



Seventh United States Cavalry Association

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PRESIDENT VICEPRESIDENT SECRETARY/TREASURER
Phill Zook Robert J. Anderson

"Troopers of the 7th Cavalry "

"GarryOwen"

Hello from the frozen tundra of Michigan where we continue to be bombarded by snow and bitter cold. As I pen this latest edition of your 7th Cavalry News, we have had over 100 inches of snow this winter. I have over 60 inches piled by my mailbox and there is over 25 inches still on the front lawn. I still marvel at how our warriors fought in this type of weather during the long bitter winters of the Korean War. But never fear, for spring is finally approaching as well as our upcoming reunion in the Windy City.

Ralph Braunstein sends us a nice letter from sunny Florida along with an article and picture from a very old book Our Home Front published by Life Magazine. The photo shows a very young Marine Captain and his wife sitting on a love seat. This Marine had just returned from the Solomons after having shot down his 16th Japanese plane. The interesting part of the photo shows the Captain wearing a magnificent pair of knee high boots, replete with spurs. The second article is a reprint from a January 1972 Army magazine article titled The Lean, Lean Years Depression Army

First and foremost, the Army of 1939 was professional. Every man was a regular, every man a volunteer. Rear rank privates made up half the enlisted ranks in those days. Privates First Class accounted for another quarter and, believe me, a skyrocket who made PFC on his first three year hitch was viewed with suspicion by protagonists and peers alike." Ralph was one of those "skyrockets" making PFC in a very short 14 months. Ralph is now 95 years young and is volunteering at a local stable where he grooms and cleans horses just as he did in the 1940 Horse Cavalry at Fort Bliss. This particular stable has amputees from the local VA hospital come up to ride, which provides a bit of therapy for them. My list of World War II warrior friends consists of Ralph who also served in Alpha Troop, Bob Andersen, who served in Bravo Troop and President Emeritus William A. Richardson who served in Headquarters Troop. We owe these Horse Cavalrymen a debt of gratitude that I'm not sure we can Marc Levy, a Silver Star recipient while serving as a Medic with Delta Company 1-7 in 1969-70 is trying to help a friend with his claim for PTSD. Mike Hudzinski, who served with Bravo and HHC 1-7, 69-70 put in a PTSD claim with the VA last year. They managed to lose his records and are requesting statements that would verify his account of LZ Ranch being overrun in Cambodia. Marc has provided a statement and also sent queries to D 1-7 grunts Odell Newton , Carl Lee , Greg Lewis and HHC 91C Rich Bohnemann . Mike would appreciate hearing from anyone who was on Ranch that night and who would write a statement for the VA supporting his account of LZ Ranch being overrun. mike.hudz@gmail.com. Thanks Marc for being a tireless advocate for GarryOwen Veterans.

Ron 'Shortround' Migut presents a topic that does not get enough attention and sends us this article from the Associated Press. "There has been a sharp increase in the suicide rate among the youngest male veterans, and a smaller but still significant jump among women who served in the military, the Department of Veterans Affairs says. However, the VA found "no clear change" in the overall suicide rate among all veterans using VA health facilities. Dr. Jan Kemp, who oversees suicide prevention efforts at the VA, said she expected to see an increase among the youngest veterans based on rising suicide rates in the military, but called the numbers alarming, particularly for those in their early 20s. She said too many younger veterans are going to the VA to get care for their physical wounds, but many don't seek treatment for longer term mental health issues as well. "They really haven't even been out long enough to maybe recognize they're having longer-term issues with PTSD or with depression," she said, referring to post-traumatic stress disorder. "I think they're still kind of in that invincible period. There's somewhat of a culture out there within the military and within these young kids that they don't need help and they should have all of the answers." Treatment works, she said, and it's important for veterans to seek veterans between the ages of 18-29 from 2009 to 2011. During the same period, the rate among female veterans increased more than 11 percent.

The VA's latest analysis reflects data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2010 and 2011. Suicide rates among veterans are higher than non-veterans for both men and women. The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call (800) 273-8255 and Press 1, chat online , or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is also available. If you know of a struggling veteran please urge them to get help. Thanks Ron for this very important reminder!

