



RIPCORD REPORT



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

Issue # 140

March 2025

2025 RIPCORD REUNION

The Hilton Ellie Beach Resort

3200 S Ocean Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC

Sunday, October 26 through Wednesday, October 29, 2025

The Ellie
BEACH RESORT
MYRTLE BEACH



Monday night show at Legends Theatre

The 2025 Reunion will be at The The Ellie Beach Resort located at the south end of Myrtle Beach. It is just three miles (10 minutes) from the Myrtle Beach Airport. The Hotel is also located two miles from the Market Common Shopping and Restaurant District, formally the old Air Force Base.

Murrells Inlet, known as “Seafood Capital of South Carolina” offers from fine-dining restaurants with white tablecloths to burger joints where you can discard peanut shells on the floor. Murrells Inlet also has a wonderful selection of restaurants for any taste. Of course, the area is famous for fresh seafood that is caught daily, including crabs, oysters, clams, and seasonal fish. Enjoy all of your favorite seafood dishes, as well as any other type of cuisine in Murrells Inlet. They are located 10 miles from hotel.

Room rate this year is \$110. The resort fee is \$15. (\$110 + \$15 * 12% tax + \$1 destination fee = \$141 total per night . The hotel reservation link is on the registration form page 8 and on our website. Ripcordassociation.com

Also, the Association is providing donuts and pastries for the mornings of Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday in the Hospitality room. The hotel will provide plenty of coffee between hours of 7am until 10am.

These shows are known for their elaborate theatrical sets, magnificent costumes and full array of incredible special effects, including three dimensional multimedia and multimillion dollar, state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems.

The Ripcord Association has booked 94 Adult tickets for this event to be held on Monday, October 27, 2025. Each ticket is \$27 and they start seating at 6:45pm for the 7:30pm showing. Dress is casual, we are on vacation. The show lasts approximately two hours with a fifteen minute intermission.

The celebrity impersonators featured for this night so far are Elvis, Michael Jackson, Tina Turner, Brooks & Dunn and one more to be announced next newsletter.

This is not a dinner show, so you might want to eat before you go.

Those wishing to attend, MUST contact Frank Marshall in advance to secure a seat in our group. This promises to be a wonderfully entertaining evening. Hope to see you there.

Contact Frank Marshall 609-472-0970 or email FBripcord@gmail.com as soon as you can. We will reserve your seats and you will pay when you register at the reunion reception room. But I must know if you are coming to the show.

Ripcord Association Update

by Peter Meloro



Greetings from New Jersey! It is hard to believe that four months have already passed since our reunion in October. All comments received by our Board from attendees have been very positive relative to our experience at The Ellie Beach Resort by Hilton in Myrtle Beach. Our reunion later this year in October will again take place at the same hotel. I am confident that the hotel will continue to meet or exceed all our expectations. We are also arranging for a trip to Legends during our reunion. Our feedback on the Legends experience was also very positive. According to Frank Marshall the cast will have at least one repeat performer (Elvis) but will also have several new performers. Legends has agreed to maintain the same cost from our visit last year.

This Newsletter includes the registration form for the 2025 reunion. You can send your registration form and checks to me as usual and you will be able to make your reservations with the hotel. If you have any difficulty registering with the hotel, please let us know. You will also note that the Board has agreed to initiate an increase of \$25 for adults while the costs for children remain the same. This is the first increase in the cost of attendance since our reunions began. The reason for this increase is due to the fact that the overall costs of running the Association has increased, this includes tax filing, storage facility, insurance, website management and miscellaneous items. Secondly, the actual reunion was more costly than previous years. The reasons for that are twofold; inflation has increased cost across the board and the price to improve our hotel experience was more than in the past.

In order to continue to conduct our reunions as we are accustomed, we will have to increase our revenue stream. As discussed previously we have increased the registration fee. Secondly we encourage donations. We recognize that not everyone is in the financial position to make donations and we respect that fact. For those who can consider this, remember that we are a registered not for profit and donations to the Ripcord Association are a valid tax deduction when filing your annual income tax. Thirdly, and this is something that I have done in past years. For those of us who have a 401K and are subjected to a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), one way to reduce your tax liability would be to donate pre tax dollars in conjunction with your implementation

of the RMD. If anyone would like additional information about this, please contact me directly.

