

# CACTI Times

Nogales • World War II • Korea • Vietnam • Iraq • Afghanistan



## Special points of interest:

- Cacti SitRep
- Cacti Reunion
- Portland Information
- Reunion Registration Form



LAND OF THE FREE



THANKS TO THE BRAVE!

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## Come Visit Portland Sept. 27-30

By Bill Henson, Associate Editor, E Co. 2-35

There are a few items in Portland you might want to put on your bucket list this September while attending the Cacti reunion Sept. 27-30 at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. Some are, well, a bit quirky. In downtown Portland there is Stark's Vacuum Cleaner Sales & Service. In a corner of the store is a museum of sorts that has a collection of ancient vacuum cleaners (more than 300) that might fascinate you.

More low-key is the tiniest park in the world, according to the "Guinness Book of World Records." It's in southwest Portland at the intersection of SW Naito Parkway and Taylor Streets and encompasses 452 square inches. That being said, however briefly, Portland is truly one of the most innovative cities in the country with something for everyone. It has more than 75 craft breweries, nearly 600 street food carts around town, urban wineries, excellent res-



Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel

taurants, a vibrant music scene, museums, stunning parks and gardens, and tax-free shopping.

At this date, the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel is fully booked for Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. **Doc Johnson**, reunion planner and secretary, has arranged for the reunion rack rate next door at the Hampton Inn Portland-Airport. In other words, make your reservations now.

Again this year, schedules permitting, attendees will include a

number of active duty soldiers from the 2-35 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team at

Schofield Barracks. It is always an honor to join with these representatives at the Cacti reunions and their participation is greatly appreciated.

The reunion advisory committee, which includes **Dick Arnold**, A Co. 1-35; **Pete Birrow**, B Co. 2-35; **Len Calabree**, Recon 2-35; **Jim Anderson**, B Co. 2-35, and Chairman **Doc**

(Cont'd on page 6, see **Cacti Reunion**)



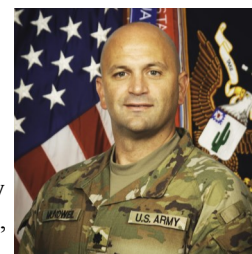
## Cacti SitRep

By LTC Mundweil

Just having come off a managed leave period, the BN hit the ground running and focused its efforts on the Military Decision Making Process and pack/load out, prior to departing for the Kahuku Training Area in support of Lightning Forge 18-03. Cacti is serving as the Opposing Force to the 2/25 IBCT External Evaluation. B, C & D

Companies, along with the FSC & HHC, are joined by elements from A/3-4 CAV, B/3-7 FA & BDE HHC (MICO), to serve alongside the 100-442nd IN (State of Hawaii Army Reserve) to provide a first

(Continued on page 9, see **Cacti Sit-Rep**)



### **The Cacti Times is published by: 35th Infantry Regiment (Cacti) Association**

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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.

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**Annual membership dues  
were due January 1st**

### **Cacti Association Officers Term of Office 2017-2019**

**President—Joe Henderson**

**Executive Vice-President—Mike Slyck**

**Senior Vice-President, Membership—Peter Birrow**

**Senior Vice-President, Public Relations—Dave Muxo**

**Senior Vice-President, WWII & Korea Affairs—Ray Maylen**

**Vice-President, War on Terror & Actives—Brian Hughes**

**Vice-President, Membership—John Morgan**

**Vice-President, Internet Communications—Dick Arnold**

**Vice-President, Special Projects—Jack Anderson**

**Vice-President, Information Services—John Lorts**

**Secretary—Don "Doc" Johnson**

**Treasurer—Jim Anderson**

**Legal Advisor—Jim Beddingfield**

**Historian—Jim Anderson**

**Sergeant-at-Arms—Paul LaFalce (position open)**

**Parliamentarian—Mike Slyck (appointed)**

**Immediate Past President—Wiley Dodd**

**Past President—Bill Henson**

**Past President—Jim Beddingfield**

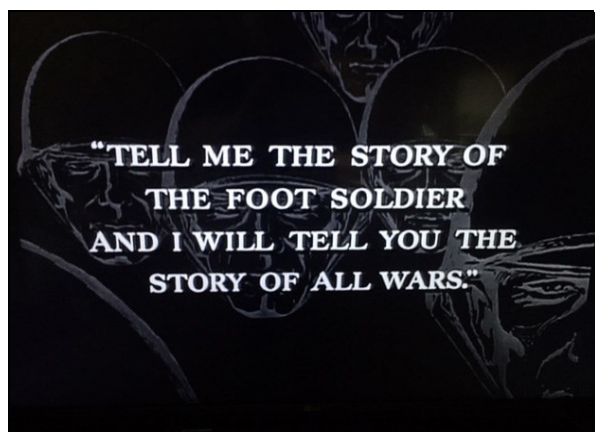
**Service Officers—(appointed):**

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# President's Message

Joe Henderson

Hello, Cacti Brothers, I hope everyone is doing well as we prepare for Portland, OR from September 27th to 30th, 2018, at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel. I look forward to enjoying everyone's camaraderie and company.

I would like to bring all up to date on the activities of your Association. Our new treasurer, **Jim Anderson**, due to an increase in Interest rates, has invested more of our treasury for a bigger yield on our deposits. A great move for the Cacti. Also two members have joined the Board of Directors, **Brian Hughes** who recently retired from the Army has taken the position of VP War on Terror Retirees and Liaison to the Ac-

tives and **John Morgan** has come on to the board as VP Membership, both have been doing an excellent job.

We now have a new vacancy as **Paul LaFalce** must relinquish his duties as Sergeant-at-Arms, so we will need to fill that position at the Association meeting on Saturday morning. We also must discuss changes to our by-laws which haven't been updated in years and need some modernizing. (See bottom article on this page.)

So, with a full agenda we will have a very spirited Reunion,

Looking forward to seeing everyone,

Joe Henderson, President, Cacti Association.



## "A proud history from Nogales, Arizona to Kunar Province, Afghanistan"

### 35th Infantry Regiment Association Treasurer's Report

Jim Anderson, Treasurer, Past President, B 2-35, 1967-68

#### Putting Your Association Funds to Work

Greetings and salutations fellow Cacti. Here's the latest news from the office of the Treasurer. The first bit of news is that after almost nine years of service **Mike Mannix** has retired from his duties as our Treasurer. Mike has done a fine job administering to our funds; never once being out of balance with our bank. Mike deserves our tremendous thanks for all the time and effort he has dedicated on our behalf. Thank You Mike, and enjoy those grandkids!

The Association continues on very sound financial footing. A long time ago the Board of Directors decided to set aside the funds that were paid for Life Memberships. Those funds, along with your generous contributions, have left us in a position to invest funds into Certificates of Deposit. Those fully FDIC insured accounts are now beginning to offer higher interest rates, which for us is a significant benefit. Currently we hold three CDs with a value of \$110,000. By year's end we

anticipate they will be drawing interest of at least 2.3%. That equates to over \$2,500 in annual revenue that will help offset the cost of our programs for Health and Welfare, Scholarship and Troop Support.

As we continue forward, as Brothers-in-Arms, along this path we have a bright financial future; thus insuring a financially healthy Association, all brought about by the generosity of you, our members.

## Association Constitution and Bylaws Changes Coming

By Jim Anderson, Treasure, Past President, B 2-35, 1967-68

As if you didn't have enough good reasons to attend the upcoming reunion in Portland, Oregon, here's one to add to the camaraderie, storytelling and catching up on each other's lives. The Board of Directors is in the process of reviewing and upgrading our Constitution and Bylaws. After all, this will be our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion and a little

housekeeping is in order. Since our last reunion, the Board has implemented a few changes that you'll be asked to approve.

One is the lowering of annual dues by \$5 per year for both the Email and Mail memberships. In doing this the Board also determined to no longer offer Life Memberships after the end of

this year. The new lower annual dues are less than the cost of a Life Membership so there is just no reason to continue this. But if you really want a Life Membership you can still obtain one up to December 31.

(Continued on page 7)

From Cacti War Stories: [http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/war\\_stories/warstories\\_index.php](http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/war_stories/warstories_index.php)

## A Soldier in the 35th Infantry Regiment

By Vernon G Hodson, M 35th Infantry Regiment, 1941-1944

My 18th birthday found me hitching a ride to Portland, Maine to enlist in the Army. By April 25, 1940, my paperwork and physical had been successfully completed and I entered active service. There was no boot camp in those days with all basic training done at your assigned regiment.

