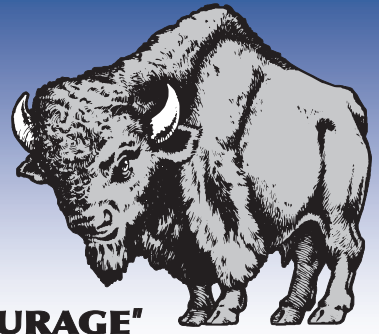


THE BUFFALO Bugle

'TRUTH AND COURAGE'



Official Publication of the 17th Infantry Regiment Association

Vol. 20, Number 1

May - June 2011



Association President Bruce Frazer, LTC Maximo Moore, CSM Edison Rebuck, and COL Steve Gardner un-case the 4th Battalion Colors at Ft Bliss, Texas

PRESIDENT**Bruce Frazer**

2929 Westminster, Dallas, Texas 75205

Phone: (214) 369-9689 E-Mail: Frazerbruce@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT**Robert J. Connelly**

19701 Sterling Drive, Miami, Florida 33157

Phone: (786) 457-6099 E-Mail: robertconnelly@mac.com

TREASURER AND SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN**Steve Goodwin**

4366 Central Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

Phone: (708) 784-9104 E-Mail: scout417@hotmail.com

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD & DMOR CHAIRMAN**Timothy Green (CSM USA RET)**

1009 Manor Road, New Kensington, PA 15068

E-Mail: csmgreen@gmail.com

CHAPLAIN**John Strube**

65 St. John Circle, Lititz, PA 17543

Phone: (717) 627-2257 E-Mail: JIStrube@ptd.net

CHAPLAIN**John Phillips**

590 Parker Circle, Pensacola, FL 32504

Phone: (850) 4793886 E-Mail: jwp2@cox.net

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER**Robert Petzold**

5200 SW 25th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32608

Phone: (352) 548-4906 E-Mail: easy17@gator.net

QUARTERMASTER**David de la Sierra**

Macon, Georgia

(305) 610-8620

dogsinspace@reynoldscable.net

BUFFALO BUGLE EDITOR / WEB MASTER**Donald E Shook Jr.**

1010 Manor Road

New Kensington, PA 15068

Phone: (724) 594-0480 deshook@7thinfantry.com

SECRETARY

Open Position

BOARD OF DIRECTORS**Lawrence S. Haynes (FL)**

(941) 391-2693

lhaynes02@comcast.net

George Harvey (MI)

(313) 477-0234

gpopharv@hotmail.com

Seth Turner (NH)

(603) 662-5825

sth_turner@yahoo.com

James Rohr (SC)

(864) 582-2555

jamesrohr@charter.net

David de la Sierra (GA)

(305) 610-8620

dogsinspace@reynoldscable.net

LTC Guy Daines (FL)

727-937-4636

ghclynn@verizon.net

William Beaver (NY)

WBeaver523@aol.com

(718) 987-9771

Colonel Johnny Brooks (AL)

(706) 573 - 3220

brooksiejw@aol.com

HISTORIAN**Colonel Marc Williams**

509th S 17th St.

Ft. Leavenworth, KS

Phone: (913) 306-2803

aguajames@sbcglobal.net

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**Ronald Miller**

4503 Christy Drive

Granbury, TX 76049

Phone: (817) 326-0280

millerdog70@hotmail.com

www.17thInfantry.com

The Buffalo Bugle is edited and produced for the Association by Association Member Donald Shook with article proofreading provided by Maria de la Sierra and Carla Shook. Stories, photographs, cartoons, and articles of interest to members of the 17th Infantry Regiment Association are welcomed and greatly appreciated. Please identify all personnel and locations when possible on back of photographs, along with a return address so that we can return your photographs to you. Items can also be electronically sent to: deshook@7thinfantry.com

“TRUTH AND COURAGE”

FOUNDER

LTG William “Buffalo Bill” Quinn

HCOR

Honorary Colonel of the Regiment

Steve Gardner

COL USA RET

Olalla, Washington 98359

swgarmy@aol.com

1-17 COMMANDER

LTC Timothy Davis

timothy.carlton.davis@us.army.mil

1-17 CSM

CSM Timothy Dotson

timothy.dotson1@us.army.mil

4-17 COMMANDER

LTC Maximo Moore

maximo.moore@us.army.mil

4-17 CSM

CSM Edison Rebuck

edison.m.rebuck@us.army.mil

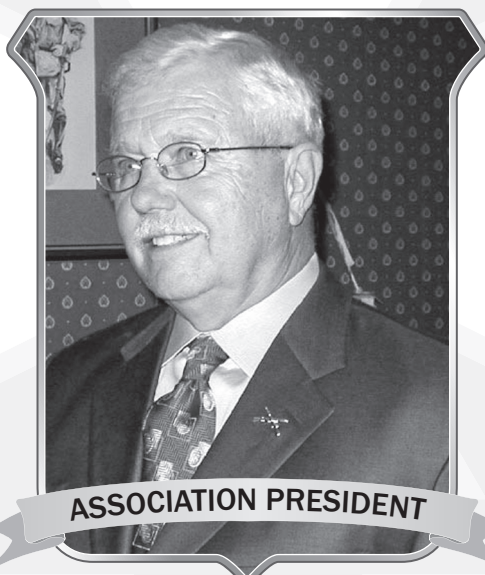
4-17 Infantry is Activated at Ft Bliss, TX



On 11 January 2011, the 4th battalion, 17th Infantry was re-activated at Ft Bliss, TX. Association President, Bruce Frazer, LTC Maximo Moore (concealed) CSM Edison Rebuck, and Colonel Steve Gardner unveil the Battalion colors. There were several 17th Infantry veterans in attendance and the battalion staff and soldiers made us feel very welcome. Much Luck to LTC Moore, CSM Edison, and the men of the 4-17 Infantry! You're off to a great start!
More pictures on Pages 23, 24, 47, etc.

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Ladies & Gentlemen, friends of the Regiment, Greetings.

Since our great reunion at Columbus, Georgia things have been very quiet compared to the previous years when our soldiers were deployed into hostile territories.

The big news is that our new 4th Battalion is well on its way to getting fully “stood up” and training for whatever may come. Our soldiers are under the great leadership of LTC Maximo Moore and Command Sgt. Maj. Edison Rebuck.

Your Association had a great turnout of vets for the reactivation at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Our Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, Steve Gardner, handed over the colors that he had cased 18 years ago to LTC Maximo Moore during the Brigade re-flagging ceremony.

Our upcoming reunion looks to be a great visit to the In-

dian Territories. I look forward to seeing and visiting with all of you in Oklahoma City. I have great hope that both of our current Battalion Commanders and CSMs will be able to attend our reunion. Maybe the 4th Bn can bring a Color Guard to show off the 4th Battalion Colors for us all to enjoy.

Gay and I will make another trip to Oklahoma City pretty soon to check on a few last minute details so that your visit will be enjoyable.

Remember to please get signed up for the reunion sooner than later.

It will make our last few weeks of preparations much less hectic if you can do so.

On the business side of the meeting, we will probably try to get a consensus for moving our monument to the Infantry Museum. You all know that this will require fund-raising and worry for the officers and board members. Be thinking about it. Col. Johnny Brooks has done a lot of ground work on this project. I hope he will be on hand to deliver his report in person. Just got an e-mail from Jim Rohr, who is currently visiting Ft. Benning, and he said the monument looks very good.

Several officer slots will be open for volunteers to fill. Being an officer or board

member is fun, and good for you and the Association. We need to share the work load. Yes, there are a few dark brown headaches that come with the responsibility of leadership, but look at all the prestige you’ll enjoy!!! Please consider using your personal talents to help take the association in a positive direction using new ideas and methods...we truly need to employ your abilities to identify goals, new and old. I would like for us to streamline the arduous tasks that have a tendency to become onerous. Tell us what efforts you can make, what you are able/and or willing to do!

Gay and I have enjoyed the two years now past. It is such an honor to serve with such men and women as you. We love each and every one of you.

Let’s all keep our wounded soldiers that are still at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in our prayers. We have a lot of young men who are back in the line units and some who are out of the service because of wounds to whom we owe a debt of gratitude.

Truth and Courage!

“God Bless the Regulars”
Bruce M. Frazer



TREASURER

From The Treasurers' Office:

Greetings my fellow Buffaloes, as of this writing we currently remain well funded to meet our operational expenses and committed obligations to support our two battalions. However, the needs and requests we get are ongoing and the Association will never turn away a charitable contribution that supports these worthy and notable causes.

This is also an opportunity for me to ask each of you to consider our ongoing efforts for the Gen. Quinn Scholarship fund which has a separate mandate for fund-raising. As we have in years past, we will award four \$500.00 dollar scholarships to eligible participants. If you feel you or one of your descendants is eligible to apply, please visit the Association website for the criteria of eligibility as well as the required application ma-

terial and instructions. If you, or one of your descendants have benefited from this cause please consider a donation when reviewing your annual charitable gifts. If you would like to contribute to this cause please make your check out to the 17th Infantry Regiment Association and in the memo portion note "Gen. Quinn Scholarship Fund." Also, please consider the Association in any of your final estate planning as a potential charity, a small gift goes a long way and we will be forever grateful.

As of late we are working on some really big endeavors. I am currently working on our tax exempt status as a veterans organization and insuring we have a letter of ruling from the IRS recognizing us as 501c19 organization. This certificate of tax exempt status will be an immense help in keeping costs in check, especially with regard to our annual reunions. As you know, this year we will convene in Oklahoma City on Sept. 28th thru Oct. 3rd. Please accept this as a friendly reminder to return your registration forms and respective registration fees as soon as possible. Having these mailed to me in a timely manner helps us know where we are heading with costs and head count associated with hosting the reunion. Lastly, please be sure

to book your rooms with the Skirvin Hotel, they will go fast and I'm sure you'll agree we have chosen another attractive property and city to host us this year.

In addition to the numerous requests we have to support our soldiers and two battalions, we are very interested in having our monument moved to the National Infantry Museum. As you may have realized during our reunion last year, the modernization of today's Army is forcing the landscaping and building locations at Ft. Benning to always be in a constant state of change. We will discuss this issue in detail during our 2011 board meeting. However, I ask that you begin to give this some thought and consider the prestige of having our monument nearest to the front entrance of the museum for all to see and recognize. If you have any suggestions or ideas on how to best raise funds to accomplish this mission we are all ears. Also if you have the ability to tap a potential corporate sponsor, or have the ability and time to search out a potential grant for doing so, please make yourself available to the Association. We would love to have someone help Don Shook and Johnny Brooks spearhead this project.

Lastly, please remember our

silent auction, which is held at our reunion each year. Contributed items can be brought to the hospitality room at the start of the reunion. Please contact Maria De la Sierra upon arrival if you have an item to donate. Also note that you should include a label with your name on the item and a suggested minimum bid for your item. This effort was a major success for us last year and we continue to appreciate your support with this cause. Proceeds from the auction help us defray our ongoing operating budget needs and furthers our ability to support our soldiers and their needs for morale, welfare and recreation.

In closing, I thank you all for the time and talent each of you brings to our Association. Please consider serving as an officer or board member. Like those old posters of Uncle Sam on the recruiter's wall that lured you into his office to enlist....."WE NEED YOU"

Truth and Courage
Steve Goodwin

4-17 Scout 1984-1988

**Treasurer and Scholarship
Chairman**



Buffaloes,

The last four months were fast paced for the Buffaloes of 1-17 Infantry. The Herd moved in Strykers 170 miles east to Yakima Training Center three times, progressing from individual qualification to a company level day and night live fire exercise.

In January, we qualified every weapon in the battalion, conducted squad Live Fire Exercises, exercised battalion systems, and built the foundations of strong company teams. It was exciting watching junior leaders develop their fire teams and squads in tough conditions. Every Stryker in the battalion executed mounted qualification on .50 Cal and MK-19. The battalion went to train when others said it couldn't be done, and we did it well and safely.

