

Ripcord Report!

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

Nolan completes manuscript, sends to Presidio!

No. 51 March 2000

Louisiana National Guard, 101st Airborne Division to support Reunion '00

SHREVEPORT, LA—It just doesn't get any better than this. Welcome to southern hospitality, Louisiana-style.

Jim Campbell (C/2-506) has been busy recently. More importantly, he's been danged effective.

By calling in a few markers, cajoling, scrounging and maybe just a little good old-fashioned arm-twisting, Jim has gotten preparations for Reunion '00 off to a running start.

Chalk up the 101st Airborne Division color guard for starters. To that add the NCO of the year and enlisted man of the year. Then throw in the Louisiana National Guard Band, complete with bagpipes of the Strathruadh Pipe and Drum Group for good measure.

Jim's baby brother, Maj. Gen. Hondo Campbell, is chief of staff of U.S. Army-Europe. After an exchange of e-mail messages, presto!

But wait, there's more.

Shreveport is home to Barksdale Air Force Base and is headquarters for the 8th Air Force. Since the actions around FSB Ripcord were truly joint actions, involving all the services (Air Force, Navy and Marine pilots flew at Ripcord at one time or another), it seemed only appropriate to include the Barksdale Air Force Base Honor Guard, and Jim has gotten their commitment.

The highlight of the reunion will be a solemn memorial service at the Shreveport-Bossier City War Memorial. The ceremonies will include presenting a memorial wreath at the site, laying a memorial stone to commemorate the Ripcord battle, followed by a 21-gun salute, Taps and bagpipes playing.

Be sure to make this one, and bring the family.

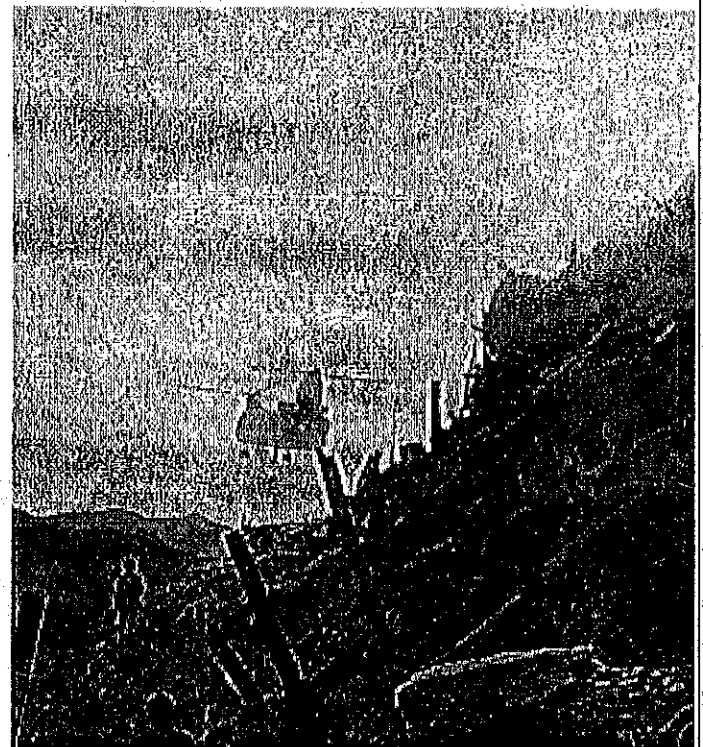
More reunion details on pages 7 and 9.

Golf and casinos?! Did anyone mention golf and casinos?

Reunion '00 dates set for
October 12-16. If you've never
been to a reunion, be sure to
make this one!

If you've been to a Ripcord
Reunion before, you ain't seen
nothing yet!

*Chinook flies off the wind-swept mountain we called
Ripcord. Remember those who fell there. They did not
shirk their duty nor stain their sacred honor.*



Courtesy of Patrick Germany, C/2-506

LZ Windy Hill

NOKESVILLE, Va.—I've been going over the old files for the past several weeks. There sure is lots of interesting history that's been collected about Ripcord over the years. And I reckon Keith Nolan has captured most of it in his manuscript of the battle.

Keith's book about our trial by fire in the rugged rain forest mountains near the Shau is now at Presidio Press in Novato, California. They'll do a couple of final editing scrubs, set the type, stick in the photos Keith's collected and set up the galley proofs. Then it's off to the print shop for printing and binding. The book is expected to be out sometime this summer.