May and June were spent in transit on a slow boat to Hawaii through the Panama Canal. We arrived at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on July 2, 1940. I was assigned to M Company, 35th Infantry Regiment and placed under the direction of **Sgt. Miles** and **Corporal Hale**. They were the non-coms responsible for basic training of all new recruits joining the regiment.

After completion of basic training, I was to remain in the company for the next four-years. The next year and a half of peace time were spent improving our skills. I became qualified as a truck driver, heavy mortar team leader and expert gunner with the .30 caliber water cooled machine gun.

During the latter half of 1941, the intensity of the training and the levels of alert were increased. Due to the war in China and Europe, there was growing concern about the security in Hawaii.

We were often sent on roving patrols in our half-ton Chevy pickup truck with four men and live rounds in the mounted .30 caliber machine gun. A routine part of our patrol was to check bridges and culverts for sabotage.

In November 1941, a full-dress parade was performed for a high level visiting Japanese Emissary. Perhaps this was meant to be a show of force?

The morning of December 7, 1941 saw me returning to the barracks from Honolulu early in the morning. I was awakened by the sound of explosions at Wheeler Field. We ran to get weapons and ammunition but they were locked up. In the meantime from the third floor window we could look down on a Japanese plane pulling up from a strafing run. The big red rising sun was showing on the wings. This answered the question about the sources of the explosions. With our aircraft at

Wheeler field lined up wing tip to wing tip, the strafing and bombing were very effective and over quickly. Virtually every aircraft was damaged or destroyed. We could also see the smoke coming from Pearl Harbor. We spent the rest of the day getting ready for the Japanese invasion that was expected and so we took our positions near the beaches. We stayed in defensive positions for some time until it became clear the Japanese were not going to invade; we went back to training our new men and preparing for amphibious assaults.

There were rumors about deployment but things remained quiet until late 1942, when we boarded a ship for an unknown location. Caledonia was our first destination but that was only an interim stop on our way to Guadalcanal. We arrived December 17, 1942, where we were to relieve the 1st Marine Division which had been in constant combat since August. Now we were exposed to bombing, artillery fire and night-time combat against a weakened enemy. However bad the enemy was, the jungle and tropical disease were worse.

In the next two months, almost everyone in the company had had some bouts with malaria. On January 4, we left the beach and began our assault to clear Mt. Austin of the Japanese. To do this we had to go through a heavy fortified area known as the Gifu pocket. It was a strong point loaded with pill boxes hidden in such heavy jungle that we couldn't see them until we were nearly on them. Days were spent in intense fighting against snipers and hidden bunkers. Only when a tank borrowed from the Marines was brought up, could the pillboxes be destroyed without heavy losses. A single light tank was able to use their 37 mm and opened up a gap in the Japanese defense line. This was the beginning of the end. A counter attack by the Japanese the next day was costly to the 2nd battalion but exhausted most of the Japanese capability. We cleared the pocket of the enemy forces over the next few days.

Finally, we were pulled out of the line and returned to the beach where we had originally landed. By February, the Japanese had

evacuated most of their troops off the island and resistance had become sporadic. From February to July of 1943, we maintained the security of Guadalcanal. This time was also used for training of replacements needed after the terrible fighting on Guadalcanal.

On August 15, 1943 we conducted an opposed landing at Villa Lavelle, a small island north of Guadalcanal. The invasion force was primarily the 35th Infantry Regiment. My unit, the 3rd Battalion was the last battalion to land. My landing was memorable because just as we had gotten to the beach, two Japanese aircraft came in low strafing the beach. A buddy and I jumped into the jungle and took cover behind a downed tree. Although feeling relieved to be away from the strafing aircraft, we were shocked to find the downed tree contained nests of the biggest ants we had ever seen. We were attacked with scores of bites. So severe were the bites that our response was to run back across the beach and into the water, where we ripped off our clothes and scraped the ants off our bodies. Fortunately, the strafing was over and no serious damage was caused by the ants but we were often reminded by fellow soldiers of our naked return to the water.

I was still recovering from a back injury caused by being run over by a truck in Guadalcanal while preparing for the Villa Lavelle landings, but I refused any serious treatment because I didn't want to leave my company.

We encountered light resistance and the island fell. We returned to Guadalcanal and then to New Zealand for needed rest and recuperation.

Then it was off to New Caledonia to prepare for the Philippine campaign. Here I was selected for my first leave back to the U.S. In July 1944, my service with "M" company and the 35th infantry ended. Upon return to the U.S. and completion of leave, I was transferred to Camp Blanding, Florida. While awaiting transfer to another unit I had several severe recurrences of malaria that required hospitalization with subsequent rehabilitation. After numerous hospitalizations for malaria, I was released from active duty with an Honorable discharge on June 16th 1949.



## A BAD DAY FOR G COMPANY

Puncan, Luzon, the Philippines, 3-4 March 1945

(From the book "SGT Roach's Story" by Perry Ball, reprinted by permission)

**Sgt. Thomas A. Roach** was a member of the Mortar Section, G Company, 35th Regiment during the Luzon Campaign. Perry E. Ball, is a retired Senior Foreign Service Officer and the son of **Sgt. Wilbur P. Ball**, who was a member of the Light Machine Gun Section of the same company. Copies of "Sgt. Roach's Story" can be obtained by sending a check for \$30 per copy to the following address: Perry E. Ball, 1N567 Golf View Lane, Winfield, IL 60190."

G Company and the rest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion continued to have difficulty with the Japanese 105 mm howitzers located just west of Highway 5. The artillery pieces were located in caves set in a cliff, were heavily camouflaged, and were defended by supporting machine guns. These guns directed approximately 20 rounds of direct fire into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion position in Puncan on the night of 3-4 March. Then-SSGT **Sydney A. Sae-tre** wrote that five of the shells were direct hits on his 1<sup>st</sup> Squad, 1<sup>st</sup> Plt. One round hit a tree, resulting in a tree burst over a two-man foxhole occupied by his Assistant Squad Leader, **Sgt. Bruce S. Parsel**, an American Indian, and his 1<sup>st</sup> Scout **Pfc. Roy G. Lickenbrock**. Parsel died that day. Lickenbrock was badly wounded and evacuated to the forward field hospital, but he died of his wounds three days later on 7 March. Another shell killed his BAR man, **Pfc. Ray C. Richardson**.

Japanese gunners fired most of their shells into the trees in order to create tree bursts. The tree bursts were much more deadly because they exploded overhead and rained shrapnel downward over a wide

area. The men in the open had no protection from tree bursts. The men in foxholes did not have much more protection unless they had time to create overhead fortifications with logs and dirt and this was usually not the case. Consequently, the only thing they could do when tree bursts occurred was to pray for the best.

*Another Japanese infiltrator got through the perimeter, was shot, and fell forward onto Lang's foxhole. Lang had a good throwing knife and he knifed the Japanese soldier as he fell.*

Japanese attacking parties also tried to infiltrate the perimeter, as they had attempted to do on the previous night. This time, ten Japanese soldiers were killed trying to infiltrate the perimeter. **Pfc. Lang** recalled that his 3<sup>rd</sup> Squad, 2<sup>nd</sup> Plt. was guarding a footbridge across a dry creek and that there was a machine gun position on his left and an anti-tank gun on his right. **Sgt. Charles W. Christoph**, an OCS washout who had been training soldiers in the U.S. before joining G Company and who did everything by the book, was in the same area. The Japanese soldiers fired at the G Company perimeter that night and

**Christoph** returned fire and gave his position away. A Japanese infiltrator dropped a hand grenade into his foxhole a short while later. They picked up the pieces the next morning.

Another Japanese infiltrator got through the perimeter, was shot, and fell forward onto **Lang's** foxhole. **Lang** had a good throwing knife and he knifed the Japanese soldier as he fell. **Lang** did not know if the Japanese soldier was already dead when he fell or after he was knifed. **Pfc. Derouen** and **Pfc. Sharp** from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad, 3<sup>rd</sup> Plt.

were also wounded that night. **Derouen** was wounded by shrapnel in the left thigh and **Sharp** was wounded by shrapnel in the left foot and the left thigh. They were both taken to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Field Hospital in Puncan.