In March, the Herd returned to execute Mounted Gun

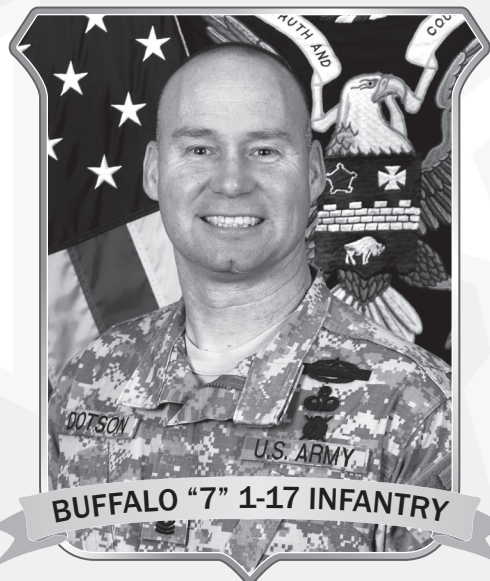
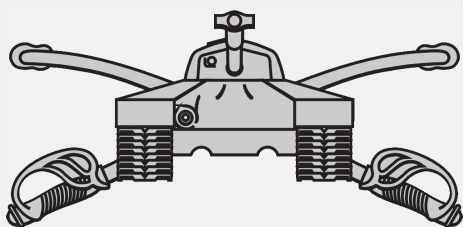
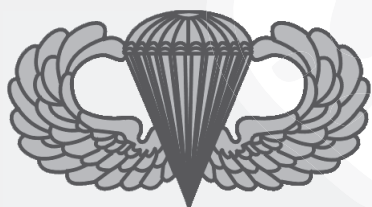
System qualification, company collective training, and platoon live fires. SGT Lint's crew shot high tank in the brigade with a score of 988 out of 1000. Our snipers under the leadership of SSG Simmons and mortars under 1LT Martin and SFC Johnson really focused on their trade, and their capacity is absolutely lethal. The 562nd Engineers, our fifth company, really became part of the team, with ranges, live fires, demo, and breach training. The non-commissioned officers executed phase two of the machine gunner's course with a range focused on crew drills really pushing the gunners, assistant gunners, and weapons team leaders.

CSM Dotson masterfully certified every team on battle drill 6, setting the foundation for platoon live fires. All this training came together for the platoons on a 4km platoon attack lane. The Buffaloes stood firm and trained in 50 mph wind, sub-zero temperatures, in pea soup fog, and sideways snow. I am both proud and impressed by the development and execution displayed in our platoons as they solidified the fundamentals of fire and movement.

Finally, in April each company deployed back to Yakima and synchronized chaos in an arduous company CALFEX, where the Buffaloes dem-

onstrated dominance in the Lancer Brigade. All the hard training came together as Captains Kovalsky, Ziembra, and Hanlin, and ISGs Faver, Holcomb, and Wells led their companies with the precision and drive of professionals. 1-17 now shifts focus to company changes of command, individual training, and preparation for our mission rehearsal exercise at the National Training Center, all this with an eye on our next deployment. Again we appreciate all the support of the association, especially at the memorial service of CPL Scherf. The Herd is strong because of its lineage and grows with each new leader and Soldier – I see it every day in the Americans that join our ranks.

*Truth and Courage
"Buffalo 6"
LTC Timothy Davis*



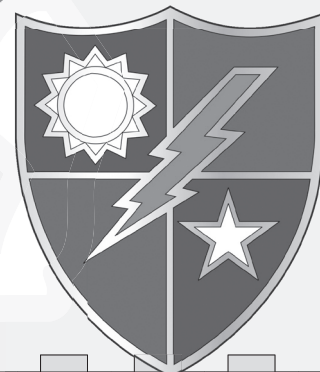
Greetings Buffaloes, Well, another quarter has gone by and 1st Battalion has accomplished a lot over the last three months. We conducted Squad and Platoon Live Fire Exercises at the Yakima Training Center, as well as Single Team-Multiple Room Clearing Live Fires. We also conducted a Company Combined Arms Live Fire Exercise (CALFEX), with our Line Companies shooting the highest in the Brigade. Training has been fast paced and hard and the men have done a phenomenal job as we continue to prepare for our Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE) at NTC later this year and then our deployment next spring.

It hasn't been all training though, as we congratulate our Bayonet Company for being crowned as Post Champions in Soccer. CPT Ziembra and ISG Holcomb scored the only goals of the game as they led their company in the

Championship game. 1st Battalion also helped the Lancer Brigade in the Joint Base Combatives Tournament and helped bring home the 1st place Team trophy.

We now turn our focus from Collective Training to Individual Training as we prepare for EIB. Training and Testing for the Expert Infantryman's Badge has changed a lot over the last couple of years and we look forward to our young Soldiers getting some great training, as well as a chance to earn the coveted Badge. We will conduct our Battalion "Banner Day" on the 29th of June and we welcome all who can attend to come out and join us in a day of fun competition. Summer Leave is from the 30th of June to 17 July as we take a well deserved break and recharge our batteries.

*CSM Tim Dotson
"Buffalo 7"*

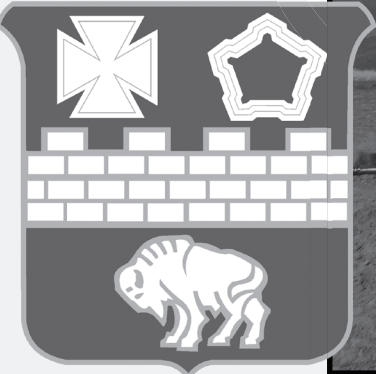


9 mile Platoon Leader Foot March during week long Platoon Leader Course: Solo Point, Washington

1-17 PHOTOGRAPHS



Buffalo 6 and Buffalo 7
LTC Davis and CSM Dotson



Soldiers from 1-17 Infantry train at the Yakima Training Center

“The Cost of Thinking Outside the Box”

By Charles Elliott

“Thinking outside the box;” This outdated, over-used, and misunderstood phrase is something that has been misused for a number of years. Just recently while conversing with a peer after he came back from a meeting with a Brigade Command Sergeant Major, he made the comment “He is a good guy, an outside the box thinker.” Another comment was made that the Command Sergeant Major is an out of the box thinker because he delegates responsibility to his subordinates on how they wear their equipment. Is this really what we think an out of the box thinker is? Isn’t he just doing what makes sense?

This is a phrase that should have stopped being part of our vocabulary years ago. It has become a cliché and has been so overused to the point that we use it to describe a “good guy.” Leaders believe that they have to be out of the box thinkers to be successful leaders. True, but there is a cost if not implemented correctly. A magazine in 2007 published a set of top five jargon faux-pas. I will say #3 was outdated before that.

1. Blue Sky Thinking

2. Singing From The Same Hymn Sheet
3. Thinking Outside The Box
4. Let’s Take It Offline
5. Park That Thought

This is the Wikipedia definition: “Thinking outside the box (sometimes erroneously called “thinking out of the box” or “thinking outside the square”) is to think differently, unconventionally or from a new perspective. This phrase often refers to novel or creative thinking.” Good definition, even though it is Wikipedia.

Years ago our forces needed to be more flexible and adaptable. After decades of training during a Cold War that never materialized, most leaders had no inclination to train or fight differently than they themselves had been trained. They were satisfied with keeping things status quo, shying away from technology and unconventional ways of doing things. Most of these types of leaders refused to entertain creative ideas, and many rejected ideas and recommendations from subordinates.

This was the case during the first couple of years after 9/11. In Iraq and Afghanistan our military was inundated with new equipment and technologies, vehicles, weapons, Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)

technologies, etc... All this technology forced our leaders to finally start to think differently (outside the box), to create ways to use this new equipment and technology to assist them in accomplishing their mission; and they did. Our Military has become more adaptive and technologically proficient, but at what cost?

I don’t think anyone can argue that technology has helped us tremendously, and that our leaders have become out of the box thinkers (more adaptive). But there is a cost to thinking outside of the box without fully understanding that the “things in the box” should not become irrelevant just because we have additional tools available to assist us. We have been thinking outside the box so long that we have forgotten what is in the box - the basics. We have become reliant on technology to the point where our basic soldiering skills have now degraded. We love to chase the next shiny gadget. Pre deployment training proficiency with technology has made us train so much on this technology and equipment that we neglect training on the basics to achieve true mastery of our war fighting skills.

I am not saying we don’t want our leaders to continue

~ Continued on Page 22

17TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION REUNION

September 28th - October 2nd, 2011

Oklahoma City, OK at the Shirvin Hilton (See Page 11 for hotel details)

NAME _____

SPOUSE OR GUEST _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

NAME(S) FOR NAME TAGS _____

Note: This is separate from the Hotel Registration and MUST BE SENT TO Steve Goodwin at the address below.

Member Status: Life _____ Annual _____ Note: If you are an annual member, dues for the year 2011 should be paid by this time. If they are not, please enclose a separate check for \$17.00. Your membership year will be on the mailing label of the Bugle (example: RA 2011)

I (WE) PLAN TO ARRIVE IN Oklahoma City on: (date)

Wednesday, September 28th, 2011: (Official Start)

Wednesday officially kicks off the reunion and the 14th Floor Hospitality Room will be open for attendees to use. Remember, the weeks events are not mandatory and veterans are welcome any day of the week.

THURSDAYS EVENTS: \$40 X _____ People

Thursday, September 29th, 2011:

Tinker Air Force Base and Oklahoma History Center

Includes: Buffet lunch, transportation to and from Tinker Air Force, and History Center

Friday, September 30th, 2011:

45th Infantry Museum / National Cowboy Museum

Includes: Buffet lunch, transportation to and from Hotel

FRIDAYS EVENTS: \$40 X _____ People

Saturday, October 1st, 2011:

17th Infantry Reunion Banquet at the Venetian Ballroom / Cash Bar

Menu details forthcoming

SATURDAYS EVENTS: \$40 X _____ People

\$40.00 Reunion Fee (per person): Includes hospitality Room Fees (Includes all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, snacks, etc. for duration of reunion) Personalized Name Tag, lanyard, entertainment, and other reunion items. This is a **MANDATORY CHARGE PER PERSON** (18 years and older)

Make Checks Payable to: **The 17th Infantry Association**

Please send forms and fees to Steve Goodwin

no later than September 20th, 2011

PLEASE CIRCLE DINNER CHOICE/S

FISH CHICKEN BEEF

REQUIRED REUNION FEE \$40 X _____ People

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Steve Goodwin

4366 Central Avenue

Western Springs, IL 60558



The Skirvin Hilton

Oklahoma City

One Park Avenue, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Website: www.skirvinhilton.com

REUNION RATE is \$119 a night plus taxes

Includes Daily Continental Breakfast

Parking is an additional \$3.00 a day

Hotel **MUST BE RESERVED** AT 1-800-HILTONS (+ 1-800-445-8667) under group name "17th Infantry Regiment Association." **DO NOT** call hotel directly.

PLEASE NOTE: reservation must be completed 3 weeks before reunion start date, or hotel has the option of reverting to the standard \$159.00 - \$179.00 rate. This hotel stays full about 95% of the time. Do not wait, or you may be disappointed.

Please Contact Bruce and Gay Frazer for any Questions:
"frazer@flash.net" or (214) 369-9689

For over 95 years, the historic Skirvin Hotel has been synonymous with elegance and innovation, hosting oil barons, dignitaries, political leaders, and Presidents. The new Skirvin Hilton Oklahoma City hotel underwent a multi-million dollar renovation project to restore the original grandeur that made the Skirvin Hotel an Oklahoma City landmark. It features reconfigured guest rooms and new elevators improving upon the original hotel design. Our Hilton hotel has an elegantly restored lobby and signature restaurant to greet visitors with historical elements preserved wherever feasible, including moldings, tiles and ceiling treatments.