Now don't worry, we still have money to continue our reunions but I am looking down the road. Some may laugh since most of us are in our mid to late 70's but what the heck, let's think positive.

I look forward to hearing from you and to diligently working with our Board to make each future reunion even better than the last.

CURRAHEE my friends

Donations

The life blood of our Association

Checks payable to: "Ripcord Association".

Mail to: **Pete Meloro**

107 Maple Drive

Spring Lake Hts, NJ 07762

BY THE NUMBERS

726 members in our Ripcord Association

597 are Ripcord Veterans

128 are Associate Members

145 receive newsletter via Postal Mail

578 receive the newsletter via e-mail

1,391 Facebook "Ripcord Association Group"

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

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INCOMING MAIL



International

Thank you so much for sharing a list of international newspapers on your page here ripcordassociation.com/newspaper-articles-and-stories-of-firebase-ripcord/.

Recently, I came across a great index of global newspapers <https://www.websiteplanet.com/blog/complete-index-of-newspapers-across-the-globe/>

This is a list that was updated in the past few days. I read a lot of similar guides before, but this one is quite thorough, and I've found it to be rather useful.

Maybe it could help your other readers, as well, if you add it to your page?

Keep up the great work!

Mary Wambui

Pathfinders

Is there an after action report about the battle of Ripcord, and specifically the mention of 101st Pathfinders on Ripcord being awarded the Silver Star? Not for me, even though I was a 101st Pathfinder in Vietnam, after Ripcord, but for a 101st Pathfinder who was severely wounded on Ripcord, Tony Steiner.

Thank you!

Dean Nelson

nelent@aol.com

970-443-3658

Editor's note. If you know of any reports, please let Dean know



If your contact information has changed, please go to our website and update your membership to keep getting important information about our Ripcord Association

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.

Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Critchlow

The new year has started. The wife and I are looking forward to this year's reunion. I have started looking into flights to and from Myrtle Beach. Plus, car rental. When the official dates are released, I will get busy. 2024 ended with me falling and hurting a disk in my back. I had the operation on 18 February and the stitches removed Feb 26. I'm hoping for no more surprises for this year. Although I do know I need my left knee replaced soon. It is down to bone on bone. So maybe in a month or 2 that will happen.

On to business. We have 1.4k members on our Facebook page. That is slightly up from our last newsletter. I want to thank all of you who post on our page. You help me out a lot. Please keep the posts coming. Don't be shy on posting any Vietnam pictures you have, and that are yours to post.

I'm looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you.



**Join our Facebook group:
Ripcord Association
Hosted by Anthony Critchlow
1,391 current members**

Recognize Vietnam War Veterans March 29

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. It marks the day in 1973 when all U.S. ground troops departed Vietnam. Only U.S. embassy personnel and support staff remained in South Vietnam until the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975.

This day is set aside for Americans to recognize every Vietnam War Veteran to include those who are still unaccounted for.

From February 1961 to May 1975, more than 3.4 million Americans served in support of US military operations in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. More than 58,000 gave their lives and nearly 1,580 service men remain unaccounted for according to the Defense POW/MIA accounting agency.

(Taken from VFW Magazine March/April 2025.)

Note: Three years earlier on March 29, the 2/506th Infantry was preparing for a return to what would become FSB Ripcord. Ground troops included Alpha, Bravo and Echo Company assaulted again on 1 April 1970.

Military-Themed COCKTAILS

By Bill Heath - Editor

Since I have a bar, many of my fellow vets ask me what is a good military themed mixed drink. So I turned to a website called veteranlife and found new takes on cocktails that capture the spirit of our services. Below are a few ...unique ideas.

#1. The Guard Duty

If you have ever served in the military, at some point you have had to stand middle guard duty in the middle of the night. Whether as the firewatch during Boot Camp or mid watch on the bridge of the ship, you have stood and stared into the darkness, imagining you see things moving in the shadows, cursing your luck, and questioning your life choices. Perhaps you were on security, manning a machine gun post and desperately slapping yourself silly trying to keep alert. This cocktail, which blends an Irish coffee with a car bomb should take care of your drowsiness! Though you might still see some weird stuff afterwards. Do not worry, once your heart slows down next week, you'll be fine.

Recipe: Main alcohol..Irish Whiskey

Ingredients...