Total G Company losses for the day were four dead and at least two wounded. This was the third costliest day for G Company during the Luzon Campaign, exceeded only by the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February during the Battle of Lupao.



# Cacti Scholarship Awarded to My Granddaughter

By Dave Crocker, A 1-35, 1967-68

I just wanted to thank the Association for the generous scholarship awarded to my granddaughter, Carleigh Bartholomew and to **Bill Henson** for helping in the application process.

As you may know a short time before she actually was informed of the scholarship she was involved in a tragic accident that almost took her life.

She was participating in gym type activities and was participating in some fun while dressed up in Sumo gear. She had yet to put on her head gear when she was bumped backwards causing her to injure her neck.

She had lost much of her memory and coordination as well as slurred speech and difficulty walking with her leg continually kicking out.

It was touch and go for the next few months but with her determination at rehab she was still able to enroll in college and just recently finished her first year with Honors.

The following is a letter she posted on her Facebook Page in 2017 that I thought the Association would like to read.

Thanks again.

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Carleigh writes:

June 3rd, 2016 around 12:40am, my life changed forever.

What everyone thought to be a bad concussion turned out to be much worse nonetheless. After suffering a brain and spinal cord injury, this past year has been a crazy roller coaster ride, let me tell you. I never thought I'd have to learn how to walk, run, write, learn, or play softball again at 17-years-old. There have been days I ache head to toe, wake up with no feeling in my arms or legs or days I spend crying questioning "why me?"

Most of the time someone asks what happened, I just laugh it off but I couldn't have gotten to where I am today without the people in my life. My best friends have been the absolute greatest from coming over days after it happened, laughing at all the dumb things I say now, to most importantly waiting for me at the end of each race ready to catch me when my legs give out completely.

My awesome supportive boyfriend never fails to make the bad days always a little better.

My parents and Kelsie have literally been my "right leg." You four have seen me at my absolute worse and no amount of words will ever show my true appreciation for everything you all have done. You guys all loved me when I wasn't very lovable and that speaks volumes. And to everyone else such as my doctors, coaches, family, teammates, friends, and even strangers who ask about the brace then further wish me a full recovery, THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart.

Recently someone asked me if I could go back in time and not get in the sumo suit or if I could put on the helmet, would I? They were a little dumbfounded when my answer was no. I strongly believe everything happens for a reason. There's a reason this happened to me. I've learned more about myself and did more things this past year than I ever thought possible. The most important thing I've learned is to live life to the fullest day in and day out because your whole entire world can change in the blink of an eye. You wake up one morning without any problems, and the very next morning you can wake up confused, unstable, numb, no memory, and so much more. The scary part is you have ZERO control over that. Be thankful! Although I might have to wear a brace and have short term memory loss for the rest of my life, I'm lucky.

P.S no one has to worry about me ever getting in another sumo suit.

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*(Cacti Reunion continued from page 1)*

**Johnson**, Recon 2-35, spent significant time in planning this 20<sup>th</sup> annual reunion. The selection of Portland to conduct Association business and embrace this milestone anniversary since the formation of the organization is especially notable.

Come to the Portland meet and greet and see for yourself.

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**Come to Portland, You'll be Glad You Did!**

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# Cacti Scholarship Winners

*By Dave Muxo, B 1-35, 1969-70, Chairman, Scholarship Committee*



**The 35th Infantry Regiment Association Board of Directors are pleased to announce the 2018 scholarship winners.**

Kellie Ash, from Prairieville, LA, has been awarded the James K. "Doc" Hall Award scholarship. The daughter of 35th Infantry Regiment Vietnam KIA **William D. Stovall**, Kellie is studying to be a Registered Nurse, following in the footsteps of three previous nurses in her family; her grandmother, aunt, and daughter. Kellie is no stranger to the medical field. Her previous employments include being a nurse tech, CCMA and Medical Examiner. Her letters of recommendation show her to be a caring and outstanding professional, friend, and neighbor.

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Ben Gillett, from Watertown, MN, is the grandson of Cacti **Howard Johnson**. Ben will attend the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire to pursue an Information Systems degree. While in high school, Ben participated in college level classes in History, Physiology, and Physics. His extracurricular achievements include being a Life Boy Scout and Superior rated member of the Large Group Ensemble in 2017.

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Jamie Isbell, from Lumberton, TX, is the granddaughter of Cacti **Kenneth Smith**. Jamie will be studying for a Bachelor of Science in Biology and intends to continue on to medical school with the goal of eventually becoming a trauma surgeon. Throughout her high school years Jamie has excelled as a library aide and National Honor Society student, and given of her time in community service, including flood relief and assistance to the elderly.

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Jordan Dunaway, from Marengo, IN, is the granddaughter of Cacti **Edward Ingle, Jr.** Jordan will attend Indiana University Southeast for an Associate Degree in Business in the fall, and also plans to attend the Paul Mitchell School of Cosmetology, with the intention of starting her own cosmetology business in the future. Jordan's extracurricular activities include marching band, concert band, the WHAS Crusade for Children Benefit, and Student Team Member of the Boys & Girls Club of Marengo, IL.

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William Snider, from Charlotte, NC, is the grandson of Cacti **Thomas Snider, Sr.** William discovered business as his future endeavor while participating in the scouting Explorers Program for Finance in 2017 and will be attending college in the fall. William volunteers in the community to help make a difference in the world. He is a member of the National Honor Society and placed third at the North Carolina HOSA Competition.

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Madesyn Samples, from Keizer, OR, is the granddaughter of Cacti **David Hockett**. Madesyn will attend Oregon State University to study Marine Biology, with the intention of working in a research facility to save endangered species of marine life. In high school Madesyn has maintained a 4.0 grade point average while taking honors and AP classes. Her extracurricular activities include track and competitive cheerleading. She has also been coaching cheerleading since she was fifteen-years-old and works at a local restaurant.

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*(Continued from page 3)*

The board also added a new Vice President position for War on Terror. Brian Hughes, who recently separated from the 2-35th Infantry and has been elected by the Board to fill the position. Brian has already proven his worth by bringing us over 60 new members from current and recently separated active Cacti.

There are other items the Board is considering but final decisions have yet to be made. One way to check progress on this is about two weeks before the reunion we will try to put on the website a copy of the full Constitution and Bylaws as they will be proposed. You'll be able to view those by clicking on the new "Notice" tab in the website main menu.

We are all very much looking forward to connecting with you again this year. Hope to see you there.

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# How Did We Do What We Did In Vietnam?

By John Lorts, B 2-35, 1966-67, Vice President-Information Services

As I look back on my time in Vietnam, I really can't believe the things we did and endured. Let me start off by saying that I don't consider myself a hero, but like MAJ Dick Winters said in the HBO series *Band of Brothers*, "I served in a company of heroes." Along with looking for the enemy and facing the possibility of death each and every day and night, we had to be concerned with poisonous snakes, blood sucking leaches, malaria carrying mosquitoes, stinging ants, jungle rot and punji stakes, all while humping the mountains and jungles all day long with 70-80 pounds of gear on our backs, all in the heat and humidity of the tropics while rationing two canteens of water over several days at a time. Stopping for the night, we would do a sweep of the perimeter, dig our foxholes and then eat our cold C-rations. Sleeping two hours and then on guard for one hour, all night long until an hour before daybreak when we were all up, waiting for a possible attack. When daylight broke, we ate a can or two of cold C-rations, filled in our foxholes and started the day all over again, putting one foot in front of the other, looking for the enemy (but hoping to not make contact with them or run into a deadly ambush.)

Maybe it was because most of us were only 18-19-years old. Maybe it was the training we received. Or maybe it was counting on our company commanders, platoon leaders and sergeants to know how to win a battle with few casualties. I had an outstanding company commander, **CPT Jim McQuillen**, and we all felt better when he was with us. I only knew my second company commander for a short time before I was medevac'd out due to an injury. **LT Vaughn Brauer** was my first platoon leader and he knew what he was doing but the other two platoon leaders I had fell short of their duties during fire-fights. I had some great sergeants too, **SFC Ken Whitmier** and **SSG Bobby Norkett**. I'll never forget them yelling, "Spread out ... one round will get you all!" **SSG Chuck Beauchamp** was severely wounded at the 10 Alfa battle, which happened before I got there. Unfortunately, SGM Norkett (R) and SGM Beauchamp (R) have sadly passed away. Both were

Cacti Association members and attended our reunions regularly. They are greatly missed.