The 225 exquisitely appointed rooms at The Skirvin Hilton Oklahoma City hotel have been designed with all of the comforts and conveniences of modern hospitality. Each guest room is equipped with the latest technology, wired and wireless Internet connectivity, 42-inch flat screen Plasma TV, and a spacious work desk with two phones, voice-mail, and data port. Services include a full health club, destination bar, full service restaurant, and 24-hour room service.

DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT



Selections for Distinguished Members of the Regiment (DMOR) and Honorary Distinguished Members of the Regiment (HDMOR) are not based solely on military accomplishments during an individual's time in service, but also on what the individual has accomplished on behalf of the Association. The Chairman of the selection committee is Association Project Chairman, CSM Tim Green. Nominations for DMOR or HDMOR should be sent to him at csmgreen@gmail.com

The above badge and a certificate suitable for framing, as well as orders signed by the Chief of the U.S. Infantry, are presented to each awardee.

HCOR

Colonel Steve Gardner

HSMOR

CSM Mack Vereen

DMOR

* SGM Phillip Albert
* Alfred Baumann
SFC Douglas Bell
* Clarence Bennet
Paul H. Bryant
SFC Lawrence Burke
* Dennis Camp
John T. Carrig
* Ralph C. Colley
CSM George Crisostomo

* Joe E. DeFosse
Louis E. Eve
* Andy Ferreira
Eugene P. Feury
Bruce Frazer
Pete Gallo
COL Edward Gibbons
Kevin Gilfether
Steve Goodwin
Joseph Gonsalves
Eulos Graham
* COL Philip Grimm
CSM Timothy Green
George Harvey
* Raymond Harvey *MOH
Fred Hatter
Lawrence Haynes
*HSMOR
Robert R. Heiter
* Thomas Hickman
*HCOR
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Einar Ingman *MOH
Gilbert E. Isham
COL Jeffrey "Al" Kelly
* BG Ted Maxis
*HCOR
1SG Matthew Splechter
Stuart Johnson
* Louis Kolb
Jackie D. Legg
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Judge Stuart Namm
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COL Mike Okita
1SG John Moore

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* BG Royal Reynolds
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James Rohr
Richard Rosa
* Stewart Rothman
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Charles Shuck
LTC James Smith
John L. Strube
John A. Sullivan
CSM Mack Vereen
Don Watts
LTC Charles Webster
Richard Whitson
Scott Wickland
Gregory Williams
Bobby Wilson
* Jacob F. Wittler
Darron Wright
* Neil Young
* Deceased

ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

Two Sided, Silk Screened
Black T-shirt.
Med-Lrg-XLG-XXL
\$20 each



Two Sided, Silk Screened
Grey T-shirt.
Med-Lrg-XLG-XXL
\$20 each



17th Infantry Association
Membership Lapel Pin
\$4 Each



17th Infantry DUI
(Distinctive Unit Insignia)
\$12 (pair)



Large Silver Bullion 17th In-
fantry Crest – Hand made
with sea dragon \$25.00
Each



Large Silver Bullion 17th Infantry
Crest – Hand made and great
for blazers, etc \$18.00 Each



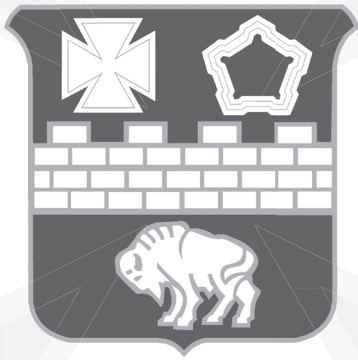
The famous "Buffalo Nickel"
two to choose from (Truth &
Courage) or (Korea 1950-1953)
\$5.00 Each



Beautiful Epoxy Filled Association Coin
Soon to be obsolete (Afghanistan not listed)
While they last: \$6.00 each



Old Stryker Association Coin circa 2005
Limited numbers left
While they last \$3.00



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Macon, GA 31210

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E-Mail: dogsinspace@reynoldscable.net

ORDER FORM

DATE _____

YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

SHIP TO:

PHONE NUMBER	
E-MAIL ADDRESS	

QUANTITY	ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL

SUBTOTAL	
SHIPPING 17%	
DONATION	
BALANCE DUE	

**Make Checks out to the:
"17th Infantry Regiment Association"**

Note: Credit Card payments only accepted on the Association's website

EXAMPLE: Your order is 32.50, Shipping and Handling would then be "\$5.52" (32.50 X .17 = \$5.52)

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE 17TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS FOR PROCESSING AND SHIPMENT

ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

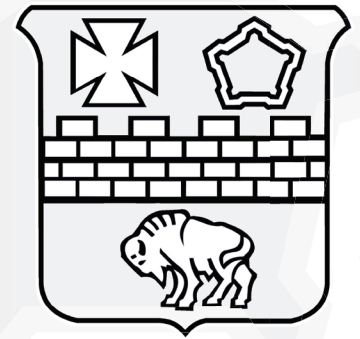
ORDER FORM ON PAGE 14



17th Infantry Pen Knives
Blue-Black-Red-Teal-Green
\$5.00 Each
Designate color when ordering



"2010 Reunion Special"
Blue with "17 Infantry" & crest
\$5.00 while supplies last



White Vinyl 17th Infantry
Decals. Small or Large
\$4 (Small) \$7 (Large)



Baseball Cap with embroidered
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S/M or L/XL
\$12.00 Each



Coffee Mug with crest &
Crossed 17th Infantry rifles
(Mug is blue with white crest)
\$15.00 Each



Mosul and Baghdad 1-17
"We Kicked Ass"
Embroidered Patch
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ACU "Afghanistan" 1-17 patch Design A
Velcro: \$5.00 / Iron on: \$4.00



ACU "Afghanistan" 1-17 patch Design B
Velcro: \$5.00 / Iron on: \$4.00



Greetings from the West Texas 4-17 Buffaloes!

It's hard to believe that nearly six months have already passed since our last update. I must start this column off by again saying thank you for the outstanding support we have received from the 17th Infantry Association and former members of the Herd from across the United States. Due to your outstanding support we were able to host a first class activation ceremony on 11 January 2011. Our Soldiers truly enjoyed the time we got to spend with the veterans of this honored regiment. Since the activation we have been working hard to build combat power and train our Soldiers.

On May 13th, we conducted our first Company change of command with CPT Brian Hartman passing the guidon to CPT Kip Remsberg. Brian and Kelly Hartman have been

an inspirational command team; the absolute right people to help get the Herd going in the right direction. Brian's company was the first in the chute for Stryker fielding, and while leaving his new unit was bittersweet, he's ready to move on to more challenging assignments.

In May, our Brigade officially ended the reset phase of its transition from an Armor Brigade, which consisted mostly of fielding new equipment and fixing our current equipment that was deployed with the Brigade. Also during this time we grew to our current strength and realigned our MOS to match our new Stryker authorizations. We are now complete with fielding two companies worth of Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicles, our Stryker Medical Evacuation Vehicles, and three of our Stryker Mobile Gun System Vehicles. We will continue fielding Stryker vehicles and other mission essential equipment into 2012, but the heart and soul of our organization remains the same – our Buffalo and their Families.

We continue to stress to all our Soldiers that while we will be blessed with outstanding vehicles that can deploy us quickly and safely across strategic, operational and tactical distances, our real strength lies in our abil-

ity to fight dismounted in order to close with and destroy our enemies. We can train with this, or without our Strykers, and we have been.

In January and February, we assisted the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Special Forces Group in preparing for their deployment to Afghanistan. While our Soldiers trained hard to act as insurgents in order to support the training, they also had some great opportunities to learn from some of the best tactical small unit leaders in the Army.

In March and April, we conducted a battalion small arms training exercise that brought us to a baseline for marksmanship and close quarters combat techniques. In August and September, we will build on that and train our fire teams and squads on conducting live fire assaults and building clearing. As the year goes on we will continue to conduct tough collective training building to a battalion level mounted and dismounted maneuver leading into the next holiday break. As we continue to train and build, I invite all former Buffaloes to look us up here in the desert and spend some time with us. We're proud to host veterans of the 17th Infantry at our social and training events, and with our mini-museum constantly improving, you can be sure to

see some artifacts from the Buffaloes' past adventures. Maintaining ties to our collective past is essential to forging the future.

Thank you to all Buffaloes past and present for your contributions to our Army and our Nation.

“Truth and Courage”

LTC Maximo Moore III

Buffalo 6 – Fort Bliss



The Herd has been growing exponentially since our activation on the 11th of January. We have welcomed many new families to El Paso as they

have arrived to join the 4th Battalion of the 17th Infantry Regiment.

The Ready First Brigade Combat team has transformed into a Stryker Brigade, causing some units to grow and others to deactivate. The Buffaloes received Soldiers from many of these other units from within the Brigade. Each Soldier has become a valuable member of the organization, bringing with them their knowledge of El Paso and the workings of Fort Bliss.

“Stryker” has been the word buzzing around the Battalion as well as throughout the installation. Although we have a new set of wheels, rest assured that we continue to train as Infantrymen, for this will be the basis of all we do. The Soldiers are undergoing a comprehensive Stryker training program. The Buffaloes have honed their skills and field craft in the sands of the El Paso desert, getting back to the basics and training team leaders to lead Soldiers from the front.

Through tough physical training the Buffaloes have grown into a fierce and skilled team. Our motor pool is often filled with Buffaloes pulling chains,

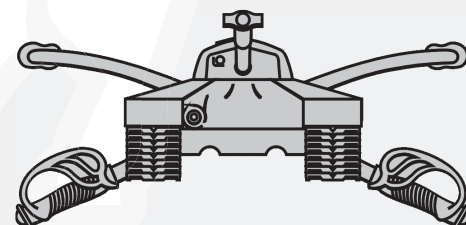
dragging tires and challenging each other at the pull up bars. Fitness is emphasized at every level as we owe each Buffalo the opportunity to excel and to be fit. Physical fitness is a huge part of developing mentally resilient Soldiers and leaders in our organization continue to mentor our young Soldiers to be tough and resilient.

The Buffaloes of 4-17 IN are involved throughout the city of El Paso as we continue to build strong bonds that will undoubtedly spread the message that the Buffaloes are here. Our Soldiers have volunteered at football games, schools, museums and other community events. The Buffalo Family Readiness Group is formed and running like a well oiled machine thanks to the hard work of our many dedicated families.

As the Battalion CSM I am proud of our Soldiers and will continue to forge ahead and develop an organization deserving of a history so rich and illustrious. Buffalo Chief out!

“Truth and Courage”

CSM Edison M Rebeck
Buffalo 7 – Fort Bliss





Spirit of the Buffalo

1-17 Chaplain deploys to Afghanistan

Captain Sean Levine was the first 2/2 SBCT soldier to deploy to Afghanistan. He was accepted on a volunteer Department of the Army mission to minister to the Eastern Orthodox coalition members forward deployed. Below are his reflections upon redeployment:

As an Eastern Orthodox Priest, one of my greatest joys comes from being called to travel the world providing services on the most special days of the year: Christmas and Easter. LTC Davis, the Battalion Commander for the Buffaloes, was gracious in allowing me to be away from the Battalion for a full month while I answered the Chief of Chaplains' call to augment the religious support mission

in Afghanistan. Because there are only seven Orthodox Christian Priests on active duty, and only one Priest currently deployed to Afghanistan, Eastern Orthodox coverage remains a challenge. The commitment of our senior military and civilian leadership to the protection of each Service Member's ability to practice his/her faith can be seen in the fact that the effort is made to augment chaplain shortages during the special seasons and High Holy days. It was my privilege to serve as part of the Eastern Orthodox ministry augmentation this April.

