Come to Hawaii to help celebrate
100 years of “Duty, Honor, Country”
The Cacti Regiment has served with distinction, bravery and sacrifice.
June 27th—July 1st, 2016

Cacti Centennial Celebration
Peter J Birrow, B 2-35, 1968-69, Past President, Liaison to the Actives

Let the countdown begin! The 35th Infantry Regiment will hit the century mark very soon as it was formed on July 1st, 1916 in Arizona. To date, nineteen of us old Cacti veterans will be the guests of today’s Cacti as we all participate in the five day gala (27 June - 1 July) celebration of this monumental achievement.
The venue is in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks, and the Hilton Hawaiian Village is the stage for the Cacti Centennial Ball. So if you want to be part of this grand event there is still a way to be part of the festivities. Check out the program on page 26 that has been provided to us for your guidance.
With the room block being very minimal at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, our counterparts at Schofield Barracks have come up with a great alternative, the Hale Koa Hotel, located 4/10th of a mile from the Hawaiian Village. The Hale Koa Hotel on Fort DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center is a resort serving members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families. The hotel was built and financed by military personnel with their own funds and now operates on a self-sustaining basis. Please review www.halekoa.com. If this alternative interests you, please note that retired and 100% disabled veterans are eligible to make reservations on your own. If

(Cont’d on page 6, see Cacti Reunion)

Cacti SitRep
Aloha, from beautiful Hawaii. Your active Battalion remains as busy as ever.
I know most of you will remember from your days in the Army that “the only constant, is change.” Despite my last SITREP’s prediction of standing down from CRF-1, being left to take some Christmas leave, and then go thump 2nd Brigade during Division’s big exercise, the Battalion received a FRAGORD assigning us as the Division’s Contingency Response Force 4 (CRF-4), tasked with enabling the alert, marshal, processing, and onward movement of all contingency forces from US Army Hawaii. The Battalion didn’t miss a beat, turned on a dime, and executed above and beyond, as always.
However, we refused to allow the change to our primary mission prevent us from training hard. In December we executed a Battalion Task Force Air Assault in order to attack enemy forces in a built-up area on Bellows AFB. We then spent the week conducting External Evaluations (EXEVALS) of all platoons in the Battalion. Through February, every rifle squad and weapons section in the Battalion conducted maneuver live fire exercises (LFX). By the first week of March, six rifle platoons and all four heavy weapons platoons had executed maneuver LFX. All of this training culminated in two company teams executing a company attack, under

(Continued on page 22, see Cacti Sit-Rep)
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Associate Editor
Bill Henson

Contributions and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the Editor at the above address.

All writers are identified by name except where they have requested confidentiality. Official statements of policy or opinion of the Association shall be expressed verbally or in writing (whichever is appropriate to the situation) only by the Association President or other person specifically designated by the Association Officers to do so. Opinions expressed in this news magazine are those of the writers (whether named or not), and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the 35th Infantry Regiment (Cacti) Association.

The Editor/Publisher reserves the right to edit and or decline to print any material submitted for publication, with or without notification to the author or submitting organization or company. News articles are printed on a “space available” basis and may not be printed even though you have been notified it would be printed. This is a judgment decision of the Editor/Publisher and is not personal. Address changes should be sent to the Secretary.

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Term of Office 2015-2017

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Senior Vice-President, WWII & Korea Affairs—Ray Maylen
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Tom Mahon—tfmahon@embarqmail.com—(352) 637-4930
Alan Olsen—pointman1970@gmail.com—(913) 451-5887
Jim Cooke—carriegreencookes@eircom.net

Are you a Facebook user? If so you might want to join the Cacti 35th Infantry Regiment Association page run by Immediate Past President Bill Henson.

“Always remember to pillage before burning!”
President’s Message

Greetings Fellow Cacti,

Spring is finally here and the anticipation to get outdoors and have some fun is building. For some it is golf or gardening, for me it’s motorcycles. I took mine out of storage in March and started getting ready for warm weather.

Our Association has met the challenge as usual in our fund raising to aid the active Cacti with their Centennial Ball, June 27-July 1. We are almost there and it’s not too late to provide additional assistance. We have more than 20 association members and their spouses making plans to attend, and it’s not too late for that, either. Hawaii is a beautiful place!

It is also scholarship time, so if you have a child or grandchild or even a great grandchild who is eligible encourage them to fill out an application and send it to Mike Slyck, B Co 2-35, our committee chairman.

September 22-25 is our annual reunion in Washington, DC. This should really be a special one. Our second reunion was there and it was awesome. It is really an emotional place for those who love this country, the home of our fallen in spirit.

The dedication of our Association leadership to make this all work never ceases to amaze me. It’s practically a full time job for a few. Secretary Don Johnson, Recon Plt. 2-35, our secretary, is the man who keeps track of everything and serves as our reunion coordinator. He also is a fantastic fundraiser. John Lorts, B Co. 2-35, puts this newsletter together as Editor and it’s the most impressive one I’ve seen. Peter Birrow, B Co. 2-35, is our liaison to the actives, and Jim Anderson, B Co. 2-35, (all the way from Vietnam) is constantly helping us keep up with everything. The whole board will do anything asked of them to help the Association. If we were a business, we would be unstoppable! If you’re on Facebook check out the 35th Infantry Regiment Association page run by Immediate Past President Bill Henson, E Co. 2-35. If you need to contact me, my email is on the Association page or you can call me at 734-624-2059.

Take Arms!

Wiley Dodd

Celebrating 100 Years of Cacti Achievement

By Bill Henson, Associate Editor, E 2-35, 1970, Immediate Past President

Your Association has taken on a new challenge this year. In recognition of the Centennial Celebration of the founding of the 35th Infantry Regiment, we have taken on the sponsorship of the Cacti Ball. With the cutbacks in military spending it has become increasingly difficult for our active Cacti to raise funds for this annual event. It becomes particularly poignant when we realize this is a celebration of 100 years of Cacti Pride. Our goal is to make this event affordable for every active duty Cacti so that they might carry that pride forward wherever they might be assigned. In addition, we will be able to use a portion of those funds to support bringing outstanding active duty Cacti to our own 18th Annual Reunion. Our goal is to raise $15,000 prior to the May 1st, the date tickets go on sale for this year's Cacti Ball. The active Cacti of today take particular pride in your sacrifices and achievements. The Cacti Ball is the embodiment of that pride. Please help us to make this possible.

Contributions can be sent to Secretary Doc Johnson, 35TH INFANTRY ASSN., 14516 Shenandoah Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70817

ATTENTION: The hotel rooms for the 2016 Reunion in Arlington, VA are going fast! Don Johnson, Reunion Coordinator, recommends that you make your reservations as soon as possible before the allotted rooms at our price run out. See page 35 for registration information.

Do You Know of Someone in Need?

The Association’s Health and Welfare Account currently has a very positive balance. Have you, or if you know of another member that has fallen on hard times, suffered a loss such as in a hurricane or flood, has medical issues that are uninsurable, or anything else that cries for help, please let us know. Our Health and Welfare funds were donated by you, our caring members, to be used for those in need, not just to be saved for a rainy day.

If you know of someone in need, or are that someone, please contact Peter Birrow by email by clicking birrowp@hotmail.com

ALL information is kept strictly confidential!
Korean War KIA Returnees

Lucio Aguilar  M Co  
DOD listed November 28, 1950  
Funeral services June 2014  
Cacti attendees: Don “Doc” Johnson & Roy Sittig

Dean Chaney  K Co  
DOD listed 4/30/1951  POW Date November 28, 1950  
Funeral Services November 2015  
Cacti attendees: Wiley Dodd; Bill Henson; Mike Slyck; Bob Mitchell; Tony Flesch; Larry Curtis; Steve Blaugh; Jim Schumacher & Jim “Doc” Hall

Roosevelt Clark  E Co  
DOD listed November 28, 1950  
Funeral services February  2012  
Cacti Attendees: John Morgan

Ernest Fuqua  E Co  
DOD listed November 28, 1950  
Funeral services January 2013  
Cacti attendees: Wiley Dodd

James Mullins  H Co  
DOD listed July 22, 1950  
Funeral services November 2012  
Cacti Attendees: Jim Beddingfield & Jim “Doc” Hall

Edward Schwartz  L Co  
DOD listed November 28, 1950  
Funeral services May 2009  
Cacti Attendees: Alan Olsen

Leland Smith  K Co  
DOD listed Feb 28, 1951  POW on November 28, 1950  
Funeral services December 2014  
Cacti Attendees: Larry Curtis; Bill Henson; Wiley Dodd; Steve Blaugh & Tony Flesch

Clement Thibodeaux  L Co  
DOD listed January 28, 1951  POW on November 28, 1950  
Funeral Services  Sept 2013  
Cacti Attendees: Don “Doc” Johnson; Jesse Campos; Ray Maylen; Phillippe Saunier; Roy Sittig; John “Pat” Patterson & Fred Boutin

Willard Williams  E Co  
DOD listed November 28, 1950  
Funeral services May 2013  
Cacti Attendees: Jim Beddingfield; Doc Johnson; Jim “Doc” Hall

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

Known Cacti Still Missing


Two MIA’s from Vietnam

William Ellis, Jr., A 1-35, KIA 6/24/1966. William went missing off of a landing zone following a battle and was never seen again. William was from Summerville, SC.

Cecil Clack, E 1-35, KIA 1/1/1969. Cecil drowned crossing a river and the body was never recovered. He was from Chester, SC.

128 MIA’s from the Korean War

WWII MIA list: (See next page for list)

We had an original list of 32 MIA’s from years ago. I’m not certain where the list came from. Later we were able to add KIA’s from a couple of other sources but never found any additional MIA’s.

So from the original list of 32 MIA’s, we have been able to determine that 24 are still currently listed as MIA not accounted for. The first 24 names on the attached list represents those 24 we are still missing. Of the eight whose status has changed from our original list it turns out that only one has apparently been recovered and sent home. That one was Martin Odenthal whose remains were discovered in a caved in foxhole in 2006 and who was sent home to be buried in 2008. Pete (Birrow) and I tried our hardest to keep on top of this so we could be present at burial. It turns out that Martin’s parents had purchased a plot and provided a stone for Martin that family in-fighting after the last of his siblings died caused a rather hush hush burial arrangements in a cemetery far away from his home town where his parents wanted him buried and this kept us from knowing that he had actually been returned home.

Of the other seven MIA’s who have been dropped from the official Army list: It appears that five (and likely six) of these were KIA or Died of Wounds shortly after being wounded by air raids by Japanese planes on Vella LaVella on August 16, 1943 and were buried at sea (or lost at sea after their LST’s were attacked.) So technically, as far as the authorities are concerned, these men are accounted for and are no longer MIA. Those said to be buried at sea are: Willie C. Conner, Elmer N. Griffin, Frank Pinter, John Pursell and Charles R. Watkins. The sixth man who was likely also “buried at sea” (given that he was WIA in the air raids the same day as the other five and died within two days of being wounded) was Alexander P. Drab.