My worst memory was when the 1-14<sup>th</sup> ran into an NVA base camp just on the Vietnam side of the Cambodian border. The NVA had a strong defensive perimeter with bunkers and tunnels. The 1-14<sup>th</sup> took heavy casualties in two of their companies and the Recon platoon was ambushed on their way to help out.

My company, B 2-35, was called in to reinforce them. The battle had already gone on for about five days when we got there. There were dead NVA scattered all around, some had been laying there for four or five days, bloated, stinking and with flies and maggots crawling all over them. One body had been hit in the forehead by an M-16 and the back of his skull was gone along with his brains. Another body was leaning up against a tree eating his rations. A mortar or artillery round had gone off behind him and killed him. The blast blew the rice that he had been eating right out of his mouth, and trailing down his shirt. Combine the rice with the maggots crawling over him and I couldn't eat rice for years after.

During the next five days we were engaged in battle, advancing, getting pinned down, pulling back for airstrikes and artillery. One day I had not eaten anything most of the day and during a lull in the battle, I decided to open a can of C's. The only problem was that I was lying within arm's reach of a long-dead NVA. The flies and maggots were crawling all over him and the flies kept landing on me and my food! I had to keep shooing them away. The stench was terrible, but it was the only chance I had to get something in my stomach.

The good news was that B-52's were called in on the second day, so we had to pull back five-miles to the 1-14<sup>th</sup> Battalion perimeter prior to the bombing. Along the way there was another dead NVA on the trail. He was mostly a skeleton in uniform; his skull was partially covered by dry skin. There was a small river we had to cross and a log had been placed over the river.

We had to cross one man at a time; each man had to step carefully to successfully make it across. This delay caused us to get spread out way too far. I was the platoon RTO. Once I got across the "bridge," I looked up the hill and saw my platoon leader's head disappear as he was moving quickly down the next hill. Once I got to the top of the hill, he was no longer in sight. Many of us were moving along the trail all alone, running to catch up while looking behind every tree for the enemy. I radioed the Company Commander and told him how we were spread out and he stopped the patrol so we could all form up again into a single unit.

That night, we stayed up for the air strike. When the B-52's got to the target, the 2,000 pound bombs they dropped lit up the sky and we could feel the sound waves on our faces! The bad news was that the air strike missed its target! The next day the NVA were still there ready to fight.

After couple days of battle, we returned to the battalion perimeter to wait for two more B-52 strikes, one at 2200 hours and one at 0200. It was another great show of force and we were hoping that they hit the target this time. The next morning we were told to pack an extra load of ammo as we were going to be making an all-out, on-line attack. Fortunately when we got there, you couldn't even recognize the terrain as the air strikes hit their target dead-on.



Photo by Richard Beal, 1-14th Inf.  
[http://www.1-14th.com/Vietnam/Timeline/tv\\_661120-21.html](http://www.1-14th.com/Vietnam/Timeline/tv_661120-21.html)

There were huge bomb craters everywhere and the trees were stripped of their leaves

(Continued on page 13)

*(SitRep, continued from page 1)*

class training event for the Warrior BDE. The Cacti Battalion will be focusing its efforts on conducting defensive operations and counter-attack missions in order to give Task Force Warrior a formidable fight.

Right before managed leave, on 23 June, Alpha Company hosted the University of Hawaii Football Team, Staff, and Coaches (along with Bronco 6 & 7) at the Field Leader Reaction Course and on a small arms range to help build team cohesion and establish a link between the 25th Infantry Division and UH sports. After such positive feedback, the University of Hawaii Basketball Team reached out in request of the same Team Building event where Soldiers of HHC/Rear-Detachment happily obliged. Cacti's ties to the community remain strong and as the school year approaches, we will again be working very closely with Helemano Elementary School with volunteer services. Cacti also took part in the Brigade Change of Command, bidding farewell to **COL Rob Ryan**, and on behalf of all of Cacti, welcome **COL John Lubas** to the Bronco Brigade. Cacti looks forward to the direction he will lead the Brigade. University of Hawaii Coaches with Alpha Company and 3IBCT CDR and CSM (COL Ryan, CSM Spear)



University of Hawaii Coaches with Alpha Company and 3IBCT CDR and CSM (COL Ryan, CSM Spear)



**Sgt. Anatall Esteem**, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, loosens the clothing of a suspected heat casualty at the treat a casualty for heat injury station during Expert Infantryman Badge train up at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on June 6, 2018. Infantrymen throughout the 25th ID are participating in this biannual event to earn the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge. *(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Armando R. Limon, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)*



A Soldier assign to 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, plots his course at the land navigation course during Expert Infantryman Badge train up at Schofield Barracks East Range, Hawaii, on June 5, 2018. Infantrymen throughout the 25th ID are participating in this biannual event to earn the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge. *(U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Armando R. Limon, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)*

*(Continued on page 13)*



# Cacti Commo



Congratulations to **Col. (Ret.) Richard H. White** who is featured on the cover of *County Line Magazine*. The featured article highlights his outstanding career, his family, including son **Graham** (who also served with the Cacti) and his contributions to the Johns Creek Community. He is active in the Johns Creek Veterans Association. He worked tirelessly to establish the Georgia Military Veterans' Hall of Fame and to serve on its Board of Directors. We are fortunate to have had Rick serve with the Cacti. He continues to serve his family and community. Thanks Rick. **Jim Beddingfield** -- [beddingfield9677@bellsouth.net](mailto:beddingfield9677@bellsouth.net) Cumming, GA -- 05/04/2018.

My great uncle was in Company H, 2nd Battalion 35th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry division in the Korean War and is still MIA. His name was **Melvin M Castille** from St Martin, LA and was thought to have been killed on 11/28/1950 at the Chongchon River. Our family has never had any closure from this. He was 19-years-old when he went missing. We did submit a DNA sample for record. Would anyone have any memories of him or have any idea on how I can reach out to others in his regiment who might have known him or know what happen to him? Jennifer Nugent – Youngsville, LA [Nberry0409@gmail.com](mailto:Nberry0409@gmail.com) -- 06/25/2018.

Hello, I'm looking for information on a relative of mine who I think was in 1/35 Infantry in 67. Does anyone know a **Kerry Nogle** and would be willing to share experiences about him? Many thanks and God bless. Ethan Durda – Phoenix, AZ [edurda@hotmail.com](mailto:edurda@hotmail.com) -- 06/23/2018.

I am trying to update contact information for Sgt. Frank Riley, B Company, 1st Platoon, 2/35th 1967/1968. The last email address I had for Frank has apparently changed and I need an updated one. If anyone has it, please send it to me at my email address or call me at (626) 356 - 0328 if that's easier for you. Thank you, **John Pipia** -- [jfp97@aol.com](mailto:jfp97@aol.com) -- 06/05/2018.

For at least the past 25 years I have been able to go to the Wall to mark the anniversary of the date that we lost my pal Guinn (**Robert George Guinn**, KIA June 4, 1970). Unfortunately I can't do it this year but Guinn, you are in my heart (as you are every day) on this 48th anniversary of your death. Rest in peace old friend. I wish we could meet at reunions and laugh together about the old days. Fortunately your memory and your humor are still kept alive at those reunions. Until we meet again. Love you Brother. **Jim (Doc) Hall** – Woodbury, NJ — [jimdochall@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdochall@yahoo.com) -- 06/04/2018.

Does anyone remember a **PFC Michael Lee Dotson**. I do not know what squad or platoon he was in but he was also KIA during Battle of Tan Phong, May 29, 1967, same night my squad leader **SGT Gregory Silva** and my Company Commander **Ralph B. Walker** were KIA, in the same contact I was in. **Charles T.Coates** (Chuck) SSG Retired, US Army – Bradenton, FL -- [arps1970@gmail.com](mailto:arps1970@gmail.com) -- 05/31/2018.

Happy Memorial Day to all my Cacti Brothers. My two favorite holidays every year are Memorial Day and Veterans Day. My activities this year were limited but I was pleased on a cool misty morning here in NJ to be able to attend local services marking the day and then visiting two Cacti graves. Today I visited the graves of **Robert Catling** (B Co 1/35th KIA 7/3/66) and **William Graves** (G Co KIA 11/30/50). May they and all our heroes rest forever in peace knowing the gratitude of all of us who served with them. God Bless all who served. You are always in my mind and prayers. **Jim 'Doc' Hall** -- Woodbury NJ -- [jimdochall@yahoo.com](mailto:jimdochall@yahoo.com) -- 05/28/2018.