Instead of me rambling on, I thought it might be interesting to see some of the articles and pieces that have appeared in past issues of *Ripcord Report*. Here and on the following pages are some items from an unnumbered "special edition" dated July 1986.

Enjoy—Chuck Hawkins, editor

Stars and Stripes—Sunday 26 July 1970

Reds were planning to assault firebase

S&S Vietnam Bureau

FSB EVANS, Vietnam—Red troops surrounding Fire Support Base Ripcord were planning to launch a coordinated attack to overrun the post similar to earlier efforts when the 101st Airborne Div. Troops pulled out Thursday, division officials said Friday.

Information available indicated that the Reds were consolidating their strength in preparation for the assault, the officials said.

The decision to remove 200 troops from the base and two infantry security companies nearby came Tuesday when division officers decided that air and artillery strikes would ruin the enemy surrounding the camp more effectively and more cheaply than infantry troops, military sources said.

The troops were evacuated from the tiny, figure-eight-shaped outpost—the 101st's westernmost outpost—during six and a half hours of what some soldiers described as "living hell" as more than 500 mortar shells slammed into the base.

The men were evacuated from a tiny landing zone at the south end of the outpost. Three Americans were killed and 20 wounded in the escape, according to the U.S. Command.

One CH-47 Chinook helicopter, attempting to remove some of the six 105mm howitzers virtually destroyed July 18 when another Chinook crashed with a load of ammunition, crashed on the pad and then was hit by a mortar round.

In the earlier Chinook incident, Red machine gun fire from near the camp's perimeter touched off the downed helicopter's fuel tanks which then exploded the 3,500 pounds of ammunition, causing the barrels of the

six nearby howitzers to melt. One man died in the incident, according to the command.

Firebase Ripcord was built three and a half months ago in the center of Red strongholds in western Thua Thien Province near the A Shau Valley.

B Co., 2nd Bn., 506th Inf., was the first unit into Ripcord April 1, and it was the last to leave Thursday.

[Editor's note: Alpha Company, 2/506 was first on Ripcord in an exploratory insertion on March 12. B Co. was the last unit to leave the firebase. A and D Co., 2/506 was the last units out of the area on July 23.]

"We had mortars the day we went in and mortars the day we went out and mortars every day in between," said Sgt. Richard Pryor, 21, who was one of the last 18 men to leave Ripcord.

Officials said the tiny outpost has taken an average of about 50 mortars every day since the 101st moved in.

"The most amazing thing was those chopper pilots," said Pfc. Daniel Biggs, 22. "I saw one go in when two mortars had just splashed down, right on the pad where he was going to land. It wasn't three seconds before he came in—he came right in, didn't turn away or anything."

Officials said the enemy concentration was part of an enemy buildup to take advantage of dry weather by stashing supplies for future operations.

They said Ripcord had been established to upset his ability to move supplies through that part of western Vietnam toward the population centers. They denied the withdrawal represented any kind of defeat, explaining the fire support base had served its purpose and the men were withdrawn so that full U.S. firepower could be concentrated on the large number of enemy believed to be in the area.

Tactical air strikes began pounding Ripcord as soon as the last troops were pulled out and continued into the night and all day Friday. Officials said 44 tactical air strikes were called in Thursday.

[Editor's note: In fact, official journal entries show that there were over 80 sorties of tac air called in on the day of the withdrawal from Ripcord, and they dropped 153 tons of bombs.]



Photo by Chris Jensen

The Battle of Ripcord

It was a time when bravery was commonplace and sheer terror the normal state of mind...

By DON HIRST

FSB RIPCORN, South Vietnam—

The perimeter was being slowly sucked in as giant Chinook and smaller Huey helicopters swooped in to evacuate troopers from this battered base. Suddenly one bird came under heavy fire from a .51-cal machine gun.

"I engaged the machine gun with my M60 but he spotted me and fired," recalled Sgt. Christopher Hinman, 21. "One round hit my ammo can and it went up. I was hit in the arm and leg and it blew my flack jacket, helmet and gun all to hell. I left the area. Every man felt they were closing in..."

That was how the final hours of FSB Ripcord looked to one of its defenders from Bravo Company, 2nd Bn., 506th Inf., 101st Abn. Div.

