

SKY SOLDIER

FALL 2011

MAGAZINE

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2	New York - Lozada-Watters Chapter	16	NW States - W. Washington State
3	Columbus / Ft. Benning Area Chapter	17	Mid-West-States - Ohio Chapter
4	Philadelphia, PA - Glenn H. English	18	Oklahoma - Larry Pierce Chapter
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10	Northern California - Western States	28	San Diego, California Chapter
11	Australia NSW - Down Under	30	South Carolina Chapter
13	Texas Chapter	173	Europe, (Italy & Germany) Chapter
14	Southern California Chapter	AL	Members with no Chapter (at Large)

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES AND DISCLAIMER

ISSUE	Submission Deadline	Pub Date	Theme
SPRING	15 March	15 April	Ballot Issue
SUMMER	15 June	15 July	Post Reunion Issue
FALL	15 September	15 October	Membership Renewal
WINTER	15 December	15 January	Candidates Issue

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Your opinions and suggestions are welcomed.

Add Rates; Full page \$600, ½ page \$350, ¼ page \$200, Business card \$125

NEWS FROM THE TOP

PRESIDENT

To the Membership of the 173D Airborne Brigade Association, I say, it is a Fine Airborne Morning, and as they say, Down under Ga'day Mates. I am very proud and honored to serve a second term as President of our Association. I have learned a great deal, most importantly I have listened, I look forward to serving.

To all Chapter Presidents the Mid winter conference will be held in the beautiful city of Phoenix Arizona, The dates are Jan 13th thru Jan 15th 2012; Helms Briscoe is negotiating to secure the hotel. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all members who have called, e-mailed and sent letters to me regarding their congratulations, for being re-elected. In the next two years again, communication will be our priority. Roger Conley has accepted the position of the Association treasurer and is in the process of being appointed, I closing as a member of Mid West Chapter 17 I have been able to sit in on several meetings regarding the 2012 Reunion which is being held in the great city of Lexington Kentucky, The Reunion committee is working to put together an outstanding reunion, one of the focal points will be the Viet-Nam memorial, We the Association has (27) 173D Sky soldiers of the " HERD" memorialized At this Beautiful Memorial. Chapter 17 and the City of Lexington is getting ready, they are to standing in the Door, History, Horses and Hooch.

Airborne All The Way, Respectfully, Roy F. Scott, Ye'Iswa

TREASURER

Gary Granade has done an outstanding job, many do not remember when Gary became our treasurer, but when he took over, the Association was basically in the red, through his hard work, his experience and knowledge of the Association we are now standing clearly on solid financial ground, for his work, we of the Association will always be grateful. But now we have a new Treasurer...

Roger D. Conley. You know he is very good with numbers, as he is a trained Field Artilleryman. I have attached his resume so all will be aware of his background and abilities. He has been a life-time member of the association for many years now. I look forward to working with him for the remainder of my tenure as secretary.

I have thirty-eight years accounting experience working with mining companies in Appalachia. Some of the more notable ones were Addington Brothers Mining which became part of Arch Minerals and Chaparral Coal owned by the former Governor of Kentucky, Paul Patton. In addition to mining companies I have also worked for companies overseas that were involved in coal sales and processing. I have also worked with marine transportation companies operating in US inland water ways. As Chief Financial Officer for a group of Anglo-American trading companies I have worked with Bank Paribas in London, UK and have been to British Petroleum's office located on Buckingham Palace Road, London, UK. - Roger D. Conley

College Grad – BS in Accounting

Accounting - Auditor, Consulting, Cost Accounting, CPA, Executive

Banking & Finance - Banking, CFO, Financial Reporting, Trading, Treasury

Executive - CFO, Controller, Audit Partner

Mining – Independent Contractor (Deep Mine Face-Ups)

Engineering – Surveyor Chief of Party (Topographical/Artillery)

BAYONET 6

Sky Soldiers,

It is a great honor to return to the 173rd Airborne Brigade and honestly quite humbling to be the Commander of such a storied organization. This Brigade has proven itself on both the Fields of Battle and during times of peace. As we prepare ourselves for yet another deployment, again to Afghanistan, I would like to assure you that today's Sky Soldiers are committed, trained and ready to complete the mission and uphold the standards expected by themselves, the 173rd Association, the Army and most importantly the people of the United States.

Like always, the Brigade is moving 100 mph. Since returning in June, we have sent a company to the Ukraine, the entire Brigade to Grafenwohr Germany, and a company to Poland. PFC Travis Williams from 2-503IN was selected by the USAREUR Commander and CSM as the United States Army Europe Soldier of the Year and will represent both the Brigade and USAREUR in the U.S Army Soldier of the Year competition in Washington next month. Another standout is SGT Rolfe from 4-319AFAR who was the Distinguished honor graduate of Air Assault School in August. These are but a few of the highlights of the last few months, much more can be found at our website at <http://www.173airborne.army.mil/index.htm>.



The next couple of months hardly bring a break for the Brigade. We head to Hohenfels, Germany and the Joint Maneuver Readiness Center for the month of October to conduct a Full Spectrum Training Rotation. This event will commence with the first Brigade size Airborne Operation since our jump into Iraq in 2003. Here we will face both a near peer and unconventional enemy in a scenario that will force the Brigade to not only utilize the lessons gained during the last four Iraq/Afghanistan deployments but to recall the large scale conventional tactics so common prior to the War on Terror. It will surely be a great training event. We will spend Nov-Dec recovering and retraining before kicking off our pre-deployment training events in Jan-Feb 2012. After loading our equipment and preparing our families, we will deploy to Afghanistan in early Summer 2012. There are sure to be exciting times ahead.

Again, it is an honor to be back in the Brigade. I look forward to the next two years as part of the team and a continued relationship with the Association.

Colonel Andrew Rohling.

IN THE NEWS

RANGER HALL OF FAME

By Ben Wright benw@ledger-enquirer.com

Col. John King, commander of the Ranger Training Brigade, said the ceremony continues a tradition of remembering those who have sacrificed. "As a unit, I think it's critical that we never forget those individuals who sacrificed to get us where we are today," King said. "What it means to be inducted means they have been selected by their peers."



For **1st Sgt. Bonifacio M. Romo of Columbus**, two Rangers had an impact on his career after he joined the Army in 1954. One was a member of Darby's Rangers and the other was a platoon sergeant. "Between those two guys, that is what influenced me to go into becoming a Ranger," said Romo, an inductee. "It's the top of the line. You can't beat them." Romo, 75, **served two tours in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade**, earning two Bronze Stars, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star for Valor. He also was a Ranger instructor. The first sergeant has a simple rule to lead. "It's a matter treating an individual the way you want to be treated," he said. "I have always live by that. I don't expect anybody to do anything that I wouldn't do."

Sgt. Maj. Robert Spencer, 71, said he was always inspired to become a Ranger and Airborne soldier after he entered the Army in 1959. He served two tours in Vietnam, one **with the 173rd Brigade**. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Purple Heart and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Spencer of Columbus said he was shot in the leg during his first tour in Vietnam near Saigon. "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time or the right place at the wrong time," he said. "I got wounded." During his career, Spencer spent more than 26 years in Airborne or Ranger assignments including serving as a Ranger instructor and assisting in conducting the first Best Ranger Competition. Success is still high among the

Rangers. He is proud of those who made it through the training and those who gave it their best. "I'm extremely proud," Spencer said. "It took some sacrifice to look and determine that I was worthy. My thanks to them."