I arrived at Kandahar Airfield on 12 April, a few days before Palm Sunday (17 Apr). After spending a few days planning out the service schedule and meeting service members from

all branches of the American military and many coalition partners, I served 17 services in 8 days and ministered to over 500 service members over the course of the week. For many of these service members, celebrating Easter in Afghanistan was a life-changing and unforgettable experience. The comfort that warriors feel as a result of celebrating such a powerful religious event while serving in combat cannot be adequately calculated—it simply defies quantification. This is true not only for major religious celebrations, but also the weekly services that chaplains serve as they circulate around the battlefield. I never underestimate the value of a simple prayer service offered with sincerity; these, too, can be life-changing and unforgettable moments of connection with God in the midst of difficult circumstances. At the end of the day, this defines the Army Chaplaincy's ongoing value and enduring legacy. "Bringing God to Soldiers and Soldiers to God" remains the key mission essential task for the Army's Chaplains in general, and for me, as one representative of that dedicated Corps of military clergy.

Rev. Sean A. Levine
Chaplain (Captain) USA
1-17 Infantry "Buffaloes"
2-2 SBCT

LETTERS TO THE ASSOCIATION

Dear Fellow Buffaloes,

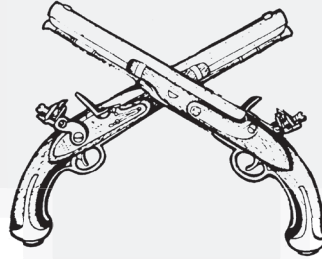
I cannot begin to tell you the pride I feel every time I read the success stories of the 1-17th Infantry in the Buffalo Bugle.

Although I am no longer in the Infantry and have changed over to Military Police, my time in Charlie "HARD ROCK" 1-17 from 1998-2002 were the best years of my 13 year career. Today I am a Drill Sergeant in the 795th MP Bn at Ft Leonard Wood, MO. I can promise you that every single Soldier that comes through my platoon understands not only the importance of the Infantry to the Army, but what 1-17 IN means to me. CSM (R) Green will be forever the best CSM I have ever served with and SGM (R) Wally Murrell will always be not only the best ISG, but also a good friend and mentor. I am so proud to be a Distinguished Member of the Regiment and I will always be Infantry at heart. The Battalion has my continued prayers for the new leadership that will take the battalion to new heights and my promise to you, is after I finish my tour as DI

in Dec. 2011, is that you will see me at the 2012 reunion, no matter where it is.

"Truth and Courage"

SFC Chuck Shuck



Attached is a picture of my K9 Partner Gabe receiving the 2007-2008 American Kennel Club Military Dog of the Year Award for having 26 finds in Iraq. Thanks again for all that you guys do for this great regiment.



HDMOR

Honorary Distinguished
Members of the Regiment

Margaret Baumann
Ulrike Bell
Alan Bjerke
JoAnn Brigham
Catherine I. Bryant
Stefania Burke
Mary Jo Camp
Cathy Colley
Leslie Drumhiller
Carolyn Eve
Fran Feury
Charlotte Gallo
Donald Garner
Sally Harvey
Joyce Himka
Evelyn Haynes
Carol Heiter
John Hillman
Peggy Holt
Mardelle Ingman
Ardith Isham
Richard Kabaker
Ellen Legg
Mark Marques
Helma Mataxis
Roy P. Montgomery
Alicyn Moore
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David Nethken
Lynn Okita
Teresa Robbins
Alma Rohr
Carol Rosa
Lee Rothman
Crystal Sherwood
Carla Shook
Margaret Smith
Christy Splechter
Shirley Stoddard
Janet Strube
Marie Sullivan
Mary Watts
Lee Whitson
Patricia "Pat" Wilson
Tomicene Wilson
Laura Wittler



Congratulations to the Chosin Company, 1-17 IN team came in 6th place overall and 1st place in the Military Division in the 50 mile Ranier to Ruston Relay this weekend with a time of 6 hours and 30 minutes. The team included SSG Cox, SSG Torres, SGT Diaz, SGT Wayne, SPC(P) Sheffield, and PV2 Meyers. Run to remember flags were posted on the route for our fallen soldiers from Operation Enduring Freedom.



Congratulations to Jon Neumann who was promoted to Colonel on 3 June 2011.



THE 17th INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION ENCOURAGES YOU TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

WWW.INFANTRYASSN.COM

The purpose of the National Infantry Association® is to support the Chief of Infantry and the entire Infantry Branch (the only organization with this primary function); to share the camaraderie of like minded soldiers and citizens who believe in maintaining the Infantry spirit; to recognize, through our awards program, outstanding Infantrymen and Infantry supporters; and to preserve the Infantry heritage through support of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park.



us! This year it seems we will continue having luxurious luncheons and banquets. Thursday we will lunch at the Oklahoma History Center and Friday at the National Cowboy Museum. We are certainly going to get our fill of true Americana with the fabulous exhibits at each museum.

Personally, I can't wait to stay at the Skirvin Hotel. It's an impressive building with a 95 year old history, and some say, a few ghosts! The hotel is in walking distance to the Ford Center Arena, Bricktown Canal and Entertainment District, Bricktown Ballpark, Oklahoma City National Bombing Memorial, Oklahoma City Arts Museum, Civic Center, five minutes from the State Capitol, and one mile from OU Medical Center. So

grab a pair of walking shoes and get ready to explore.

As you can see, there will be plenty of fun, but we'll have some work to get done as well.

During the 17th Infantry Board and General Membership meeting, the Ladies Auxiliary will be meeting. Please consider joining us and bringing in your ideas about tasks or projects that will better enable us to facilitate the Association's goals. If you are interested in joining the Ladies Auxiliary, please see our registration form on this page.

Let's see if together we can't beat the dog days of summer and get some great work done for the guys!!!!!!!!!!

Maria de la Sierra

Summer usually finds me feeling sluggish and without much motivation but that's not the case this time! My gears are shifting and I am excited about the upcoming reunion in Oklahoma City. Rest assured that our Madame President Gay Frazer has an amazing line up of fun and surprises awaiting



17th INFANTRY REGIMENT LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP IS \$10 A YEAR (UNLESS YOU'RE ALREADY A LINEAL MEMBER)
Buffalo Bugle is not included with the \$10 Ladies Auxiliary fee

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

E-MAIL _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM
and CHECK if applicable to:

Maria de la Sierra
134 Red Fox Run
Macon, GA 31210
H: 305-992-7113

cherublace@reynoldscable.net

17th Inf Assn Sponsor _____

~ Continued from Page 9

to be adaptive, and that we shouldn't embrace and apply technology. The enemy is always changing and adapting to our TTPs. Of course we need to continue to move ahead with technology; if we didn't we would still be using muskets.

Our Soldiers and leaders need to continue to be adaptive, creative, and look for unconventional ways of doing things to defeat the enemy; however we just cannot do this if the cost is forgetting the basics and fundamentals of patrolling. The scales have slipped too far to one side. We are trying to think so much out of the box that we've forgotten what is in the box. We need to regain a balance. Remember that mastering the basics must be the foundation to applying technology into our operations more effectively.

I was once told that "we can't live in the past and expect to remain ahead of the curve." I will argue that fundamentals of patrolling (planning, reconnaissance, security, control, and common sense) and basic Soldier skills (shoot, move, communicate, self-medicate, battle drills, and physical training, etc...) haven't changed in years for a reason. They are the basics, the foundation of everything we do. They assist us in

understanding technology and how to better use it.

Let us look at Special Operation Units and the Army's 75th Ranger Regiment. What makes these units the best units in the world? They train on the basics everyday so that it becomes instinct. True, they have all the best weapons, equipment, and support in the world, but they still train the basics. They understand that training the basics is the foundation of everything they do. This is why they are the best at what they do.

Here are just a few of the observations I have garnered over the years and why I have come to this conclusion. Dismounted patrols go out with one person carrying a map, but every leader has a Global Positioning System (GPS). I am not saying that GPSs shouldn't be used or one should be replaced by the other. The GPS is a great tool; I have one and use it, but you need the basic skills of map reading, using a compass, and understanding terrain and its implications to be better at navigation. These basic skills make you better at using and understanding a GPS.

This is also true for mounted operations. Mounted patrols going out on patrol navigating using their Blue Force Tracker (BFT) and not following along

with an actual printed map. What happens when technology fails or you have to get out of your vehicle?

Patrols take the same route into and out of objectives. They are too confident in their Mine Resistance Ambush Protective (MRAP) vehicles and Counter Radio Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare Systems (CREW). We cannot forget the basic fundamentals of patrolling. What happened to planning for primary and alternate routes into and out of objectives? I have observed units drive into an area and take the same route out with catastrophic results. I observed a Battalion Tactical Operations Center in Command and Control of a very important mission and they only communicated with the unit by texting on BFT throughout the entire mission. It slowed down the mission so much that it took over 45 minutes of back and forth texting to get the unit to mark a building with a chemlight. This is just one example of many during this one mission. What happened to talking to each other? Technologies should be a force multiplier and not hamper operations or slow you down.

Another area that empha~

Continued on Page 32

4-17 Activation

Mrs. Gardner and Mrs. Rebeck



Mr. and Mrs. Maximo Moore



4-17 "LIGHTFIGHTER" Mannequin for the 4-17 HQS



LTC Maximo Moore, Donald Shook, and Colonel Matt Lissner.



Ranger Kibler hands out 17th Infantry Crests to men of HHC 4-17



Colonel Steve Gardner and Tom Nightingale
CSM Edison Rebusk and his lovely daughter

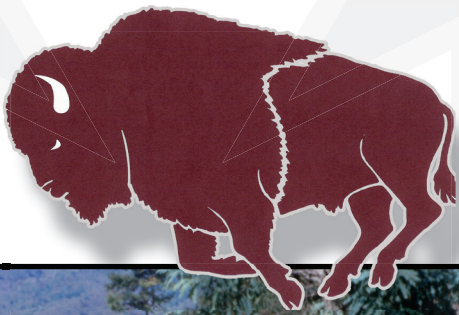


LTC Moore and CSM Rebusk with the 4th Battalion colors minutes after uncasing them.



President Bruce Frazer and Vice
President Bob Connelly

4-17 Activation



Members of Dog Company 1951



Donald Shook presents LTC Moore, CSM Rebeck, and the men of 4-17 a bronze buffalo from the 17th Infantry Association



Alpha 1-17 "ATTU COMPANY" Change of Command: Ft Lewis, Washington

A picture of Association Member / Board Member, Guy Daines at the National Infantry Museum with a Museum Representative. See story on page 28.



Colonel Matt Lissner and CSM Chance Brooks attach the Battle Streamer for Operation Just Cause to the 4-17 Colors during the streamer ceremony at Ft Bliss, TX in January. LTC Maximo Moore (Buffalo 6) and CSM Edison Rebuck (Buffalo 7) assist.



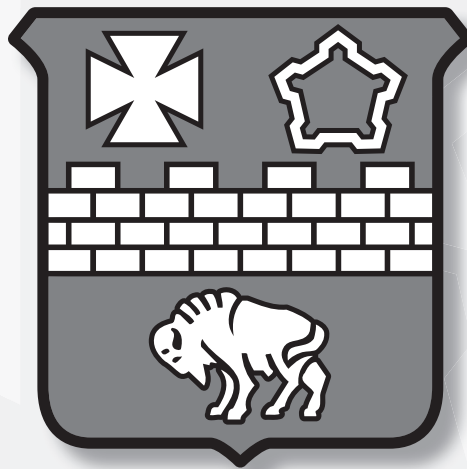
"Buffalo Blade"

The 17th Infantry Regiment now has an official fighting knife!

The Association has teamed up with the Ek Commando Knife Company for some high quality, battle-tested combat knives for official presentations such as Soldier and NCO of the year. These will also be available to Members of the Association for purchase. What a great functional item to show your pride in serving with the Regiment.

Ek Commando Knives, famous since 1941, have been battle proven in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq. They are proud to be the living link continuing the tradition that dates back to the days of John Ek, himself, in 1941.