It was a time when bravery was commonplace and sheer terror the normal state of mind. It wasn't the first time in the Vietnam War that a base had been abandoned under heavy fire, but to the men who fought the enemy, the memories of their private hell will still be vivid when Vietnam is a page in a history book.

When the battalion carved out the oblong-shaped base atop a 3,300-foot hill in early April, many of the grunts were looking forward to their turn at the relatively cush duty of perimeter security even if the base was just nine klicks from the NVA-infested A Shau Valley. When the Infantrymen sweated and strained to make Ripcord another in the endless series of firebases, none of them had any idea that their turf and the surrounding area would soon be one of the most hotly contested pieces of real estate in I Corps, and would ultimately cost 61 lives.

[Editor's note: Official counts of U.S. KIA at the time were apparently low. The 2/506 may have lost 61 KIA; 74 men from all units involved lost their lives on or around Ripcord during the 23-day siege alone. Others perished in the Ripcord AO between the first insertion on March 12 and the beginning of the battle.]

Their defenses were formidable enough—a company of Infantry for perimeter security, miles of concertina wire, Claymore mines and two batteries of artillery, both 105s and 155s. Outside the wire, the remainder of the battalion roamed the rugged hill country in search of the enemy. They found several small caches of mortar rounds and other ammunition, but in the words of one high-ranking officer, things were "pretty quiet." Then came July.

The NVA began to make their presence felt with occasional mortar or recoilless rifle attacks. First just a few shells, then progressively more and more until, said one platoon leader, at least 50 rounds a day came crashing inside the pocket-sized perimeter.

The gutsy cannon cockers of Bravo Battery, 2/319th, 101st Abn. Div., and A Btry., 2nd Bn., 11th Arty., XXIV Corps, manned their guns round the clock in an attempt to silence the incoming. They averaged an hour or two of sleep each night and racked up almost a Purple Heart apiece.

"What was it like? Did you ever crap in your pants?" said a 105 gunner from 2/319. "The incoming just didn't land outside (the sandbagged gun emplacements)—it was hitting right inside the pits. Our six guns fired 1,500 rounds the first day."

But on July 18, a series of events denied Ripcord half of its artillery and started the brass

thinking about pulling out. A Chinook with a slingload of 105mm ammunition was hovering over Bravo Battery when enemy fire knocked it from the sky. Minutes later the helicopter burst into flame and soon the high-explosive shells began cooking off, first one or two at a time, then bigger and bigger explosions. The men had little choice but to abandon their guns. Many hours later when the last shell had spent its explosive force, they returned to their gunpits. The once-lethal cannons were just so much scrap.

Before everything started going bang, recalled Hinman, he and a pathfinder ran over to the downed Chinook with fire extinguishers.

"The ship was on fire," said Hinman, "and there was a guy trapped underneath. He was badly burned and several guys with shovels were trying to dig him out. We tried to bank the fire with sandbags, then the M60 ammo in the chopper started going off."

The rounds for the big guns were ready to blow too, recalled Hinman, so there was little that the battalion commander could do but order them to run for their lives. Their frantic efforts to save the trapped crewman from burning to death were in vain.

"Some rounds came in while we were trying to get him out," said Hinman emotionally. "God damn those----gooks!"

CS gas from some of the exploding shells began to spread over the firebase and made life miserable for the next several hours. But more than the discomfort, the loss of the quick-firing, pinpoint-accurate 105 howitzers worried troopers.

Continued on next page...

Continued from page 3.

"I feel the 105 is a better defensive weapon than the 155," said one veteran squad leader. "It must have been a great morale boost for the gooks."

For the next four days the incoming increased in volume. Still, said one NCO, morale was good. "We just dug a little deeper," he said matter-of-factly.

"You didn't know where they'd land," retorted Sp4 Steve Hanson. "I'm not afraid of a dink I can see, but that..."

As the hours passed, brass back at division headquarters decided the base was more of a liability than an asset. Conclusion: get the hell out.

"We knew we were leaving the night before," said SSgt Tom Rubsam, a 23-year-old acting platoon leader. "They told us we weren't being beaten off and that Ripcord had performed its function. Tactically it was a good move. When I heard about it, I thought, 'Let's go!'"

While the weary GIs on Ripcord began the task of getting ready for the extraction slated to begin before dawn, Sp4 Floyd Alexander was sitting several miles away, still trying to get used to the fact that he was alive. Early that morning the young recon forward observer was with Alpha Company when it was hard hit by the NVA.