This Monday coming up is Memorial Day. Please take time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I would like to remember **PFC La Marre Major** (12 Mar 67), **PFC Larmar Horne** (12 Mar 67), **Sp4 Carl Foster** (8 Feb 67), **PFC Ralph Moore** (3 May 67), **CPT Ralph Walker II** (29 May 67), B 2-35th Inf., 3rd Bde Task Force, 25th Inf. Division. These are men I served with and was in the same contact with when they were KIA. May they rest in peace and will Never Be Forgotten. **Charles T.Coates** (Chuck) – Bradenton, FL -- [arps1970@gmail.com](mailto:arps1970@gmail.com) -- 05/27/2018.

RIP big brother till we meet again -remembering **Robert Lynn Shook**, KIA August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1969. Freddie Shook – Adel, GA-- [shookybear@hotmail.com](mailto:shookybear@hotmail.com) -- 05/27/2018.

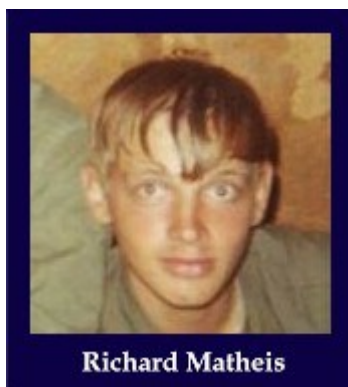
This is in Memory of **Bill Illman** and **Jake Price**, fallen warriors who were KIA on January 2, 1968, 50 years ago. May they rest in peace and the perpetual light shine upon them, they will never be forgotten. **John Pipia** – [jfp97@aol.com](mailto:jfp97@aol.com) -- 05/26/2018.

# Dick Matheis Remembered 2018

By Jim "Doc" Hall, B 2-35, 1970, Past President

May 8, 1970. 48 years ago. All of us who were there remember and always will remember the date. We remember the look and the feel of that day. We remember the smell of the air and the silence followed by the heart stopping sound of a single gunshot and then automatic weapons fire followed by the clamor of the aftermath as orders were barked and information was passed from man to man.

The cool of the jungle shade gave way to the heat of the small open clearing. The clatter of the helicopter blades overwhelmed the clamor of confusion. Then silence once again and slowly grief snuck into the mixture as we realized that we had just lost our friend **Dick Matheis**.



All of us who were there on that day, 48 years ago, have this scene with all the associated sights, sounds, smells, and feelings engrained in our memories and on our psychological structure. It will always be so.

For all of our comrades who were there; for all of the family and friends from Johnsbury and Adams, MN who remember where they were and what they were doing when they learned of Dick's death; we wish peace of mind and nothing but wonderful memories of having Dick in our lives for a short time.

We miss you Dick. God Bless all.

His Brothers from Bravo Company 1<sup>st</sup> platoon  
2/35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

From Cacti War Stories: [http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/war\\_stories/warstories\\_index.php](http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/war_stories/warstories_index.php)

## Ice and Snow Aren't All Bad

By Frank Dahl, I Company, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Korea, 1951-52

I grew up in North Dakota and most of the time snow and ice were mightily cursed. We had plenty of snow in Korea in 1951 and '52. In early 1952 I was making a round to check on my platoon. Several of my men were located in a bunker on the corner of the main line. This bunker stuck out like a sore thumb and it's construction would shame the 3 Little Pigs. It had 2-and-3-inch curved saplings for a roof and was covered with dirt, snow, and ice. I had just jumped into the bunker when we heard the report, the whine and the dull thud of a 76 SP round. It had hit low and was a dud. The next one hit, exploded and shook dirt down on us.

Then came a series of (on target) rounds that would hit and ricochet up the hill. The ice and snow were causing the shells to glance off. After what seemed like an hour I called up to the forward observer and yelled, get that crap off our back! They were located immediately behind our position and this was the F.O.'s reply, hell you're not getting it all, you know. Most of it is bouncing up to us and then exploding! A short time later, the 75 recoilless crew silenced the Chink 76. So ice and snow are good at times!

(Commo, continued from page 10)

**Harry Davis'** loss still weighs heavy on his brother's being. As his sister-in-law (the only one he has), it's comforting to read the entries of his battle buddies and their loved ones. I share this for the sake of posterity. Patricia Davis – Auroa, CO -- [gpdavis@reagan.com](mailto:gpdavis@reagan.com) -- 05/26/2018.

Looking for information for a friend of mine. His uncle was in Pleiku Aug 69 getting ready to head home, he was a friend of my brother **Robert Lynn Shook**, KIA 2 Aug 69. His name is James Michael Whittaker Sr. If anyone knew him or has info on him, please get in touch with me and I will pass it along to the family or put you in touch with the family. Thank you, may God keep and bless you all. Freddie Shook, Adel, GA -- [shookybear@hotmail.com](mailto:shookybear@hotmail.com) -- 05/24/2018.

20 May 67, my oldest brother, **Joseph Ledesma, Jr.**, C 2-35, was killed in the Battle of Vinh Hien. Also killed were **Roland Rush** and **Gary Killian** of C/2-35. Joey will always be loved and remembered. David Ledesma -- San Jose, CA-- [svtriathlete@hotmail.com](mailto:svtriathlete@hotmail.com) -- 05/21/2018.

My Friend, that happy Irishman with the German name, **Tom Messemer** C 35th 1952, passed away January 26, 2018. Augie Rosa, K 35<sup>th</sup>, 1950-51 – Phenixville, PA-- [robincross32@outlook.com](mailto:robincross32@outlook.com) -- 05/09/2018

**PFC Gerald Neal Remper** died in service to his country on June 26th, 1968 in Kontum Province, Vietnam. He was in Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion. He was attended to by myself and a very brave medic. For the past 50 years I have been trying to remember who the medic was. Please contact me by email or phone if you are that medic or have any recollection of that fatal day. Thank you for your help. Ron Cox, B 2/35 67/68, Ph:918-464-2415 — Webbers Falls, OK [rscox1967@gmail.com](mailto:rscox1967@gmail.com) -- 07/25/2018

# Cacti Taps



Photo by John Lorts

## Korea

Marvin E. Swan, I 3-35, 1950-51

## Pre-Vietnam

Aloys Dosch, E/D 2-35, 1961-65

## Vietnam

Joseph Brennan Walsh, M.D., HHC, 2-35th, 1968-69

*The Purpose of this Association shall be to organize the veterans of the **35th Infantry Regiment** of the United States Army, is 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.*

# In Memoriam



Photo by John Lorts

Eric Sofge, A/D/HHC 2-35, 2005-10 WOT in memory of his cousin Eliyahu Drori (Israeli Defense Forces) KIA 4/13/2018.

Association members of B 2-35, 1965-67 and Thomas Sasala, in memory of Sandy DeRosa who passed away 5/16/ 2018. Sandy was the beloved wife of **Rocco "Doc" DeRosa**, HHC/B 2-35, 1966-67.



*This memorial was erected in memory of the young individuals who went to war as kids and lost their youthful dreams, and some their lives, for a cause—freedom and honor—and came back as men with the horrors of war instilled in every fiber of their being and were never given the respect and honor they so dearly deserved from the public or United States government.*

*God will some day judge our actions. Until then, He will shine on the lives of each veteran now and forever more because He was with each of them in Vietnam. He is the only One that truly knows what they went through and are living with every day.*

(Continued from page 9)



**Sgt. Paulando Stewart** (kneeling) gives instruction to **Staff Sgt. Robert Dzula** at the prepare a range card for a M240B machine gun during Expert Infantryman Badge train up at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on June 4, 2018. Both Soldiers are infantrymen assigned to 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division. Infantrymen throughout the 25th ID are participating in this biannual event to earn the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Armando R. Limon, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)



**Staff Sgt. Robert Dzula**, an infantryman assigned to 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, sites a weapon at the prepare a range card for a M240B machine gun during Expert Infantryman Badge train up at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on June 4, 2018. Infantrymen throughout the 25th ID are participating in this biannual event to earn the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Armando R. Limon, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division)

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**  
A mental health problem that can occur after someone goes through a traumatic event like war, assault, or disaster.