SCHOLARSHIP - THANK YOU

Sky Soldiers - I would like to thank the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association for their generosity and commitment to education. I also would like to thank all current, retired or deceased 173rd Soldiers and Staff. I am truly humbled by your service, fidelity, and sacrifice for our great country. Most notably, I would like to thank my father (shown in these photos), Rodger Carroll - B Company, 2nd Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), MOS - 11 Bravo 1P. You are my hero, my role model, and my best friend. I am, and always will be, proud to be your son. -- Robert D. Carroll bob.d.carroll@gmail.com



Dear Members of the 173rd Airborne - I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you for serving our country and selecting me as a recipient of the 173rd Scholarship. This gift greatly reduces the financial burden of college and lifts stress off of my family. This scholarship award is a blessing for my family and I thank you very much for it. Melanie Cosgrove

Parachute Riggers: It's pass or fail

by Staff Sgt. Julius Delos Reyes 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

7/29/2011 - **AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy** -- Pass or fail is a concept the U.S. Army's Headquarters and Headquarters Company **173rd Brigade Support Battalion parachute riggers** here take seriously. Providing support for heavy drop and personnel airborne operations, they know there's no such thing as in between. They don't get a rewind or do-over; they either pass or fail.

The concept is instilled in every 173rd BSB Soldier from the beginning of their advanced individual training for parachute riggers at Fort Lee, Va. In order to graduate from the training and receive the right to wear the "red hat," each Soldier has to pack their own parachute and use it to jump out of an aircraft. A requirement the 173rd BSB Soldiers have to do each year to maintain currency in their profession.



"It instills confidence," said Army **2nd Lt. Floyd Hill, HHC 173rd BSB** airdrop officer in charge. "With this, they know that if they can pack a parachute and jump with it, they can go ahead and pack a parachute for anybody else."

The HHC 173rd BSB is the only U.S. Army unit in Europe that supports airdrop missions. The delivery section deals mainly with airdropping heavy equipment such as Humvees, Howitzers, container delivery systems and engineer packets. The personnel section provides individual parachutes to Soldiers.

"Basically, we deal with supporting all aspects of air operations," said Army **Staff Sgt. Matthew Eakes, HHC, 173rd BSB airdrop NCO**. The unit supports the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's seven battalions including 1st Battalion 503rd Airborne Infantry, 2nd

Battalion Airborne Infantry, 1st Battalion 91st Airborne Cavalry, 4th Battalion 319th Airborne Field Artillery, 173rd Special Troops Battalion, 173rd BSB and Headquarters and Headquarters Company Brigade.

Every quarter, Soldiers with the 173rd ABCT conduct heavy equipment drops and personnel jumps. Even with a massive number of personnel as well as equipment to airdrop, the 173rd BSB still has to meticulously pack each parachute. In seven steps, it takes a rigger five to 15 minutes to pack a personnel parachute. The procedure begins with laying out the parachute, ensuring the lines are in order and inspecting for holes. As a rigger packs a parachute, an inspector observes and ensures the process is correctly performed. An "in-processor" and final inspector further checks the process and the parachute.

"All these personnel are engaged in this process so they can correctly pack the parachute from start to finish," Hill said. The process for heavy drops is similar to personnel parachutes but with more riggers and steps in the process as the chutes are for heavy equipment; it takes four riggers to pack a heavy equipment parachute.

"There's also the inspector who watches them pack and does his rigger checks," Eakes said. "At a certain point in the process of packing, they stop, perform checks and then continue on. It's very similar to a personnel parachute; it's just in a much bigger scale."

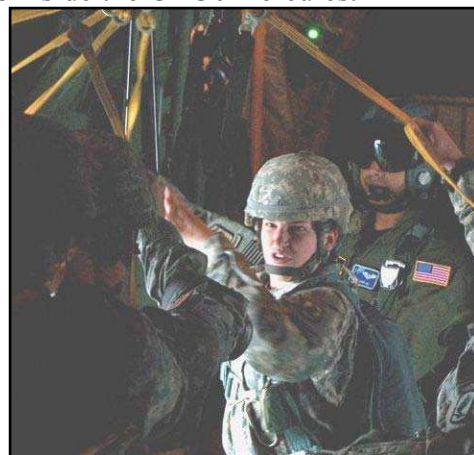
Whether packing parachutes for personnel or heavy equipment, the riggers have to work together to ensure they do it right the first time, making sure they live up to their motto, "I'll be sure always."

173RD AIRBORNE TRAINING

121st Public Affairs Detachment Story by [Spc. Angela Parady](#) Date: 06.14.2011

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany – She hooks the static line onto the cable. The safety gives it a sharp tug to ensure it is secure. Hours of preparation have led to this moment. Her heart is thumping loudly against her chest. The doors open and the sound of the plane’s engine and air passing over the wings roars inside the C-130 Hercules.

For **members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team**, this exercise is part of required training to remain qualified as an Airborne soldier. Grafenwoehr’s Bunker Drop Zone, owned by the Joint Multinational Training Command, provides one of the only drop zones which allows for heavy equipment and personnel to be dropped in Europe. Here, soldiers are able to incorporate straight training jumps into multiphase maneuvers in order to effectively prepare troops for real time operations. “Inboard personnel stand up,” yells the Jumpmaster. The soldiers preparing to jump, lineup facing the door. “Hook up,” the Jumpmaster hollers as everyone checks their lines. He continues calling out the jump commands. When all checks are complete, the Jumpmaster calls, “sound off for equipment check.” After confirming that all the paratroopers are ready, the first soldier responds with “All okay Jumpmaster!”



Directly before the green light, the first jumper leans into the open door. The excitement in the plane is building. People are yelling and cheering, encouraging each other as they prepare to exit. Soldiers rely on each other and the parachutes they have been trained to use. The light turns green and the first soldier is out the door.



“It all comes together,” said **Sgt. Rachel L. Lyons**, the human resources noncommissioned officer in charge for 173rd ABCT Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, Airborne Brigade (HHD STB), one of the 10 women in her battalion that are airborne qualified. For Lyons, this jump was just one way that she gets to add excitement to her chosen career. “You remember all your training and the minute you are out, the minute you jump out, it kind of feels like a turbo shot,” said Lyons. “Like being shot out of a cannon. Then your shoot opens and it is just gorgeous. The sky and the ground below you, everything is just really nice to look at, and it’s a great view. Then you start concentrating on what to do, which cords to pull.”

For **2nd Lt. Jesselyn Oledan**, the human resources officer for the 173rd ABCT, this jump had special meaning. It was her first jump with the unit and the first jump since she completed Airborne School in April. The Washington native is following a tradition of airborne soldiers. Her father was Jumpmaster for the 82nd Airborne Division, and her older brother is also a Jumpmaster. The officer laughs as she sits with her comrades. She too would like the distinction of Jumpmaster. “I’m a little nervous,” said Oledan. “But the people I am around are making it more comfortable, and just the stories that they are telling, make it a little easier.”

While she knew some of the demand that the designation of “Airborne soldier” carried, she wasn’t quite ready for all the challenges. Both women realize that with the 173rd ABCT a deployment is never far away. The JMTC, having one of the only drop zones in Europe, grants the 173rd ABCT, and other units, access to training not readily available elsewhere or at their home station. Oledan seems unfazed by the possibility of deployment to a combat zone. Following in the footsteps of the men and women who have come before her, she feels as though this is what she was meant to do. “I want to deploy, I want to be able to give my life the way they gave theirs and to help out my country,” said Oledan.

TESTING FOR FIELD MEDICAL BADGE REFLECTS LESSONS LEARNED IN WAR

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY Stars and Stripes Published: August 3, 2011

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — From assessing wounds to radioing for help and evacuating a casualty, the fundamental skills of a combat medic have changed little over time.

