NVA at 50 meters and killed same. They continued to patrol the area and were later hit with 10 mortar rounds. This left 11 WIAs in the unit. A NDP was later set up.
- B2/501 joined C2/501 east of Re-Up Hill while D2/501 worked between Ripcord and O'Reilly.
- A2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly and B2/506 secured FSB Ripcord.
- Team D or E2/506 patrolled well northwest of Ripcord.



BEALS CHARLES
7/7/1970



HOWARD LEWIS
7/7/1970



GRIMM MICHAEL
7/7/1970



RISINGER GERALD
7/7/1970

July 8, 1970

- FSB Ripcord met another day by firing artillery and dropping bombs onto Hill 1000 in preparation for an assault.
- In return Ripcord received 9 mortar rounds, 3 75mm, and 2 RPG but took no injuries.
- C2/506 combat assaulted from the Triple Hill area and was soon assaulting Hill 1000 from the west while D2/506 moved on the hill from the east. It was mid-day when the assault started and the ground was pulverized from all the bombs and artillery used to roust the NVA. Climbing up these soft sides had the men lose a step for every two they took. As they closed in, the NVA opened up with RPG, satchel charges and small arms fire from the still functioning bunkers. Gradually Charlie Company was able to neutralize a bunker only to have it re-manned from interior connecting tunnels. Eventually, C2/506 secured the western peak but Delta could not get their goal. After 2 hours of hot weather and heavy action, more NVA were spotted trying to flank the companies through the jungle. Col. Lucas had Charlie & Delta pull back to protect the flanks. Plans to go back at the hill later that day were put off and additional artillery was fired onto the hill. During that day C2/506 lost Hupp and new medic Scott and had an additional 3 WIAs. Delta fared better with only one man wounded.
- That morning, not far from Hill 902, A2/501 built a LZ to medevac those wounded yesterday. No sooner done and they were mortared by the NVA leaving an additional 11 WIA. No further contact occurred that night.
- B & C 2/501 continued to patrol the jungled hills near Re-Up Hill.
- D2/501 continued patrolling well north of Ripcord but south of O'Reilly.
- A2/506 provided security for FSB O'Reilly and B2/506 did the same for Ripcord.
- Recon Team D patrolled north west of Ripcord.



HUPP JAMES
7/8/1970



SCOTT RICKEY LEROY
7/8/1970

July 9, 1970

- Following the unsuccessful assault on Hill 1000 on 8 July, Delta & Charlie 2/506 set up NDPs 400 meters southeast of Hill 1000. The night was quiet but stressful as they anticipated a NVA attack.
- FSB Ripcord received 16 mortar rounds but no injuries.
- Heavy winds around Ripcord prevented C&D 2/506 from being airlifted to a new location in the morning. Later in the day C2/506 moved to the saddle between Ripcord and Hill 805 and set up a NDP. D2/506 remained in the general area they had occupied the past night.
- A2/501 moved north from their NDP where they had not been able to safely medevac from that location. They did a forced march to the new NDP and set up for the night expecting to be hit that night as told by Brigade intelligence. No assault happened. The quick move apparently did not give the NVA adequate time to scout the new location and plan for an assault. This is why units moved every day and left their NDP by 0900 which kept the NVA always guessing.
- Recon, E2/501 was northeast of Coc Meun where they engaged two NVA hitting one. Later, while inspecting a booby trap, Terry Williams was killed when it exploded.
- C2/506, in their NDP near Hill 805 received 2 satchel charges around 2300 hours. The anticipated further incursions but nothing happened.

- B & C 2/501 continued to work the hills near Ru-Up hill without contact.
- D2/501 remained well north of Ripcord patrolling without incident.
- A2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly and B2/506 stayed on Ripcord. Recon Team D maintained their patrol.



WILLIAMS TERRY
7/9/1970

July 10, 1970

- This was a bad day to hang out on FSB Ripcord. The base received 51 rounds of mortar fire and 5, 75mm rounds. 14 men were wounded and three were killed.
- Fred (Yogi) Raymond of Alpha Battery 2/11 Field Artillery was killed as he left his bunker to get a case of C rations.
- Larry Platt of B 2/319 FA was going to his gun when hit and died 10 days later.
- Patrick Bohan, a pathfinder, was directing helicopter traffic onto Ripcord when he had to leave his bunker to get a new radio. A mortar round hit near him killing him on the spot.
- Victor DeFoor of Bravo 2/506 ducked into the Mess Hall bunker for safety , but was followed in by a 75mm recoilless rifle round which killed him instantly.
- FSB O'Reilly, being secured by A2/506, had mechanical ambushes set outside the perimeter. Recon from E2/506 was approaching and requested direction through the mine field. As they approached, the trail split and the team took the wrong side. The trap was tripped and the explosion killed Roy Johnson and wounded three others.
- A2/506 took helicopters from O'Reilly and landed east of Ripcord in a LZ secured by C2/506. Charlie in turn took the choppers back to O'Reilly to secure that area while Alpha started patrolling towards Hill 805. Recon Teams B & D were lifted back to Camp Evans.
- D2/506 continued patrolling 600 meters northwest of Ripcord between Triple Hill and Hill 1000.
- A2/501 was finally able to establish a secure LZ, evacuate their wounded and get moved to a site within 1 kilometer of FSB Ripcord in anticipation of a B-52 strike on enemy locations.
- Bravo and Charlie 2/501 continued patrolling, now 2 kilometer southeast of Hill 805.
- D2/501 continued patrols near O'Reilly. While plotting defensive fire for the night, an incoming phosphorus round went off prematurely, slightly burning two men.
- Air strikes were placed near Hill 902 and Hill 805.