**PTSD Awareness Day**

June 27th is the nation's official day to focus attention on post-traumatic stress disorder. If you know someone that is experiencing PTSD, let them know there's hope and treatment options.

**VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS**

(Continued from page 8)

with most of the trees down on the ground, broken into pieces. I saw huge tail fins from a bomb lying on the ground as I passed by. The NVA were gone as their perimeter was completely destroyed. A tunnel was partially uncovered by one of the bombs and it was estimated that 50 dead bodies had been stacked in the tunnel over the course of the battle.

The artillery and mortar support was suspended but unfortunately, an unauthorized

four-deuce round fell right in the middle of our line, killing PFC's **Joseph Arimento** and **David Crabtree** and wounding several others. They were our only casualties of the whole battle and I credit CPT McQuillen as he used the smart strategy of using mostly artillery and air support rather than making an all-out attack on the bunkers, where we would've had a lot of casualties. We patrolled to the border but found no sign of the enemy. We spent the night at the battle site. The next day we returned to the battalion perimeter. It was Thanksgiving Day and they flew out a Thanksgiving

meal of turkey and dressing and all the trimmings, and even ice cream. However, many of us didn't feel like celebrating and some of us weren't interested in eating a big meal as the stench of dead bodies permeated our clothes. The next day, B 2-35 was air lifted back to the 2-35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion; we were "home!"

(A more detailed article of this battle, "The Battle at Dragon Crater" written by Jim McQuillen, was printed in the Spring 2008 issue of the "Cacti Times")





## Portland, Oregon Information (From the last issue)

**Doc Johnson**, E 2-35, 1968-69, Secretary, Reunion Coordinator, Past President:

It's been almost 30 years since I moved from Portland, Oregon to Baton Rouge, but we still return every summer to see family and friends. So many things have changed that I'll probably miss new things to do in Portland. One of the best sources of information is the **Portland's Visitor Bureau**. <https://www.travelportland.com/>

If you have a car and time visit Multnomah Falls, Timberline Lodge, The Oregon Coast, Bend Oregon and the glass Fish Ladder at Bonneville Dam just to name a few. Probably best not to do these on the weekend unless you have a lot of patience or unless you take a tour to see them.

Using Portland's "MAX" light rail visit downtown, the Zoo, OSMI (Oregon Museum of Science and Industry), Portland's Saturday Market. You can pretty much get anywhere you want on The Max. Since it's the end of September there are several Beer Festivals going on and Portland is known for its Craft Breweries so visiting them is a great adventure, I believe they have tours. There's also The Oregon International Air Show going on in Hillsboro that weekend. It's about 29 miles from the hotel but taking the Max would be 2 hrs. each way.

There are some great restaurants in Portland my favorite has always been Jakes Crawfish House downtown, but there are so many more it's hard to list them. Check with the Visitors Bureau.

There are also sternwheeler boat rides (lunch and dinner on some) on both the Willamette and Columbia rivers. There are also a couple of jet boat rides on the Willamette that travel up to Oregon City that is worth taking. They have tours for everything from breweries to the mountains and beaches, just depends what you want to do.

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**David Dunn**, A 2-35, 1966-67:

For those of you planning to attend the reunion in Portland, Oregon in September you will find a number of things worth doing, seeing, eating or drinking. Depending on your interests, the greater Portland area has a broad range of activities available to visitors. Some require a bit of time (and are worth it) so plan on spending a few extra days if you are able. The "Rose City" is very friendly and more polite than most places.

This area is arguably the birthplace for the craft brewing industry that has exploded across the country. There are well over 100 craft breweries in the Portland Metro area today and Portland is considered by many to be the brew capital of the world. The McMenamin brothers and the Widmer brothers helped pioneer craft brewing in Portland the 1970's and later actually wrote the legislation allowing the "brew pub" concept, the brewing and selling/serving beer under one roof, to proliferate. They are still here and going strong. Check these: <http://www.portlandbeer.org/breweries>

<https://www.travelportland.com/collection/beer/> — <https://www.ratebeer.com/Places/State/Cities/Portland/37.htm>

### Scenic Opportunities:

Portland is located at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. The Columbia has its headwaters in Canada and is the largest North American river emptying into the Pacific Ocean. Large ocean going ships navigate the river back and forth between Portland and the Pacific. Upstream from Portland the river carries large barges and cruise ships up and into Washington and Idaho. Our hotel, The Sheraton, is located at Portland International Airport, which is adjacent to the Columbia River. Here are some related visiting opportunities:

**The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area:** (a truly "gorgeous" place) begins about 7 miles easterly of the hotel on Interstate 84. Here are some links to touristy info on The Gorge: <http://www.visitcolumbiarivergorge.com/>

<http://www.columbiarivergorge.info/waterfalls.html>

<https://traveloregon.com/places-to-go/regions/the-columbia-river-gorge/>

<http://www.columbiagorgewine.com/wineriesvineyards.html> - Easy day trip.

Farther up the Columbia to the Snake River there is Hell's Canyon, the deepest river gorge in the U.S. at 7,993 ft. and it is very beautiful by jet boat. You will need a couple of days for this. <http://www.hellscanyonadventures.com/> <http://visitlvalley.com/>

**Mt. Hood:** Mt. Hood is an 11,249 ft. high "potentially active" volcano complete with glaciers, mountain climbing, skiing, hiking and many other outdoor activities. Timberline Lodge (located at the tree line) offers pubs, bars and dining in addition to lodging and ski related activities. Links: <https://www.timberlinelodge.com/> — <https://www.travelportland.com/collection/mount-hood/> ; <https://www.mthoodterritory.com/> - Easy day trip.

**Mt. St. Helens:** Mt. St. Helens is an active volcano which last major eruption occurred in 1980. There are glaciers, hiking and great viewing with a nice visitors/interpretative center. <http://parks.state.wa.us/245/Mount-St-Helens> - Easy day trip.

(Continued on page 17)



**Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel**  
8235 NE Airport Way, Portland, OR 97220

*(Continued from page 16)*

**Oregon Coast:** The Oregon coast is really quite rugged and beautiful, particularly southerly of Cannon Beach to the California border. Officially known as the Pacific Coast Scenic Byway, the Coast Highway gives visitors lots of opportunities for viewing the coast. There are stunning vistas and the opportunity to see migrating/resident whales. The whales are more plentiful later in the fall but there is a permanent resident population, often in close to shore. <https://traveloregon.com/places-to-go/regions/oregon-coast/>  
<http://www.oregoncoasttravel.net/> North coast is a full day trip, South coast two days.

**Portland Food:** There is no shortage of excellent dining opportunities in the Portland area. While there are simply way too many to list, some of the older favorites are: Jakes Famous Crawfish, fine seafood for over 110 years in downtown Portland is touted at being among the top 10 seafood restaurants in the nation with excellent steaks as well:  
<http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com/Locations/portland-oregon/portland-oregon/SW12thAve.aspx>

Salty's on the Columbia River is not too far from the airport and our hotel. It has been around many years and has consistently done very well. Superb Columbia River views and outstanding seafood, good steaks: <https://www.saltys.com/portland/>

McCormick and Schmicks Harborside is near downtown on the Willamette River waterfront. Great Willamette River views with excellent seafood and steaks: [www.mccormickandschmicks.com/locations/portland-oregon/portland-oregon/swmontgomery.aspx](http://www.mccormickandschmicks.com/locations/portland-oregon/portland-oregon/swmontgomery.aspx)

Ringside Steakhouse: Ringside has been a Portland landmark for over 70 years under the same family ownership. Aged Angus beef is their specialty. Located in Northeast Portland it's on the way downtown from the airport/hotel:  
<http://www.ringsidesteakhouse.com/>

Killer Burger: If you are just looking for a burger, fries and a beer and no frills, Killer Burger is the place. Every burger comes with bacon and unlimited fries. Awesome! There are now several locations around town: <https://killerburger.com/>

There are lots of other things to see and do in the area but Powell's books is highly recommended with over 1,000,000 books on the shelves. It's downtown. The Rose Test Garden is also highly recommended. It's not far from downtown near the Portland Zoo. You'll have to see it to understand why but Portland is called the Rose City for good reason:

[https://travel.usnews.com/Portland\\_OR/Things\\_To\\_Do/](https://travel.usnews.com/Portland_OR/Things_To_Do/)



## Veteran's Corner

### Cacti Association Service Officers:

**Phil Surace**-pegann725@aol.com-(440) 364-0934

**Tom Mahon**-tfmahon@att.net (352) 419-2044

**Alan Olsen**-pointman1970@gmail.com-(913) 451-5887

**Jim Cooke**-carriegreencoakes@eircom.net

**Explore VA benefits and find out which ones you and your family may be eligible to receive. It's easy:**

[https://explore.va.gov/benefits-navigator?utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=july-july4th-monthly\\_7.3&utm\\_term=header-image-page&utm\\_content=benefitnav-application-all-null](https://explore.va.gov/benefits-navigator?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=july-july4th-monthly_7.3&utm_term=header-image-page&utm_content=benefitnav-application-all-null)

### Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: PTSD

(Editor's note: If you earned a CIB, you may qualify for VA Compensation of 60%.)