- 1 1/3 oz (2 parts) Irish Whiskey
- 1 oz (11/2 parts) French Cream
- 1 tsp. Brown sugar
- 2 2/3 oz (4 parts) Hot Coffee
- 1x 5 Hour Energy shot
- 1x Caffeine Pill

Preparation...

1. Heat the coffee, whiskey and sugar, don't boil.
2. Pour into a pint glass and top with cream.
3. Crush the caffeine pill and "salt" the rim of the glass.
4. Put 5 Hour Energy into a shot glass and drop the shot into your pint glass.
5. Ride the lightning.

#2. The Corpsman / Medic

In the Naval Services, Sailors and Marines both love the Corpsman. "Doc" is a welcome site who makes our boo-boos go away and is always ready with a Motrin and a smile. Among Marines, Doc is a literal lifesaver and Marines will go out of their way to take care of

their swabby friend. This rum-soaked and often overly tattooed, giver of life and pain meds, pops our blisters and fixes our coffee and tobacco stained teeth. Though, often their answer to everything shy of a bullet wound is to "take a knee, change your socks, and drink water". Note: For the Army and Air Force, the drink is called "the Medic" and the spiced rum is substituted for cheap whiskey.

Recipe: Main alcohol... Spiced Rum

Ingredients...

- 1 1/3 oz (2 parts) Spiced Rum (pirate or sailor themed preferably).
- 2 2/3 oz (4 parts) Saline solution (or saltwater in a pinch).
- 1x Motrin
- 1x Ice pack
- 1x pair of woolen boot socks.

Preparation...

1. Place the rolled up socks in your pocket.
2. Crush the Motrin into a fine powder and "salt" the rim of your tall glass.
3. Pour spiced rum into the glass and mix the saline or saltwater.
4. Chill the glass over the ice pack.
5. Once you finish the drink, take a knee wherever you are and change your socks.

#3. The Infantry

Everyone knows that the Infantry is tough. That is because the Infantry has it tough. For grunts, field life is a constant parade of misery and exhaustion. It is that way for a reason, but it still doesn't make it anymore fun. **Until you get to blow stuff up.** Then it's totally worth it for, like, five minutes. There's an old saying that the shortest way to make it rain somewhere is to put a company of infantry in the field. Sure enough, it will hammer down rain until the second they leave. These poor, tired, young men and women who are the embodiment of Murphy's Law are held together with caffeine, nicotine, spite, and a lot of hot sauce just to feel something.

Recipe: Main alcohol...Beer

Ingredients...

- 12 Beers.
- 1 bucket of cold rainwater.
- 1 bottle of hot sauce of your choice.

(continued on page 5)

www.ripcordassociation.com

(Cocktails continued)

Preparation...

1. Drink the beer until you are exhausted and ready to go to sleep.
2. Then pour the rainwater over your head, making sure to get your socks, thoroughly wet.
3. Go stand in your yard until the sun comes up.
4. Then try to go for a run.
5. Occasionally, take little sips of hot sauce if you ever start to feel better about things.

#4. The Gas Chamber

This one is for our CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear) folks out there if you have never had to do an annual gas mask qualification by standing in a gas chamber with a big ol'smokin pot of CS gas that is brewing like a witches cauldron of pure evil, count yourself lucky. Your eyes sting and water like crazy and your nose runs like a faucet. Everything burns. Everything. It's a burning that makes your worst day at a Thai restaurant feel like a bubble bath. If you know, you know. Whatever you do, don't touch your eyes.

Recipe: Main alcohol...Tequila

Ingredients...

- 1.5oz tequila
- 1/2 a chopped white onion.
- 8oz tap water
- A towel.

Preparation...

1. Chopped the onion and make a nice, flat surface on one side.
2. Pour your tequila into a standard shot glass.
3. Have a friend smash the onion into your eyes.
4. Take the shot of tequila immediately have your friend throw the glass of water in your face.

#5. The Pilot

Here's an old one everyone has heard. How can you tell if someone is a fighter pilot? They'll tell you. Ba dum pshhh! We love our pilots. Some more than others. The grunts on the ground who need air support, for sure. Probably not their mechanics.