The eighth of these cleared cases was Leonard W. Duquette who died on board the USS Hayes from disease and was buried at sea from this ship.

So in summary, of our original 32 WWII MIA’s, 24 of them are still MIA to this day. I think it is less likely that our Korean War MIA’s will ever be found because the Government simply isn’t actively looking for them and it doesn’t have a repository of unknown remains on hand to identify. That’s pretty well our MIA story for the Cacti from the beginning up to this day.
### Listing of MIAs from World War II

*(See bottom of previous page)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>KIA Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asal, Jack M</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>1Lt</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>1/13/1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bland, Leland</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>WV</td>
<td>1/13/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berryhill, Chandis W</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>7/31/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bondorff, Aymeric</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>1Lt</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>7/31/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bostwick, Elmore Jr.</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>1Lt</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>7/31/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boteler, Neil L</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>Hvy</td>
<td>AL</td>
<td>1/15/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can, Donald E</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>3/31/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christianson, Harold</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>1/15/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornell, Albert C</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>WV</td>
<td>1/15/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culbertson, Robert S</td>
<td>1Lt</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>3/13/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutsch, Lewis M</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>3/31/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donnel, Charles E</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>1/18/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doyle, Thomas S</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>1/11/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzales, Joe</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>3/31/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heuston, Homer G</td>
<td>Sgt</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>1/12/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Lewis H</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>1/10/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailhiot, Lucien A</td>
<td>Capt</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NH</td>
<td>1/15/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham, William</td>
<td>SSgt</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>WV</td>
<td>3/29/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purkey, Horace J</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>MD</td>
<td>12/13/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reed, Robert</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>IN</td>
<td>3/13/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross, Dale W</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>1/13/1943</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan, Emmett L</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>5/1/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoveken, James J</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>Med Det</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>5/3/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trengen, Morris A</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>ND</td>
<td>5/1/1945</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**No Longer MIA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last</th>
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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conner, Willie C</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>8/16/1945</td>
<td>LST attacked by Japanese plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drab, Alexander P</td>
<td>SSgt</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>8/17/1943</td>
<td>No info to explain why he is no longer listed as missing. May have been part of LST attack.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffin, Elmer N</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>8/15/1943</td>
<td>LST attacked by Japanese plane. Buried at sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinter, Frank</td>
<td>Pvt</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>8/16/1943</td>
<td>KIA on board ship (LST?) and buried at sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pursell, John</td>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>8/15/1943</td>
<td>Buried at sea. Probably part of LST attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watkins, Charles R</td>
<td>CPL</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>AR</td>
<td>8/15/1943</td>
<td>Buried at sea. Probably part of LST attack</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

Lost along Vella Verde Trail body never recovered

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**Masaru Kumashiro,** who was MIA on 9/8/51 while with Company L, 3/35th in Korea. This photo was sent by his 2nd cousin Shannon, she and her parents live in Oahu and will attend the Cacti Centennial Ball. — *Don “Doc” Johnson*

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“I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”

— Albert Einstein (contemplating nuclear devastation)
There is some inaccurate information circulating around on the Internet concerning mortality rates among Vietnam Veterans. Some reports are claiming that 2/3rd of Vietnam Veterans have deceased since the war and that they are passing away as fast as WWII Veterans. This information is false. Please read the below article from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention based on mortality rates of Veterans.

**Post-service Mortality Among Vietnam Veterans**

http://www.cdc.gov/ncmah/veterans/default1a.htm

In 1987, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) compared the post service mortality (through December 1983) of a group of 9,324 U.S. Army veterans who served in Vietnam with that of 8,989 Vietnam-era veterans who served in Korea, Germany, or the United States. Over the entire follow-up period, the total death rate for Vietnam veterans was 17% higher than for other veterans. The excess mortality, especially through motor vehicle accidents, suicide, homicide, and accidental poisonings, occurred mainly in the first 5 years after discharge from active duty. Thereafter, mortality among Vietnam veterans was similar to that of other Vietnam-era veterans, except for drug-related deaths, which continued to be elevated. The excess in post service deaths due to external causes among Vietnam veterans is similar to that found among men returning from combat areas after World War II and the Korean War.

In 2004, an update of the 1987 mortality study was published. This follow-up study further assessed the health effects of the Vietnam experience on cause-specific mortality, especially chronic conditions. It compared mortality rates between Vietnam veterans and veterans who did not serve in Vietnam. Vital status and underlying cause of death were retrospectively ascertained from the end of the original study in 1983 through 2000. Data were analyzed using Cox proportional hazards regression to factor in the effects of multiple risk factors on survival. Death from all causes was slightly higher among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans over the entire follow-up period. Despite the increasing age of the study group (mean = 53 years) and longer follow-up period (average 30 years), death rates from disease-related conditions, including cancers and circulatory system diseases, did not differ between Vietnam veterans and their peers. Vietnam veterans continued to experience higher mortality than non-Vietnam veterans from unintentional poisonings and drug-related causes.

**Publications**

**Post service Mortality among Vietnam Veterans**

This report presents results of the mortality component of the Vietnam Experience Study (VES).

- **Part 1** [PDF - 2.92 MB]
  
  http://www.cdc.gov/ncmah/veterans/pdfs/postservicemortalityamongvietnamveterans/postservicemortalityamongvietnamveterans1_2.pdf

- **Part 2** [PDF - 2.65 MB]
  
  http://www.cdc.gov/ncmah/veterans/pdfs/postservicemortalityamongvietnamveterans/postservicemortalityamongvietnamveterans2_2.pdf


Excellent Response to a GOOD Cause

I would like to congratulate the membership for rising to the occasion and donating to our Troop Support cause for the Actives and the Cacti's 100th Anniversary Celebration. It looks like we will reach our goal of raising a percentage of the overall cost for the celebration that was discussed with the leadership of the Cacti.

It is heartening to them to know they are not alone and there are people out there that are eager to support them in many ways. We also have been getting very good support for our scholarship fund and our Scholarship Reserve Fund. Last year we awarded seven (7) scholarships of $1,500.00 apiece, totaling $10,500.00, to children and grandchildren of our members. These schools are spread across the country and represent some of the finest learning establishments that exist in our country. As I watch your generous donations come in I realize that I need not remind you of the high cost of education and what these scholarships mean, not only in dollars, but overall support to these young men and women. I thank you on their behalf.

Our overall financial condition is good and we expect it to continue as long as we are around. I look forward to seeing you all at the reunion and will be able to provide you with a full accounting of your efforts.

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Photograph:

Circa 1973  Running with COL Bill Moore, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea. Behind me is the Brigade staff. Note, the Brigade staff is not bloated like those of today's Army.  [Photo provided by MG Bill Moore (Ret)]
Looking back at our tours with troubled thoughts that our minds can now clearly see,
Realizing how lucky we were for life in combat is very fragile and freedom has its fee.
During our combat tours we had to do many things just trying to survive,
There were combat situations we want to forget, things we did just to stay alive.
At times we struggle trying to justify our tours when missions seemed to go wrong,
There are thoughts that we have, we wish would go away but they just linger too long.
If at times we seem to ignore you or we refuse to even talk, don’t think of us as being unkind,
More than likely our minds have wandered as we remember friends who were left behind.
We actually dread each evening as night approaches and another day has taken its rest,
For we now have to face our nightmares, but we also realize we’ve passed another test.
Because we know that as each day passes some of our memories are starting to fade,
As our memories fade away, our lives start to improve and our future can now be made.

wlundlrp_ranger@hotmail.com
20 May 2011
"Horses for Heroes, Cowboy Up" is a program directed by fellow soldier Rick Bianucci for all Honorably Discharged OIF - OEF - ND, Active Military or Reserve. After several hours of hands-on, Barangay, Aparin and VonHoman, who had little to no exposure to horses, developed the self-confidence to move freely and comfortably around horses in one day. This free and unique program is hands-on which takes you from basic grooming to more complex horsemanship skills by using the team training concept.

Commander Baranyay said, “Horses for Heroes, Cowboy Up” is free to all Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans. During our stay we met a Native American veteran and amputee who said "this program saved my life." Commander Baranyay highly recommends this program to veterans of OIF/OEF so much that Chapter 36 donated $500, and the Department of New Jersey M.O.P.H. donated $300. He also thinks this is a program that deserves support from the M.O.P.H. Service Foundation. If anyone is interested in attending this free program, or making a tax deductible donation visit online at http://www.horsesforheroes.org/.

Tim Baranyay (C 1-35, 1968-69) Commander, Military Order of the Purple Heart (M.O.P.H.) Chapter 36, Ocean County, N.J., Pete Aparin Senior Vice Commander & Chaplain, also of Chapter 36, Garth VonHoman and Rick Iannucci, Director of "Horses For Heroes, Cowboy Up."

Path of the Warrior sent in by Tim Baranyay

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JKqT0-3JV5E&feature=youtube_gdata_player

Each of us likely has a lasting memory of someone we knew well and appreciated. In my case, it was Capt. Michael McDonnell, HHC 2-35, 1963-66, a fellow 1962 West Point classmate. (TAPS, p. 14) Mike was an outstanding Cacti officer who served two tours in Vietnam which included a shotgun tour and was a good friend for more than 50 years.

After Vietnam, Mike became a prominent defense attorney in Naples, FL where his successful work in numerous high-profile cases earned him the respect and admiration of those who encountered and worked with him. In his spare time, he did pro bono work for veterans in need of legal assistance. Mike was equally well known as a singer and showman, who regularly performed with his guitar at venues in the Naples area. He was as well-known on the music scene as he was in the southwest Florida legal community.

Mike’s died of unexpected stroke at age 75. He was one of my best friends and a great guy who is sorely missed.

(James McQuillen was John Lorts’ Company Commander in Vietnam.)

Mike McDonnell

18th Annual Cacti Association Reunion Schedule
DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel, Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia

Wednesday September 21st

Early arrivals.
The Hospitality Room will be set up and opened until 12am at the Lincoln Hall Ballroom.

Thursday September 22nd

Hospitality Room opens 8 am to 12am in the Lincoln Hall Ballroom.
Cacti Association Officers Meeting will be held from 9:00 am to 12 pm, location will be in the Salon AB.
Registration will be in the Hospitality Room from 1pm until 6 pm (unless otherwise posted.)
A new Banquet sign-up procedure will be posted in Hospitality Room, along with the sign-up order.

Friday September 23rd

A Golf Outing is scheduled at 7am (venue to be determined.)
Company Luncheons: times and locations to be announced.
Hospitality Room will be open 8 am to 12am in the Lincoln Hall Ballroom.
Registration will be in the Hospitality Room from 1pm until 6 pm (unless otherwise posted.)