RAYMOND FREDRICK
7/10/1970



PLETT LARRY
7/20/1970



BOHAN PATRICK
7/10/1970



DE FOOR VICTOR
7/10/1970



JOHNSON ROY
7/10/1970

July 11, 1970

- Starting just past midnight, air strikes were employed throughout the region. Sites included just west of Coc Muen, just west of Hill 1000, south of Hill 805 and west of Hill 805, and in and around Hill 902.
- Prior to the drops, A, B, C and E 2/501 were lifted out and taken to Camp Evans for refitting and re-enforcements. Over the past weeks they had lost many men as WIAs. Luckily deaths were low. The region from Coc Muen to Hill 902 to Re-Up Hill had been a hotbed of NVA activity.
- D2/501 remained between FSB O'Reilly and Ripcord patrolling as usual.
- Up on Ripcord, B2/506 received 11 mortar rounds, .51 caliber machinegun fire and 2, 75mm rounds but took no injuries.
- C2/506 secured O'Reilly and accepted more new troops to fill their depleted ranks.
- D2/506, near Triple Hill engaged 6 NVA at a distance using artillery and mortars with negative results.
- A2/506 patrolled half way between Ripcord and Hill 805. It located and disarmed a booby trap at a LZ and at a later site found 7, 75mm recoilless rifle rounds and destroyed them. No NVA were encountered. Recon Team E was now north of Hill 605.

July 12, 1970

- The winds were high again on Ripcord. On the positive side they only received 3 mortar rounds. While there were no injuries, the engineer's bulldozer was hit in the radiator. B2/506 continued with their security of the hill.
- A2/501, after a day on Camp Evans, took their bunch of reinforcements and combat assaulted to the Triple Hill area. B & C 2/501, also replenished on Camp Evans, landed on the north slope of Coc Muen south of Hill 1000. Patrolling resumed.
- Recon, E2/501 landed on the top of Coc Muen.
- D2/506 started the day finding some bunkers and equipment on Triple Hill. They were soon picked up and inserted into the area between Ripcord and O'Reilly recently evacuated by D2/501.
- C2/506 remained on FSB O'Reilly providing security.
- Recon Team E, E2/506 was in the area well north of Hill 605.
- With daylight, Hill 805 was bombed and then hit with teargas. As the jets left around 9AM, D2/501, recently CA'ed to the northwest slope of Hill 805, with A2/506 on its right flank, assaulted Hill 805. A2/506, 3rd Platoon encountered small arms and RPG fire. This resulted in the wounding and medevac of the platoon leader and his RTO (Noll & Brady). The rest of the assault was uneventful. D2/501 set up on the hill and A2/506 was on the southwest slope of 805 apparently unknown to the NVA. Around 10 PM Delta was engaged by 40 RPG rounds, small arms fire and satchel charges. Suppressive fire from Delta was initiated. Alpha was not engaged and then opened fire on the flank of the attacking NVA. This combined fire caused the NVA attack to break off. Later, three mechanical ambushes were detonated as the NVA attempted to bring more men for another assault. No more NVA attacks happened that night. None of the GIs were killed but 16 Delta 2/501 troops were wounded

July 13, 1970

- Winds in excess of 50 mph whipped FSB Ripcord. However, no mortar or other explosives hit the base. There was sporadic rifle fire received off and on that day, but no injuries.
- Airstrikes were placed for A2/506, D2/501 and others throughout the day.
- D2/501 remained on Hill 805. They medevac'd their WIAs from the night before, and prepared their defenses. Patrols noted blood trails and equipment left behind by the fleeing NVA. There was no attack prior to midnight on the 13th.
- A2/506 walked off the hill on a mission to find NVA positions and perhaps bodies. They did find bunkers which they destroyed.
- B2/506 remained on Ripcord providing security and patrolling the surrounding area.
- C2/506 was doing the same for FSB O'Reilly to the north.

- D2/506 was now southwest of Triple Hill and 800 meters northwest of Hill 1000.
- Recon team D worked near Hill 605. Team E worked two kilometers north.
- Meanwhile, to the west, A, B & C 2/501 had moved into position for a possible assault onto Hill 1000. Recon platoon was in position to the south of Hill 1000.
- D2/506 patrolled the area near Triple Hill.