### Understanding PTSD and PTSD Treatment: 16 page booklet

[https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/understanding\\_ptsd/booklet.pdf](https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/understanding_ptsd/booklet.pdf)

### PTSD: National Center for PTSD

#### PTSD Monthly Update

Receive a monthly email with PTSD news, information, and relevant products. The updates are for all audiences.

<https://www.ptsd.va.gov/about/subscribe.asp>



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

## Memorial Benefits

VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members. To pay lasting tribute to the service and sacrifice of Veterans, VA offers benefits for burial in a VA national cemetery or a private cemetery.

Debbie, an Army Veteran, followed in her father's footsteps and joined the military. When he passed, VA helped her through a difficult time by giving her a way to honor him. He was buried in the VA national cemetery in Puerto Rico.

"They provided the place to bury my father, the marker and they conducted the service," says Debbie. "It's a time when you need help and they were there."

Qualified Veterans receive a government furnished headstone or marker, grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. Spouses and other eligible family members may be buried in VA national cemeteries as well.

"It was not just respectful, it was a very dignified service," says Debbie.

Learn more about VA burial and memorial benefits by clicking the link below or visit Explore.VA.gov <https://explore.va.gov/> to learn about all VA benefits and apply.

[https://explore.va.gov/memorial-benefits?utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=june-memorial-benefits-monthly\\_6.14&utm\\_term=header-image-page&utm\\_content=memorial-application-all-null](https://explore.va.gov/memorial-benefits?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=june-memorial-benefits-monthly_6.14&utm_term=header-image-page&utm_content=memorial-application-all-null)

## Veterans Can Now Schedule Appointments Online

Did you know that eligible veterans can now make health appointments online through My HealtheVet? The online scheduling tool allows veterans to self-schedule, request, or cancel many types of appointments. Learn more at:

<https://www.myhealth.va.gov/ss20170322-veterans-can-now-schedule-appointments-online>

Find out more information about My HealtheVet at: <https://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/web/myhealthvet/about-mhv>

## VA Issues New Policy to Protect Veteran Homeowners from Predatory Lending

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has issued a new policy implementing the May 2018 Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act, to protect Veteran homeowners from predatory lending practices when obtaining a VA-guaranteed refinance loan.

The act helps protect Veterans and service members from the dangers associated with repeatedly refinancing their home loans, requiring, among other things, the seasoning of the original loan and a recoupment period for fees, closing costs, and expenses related to the refinance.

“We want to ensure Veterans have the informed ability to take advantage of economic opportunities and make sound decisions that enable them to prosper when using their benefits,” said Acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke. “This is yet another

tool that will help Veterans meet their personal goals.”

The act also provides for a specified interest rate decrease and for protections of loan-to-value ratios. A refinancing loan must meet the requirements specified in the act or VA will not guarantee the loan.

VA recently implemented a policy where lenders provide Veteran borrowers a comparison of their existing VA-backed home loan to the proposed one when refinancing to ensure borrowers are set up for success. This is also referred to as a recoupment or break-even analysis, which helps Veteran borrowers clearly understand the costs of refinancing, the monthly payment savings, and the overall impact on their finances.

VA-backed home loans generally do not require a down payment, have low closing costs, and are the lowest rates among all loan products in the marketplace. Notably, VA-backed home loans also continue to

outperform other products in the market. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, VA guaranteed more than 740,000 loans for a total of \$189 billion, an all-time record for the VA Home Loan Program. Over the past three years, VA has guaranteed more than 2 million VA home loans for over \$500 billion.

The VA Home Loan Program’s mission is to maximize Veterans’ and service members’ opportunity to obtain, retain, and adapt homes by providing a viable and fiscally responsible benefit program in recognition of their service to the nation. In addition, VA also helps severely disabled Veterans adapt their homes to live more independently by providing up to \$81,080 for home modifications. For more information, including eligibility criteria, visit Housing Grants for Disabled Veterans:

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/adaptedhousing.asp>

## Can I Get Travel Costs for VA Health Care?

Many Veterans can be reimbursed for travel costs related to VA health care services.

**The Beneficiary Travel program** helps eligible Veterans receive mileage reimbursement. In some cases, it can pay for the costs of an ambulance or a wheel chair van. When a privately-owned vehicle is not reasonably accessible or travel by a common carrier such as a plane, train, bus, taxi, or light rail is medi-

cally necessary, Veterans may be reimbursed. The transportation is to help Veterans get to and from their VA health care facility, or to VA-authorized non-VA health care for which the Veteran is eligible. Veterans may apply for travel reimbursement by completing **VA Form 10-3542** (Veteran/Beneficiary Claim for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses). Veterans usually receive payments from electronic fund transfers to a bank account or a debit card.

## Where are My VA Lab Test Results?

Lab test results are one of the top five most popular features Veterans use on **My HealtheVet**. It's important to stay on top of your lab test results so that you can work with your provider to make decisions about your health and your health care.

If you want to get started, there are three ways to get lab test results:

**1. Labs and Tests link:** Use this direct link on the home page to quickly view your VA lab health records box blue button lab test Trach Health results and self-entered lab/test information. To save or print a copy of your lab results, select the 'Print' option in the upper right-hand corner of the results page. You can also use the

VA Blue Button Report or VA Health Summary.

**2. VA Blue Button Report:** You select the data range and information you want in a report that can be downloaded or printed. To use this option, choose the 'Health Records' link on the home page and select VA Blue Button Report. Choose the date range that includes the time frame for your test and select the 'VA Laboratory Results' in the 'Labs and Tests' section.

Labs and Tests checkboxes

**3. VA Health Summary:** The VA Health Summary includes a comprehensive summary of recent VA care. It includes much more information than your labs. The summary includes a maximum of your 10 most

recent laboratory tests over the last 24 months. To use this option, choose the 'Health Records' link on the Home Page and select 'VA Health Summary'. You may want to use this option if you are sharing your information with another health care provider. You can learn more from: What is in the [VA Health Summary?](#) (PDF)

As a reminder, your lab results are available three days after they are verified. Depending on the test, the results may not be available right away. To learn more visit: Laboratory Tests. If you have questions about your results, contact your health care team by Secure Messaging or by phone.

Created July 16, 2018



(Reprinted from Hawai'i Army Weekly)

## Army researchers developing high-performance, lightweight helmet

haw | June 18, 2018 |

WASHINGTON — Army researchers in Massachusetts are developing technology that may soon yield a lightweight combat helmet that provides more protection than anything ever fielded.

Representatives of the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, Massachusetts, had an array of combat helmets on display at the Pentagon, May 24-25, as part of a "Close-Combat Lethality Tech Day."

Included among that protective gear was the Personnel Armor System for Ground Troops, or PASGT helmet, first fielded in 1981; the Advanced Combat Helmet, or ACH, first fielded in 2003; and the Lightweight Advanced Combat Helmet, or LW-ACH, which first appeared in 2013.

### New Materials

All three of those helmets make use of para-aramid fibers to protect soldiers, and each successive helmet weighed less than its predecessor. The LW-ACH for instance, is more than a half-pound lighter than the PASGT helmet for a size large.

Lightweight helmet prototypes are shown at Pentagon Representatives of the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, Massachusetts. This helmet, a NSRDEC prototype, provides equal protection to earlier helmets, but at less weight. (Army photo by C. Todd Lopez)

Newer helmets on display made use of a different material: ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene, or UHMWPE.

The Advanced Combat Helmet Generation II, for example, weighs 22 percent less than the ACH and is designed to protect soldiers from fragmentation as well as from rounds up to 9 mm.