Saturday September 24th

The Association Business Meeting is 8 am to 10 am in the Salon AB.
Banquet seating sign up will begin immediately following the Business Meeting.
A trip to the Vietnam Veterans Wall is tentatively scheduled from 11am to 3 pm. Transportation will be provided for attendees that have signed up and paid for the ride (ticket price to be determined). Collection for this outing is to be paid at registration check in.
The Hospitality Room will be open 8 am to 12am Lincoln Hall Ballroom.
Registration will be in the Hospitality Room from 1pm until 4 pm (unless otherwise posted.)
Social Hour (cash bar) at 5 pm
Annual Banquet and Memorial Service will be from 6 pm to 9 pm in the Crystal Ball Room.

Sunday September 25th

Departure and have a safe trip home.
By Walt Shields, A 2-35, 1969-70

46 years ago (11/24/1969), two brave Cacti Blue soldiers were taken from us, Sp4 Jack Deeter and Sp4 Ronald Olson from A 2-35, 3rd platoon.

We were down south working out of Ban Me Thout, over by the Cambodian border. It was late morning and we were waiting for a re-supply bird to deliver more C-rations and bring out the mail. We were set up in the jungle by an open area for the bird to land when we got word that the bird was about five minutes out. The guys who were to secure the LZ were told to move out and set up the perimeter security.

I was in the CP talking to the medic about ten yards away from my radio when they started firing RPG’s and B-40 rockets. Then, what seemed like all the small arms and machine gun fire in the world opened up. We returned fire and got the guns from B 2/9th FA up and firing.

When it was all over, the bodies of SP4 Deeter and SP4 Olson were found. I thought they had been killed by either the rockets or gun fire but when I talked to the Platoon Leader, LT Don Evitts two years ago, he told me that they both were bayoneted and died from those wounds. Their M-16’s were both missing. We found one of the M-16’s later when we were back up north around Pleiku. A sniper in a tree fired on us but an HE round from an M-79 put a halt to that and that’s when we found the M-16.

I want to thank the members of A 2-35 for allowing me to travel with them and for taking care of me during my seven months with them. I am honored to have known such great men. Also I want to thank everyone from B 2/9th FA for their fire support. And a special thanks to my brother Don Hardy with 2/9th. You guys never let us down, Don. Thanks for being my brother. So while you eat your Thanksgiving dinner, please remember, some wonderful guys never got to eat theirs again.

I served in B 1-35, 25th Infantry Division from September 1964 to October 1966. We arrived in Pleiku on the 28th of December, 1965. There seems to be a lot of people that think the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division was located at Camp Enari. The enclosed photo shows where we built our base camp. I remember when the 4th Infantry Division arrived in Pleiku and built Enari. For some unknown reason, we never put a name on the initial base camp. I think it was later named Artillery Hill. I think the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division was transferred to the 4th Infantry Division sometime in 1967 and moved to Camp Enari. I think our history should show where we built our base camp as well as Enari. I have this below photo as well as others posted on the Cacti website.


(Info as written on the back of the photo)

Top left, Base Camp, 3rd Brigade, 25th INF Division was built. Picture was taken on our arrival 28 Dec 1965.

Bottom right is where the BDE Shower Point was made.
4934. Looking for anybody who served with Specialist Daniel Perez who died March 16, 1967 from wounds suffered on March 12, 1967. Please contact me. Thank you for the great sacrifice on behalf of your friends and country. Daniel was with Alpha 2-35th. Raul Hernandez - Corpus Christi, TX  hernandezcct@aol.com

4936. On Friday, November 20, as I was getting into my car after loading my trunk with groceries at my supermarket a lady asked if I was a veteran. I told her that I was and she gave me a note which I'd like to show the rest of you Cacti. "You may be from a war long ago and feel forgotten, but you are why we are free to go about our business daily without fear. You may be a young man or woman just starting at boot camp preparing for your future in the military. You may not be in a danger zone. You may be stateside at a desk. You may be a soldier from a previous war with injuries you are living with every day. You may be someone who is now on the front lines. Wherever you were or are headed, you are part of a wonderful network of heroes keeping us all safe at home. My family and I want to thank you for your service and thank both you and your family for all your sacrifices. Because of you we are able to get up each day and do what we choose without fear. My family and I are forever grateful. Be safe wherever you go. Our prayers are with you." And today I was twice thanked for my service. Not everyone has forgotten. BTW, Going out to San Diego and back home was an eight day slog by car, but well worth it. See you in D.C.

Allan Meyer – Ingleside, IL  alhm@owc.net

4947. My request is for information regarding one of the 35th's KIA brothers from Vietnam. http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/kia/kia_details.php?person_id=585&battalion=2nd Roger Spence was the brother of a childhood friend of mine that I've offered to accompany back to Vietnam and hopefully bring closure to his loss. I never knew Roger but his brother as mentioned is a very good friend of mine. We were a mere 8-years-old when my friend lost his brother. Although we've not discussed this at length he did express interest to visit if accompanied. I need to make contact with someone I can bounce some questions off of because I'm not sure exactly how far my friend wants to take this. Please contact me at the email address listed and we'll discuss over the phone. Frank Tulumello USMC/USAF Retired. Frank Tulumello – Sugar Hill, GA  -- FTulumello@verizon.net

4952. My name is Terry Nau. I am a Vietnam veteran, 2/32 Artillery, 1967-68. I am looking for anyone who served with Lt. Tom Gill, who served with Bravo Company, 1/35, and died on Dec. 7, 1969. I am writing a book about the 21 KIAs from Tom's hometown of Pawtucket, RI. LTC Jeffrey Rogers has already spoken to me but I am looking for someone who might remember how Tom saved one of his soldiers from drowning during a river crossing. If any of you can help me with info on Lt. Gill, please contact me... the book is not a profit, I just want to honor these soldiers one more time in their hometowns. Terry Nau – Pawtucket, RI  -- tna3@cox.net

4953. I am looking for information on a relative that went missing in action in the Korean War on September 8, 1951. He was in the 35th infantry regiment, L Company, 25th infantry Division. Full name was Masaru Kumashiro. He was from Hawaii. So if there is anyone that knew him it would be great. Thank you, Shannon Kumashiro -- sskumash@hawaii.edu

4954. I served in the 25th Infantry Division, 19th Infantry then with the 35th Cacti 1957-1959. I was a member of the Army swim team. My C.O. was Capt. Quonzon. Is anybody around from that era? Larry Franzman -- Boynton Beach, FL  -- Lsfran@comcast.net

4955. My father Master Sgt. Carl Webster Howard was wounded in May of 1951 during the "Piledriver" offensive in Korea. So far I've had no luck finding his service records due to the fire at the archives in St. Louis. Before Korea he had enlisted in 1946 and was sent to Roswell, NM for pilot training. My parents divorced when I was two yrs. old so I never knew my father. He passed away in 2008 and is buried at the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Augusta, ME. Stephen Howard – Lebanon, KY  -- treehouse212@yahoo.com

4963. Just a gentle shove to those members who have graduating children or grandchildren planning on attending college in the Fall, 2016. It's not too late to apply for one of our Cacti Scholarships. Just go to the Association homepage and follow the link to check qualifications and the application. http://www.cacti35th.org/35th_inf_ass/2016scholarshipapp.pdf

Mike Slyck – Rochester, NY  -- 02/26/2016  Bravo16India@Rochester.RR.Com

(Continued on page 13)
(Continued from page 12)

4964. Aloha! IF you are attending the Centennial festivities in Hawaii and have booked yourself in, please tell me what hotel you are staying at and your arrival and departure date from that hotel. Also, will you be golfing with the Cacti? Any other Brother Cacti that you know of that will be attending? Reason for this request, as the Liaison to the Actives, I am trying to keep our hosts up to date on our attendance. In case you have not heard, The Centennial Ball will now be held on Wednesday, June 29th. Peter J Birrow – Gulfport, FL -- 02/27/2016 birrowp@hotmail.com

4971. I would like to take this time to honor a very SPECIAL MAN IN MY LIFE, SGT BENJAMIN GEORGIA SPEARS, HHC 1-35th INFANTRY. Sgt. Benjamin George Spears was my BIG BROTHER. Fifty years ago today my mother received word that he was KIA in Pleiku Province, Vietnam. My brother was very special to me. He was only 25 when he gave his life to his country, and I was only 12-years-old. I always knew he was special, but that was my big brother. Over the years as I grew up I learned how special he was. I was lucky enough to speak with some of his fellow soldiers who served with him. Thanks to John Fielding who helped me so much to live this dream, who help me to attend a Cacti Reunion in Pittsburg, PA and also to this organization and this guestbook. Brother, you may have been gone from us, but you have never been forgotten. I LOVE YOU AND MISS YOU SO MUCH. If anyone would like to contact me about my brother, please feel welcome too, I would love to hear from you. Tera Williams – Auburndale, FL -- 03/08/2016 tera_33823@yahoo.com

4970. I wasn't going to post this but I have been thinking about this day all day long like I do every year at this time. When I saw Pete's (Birrow) entry in the guest book and one of the names he mentioned was Little John Rivera. That got me to think more about him as we were both in the same squad together for 7 months. I recall him laughing and joking around like he always did about 10 minutes before he lost his life. Just goes to show how fast things can turn for the worst. I still remember him on the ground covered by a poncho and all the wounded on the ground not too far from where he was located. That still haunts me 47-years ago today. May John, and the other two brothers who lost their lives on that day, rest in peace. Also the 27 WIA's, I wish you all the best. To all of you that were there you are the best of the best. Gary Lee – Staten Island, NY -- 03/08/2016 bravo 235@aol.com

4969. Would like to know if any members of Delta Company, 2/35th, from July, 1968 thru March, 1969 will be attending this year's reunion? E-mail is listed below, and would like to hear from you. Ronald Hogan – Seaford, DE -- 03/07/2016 63retired@comcast.net

4967. Forty-seven years ago today, Bravo 2/35 lost three brave brothers who we will never forget. Jackie West, Little John Rivera, and Terry Weant have become a part of our lives as we live it so humbly with them in mind. Unknowingly at that time, it was another day of growing up. May they rest in peace. Peter J Birrow – Gulfport, FL -- 03/07/2016 birrowp@hotmail.com

4972. March 12th marks the 49th anniversary of a battle in which B 2/35th lost six good men. Many others were wounded that day. Charles Barrett, Richard Hutchinson, La Marre Major, Stephen Burlingame, Douglas Stegall, and Lamar Horne gave their all while performing their duty and protecting their fellow soldiers. They will never be forgotten. Vaughn Brauer – Boise, ID -- 03/11/2016 cavabr@q.com

I'm writing this on behalf of my father, Walter Fields. I wanted to reach out and see if there is anyone who would remember him. He was in the 4th division, and served in the Central Highlands of Pleiku as a LRRP in 1968 or 1969. He would love to reconnect with some of his "brothers." Please feel free to email me if you do remember him! He remembers a veteran by the nickname of Uncle Taco. Maybe if someone knows who that is, give him my info. Thanks in advance!!!