July 14, 1970

- With line company's working the areas of Hill 1000, Hill 805 and Coc Muen, the NVA were not able to put too much pressure on FSB Ripcord. They received only 6 rounds of 75mm fire and not injuries.
- On Hill 805, D2/501 was hit at 0205 hours by RPG, satchel charges and small arms fire. Delta in turn employed mortars, artillery, and aerial rocket artillery (ARA) and flare ships. By 3:30 AM the fight was over and the NVA left. In the hour long melee, D2/501 lost Lt. Terry Palm, Paul Guimond, Gary Schneider, Keith Utter, Bill Jones, John Keister and Jim Hembree. Nine others were wounded. A recon of the area in daylight found 5 NVA dead and numerous blood trails.
- 2nd Platoon B2/506 flew to the nearby LZ to provide security for the evacuation of the wounded. Then resupply was conducted and 20 man were brought in to reinforce D2/501. Bravo later returned to Ripcord. During the medevac one chopper was hit and had to set down on Ripcord for repairs.
- Bravo 2/501 was moving west of Hill 1000 when they were engaged by NVA in bunkers. In the contact, Dennis Huffine was killed and 11 others wounded. Three NVA were killed and a heavy machinegun captured.
- North of Bravo, Alpha 2/501 engaged NVA in foxholes resulting in two dead NVA. There were no US casualties.
- Recon Platoon E2/501, also west of Hill 1000, were engaged by NVA in bunkers with small arms fire and RPG. 9 GIs were WIA and B2/501 moved to assist.
- B2/506 continued to secure FSB Ripcord. C2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly,
- D2/506 worked the area north of Triple Hill.
- A2/506 continued to patrol west and south of Hill 805.
- Recon E, E2/506 had returned to Camp Evans while Team D remained near Hill 605.
- Air strikes continued around the area as requested. Especially near Hill 805.



*PALM TERRY
7/14/1970*



*GUIMOND PAUL
7/14/1970*



*SCHNEIDER GARY
7/14/1970*



*UTTER KEITH
7/14/1970*



*JONES WILLIAM
7/14/1970*



*KEISTER JOHN
7/14/1970*



*HEMBREE JAMES
7/14/1970*



*HUFFINE DENNIS
7/14/1970*

July 15, 1970

- Things on FSB Ripcord were quiet today as the heavy winds stayed in the area. No reported impacts or injuries. The TOC (Tactical Operations Center) continue to schedule air strikes throughout the AO.
- On Hill 805, just after midnight, D2/501, requested a medevac to remove a previously wounded man whose condition had worsened. Heavy winds stopped the first attempt. Soon D2/501 was hit with mortar rounds. Artillery, ARA and our own mortars were fired in response. In less than a half hour, the NVA broke contact. The medevac picked up the man who died while two additional men were wounded. (The man who died was Gary Schneider listed as having died some hours before on the 14th.). Later in the day Lt. Selvaggi, with 6 replacements, joined the company to take over First Platoon. Around noon, James Plenderleith was medevac'd when his wounds started to deteriorate.
- Resupply was conducted and during that re-supply one helicopter lost power. An attempt to lift it with a CH-47, was met with heavy machine gun fire and was aborted. The two machine gunners from the chopper, were forced to unhappily, spend the night on the hill with the "grunts". Delta 2/501 set up mechanical ambushes and prepare for the expected attack that coming night.
- A2/506 moved south and west of Hill 805 and had to medevac their Kit Carson Scout and handler Bob Counts when the scout messed up his knee.
- B2/506 continued to secure FSB Ripcord.
- C2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly. Recon D remained in the vicinity of Hill 605.
- D2/506 continued to patrol the area between Ripcord and O'Reilly with no contact.
- Alpha, Bravo and Charlie 2/501, set up in three locations around Hill 1000 in a possible assault onto the hill.
- Recon E2/501 worked the ridge coming off Coc Muen to the south west of Hill 1000.

