



Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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PRESIDENT	VICE-PRESIDENT	SECRETARY/TREASURER
Bill Richardson	Phill Zook	Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

So many years ago when Barry Williamson and Norm Osterby were penning our column, they were literally putting pen to paper. Other than the ease of editing, I'm not sure that we have evolved all that much. The actual act of writing, I believe is a lost art but it's what we have to use nowadays and it certainly is easier than writing, although my two fingers might have a different view. I have had an opportunity to speak with Jim Brigham, our President Emeritus and he reports that he is coping "ok" from the loss of his lovely Judy. They would have been married 52 years this past August. We are all hoping that Sergeant Major Plumley is doing well as he is enduring the same difficult adjustment as Jim. I just received a pleasant inter- ruption from typing when my mother called. She too is going through what Jim and the Sergeant Major are with the passing of my father in March. There are a lot of reunion reports that have been filtering in since the last col- umn. Alpha Company 1-7 had another reunion in June after a change of venue from Fairfield, Ohio to Columbus, Georgia. From the brief report that I received, it sounded like the troopers had a great time.

A Gathering of Eagles was held near Rhinelander, Wisconsin on Lake Mildred in late July. This event was hosted by Jim Hackbarth and Rick Carr with oversight by moi, (LOL). There were exotic events which generated "Medals:" Sandbag Toss; SKS Bayonet flipping; hatchet throwing; pin grass bowling where we tossed bowling pins at a bowling ball; brass in a glass, where we tried to drop spent shell casings into a glass jar, grenade tossing, yard jarts and Ninja Star throwing. It was all in great fun and we had a blast. Modesty forbids me to tell you who the overall champion was (wink, wink).

Charlie Baker provides us with this great report: the 5-7th Cavalry Association conducted our 11th Biennial Reunion in San Antonio, Texas during the week of 22-29 July 2012. This event included members of the Battalion who served during the Vietnam War and those who served and are now serving during OIF and OEF. More than 250 veterans and their families made this the largest reunion to date. The event kicked off with an outstanding evening barbeque at the Rio Cibolo Ranch on Tuesday, followed on Wednesday with an evening reception in the hospitality suite at the Crowne Plaza

*Hotel. The most successful golf outing to date took place the following morning, organized by Don Hillcoat, a 1969 veteran and now golf professional. The legendary LTG (Ret) Jim Vaught amazed the group by playing 18 holes in searing heat at the age of 85. Thursday activities included the business meeting followed by the showing of Norman Lloyd's latest film, *Fallen, But Not Forgotten*, which chronicles the battalion's gallant air-assault through heavy anti-aircraft fire into the A Shau Valley on 19 April 1968, and the battles leading up to and beyond the Medal of Honor received by Michael Sprayberry. This 56 minute film may be obtained at www.candsfo-rundation.org. On Friday, the Association held its election of officers, with MG Maury Edmonds and the other current officers being retained for another two years. Thereafter, the Battle of Houng My on 23 October 1967 was presented by a panel of six participants from D Company, led by Fred Cardenas and Greg Trujilo, both platoon sergeants on that fateful day. This battle was the battalion's first major contact with a hard corps NVA battalion in the Que Son Valley AO and most of the classic lessons about fighting the NVA were learned the hard way on that day. The Friday banquet was a stirring occasion, as always, with GEN John Wickham, the 1967 Battalion Commander, as our guest speaker. The traditional Memorial Service in remembrance of our 387 men killed in Vietnam and Iraq was conducted on Saturday morning. Saturday night saw the traditional barbeque hosted by our Vice-President, Karl Haartz. Five Iraq veterans of 1st Platoon, A Troop ("Ace Red") and their Squadron Commander, LTC Jody Petery, attended this reunion, along with CPT Jake Dalton who is leading the charge for membership of the Iraq generation of troopers. Matt Corlew, who was severely wounded in 2010 and is now working hard on his rehabilitation, made an appearance on Saturday and was roundly greeted by everyone at the barbeque. Editor note: I received a copy of this outstanding video from Karl Haartz and it serves as a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the combat Infantryman as well as the leadership and gallantry of Mike Sprayberry. It's worth the cost to have this in your own personal library.*

B 1-7 is having a reunion in Cleveland, Mississippi during the first week in October; please contact Billy Smith, , for more information. I look forward to sharing more about this reunion in the next column. A contingent of C 1-7 troopers who fought during the "official" war in Cambodia are gathering again in Pentwater, Michigan in mid September. The host – Marion Siara has about 20 guys who have already agreed to join him.

In mid July, LTC Grover Southerland relinquished command of the finest Cavalry squadron in the US Army to the incoming commander, LTC Jay Miseli, on Cooper Field in front of the 1st Cavalry Division HQ, Fort Hood, Texas. A Garryowen thank you goes out to LTC Southerland and his family for their leadership, guidance and command throughout the training for the deployment and during Operation New Dawn and Operation Spartan Shield. Your legacy will be remembered throughout the incredible history of 1-7 CAV. The Garryowen family wants to welcome LTC Miseli and his family to the team. Seventh First - Garryowen! LTC Southerland's remarks are as follows: "As I prepare to depart the ranks of the finest unit I've ever served with, let me express my sincere gratitude to the troopers, leaders and families of the Garryowen team for your trust and unwavering support. Your tenacity and professionalism have humbled and inspired me daily over the last twenty seven months and it's been my honor to be in your ranks. Garryowen is a tradition of excellence and its legacy is in wonderful hands. I know that the Miseli's will be an incredible command team and will make this great outfit even better. I wish them and Garryowen all the best. One of Jay's first agenda items was to join the 7th Cavalry Association and we welcome him into the historic ranks of our Association. LTC Miseli's remark's as of 20 July: Our main effort is getting the Squadron out on block leave this afternoon. Everyone returned safely from the Iraq/Kuwait mission and we stand ready to take a well-deserved break after achieving training and readiness levels not seen in almost 10 years. The principal focus in Kuwait was building proficient platoons at their core tasks - gunnery and reconnaissance and LTC Dolph Southerland could not have achieved more in his time in Kuwait in obtaining that outcome. We're heading in to leave highly trained, always motivated and ready for the