Jenni Fields on behalf of Walt Fields -- Sonora CA USA -- 11/11/2015 jnnfr_flds@yahoo.com

Trying to help Tracy Clifton find information on her dad’s service. He is still living. Robert J Clifton, C, 2-35th, approximate in-country dates June 1968-June 1969. Robert was from London, OH. Robert was awarded a BSV; exact date of action uncertain but award was given in March 1969. Citation reads in part, “Clifton’s listening and observation team had successfully located and cleared an enemy force advancing on the team’s position. Waiting for the enemy to cross an intervening stream, the CO, Clifton sighted an enemy force advancing on the team’s position. They withdrew in confusion.” Robert spent the last few months in-country as an aide to the Brigade CO. Anyone remembering Robert please contact Tracy directly at tracy-clifton@hotmail.com Dick Arnold

American Red Cross Overseas Association (ARCOA) Is there any way you could let your guys know of a special recognition of Vietnam Veterans at the Ralph H. Johnson Veterans Administration (VA) in Charleston, SC on May 19 (from 1-3 pm)? Some might live in the area. The address is 109 Bee Street, Charleston, SC. The regional Red Cross and the VA will honor the Vietnam Vets as part of the war's 50th Anniversary Commemoration. May 19 is the kick-off day of ARCOA's annual convention, which is in Charleston, SC this year. (We meet in the spring at a different spot all over the USA.) What’s fun for me is that at least three of the Donut Dollies (besides myself) with whom I was stationed at Camp Enari (therefore, we visited you guys) will be in Charleston. I can really “talk up” Washington DC in September. Donut Dollie, Jennifer (Jenny) Young
Cacti Taps

The Purpose of this Association shall be to organize the veterans of the 35th Infantry Regiment of the United States Army, in order to foster, encourage and perpetuate the memory of the officers and men who distinguished themselves by their services and sacrifices while with the 35th Infantry (Cacti) Regiment; to promote and cultivate social intercourse and fellowship among their descendants; to perpetuate the memory of the achievements of the 35th Infantry (Cacti) Regiment and its members; to comfort and support the current active members and their families of the 35th Infantry Regiment; to promote the National Defense; American patriotism and American citizenship; to encourage historical research in relation to Wars; to acquire and preserve the records of the services of the members of the 35th Infantry (Cacti) Regiment as well as documents and relics; to mark the scenes of the activities of the 35th Infantry (Cacti) Regiment with appropriate memorials; to celebrate the anniversaries for the events of our Country's Wars and conflicts; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institution of American freedom; and at all times to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.

Korea
Frank Lamb, L 3-35, 1951; passed away 22 Dec 2015
Everett Gibbins, L 3-35, 1951-52; passed away 5 Mar 2016

Vietnam
Michael McDonnell, HHC, 1963-66; passed away 4 Feb 2016
Jerry L. Vandyke, C 2-35, 1968-69; passed away 2 Sep 2014

In Memoriam

LTC John Hill, A/C/HHC 2-35, 1998; (New Battalion Commander) honoring all Cacti
Raymond Maylen, D 1-35, 1969-69; in memory of all Cacti
Harold Stratton, A 2-35, 1968-69; in memory of all Cacti
Tim Parrot; in memory of his dad Joel Parrot, Vietnam Veteran

Texas Tech University
The Vietnam Center and Archive
has an abundance of information on the Vietnam War including many Daily Staff Journals of the 3rd Brigade of the 25th/4th Infantry Divisions.
http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/
Vietnam Operations Table
http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/resources/operations/table.pdf
Vietnam: The loss of American innocence?

By Terry Leonard, Stars and Stripes

This article is provided courtesy of Stars and Stripes, which got its start as a newspaper for Union troops during the Civil War, and has been published continuously since 1942 in Europe and 1945 in the Pacific. Stripes reporters have been in the field with American soldiers, sailors and airmen in World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Bosnia and Kosovo, and are now on assignment in the Middle East.

When Neil Armstrong took his small step for man in the lunar dust in July 1969, Americans saw it as proof there were no Earthly limits. Nothing then seemed beyond the reach of American power, prestige and know-how. It took Vietnam to expose the hubris in that sentiment.

The American Century was at its zenith. Unrivaled U.S. wealth and prosperity, predictable fruits of the postwar Pax Americana, lifted national influence to new heights globally. Hollywood, rock music, blue jeans and hamburgers carried American culture, taste and values to the far corners of the world.

Yet with images of Apollo 11 fresh on the mind, Vietnam forced Americans to accept limits to U.S. power and to acknowledge their reach had exceeded their grasp. With apologies to Robert Browning, that troublesome realization was not what they believed a heaven was for.

Fifty years later, the Vietnam War remains an enigma. Its legacy distorted by folklore, myth, political spin, cloudy memories and the perverted history of feature films and popular fiction. Yet it remains clear the war changed America in profound ways still not understood.

It changed who we are and how we see ourselves. It fundamentally revised our view of the world and the world’s view of us. It reshaped our institutions, particularly the military. It altered not only how we fight wars, but when and why we choose to fight.

Stars and Stripes is commemorating the Vietnam War at 50 annually with a series of stories and special projects intended to add context and understanding to the history of that war and to the changes it wrought. The project examines the fighting abroad and the protests, politics and turmoil at home. It includes the voices of veterans who fought and those of others who marched at home for peace.

More than 58,000 Americans and at least 1.5 million Vietnamese died in the war that divided the country as nothing else had done since the Civil War.

“No event in American history is more misunderstood than Vietnam. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now,” former President Richard Nixon wrote in his 1985 book “No More Vietnams,” a selective history and apologia for his role in the tragic war.

Americans fought fiercely and gallantly in Vietnam. The Medal of Honor was awarded to more than 250 individuals. U.S. troops won nearly every significant battle. Yet it was all in vain. Many fighting men would feel betrayed by political leaders and people at home who turned against the war.

At home, the war taught a generation of young people not to trust their government. In an astonishingly short period of time they taught their parents and even some political leaders.

“The biggest lesson I learned from Vietnam is not to trust our own government statements. I had no idea until then that you could not rely on them,” former Sen. J. William Fulbright told the New York Times in 1985, a decade after the war ended.

The government also didn’t trust its people. Security agencies spying on civil rights leaders and political dissidents added people who spoke out against the war to their surveillance lists. Later Senate investigations detailed widespread illegal intelligence gathering on U.S. citizens.

Anti-war and civil rights protesters were also portrayed in government-run campaigns of character assassination as anti-American or communist sympathizers, sometimes with violent consequences. At the 1968 Democratic National Convention, Chicago police savagely attacked and beat anti-war protesters. A federal investigation later would term it a police riot.

In May of 1970, National Guardsmen opened fire on anti-war protesters at Kent State University in Ohio, killing four and wounding nine. Just 10 days later, police killed two and wounded 12 when they fired on African-American students protesting the war at Jackson State College in Mississippi.

Kent State triggered a nationwide student strike that closed hundreds of colleges and universities and became a symbol of how the war divided the country. In a Newsweek poll three weeks after the shootings, eleven percent of the respondents blamed the National Guard and 58 percent the students. The shootings at predominately African-American Jackson state were largely ignored.

When the war began in the Sixties many had already begun to question a U.S. international policy shaped by the cold war narrative of the Red Menace and the Domino Theory. Domestically, American society was under pressure from many sides to become more inclusive and fair.

(Continued on page 27)
The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC honors those who died in the Vietnam War. Their relatives and friends leave letters, poems, and photographs at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on this web site. We bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to your home to help remember the sacrifices of the fallen and their families. Go to the website for information about the service members who died in Vietnam.

http://www.virtualwall.org/iStates.htm

Click on a State below to find names of those from that State who died in Vietnam.

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[Sent in by MSG Ken Whitmier (Ret), B 2-35, 1964-68]

“A general is just as good or just as bad as the troops under his command make him.”
– General Douglas Macarthur

“Soldiers usually win the battles and generals get the credit for them.”
– Napoleon Bonaparte
From the Cacti Association Website: Cacti35th.org

VIETNAM KIA PHOTOS NEEDED
Dick Arnold, Doc Hall, and Pete Birrow have been gathering KIA Photos for a number of years. Their work has added immensely to our mission to memorialize our war dead. But we still need a few more. Click here: http://www.cacti35th.org/01kia_photos_needed.htm to view a list of Vietnam KIA photos needed. If you're a fellow Cacti, or a friend or family member, please consider sending a photo to Dick Arnold at his address: indyrja@yahoo.com

VIETNAM WAR - GRAVESITE LOCATION PROJECT
Doc Hall and Pete Birrow have been compiling a list of gravesites for our Vietnam KIAs for some time now. Through personal visits and searches on the web they have located hundreds. The information is now available by clicking here: http://www.cacti35th.org/01grave_sites_found.htm. If you have personal knowledge of a gravesite not found on the list, please contact Doc Hall at: jimdochall@yahoo.com

BATTLEGROUND: 4th INFANTRY IN VIETNAM
Here is another YouTube film we thought you might enjoy. The story of the "Ivymen" in Vietnam, from their arrival in 1966 through the critical Battle of Dak To in the winter of 1968. Approximately 25 minute long it is a good depiction of our piece of the war. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFZhmWyVE_A

FACES NEVER FORGOTTEN WITH JOE GALLOWAY
This short film, from Youtube is about Joe Galloway's experiences as a reporter in Vietnam and his coming to grips with them following the war. We thought you might enjoy this short but emotional clip. Simply click on the link below to view. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VA9Dp1S3Ey4&feature=share

READY TO STRIKE, THE 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN VIETNAM
"Depicts the "Tropic Lightning" 25th infantry division; its history, and its exploits in Vietnam as a combat unit and a nation-building force." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fz8ch1pJUP4

The National Vietnam Veterans Foundation, Inc.
http://nationalvietnamveteransfoundation.org/

National Vietnam Veterans Foundation was created by veterans on behalf of veterans. We are a national, charitable, non-profit organization dedicated to aiding, supporting, and benefitting America's veterans and their families. Veterans helping veterans with the basic support of the American people is our mission. The Foundation is guided and directed by a board made up entirely of veterans who have served in a combat zone.

Your Name in Lights!