Yet of the 300-plus candidates training this week for the Expert Field Medical Badge, more than a few will live a downrange reality much different from the testing — less ground ambulance and more air evacuation; fewer canvas litters and more of the hard plastic wrap-around stretchers, known as skeds. More trauma injuries from bombs and mortars.



Organizers here say the 45-year-old EFMB training is constantly evolving to reflect current combat.

“We have been at war for a decade, and these lessons learned are working their way into the training,” said Sgt. 1st Class Troy Ramsey a training leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Changes come incrementally, said Master Sgt. Abdel Guzman of the 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion, a 1992 badge recipient and the NCO in charge of testing. The wide use of roadside bombs by militants, for example, has shifted the focus of EFMB critical care in recent years to massive blood loss.

“The main focus now is stopping the hemorrhaging, stopping the bleeding,” Guzman said. “Whereas before it was the airways, clearing the airways.”

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was removed from testing several years ago, although candidates must still be certified. Current training employs an increasingly advanced medic kit. Tourniquets and IVs are easier to use; fluid expanders replace saline, and self-coagulating bandages improve upon the pressure bandage. Sked stretchers make it possible to drag a patient where terrain is difficult for a normal litter.

EFMB candidates represent a wide swath of military medical occupations, from combat medics to dentists. They have to pass a 100-question written exam, day and night navigation courses and a 12-mile ruck march. Candidates must also negotiate three highly detailed testing lanes, obstacle courses that focus on critical care, evacuation and combat skills. Passing rates for the test range from 15 percent to 20 percent, Guzman said.

Sgt. Enock Nyaenya of the 173rd Brigade Support Battalion deployed to Forward Operating Base Shank in Logar province, Afghanistan, soon after receiving his EFMB in 2008. He said the training was invaluable for its detail, even if the testing lanes can’t match life downrange. “All the training here’s in the ideal situation,” Nyaenya said. “You have to adjust to the situation downrange.”



EFMB RECIPENTS 1/503rd INFANTRY
SGT HETISIMER, SPC BUNDY, 2LT WOODS, SGT WHITENECK

MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE RAPID TRIDENT 2011

U.S. Army Europe Courtesy Story Date: 07.25.2011



Yavoriv, UKRAINE – Exercise Rapid Trident 11 kicked off, July 25, with an opening ceremony at the International Peacekeeping and Security Center here.

"This Partnership for Peace exercise provides all partner nations the opportunity to enhance your capabilities to conduct multi-national and combined coalition operations," said Kevin Volk, U.S. co-director of the exercise. "This exercise will leave an impression in the history of rapid trident exercises because this year we will conduct airborne operations," said Maj. Gen. Vyacheslav Nazarkin, Ukrainian co-director of the exercise.

Rapid Trident 11 involves approximately 1,600 personnel and will consist of multi-national airborne operations, situational training exercise lanes and a field training exercise. In addition to U.S. Army Europe, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and Ukraine, participants include: Latvia, Belarus, Moldova, Slovenia, Canada, Poland, Serbia, the UK, Lithuania, Estonia, California and Utah National Guard and U.S. Air Force Europe.

"It is very important that during this exercise we will be visited by leadership of Ukrainian armed forces and force commanders of participating countries," Nazarkin said.

Rapid Trident is a joint training and exercise program designed to enhance interoperability among Ukraine, the U.S. and Partnership for Peace member nations. This exercise will help prepare participants to operate successfully in a joint, multinational, integrated environment with host-nation support from civil and government agencies.

"In this safe training environment, I want us to maximize our cultural exchanges and the opportunity to cultivate new friendships," said Volk. "We're here to show them our skills, professionalism and readiness to fulfill tasks in field conditions. I wish every participant high results in the exercise and success in their military career," Nazarkin said.



173RD AIRBORNE BCT SOLDIERS JUMP INTO UKRAINE

July 28, 2011 By Spc. Michael Sword, 173rd ABCT Public Affairs



U.S. Paratroopers of Battle Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, U.S. Army Europe, jump into exercise Rapid Trident with soldiers from Ukraine, the U.K., Moldova, Poland and Canada. YAVORIV, Ukraine (July 28, 2011) -- More than 200 Paratroopers completed the first multi-national airborne operation of Exercise Rapid Trident 11 at the International Peacekeeping and Security center here, July 26.

The U.S. Paratroopers of Battle Co., 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, U.S. Army Europe were joined by soldiers from Ukraine, the U.K., Moldova, Poland and Canada.

For many of the Battle Co. Soldiers, it was the first time jumping alongside partner nations as well as their first time having a foreign -- in this case Polish -- jumpmaster.

“This is my first time working with this many partner nations and this is my first time being a jumpmaster alongside a partner nation,” said Maj. Jarrett Hunter, operations officer for 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt.

Though the paratroopers speak different languages, the actions remain the same.

“There are some minor differences in the way we do things, but they coordinated well with our jumpmasters and if there was any slip in the translation of anything, then our jumpmasters would repeat it,” said Spc. Harry Spore, also of Battle Co. “Actually it’s probably one of the best exits I’ve ever had.”

“We started out with rehearsals and a lot of them go through the same commands so it worked out really well,” Hunter said.

“They use the same hand and arm signals, they did a great job I thought, so it felt real good,” said 1st Lt. Colby Park, a platoon leader for Battle Co.

Pfc. Dominick Kuczynski, of Battle Co. helped bridge the language gap, translating for the Polish Soldiers.

“It was a good icebreaker for me to go up to the Polish group and introduce myself and start speaking Polish to

them,” he said. “I am Polish as you can tell by my last name, so it was a pretty awesome experience talking to them and socializing with them before the jump.”

It became apparent early, however, that no matter one’s country or language, there’s an automatic sense of kinship that gets built between airborne paratroopers and it was on display from the initial brief to the drop zone.

“It was my first time jumping from a big aircraft but it was great. I liked it,” 1st Lt. Sehi Shulilvov, of Ukraine’s 95th Airborne Brigade said.

“I think having airborne in common provides a different camaraderie,” Park said. “You have something in common that you can relate to and talk about whether that be your parachutes compared to our parachutes, how you land compared to how we land, it definitely has a lot of talking points.”

“It’s a great time, it’s motivating for our Soldiers, and for the partner nation Soldiers,” Hunter said. “It takes a unique person to throw themselves out of a perfectly good aircraft and that right there will bring different nations’ Paratroopers together.”

At the end of the day, all Soldiers and countries involved were able to train together and learn more about each other.

“There’s some minor differences in the way we do things but we’re all out here to jump together and get to know each other,” Spore said. “For them show us how they train and for us to show them how we train.”

“I think it’s great because in both theaters this unit (173rd ABCT) has been deployed in we’ve had to work with different partner nations,” Hunter said. “This gives the youngest Paratrooper on the ground a chance to understand how our partner nations work and get to understand the level of professionalism that they have, and the partner nations get to understand the level of professionalism we have.”

“It’s an excellent experience,” Kuczynski said. “I was curious to see how our allies actually work together and how they jump and the different techniques they use.”



CUTTING-EDGE CARE FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS

By [Michelle Tan](#) - Staff writer Posted : Monday Sep 19, 2011 5:04:26 ED

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — The Center for the Intrepid is harnessing technology and innovative thinking to improve its care of wounded warriors.

Location: Adjacent to Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Role: One of three Defense Department amputee care facilities in the country

Facility: Four stories, 65,000 square feet

Some features: Military Performance Lab, Gait Lab, Computer Assisted Rehabilitation Environment in a 21-foot dome,

Other amputee care sites: Washington, D.C., and San Diego.