Much thanks goes to CSM Green for spearheading the efforts to get these produced for the Association and it's members. These are made with the



Infantryman in mind as the guard and X-Head Fasteners are solid brass. Note the wide "gripping grooves" on the Micarta grips. Contact Bob Buerlin for ordering (make sure you mention the 17th for the discount.)

Knife (as shown) \$349
Optional Display Case: \$59
Free Shipping for Association Members (APO and CONUS)

Bob Buerlein
Ek Commando Knife Co.
(804) 257-7144
www.EkKnife.com
HQ@EkKnife.com



CSM Timothy Green presents SGT Mark Goodwin (C 1-17) and SGT Anthony Roney (A 1-17) a "Buffalo Ek Fighting Knife" at Camp Frontenac, Afghanistan for their selection as the 2008, 1-17 NCO and Soldier of the year. "Truth and Courage!"



THE REST OF THE STORY

At the 2010 Reunion of the 17th Infantry Regiment Association in Columbus, GA, one of the highlights for me was the scheduled tour of the new National Infantry Museum. I was looking forward to this event, especially after watching video on the internet and reading several articles in the Army Times concerning the museum while it was under construction. My interest was also very high having spent 20 years of service as an Infantry Officer and being fascinated by military history.

Upon arriving at the National Infantry Museum, our first stop was a tour of the World War II wooden barracks area. That really brought back memories because, as a Com-

pany Commander, my company area looked exactly the same. We then moved to the main building of the museum for lunch and a guided tour. After lunch we were divided into small groups and began our tour of the various exhibits. Having spent two tours of duty in Vietnam, I was looking forward to reaching the Vietnam War exhibits and especially seeing what was there related to our advisory effort, since a portion of both tours was spent as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army.

The exhibit on the advisory effort in Vietnam consisted of a mannequin dressed as an advisor, pictures and written historical information. After the tour guide finished his

explanation and our group began moving to the next exhibit, I moved forward for a closer look at the display. As I turned and walked away it suddenly struck me that one of the pictures looked very familiar. I immediately went back for a closer look, and sure enough, one of the pictures was of me with a group of montagnards. The picture did not identify me or the montagnards and stated, "American soldiers participated in South Vietnamese Government Programs to protect mountain tribesman such as these from being preyed upon by communist forces as a part of U.S. advisory training and support effort."

After staring at the picture for a few minutes, the next group showed up so I told their guide about my being in the picture. He immediately called someone on his cell phone and that started a chain reaction of events that almost caused my wife and me to miss the last bus going back to the hotel. Shortly after the call a photographer showed up along with a representative of the museum to take pictures and to gather the entire story behind the picture. When I got home after the reunion I looked through my personal records and sent the National Infantry Museum all the information

~ Continued on Page 30



HONORARY COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

HCOR's

Spot Report #5

Buffaloes,

2011 is off to a great start. The Activation of 4-17 Infantry at Fort Bliss in January was a tremendous event. The Battalion went above and beyond in hosting the veteran buffaloes with a social event, an activation ceremony, another social event, a streamer ceremony, and a final social event. We also got to see some of the new soldiers and a bit of training being conducted. It was truly an outstanding operation and to see the 4-17 colors unfurled again after over 17 years was very rewarding.

On a sadder note, Cathy and I attended the memorial service for CPL Scherf at Joint Base Lewis McCord in March. Jon and Kim Neumann, and Tim and Donna Davis attended, LTC Neumann and several others spoke about the former Buffalo. The Chapel was full to capacity and the ceremony was

very professional and extremely well executed. Over 40 of CPL Scherf's family members attended. I briefly spoke to CPL Scherf's father after the ceremony, who was very appreciative of the Association's presence, and his words to me were "Once a Buffalo, Always a Buffalo." Even though CPL Scherf had been gone from the Buffaloes for over a year, his family still associated him with 1-17 and his fellow Buffaloes.

Our Association's support of Two Active Duty Battalions will challenge us and require additional resources. This will necessitate all of us continuing our strong support of the soldiers in uniform protecting our freedom.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year's Reunion!

Buffalo!

Truth & Courage

Steve Gardner



ASSOCIATION SERVICE OFFICER

SERVICE OFFICER

The House Budget Committee has told veterans' groups it is studying a plan to save \$6 billion annually in VA health care costs by canceling enrollment of any veteran who doesn't have a service-related medical condition and is not poor.

The Committee is searching for ways to curb federal deficits and rein in galloping VA costs, and are targeting 1.3 million veterans who claim priority group 7 or 8 status and have access to VA care. Priority group 8 veterans have no service-connected disabilities and annual incomes, or net worth, that exceed VA means-test thresholds and VA "geographic income" thresholds, which are set by family size.

Priority Group 7 veterans also have no service-connected

~ Continued on Page 31

I found, including an article from the New York Times. Since many of you became aware of my finding the picture in the exhibit, I thought you also might be interested in the rest of the story.

During my first tour of duty in Vietnam, I was a 1st Lt. assigned as Senior Advisor to the 2nd Battalion, 44th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). The battalion had been operating from a patrol base called Zulu in the mountainous jungles of the Central Highlands as part of Operation An Lac, a long term operation with the basic mission of ending Communist control of the montagnards in the Krong Kno River valley by locating, rescuing and securing villagers that had been captured and used for forced labor by the Viet Cong for well over a year. Through the interrogation of a young captured Viet Cong, we found the location of a hidden village that was under the control of and being guarded by a Viet Cong unit. The 2nd Battalion, 44th Regiment was assigned the mission of finding the village and rescuing the villagers. In addition to the battalion's 2nd and 3rd Companies, a company from 1st Battalion, 44th Regiment and the 412th Montagnard Scout Company were at-

tached for the operation. Prior to beginning the operation, David Halberstam, New York Times and Horst Faas, Associated Press, arrived by helicopter to accompany the battalion on the rescue mission.

The battalion began the operation on November 4, 1962, accompanied by the Viet Cong prisoner acting as a guide, the reporter and photographer documenting everything for the New York Times, and myself, the battalion Senior Advisor. The battalion crossed the Krong Kno River using assault boats then continued south through the hilly jungle terrain, stopping for the evening meal at 1700 hours. After eating, the battalion moved into three separate assembly areas and set up night defensive positions. On November 5th, with two companies in blocking positions, the remaining two companies conducted a sweep to locate the hidden village. By late morning the 2nd Company found the hidden village after the Viet Cong guards withdrew without a fight. The montagnards said they came from a village located on the north bank of the Krong Kno River and had been captured by the Viet Cong and moved south over a year ago. They had been forced to build a new village and work in the fields everyday growing food for the Viet

Cong. For over a year the villagers had been guarded by a Viet Cong platoon. The 2nd Company and 412th Montagnard Scout Company escorted the 105 montagnards from the Mnong Gar tribe back to Patrol Base Zulu the same evening. Included in the 105 were the men, women and children of 27 families plus chickens, dogs and home-made cookware. The montagnards were moved into two bamboo shelters previously set up by the battalion and bedded down for the night. The next day I was at the shelters checking on the issue of rations, medical care and security for the montagnards when Horst Faas took the picture now located at the National Infantry Museum.

The rescue of the montagnards created quite a stir and resulted in an article and the picture in the New York Times and also a visit by General Harkins, the MACV Commander, on November 7, 1962. Since then I have seen my picture in several articles on Vietnam and the pictures taken by Horst Faas during the operation, in various histories of the Vietnam War. Both he and David Halberstam were later awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their work in Vietnam.

After this operation, the battalion continued its mission

bringing in more montagnards, patrolling, and building villages. In December 1962 the operation was augmented by a Special Forces A Team that armed, trained and equipped the villagers to defend themselves. During this time, I spent the first month sleeping in a hammock covered by a poncho next to a foxhole and the next five months living with the Vietnamese Battalion Commander in a small grass hut surrounded by sandbags next to the Battalion Tactical Operations Center. When not on combat operations we bathed and washed our clothes in the Krong Kno River, used the river for all our drinking water and ate Vietnamese food with the battalion staff three times a day. As you can see the picture brought back many memories of another time and place.

As Paul Harvey used to say, "Now you to know the rest of the story."

Guy Daines



~ Continued from Page 29

disabilities and their incomes are above the means-test thresholds, but their incomes or net worth fall below the geographic index. In other words, because of where they live, in high cost areas, they likely struggle financially. The VA now charges these vets a modest co-payment for their care. Also, the VA would bill these veterans' private health insurance plans for the cost of their VA care.

Co-payments collected from low-priority veterans and private insurance plan billings today cover only 18 percent of the cost of care for group 7 and 8 veterans. By 2009, the annual net cost to the VA to treat these veterans totaled \$44 billion or 11 percent of the VA's annual medical appropriation.

Until the mid-1990s, the VA had denied health care to priority 7 and 8 veterans. Congress enacted the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996. The law directed the VA to build many more clinics across the country. To ensure enough patients to fill these clinics, the VA secretary was given authority to expand care eligibility.

The ban on group 7 and 8 veterans was ended by 1999. Over the next three years,

their enrollment climbed to 30 percent of total enrollees. By 2003, then-VA Secretary Anthony Principi stopped allowing any more group 8 enrollments, saying their numbers strained the system for higher priority veterans, including wounded returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Group 8 and 7 veterans using VA care pay \$15 per outpatient visit and a little more for specialty care. Inpatient fees also are modest. The most popular benefit for many enrollees is discounted prescription drugs. The co-pay usually is \$8 for a 30-day supply. While deficit hawks weigh this issue, the VA still is enrolling new group 8 veterans who fall below its income thresholds.

Those without dependents and living outside high-cost areas, for example, must have income below a means test threshold of \$32,342. More information on group 8 enrollment is online at

www.va.gov/healtheligibility

or call (877) 222-VETS (8387)

Bob Petzold
Association Service Officer

352 548 4906

easy17@gator.net

~ Continued from Page 22

sizes technology, at the expense of basics is Intelligence collection platforms. We rely heavily on SIGINT and full motion video platforms for collection of intelligence and atmospheric on a village. This technology and its analysts are an asset and a force multiplier. However, we should not forget that, in any fight, the best intelligence can also come from other means, specifically our Soldiers' interacting with the local populace. A SIGINT platform or UAV can't build relationships with the villages in your area of operation.

We have become so accustomed to working out of a Forward Operation Base (FOB) instead of tactical patrol bases that we have forgotten basic field craft skills; 24/7 security, living off of what we carry, camouflage, etc. What happened to those hard Soldiers who would operate out of a patrol base and live noise and light discipline, mindful of security 24 hours a day? I believe that we have lived on the FOB so long that we've become complacent about mastering these foundational, basic Soldier skills which is reflected in our operations outside the wire and leads to greater risk to mission accomplishment...no matter how much technology is at our disposal.

As someone that has spent 20 years on active duty, I care deeply about our Soldiers and our Military. The United States Military is the best it has ever been, but it still has room to improve. We have matured as a Military since 9/11 to the point that we do not need catch phrases, especially ones that have lost their real meaning. Our Soldiers and leaders are adaptive and technologically proficient and have the best equipment and technology, but we must not lose sight of the fact that technology is a tool to assist us in accomplishing our mission, and that mastering the basics is the foundation to effectively applying technology into our operations. We must continue to foster adaptive thinking in our leaders and subordinates and adopt technology, it's not thinking "outside the box"; it's doing what makes sense, while remembering what is "inside the box."