July 16, 1970

- Another day of heavy winds but no mortar impacts upon FSB Ripcord. It seems the presence of six line companies in the jungles and the high winds which decreased accuracy of the mortars has kept the mortar tubes silent.
- D2/501 remains on Hill 805. At 0246 mechanical ambushes detonate west of the hill. This was followed with an assault of NVA from the west and southeast and later from the southwest. Artillery, mortars, the quad 50 and ARA are employed on the assault. Delta also responded with organic weapons. Eight inch guns from FSB Rakkasan were employed on suspected NVA reinforcement location at the same time. The enemy fired small arms, RPG and threw satchel charges but after 20 minutes broke off their attack. At 0400 another mechanical ambush went off as the NVA moved in. Delta called for the resumption of the heavy fire and no further NVA assault was made.
- D2/501 secured the helicopter that went down on the LZ the previous day, but appeared tampered. An EOD team was brought in to check it out and then it was lifted out by a CH-47. Nothing in the reports mention it, but we assume the two door gunners made their exit back to Camp Evans, as soon as the EOD men arrived.
- D2/501 prepared defenses for one more night on the hill with plans to leave on the 17th. They were lightly probed several time, but employment of artillery and ARA diverted further incursions.
- Preplanned airstrike were flown throughout the day. NVA were now firing on helicopters as they flew into Ripcord using anti-aircraft guns.
- B2/506 secured FSB Ripcord.
- C2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly. Team E patrolled west of FSB O'Reilly. Team D remained near Hill 605.
- A2/506 patrolled 1.5 kilometers southeast of Ripcord and west of Hill 805.
- D2/506 constructed a LZ northwest of Triple Hill for future use.
- A2/501, B2/501, Recon E2/501 & C2/501 remained west of Hill 1000 and prepared to leave the field the next day. A new assault on Hill 1000 was called off.
- As Alpha 2/501 slept in shifts near the LZ, the heavy winds, sent an artillery weakened tree, crashing down onto the perimeter. It landed completely across the body of the sleeping Richard Timmons. It took the efforts of five men to lift the tree off Timmons body. However, the efforts were to no avail as Timmons had died of massive internal injuries.



TIMMONS RICHARD
7/16/1970

July 17, 1970

- Today the NVA ratcheted up the pressure on FSB Ripcord. They dropped 50 rounds of mortar on the hill and shot at incoming helicopters with their .51 heavy machine guns. Just so all could participate, they also fired a few rounds of small arms during the day. It resulted in 14 WIAs, one was the captain of the Bravo Battery 2/319 Field Artillery, David Rich. The radar unit was also knocked out making counter fire a little more difficult.
- Just after midnight, D2/501 had observed lights during the night and employed ARA on their location. Two hours later a mechanical ambush detonated and Delta received CS rounds, small arms fire and satchel charges from the west and south west. Counter fire was employed and the NVA quickly broke contact. After day light, Delta received resupply and move out to a secure LZ for extraction. As they moved, one of their Kit Carson Scouts detonated a grenade killing himself and injuring seven others. Medevac extracted the wounded but two, David Beyl and Wilfred Warner, died of their wounds in the hospital. Because of the delay in getting the wounded out, Delta was forced to spend one more night in the field. They set up down the trail, kept alert and quiet and hoped the NVA did not attack.
- Elsewhere, A, B, C and E 2/501 were extracted from the Hill 1000 area and returned to their base at Phu Bai.
- B 2/506 continued to secure Ripcord and avoid mortars.
- C2/506 remained on FSB O'Reilly.
- D2/506 patrolled around the Triple Hill area.
- Recon Team E of E2/506 sought NVA well northwest of Ripcord.
- A2/506 worked through the jungles southwest of Hill 805 and destroyed bunkers.
- D1/506 was OP-Con to 2/506 for deployment



BEYL DAVID
7/17/1970



WARNER WILFRED
7/17/1970

July 18, 1970

- D2/506 had listening post out when they heard movement just after midnight. Grenades were employed and no further movement heard.
- With fewer line companies in the jungle, the NVA felt they were free to fire on FSB Ripcord. By 1128, Ripcord had received 18 rounds of mortar and 1, 75mm round. Burke Miller A2/11 Field Artillery, known as "Buck" was in a bunker chatting with friends. He left to return to the FDC (fire direction center) when a mortar round hit near him. A piece of shrapnel hit and killed him instantly. Four others were wounded that morning.
- By mid-day, D2/501 had completed extraction from Hill 805 and returned to their base camp at Phu Bai. The last four helicopters picking up the troops received small arms fire as the NVA tried to close in. Deltas time on Hill 805 left them with 9 KIAs and 34 WIA.
- At 1340 a CH-47 Chinook helicopter was attempting to deliver munitions for the Ripcord 105mm cannons. .51 heavy machine gun fire by the NVA hit the hovering plane. The rotors were seen to go out of sync from the gun fire and tilted towards the ground. The load was dropped in an attempt to help the pilot right the ship. It did not work and the ship came down on the ammo and fuel bunkers. Crew members started leaping from the plane. Mike Walker jumped free but before he could clear the area the ship rolled onto him pinning him, by the legs and upper

body, against the rock hard ground. Men on the ground rushed to get him out using shovels and picks while others sprayed fire extinguishers on the plane and Mike. There simply was not enough time or equipment available to get Mike Walker out in time. The Chinook caught fire and was soon engulfed by flames forcing the rescuers to retreat. Mike Walker died with his CH-47. All this took place in less than two minutes and the ammo soon began exploding. A mushroom cloud of smoke and fire blew hundreds of feet into the air. Shrapnel was landing 1.5 kilometers away where A2/506 watched while waiting for a resupply.