War almost always drives medical advancements that will have a long-term impact on caring for the wounded, said Lt. Col. Don Gajewski, director of CFI and an orthopedic surgeon. “The war could end tomorrow, and our patients get better, but the work [the employees and researchers] do here lasts,” Gajewski said. “Not many good things come out of war, and we see the worst of the worst, but this building was a gift from the American people, and we need to use it in the right way.”

The state-of-the-art rehabilitation center for amputees and severely wounded troops, which opened in January 2007, was built with donations from 600,000 Americans. More than 700 troops have been treated at CFI. Patients with a below-the-knee amputation could receive care from CFI for as little as seven months; one patient was treated at CFI for as long as four years, Hooper said.

Spc. Michael Krapels, who was shot in both legs in January 2010 in Afghanistan, said the IDEO has enabled him to run, jump off platforms and do leg presses without any pain. He suffered a through-and-through injury in his right calf, but the bullets that tore into his left leg, entered his Achilles’ tendon, broke his fibula and took out about an inch of his tibia.

“For a while, I was told I was going to lose my leg,” said Krapels, **who belongs to 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.** “I was told I was never going to be able to return to deployable status, infantry or airborne.” Now, even though he doesn’t know if he’ll regain full use of his leg, Krapels plans to work his way back to his unit. “There are a lot of people who are a lot worse off than me who have returned to duty,” he said. “I’m excited. I’m ready to get back to my unit, get back to my guys.”



ORTHOPEDIC DEVICE HELPING SKY SOLDIER RETURN TO RUN

August 16, 2011 By [Steven Galvan](#)

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas, Aug. 16, 2011 -- A new energy-storing orthopedic device, along with an extensive rehabilitation program, is allowing wounded warriors who previously had difficulties walking or standing due to lower leg injuries to run again.



The Intrepid Dynamic Exoskeletal Orthosis, or IDEO, was designed by prosthetist Ryan Blanck at the Center for the Intrepid. It is a custom-fit device made from carbon and fiberglass that supports the foot and ankle and resembles an amputee's running prosthetic. The ability to run can be the difference whether a wounded warrior is allowed stay on active duty and to return to their units after having been considered for a medical discharge from the military.

Lt. Col. Joseph Hsu, an orthopedic surgeon at the Army's Institute of Surgical Research. Advances in

surgical techniques now allow Hsu to salvage mangled legs once previously destined for amputation. During the healing process, rehabilitation for each wounded warrior is designed to get them back to how they were before their injuries.

Johnny Owens, a physical therapist at the Center for the Intrepid, tailors a rehab program for each warrior according to their injuries. A rehab program aimed at getting wounded warriors running is called "Return to Run Clinical Pathway."

Since its inception, 143 wounded warriors have been fitted with the IDEO. The majority of its recipients are in combat arms specialty jobs like the Navy SEALs and Army Rangers. The IDEO is allowing these warriors to run, parachute, and perform demanding physical activities required from these Special Forces members.

Spec. Michael Krapels, a **member of the Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173d ABCT**, was told by his doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center that he would not redeploy to Iraq or Afghanistan after taking a gunshot to his lower leg. "I was told I was going to lose my leg," said Krapels.

After hearing about the IDEO, he requested temporary orders to Fort Sam Houston to see if the device would work for him and it did. Krapels is now going through some intense physical therapy to prepare for another tour overseas with his unit.





REUNION PROGRAM



June 06 Wednesday

0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2230 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
1800 – 2000 President's Reception @ Jasmine-Franklin

June 07 Thursday

0700 – 1230 Golf Outing TBA GC
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar

June 08 Friday

0830 – 1030 Gold Star Reception & Breakfast @ Regency 1
0900 – 1100 Board of Directors Meeting @ Regency 3
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2200 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
1000 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
1100 – 1500 Kentucky Veterans Memorial – Frankfort – VFW Lunch

June 09 Saturday

0830 – 1000 Ladies Brunch @ Bluegrass Pre-function Area
0900 – 1130 General Membership Meeting @ Regency 1&2
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Regency 1 Foyer
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room

BANQUET

1800 – 1845 Cocktail Hour @ Bluegrass Ballroom
1845 – 1900 Post Colors/Convocation @ Bluegrass Ballroom
1900 – 2035 Dinner @ Bluegrass Ballroom
2035 – 2115 Speakers & Awards @ Bluegrass Ballroom
2115 Retire the Colors

June 10 Sunday

0800 – 0900 Memorial Service @ Regency 1
1130 Reunion Closing



**173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION
2012 REUNION
JUNE 6-10, LEXINGTON, KY**



Hosted by Midwest Chapter 17




Name: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ zip: _____

E-mail address: _____@_____

Brigade Unit Served With: _____ Dates served: _____

Registration/Event Fees (Fill in the amounts for the events you plan to attend):

- _____ \$99 per Sky Soldier Association Members
- _____ \$75 per Guest. Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner
- _____ \$40 per Child or all other extra dinner guests
- _____ \$75 per Gold Star Family Members
- _____ \$75 per Active duty Soldier (Not on Orders)
- _____ FREE – Active Duty Soldiers on Orders(i.e. Command, Color Guard)
- _____ \$75 per Vendor Table
- _____ Ladies Brunch (included with Registration) Please check if attending
- _____ Mark here for attending  173d Tournament \$45
- _____ \$ Total Cost

Make Checks Payable to: Midwest Chapter 17

Mail Checks to: P.O. Box 09640 • Columbus, OH 43209

For Hotel Reservations: Hyatt Regency – Lexington, 115.00 + tax per night. Reservations: 1-800-233-1234

Request group rate for 173d Airborne Assn. guestroom block or code G-173A. This is also the code to use if making reservations on-line at - www.lexington.hyatt.com

Overflow Hotel: TBA

“HISTORY, HORSES & HOOCH”



VIETNAM VETERAN LOST BOTH LEGS DURING COMBAT - TURNS TO GOLF

By [Sal Interdonato](#) Times Herald-Record Published: 2:00 AM - 07/25/11

Dave Nichols can shoot a 78 on a good day at Rondout Golf Club. He can card an 83 on a bad day. Either way, Nichols loves golf. He squeezed in 18 holes Thursday morning with temperatures nearing 90 degrees. Golf gave Nichols a new life.

Nichols was a private first class and pointman for the 173rd Airborne Brigade as it swept an enemy base camp in the Central Highlands region of Vietnam in 1970. Nichols' unit was moving out after capturing a few enemies when they were ambushed. Nichols tripped a claymore mine, which blew off his feet and part of his legs, six inches below his knee, three months into his tour.

Nichols considers himself lucky. He had full range of motion in his knees and no nerve damage from the explosion. Still, Nichols spent nine months in a hospital and endured two operations. Seven months in, Nichols was fitted for his first prosthesis.

"They had a cast with a pipe coming out and a foot on it," said Nichols, 61, of Stone Ridge, who received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for his service. "I had a SACH (solid ankle cushion heel) foot. It was a rubber foot, laminated wood with a plastic cup and cuff strap. I wore a five-ply wool sock over it. That was it. I could move and walk, but it was still painful." And mentally, Nichols had little desire for physical activity.



Enter golf, a sport Nichols thought he could handle physically and have success in. Nichols played his first round eight years after his incident. "When you first get hurt, especially since I was 20 years old, it's like, 'What now?'" Nichols said. "All of a sudden, you feel like you are no longer at the top of the pecking order. You feel like you are going to be a past participant. "Golf was one of those things that I said, 'I can do this' and I got addicted to the game. It's set up for everyone's abilities. It's an extremely social game. You can play it all over the world."