Charles Elliott MSG, Retired (US Army)

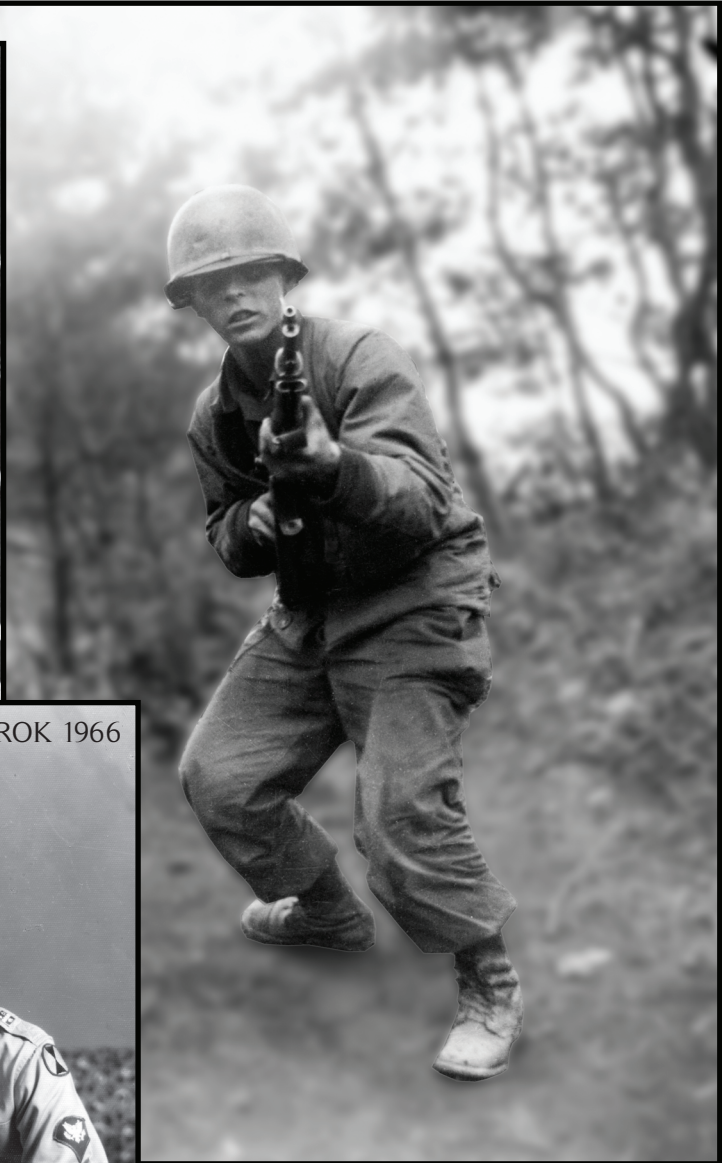
Bio: Mr. Elliott was born in Coral Gables, Florida on April 16, 1966. He entered the Army in December 1984 and attended basic training and Advance Individual Training at Ft. Benning, Georgia. He served 20 years of active duty serving in 7th Infantry Division (4-17 Infantry), 3rd Ranger Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, 4th Ranger Training Battalion as an Instructor, and 1st Special Forces Operations Detachment-Delta. Mr. Elliott served multiple tours in combat in multiple countries, including Somalia (Task Force Ranger), Afghanistan, and Iraq.

His Awards and Decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguished Device "V"; Bronze Star Medal (3rd Award); Meritorious Service Medal; Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguished Device "V"; Army Commendation Medal (7th Award); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal (6th Award); He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and Infantryman Badge; He also earned the Royal Danish Parachutist Badge; British Parachutist Badge; and Royal Thai Army Airborne Wings.

~ Continued on Page 34

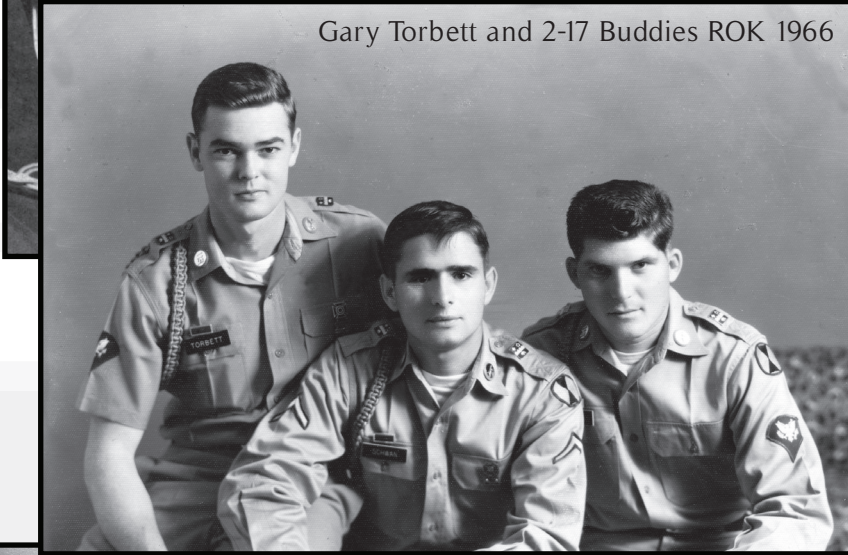
17TH INFANTRY PHOTOGRAPHS

CPT Benjamin Franklin Hardaway
MOH Awardee 1898. Picture taken of 17th
Infantry Officers in 1906.

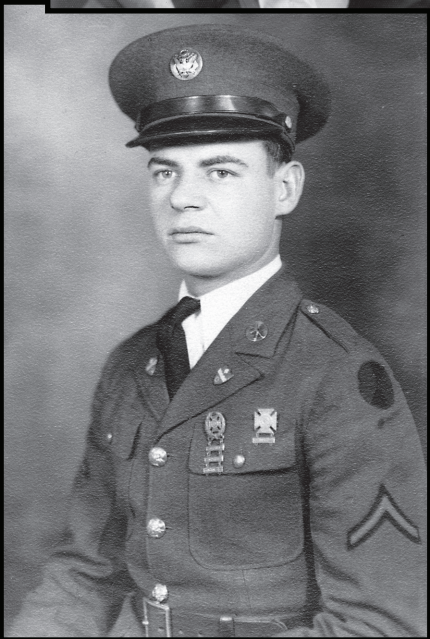


Gil Isham shown in 1951 while serving with Easy Company, 17th Infantry Regiment

Gary Torbett and 2-17 Buddies ROK 1966



4-17 Commanders from Operation Just Cause (L-R) CPT Mike Beech, LTC
Johnny Brooks, CPT Chris Rizzo, CPT Mick Hauser, and CPT Doug Thorp



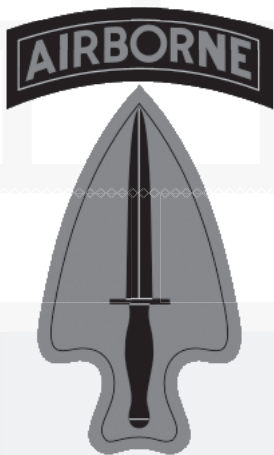
Private with 17th Infantry Regiment
Circa 1937 / Ft Crook, Nebraska

~ Continued from Page 32

He is Ranger, Master Parachutist, Military Free Fall Parachutist, Combat Diver Qualified, and Air Assault qualified.

Mr. Elliott is the CEO of Security-Tactical Consultants LLC. He is also the owner of two restaurant franchises, “Shane’s Rib Shack” in Georgia.

Mr. Elliott’s family resides in Baltimore, Md. He is married to the former Myra E. Bell. They have two sons, Justin and Charles Jr. Justin is currently assigned to 1/82 BCT at Ft. Bragg, NC.



BUFFALO “WHO’S WHO”

**Charles Alvin Beckwith
“Chargin’ Charlie”
(Jan. 22, 1929 – June 13, 1994)**

Known as Chargin’ Charlie, Charles Beckwith was a career United States Army officer and Vietnam veteran who at-

tained the rank of Colonel. He is credited with the creation of Delta Force, a special operations unit of the U.S. Army.

After the Korean War was over (1953-1954,) then 2LT Beckwith, served as a Platoon Leader for Charlie Company (1st Battalion) 17th Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea.

In 1955, Beckwith joined the 82nd Airborne Division as a commander of a support company in the 504th Infantry Regiment. Two years later, after also having completed Ranger School, Beckwith transferred to the Army Special Forces, and in 1960 was deployed to South Vietnam and Laos as a military advisor.

Beckwith served as an exchange officer in the British Special Air Service (22 SAS Regiment) in 1962, where he picked up many of their capabilities. He served in wartime guerilla operations with the SAS during the Malayan Emergency. In the jungle, he contracted leptospirosis that was so bad doctors expected him not to survive, but he made a full recovery within months.

Upon his return from England, Beckwith presented a detailed report outlining the Army’s vulnerability in not having an SAS direct action-type unit. For several years, Beckwith (who then was a Captain) submitted and re-submitted the report to Army brass, only to be repeatedly



Charlie Beckwith during his time with 1-17 in the Republic of Korea

thwarted in his efforts. SF leadership at the time thought that they had enough on their hands and didn't need the bother of creating a completely new unit.

Meanwhile, as the 7th Special Forces Group's operations officer, Beckwith went to work revolutionizing Green Beret training. SF at the time focused on unconventional warfare, and especially foreign internal defense; i.e., training indigenous personnel in resistance activities. But Beckwith recognized that, "Before a Special Forces Green Beret soldier could become a good unconventional soldier, he'd first have to be a good conventional one. Because I had commanded rifle and weapons companies, I was appalled on arriving in Special Forces to find officers who had never commanded conventional units." Beckwith restructured 7th's training, basically rewriting the book on American special ops training from the real-world lessons he had learned with the SAS. Beckwith also had learned that a symbol of excellence, such as a beret, had to be earned. Officers were being assigned to Special Forces straight out of war college with no prior special ops experience and were given their Green Beret on arrival. The hard-nosed and practical training standards that Beckwith instituted would lend themselves to the birth of the

modern Q-Course.

In Vietnam, Beckwith commanded a Special Forces unit code-named Project DELTA. He was critically wounded in early 1966 (he took a .50 caliber bullet through his abdomen), and medical personnel initially triaged him as beyond help. After recovery, he took over the Florida Phase of the US Army's Ranger School, transforming it from a scripted exercise based upon the Army's World War II experience into a Vietnam-oriented training regimen.

In 1968, LTC Beckwith returned to Vietnam, taking command of the 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry (Airborne), 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. For the nine months that he commanded the 2/327 ("No Slack"), they saw many successes in combat operations, including: Hue, Operation Mingo, Operation Jeb Stuart, Operation Nevada Eagle (clearing the Hue-Phu Bai area), and Somerset Plain (sweeping the southern portion of the A Shau Valley). The toughest job the battalion had was clearing a seven kilometer stretch along Route 547, running west of Hue; eventually defeating the determined NVA defenders so that Fire Support Base Bastogne could be established. After Vietnam,

Beckwith was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina where he commanded training operations.

Although Beckwith had presented proposals throughout the 60s for a superbly elite, highly autonomous direct-action unit, the idea had sat on the shelf for a decade. Finally, in the mid-70s, as the threat of international terrorism became imminent, Beckwith was tapped to form his unit. Delta Force was founded in November 1977 as a counter-terrorist unit whose main mission is in hostage rescue, covert operations, and specialized reconnaissance. Its first mission (the aforementioned Operation Eagle Claw) was aborted due to aviation failures which led to several deaths. After the "debacle in the desert" the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment was formed to provide transport for Delta Force and other special operations units. JSOC was also formed, directly based on Beckwith's recommendations during Senate investigations into the mission's failure.