Maybe their crew chiefs... sometimes. DEFINITELY themselves. Who wouldn't want to be a dashing Pilot doing her robotics and shooting missiles willy-nilly and then heading back to the hanger for debriefing and

cocktails? Here's a sufficiently over-the-top recipe for our over-the-top friends.

Recipe: Main alcohol...Rum

Ingredients...

- 1oz Jamaican rum.
- 3/4oz Puerto Rican rum.
- 3/4oz 151-proof Demerara rum.
- 6 dashes absinthe or Pernod.
- 1/2oz grapefruit juice.
- 1/2oz lime juice.
- 1/2oz cinnamon syrup.
- 1/2oz falernum.
- 1 dash aromatic bitters.
- 1/2 cup crushed ice.
- Cherry for garnish.

Preparation...

1. In a blender, pour the rums, Pernod, grapefruit and lime.
2. Add the crushed ice.
3. Blend on high for 5 to 10 seconds.
4. Pour into a hurricane or margarita glass.
5. Serve with a cherry.
6. Then immediately tell everyone within a 15 yard radius that you are a pilot.
7. Bonus points if you tell a story using your hands as little airplanes or slip your call sign into the conversation.

CONCLUSION

Like your First Sergeant, Chief, or team leader used to tell you before every weekend, drink responsibly.

Here are a couple of good ground rules for when drinking these military themed cocktails. Don't add to the population. Don't subtract from the population. If you're going to drink, don't drive. **If you're going to drive, don't drink.** Don't do drugs. Don't get into any fights. If you do get in a fight, don't get caught. If you get caught and go to jail, establish dominance quickly. But none of this should matter, because you're going to drink responsibly, right? RIGHT?

Good. Dismissed.

Thanks again to veteranlife.com

Two stick it out with four units.

CAMP EVANS - Two Screaming Eagles are beginning to think their IBM cards have been stuck together in someone's computer.

It seems Sgt. Ray Hudzinski and Spec. 4 R i c h a r d H a n s o n , b o t h f r o m Wisconsin, have been assigned to the same company during four different assignments in the army.

The two Currahees with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) Hq. Co., 2nd Bn., 506th Infantry, met in basic training at Ft. Campbell, Ky., where they were in the same squad. But that was only the beginning. "After basic training, we found ourselves in the same squad and the same company at Ft. Polk, La., for AIT," said Hudzinski.

The two buddies then arrived in Vietnam and subsequently were assigned to the 101st. "Then," noted Hanson, "we were both in the same squad of company D, 2nd of the 506th.

After some time, Hudzinski was assigned to headquarters as a radio- telephone operator in the tactical operations center. Not to be left behind, Hanson's talent as a carpenter was soon recognized, and he, too, found himself reassigned to headquarters company.

Now that their tour of duty in Vietnam is drawing to a close, the two men recently received orders for stateside duty. Neither of them raised an eyebrow when the orders assigned them both to Fort Riley, Kansas.

Taken from The Army Reporter 6 July 1970



I Love that smell in the morning!
It smells like....VICTORY!

Mini gets Maxi use

FSB RIPCORD - Ever since the term "mini" was coined to describe a style of female attire, the G.I. has found it quite useful in naming nearly everything from machine guns to cavalry units.

Screaming Eagles from the 2nd Bn.(Ambl.) 506th Infantry, not to be passed by the trend, have used the prefix on various sections of this firebase 15 miles west of Hue.

At the mini-kitchen, a Currahee begins his day, but not with a mini-breakfast. The forward mess hall prepares breakfast of eggs, hot cakes, and sausages. "When we first arrived we were limited to powdered eggs and coffee, but we've built the place up and can now make any breakfast they can prepare in the rear," explained Spec. 6 Anthony Critchlow, Boise, Idaho.

Later in the day, during a free moment, a soldier can stop at the mini-PX. The exchange conex is stocked with such items as transistor radios, stationery, and some snack items.

These mini-features were innovated to accommodate the men of the 2/506 working in the surrounding areas, who come in for brief standdowns.

Besides the mini-kitchen and the mini-PX, Ripcord has one other unique miniature feature. A soldier on standdown can adjust his weapons battle sight zero on the mini-rifle range just outside the perimeter.

The mini-rifle range is equipped with two improved silhouette targets with modified Canadian bulls to point out windage and elevation adjustment.