At each VA Medical Center nationwide, a Women Veterans Program Manager is designated to assist women Veterans. She can help coordinate all the services you may need, from primary care to medical services to Mental Health and Sexual Abuse

Counseling. Women Veterans who are interested in receiving care at VA should contact their nearest VA Medical Center and ask for the Women Veterans Program Manager. This is an important resource for our woman veterans and you can find more from the following link: . If you live in Michigan and are about to be or have recently returned from deployment , The University of Michigan is offering a free program for you. Call Kate Bullard at (734) 763-4904 for more information.

Dave Rippeto, who served as a Platoon Leader and XO with Bravo Company 2-7 back in 1969-70, is looking for one of his M-60 gunners. All I know is his last name is Flood and he was a SP4. If Trooper Flood is out there or if anyone knows of his whereabouts, Dave can be reached at: 410-551-5219 or .

George Hughes, who was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross while serving as a Platoon Leader in D 1-7, sends us this exceptional link to a trove of Vietnam War information: .

Doc McBride, a proud former member of the 5-7, and was the Delta Company Senior Medic. He wanted to remember some troopers who fell during the difficult battles near Thon Que Chu and Thon La Chu (TT Woods) in February of 1968. He didn't know all of the KIAs but the S-3, MAJ Charlie Baker says that for the entire month of February, 1968 27 men with 5-7 Cav were killed in combat. He also thinks we killed over 500 men of the 5th NVA Regiment in our battles. (From his new book Gray Horse Troop - Forever Soldiers .)

Here are the names from Delta Company that went down on 12 February 68: Larry L. Hackleman from Kansas City, Missouri; Gary Cates from Bradford, Tennessee; Arnold E. Melish from New York, New York; 1LT Richard P. Bruce from Cleveland , Ohio; Edward L. Frazier from Aubrey, Texas; and Michael M. Alley from Bridgeton, Missouri. (LZ Cates was named after Gary and it is about four miles east-northeast of Khe Sanh, and was built during Operation PEGASUS.) I was looking for a picture from those battles and about the only one I have is of me after the second big battle of TT Woods.

Space limits the inclusion of the photo but it shows a medic totally exhausted, covered in blood and bodily fluids, and just glad to be alive. It was some of the toughest fighting we had had on our journey up north to I Corps and we lost some good men. Our battalion commander was LTC Vaught who recently passed away.

Memories from that time are grim at best and we should never forget.

Thanks Doc for this wonderful tribute to our fallen warriors. As long as one of us remains alive our buddies live on! GarryOwen!

Vince Laurich of the NY-NJ Chapter also sent us the information on the book referenced in Doc's submission. Charlie Baker, USMA '60, about his service with the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry in Vietnam in 1968, and again in Iraq in 2005.

Shortround also suggests that some of us might be interested in another book about GEN Custer titled Glorious War: The Civil War Adventures of George Armstrong Custer; 2013, St. Martin's Press by Thom Hatch.

It deals only with West Point thru 1865 and shows that he really did make a difference in the Civil War and was a very heroic character. The 9th Infantry Division and was then transferred to the 1st Cavalry Division, I thought you might be interested in my recently published Vietnam novel Point man. I served as a combat medic and originally started the story as a diary, but then decided to fictionalize it. The novel is definitely R-rated, but those were difficult and violent times.

Attached is a link to the book review and although each of us had different experiences in the military, the book should give veterans and non-veterans alike an exciting look at what these young soldiers experienced and endured.

LTC Rob Kuth, the Commander of the 2-7, sends us this report. As you know, 2-7 CAV recently redeployed from a successful deployment in support of OEF XIII-XIV. Following a much deserved block leave, the Ghost Battalion remained busy throughout 1st Quarter, Fiscal Year 2014. For starters, our C and D Companies realigned back under 2-7 CAV control. For a nine month period, C and D Companies were task organized under 1 ABCT while the remainder of the battalion was deployed. While I can't say enough about the first class support they received from 1 ABCT, we were definitely glad to bring them back to 2-7 CAV. Following realignment, the battalion unfortunately said goodbye to the Longknife Brigade as 4 BCT deactivated and cased its colors.