Well, your name in the headlines of the Cacti Times, I mean. I know you have a story or two that you remember. About a foxhole buddy, a close call, something funny (yes, there were some funny or even happy times), the luxurious living conditions of a Cacti in combat, your first experience or a lasting experience, a fire-fight, remembering a fallen hero, the flora and fauna of the jungle (snakes, scorpions, ants, malaria-carrying mosquitoes, saw-toothed vines, spiked trees, etc.) or your trip back to the World. Put it down on paper and send it in, preferably in the form of an attachment to an email but even if it is hand-written. The Cacti Times staff (both of us) can correct your spelling or noun-verb agreement and turn it into a masterpiece. Your stories are what makes this magazine both enjoyable and informative. Send your story in to the Cacti Times, the contact information is on page 2. I’m really looking forward to hearing from you.

If you find yourself in a fair fight, you didn't plan your mission properly.
- David Hackworth
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Risk of Dementia among U.S. Veterans

Definition by Mayo Clinic: Dementia isn't a specific disease. Instead, dementia describes a group of symptoms affecting memory, thinking and social abilities severely enough to interfere with daily functioning.

Dementia indicates problems with at least two brain functions, such as memory loss and impaired judgment or language, and the inability to perform some daily activities such as paying bills or becoming lost while driving.

Though memory loss generally occurs in dementia, memory loss alone doesn't mean you have dementia. There is a certain extent of memory loss that is a normal part of aging.

The study found that men diagnosed as having PTSD were a two-times higher risk of developing dementia as compared with those without PTSD. Mechanisms linking these important disorders need to be identified with the hope of finding ways to reduce the increased risk of dementia associated with PTSD.

(See next page for more information)

The study can be found at: http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2933793/

Managing Risks and Improving VA Health Care, a GAO Report

In response to serious and longstanding problems with veterans’ access to care, which were highlighted in a series of congressional hearings in the spring and summer of 2014, Congress enacted the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113-146, 128 Stat. 1754), which provides $15 billion in new funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. Generally, this law requires VA to offer veterans the option to receive hospital care and medical services from a non-VA provider when a VA facility cannot provide an appointment within 30 days, or when veterans reside more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility. Under the law, VA received $10 billion to cover the expected increase in utilization of non-VA providers to deliver health care services to veterans. The $10 billion is available until expended and is meant to supplement VA’s current budgetary resources for medical care. Further, the law appropriated $5 billion to increase veterans’ access to care by expanding VA’s capacity to deliver care to veterans by hiring additional clinicians and improving the physical infrastructure of VA’s facilities. It is therefore critical that VA ensures its resources are being used in a cost-effective manner to improve veterans’ timely access to health care.

View the complete report at: http://www.gao.gov/highrisk/managing_risks_improving_va_health_care/why_did_study

State Veteran's Benefits

Many states offer great benefits to their veterans, click on the link to Military.com below:

For War on Terror Veterans:

VA’s Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Less than 2% of Veterans and Servicemembers that can join the #BurnPitRegistry have signed up. VA’s Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry allows eligible Veterans and Servicemembers to document their exposures and report health concerns through an online questionnaire.

Eligible Veterans and Servicemembers include those who served in:
- Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn
- Djibouti, Africa on or after September 11, 2001
- Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm
- Southwest Asia theater of operations on or after August 2, 1990

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

In total, 61,338 Veterans and Servicemembers have completed and submitted the registry questionnaire between April 25, 2014 and February 28, 2016. Check your eligibility and sign up.
- See more at: http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp#sthash.OCCWDmFl.dpuf
For many Veterans, memories of their wartime experiences can still be upsetting long after they served in combat. If you are an older Veteran, you may have served many years ago, but your military experience can still affect your life today. Here are some ways that past military experience can affect you as you get older.

**PTSD symptoms later in life**

Many older Veterans find they have PTSD symptoms even 50 or more years after their wartime experience. Some symptoms of PTSD include having nightmares or feeling like you are reliving the event, avoiding situations that remind you of the event, being easily startled, and loss of interest in activities. There are a number of reasons why symptoms of PTSD may increase with age:

- Having retired from work may make your symptoms feel worse, because you have more time to think and fewer things to distract you from your memories.
- Having medical problems and feeling like you are not as strong as you used to be also can increase symptoms.
- You may find that bad news on the television and scenes from current wars bring back bad memories.
- You may have tried in the past to cope with stress by using alcohol or other substances. Then if you stop drinking late in life, without another, healthier way of coping, this can make PTSD symptoms seem worse.

PTSD symptoms can occur soon after a traumatic experience, but this is not always the case. Here are some common symptom patterns:

- Some Veterans begin to have PTSD symptoms soon after they return from war. These symptoms may last until older age.
- Other Veterans don't have PTSD symptoms until later in life.
- For some Veterans, PTSD symptoms can be high right after their war experience, go down over the years, and then worsen again later in life.

**Late-Onset Stress Symptomatology (LOSS)**

Many older Veterans have functioned well since their military experience. Then later in life, they begin to think more or become more emotional about their wartime experience. As you age, it is normal to look back over your life and try to make sense of your experiences. For Veterans this process can trigger Late-Onset Stress Symptomatology (LOSS).

The symptoms of LOSS are similar to symptoms of PTSD. With LOSS, though, Veterans might have fewer symptoms, less severe symptoms, or begin having symptoms later in life. LOSS differs from PTSD in that LOSS appears to be closely related to the aging process. People with LOSS might live most of their lives relatively well. They go to work and spend time with family and friends. Then they begin to confront normal age-related changes such as retirement, loss of loved ones, and increased health problems. As they go through these stresses, they may start to have more feelings and thoughts about their military experiences.

Having symptoms of LOSS is not upsetting for all Veterans. While some find that remembering their wartime experience is upsetting, many find that it helps them to make meaning of their wartime experience.

**What can you do to find help?**

If you are having a hard time dealing with your wartime memories, there are a number of things that you can do to help yourself. There are also ways you can seek help from others.

- Do things to feel strong and safe in other parts of your life, like exercising, eating well, and volunteering.
- Talk to a friend who has been through the war or other hard times. A good friend who understands and cares is often the best medicine.
- Join a support group. It can help to be a part of a group. Some groups focus on war memories. Others focus on the here and now. Still others focus on learning ways to relax.
- Talk to a professional. It may be helpful to talk to someone who is trained and experienced in dealing with aging and PTSD. There are proven, effective treatments for PTSD. Your doctor can refer you to a therapist. You can also find information on PTSD treatment within VA at: VA PTSD Treatment Programs. [http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/therapy-med/va-ptsd-treatment-programs.asp](http://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/treatment/therapy-med/va-ptsd-treatment-programs.asp)
- Tell your family and friends about LOSS and PTSD. It can be very helpful to talk to others as you try to place your long-ago wartime experiences into perspective. It may also be helpful for others to know what may be the source of your anger, nerves, sleep, or memory problems. Then they can provide more support.
- Don't be afraid to ask for help. Most of all, try not to feel bad or embarrassed to ask for help. Asking for help when you need it is a sign of wisdom and strength.

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**Aging Veterans and Post Traumatic Stress Symptoms**

A National Institute of Health Study

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2933793/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2933793/)

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**Veteran’s Corner continued on page 20.**
Managing Risks and Improving VA Health Care: A Report

In response to serious and longstanding problems with veterans’ access to care, which were highlighted in a series of congressional hearings in the spring and summer of 2014, Congress enacted the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Pub. L. No. 113–146, 128 Stat. 1754), which provides $15 billion in new funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care. Generally, this law requires VA to offer veterans the option to receive hospital care and medical services from a non-VA provider when a VA facility cannot provide an appointment within 30 days, or when veterans reside more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility. Under the law, VA received $10 billion to cover the expected increase in utilization of non-VA providers to deliver health care services to veterans. The $10 billion is available until expended and is meant to supplement VA’s current budgetary resources for medical care. Further, the law appropriated $5 billion to increase veterans’ access to care by expanding VA’s capacity to deliver care to veterans by hiring additional clinicians and improving the physical infrastructure of VA’s facilities. It is therefore critical that VA ensures its resources are being used in a cost-effective manner to improve veterans’ timely access to health care.

VA operates one of the largest health care delivery systems in the nation. As of fiscal year 2014, VA was operating an expansive system of health care facilities, including 150 medical centers and more than 800 community-based outpatient clinics nationwide. In the years since the United States began conducting military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, enrollment in the VA health care system has increased significantly—from 6.8 million veterans in fiscal year 2002 to 8.9 million veterans in fiscal year 2013. Consequently, VA has faced a growing demand by veterans for its health care services, a trend that is expected to continue. For example, the total number of annual outpatient medical appointments VA provided increased by 39.9 million visits (or about 85 percent) between fiscal years 2002 and 2013. Over that same period, Congressional provided steady increases in VA’s annual health care budget, with amounts more than doubling, increasing from $23.0 billion to $55.5 billion between fiscal years 2002 and 2013. Despite these substantial budget increases, for more than a decade there have been numerous reports—by GAO, VA’s Office of the Inspector General, and others—of VA facilities failing to provide timely health care. In some cases, the delays in care or VA’s failure to provide care at all have reportedly resulted in harm to veterans.

While timely and cost-effective access to needed health care services is essential, it also is imperative that VA ensures the quality and safety of the services it provides. With the increased utilization of non-VA providers that is expected to occur as a result of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, veterans may be required to navigate multiple complex health care systems—the VA health care system and those of non-VA providers—to obtain needed health care services. Coordination of care between VA and non-VA providers is critical. Without it, there is increased risk of unfavorable health outcomes for veterans. For example, a lack of care coordination may lead to unnecessary duplication of services, which is not only costly, but may also pose health risks to veterans who may receive care that is not needed. Moreover, the quality of care may be adversely affected if important clinical information is not promptly communicated between VA and non-VA providers. Safeguarding the quality and safety of health care services provided within VA facilities is also essential. A series of infectious disease outbreaks at several VA facilities over the past several years—and allegations that VA officials may have withheld information about the outbreaks from the public—have raised concerns about the effectiveness of patient safety practices at its facilities.

These risks to the timeliness, cost-effectiveness, quality, and safety of veterans’ health care, along with other persistent weaknesses we have identified in recent years, raise serious concerns about VA’s management and oversight of its health care system. Based on these concerns, we have concluded that VA health care is a high-risk area and have added it to the High Risk List in 2015.

Link to Veterans Compensation Benefits Rate Tables
There will be no COLA for 2016 so the rates are the same as last year.
http://www.benefits.va.gov/COMPENSATION/resources_comp01.asp

VA Choice Program Billing Issues
WASHINGTON – Veterans can now work directly with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to resolve debt collection issues resulting from inappropriate or delayed Choice Program billing. In step with MyVA’s efforts to modernize VA’s customer-focused, Veteran-centered services capabilities, a Community Care Call Center has been set up for Veterans experiencing adverse credit reporting or debt collection resulting from inappropriately billed Choice Program claims. Veterans experiencing these problems can call 1-877-881-7618 for assistance.