Those Screaming Eagles who have experienced the mini-trend all expressed hope that the fad would expand into other areas. As one trooper, put it, "Maybe they will come out with a mini-tour."

Taken from The Army Reporter June 1970.



C.R.E (Crayons Ready-to-Eat)

My wife and I attended a comedy show here in Coolidge, Arizona last Saturday night. The comedians were having a show to support our local VFW Post 3713 with half the proceeds going toward our general fund. It was a dinner and drinks night with lots of laughs and a raffle with prizes. One of the jokes was about Marines and how they may not be that bright and sometimes needed help filling out paperwork, so they made them more comfortable by giving them crayons. But that created a problem because they sometimes ate them. So, the C.R.E was invented by a company out of Tulsa, Oklahoma called MilTreats. CEO/Co-Founder Frank Manteau is a seven and a half year Marine Corp veteran. Frank wanted an edible crayon and a way to tell them apart from other crayons, so he made them rectangular and without a wrapper so they won't be confused with the round non-edible crayons. Plus, they can't roll off the table. I won one of the raffles and received some items, one of which was a bag of C.R.E. They are made of white Belgian chocolate and the pouch contains 6 Crayons. The six colors are: Jarhead Red, Squid Blue, Dawg Face Green, Flyboy Yellow, Puddle Pirate Orange and Space Cadet White. I liked the taste as I began to bite off a piece of chocolate, but I am concerned that my IQ may be slipping.

BILL HEATH - EDITOR



How to make a C-Ration Stove

The small cans included in the meal were ideal for making a stove. Using a “John Wayne” pierce a series of closely spaced holes around the top and bottom rims of the can. This stove was satisfactory, but did not allow enough oxygen to enter, which caused incomplete burning of the blue Trioxin heat tablet, causing fumes which irritated the eyes and respiratory track. A whole heat tab had to be used.

A better stove was created by simply using the can opener end of a “church key” (a flat metal device designed to open soft drink and beer containers with a bottle opener on one end and can opener on the other end. This was commonly used before the invention of a pull tab and screw-off bottle top) to puncture, triangular holes around the top and bottom rims of the can which resulted in a hotter fire and much less fumes. With this type of stove, only half a Trioxin tablet was needed to heat the meal and then the other half could be used to heat water for coffee or cocoa. A small chunk of C-4 explosive could also be substituted for the Trioxin tablet for faster heating. It would burn hotter and was much better for heating water.

A stove was usually carried in the backpack or cargo pocket and used repeatedly until the metal began to fail.



RIPCORD REUNION **2025** Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

[] I have not received a Ripcord Coin. [] I require a Reunion Name Tag and Lanyard

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ UNIT IN 'NAM _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-mail address _____

Will a family member(s) be attending? If yes what are their names? (For name tag purposes only).

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Registration fee of \$ _____ is enclosed for # _____ Adults and # _____ children under 18.
\$35 for children under 18.

Your registration fee of \$100 per adult covers the cost of the snacks, beverages, (includes beer and wine) hot Hors D'oeuvres on Tuesday night and dinner on Wednesday.

Registration fee is now due!

Make your check payable to "RIPCORD ASSOCIATION" Mail your check with this form to:

Peter Meloro, 107 Maple Drive, Spring Lake Hts, NJ 07762.

Questions? Call Pete at 732-947-1664 or Frank Marshall 609-472-0970

Monday golf outing (a separate fee). Check if you will play [].

Monday night Legends Theatre show (a separate fee \$27). Check if you going [].

AGENDA

- Sunday, October 26:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)
- Monday, October 27:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)
Buses boarding outside lobby at 6:15pm show at Legends Theatre
- Tuesday, October 28:** Hospitality 1200 Hours. Hot Hors D'oeuvres 1730 hours
- Wednesday October 29:** Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room (1100 hrs)
Dinner with cash bar starting at 1700 hours done by 2200 hours.
- Thursday, October 30:** Homeward bound

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPARATELY

BY September 11, 2025 CALL 855-778-1190 for The Ellie Beach Resort

and ask for HOTEL RESERVATIONS and mention the

GROUP CODE: 90N

on line reservation link is <https://group.tapestrycollection.com/37vdk7>

link is also on our website www.ripcordassociation.com

Price is \$110 + \$15 * 12% tax + \$1 destination fee = \$141 total per night