- The 105mm cannon battery of 6 guns was destroyed in the fire and explosions. The fuel deposit caught fire and leaked and flowed down the side of the hill. The commo bunker and TOC were destroyed as well as the infirmary. The radar unit was once more wiped out as were the 106 recoilless rifle and the mechanical mule. The explosions continued for hours and the NVA added to the issue by firing 20 additional mortar rounds. One of these killed Bill Rollason who was a sniper for E2/501. He was helping to relocate the FDC when hit. Ten men were wounded and only Mike Walker died as a direct result of the crash.
- Loss of the 105's suddenly made Ripcord much less effective.
- Following this disaster, the Brigade Commander had FSB Gladiator reopened and by A & B 1/501 and the 105 unit of Bravo 2/320 FA manning it to support Ripcord and the adjacent infantry.
- A2/506 found a .51 heavy machine gun and engaged 2 NVA at a distance with negative results. They also received a resupply and six replacements as two of their men left for R&R. Alpha set a NDP southeast of Ripcord and southwest of Hill 805 about 1 kilometer from each.
- B2/506 secured Ripcord and began the cleanup of the explosion damage.
- C2/506 secured FSB O'Reilly.
- Delta 1/506 was assigned to the 2/506 and spent the night in a NDP south of Ripcord.
- D2/506 remained on patrol between Ripcord and O'Reilly.
- Recon Platoon E2/506 was in the area well northwest of Ripcord.



MILLER BURKE
7/18/1970



WALKER MICHAEL
7/18/1970



ROLLASON WILLIAM
7/18/1970

July 19, 1970

- As FSB Ripcord was recovering from the fatal helicopter crash, B of the 326 Engineers came in to dispose of ordinance and get the area ready for a new battery. To hamper the situation, the NVA dropped at least 26 mortar rounds onto the base wounding 3 men. The firebase and aircraft continued to receive sporadic .51 machine gun and small arms fire.
- B2/506 provided security and was busy helping to get the base back in shape.
- There was a powder fire on FSB O'Reilly which resulted in 2 GIs receiving burns. C2/506 remained on O'Reilly.
- FSB Gladiator was now supporting Ripcord with B 2/320 FA 105 artillery. It was secured by A & B 1/501.
- D1/506 was now working in the Ripcord area of operations and combat assaulted to Triple Hill. Here they destroyed 6 bunkers, discovered a body killed by artillery and noted a well-used trail through the jungle.
- A2/506, while on a trail break to verify their present position on the map, had 2 NVA soldiers walk upon the middle of the column. Capt. Hawkins spotted them quickly and fired almost as fast, killing both men before they could fire back. A sweep of the area found no others. Papers indicated the two had been wounded on Hill 805 and

were returning to their unit when they encountered Alpha Company.

- D2/506 continued to patrol south of FSB O'Reilly.
- Recon Teams d & E of E2/506 worked around the O'Reilly area.
- The day saw many air strikes, ARA and artillery hits on suspected mortar and heavy machine gun sites around Ripcord.

July 20, 1970

- At 0615 the NVA gave FSB Ripcord a wakeup call by lobbing three mortar rounds onto the area. As the day went on Ripcord received 35 more mortar rounds and 1, 75mm as well as sporadic small arms and heavy machinegun fire. By 0930 the mortars had hit some of the men. A 120mm mortar landed amid some of the engineers who were clearing debris from the July 18 helicopter crash and explosion. This round killed Dennis Fisher and Durl Calhoun. The later should have been back in the states, but recently signed up for an extension of his tour. His men thought he was invincible.
- D2/506 operating 2.5 kilometers south of FSB O'Reilly, discovered and destroyed a bunker and 8 mortar rounds. Later they found a one meter wide trail showing signs of recent use.
- A2/506, south of Hill 805, requested a medevac for a soldier who accidentally shot his foot. Later Alpha discovered a 4' wide trail with a commo cable. Tapping into the line, their ARVN interpreter, SFC Long, found it was between the Division HQ and some mortar pits. Ambushes were set out. Second Platoon killed a single NVA who was looking for a view. First Platoon killed one NVA and wounded a second who escaped. They were checking the commo line.
- D1/506 left the Triple Hill area by helicopter and landed east of Hill 805 and south of Hill 605. They received small arms fire as they landed and the 11th ship in took fire wounding two who flew out on the same plane. Once on the ground, at 1230, Capt. Workman had 2nd and 3rd platoon move to set up on a northern knoll while 1st Platoon set up on the southern knoll. As they moved three NVA were met and killed and ARA was employed around the area. Contact was broken and the units set up. Bunkers were found on the area in various stages of construction. Around 1700 hours, the point team of Valle and De Wulf, for 1st Platoon, moved south on a recon. They spotted NVA and were pulled back. They re-grouped and on a different axis tried to flank the NVA position. They hit well-hidden bunkers manned by NVA. The enemy opened up and killed Eloy Valle. Pat De Wulf hollered and tried to reach his buddy when he too was killed. During the shooting, John Knott was hit and unable to move back. Soon Dale Tauer and Bill Browning tried to get Knott when they were hit with a RPG. Browning took most of the blast and died while Tauer was knocked unconscious. The NVA stripped him of his ammo vest and his wallet and left him for dead. Sometime later his buddy, Randy Benck, thinking Dale was dead, crawl out to retrieve his body. Luckily, Dale was still alive. During this attack, mortars hit the company further causing problems.
- First Platoon broke contact by 1830 and was sending 8 WIA for medevac. NDPs were established on the two knolls as D1/506 awaited further attacks. Illumination was fired most of the night.
- C2/506 securing FSB O'Reilly, received small arms fire and one RPG from outside the wire perimeter. One man received a minor wound and the attack broke off.
- B2/506 continued security on Ripcord.
- D2/506 continued patrolling south of O'Reilly without further incident.
- A2/506 was back near their previous NDP ready to proceed in the morning.
- Recon Team D, E2/506 worked the area near O'Reilly.
- At higher headquarters Col. Harrison was seeking additional troops if Third Brigade was to stay in the area. The only way to keep Ripcord and other fire support bases open was to have troops on the ground denying access to the NVA. Options were being discussed.