For more information, click on this link:
http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2764
Memorial Day, 2016
By COL Wallace “Stan” Tyson USA (Ret), XO 2-35, 1964-66

Memorial Day weekend, 2016, will be the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of 10 Alfa, 28-29 May, 1966. Cacti units included in the Task Force were A 1/35th, B 2/35th, and members of HHC 2/35th. Both combat units were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their tenacious defense of LZ 10 Alfa against a reinforced NVA regiment. The sixteen KIA and one DoW from that battle will be recognized during the Annual Memorial Day Service, 30 May 2016, held at the Williamson County Veterans Park, Franklin, TN. Their sacrifice and service will be acknowledged with individual bricks inscribed with names, rank, and date and location of their deaths placed as a group in the park’s sidewalk, and recognition of each individual by name, age and hometown, will be part of the overall ceremony. This is a Memorial Service, not a reunion. However, those planning to attend can gather as they wish before and/or after the Memorial Day Service at locations of their choosing. The closest major city is Nashville, TN, about 20 miles to the north.

Email me at wtyson@outlook.com if you have any questions.

The KIA’s from the 10 Alfa Battle are as follows:

From B 2-35: PFC Donald Jerry Evans, 2LT Michael Thomas Glynne, PFC Aramis Gonzalez-Perez, SP5 Roy Mitchell Jones (Medic), SGT Ricardo Leon Moreno, PFC Leroy Robinson and PFC Roger Espinoza Rodriguez

From A 1-35: PFC John Franklin Barry, SGT Thomas David Campbell, SP4 Charlie Alfred Carden, PFC Sheldon Robert Cohen, PFC Billy Ray Patrick, SGT Wallace Edward Pilson, PFC Richard Ralph Roundtree, PFC Sylvester Swinford and PFC Walter Joseph Wetzel

For you it was the News. For me it was Reality.
You called for Pizzas; I called for Medics.
You watched Construction; I performed Destruction.
You watched children Play; I watched them Die.
You learned of Life; I learned of Death.
You wanted to Succeed; I wanted to Survive.
You served Dinner; I served my Country.
You forgot ............... I Can't ...............
live conditions, day and night, employing all organic weapons systems, plus Bangalore torpedoes, 60mm, 81mm, and 120mm mortars, 105mm and 155mm artillery, and AH-64 Apache helicopters employing 30mm cannon and 2.7” rockets.

On top of all this intense, world-class training, individuals and organizations throughout the Battalion continue to display the indomitable will to win. Too numerous to list, a few examples are SGT Chaveste and SPC Perez graduating Ranger School, our communications specialists winning the Division Signal Competition, and our Mortar Platoon winning the Division Mortar Competition. We still play as hard as we train, so throughout all of that, we still managed to come together in a number of events to build the team. At Spouses Take Arms Day, our spouses got to negotiate the obstacle course and clear enemy out of one of our shoot houses with simulation munitions. I am humbled to report that after three straight years, the NCOs finally beat the officers in the Turkey Bowl. We had about 300 people, including families, attend our Halloween and Christmas Parties, as well as our recent Family Day, here in C QUAD. CSM Bly and I, really our wives, hosted the Battalion’s platoon sergeants, First Sergeants, and officers at my quarters for a New Year’s Reception. We even managed to have two engagements, including an actual surf session with three of the best professional surfers in the world.

Throughout April and May, we will enter what is called our Fenced-To-Train period. Infantrymen will compete to earn the coveted Expert Infantryman’s Badge (EIB). B and C Companies will conduct Situational Training Exercises (STX) from squad all the way to company level, in the Kahukus. After completing gunnery and section and platoon LFX on the Big Island, D Company will return and join B and C Companies to complete an External Evaluation (EXEVAL) in the Kahukus. A Company and the Mortar Platoon will spend about 6 weeks at Camp Roberts, California, to provide an opposing force to a National Guard Infantry Brigade, but also to execute platoon LFX and mortar certifications. Just to keep things interesting, we will do all of this while simultaneously changing commands of three of our six companies.

After a short recovery and a well-earned leave, Cacti Blue will assume operational control of multiple intelligence, artillery, and intelligence organizations, forming Task Force Cacti, and assume duties
Winner: **1LT Jae Yu**, Time 1:34:07
Clovis Ray Hero Work-Out Competition, 10 Mile Run, 150 Burpee pull ups

**SGT Chaveste** stakes his claim in Cacti lore.

Soldiers with Bravo Company, 2-35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, assault a training village at the Battle Area Complex (BAX) on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, March 12, 2016. Soldiers with the 2-35th Inf. Regt. assault the village to take out the targets during their combined arms live fire exercise (CALFEX). (Photo by Spc. Patrick Kirby, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)

Soldier of the Quarter SPC Basnyat
again as Contingency Response Force 1 (CRF-1). The Task Force will once again stand ready to alert, marshal, and deploy anywhere in the Pacific in under 18 hours to conduct offensive, defensive, or humanitarian assistance operations, at the direction of Commander, USPACOM, or the National Command Authority.

Through all of it, though, one of our top priorities has remained the planning of our Cacti Centennial Celebration, which will occur the week of 27 June – 1 July, 2016. Formal events will consist of a platoon competition, memorial ceremony and dedication, the Centennial Ball, and Pass in Review. Other events will include receptions, company dinners, tours, displays and demonstrations, to name a few. There will be something for everyone. Twenty of our veterans and their families are already planning to come, plus the family of one of our Korean War MIAs. You and your families are all invited and we hope to see you all here. Our Soldiers and families have worked hard to volunteer and raise funds for this event. So too have you in the Association. Thank you so much for your help in making this a world-class event. Our Regiment’s 100 years of dedicated service to the nation deserves nothing less.

Like the Army Song we sing after every ceremony, “...the Army keeps rolling along!” And so it is with your active Battalion. In February we said farewell to CSM Bly, as he headed to assume responsibility for an Infantry Brigade in the 10th Mountain Division. He is currently in Afghanistan. We welcomed CSM Disque to the team. He is returning home, having begun his career here in the 25th Infantry Division. CSM Disque comes to us from the Asymmetric Warfare Group, where he served as a Troop CSM. He is a proven warrior and the utmost professional, and we are lucky to have him. Speaking of returning home, LTC John Hill will assume command of the Battalion from me in June. LTC Hill also began his career here, as a platoon leader in the Cacti. He is also a proven combat veteran and a great officer. I look forward to everything the Battalion will accomplish under his superb leadership.

As this is my last SITREP before I sign off the NET, I want to take this opportunity to say a personal thank you to all of you veterans of the Association for all you do for the Cacti, and all you have meant to me personally. Being welcomed into your ranks has meant the world to me. Some of you I now consider to be among my closest friends, all of you, though, Brothers! Though it pains me to relinquish command of this great outfit, I know change is a good thing. I’m comforted in the knowledge that great leaders like John Hill, Brian Disque, and all our outstanding Cacti Soldiers, backed up by the single best regimental association in the Army, will continue to keep their Left Hand High!

As always, everyone is always invited to come visit us here in C Quad. Thank you for your continued service to each other and support to our active Battalion. We could not be more proud to be part of this storied Regiment. We continue to work hard every day to serve as well as you all did. Cacti Forever! Take Arms! Cacti 6

(Continued from page 22)
Pro Surfers Train and Surf with Cacti Soldiers

By Farkas, Zachary S 1LT MIL USA USARPAC

EHUKAI BEACH PARK, North Shore, Oahu – On 6 February 2016, professional surfers Kelly Slater, John John Florence, and Sunny Garcia host Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment (Cacti) in the second part of a community engagement program set up by MAJ David A. Webb, the Cacti Executive Officer.

This relationship between Cacti Soldiers and professional surfers began in December during Cacti’s Operation Liz Granger, a Battalion Air Assault and Situational Training Exercise (STX) at the Bellows Training Area on the east side of Oahu. During Operation Liz Granger, professional surfers John John and Ivan Florence, Koa Rothman, and Ross Williams came out to observe Cacti’s training. All four surfers grew up on the North Shore of Oahu, and have been geographically close to Schofield Barracks and the Kahuku Training Area, but have had limited interaction with Soldiers on Oahu. To bridge the gap between the surfing and military communities, these surfers were invited to “participate” in Cacti’s Operation Liz Granger.

When the surfers arrived at Bellows Training Area, they were greeted by the Delta Company Gundogs, CACTI’s Heavy Weapons Company and given a familiarization of mounted automatic weapons systems. After their weapons familiarization, the surfers received an operations order (OPORD) brief from 1LT Kyle Richardson, Delta Company’s 4th Platoon Leader. The mission was to execute a mounted movement to contact, followed by an attack of an urban objective with the Gundogs. The Gundogs and the surfers were successful in their mission, but during the urban attack, surfer Koa Rothman was assessed as a notional casualty.

Rothman was immediately treated by a medic and the Florence brothers and Ross Williams assisted the Platoon Sergeant in calling up a 9 Line MEDEVAC Request. Five minutes later, the Field Litter Ambulance (FLA) was on station and the Gundogs escorted the FLA to the Battalion Aid Station where Rothman was treated by Cacti medics. Next, the surfers visited the Cacti Scouts’ observation post (OP) on a hilltop overlooking the Bellows Training Area. The Scouts gave the surfers a rundown of their equipment and their mission set. The surfers then visited soldiers from the rest of the Cacti Battalion for lunch and photo opportunities.

John John Florence shared his thoughts about the training, “Really stoked to be able to come check this out. Everything they do for us, and the training is awesome.”

On February 6th, the surfers decided to bring Cacti soldiers to their work place–Ehukai Beach Park, home of the fabled Bonzai Pipeline. Eleven Time World Champion Kelly Slater, Sunny Garcia, and John John Florence met several dozen Cacti Soldiers and family members for an informal surfing clinic. Surfers and Soldiers made introductions on the beach, and then paddled out into the waves. After an hour and a half surf session, Surfers and Soldiers watched the sunset and exchanged surf and war stories.

SGT Crews from Cacti’s HHC commented, “To find out that professional surfers were coming out to Liz Granger was amazing. Getting to meet pros and to show them our job as a snipers was exhilarating. When we got the call that we would be surfing with them this past weekend was another plus for me and the whole Chain of Command that loves to enjoy part of the Hawaiian culture. Watching Kelly Slater drop in on some clean fast waves was exciting. The whole experience over all was a blast and an honor for the other Service Members and myself that they would take time out of their schedule to show us how real professionals do it.”