Nichols has teed it up all over North America. He recently returned from an amputee tournament in Los Cabos, Mexico. Nichols has placed in the top 30 in national amputee tournaments in Prince Edward Island, Canada, and New Hampshire. "He's one of the top five golfers at the club," said Tom Lynch, a friend of Nichols.

Nichols is an active guy. He took boxing lessons from the late Billy Costello and still spars at Costello's gym in Kingston. Nichols is a ski instructor at Windham, where he teaches handicapped skiers. "You reach a certain age where nobody knows your limit but yourself," said Nichols, a member of the Eastern Amputee Golf Association. "It's your life. You are the one that has to engage in it."

Nichols has never asked for sympathy. Some people Nichols has known for up to six months don't know he's an amputee until they see him in shorts. He's a proud veteran, who gives back to his country. Nichols visits wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., three times a year. Nichols has run a golf clinic for the soldiers, teaching the game he loves.

"I don't go there to tell them everything is going to be OK," Nichols said. "It's visual. I'll wear shorts when I walk in. It gives them incentive that this old guy can do it, I can do it." sinterdonato@th-record.com

DAY TO REMEMBER WAR FALLEN

12/ Aug/ 2011 By Roslyn Hidding, Weekend Courier



Ray Lindsay with the letter (under hat) that his wife had written to him on the day he was wounded in 1968.

Picture: Neil Mulligan www.communitypix.com.au

The physical and mental scars serve to tell the true tales of the hardship of enduring days at war, but unlike many of their fellow comrades, these men are still alive to tell their stories.

Next Thursday, on August 18, the nation will honour their efforts on Vietnam Veterans Day, and remember those who fought so hard but who lost their own battles of survival. It is the third year that the event will be celebrated in Rockingham, with this year's event organized by the Totally and Partially Disabled Veterans of WA. All their members have their own stories of survival, hardship, mateship and victory.

Ray Lindsay (65) left behind his wife of three weeks, Beth, who was pregnant, at their home in Boyup Brook on March 17, 1968 to take up service in the 1st Battalion at Fire Support Base Coral. He fought for 71 days but was seriously wounded on May 14 and was casavacked (a casualty evacuation) due to his injuries.

"I was caught in ambush, receiving gunshot wounds to my right arm, left leg and right foot," he said. "I was told afterward that my backpack was riddled with bullets. I certainly regard myself as lucky." Back home, Beth was informed that her new husband had been wounded. Just that day, she had written him a letter.

"They sent the policeman to Boyup Brook to the farm and he put his hat on when he told her and she straightaway thought the worst, because she didn't know how bad it was," Mr. Lindsay said. He said Vietnam Veterans Day was a "very emotional day."

"It's about giving respect to the guys who lost their lives. I lost my mate who was killed right next to me. "Three were wounded, another was then killed later – so the day to me is about remembering the ones you fought with. They became your eyes and ears and they helped you."

Mal Murray, who was just 19 when he first went to Bien Hoa in Vietnam in 1965, and returned on three later occasions, said times during the war were never easy. "You never ever got used to it, you just got accustomed to it," he said.

Serving in the same Battalion attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade 1RAR was Robert Battalion. He encouraged people to take part in the celebrations on August 18. The form-up will take place at 10.30am at the corner Flinders Lane and Rockingham Beach Road with the march off at 10.45am and service at the Memorial on the Village Green at 11am. Kwinana RSL will hold a service at 11am at the Medina war memorial, followed by refreshments at the RSL Hall.

SALUTING COWETA'S VIETNAM VETS:

By [Alex McRae](#) The Times-Herald Published Sunday, August 21, 2011

(Editor's This is part of a continuing Times-Herald series on the Vietnam War in advance of a visit by the replica Vietnam Memorial Wall to Coweta County in October.)

Despite the rising national opposition to the war, many Americans still believed that fighting for their country -- no matter the cause -- was honorable. While the draft kept pulling thousands into the military service each month, many, like Newnan's David Brown Sr., volunteered to serve.

Brown was born and raised in Coweta County, and after graduating from Newnan High School, worked briefly at two jobs before enlisting in the Army in September 1965. Brown enlisted because he wanted his pick of services and duties. He chose U.S. Army Airborne, saying, "If I was going to serve I wanted to be with the best of the best and that's what the Airborne is."

After completing basic and advanced infantry training at Fort Gordon, Ga., Brown earned his Airborne jump wings at Fort Benning and joined the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, N.C. For almost a year, Brown and the rest of the 82nd trained night and day for what they all knew was an eventual posting in Vietnam. Brown finally got tired of waiting and volunteered to go to Vietnam immediately.

The Army granted his wish and assigned him to the **173rd Airborne Brigade in April 1967**. Shortly after arriving at the 173rd's base of operation at Bien Hoa, Brown spent a week at "jungle school" and realized the jungle training he had received in the States had not prepared him for the conditions in Vietnam. The heat, insects and snakes were different, but expected. The darkness of the thick Vietnamese jungle was not. "When you got in the jungle the growth was so thick you felt like you couldn't even see the sun," Brown said. "It was almost like night all the time."

After jungle school, Brown joined his battalion at a semi-permanent encampment in the field called a firebase. But Brown's unit rarely visited the firebase. "We were always going somewhere," he said. "We kidded ourselves that we were like that TV show that said, 'Have Gun, Will Travel.'"

During one extended combat mission, Brown's unit was in the jungle for 52 straight days, living off the land and tracking or engaging the enemy daily. When the unit finally returned to the firebase, their fatigues had literally rotted away and the men weren't in much better shape, physically or mentally. They were given new uniforms, got to bathe and shave and were then assembled for a hot meal in a real dining hall. Brown said the men were so beat up, they literally didn't know what to do. "I'd been out there so long I was like a wild man," Brown said. "I remember looking at a fork and I couldn't even remember what to do with it. I just looked at it. After that long in the field it took a while to get feeling human again."

After a brief rest, the unit was sent out again. Brown fought in four major battles and remembers each vividly. The first was at **Hill 823**. Hills in Vietnam were numbered by American forces according to their elevation, to let pilots know how much clearance to allow. At Hill 823, Brown and his men quickly found themselves surrounded and fighting for their lives. He said they were saved from annihilation by the C-47 gunships fondly known by the soldiers as "Puff, the Magic Dragon." At night the planes dropped flares to light the combat zone, and then as the battle raged, poured heavy fire on enemy troops from 40mm mini-guns.

Brown said when a C-47 left the area to refuel, the men held their breath until the next one showed up. At Hill 823, flares from the C-47s kept the scene lighted all night as enemy soldiers kept pouring up the hill in waves. "We fought all night long," Brown said. "They got to within just a few feet of us and then those Puffs would show up. Those planes really saved our rear ends that night."

The next major battle took place at **Hill 830**. Brown's most vivid memory of Hill 830 isn't the fight, but a fellow soldier named Bernie. Shortly after the soldiers arrived at the landing zone and settled in, Brown listened as Bernie spoke about his wife and child back home and how he couldn't wait to get back and see them. He never did.

"We talked and then went our own ways, and the next time I saw Bernie, a medic was doing CPR on him and trying to breathe life back into him," Brown said. "He didn't make it and I remember thinking how unfair it was. He had a wife and child back home and I was single, but he got killed. It wasn't right."

Then it was on to the worst battle of Brown's tour, the fight for **Hill 875**, a struggle that was later featured in both a movie and a Discovery Channel special. Before heading to Hill 875, Brown remembers talking to a fellow Cowetan, Tommy Huddleston, who was in a different battalion of the 173rd. Brown remembers that Huddleston kept talking about how anxious he was to see his wife and child and hoped they could get together when Huddleston received time off for R&R.