Editor's Rant

Greetings Buffalo! It's been a busy six months since our last Buffalo Bugle and I hope that all is well. I was honored to make the trip down to El Paso in January to witness the 4-17 Infantry's "rebirth" and I was very impressed with LTC Maximo Moore, CSM Edison Rebeck, Officers, NCOs, and

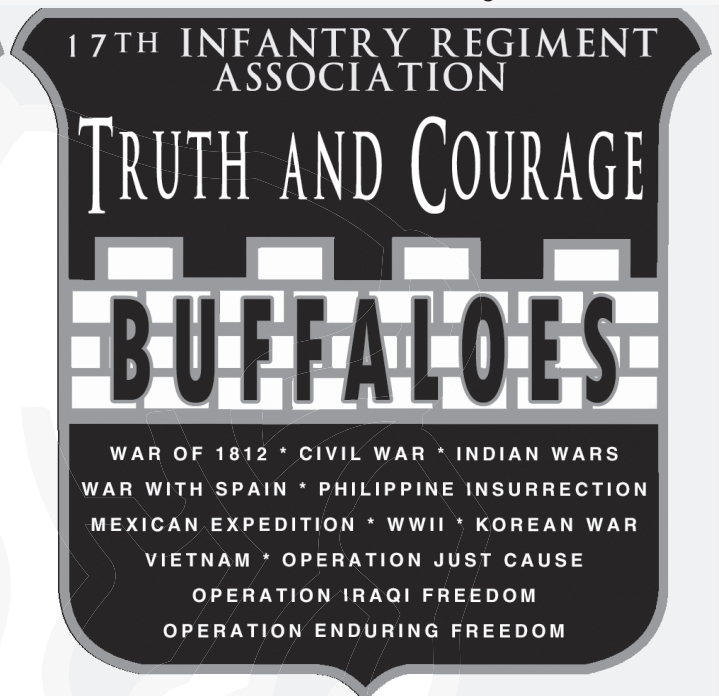
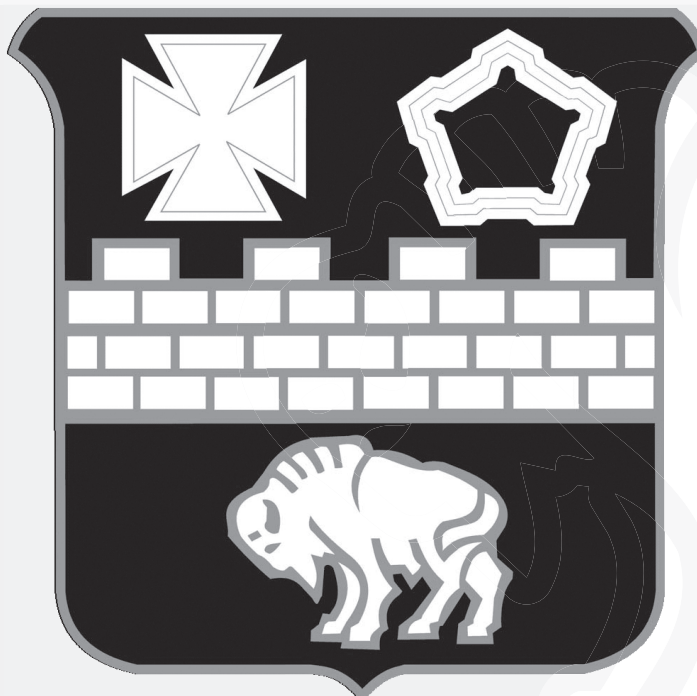
the Men of the 4th Battalion. They're highly motivated, physically fit, and anxious to get all of their equipment, as they'll be building the battalion for several more months. To spend so much time with the Officers and NCOs was a real privilege and we did just that for the three days that we were in Texas. It was my first trip to Ft. Bliss and I welcomed the break from the Pittsburgh winter. The Army has changed a lot since I served back in the 80s and 90s, but I've said it before, and I'll say it again, these men who serve with 4-17 as well as 1-17 are the next "Greatest Generation!"

The Oklahoma City Reunion is fast approaching so please send your forms in to Steve Goodwin so they can get an accurate count on how many

people will be in attendance. As always, Gay Frazer and crew will do everything possible to make this a successful reunion. Gay also wanted me to mention that anyone entering Tinker Airforce Base must be a US Citizen and everyone will need a current photo identification to enter the base. If you have any other questions, please contact Gay or Bruce Frazer via their contact information on page 11 of this publication.

Unfortunately I've been extremely busy and I haven't had time to get quotes for a new coin, but that will be done in the near future. Please let us know what you think about my proposed design. Many of the Officers and Board Members liked it, but I'd like to see what the general mem-

~ Continued on Page 38



New proposed Association challenge coin. Size will be approximately 2 1/2" X 2 1/4" and will be epoxy filled as our current coin is. Coin will also be in color with the same blue as is used in the current Regimental crest.



SFC Chris Kibbler (USA RET) Demonstrates his "Trunk Monkey" skills at the 4-17 Activation. SFC Kibbler was the last 4-17 Scout Platoon Sergeant at Ft Ord, CA in 1993 and currently teaches at the US Army SERE School

~ Continued from Page 36

bership thinks. Feel free to contact me with your comments and or concerns.

Association Member Doug Bell and I put together a 4-17 Lightfighter mannequin for the new 4-17 soldiers at Ft Bliss. This life size display has it all, ragtop kevlar, LBE, M-9 Bayonet, Jungle Boots, not to mention small details like dog tags, gloves, 30 round magazines, flashlight, protective mask, etc. LTC Moore and CSM Rebuck are currently having display cases made for the mannequin and for all the 4-17 memorabilia from Operation Just Cause, etc. I'll hopefully be able to post pictures in the next Bugle (The mannequin can be seen on page 23 of this publication). We plan on eventually adding other uniform displays for WWII, Korean War, and the Cold War.

I'm also working at getting Buffalo Bill Quinn's scrapbook back to the 1st Battalion at Ft Lewis. I've had it for well over a year now and I've digitally scanned all the photos and news articles, now I need to get it all put in a new, acid free scrapbook. I'm also planning on putting together a publication with all the material along with other "Buffalo Bill" memorabilia and pictures. Hopefully after I get the book back to 1-17, I'll be able to accomplish this goal.

There are still many positions open in the Association to include Web Master, Secretary, and other jobs. There's much work to do so I encourage many of you to volunteer some of your services if possible. Networking with other 17th Infantry veterans is also important, as the Association not only support the current soldiers serving with 1-17 and 4-17, but it also keeps an historic account of our past and promotes brotherhood among 17th Infantry veterans. Members should always promote the Association to fellow veterans, and if you know someone who's not a member, let me know and I'll send them a newsletter (if they haven't already been sent one.) This is "OUR" Association and we should all be proud of what it stands for.

Company and Battalion Designations From the Korean War (circa 1951)

RED BUFFALO 1st BN
Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog

WHITE BUFFALO 2nd BN
Easy, Fox, George, How

BLUE BUFFALO 3rd BN
Item, King, Love, Mike

Each Battalion had 4 different companies, hence all the different company designations. Example, if you were in Easy Company, you were with the 2nd Battalion.

God Bless ...

Donald E Shook Jr.

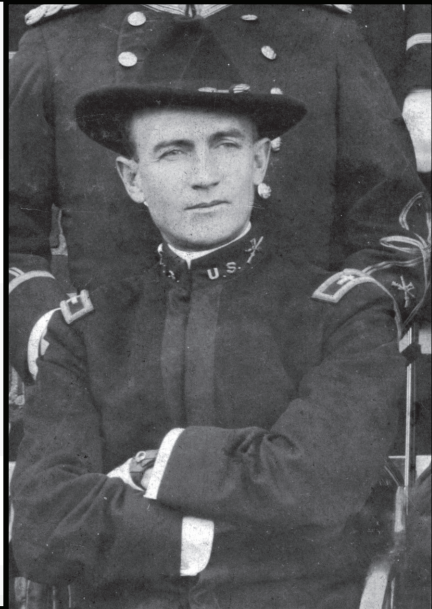
"Faith alone - in Christ Alone"



The late Carlton "Tom" McKinney and me at the 2009 reunion in San Antonio Texas. I've been fortunate to spend time with many men and women like Tom .. none of them can be replaced.



17th Infantry Chaplain 1906



17th Infantry Recon Troops Circa 1958



Infantrymen of Alpha 4-17 during Operation Just Cause / Invasion of Panama 1989-1990



Col Richard D VanOrsdale 1906

William W. Quinn Scholarship Foundation Application



The 17th Infantry Regiment Association annually awards four \$500.00 scholarships to academically qualified applicants of children or grandchildren of association members in good standing for at least two years. Please fill out this form and be sure to follow **all** instructions and criteria listed below for scholarship consideration. Award winners will be notified by 1 November of the application year.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION and GOOD LUCK

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

MEMBER'S NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU: _____

Please include the following: A copy of your last year's report card (Please note your current cumulative G.P.A.) Also include a short essay giving us a brief history of your background, academic goals and your sponsor's (family member) history while serving with the 17th Infantry Regiment. Lastly, please include a current photograph of yourself.

Forward your application, report card, essay, and photograph to:

Mr. Steven Goodwin
Scholarship Chairman & Treasurer
17th Infantry Regiment Association
3916 Forest Avenue
Western Springs, IL 60558

NEW ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

UPGRADED TO LIFE

Jack W. Birkner

C 1-17 Officer 1953 Korean War

Louis Guillaud

1984-88 HHC 4-17 Infantry

Bruce Borup

1986-90 17th Arctic Light

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

CPT Brain D. Hartman

Active Duty Officer 4-17 SBCT

SFC Anthony Dimico

Active Duty NCO 1-17 SBCT

Randy Sibley

4-17 Scout 1988-90 Panama Invasion (Shown Below)



Michael Maurer

A 4-17 1984-1988

Christopher Matton

HHC 4-17 1984-1988

RJ Uebersezig Jr.

C 4-17 1988-91 Panama Invasion

Frances Margaret Solomon

Granddaughter of Paul Duke

David R. Willcox

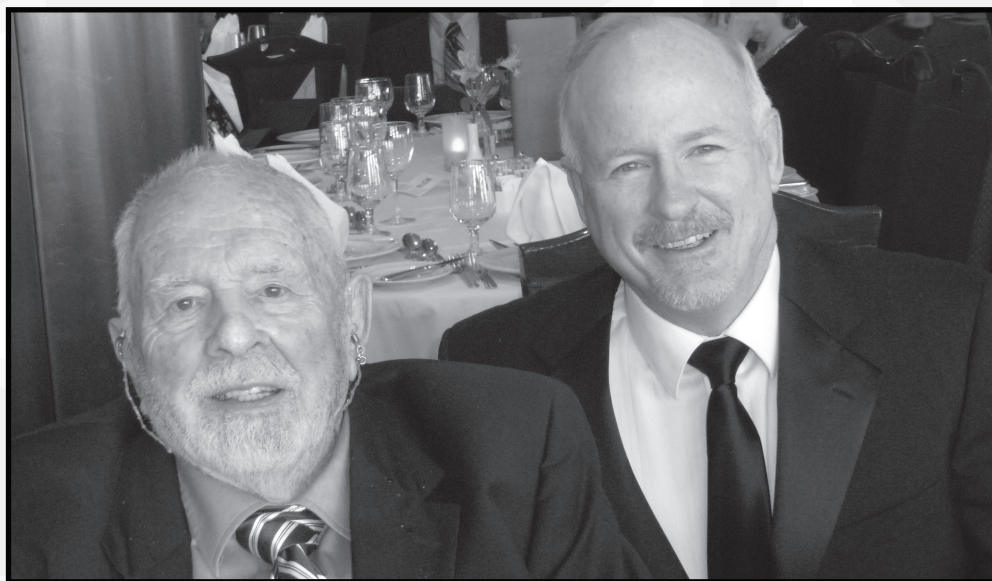
A 1-17 Officer 1953 Korean War

Tracy Finney

HHC 4-17 Mortars 1990-93

Richard D. VanOrsdale

Great Grandson of Colonel VanOrsdale, Regimental Commander (See Page 39)

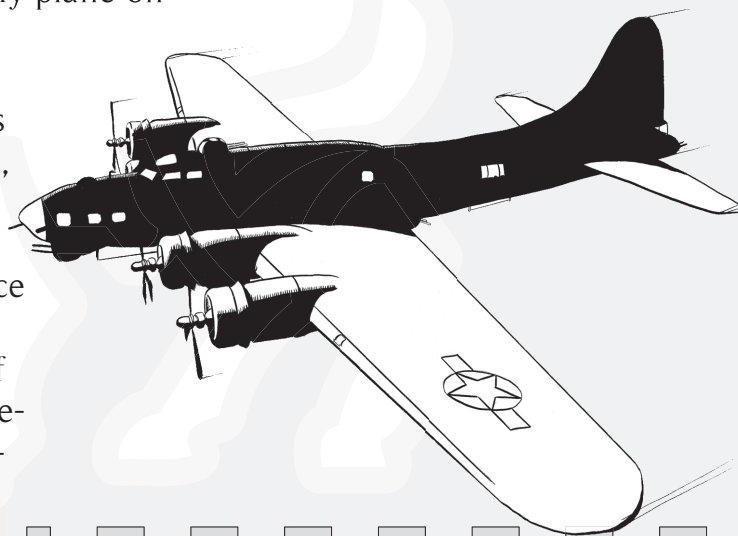


Last week, I had the privilege to meet and talk to a 90-year-old WWII veteran of the Army Air Corps. Burton K. Davis served in combat from 1943 to 1945 in Europe as a bombardier on a B-17 Bomber. He flew 30 missions over France and Germany with the majority of them over Berlin. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and left the service as a Major after the war ended in 1945. He remembers his toughest mission on 31 December 1943 over Germany. It was an extremely long-range mission, deep into Germany, and his B-17 was the only plane on that mission to return to England. All others were shot down, ran out of fuel and ditched, or crashed in France and Germany. Burton is one of those humble heroes who volun-

teered to defend our freedom when the Nation called. I encourage all of you to go out of your way to thank these brave service men and women of what has been called our "Greatest Generation". I was honored to present him with a 17th Regiment Association Buffalo Coin in appreciation and respect for his service.