We can't say enough about COL Benson, CSM Menton, and our brothers and sisters in 1-9 CAV, 2-12 CAV, 5-82 FA, 27 BSB, and 4th BSTB. It was truly our pleasure to serve with and alongside those great organizations and leaders, both CONUS and deployed in support of OIF and OEF. Fortunately, we have since reorganized under the Greywolf Brigade. COL Lesperance, CSM Peare, and the rest of 3 ABCT have welcomed us with open arms, and we are very fortunate to be back under the control of such a historic brigade. With the completion of realignment and reorganization, the battalion remained focused on ARFORGEN Reset and individual task training consisting of basic rifle and machine gun marksmanship, driver's training, and Pegasus First Responder to name a few.

We also utilized this time to get healthy on schools such as WLC, ALC, and SLC as well as Air Assault School and the Combat Leaders Course. Leader development is always a top priority and this quarter was no different. CSM Perez used this time as an opportunity to train our junior leaders in a week long course focused on those critical administrative, training, and resiliency tasks that every team leader, crew leader, and first line supervisor must be proficient in to lead our Ghost Soldiers. While collective training was limited, our C Company did maintain their war fighting skills in the event they were called forward to support 2 ABCT in Afghanistan.

In November, they culminated their platoon collective training with a live fire exercise and trained to maintain that capability with platoon level situ -conducted a Spur Ride for both Soldiers and Spouses. Both events were a great success and continued to build on an already strong Ghost Team. Following opportunity leave this holiday season, the Ghost Battalion entered 2nd Quarter poised to support III Corps and 1st Cavalry Division taskings. Additionally, we will continue to refine our individual task proficiency with the annual Ghost War

rior Stakes, a weeklong training event focused on Warrior Tasks in a situational, field environment. With gunnery right around the corner in 3rd Quarter, the next three months will also focus on those pre-gunnery tasks crucial to a successful HBCT gunnery at the crew and section level. Once again, it is great to be back at the Great Place. As always, we are proud to serve in a great division and in the world's greatest Cavalry Regiment.

Jim Savage, our Website Manager, provides us with an important alert regarding Internet Explorer. A security flaw has just discovered that lets hackers prey on visitors to a military veterans web pages via Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser. According to Reuters, Security firm FireEye Inc. discovered the attacks against Internet Explorer 10 this week, saying hundreds or thousands of machines have been infected. FireEye said the culprits broke into the website of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and inserted a link that redirected visitors to a malicious web page that contained the infectious code in Adobe Systems Inc's Flash software. The latest version of the browser, IE 11 is not affected by the hack, and the Microsoft security tool called

the Enhanced Mitigation Experience Toolkit protects users who have the program installed.

Jim also reports: Department of the Army has announced that The 2nd BCT, 3 ID has been selected to shut down as part of the Army draw down of personnel and infrastructure and if not reversed the 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry will be deactivated on 15 January 2015.

I am still collecting orders, especially those with multiple names, in the hope of building a huge database of warriors. If you joined the Association prior to 1998, I would be grateful to get any orders, roster, or any item that has multiple names for any 7th Cavalry Unit. Not even the parent organizations have these documents. Thanks!

Dennis Webster 1st Cavalry Division Association reported that the following have made the transition into Fiddlers Green: CPL Robert W. Johnson, G Company, 2-7th Cavalry, 1950-51 on 13 December 2013 and SP-4 Alton J. Ackiss, B Company, 1-7th Cavalry, LZ X-Ray 1965, on 22 January. For all of you Facebook folks, the 1-7 has a page with lots of interesting topics and photos. Look it up and like it to get to faster updates.

I will close this column with a request for stories especially from Desert Storm/Shield and OIF/OEF. GarryOwen from Michigan!

*Bob Anderson
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The 7th United States Cavalry Association*