Instead of being reunited with his young family, Huddleston was killed at Hill 875 and is one of the Cowetans whose name is etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Soon after the fighting started, Huddleston's battalion was overrun by enemy forces near the top of the hill. American forces made several unsuccessful efforts to help as a huge force of North Vietnamese soldiers kept pouring out of concealed bunkers and trenches.

Finally, Brown's battalion was sent to take the hill. He remembers having to cross three ridges to reach the base of Hill 875. Every step was a nightmare. "I bet I saw more dead men crossing those three ridges than a funeral director sees in a lifetime," Brown said. "Americans, Vietnamese, there were bodies everywhere you looked."

When Brown's battalion arrived at the base of Hill 875 they saw that steps had been carved going up the hill and a handrail had been installed to make climbing easier for the enemy. "It was obvious they had been there awhile and they were there to stay," Brown said.

Brown's battalion started the grueling march up the hill. Halfway up, they were surrounded and attacked from all sides. American forces finally took the hill, but found only dead and charred bodies of Huddleston's unit at the top.

During the battle, 115 members of the 173rd were killed. Another 253 were wounded. Brown was one of them, felled by a piece of shrapnel during the fierce fight. After three days at a hospital in Bien Hoa, he was sent back into action and was still on duty in January 1968, when North Vietnamese forces launched the Tet Offensive. Brown survived that ordeal with no further injuries and left the Army in September 1968. He will never forget how he felt when he returned to the States.

"I was all hollow on the inside," he said. "I was numb. My heart was as hard as concrete. I had no love, no feelings, nothing -- I just wanted to forget." Brown came back to Newnan, married and raised a family and had a successful career with Eastern Airlines and later with Batesville Casket Company. Brown said that during his 21 years at Eastern, very few coworkers were aware he had even served in Vietnam. But, in recent years, he has talked about his service and is now a regular guest at Vietnam War classes at Newnan High School.

"A few years back things changed and now I can talk about it," Brown said. "It wasn't a popular war. But we did a good job and I finally realized it was something to be proud of, and I am."

SKY SOLDIER REOPENS WALK-IN MEDICAL CLINIC



David Kanters, -- Photo by Chris Tucker/Peninsula Daily News
Article published Jul 26, 2011 By Paul Gottlieb Peninsula Daily News

PORT ANGELES — It took a few weeks of treating Tanzanian villagers for David Kanters, an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP), to realize he simply had to reopen, the walk-in medical facility. “I realized I like health care, just not the bureaucracy,” Kanters, 62, said Monday, recalling the May 20-June 12 trip to the African nation that he took with Evangelical International.

Medical care at the only privately owned walk-in clinic in Port Angeles will be paid for at the time of service. Hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, with appointment-only visits on Friday, after 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and scattered through the week during regular hours.

Other steps to keep his overhead down will include employing only himself and an office manager. The clinic will provide patients with codes and forms at the end of their visits to file claims with their own insurance companies. All his medical equipment is still at the clinic, but his medical records will be computerized. Within a year, he hopes to hire a second health care clinician to expand office hours and cover for times he’s not available.

Kanters also will be working on a plan to deliver health care for \$20 to \$30 an office visit for patients who want or need regular follow-up visits rather than occasional office call. “I just have fun seeing patients,” he said. “I don’t care if I make money at it. I’d like to break even, and I don’t think that will be a problem.” Cash for medical care is “a concept that’s kind of gaining,” he added. “It’s sort of a throwback to my great-grandfather’s day.”

While in Tanzania, “not dealing with reimbursement issues put the fun back in health care,” he said in a prepared statement. “It has also become clear in the last three months that there was nearly as much need here as there is in Africa with the looming retirement of about four or more providers and very few prospects to take their place, the health care shortage will only be increasing in Port Angeles.” While treating patients in Tanzanian villages, “we treated everything within our limited abilities”. “They were common things that happen to everybody — shingles, skin rashes, pneumonias, bronchitis, the kinds of things we treat every day here in the office,” Kanters said. He also treated more exotic maladies, including malaria and bot flies, which lay larvae on human skin. The larvae burrows into the skin. “It’s kind of a gross little rascal,” Kanters said.

In the past nine months, Kanters has focused on search-and-rescue operations with the Clallam County Sheriff’s Department and training a dog.

A 1968-1969 Vietnam War veteran, Kanters Army unit, the 173rd Airborne.
Senior Staff Writer Paul Gottlieb can be reached at 360-417-3536 or at paul.gottlieb@peninsuladailynews.com.

CHAPTER NEWS

CHAPTER 1- WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA- SIGNHOLTZ CHAPTER

Terry Modglin – Terry.Modglin@Gmail.com 202-270-3083

Chapter 1 Will Host Traditional Walk to the Wall on Veterans Day – For those who participate every year and for those who may have never been to the Wall or may have only been once, remember the Walk to the Wall at 1100 hours on 11 November, hosted by Chapter 1. Gather near the Hart Statue at 1030 hours. The laying of the wreath at the Wall will be followed by a no-host lunch at the Revival Room of the Key Bridge Marriott. In previous years Sky Soldiers have renewed comradeship from long ago. Join us in this national observance and visit Washington while here. Looking for a hotel? We recommend the Virginian Suites, 703-522-9600 (ask for Martha Valenzuela, the Reservations Manager, only a few rooms available) or the Days Inn Arlington, 703-525-0300. Both are near Arlington Cemetery and Fort Myer and just a couple of miles to the Wall. Chapter President Terry Modglin will host an informal reception in his room at the Virginian Suites from 1900 to 2200 hours.

On November 10 at Arlington National Cemetery Chapter 1 will greet the 82d Airborne Color Guard when it comes to the Brigade Marker to pay tribute. Chapter 1 Members will gather at 1100 hours. After the Color Guard has paid honors, we will visit the grave of General and Margaret Williamson and then our Section 60 Iraq-Afghanistan KIAs.

Wreaths Across America remembers all who have served and are interred in our military cemeteries. This year's observance is **Saturday, December 10**. Arlington National Cemetery has challenged the Wreaths Across America program in its 20th anniversary year to decorate all graves at Arlington (over 200,000) this year, which will require 5,000 volunteers! Chapter 1 will gather at a no-host breakfast at the Revival Room of the Key Bridge Marriott at 0830 hours. At 1000 hours we will move to the Rosslyn Metro Station (two blocks away) to go to the Arlington Cemetery station and report to the cemetery to participate. For those who are more mobility-challenged, we will attempt to enlist the hotel to provide a van to the cemetery. Once at the cemetery, Sky Soldier volunteers will help as needed and then return to the hotel and their cars on their own.

Former Sky Soldier Chaplain Becomes Catholic Cardinal - Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of Baltimore, Catholic Chaplain to the Herd in 1971, as the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Archbishop O'Brien will move to the headquarters of the Order in Rome, where he will be elevated to the rank of cardinal. In accepting the new position, Archbishop O'Brien assumes responsibility for the ancient lay Catholic Order whose goal is to promote and defend Christianity in the Holy Land. Archbishop O'Brien was the speaker at a Chapter 1 gathering in 2010.

CHAPTER 2 – NEW YORK – LOZADA-WATERS CHAPTER

Pres. Thomas McMahon, tom173sky@aol.com 646-533-5935

POC David Glick - Pointman173@optonline.net

The summer edition of The Sky Soldier Magazine contained several errors which we would like corrected. I reviewed my copy of the article submitted for publication and it did show Tommy McMahon as chapter president. I cannot determine the reason for the incorrect caption. The one photograph printed had the incorrect caption. The photo with a young man sitting down was taken at the Greenbelt Marriott Hotel when SPC Tim Hall was taken to dinner in April 2011. The individuals, left to right, are Bernie Warnock, Russ Hall (Tim's dad) SPC Tim Hall (seated) Bobby Pickering and Dave Glick.