The surfers have an open invitation to future Cacti training exercises and Cacti hopes to continue its relationship with Oahu’s surfing community.
All Cacti Veterans and families are invited to attend the celebration of 100 years of service in the U.S. Army of the 35th Infantry Regiment. Come to Hawaii and visit Schofield Barracks and help to celebrate this momentous occasion. Don’t miss this one as it will be another 100 years for your next opportunity! Start planning now for a trip of a lifetime. More info to follow as it becomes available in the next issue of the *Cacti Times* and on the Cacti Association web site at [www.Cacti35th.org](http://www.Cacti35th.org).

### Cacti Centennial Celebration
**Hawaii, 27 June—1 July, 2016**

**Monday:** Welcome Reception  
**Tuesday:**  
- Battalion Run (Veterans invited)  
- Battalion Formation  
- Introduction of Veterans and families  
- Hands-on displays, demonstrations, tours of C Quad  
- Cacti VIP Lunch  
- Platoon Shooting Competition  
- Company Dinners  

**Wednesday:**  
- Cacti VIP Tour of Pearl Harbor and USS Arizona Memorial  
- Cacti Centennial Ball at Hilton Hawaiian Village, Waikiki  

**Thursday:**  
- “Free Day” - Explore Oahu  
- Military and Civilian Tours  
- Company Dinners  

**Friday:**  
- Breakfast Social  
- Cacti Change of Command Ceremony and Pass-in-Review  
- New Commander’s Reception  
- Golf Scramble  

Block of rooms reserved at the Hilton Hawaiian Village  
Saturday-Monday (25-27 June): recommended travel day, Airport Greeting by Active Battalion, Explore Oahu  
Saturday-Tuesday (205 July): Independence Day Activities throughout the island. Recommended travel days, Airport send-offs by Active Battalion

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**Save the Date**  
**CACTI Centennial Ball**  
**Wednesday, 29 June 2016**  
**1700**  
**Hilton Hawaiian Village**  
**Waikiki Beach Resort**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**  
**Cash Bar ~ Dinner ~ Dancing**  

Tickets: $60 per plate  
Menu: Red Wine Braised Short Rib, Mustard Crusted Chicken, or Quinoa  
and Vegetables  
Dress: Black Tie  
No children please  

Please contact 1LT Zach Farkas at (609) 602-6663 or zach.farkas1@gmail.com
The civil rights movement forced a reluctant country to confront its values and its shameful past. The sexual revolution and the women’s rights movement sought to fundamentally change how Americans lived, loved and worked. It reshaped gender roles and widened a growing gap between the younger and older generations.

The assassination of President John F. Kennedy stunned the country and exposed deep and dark divisions. The subsequent murders in 1968 of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy destroyed lingering illusions about an idyllic America and raised troubling questions about our violent national character.

The mostly peaceful civil rights movement was fiercely and violently resisted. Police brutally suppressed peaceful demonstrations, and not just in the south. Civil rights workers were murdered or beaten, black churches were bombed, black men lynched. Race riots in the ‘60s rocked New York, Newark, Philadelphia, Detroit, Chicago and Los Angeles. Americans were shocked by television images of National Guardsmen and U.S. paratroopers, locked and loaded, patrolling the streets of burning American cities.

America’s disaffected youth recoiled from society and their discontent gave rise to an anti-authoritarian counterculture that sought to reinterpret the American dream. Peace and love replaced duty and honor. The popular refrain “Don’t trust anyone over 30,” defined the boundaries of the generation gap.

Entertainers such as Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez and others made rebellion part of popular culture. Dylan caught the emerging tenor in his 1964 song “The Times They Are A-Changin.”

The Harvard psychologist Timothy Leary became a counterculture guru by advocating mind-altering drugs such as LSD. He popularized the phrase “Turn on, Tune in, Drop out.” He was fired by Harvard, but he was seen as something of a philosopher by the “sex, drugs and rock and roll” culture of the ‘60s. So much so that even today a common joke is: “If you can remember the ‘60s, you weren’t really there.”

Despite the obvious excesses, mainstream society began to embrace causes of the youth movement, particularly its anti-war sentiment. Peace marches that began with a few thousand students grew into marches by tens of thousands from all walks of life.

Nixon sought to deflect criticism of the war and growing distrust in government. He spoke in 1969 of the “silent majority” of Americans whose views supported him and the war but whose voices were being drowned out by a more vocal minority.

That was the summer Apollo 11 landed on the moon and confirmed our belief in American exceptionalism. Americans constantly boasted that if we could go to the moon, we could do anything.

Many historians argue that a series of U.S. presidents and their military and political aides believed it too and erroneously assumed military might would win in Vietnam.

“Tell the Vietnamese they’ve got to draw in their horns or we’re going to bomb them into the Stone Age,” warned Gen. Curtis LeMay, the Air Force chief of staff, in May 1964.

U.S. warplanes dropped more tons of explosive on Vietnam than fell on Germany, Japan and Italy in World War II, but his hollow threat would later be lampooned by critics of the war.

In just three years, that overconfidence retreated to a position of curiously optimism. Walt Rostow, President Johnson’s national security adviser, tried to deflect bad news about the war in 1967 by saying: “I see light at the end of the tunnel.” That light, his critics joked, was an oncoming train. Even the curious optimism faded.

Two years later, Nixon, under pressure to end the war vowed: “I’m not going to be the first American president to lose a war.”

Nixon later claimed victory in Vietnam but blamed a hostile press and an irresponsible Congress for “losing the peace.” In the book “Chasing Shadows: The Nixon Tapes, the Chennault Affair and the Origins of Watergate,” journalist Ken Hughes said this year that newly released transcripts of FBI wiretaps indicated then presidential candidate Nixon ordered the sabotage of the Paris peace talks in October of 1968, apparently to bolster his election chances that November.

Over the years, news coverage of the war shifted from supportive to an increasingly grim portrayal of the fighting. As the reporting became increasingly negative, as casualties continued to mount, public doubts grew dramatically.

One of the most enduring legacies of Vietnam and its negative impact on public opinion and policy is the Vietnam Syndrome, the name to the paralyzing effect on U.S. foreign policy brought on by the fear of becoming mired in another quagmire, a questionable war with no clear objectives and a defined end game. Every president since the war ended has had to deal with the syndrome.

The Vietnam War was perhaps the most publicized war in American history and certainly the first televised war with ghastly images nightly on the evening news.

“Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America — not on the battlefields of Vietnam,” Marshall McLuhan, the highly regarded Canadian philosopher of communication theory told the Montreal Gazette in 1975.

That coverage of the Vietnam War and its impact on the public became a serious concern. Early in 1968 polls showed 61 percent of Americans supported the war. By years end, 53 percent opposed it. By the time Armstrong landed on the moon, 58 percent opposed it and support for the war would continue to fall.

“Vietnam was the first war ever fought without censorship. Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind,” retired Gen. William Westmoreland, the commander in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, would tell Time magazine in 1982.

For some, the key lesson learned was that it was the coverage of failed policies, and not the policy failures themselves, that caused Americans to lose faith and confidence in government.

The military now tightly controls access to a battlefield. With the policy it can and at times has limited what could be seen and by extension, what could be reported. Critics argue the policy supports the old adage: “Truth is the first casualty of war.”

Although support for the war dwindled, until Saigon finally fell April 29, 1975, many still refused to believe we could lose. Today, many scholars contend the war marked the loss of American innocence. It deeply divided a nation unified by World War II and the division and distrust of government continues to grow.

leonard.terry@stripes.com
Attention All Cacti Brothers and Friends of PFC Allan Alteiri
By Jack Anderson, C 2-35, 1967-68, Vice President for Special Projects

Attention All Cacti brothers and friends of PFC Allan Alteiri, KIA June 24, 1966 in Pleiku Province, Vietnam. PFC Alteiri was assigned to HHC, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division. He was a graduate of Glendale High School, Class of 1964 in the San Fernando/LA area of southern California. A grave site marker will be dedicated in the San Fernando Mission Cemetery, in Mission Hills, CA at 10:00 a.m. on June 24, 2016. PFC Alteri’s grave has been unmarked for 50 years and has never had a flag placed on his grave on Memorial Day holidays. This dedication will forever correct that. Allan’s sister Barbara and brother Darren will be in attendance. It is requested that, “We few, we happy few, we band of Cacti Brothers and Friends, shall Honor him who has shed his blood for us.” Please contact me if you will be able to attend this important dedication for one of our Cacti heroes. Jack Anderson, Cacti Association Vice President for Special Projects, Cameron Park, CA -- anderson3066@sbcglobal.net

Sometimes the Army Can Be a Small, Small World
By John Lorts, B 2-35, 1966-67, Editor/Publisher

Carl Foster and I came to B 2-35 in August, 1966, at about the same time and were assigned to the 1st Platoon. Unfortunately, Carl, who was a good soldier, drowned in the Ia Drang River on 8 Feb 1967. I was recovering from an injury at an Army hospital in Japan at the time and from there was sent back to the States. I was not aware of Foster’s death. He was an M-79 gunner and wore one of those vests that was loaded down with ammo. The patrol was fording the river when he stepped into a hole and was swept away. The rivers in the Highlands could be pretty swift.

After I came back to the States, I was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. I got to be good friends with SGT Mike Shields, our Training NCO, as he also wore a 25th Infantry Division combat patch. He had been one of our door gunners with the Cacti. He was telling me a story of the time that he had pulled a body out of the Ia Drang River. The patrol couldn't find his body so they had requested a chopper to help them look. The body was caught on a snag down river and couldn't be reached from the bank so the chopper hovered over the river and he was able to pull the body into the chopper. He told me his name was Foster! It was a sad story to hear as I told him that Carl was one of my buddies.

And now for the rest of the story. Larry Goodyear was one of the guys in my platoon in Vietnam. When he rotated back to the States, he was assigned to the same company that I was in. It sure was good to see him again and he filled me in on some of the tough battles the Company had with the NVA after I left. As a surprising turn of events, SGT Shields and Goodyear were brothers-in-law! Larry is a member of the Cacti Association and also regularly attends our reunions. I was hoping that Mike would be able to attend one of our reunions but sadly, he has passed away.

Dessert Anyone?
By Vaughn Brauer, B 2-35, 1966-69

The entire company was in the air, heading for another bare spot in the jungles of the Central Highlands of Vietnam to assault and secure. With the accompanying gunships, we were quite the sight. As we were flying along, I noticed a lone helicopter flying in the opposite direction. I thought that if he was heading for the LZ we had just left, he was going to be surprised to find no one there. I watched him for a while and eventually, he turned and began following our group. He was quickly forgotten as the gunships darted forward and began strafing the LZ. We landed with door gunners blazing away at the tree line and we charged into the trees while our choppers departed. As we were beginning our sweep around the tree line, the lone chopper landed in the middle of the LZ, a door gunner got out, set something on the ground, got back in and the chopper departed. Two men were sent to find out what they had left and came back hauling a marmite can full of ice cream! The men of Company B were able to finish the sweep, secure the LZ and eat the ice cream before it melted. CATCI BLUE soldiers were MULTITASKERS long before it became a buzz word.