*FISHER DENNIS
7/20/1970*



CALHOUN DURL
7/20/1970



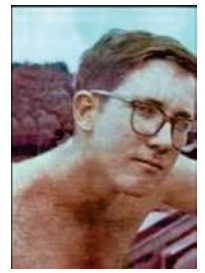
VALLE ELOY
7/20/1970



DE WULF PATRICK
7/20/1970



KNOTT JOHN
7/20/1970



BROWNING BILL
7/20/1970

July 21, 1970

- Delta 1/506 spent the night in two NDPs and got little sleep as they anticipated a night assault. Although movement was heard, no attack came before day light.
- At 0712 the NVA sent a “Wake UP” call in the form of 40 mortar rounds on the NDP. Medic Robert Hays was one of the first hit. He was thought to be all right, but was then hit a second time and shortly died after going into shock. Before Capt. Workman could get his units moved to the LZ, both Frank Asher and Peter Huk, new guys with little field time, were killed by the mortars.
- Counter fire with artillery and ARA allowed the company to relocate close to the LZ. The unit was now down to 40+ men from the 80+ they had when they arrived yesterday. Fighting continued off and on through the morning. At 0820 the first medevac came in and took out 7 WIA. The second ship in was hit in the tail with a RPG and small arms fire hit the cockpit. The crew was tossed out and the helicopter stayed on the edge of the LZ with its rotor blades still turning.
- Lt. Rosen returned for his second load of wounded and avoided the spinning blades. His medic, Brent Law, ran over to the disabled ship and turned off the fuel shutting down the rotors. He then returned to Rosen’s ship and tended to the load of WIAs.
- Loaded up they took off, but unknown to them the senior company medic tried to join them and grabbed a hold of the strut. The chopper quickly made altitude and sped causing the medic Ron Schultz to lose his hold. He plummeted to his death 300 feet below.
- His body was never recovered.
- As Rosen and crew made their way in, for a fourth load of wounded, choppers were still being hit coming and going on the LZ. They no sooner landed when they received small arms fire hitting the co-pilot and medic Law. The co-pilot survived, but Brent Law died of internal bleeding long before they could get to the hospital. 326 Medical Eagle Dust-off lost one of their best medics that day.
- Lt. Col. Luca sent in D2/506 to help shore up D1/506. They landed up on Hill 605 and immediately captured a .51 machine gun and found a bunker complex. As they moved toward Capt. Workman’s group, a bobby trap was hit wounding 4 men. An hour or so behind them C2/506 also landed on Hill 605 and shipped the .51 back. Lt. Col. Lucas was dropped off by his bird and met with the three captains to plan the next move. He wanted them to continue the offense, but Capt. Workman was opposed due to his heavy losses and the apparent high numbers of NVA in the area. Lucas did not concur and left. However, he soon realized he would not have adequate reserves if their fight was larger than he thought. He then called back and told them to prepare for evacuation.
- With that decision made, Rollison’s men pushed the damaged helicopter off the LZ. By 1640, most of Workman’s D1/506 was out. As Capt. Workman’s helicopter came in, it was hit by a RPG and fell on its side as the infantry moved to get on. A rotor blade cut the captain in half and blocked the LZ.
- Captain Rollison then moved all remaining D 1/506 and D 2/506, back to Hill 605 to evacuate from there. This move took place with air strikes and ARA and artillery being used around them to keep the NVA away. Once on 605, D1/506 was lifted out followed by D2/506 and finally in the dark using strobe light to guide the choppers, C2/506, now under Capt. Lamb, was lifted off at 2027 hours.
- While all this was happening things were not quiet on FSB Ripcord. During the day they received 37 mortar

rounds and sporadic sniper fire. This resulted in 11 WIA and 5 KIA.