Buffalo!
Truth and Courage

Steve Gardner
Honorary Colonel of the Regiment



BUFFALO BIO



Colonel William DeGraf
2-17 Commanding Officer: 1966-1967



Some Thoughts on the 2/17th Infantry

I took command of the 2/17 Inf in July 1967 at a very interesting time for the Army. The war in Vietnam was expanding rapidly, while the Army had few resources to send there. As a result many of the units in other areas were not staffed to their

authorized status.

That was the case for the 2/17, particularly in officer strength. We were authorized 32 officers. When I took over, we had 17. There were neither of the two majors authorized. We had one captain at the time – the medical officer. There were a couple of ILTs. All the rest were 2LTs.

My date of rank was before any Lt was commissioned. None had ever served in a unit before. Two were recent West Point graduates, whom I made company COs.

I had a great CSM, who acted as my XO whenever possible. My S3, normally a MAJ, was an AG Lt. My S-2 was a SGT, who did a fine job. S-1 and S-4 were LTs. The Maintenance Officer was an experienced WO.

The platoon leaders were young draftees, mostly of whom had some college before being drafted. Any soldier showing leadership ability was moved into squad and later platoon leader positions. They did a fine job considering their lack of experience.

You should remember that the unit was a mech. Battalion, which was to be the Corps reserve in case of emergency. Even with that requirement, we rarely reached 75% of authorized strength.

Despite the lack of experience and personnel, the Battalion performed well in the field, including a three day field exercise I called in the middle of a very cold Korean winter. They quickly learned how to take care of themselves and their troops in terrible weather.

One interesting event for the Battalion. was the hosting of the Eighth Army Rifle matches. Though no one, other than I, had ever been in a rifle match, the men did a great job and the unit was commended for the effort by Eighth Army.

The unit was stationed at Camp Kaiser as part of the 7th ID. Its sister Battalion. 1/17 Inf was there also. In fact the Officers Mess was a joint affair, with the two Battalion staffs eating at the same table. There was a lot of friendly rivalry between

the units, but there was a lot of cooperation and help. We were lucky to have a fine CO in the sister Battalion.

We were fortunate to have "Doughnut Dollies" and Red Cross girls on the post to provide some recreation and diversion for the troops. We had a fine New Years party for everyone, even importing some of the Korean girls from Seoul to dance with them.

There were very few disciplinary problems in my time there. The men worked hard and took pride in their accomplishments, never losing sight of the potential for an attack by the North at any time. I was proud and sad to turn over the Battalion to a new CO in January 1967, to become the Division G3. It was an interesting and challenging six months.

Military History

JROTC, San Francisco, CA 1939-1943. Commanded the citywide brigade in 1943.

Enlisted US Army July 1943 in ASTRP.

Joined Co. A, 397th Inf., 100th ID and shipped to France in Oct. 1944.

Received Battlefield Commission on 17 January, 1945, seven days after my 19th birthday, the youngest Battlefield Commission in WWII, according to NOBC.

Was transferred to Co. F, 143rd Inf, 36th ID until wounded in March 1945

Attended USMA Prep at Amherst College September 1945 to March 1946.

Cadet USMA 1946 - 1950. Commanded 1st Regt 1st Class year. Was honor graduate in 1950.

Joined Co. M, 21st Inf, 24th ID in Korea: August 1950.

Assigned G3 Section, IX Corps in Korea February 1951

Assigned Leaders Course, 7th AD at Camp Roberts, CA July 1951

Attended Purdue Univ August 1953 - July 1954. MS in Nuclear Physics.

Instructor, Electricity Dept., USMA September 1954 - August 1957. Also OIC of Cadet Rifle Team.

Attended Armor Advanced Course, Ft. Know, KY September 1957 - August 1958.

S3, 1/48 Inf September 1958 - August 1959.

G3 Training Section, HQ 7th Army September 1959 - July 1961.

Student C&GSC, Ft. Leavenworth, KS September 1961 - June 1962

Strategic Plans Officer, War Plans, ODCOPS, HQDA July 1962 - August 1965.

Student, USAWC, Carlisle Barracks, PA September 1965 - June 1966.

CO 2/17 Inf, 7th ID, Korea July 1966 - January. 1967.

G3, 7th ID, February. 1967 - July 1967.

Staff Officer, Systems Analysis, OSD. August 1967 - July 1969.

CO 1st Bde, 11D, Vietnam August 1967 - February. 1968.

CO 7th Arvn Div. Advisory Team March 1970 - August 1970

S&F, NWC, Ft. McNair, DC September 1970 - May 1972

NSC Staff June 1972 - March 1974

Special Asst to DDR&E March 1974 - August 1974

Retired August 1974 to join SAIC in McLean, VA. Headed Training Systems and Analysis Division and developed the NTC at Ft. Irwin, CA. Retired from SAIC in November 1987.

Military Awards

Some of Colonel DeGraf's awards include:

The Combat Infantryman's Badge (**3 Awards**)

European Theater (WWII) **w/3 battle stars**

Korean War Medal **w/5 battle stars**

Vietnam War medal **w/5 battle stars**

Legion of Merit w/2 OLC

Distinguished Flying Cross

Bronze Star w/7 OLC & "V" Device

Purple Heart

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Medal w/14 OLC & "V" Device

Army Commendation Medal w/2 OLC

American Campaign (WWII)

WWII Victory Medal

Army of Occupation - Germany

National Defense Medal w/OLC

Korean Defense Service Medal

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Presidential Unit Citation

Korean Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit w/palm

Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation w/palm

RVN Gallantry Cross w/silver star

RVN Gallantry Cross w/gold star

RVN Gallantry Cross w/palm

OSD Identification Badge

General Staff Identification Badge



CPL ROGER SCHERF
Charlie "Crusher" 1-17
Afghanistan 2009-2010
Died 20 March 2011
Saginaw, Mich



SSG TRAVIS TOMPKINS
Son of Leland Tompkins (RL)
Logar Province Afghanistan
KIA 16 March 2011
Ft Sill, OK

LAURA WITTLER (LL)
Widow of Col Jake Wittler
Died May 5th, 2010
Union City, CA

LANE B. FARRELL (RL)
K Company Medic 1951-52
Died February 20th, 2011
Latham, NY

TAPS



**CARLTON "TOM"
MCKINNEY (RL)**
D Company
Korean War 1950-1951
Died April 2nd, 2011
Herkimer, NY

SP4 CODY MOORE
Son of David Moore (RL)
Afghanistan 2008-2009
Died August 2010
Ft Hood, TX

MARDELLE INGMAN
Wife of MOH Einer Ingman
Died 16 April 2011
Irma, WI

EUGENE ZIMMERMAN (RL)
H Company, 17th Infantry
Korean War 1951
Died December 2010
Delaware, OH



NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED

Robert K. Young
B 1-17 1950-1951 Korean War

CSM Chance Brooks
C 4-17 1988-91 Panama Invasion
(Shown Below)



NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Steven Beckman
C 1-17 Officer 2011 Afghanistan

Kenneth S. McWilliams
Active Duty 4-17 SBCT

Ronald M. Flanagan
B 4-17 NCO 1985-1988

Morris Alexander Jr.
A 2-17 ROK 1968-69

Phil Taylor
C 4-17 1984-1988

Charles Malone
Korean War: 1951-1952

Billy Pass
Korean War: A 1-17 1951-1952



17th Infantry Regiment Association Membership Application



Name: _____
Last Name First Name Middle

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Member Status: Active Duty Veteran Widow of Veteran Descendant of Veteran

Veteran Spouse's Name (or nearest of kin): _____

Today's Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Fax Number: _____

With the 17th From: _____ 19 _____ To _____ 19 _____

Unit served with (Battalion, Company, etc) : _____

Referred to the Association by: _____

For Annual Membership Dues, please enclose \$17.00. For Lifetime Membership Dues, please enclose \$150.00.
Note: Lifetime Membership includes a 17th Infantry Bronze Buffalo Coin and Certificate.

Please Check One:

New Annual Membership Renewal Annual Membership Lifetime Membership

Note: You can have a subscription to the "Buffalo Bugle" for only \$10.00 a year if you do not qualify for a 17th Infantry Regiment Association membership.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE WHEN FILLING OUT FORM, do not write. Mail completed form and check or money order made out to the 17th Infantry Regiment Association to Membership Chairman, Ron Miller:

Ronald Miller
4503 Christy Drive
Granbury, Texas 76049
817 - 910 - 9520
E-Mail: millerdog70@hotmail.com

MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE

What is your primary reason for joining the 17th Infantry Regiment Association?

What do you feel is the most important benefit you receive from being a member of the Association?

What do you feel the Association could do differently to better serve its membership?

Do you have photographs or color slides that we can copy from your time with the 17th Infantry Regiment?

Would you be interested in serving on a committee or helping in a technical way, i.e., website Administration, database administration, graphic art, technical writing, photography, etc.

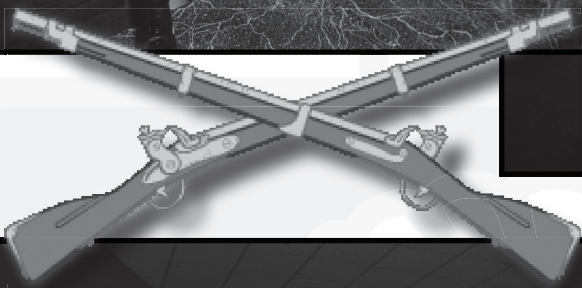
Would you be interested in serving as a Board Member or Officer of the Association?

Are you a current member of the National Infantry Association?

Miscellaneous Comments, etc.



4-17 ACTIVATION PICTURES FT BLISS, TX



Donald E Shook Jr.
17th Infantry Regiment Association
1010 Manor Road
New Kensington, PA 15068

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RA - Veteran Annual Member
RL - Veteran Life Member
DA - Active Duty Annual
DL - Active Duty Life Member
AA - Associate Annual Member
AL - Associate Life Member
LA - Lineal Annual Member
LL - Lineal Life Member
2011 - Year Dues Paid Until

*Note: If the code above your name is anything other than 2011 (excluding Life Memberships), your membership is due. e-mail or call Don Shook if you have any questions.

Pictured below: Men of A 1-17 "ATTU COMPANY" in formation before a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

SANTIAGO 1898