COMBAT PAY IS A FLAWED CONCEPT!
Remember Exeter, NH Police Chief Richard Kane? His son was a Cacti stationed in Hawaii. He promised me a few years ago that he would visit every Cacti grave in New England, and he did it all in a few months. Here is what he did for Veterans Day this year...what a guy! Peter Birrow, B 2-35, 1968-69 Past President

Vietnam War – For those who fought it.


https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=zQJPAeunyYc4.koiZlsfHgOg&hl=en_US
A MESSAGE FROM THE VA SECRETARY

VA Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

Our Nation’s Vietnam War Commemoration is a long-overdue opportunity for all Americans to recognize, honor, and thank our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices during one of America’s longest wars.

VA Central Office, along with nearly 9,000 organizations across the country, has joined with the Department of Defense as a commemorative partner to honor our Nation’s Vietnam Veterans. I have designated March 29, 2016, as a day for our Department to express our tremendous gratitude and support to this generation of Americans through ceremonies across the Nation.

This commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the U.S. involvement in Vietnam—November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. Nine million Americans, approximately 7.2 million living today, served during that period, and the commemoration makes no distinction between Veterans who served in-county, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call of duty.

This commemoration has special significance for those of us at VA because of our honored mission to serve those who have “borne the battle.” It’s also an opportunity to remember our VA colleagues who served in this generation of Veterans, to extend our heartfelt appreciation to them and to their families who shared the burden of their loved one’s service.

Please visit http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/ to learn how your organization or facility can become a commemorative partner. This partnership provides historical media and beautifully-struck lapel pins and other recognition items for presentation to Vietnam Veterans.

Thank you for your continued service to VA and America’s Veterans.

Robert A. McDonald

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
PTSD: National Center for PTSD

Combat-Related Trauma

Aging Veterans and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Describes how older Veterans may develop symptoms later in life. Discusses what can help.

Mental Health Effects of Serving in Afghanistan and Iraq An overview of the mental health effects of serving in OEF/OIF.

Military Sexual Trauma Find out what military sexual trauma is, how common it is, and what you can do about it.

Rape of Women in a War Zone Discusses war-related rape of civilian women in a war zone such as Bosnia or Darfur.

Traumatic Stress in Women Veterans Discusses stressors faced by women Veterans and what can help.

Effects of War over Time

Aging Veterans and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms Describes how older Veterans may develop symptoms later in life. Discusses what can help.

Acts of Violence, Terrorism, or War: Triggers for Veterans Describes how Veterans may respond to traumatic events such as a terrorist attack. Provides a list of tips to help Veterans cope with such events.

Effects of War on Families

How Deployment Stress Affects Families The deployment of a Service member to a combat zone can be extremely challenging for a family.

Children Coping with Deployment Explains how children react to a parent's going to war, with suggestions for helping children cope.

Coping When a Family Member Has Been Called to War Discusses the issues family face before, during, and after a partner is deployed to a war. Suggestions to help families cope are presented.

Videos
See videos for Veterans of specific ethnic groups.
Humor in Uniform

“Dear John”

There was a Cacti Soldier who had been in the boonies for over four months when he received a letter from his girlfriend. In the letter she explained that she had slept with two guys while he had been gone and she wanted to break up AND she wanted her picture back.

So the Grunt does what any squared-away Grunt would do. He went around to his buddies and collected all the unwanted photos of women he could find. He then mailed about 15 pictures to his girlfriend with the following note: “I don't remember which one you are, please remove your picture and send the rest back!”

Veteran’s Corner, continued from previous page.

Are you a Veteran with Parkinson’s disease who was exposed to Agent Orange during service? You may qualify for VA benefits.

Learn more about Agent Orange and watch a short video about a Veteran’s personal experience with Parkinson’s disease at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/parkinsonsdisease.asp

VA Expands Hepatitis C Drug Treatment

03/09/2016 03:48 PM EST

Expanded funding now allows VA to provide increased drug therapy at VA facilities nationwide

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it is now able to fund care for all Veterans with hepatitis C for Fiscal Year 2016 regardless of the stage of the patient’s liver disease. The move follows increased funding from Congress along with reduced drug prices.

Send to:
JOE HENDERSON
26 NEPTUNE LANE
LEVITTOWN, PA 19054

Dark grey w/pocket reunion shirt is only available pre-paid by mail order. It is $25 for pickup at the reunion, after the General Business Meeting on Saturday. Send orders to me before 3 September with payment for pick-up at the reunion. If you want it mailed, add $5 S&H. Don't forget to include size. Order deadline by 3 September 2016.

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ADD S&H TO ALL ORDERS: Up to $5= $1; $6 to $15=$5; Over $16=$8
ATTENTION GOLFERS!
There will be a golf outing on Friday at 7 am, venue to be determined. Make sure you let Don “Doc” Johnson know if you want to play and if you need rental clubs. donjohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net (See Doc’s address on page 36.)

Make plans to attend the 2016 Cacti Reunion
At the DoubleTree by Hilton - Washington DC - Crystal City
The DoubleTree is a 9-minute walk from the Pentagon and DC Metro and is a 1-minute drive from Interstate 395 and a 5 minutes’ drive from Reagan National Airport. There's a breakfast and lunch cafe, a revolving rooftop lounge with pub fare, a lobby bar with a simple menu, as well as a fine dining restaurant open on weekends. There’s also an indoor pool and a fitness center. Other amenities include a free airport and DC Metro shuttle, 30,000 sq. ft. of meeting space and a business center.

Life Membership Fee Schedule (See page 34 for Membership Form)

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Want to support the Cacti Centennial Celebration AND get a little something? How about a Cacti T-Shirt?
For Orders contact: 1LT Zach Farkis at zach.farkis1@gmail.com or call 609-602-6663
35th Infantry Regiment (Cacti) Association
Membership Form

* Applies to Cacti who are presently serving with the 35th Infantry Regiment or who have previously served with the 35th Infantry Regiment and are still on Military Active Duty.

** See page 33 for Lifetime Membership Fee Schedule
**35th INFANTRY REGIMENT (CACTI) ASSOCIATION**  
**REUNION 2016—WASHINGTON DC-CRYSTAL CITY**  
**SEPTEMBER 22TH - SEPTEMBER 25TH 2016**  
**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON**

Name ____________________________ Nickname __________________

Guest Name(s) _____________________  

Unit (Company/Battalion) ______________ Dates Served __________________

Address _____________________________

City __________________ State ______ ZIP ____ Phone ______________

Email ___________________________ Arrival Date ___________ Departure Date____________

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ASSN IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE REUNION. Forms are available in every “Cacti Times” newsmagazine and on http://www.cacti35th.org  

$ _________ Reunion Registration ($10.00 for 1st and $5.00 per additional guest over 18).

$ _________ Saturday Banquet $48.00 per person
There are two choices for dinner, please indicate a selection for each person attending:

1) Herb Roasted Tilapia with Dill Sauce. Quantity ______
2) Grilled Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce Quantity ______

All Dinner Entrée selections include: Mixed Green Salad with Cucumbers, shredded carrots, cherry tomatoes, balsamic dressing, Chef’s Choice of Starch and Seasonal Vegetable & Rolls and Butter Coffee, Hot Tea, Decaffeinated Coffee and Chocolate Mousse Cake (Special Dietary Needs) _______________________________________________________________________________

**Donations for:**  Hospitality Room $ _________; Scholarship $ _________; “Cacti Times” $ _________; Troop Support $ _________

$ _________ Total Donations—Note: All donations are tax deductible

$ _________ Annual Membership Dues for 2016 (if needed).

$ _________ Total Amount Enclosed (Make checks to “35th Infantry Reunion 2016”).

*Also there may be buses chartered to visit the Vietnam Memorial Friday or Saturday morning (for a cost) we need to know how many are interested in this. Please let us know if you are interested and how many will be in your party. Number of people ________

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**FOR ROOM RATE AND RESERVATION INFORMATION:**  
Call Toll Free 800-222-8733 or direct 703-416-4100, OR online @ https://aws.passkey.com/g/52949459 Room rates are $109.00 for Single/Double/Triple/Quad. Be sure to use the Group Code IFT. These rates do not include 13% room tax. A credit card is required to secure the reservation or mail a first night’s payment as deposit to the hotel. Reservations must be made by September 10, 2016. Rooms are limited so make your reservations early. Rates +/- 3 days of the Reunion $229 based on availability. Parking (self) is $10 per night.

**ALSO SEE EMBASSY SUITES AT BOTTOM OF FORM FOR ALTERNATE ROOMS. IF YOU NEED ADA ROOM CALL JILLIAN WILESKI DIRECT: 703-416-3856**

**QUESTIONS on registration—Don Johnson (225) 247-9321 or donjohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net**

**Information or questions on Arlington and Area check http://www.stayarlington.com/ or call 800-296-7996**

Please fill out this form and mail with your payment, as soon as possible, addressed to:

**Don Johnson**  
**35TH INFANTRY ASSN.—REUNION 2016**  
**14516 Shenandoah Ave**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70817**

If you plan to attend but are unable to send your payments at this time, go ahead and mail the registration to Don Johnson. You can send in your payment later. Full payment is due September 1, 2016. (We need this info for planning purposes.) Cancellations will be accepted until September 15, 2016 with full refund, after that a refund will be based on circumstances and a review by Reunion Committee.

**Transportation to and from Ronald Regan National Airport * Complimentary Hotel Shuttle * Transportation to and from Dulles International Airport * Super Shuttle $29 each way ($10 for each extra person.) Discount when making reservations online. Complimentary Hotel Shuttle also to Pentagon City Metro and Fashion Centre Mall**

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**ALTERNATE HOTEL**

I have 10 rooms of which half are ADA * Embassy Suites by Hilton Crystal City - National Airport * 1300 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22212 | Main Phone: 703-979-9799 * Two-room suite * Full cooked to order breakfast and complimentary evening cocktail reception * Onsite complimentary 24 hour fitness center * Indoor swimming pool and sundeck * Complimentary shuttles to DCA Reagan National Airport and Pentagon City Metro * Coffee makers, microwaves, and refrigerators in guestrooms * $189 9/21-9/25 * $20 PARKING * Embassy Suites and Doubletree share the same shuttle.
Please note your address label on this Newsmagazine. If it is not correct, please contact Secretary Don “Doc” Johnson with corrections.

These Good Men
by Michael Norman

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite.
Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep.
Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate. But I know them in a way I know no other men.
I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth.
A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word.
I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.
As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day.
I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades...such good men.

Sent in by: Rick White, Col, US Army (Ret), C & Recon 2-35, 1967-68
richard.white@l-3com.com