



The Official Newsletter of the
Seventh United States Cavalry Association

2004 Issue 2

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"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

The 7th US Cavalry Association was established in 1932 as an association. It is the oldest active Cavalry Association associated with the US Army. The Regimental song, GARRYOWEN, first adopted by Gen. Custer in 1867, became the official song of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1981. Four active battalions of the 7th Cavalry the, 1st and 2nd remain on active duty with the 1st Cavalry Division, the 3rd at Ft Stewart, GA and the 4th in Korea. While the 5th is retired.

There are still troopers who are serving or have served in the 7th Cavalry and are not aware of the 7th US Cavalry Association. We would like to reach out to all and invite them to become members of the 7th US Cavalry Association. Membership is open to those that serve now or served with any of the units of the 7th Cavalry. Those who were attached to these units or have contributed in some way to promote the Association may also be members.

The membership rolls continue to lose members from the WW II and Korea War era as the members pass on to Fiddler's Green. We need veterans of the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and active troopers to build the association and insure continued growth. Many changes have taken place in the past few years, the Constitution and By Laws have been rewritten as the Association is now a Nonprofit Tax Exempt 501 [c] [19] Veterans Association . We have an established website <http://www.us7thcavalry.com> to maintain the history that has been associated with the 7th Cavalry, constant work is being done to add to the information presently on that site. A 7th Cavalry column is published in the Saber News of the 1st Cavalry Association.

The column provides information and stories of interest to our members - but our reporter needs your input. Write to him with any news of interest to the 7th Cavalry membership. Help make this column of interest to all.

As we continue to build the Association some things must happen, first the membership must increase, second continued support by those that have served is needed. As we do not require yearly membership fees consider a tax-deductible donation to help us continue to build the Association this is our only way

of increasing the funds required to enlarge the Association. Visit the website and check out the items of 7th Cavalry available under Quartermaster - ties, belt buckles, hats and more.

Please help us to find more troopers that served with the 7th Cavalry by providing copies of any old documents that you have stashed away. Talk to those you have contact with and get them to become members.

*J.S. Brigham Jr.
President 7th US Cavalry Association*

"Garryowen"

I have a current sitrep from the 4/7 Cavalry, as follows - 4th Squadron 7th Cavalry has undergone many leadership changes in the past six months. In August LTC Brian J. PRELER assumed command from LTC Bill HILL. The new command team of LTC PRELER and CSM NORMAN have kept the Squadron busy maintaining a high operational tempo to sustain the Squadron's ability to fight tonight on Freedom's Frontier here in Korea.

During the Holidays 4-7 Cav Troopers had the opportunity to give back to the local Korean community when they hosted several Christmas events with a local orphanage. Holiday spirits were also raised when the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders visited Camps GarryOwen and Stanton. Following the Holidays the Squadron returned to its training focus with two weeks of Platoon External Evaluations (EXEVAL). Each Platoon Leader had an opportunity to take on the OPFOR and maneuver his platoon while conducting reconnaissance and security tasks against a mounted and dismounted enemy force with direct fire, indirect fire, and Kiowa support.

It was a great training event that gave young officers, NCOs, and troopers the chance to train in the harsh winter conditions of Korea. All platoons achieved a "T" rating on critical collective tasks in preparation for Advanced Gunnery Tables and Squadron EXEVALs. During the EXEVALs the air portion of the Squadron underwent an intensive Aviation Resource Management Survey (ARMS) inspection. After five days of inspecting everything from records, maintenance, safety, and training Eighth Army recognized the Air Cav for doing an outstanding job.