path ahead. I look forward to working with the Association as members of the 7th Cavalry Regiment. We have a great ride ahead of us! For future planning purposes, we are going to celebrate the activation of the Regiment over the period of 21 to 27 September. We are finalizing the plan, but the biggest events will be a Spur Ride on 25 and 26 September and an Organizational Day on 27 September. We'll also have a Squadron run on the 21st (Friday) and I'm inviting 2-7 CAV to participate in any of the activities their schedules allow. As we finalize the plan (will be in late August, after leave), we'll get you details and invitations for Association leaders and members.

My namesake, Bob "Andersen," who served in B 1-7 during World War II sends us this report: It's been 'many moons' since I last communicated with you but I do faithfully read your articles in the Saber and have a bit of current news for you and your column about the few of us old 'Horse Troopers' who are still answering muster! As a matter of fact, I just spoke with Peggy Osterby (Norm's widow) on the telephone and she inquired about you, "How is Bob doing with his editorializing in the Saber?", she asked. I assured her that you were still very much alert and writing the column for each issue. So you see you are in many folks thoughts. The main reason I am writing to you at this time is that I just received a letter from the sister-in-law of Randall Martin. (For your information Randall is one of the few of us remaining Horse Troopers from B Troop). The message she forwarded to me is that Randall's wife, Marie, had passed away and he is now in an assisted living care center. I thought of you when I received this message as a possible source of some comfort to Randall. He was part of the Stable gang when we were still mounted, at Fort Bliss and later became one of the truck drivers for our unit through all the combat operations in WWII. So he's 'been around the block a couple of times. I know he would treasure any contact with someone from the 7th Cavalry who could give him some support through these trying times. If you could drop him a line or two I know he would appreciate it although most of his contact with the rest of society is through this sister-in-law. She is very faithful about visiting Randall frequently and would be happy to read any mail to Randall. Thank you Bob for this report and for the kind words and please give my regards to Peg when you next speak with her. Marc Levy who served as a medic in Delta 1-7 in Vietnam and earned a Silver Star for Gallantry e-mails us with a new website. It contains various narratives accompanied by his photos. The URL is . Several years ago now, Marc journeyed back to Vietnam and found the 3rd Brigade Base camp at Quon Loi. It was then nothing but a cornfield.

Dennis Blessing who served in B 1-7 during Vietnam has recently published a book on his exploits. Dennis also served a lengthy stint with the Veteran's Administration. "The one thing which makes his book interesting and different is it is very accurate after 40 some years to what happened because a lot of it comes from the 212 letters that he wrote home to his wife." It also contains an extensive glossary and will no doubt bring back memories hopefully good. Many who have read the book say it is therapy for them. The book has a lot of the unique and special language we used which many of us have also forgotten. You can preview some 13 pages and photos as well as ordering the book by visiting the following: . His book is titled VietNam Remembered. My dear friend, the former 3rd Platoon Leader in A 1-7 with me, John Talbot has designed and has a few of his special pins featuring the Big Cav Patch with A and 1-7 on each side. If you served in Alpha Company, please get in touch with me if you want one of John's creations. They will look great on your favorite suit jacket or ball cap.

Ron "Shortround" Migut writes to tell us of a nice article in the August '12 issue of the VFW magazine. The article speaks to one of the last fighting units in Vietnam in 1972 – The Garryowen Brigade. For those of us who are not members of the VFW, you might be able to visit a local Chapter and get them to let you take a peek at it. I'm not sure if it's on-line or not but maybe it would be in a large library.

Shortround also reminds us to be wary of any e-mail contact from "our" lending institutions. Your

bank will not contact you by e-mail requesting verification of anything. These types of “inquiries” are similar to those folks who are trying to give you a portion of the millions of dollars that their late husband hid in a foreign country. There is no free lunch! Be aware. My good friend Gary Garrett reports that scammers are preying on military retirees by claiming to be from the DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service) telling you that by providing them with vital information they will then get you an increase in your pension. DFAS doesn't have anything to do with increasing pensions to retirees – only Congress can do that. Please don't become a victim of this scam either.

Dennis Webster e-mails us with the following: CSM (Ret) Willie T. Williams died on 22 August. Our records indicate that he served in 2-7 CAV but I don't know the exact dates. I assume it was at Fort Hood in the 1980's based on the photos on his memorial website. Sergeant Major Williams wasn't a member of the 7th Cavalry Association but if anyone knows when he served, please let us know.

Are you lost? The following Troopers joined the 7th Cavalry Association way back in 2005 and when I mailed their membership packets, they were returned. If you know the location of these warriors, please let me know: Jimmy Fuentes Jr; Johnnie I. Rivera; Robert Blakey and Carlos A Pope. This is just another reminder to keep us informed when you move.

Here is another plug for a great VA website and program called, My HealthVe which can be reached by logging in to . The program allows you to log in on a secure system and reorder your prescriptions and in some states, you are able to e-mail your primary health care provider. I have used it for years and will attest to the security and ease of use. I just finished reading another of David Baldacci's great books called Zero Day. In the thank you section, he mentions a Lieutenant Colonel Junot. So I had to do a little sleuthing on my own and checked with Martha Fisher. She tells me that General Junot does in fact have a son in the Army.

*Garryowen from Michigan.
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