"We were getting ready to leave our NDP (night defensive position) when mortars started popping. Then there were satchel charges and AK fire. We were overrun."

A burst of fire killed the artillery FO and blinded another GI near Alexander. They were separated from the rest of the company, so Alexander covered the wounded GI with his own body and played dead for more than three hours. The worst moment came when an NVA soldier padded silently over to where the two GIs lay and stared at them for several minutes.

"He was carrying an AK and wearing sandals," said a still-shaken Alexander. "He stared at

me and then he just walked off. I was scared and praying the whole time, believe me."

That night Alexander and his wounded buddy rejoined their company. "I didn't find out about Ripcord until we got back from the field," he concluded.

Back at Ripcord, the grunts sweated through what they hoped would be their last night of purgatory. Dawn was still an hour away when the first whup-whup of approaching helicopters announced the start of the extraction. One Chinook was shot down during the withdrawal, but the crew escaped intact. Ironically, the downed bird landed atop the already destroyed artillery pieces.

Fate still had its toll to collect from the battle-weary soldiers. Three men, including the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Andre Lucas, were killed during the extraction. Another 20 were wounded.

"He was a damned good CO," said one peon. "He was definitely for the troops. When the chopper crashed on the 18th, he was right there with us trying to get out the guy who was trapped."

The perimeter was steadily shrinking as helicopters ferried out load after load of GIs. Sporadic incoming as well as antiaircraft fire didn't help, but chopper jocks still made textbook approaches.

"They did a helluva fine

job," said one trooper. "Another hour and I think the dinks would have been in the wire."

The remaining Screaming Eagles were clustered around the TOC, almost everyone toting a machine gun. Suddenly, recalled Hinman, "I noticed that my wallet was missing."

So under the covering fire of his buddies, the youthful sergeant raced back down the hill to look for his missing billfold. He found it and made a mad zigzag dash back to the TOC.

"There was 35 cents and a picture of my girl inside," said Hinman.

Finally the base was deserted. As the last choppers headed for safer territory, fighter-bombers rained death on the enemy below. The battle for Ripcord was over.

"We could have given them a good fight anytime they hit the wire," said one grunt, "and we could have defended the base indefinitely but what for? We're going to Eagle Beach for a party tomorrow. We'll take more casualties there than we did at Ripcord."

Artillerymen at Ripcord during the siege. Photo by Chris Jensen





A letter from home, and artillery shell for Uncle Ho's boys in the Ripcord AO. Mail is an exceptionally important part of the life of a soldier in a combat zone, as this artilleryman from B/2-319th would attest. Despite the fact that he's wearing a fatigue jacket with the 82nd Airborne patch on it, the trooper is a member of the 101st. Chris Jensen took the photo during the siege. Chris was a combat photographer with 221st Signal out of Saigon, and spent a number of days on the firebase when things were hot.

INCOMING

Someday...

It's been a while since I've been in touch. I enjoy the *Ripcord Report* and all the news. Some day I will join you guys at a reunion. After I made my search of member of D Co., 1/506th, and located about 70 of us, I have laid low and watched its results. My biggest joy was hearing how Randy Thompson was overjoyed with finding some of his own. It was such a terrible tragedy he isn't here today to heal more of his wounds. It is gratifying to me his parents are active in this association. Someday, I'd like to meet them.

Here's a contribution for the report. I too am very excited about Keith's book as I have been in contact with him about our company's involvement.

Thank you and Curraheel
Gib Rossetter
North Platte, NE

Greatest adventure

Thanks for the latest edition of the *Ripcord Report*. As usual, I enjoy the articles very much.

It seems like an eternity ago (actually 30 years) that I stepped off the aircraft in Ben Hoa, South Vietnam to being the greatest adventure of my life. I along with Marty Glennon and Jerry Cafferty were about to render aid, save lives and fight in the spring offensive of 1970. We were young "docs" determined to do what had to be done to keep the most honorable legacy of the U.S. Army medic alive and to add to the legacy with our "blood, sweat and tears."

Those experiences in combat formed the solid platform of my adulthood and attitude to my life. Nothing but nothing can equal the absolute test of combat. How can I receive the coveted *Ripcord Coin*? I'd love to add it to my Vietnam War mementos.

I have attended two reunions of the organization (Washington, D.C. and Denver, Colo.). The best to all the veteran troopers of *Ripcord* battles.