- The first two killed were Francis Maune and Larry McDowell of B2/506. They with a few others were around the quad .50 machinegun offering to help when the round hit. Maune died instantly, but McDowell survived long enough to get to the hospital and succumbed to his wounds on 27 July.
- Towards dusk, a work party was moving 155 rounds from the helo pad down to the guns when a mortar hit. The well liked Roberto Flores of B2/506 was killed as were Dave Johnson and Bob Kalsu of A 2/11 Field Artillery. The two had become good friends on the firebase and often competed with one another in seeing who could move the most 155 artillery rounds. All three died instantly. B 2/506 continued to secure the base.
- On FSB O'Reilly, in the morning, C2/506 was engaged in shooting with NVA outside the wire resulting in one WIA for Charlie Company. By mid-day they had left the base to the ARVN and flown to help D1/506 on Hill 605.
- FSB Gladiator, which provided Ripcord with 105 mm cannon support was being secured on the base and the surrounding jungle by A, B & D 1/501.
- In the early morning, A2/506 headed back towards the cable to see if the one dead NVA was still on the rock. First platoon came upon two NVA walking up the trail. Shots were exchanges leaving one NVA dead and the other wounded and running away. Searches did not find the WIA or the dead man from the previous day. Later, as A2/506 moved to a NDP, 2nd Platoon dropped off Sp4 Journell and SP4 Walker to ambush anyone who followed them. A half hour or so, they opened fire killing one NVA and rousting the other. Examination discovered that this dead man was a scout who had plans for the assault on Ripcord. A2/506 set up for the night and after a few hours, moved a couple hundred meters to throw off any surveillance. A2/506 was now the only infantry unit in the jungle around FSB Ripcord.



*HAYS ROBERT
7/21/1970*



*ASHER FRANK
7/21/1970*



*HUK PETER
7/21/1970*



*SCHULTZ RONALD
7/21/1970*



*LAW BRENT
7/21/1970*



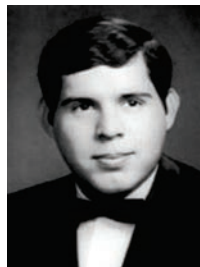
*WORKMAN DONALD
7/21/1970*



*MAUNE FRANCIS
7/21/1970*



*MCDOWELL LARRY
7/21/1970*



*FLORES ROBERTO
7/21/1970*



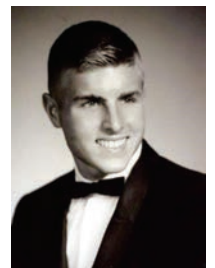
*JOHNSON DAVID
7/21/1970*



*KALSU JAMES
7/21/1970*

July 22, 1970

- Another day on Ripcord. Mortar fire and 155 fire was being put out from the firebase as needed and some extra as the plans to evacuate the firebase progressed. In return they received 22 rounds of mortar fire and .51 machinegun fire from the NVA. This fire wounded seven men and killed Stanly Diehl. He had been with D2/506 when they assaulted Hill 1000. After that he took R&R and returned to Ripcord on the 21st to work with mortars as he had trained. As they fired, he was hit and killed by incoming NVA shells just as he left a helicopter to return to work. By the end of the day, plans for evacuation on the 23rd were finalized and A2/11 FA was busy firing as many rounds as possible so there would be less to leave or back haul at day light on the 23rd.
- Alpha 2/506 was up and checking the perimeter at daylight. The First Platoon led out heading to a LZ across the tributary, southeast of Ripcord. While they moved, Lt. Col. Lucas radioed Capt. Hawkins and said he felt there was too much danger in that area and go north to a previously used LZ. First Platoon was called back and when they arrived, Second Platoon took the lead to the north. About 100 meters from the perimeter, Second Platoon encounter a NVA mortar section and received RPG and machinegun fire. The platoon of 17 men was quickly surrounded while the mortars fired onto the rest of the company. A ground assault hit the company while Second Platoon laid down a base of fire from their hurried defensive position north of the company.
- At the company site, 3rd Platoon was strung out in column in preparation to leave and First Platoon was just getting up when the mortars, tear gas and assault hit. The platoons fled the impact area and found cover on the other side of the hill. In the opening fight the FO, 1st platoon leader and platoon sergeant with others were killed. The fighting continued for the main company position and the 2nd platoon position for over 5 hours.
- Capt. Hawkins was able to get artillery, ARA and air support to slow the NVA.
- At 2nd platoon the NVA made a concerted effort to over run their position when a cloud of grenades and satchel charges hit them. The GIs responded in kind and for a bit the smoke was very thick. Along the way two GI (Schultz and Journell) were killed and 13 wounded.
- The other platoons had reorganized through the efforts of Tommy Webster, John Kreckel and Capt. Hawkins. Soon Hawkins had a jet came in to drop 250 pound bombs close. One landed on the hill the company controlled, but did not detonate the other landed in the area the NVA sent their troops from and blew up. After the smoke cleared, the NVA would get up and run every time a jet made a run. The battle was essentially over.
- A2/506 remained on their hill that night expecting an attack. Due to that fight they lost Virgil Bixby, Steve Olson, Robert Journell, Tom Schultz, William Pahissa, Gerald Singleton, Danny Fries, Ovell Spruill, John Babich, John Kreckle, Harvey Neal, Don Severson, Robert Brown, Mark Draper, Danny Fries, and interpreter SFC Pham Van Long. An additional 55 were WIA. Only six were unwounded in the battle. There was no LZ so medevac was not attempted.
- Harvey Neal and Ovell Spruill died days later in the hospital
- D2/506 was prepared to CA to assist A2/506 around 1600 hours. Their LZ caught fire and they could not get in. Soon, the A2/506 situation stabilized and the assistance was called off.
- B2/506 continued to secure Ripcord as A2/11 FA prepared for evacuation on the 23rd.
- At FSB Gladiator, D1/501 patrolled the area while A & B 1/501 secured the base. B 2/320 FA provided artillery at Gladiator.