The next few months promise to be even busier. The Squadron is returning to KTC next month for its Winter Gunnery and will redeploy straight into Squadron EXEVALs for another three weeks. This tough realistic training will ensure that the Squadron continues to maintain the high state of readiness that is always expected of the Cavalry. Finally, I would like to congratulate our sister Squadron 3-7 Cav for an outstanding job during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The speed, versatility, and lethality of the Squadron are a testament to the Cavalry Doctrine. God Speed to 1-7 Cav as they deploy to Iraq this month. I am confident that they will have the same continued success and make all GarryOwen Troopers and America proud! The Seventh, First! Out Front! LTC Brian PRELER "Saber 6" -4th Squadron 7th U.S. Cavalry

*As this writing, I have no activity reports concerning any of the deployed 1st Cavalry Division units. I am told that there will be a Troop Support Program for all of us to participate in but details have not yet been released. Next issue, for sure! Now for the INCOMING ** I Would like to hear from any 7th Cav member who was stationed in Hokkaido Island, Japan April 1953 to November, 1954. I am pursuing a cold injury claim with the VA and need substantiation of the conditions there during that time. The e-mail address is that of my County Veterans Service Officer. I have no e-mail. Willie Bruce ANGLIN can be*

reached at james.moyers@ncmail.net. **

I was in the Mortar Platoon, D 2/7 Cav, on Nov 17, 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley. Early in the action, I lost a large Bowie knife, just about the time I had been shot. Is there a newsletter where I can ask if anyone had found that knife? I lost it near the edge of LZ Albany. This may not be very significant, but the fact that my mother gave it to me means much to me. My request seems so petty when you look at all those lost that day, but as I said the Bowie knife was a gift from my mother. It was possibly lost near one of the large anthills, near LZ Albany and was probably found by those men who scoured the area on November 18th, looking for our lost men. The blade of my Bowie was about 12 inches or so long and very heavy. Thank you. Also, I have a Memorial web site to honor my fellow troopers who died as a result of the battle at LZ Albany, on November 17, 1965. It is for those troopers of D 2/7 Cav. It's a work in progress. Looking for more photo's and info on those who died. Would like help if anyone has information. The web site is at <http://www.garry-owen.com>. Thanks for your help.

*Brian RIPLEY, 5135 South 1225 West, Ogden, Utah 84405 - BDRk8br@aol.com. ** Have you had the opportunity to read Richard Taylor's (1-7th 1970-71) book "Prodigals" released in November '03? 1st half deals with his initial RVN tour with MACV, followed by his Cav days. You may consider this a "plug" for his efforts.*

*R.L. "Skip" ROZELLE, Sr. (1-7 '70-'71). ** Thought you might be interested in the following. A few days ago I received a letter from Jim HACKBART, A 1/7 '70-'71. It contained a five-year old email. The subject was Sgt. Gary C. JOHNSTON, D 1/7 Cav KIA on 16 April 70. It was sent by his younger brother who was nine years old at the time of Gary's death. He had some details of what happened to Gary but wanted more. Gary was not in my platoon but I knew him and knew some of what transpired the day he died. I did a net search and gave the brother a call. We spoke for an hour. After that I wrote to two other D 1/7 guys and asked if they knew Gary. One was on the fatal patrol and gave a detailed account. This fellow felt Gary had saved his life by taking on danger. He's had Gary's dog tag all these years and wanted to return it to the family. I pointed him to the younger brother. That's where things stand. I hope they connect.*

*Marc LEVY. ** My wife and I just got back from California and took a side trip to Santa Catalina, Island. One of my M-60 gunners - Frankie MACHADO (A 1/7) was born and raised there and died in 1998 from cancer. He was well known on the Island and we drove (golf cart) up to the cemetery and paid our respects. His last job was as the Golf Pro on the Island course and I stopped in to get a memento and had a wonderful conversation with the current course manager. He was tearing up as was I. He sent us out to the 4th hole where Frankie's wife had a marker placed and on our way, we met another guy who grew up with Frankie and had lost his right hand in April of '70 while serving with the 11ACR out of Quon Loi. We also had dinner with a squad leader of mine, Hank GONZALEZ, who also humped the M-60 and while we were waiting for our table Hank called Dave ALCON, another squad leader, and Terry ZIEMKE the assistant gunner.*

It was special to pay my respects to another gallant 7th Cav Trooper who went away too soon and to have chatted with other members of my old 2nd Platoon. Keep writin' and I'll keep readin'. GarryOwen,

*Bob ANDERSON. ** I thought you might be interested in a new web page I put together and launched in January. Jim BRIGHAM had suggested that he'd like to see individual web pages for each of the companies of the 2/7th which would have rosters and lists of guys killed in action in Vietnam from 1965 to 1971.*

Bob KON, I'm sure you know, has done one for B1/7 [LZ Rally, which can also be linked from [www. LZ Bravo.org](http://www.LZBravo.org)]. I offered to do the same for D 2/7 if Jim would help me with the data. I also corresponded with Bob and used his web site for ideas and as a model with his permission. Mine is a simple web page with Rosters of Heroes KIA and links to their places on the Virtual Vietnam Wall. It also has rosters of all the guys who have registered or been tracked down by the 7th U.S. Cavalry Assn.