Frank A. Gonzales (E/2506 Recon medic)
Oro Valley, Ariz.

Letter to Bob Seltz (Recon/2-506), a West Point classmate of Bill Pahissa (A/2-506, KIA July 22, 1970)

Thank you for the wonderful letter and the [memorial service] programs you sent for our family. Our mother would have been very happy to have heard from you and seen the programs but as Glen told you she crossed over May 8th. There are still four Pahissas who will always be pleased to hear from any of Bill's classmates.

Bill has been gone many years and we still feel his presence so when we receive communications from his friends we know his memory will never die. The remaining Pahissas are Bill's brother Gerard, sisters Bernadette, Mary Pat and myself and a whole brood of nieces, nephews and great nephews. Even though we have lost Bill, Dad and Mom the Pahissas are a very close and strong family.

Again, a special thank you for your thoughtfulfulness.

Chris Pahissa-Van Meenen
Page, Arizona

More incoming...

Nothing to report

I started getting the *Ripcord Report* a couple of years ago through a referral from a fellow on AOL, RHBlackie is all I remember. It has been very interesting to hear all the stories and see some of the pictures in the newsletter.

I just got the January 2000 issues with the member addresses. However, I noticed that the wrong unit as assigned to my name. It was listed as D/1-506. The correct unit that I was in was the 265th Radio Research Company (Army Security Agency). I did notice another Jim McCoy listed for D/1-506, so make sure it is James (Jim) McCoy in Waxahachie, Texas!

Just a brief bio on me: I arrived on Ripcord on June 1, 1970. Our three-man team occupied the bunker next to the TOC and we later moved to a conex bunker between the commo bunker and the 105 ammo dump. Some folks may remember me at the colonel's daily briefings. I always said, "RRU has nothing to report." That always drew some chuckles! I served there until around July 15th when I replaced another member of the 265th who was wounded by a short round on FSB Rakkasan. The other two guys with me there were Dave Dyke (Morse interceptor) and George Davis (linguist). Haven't heard from either of them.

Our bunker (the second one) took a direct hit from a 75mm recoilless rifle on the 1st of July. Just damaged the sand bags and pretzelized an engineer stake. It was amazing that the other RRU guys got out when the 'Hook crashed in the 105 dump—it wasn't 10 yards from our bunker.

I remember working with the S2 (Intelligence) officer for 2/506. We did some document translation a few times for him. Wonder if you could remember who he was and update me on him if you can?

I haven't been able to attend any of the reunions, but Shreveport is in driving distance from my poz here just south of Dallas, so I hope to make this one.

Curraheel!

James (Jim) McCoy (265th RRU)
Waxahachie, Texas

A quickie...

Great issue of the newsletter. Keep up the good work. I know how hard it is to get those things put together and mailed out. Just a quick note to let you know that my address needs updated. Below is the new one.

Ray Blackman (D/2-501)

Ray is also known as RHBlackie@aol.com

DONATIONS

Anonymous sent in a donation. Thanks Anon.

Other donations from:

Charles Devlin (501st PIR, Normandy, WWII)

Frank "Doc" Gonzales (Recon Medic, 2/506)

Bob Seitz (Recon, 2/506)

Gib Rossetter (D/1-506)

Thanks, and a tip of the Ripcord steel pot to you all for your support.



Photo from Reunion '99. Statue in Savannah by the water of a woman waving a towel or small blanket with her dog standing beside her. The story is that her man went to sea and when his ship became overdue, the woman began a vigil by the docks, waving to every ship that passed in hopes her lover would see her. Although she reportedly did this for years, her man and his ship was never seen or heard of again.

Quotable Quote

If a selection of good sergeants and corporals be made by the officer at the head of the regiment; and if that officer will only allow those individuals to do their duty, there is not the least doubt that they will do it.
Diary entry by unknown British sergeant; Peninsular Campaign, c. 1812

From Robert Debs Heintz, Jr.'s *Dictionary of Military and Naval Quotations*.

Behind the scenes reunion preparation

Reported by Jim Campbell (C/2-506) in an e-mail message dated February 14, 2000.

Fred called this afternoon and we have changed hotels. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn in Bossier City on Old Minden Highway. This hotel is considerably better than the Ramada Inn and has agreed to a room rental of 55 dollars, which I find incredible. The hotel is just around the corner from where the ceremony will take place and also not more than five minutes from Barksdale Air Force Base. It also is only about 400 meters from Ralph and Kacoo's where we will be eating on Friday night. This is a much better deal than the Ramada Inn.