DIEHL STANLEY
7/22/1970



BIXBY VIRGIL
7/22/1970



OLSON STEVEN
7/22/1970



JOURNELL ROBERT
7/22/1970



SCHULTZ THOMAS
7/22/1970



PAHISSA WILLIAM
7/22/1970



SINGLETON GERALD
7/22/1970



FRIES DANNY
7/22/1970



SPRUELL OVELL
7/22/1970



BABICH JOHN
7/22/1970



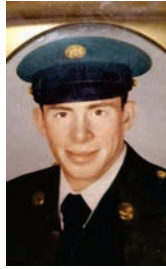
KRECKEL JOHN
7/22/1970



NEAL HARVEY
7/22/1970



SEVERSON DONALD
7/22/1970



BROWN ROBERT
7/22/1970



DRAPER MARK
7/22/1970

July 23, 1970

- The decision had been made to evacuate FSB Ripcord rather than put more GIs in the line of fire. To do this while under fire is not a simple or easy task. The plans were developed and what needed to leave first were the 155mm cannons. Through the day and night of the 22nd and early in the 23rd the 155 crews fired off round after round of ammo so it would not fall into the hands of the enemy or have to be back logged. By sunrise the guns were ready for lifted off by the CH-47 from the 158 and 159 Aviation units.
- Troop A and B of 2/17 Air Cav. worked the hills throughout the day in support.
- The NVA soon saw what was happening and soon were firing on the base and the helicopters from the Hill 805 area and elsewhere. By 0747 one CH-47 was hit and landed on the destroyed 105 area. It was later destroyed on site. Ripcord was under fire from heavy machine gun, small arms and mortars all day long. Over 600 rounds of mortars hit the base that day until final lift off at noon. Twenty three men were wounded on the 23rd.
- Helicopters were dropping CS crystals on all suspected NVA areas around the fire base. Bombs were being dropped and artillery from Gladiator, Kathryn, O'Reilly and Rakkason were firing into the hills near Ripcord. The mortar units, that were to be shortly pulled off, fired round after round in order to lighten the loads.
- As their guns were lifted, the crews jumped onto Hueys and were returned to Camp Evans. Lt. Col. Lucas and his executive officer, Maj. Tanner were checking the progress near their bunker when a 120mm mortar round hit. This explosion and shrapnel killed Tanner and nearby PFC Gus Allen, and mortally injured Lucas. He was tended to and placed on a medevac, but died shortly after lifting off. These three were the last men to be killed as a result of the battle. Captain Peters of Bravo 2/506 took over the ground evacuation and in co-ordination with Capt. House of the helicopters, the evacuation was successfully completed by 1230. The base was then covered with CS crystals to make it harder on any NVA that might show up.
- Earlier that morning, D2/506, lifted off Camp Evans to assist A2/506 in their extraction. They landed on their designated LZ and moved as quickly as they could. They covered the 900 meters of jungle in about an hour and joined up with Alpha. Here, Delta blew a landing zone on site rather than try to carry all the litter cases and dead

back to the LZ. The new LZ ended up consisting of an opening in the 150' high canopy that was just wide enough for the Hueys to hover straight down. Then, they had to hover over the downed tree trunks as the men were loaded on. Each chopper in turn ascended straight up before they could then accelerate and return to Camp Evans. Alpha was back at Camp Evans by 1345 and Delta followed them by 1425. With that extraction, all on and near Ripcord had been successfully evacuated.

- On FSB Gladiator, 7.5 kilometers from Ripcord, a few mortar rounds were landing on their perimeter, but not injuries. A, B, and D 1/501 continued to secure the base of the surrounding area. E 1/501 recon teams worked the area seeking NVA locations.
- That night B-52's conducted heavy bombing of the base and the surrounding area.
- Ripcord was closed.



TANNER KENNETH
7/23/1970



ALLEN GUS
7/23/1970



LUCAS ANDRE
7/23/1970