A second photograph not shown but which shows a plaque on the wall (Katz's Delicatessen) has the following individuals, left to right: Dave Glick, Tommy McMahon, SFC M.A. Ramirez, Bernie Warnock, and Augie Scarino.



CHAPTER 3 - FORT BENNING, GA CHAPTER

Art Van Allen – art173rd@aol.com 706-317-4177

Greetings Fellow Sky Soldiers,

Summer is gone and Fall is upon us and Chapter 3 is preparing to work on A House of Hero's home. This is a program here in Columbus puts Volunteers and Retired Veterans or their Spouses together to work on the Veteran's home at no cost to the Veteran. We worked on one last year and we fully indorse this program.

If you have not seen our Memorial here at the National Infantry Museum, I strongly encourage you to make the trip. Come on the 2nd Saturday of the month and attend our Chapter meeting held at the VFW Post 665 on Victory Drive. Pray for our Troops, who are the tip of the bayonet.

CHAPTER 4 - PHILADELPHIA, PA CHAPTER

George Bembischew - 215-788-0824

Chapter 4 (Philadelphia Chapter) conducted its quarterly meeting on Tuesday 16 August 2011. This is also the National Airborne Day (The start of Airborne History) in our nation.

Old Business:

Reminder of Delaware Valley Operation Stand-down from 10, 11 and 12 September 2011 in Levittown, PA. The objective of this annual stand-down is assisting Homeless Veterans in obtaining their benefits and provide Medical and Dental care. Volunteers are always needed.

Chapter 4 started selling Football Chances. This fund raiser started late due to the NFL lock-out and the matter has been settled. The money raised by this fund raiser goes to many Chapter Activities. Please purchase tickets. Hope you have the winning ticket and good luck to all.

New Business:

Chapter 4 will provide financial support to the 173rd Airborne BDE Memorial Foundation. Any individual who wishes to make a tax deductible donation can send a check to: The 173rd ABN BDE Memorial Foundation, 1160 Lake Royale, Louisburg, NC 27549, The Memorial is located in Ft. Benning, GA and the money raised is for the maintenance cost.

Child Safety Day is set for Saturday 29, September 2011 at the Pennsylvania National Guard Amory at Roosevelt Blvd. and South Hampton Road. Child Safety Day program provides Photos of the child and finger printing and this is all done without cost to you. This information can be used in case of an emergency.

Gary Prisk who the book "Digger Dogface Brown Job Grunt" (2nd Abn. 503 Inf. 1967-1968 has accepted an invitation to speak at Edison High School for The 2012 Memorial Program. Mr. Prisk dedicated his book to the soldiers who were killed from Edison High School during the Viet Nam War. Edison High School had 64 of its students/soldiers killed, the most in the nation.

Note: Thomas Edison High School has been conducting its Annual May Memorial Service men since the 1960's and will continue to do so. We hope to see Edison's Alumni and other veterans during the next May (last day in May prior to Memorial Day).

RE UP: Arthur L. Bratley served with the 173 Airborne BDE 1968 assigned to 1st Bn. 50th Mech. Inf. Welcome Back to the HERD Our next Quarterly Meeting is set for Thursday Nov. 2011 at VVA 266 HQ.

CHAPTER 5 - FORT BRAGG, NC CHAPTER

Pres. Jose Bercedoni - POC - Bill Rasool Ankhe173@aol.com 910-826-7320

CHAPTER 6 - ELITE FORCES - CHICAGO, IL AREA CHAPTER

Takie Mandakas- takieman@yahoo.com - 773-782-5822

It has been a busy summer, First chapter 6 (Chicago) Joined with Chapter 7 (Florida) in taking on running the 2013 – 50th Anniversary Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. Jim Bradley and I set out with a Goal of “50/100”. That would be No more than \$50 a night for the Hotel and No more than \$100 for the reunion cost which breaks down to a five day reunion cost of \$ 350total (Taxes and Resort Fees included). After doing MUCH research, Jim Bradley and I, believe we can achieve this goal while guaranteeing all a quality hotel, a great time and still meet or exceed every ones needs. Full details will be release once the 2012 Reunion starts in Lexington, KY, on 6 June. We hope to see you all there when we break the details.



Frank in Las Vegas

CHAPTER 7 – FLORIDA CHAPTER

James Bradley – Webmaster@173rdAirborne.com 727-376-2576

It has been a busy summer, First chapter 7 (Florida) Joined with Chapter 6 (Chicago) in taking on running the 2013 – 50th Anniversary Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. Frank Miceli and I set out with a Goal of “50/100”. That would be No more than \$50 a night for the Hotel and No more than \$100 for the reunion cost which breaks down to a five day reunion cost of \$ 350 total (Taxes and Resort Fees included). After doing MUCH research, Frank and I, believe we can achieve this goal while guaranteeing all a quality hotel, a great time and still meet or exceed every ones needs. Full details will be release once the 2012 Reunion starts in Lexington, KY, on 6 June. We hope to see you all there when we break the details.

As a chapter we have joined up with the local chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Assn in sponsoring two Sky Solider for a week long Christmas exodus to Clearwater, Florida. They will be at our planned Christmas party (See the schedule below

We continue to support our troops down range through Operation Showtime and send DVDs and Books to various units and sky soldiers that request support. Recently we did support, an MP unit (Ex-Sky Soldier is the 1SGT), Special ops units, USOs and a Sky Soldier working as a contractor in Afghanistan.

We also gave our yearly support to the 173d Memorial foundation and again this year will support the 8th of November Run in Bamberg, Germany.

Also special thanks to Craig McLaren for his support of the chapter with his wallet design and donations. Write to him at; Craig R. McLaren # 115-624, Holman Unit 3700 (E-20-A), Altmore, AL 36503-0037

Upcoming Events:

2011

13-16 October 2011, All Airborne Days, Clearwater Florida

8 November Run, Bamberg Germany

4 December, Christmas Party, Spotos Steakhouse 1280 Main St, Dunedin, FL 34698 at noon

2012

11-12 January 2013 Reunion Pre-Meeting, Las Vegas, NV

13-15 January 2012 National BOD Meeting, Phoenix, AZ

??? February 2012 Shoot Out. Pinellas shooting range, Pinellas County (Tampa), Florida

28 April 2012, The Ed Proffitt East Coast Meeting, Melbourne, FL

26 May 2012, Memorial day event, 173d Memorial Bushnell, FL

6-12 June 2012, Lexington, KY

??? August 2012-Summer gathering -, Armed Forces Military Museum - Pinellas County (Tampa), Florida

8 November Run 2012, Bamberg Germany

?? December 2012 , Christmas Party, (location TBA)

For more information Visit our website at www.FloridaSkySoldiers.com

CHAPTER 8 – EASTERN WASHINGTON STATE AREA - NW INLAND CHAPTER

Eldon Meade – eknmeade@earthlink.net 509-370-3598

CHAPTER 9 – NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Peter Klausner - logpc@comcast.net 508-238-0219

CHAPTER 10 – NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA - WESTERN STATES CHAPTER

J.C. Terry Terry_173@sbcglobal.net 916-457-3393

CHAPTER 11 - NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA - DOWN UNDER CHAPTER

Bob Cockerill – cockrills_mail@bigpond.com 011-61-2-9679-1624

CHAPTER 13 – TEXAS CHAPTER

Scott Smith Shs2pm@hotmail.com 254-753-4870

CHAPTER 14 – SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Wambi Cook wambicook@aol.com 626-339-7071

We apologize for not submitting our chapter update for this past summer’s issue. No excuses. We’ll not miss another. However, we’ve been very pro- active throughout 2011’s second and now third quarters. In April the chapter was recognized by the entire City of Baldwin Park’s executive body for the Herd’s labors in Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. On the Saturday before Memorial Day, we held individual services at gravesites in over a half dozen Los Angeles area cemeteries for our fallen 173rd brethren. We ensure that each respective grave was cleared of debris, overgrown grass, and the marker /headstone was hand- scrubbed. On Memorial Day some members participated in Bishop Amat High School’s inaugural military memorial ceremony for 16 fallen Lancer alumnae. Fourth Battalion’s Joel Sabel; (10/July/1967) was among a dozen Lancers recognized for their military service.