I met today with the lady at the Barksdale Officer's club and we are booked there for a light lunch on Saturday October 14, 2000. I also met with the sergeant for the Barksdale Honor Guard. She has agreed and confirmed that they will furnish the Barksdale Honor Guard to the ceremony. The Honor Guard will consist of 8 troopers with sabers and 8 troopers with rifles to fire a 21-gun salute. I will have to get the 101st Color Guard to send an extra man so that they can carry the Air Force flag with their Color Guard.

When you include all of this in the newsletter, be sure to state that Shreveport is accessed easily by TWA through its hub in St. Louis, Delta through its hub in Atlanta or Dallas, American Airlines through its hub in Dallas, Continental Airlines through its hub in Houston, Northwest Airlines through its hub in Memphis, and US Airways/USA Airways Express through its hub in New Orleans. Through these different airlines, it is real easy to access Shreveport from any part of the country by air.

I have not yet met with the Tour director for Barksdale to arrange the tour of Barksdale on Saturday prior to the lunch, but this will be routine and I have no problem with you going ahead and mentioning this in the newsletter. The tour will probably include a walk through a B-52 and a visit to the 8th Air Force Museum.

Everything else that I have told you is as previously written. The name of the bagpipe group is the Strathruadh Pipe and Drum Group and the name of the honor guard is the Barksdale Air Force Base Honor Guard to include firing squad and saber cordon.

I think that you should make some mention in the newsletter that it is going to be awfully embarrassing to the members of the association if we do not turn out in good numbers for the event.

Although I cannot at this point verify the civilian dignitaries who will attend the ceremony, I fully expect

both the mayors of Shreveport and Bossier City to attend, and there is a good chance that the local congressman will attend if he is in town for the weekend.

I think there is very little left for me to do at the present time with respect to the ceremony, banquet and other reunion events other than to arrange for the transportation of the members throughout the weekend. Please make sure that the newsletter includes mention of golf and fishing on Friday during the day for those interested. The fishing should be offered on a limited basis, first come first serve. Some mention should also be made of the Friday tour to Norton's Museum and the Cotton plantation. I would also expect you to mention the Thursday night outing at the Shreveport Yacht Club which is an event that will be thoroughly enjoyed by all attending. The casinos in Shreveport are Harrah's, Horseshoe, Casino Magic, Isle of Capri, and the Hollywood Casino.

Also I think we need to stress in the newsletter the importance of an early commitment as this will encourage people to set aside the necessary funds to attend. The room rate of 55 dollars a night should be stated, as I don't think this will scare people away.

Let me know when you find out whether General Berry will be attending. I am going to try to arrange for a 3-star flag for him and a 2-star flag for Ben to be furnished at the ceremony.

I may yet add a few things to the reunion, but at this point I think you have enough to get someone's attention.

Currahee, Jim Campbell

Wow! Thanks Jim. To summarize:

Wednesday, October 11

- Early arrival, come to the hospitality suite.

Thursday, October 12

- Regular arrival, hospitality suite activities, casual dinner at Shreveport Yacht Club.

Friday, October 13

- Hospitality suite activities (e.g., war stories, meet friends, drink beer and soda).
- Norton's Museum/Cotton Plantation tour.
- Informal dinner at Ralph and Kacoo's—real down-home Cajun cooking.

Saturday, October 14

- Memorial ceremony and laying of wreath and Ripcord memorial stone at the Shreveport-Bossier City War Memorial.
- Lunch at Barksdale O-Club.
- Tour functioning B52, 8th Air Force Museum.
- Memorial banquet dinner.

Sunday, October 15

- Departure, or stay late and leave Monday.

Reservation and registration details on page 9.

Snap Shots from Savannah—Reunion '99



On the bus—the tour that wouldn't die.



After lunch—mmmmmmmm goooood!



Taking a picture of the picture-taker.



There we were at 20,000 feet.



By the way, did you remember to turn off the garden hose?



Swapping talk at the dock.



Somewhere out there is sunken treasure. I just know it.



It was windy. Hold on to your, um, head gear.

Got the picture?

Good.

See you in Shreveport.