I would appreciate your visiting the site when you have a moment and if you think it is appropriate, please mention it in one of your future Saber columns. The address is [www. Geocities.com/Delta2_7](http://www.Geocities.com/Delta2_7). Perhaps Jim has also told you that he followed suit on his project and has just launched a similar web page, but covering everyone in the 2/7th. His web page is at www.us7thcavalry.com/2-7-vn. Both sites are generating a lot of interest and providing good updates and leads on missing members of the units.

*Rolando A. Salazar, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Rolando's Pictures of Vietnam: www.rsalazar.crosswinds.net. D 2/7 Cav website: [www. Geocities.com/delta2_7](http://www.Geocities.com/delta2_7). ** Hello all. I want to thank you for making the reunion in Refugio TX such a big success. I really enjoyed being with all of you. All the comments I heard from the citizens and VFW Members were positive. They were impressed with the love and respect that we showed for each other. I hope that everybody had a good trip home. For the other Ia Drang vets that weren't able to attend, "You were missed and thought about." The reunion attendees were - Vince CANTU, Robert SAUCEDO, Mando GUERRA, Larry STEVENSON, Anastacio LARA, Joe RIVERA, Felix WARCHESIK, Arturo VILLAREAL, Faustino LOPEZ, Martin LATIGUE, Herschel CARTER, David NIEVES, Elias CUEVAS, and Dacen DE LA PAZ son of KIA Hilario DE LA PAZ (D 1/7) Nando SALINAS, George Jennings (1/7) Moses MENCHACA (D 2/7) Juan LEDESMA, Fidel JIMENEZ, Rafael GOMEZ, Mando LERMA, Bonifaicio JUAREZ, Joe MOORE, Bob MILLHOUSE, Henry OLIVER (1/5) Bob BARKER, Ron FOREST, Larry GUTHRIE (21FA) Chip PARKER (20ARA) and James HOLESOVSKY, Steve MALDONADO, Ray MORENO, Cecil BROOKS, Sal SANCHEZ (other Army units).*

We also had some come down from the Houston Veterans Chapter. I'm sorry I did not get their names but I appreciate their presence. Joe PENA (D 1/7). [Reunions equal good therapy and good health. Ron]

And on the subject of reunions, John LONG (5/7 66-68) advises that the 5/7 Cavalry Assn. is having its 7th Reunion July 25 - 31, 2004 at the Holiday Inn at Cincinnati Airport, 1717 Airport Exchange Blvd, Erlanger KY 41018. For reservations call (859) 371-2233 and ask for the 5/7 Cavalry Reunion rate of \$73.00. Reunion registration is \$60. for adults, \$30. for kids 6-12, and free for kids under 6. Make your check payable to 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Assn and mail to Treasurer 5/7 Assn, 43468 McLean Ct., Novi MI 48375. The registration fee covers Free Pizza Night (Wed) Banquet Dinner (Fri) BBQ Dinner/Dance (Sat) and Monday to Friday Hospitality Room coffee and donuts in the morning and sandwiches mid-day. For further info go to [www. Cav57.org](http://www.Cav57.org). Also, a reminder that the 7th US Cavalry Assn is selling 7th Cav-Tartan ties, 7th Cav belt buckles, and Cavalry hats (not Stetsons but of good quality and field tested - the dye does not run when wet and it regains its original shape when dried). Check out [www. US7thCavalry.com](http://www.US7thCavalry.com) and click on "Quartermaster" for pictures and ordering info.

Until your next sit down with the SABER be well; stay well; and more important than anything else, walk tall and proud because you are CAV!

*Ron Migut
Boots & Saddles Staff Writer*