Over a dozen members were in San Antonio for this year’s reunion. Kudos to our Texans brothers for their efforts toward another outstanding reunion. We were again unsuccessful in our attempt to get the 2012 reunion for SoCal, but at least it will be near the West Coast. We expect another sizable turnout in Lexington next June.

We lost a dear brother this past April .John Wassink was accidentally killed in a four-wheel accident near the Arizona border. Several members attended his beautiful memorial service at the Riverside National Cemetery.



John Wassink



Ray Ramirez

Doug Wilson

Art Martinez

Jesse Saenz

Fred Ortiz



Art Martinez Wambi Cook Ray Ramirez

Our quarterly 2011 -2012 chapter meeting schedule can be found at our website.

CHAPTER 15 – MINEAPOLIS, MN CHAPTER

Trudell Guerue elfguerue@msn.com 651-455-3787

CHAPTER 16 – WASHINGTON STATE – COLONEL BOLAND CHAPTER

Chris Clewell cclowell@aol.com 425-672-7486

CHAPTER 17 - MIDWEST CHAPTER

Dave Carmon, dcarmon@RoadRunner.com 1-740-574-8653

Mid- West Chapter 17 is honored to host the 2012 173D Airborne Brigade National Reunion In the Great city Of Lexington Kentucky ,The dates of the reunion , June -6th thru June10th 2012 .Chapter 17 incorporates ,Ohio, Indiana ,Kentucky ,Western Pennsylvania , Michigan , plans are in the work to make this an outstanding event . Our reunion committee is in place; they have volunteered and will work to provide an outstanding program. The Viet Nam memorial located in Frankfurt Kentucky will a focal point, the 173D has 27 Sky soldiers memorialize there, and this is a Beautiful memorial. All we need now, is The Herd to saddle up, Sky Soldiers to register to attend .The host hotel has 300 rooms, we have a block of 148 rooms, the hotel states they will continue to take reservations until it is full, the rates are in effect (3) days prior and (3) days after this event .The Reunion Dinner will be in Rupp Arena , The Chapter is working with the CVB for our overflow hotel . Chapter 17 has in no-way left the Ladies of the Herd out of our Planning; The Ladies of Chapter 17 are also, hard at work. Register early History, Hooch, and Horses Welcomes the Herd to Lexington Kentucky. Airborne Dave Carmon

CHAPTER 18 – OKLAHOMA – LARRY PIERCE CHAPTER

Don Walton – walton.don@ecewb.com 580-678-1088

CHAPTER 19 – NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER

Denis Dwane - dezal173@hotmail.com

CHAPTER 23 – QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA CHAPTER

Graham Woodward Graham.woody@bigpond.com

CHAPTER 24 – ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA CHAPTER

Floyd Reister - friester@co.wasbasha.mn.us 570-281-0926

CHAPTER 25 – PHOENIX, ARIZONA- THUNDERBIRD CHAPTER

Bob Madden, bob5992@cox.net, 602-999-5992

MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETING

Saturday September 17, 2011 1400 Hours (2:00 pm), 5536 N. 10th Street Phoenix (Missouri & 10th Street)

Review of the National Goals and the National Re-Union, Chapter Goals, Budget for Charitable Organizations Fundraiser October 1 & 2 at Wal-Mart

Upcoming events including our Annual Dinner. We need your ideas in planning our annual activities. This includes how and what Veteran causes do we need to support. WE NEED YOUR IDEAS. We have some funds available because of our fundraiser. We need an active 173d Chapter and we need your assistance and advice in accomplishing our Sky Soldier Goals. PIZZA will be served, bring your favorite finger food.

Questions? Call Bob Madden 602-999-5992 bob5992@cox.net Please e-mail me your e-mail so we can plan on your attendance. See you Saturday the 22th

CHAPTER 27 –VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA –STATES CHAPTER

John Arnold – johnarnold@iinet.net.au

CHAPTER 28 – SAN DIEGO, CA – SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Gilbert Reynoso g_reynoso_r@yahoo.com 1-760-294-8741

CHAPTER 30 – SOUTH CAROLINA CHAPTER

James Beacham dustoff@bellsouth.net 260-5663



Fallen Brothers

ERNEST L. "Yo" JAUCH, Parrish AL, 173d ABN (SEP)
SGM HARLEY WAYNE EXTINE, Winchester, TN, 173d ABN (SEP)
LEE STANLEY GIFFORD, Eagle Point, OR, 173d ABN (SEP)
CARL SHEFFERD, Belleville, MI, 173d ABN (SEP)
COL. CHARLES FABYAN DRAKE, Fairfax, 173d ABN (SEP)
JOHN WASSINK, Perris, CA, B-3-503d, 173d ABN (SEP)



LOST & FOUND

I am trying to connect with anyone who might have served with **SGT JOHN ARTHUR McGINN**, Co. C, 4/503rd Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (SEP) who was KIA (Died) 06/28/1970, please contact me- Steven Hirsch 949-230-2023, steven.hirsch@joag.org

173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSN.

James Bradley – 5640 Wellfield Road
New Port Richey, FL 34655

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Mail Application and Payments to;

Membership Secretary – Dennis Hill
97 Earle Street
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

Make checks payable to;

173d Airborne Brigade Assn.

Please *circle* the appropriate boxes below

New	Renewal	Change of Address, <i>Change of Chapter</i>	
Annual Membership Ends on 31 December of each year - \$ 24.00			
Regular *		Associate	
Sky Soldier	Veteran	Gold Star	Spouse of deceased Sky Soldier
Life Membership \$ 173.00			
Regular *		Gold Star (Parent or Spouse)	

**Regular Membership open to those assigned or attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade*

Enter current or updated information in the right columns below 

Service Number (B446349) <i>(Use first Letter of last name and last 6 of service/SSN)</i>	
First Name (<i>John</i>)	
Middle Initial (<i>W.</i>)	
Last Name (<i>Smith</i>) (<i>Needed</i>)	
Email (yourname@some.com)	
Current Mailing Address <i>(Street or CMR 427)</i>	
City (<i>Town or APO</i>)	
State (<i>or AE for Military, other counties enter "OUS"</i>)	
Zip Code / APO #	
Home Phone 555-555-1234	
Cell Phone 555-555-1234	
173d Service Dates (<i>02/2003-02/2005</i>)	
Unit while with the 173d: 503 rd , BSB, etc	
Chapter Affiliated to: (<i>4, 18, At Large</i>)	
Magazine (Check one please)	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronically (<i>need Email above</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Mailed
Gold Star Relationship (<i>Wife, Mother, etc</i>) (PFC Mike Smith 11-08-67)	