RIPCORD REUNION '00 DETAILS—HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

RIPCORD ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 11-15, 2000

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 15, 2000

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name: _____ First: _____

Address: _____ Home Ph.: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name(s) of Guest(s) Sharing Accommodations:

Last: _____ First: _____

GROUP CODE 'RIPCORD'

THE ABOVE MARKET SEGMENT INFORMATION IS USED BY HOTEL WHEN FORM IS SENT IN TO FIND GROUP EASILY. IF YOU WISH TO CALL IN RESERVATION, REFER TO THIS CODE; OR YOU WILL BE CHARGED A HIGHER RATE.

Please check type of room requested. Rates are subject to tax. Reservations must be in by deadline date.

<input type="checkbox"/> Double Occupancy, \$55, King Bed	<input type="checkbox"/> Single Occupancy, \$55, King Bed
<input type="checkbox"/> Double Occupancy, \$55, 2 Double Beds	<input type="checkbox"/> Triple Occupancy \$55, 3 Persons, 2 Double Beds
<input type="checkbox"/> Quad Occupancy, \$55, 4 Persons, 2 Double Beds	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoking <input type="checkbox"/> Non-smoking

Your Arrival Date	Your Departure Date

Time of Arrival: _____

Check In Time: 3 p.m.

Check Out Time: 12 noon

Complimentary airport and casino shuttle service available.

Your reservation must be guaranteed for one night's stay.

Guarantee by the following:

☐ Check enclosed for \$61.87

☐ Type of Credit Card: _____

Your Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____

Card Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Fax or mail completed form or call to make reservations (see below).

Please don't be a NO SHOW! Should your plans change, please cancel your reservation by 6 p.m. on day of arrival and obtain a cancellation number. Thanks.

HOLIDAY INN BOSSIER, 2015 OLD MINDEN RD, BOSSIER CITY, LA 71111

Toll Free: 1-800-HOLIDAY (465-4329); Ph.: 318-742-9700; Fax: 318-747-4651

Mention group code "RIPCORD." GINA BEARDEN is our hotel coordinator.

Re:
child

- Thursday
- Friday Ton.
- Art Museum
- Plantation Tour
- Saturday lunch and
- AFB tour
- Saturday banquet
- Refreshments for the hospita
- suite

A full reunion event schedule and memorial service program will be provided in the next issue.

Send the following to:

Fred Spaulding
7702 White Dove Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46256-1750
Ph./Fax: 317-849-3969

- Check/Money Order payable to Ripcord Association
- Your name, address, phone, unit in RVN, and names of guest(s) coming with you
- Your and your guest(s) banquet meal preference [] beef, [] seafood, or [] chicken
- Dates you will arrive and depart

Make your hotel reservations and send in your registration fee early!

The sooner we know how many folks to count on the easier it will be to square away all the administrative details, arrange transportation, get head counts for meals and seating, etc.

Don't miss the Sept. 15, 2000 deadline or the special room rate will not apply.

Jim Campbell says the Holiday Inn Bossier City is really top notch.

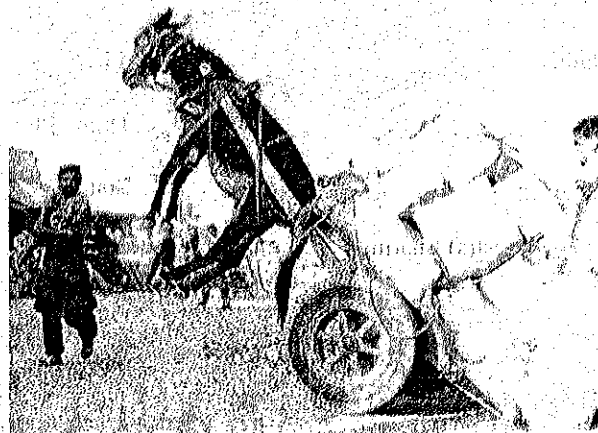
Proper
Prior
Planning
Prevents
Piss
Poor
Performance

See you in Shreveport!

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.....union '00 Information	9

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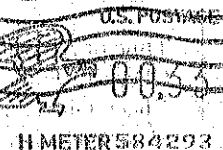
Ripcord Report is a publication of the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord Association, and is the authoritative voice of history of the battle.



Don't get overloaded. See you in Shreveport.

Ripcord Report
 Chuck Hawkins, editor

Address correction requested.



SHREVEPORT LA 711 198#2 03/27/00 19:05

Spring 2000