The Enhanced Combat Helmet and the most-recently fielded Integrated Head Protection System, or IHPS, with ballistic



applique provide protection against rifle fire, as well. That increased protection, however, comes at a cost in terms of weight.

The helmet display made clear the challenge posed to those responsible for designing gear that keeps soldiers safe.

### Minimizing Helmet Weight

"There's kind of a competition between increased threat and weight," said Richard Green, the director of the Soldier Protection and Survivability Directorate at NSRDEC. "We want to protect against increased threat, while minimizing the weight. That's our goal."

The centerpiece of the NSRDEC helmet display, the NSRDEC prototype helmet, met the protection versus weight challenge head on.

Weighing in at just 2.5 pounds for the shell, and an estimated 3.5 pounds final weight, the NSRDEC prototype provides the same protection as the currently-fielded IHPS.

But the NSRDEC prototype doesn't require the modular IHPS ballistic applique that attaches over the base helmet. With that applique in place, the IHPS system weighs over five pounds. The NSRDEC prototype weighs less than half that and provides the same protection. It protects soldiers against fragmentation, against 9

mm weapons fire, and against what Green called a "prevalent rifle threat."

The NSRDEC prototype helmet is made of the same class of material as the IHPS, the ECH and the ACH GEN II: UHMWPE. But what researchers at NSRDEC have done is developed new ways to process UHMWPE so that it will be stronger than it has been in the past.

"It's stronger, so you need less of it," Green said.

### Improved Performance

The new processing methods NSRDEC researchers have developed for UHMWPE has improved the ballistic performance for that material within a helmet. That means soldiers may one day see a finished helmet that weighs the same as the ECH, but provides more protection.

"The processing of that material has enabled us to optimize its performance," said Kenneth Ryan, the Warfighter Protection branch chief at NSRDEC. "Decreasing the load helps optimize soldier performance, and that helps them to be more lethal."

The NSRDEC doesn't manufacture helmets for the Army. Instead, it is the defense industry that ultimately provides that function, Ryan said. But when the time comes, it'll be NSRDEC-conducted research that industry will use to make the next generation of helmets that will help keep soldiers safe on the battlefield.

Ryan said he expects it will be about 12 months before these advanced technology developments that yielded the current incarnation of the NSRDEC prototype helmet can move forward to a point where the Army may request industry to develop mass-produced helmets for fielding to soldiers.

## ‘Tropic Lightning’ Soldiers earn coveted EIB *(Reprinted from Hawai‘i Army Weekly)*



Photo By Staff Sgt. Armando Limon | Command Sgt. Major Brian A. Hester, senior enlisted advisor, 25th Infantry Division, pins on the Expert Infantryman Badge on an awardee at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on June 15, 2018. Infantrymen throughout the 25th ID are participating in this biannual event to earn the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Armando R. Limon, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry)

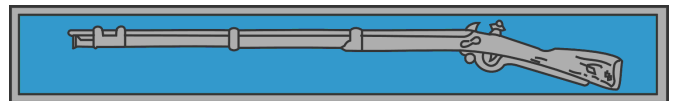
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii — More than 160 Soldiers were awarded the prestigious Expert Infantryman Badge at F Quad, here, on June 15, 2018. Infantrymen assigned to the 25th Infantry Division's, "Tropic Lightning," 2nd Brigade Combat Team and 3rd Bde. Combat Team, participated in the grueling weeklong testing.

Command Sgt. Major Brian A. Hester, senior enlisted advisor, 25th Infantry Division, gave his remarks on congratulating the newly minted expert infantrymen.

"I'm very honored to be among such great Americans," Hester said. "One day after the 243rd birthday of our Army, which has had millions of infantrymen serve and defend this nation within its ranks. In fact the first Soldiers in our Army were infantrymen."

"This is a defining moment in an infantryman's career," he said. "Earning the Expert Infantryman Badge is a difficult task that requires the completion of almost 40 individual tasks. You mastered each one of these tasks and were evaluated against a demanding standard."

The Soldiers also participated in an Army Physical Fitness Test, day and night land navigation at East Range, and a 12-mile ruck march around the post to earn the coveted EIB.



"The EIB was created in 1944 by then Chief of Staff of the Army, General George C. Marshall, to honor the United States Army infantryman," he said. "It was instituted to build and maintain esprit de corps within the U.S. Army infantry units."

Sgt. Roynald Allen, Infantryman, 2nd Battalion, 35th Inf. Regiment, 3rd BCT, 25th ID, described what he had to do to earn the EIB.

"The EIB was a variety of multiple tasks that I trained up for weekly," Allen said. "I studied in my off time to better prepare myself. Once the time came I was able to actually get everything correct in sequence in order to get a go."

Out of the numerous infantry tasks Allen had to accomplish at Area X-ray, he had to work extra hard at one of the most difficult event.

"I was worried about the patrol lane," he said. "Last year I got a double no-go at the grenade station. This year I got my first time go, so I was really proud of that."

*(Sent in by Alan Stelzer, B 2-35, 1965-67)*

From Cacti War Stories: [http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/war\\_stories/warstories\\_index.php](http://www.cacti35th.org/regiment/war_stories/warstories_index.php)

## BEETLES AND OTHER THINGS THAT BITE

by Cpt. Jack Burr, B/HHC, 1-35, 1966-67, 1969-70

Infantry soldiers operating in the Central Highlands, Kontum Province, Vietnam attacked by large beetles, leeches and scorpions.

That could easily have the headline of a news story in the fall of 1966 as my platoon of 20 men conducted a search mission in the dense triple canopy forest west of



Pleiku. During the first night, hungry beetles practically devoured the underside of our air mattress and made it useless. I also found one of the beetles in my boot as I dressed for the day. It didn't take me long to extract my foot and pull the thing off my big toe. It bled some. From that day on,

I always checked my boots before putting them on. Snakes were also known to find temporary lodging in a soldiers' empty boot.

That was not the last encounter with things that cling and sting. We crossed large streams and small streams in the course of our mission. After each stream crossing every man looked for leeches that attached themselves to bare skin beneath our loose clothing. As we pulled the blood sucking parasites from our bodies, it left bruises and dripping blood. We were tempted to get back in the water to wash off but we changed our mind.

On another occasion, I got a call from the company commander directing my platoon to help a sister unit in contact with an enemy a short distance away. It was hot and muggy so I unbuttoned the top buttons on my fatigue shirt that left a clear path for a scorpion to drop from a tree limb. With lobster like pincers and a poisonous sting at the end of its jointed tail it struck my stomach with vengeance. I felt its sting



and grabbed my shirt with the insect in my grip. I squeezed hard and killed the offender. A few minutes later I felt dizzy and weak. I asked the medic for something to get me through the next few hours. He did, and my platoon arrived and fought without casualties while the enemy withdrew. I was evacuated later that day and spent two days at base camp and then rejoined my platoon. Beetles and other things that bite did not defeat us but they made us uncomfortable. They also gave us something else to think about instead of more unpleasant things. Ask any soldier who was there, he can tell stories.



### Request Your Military Service Records Online, by Mail, or by Fax

(Includes DD 214/Separation Documents, Personnel Records, Replacement Medals, and/or Medical Records)

Military personnel records can include DD 214s/Separation Documents, service personnel records found within the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), and medical records. Military personnel records can be used for proving military service or as a valuable tool in genealogical research.

Please note that NPRC holds historical Military Personnel Records of nearly 100 million veterans. The vast majority of these records are paper-based and not available on-line.

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>



## Humor in Uniform



As the family gathered for a big dinner together, the youngest son announced that he had just signed up at an Army recruiter's office. There were audible gasps around the table, and then some laughter, as his older brothers shared their disbelief that he could handle this new situation. "Oh, come on, quit joking," snickered one. "You didn't really do that, did you?" "You would never get through basic training," scoffed another. The new recruit looked to his mother for help, but she was just gazing at him. When she finally spoke, she simply asked, "Do you really plan to make your own bed every morning?"

One of my husband's duties as a novice drill instructor at Fort Jackson, S.C., was to escort new recruits to the mess hall. After everyone had made it through the chow line, he sat them down and told them "There are three rules in this mess hall: Shut up! Eat up! Get up!" Checking to see that he had everyone's attention, he asked, "What is the first rule?" Much to the amusement of the other instructors, 60 privates yelled in unison, "Shut up, Drill Sergeant!"



## REUNION LUNCHEONS

No Ham'n Lima's Allowed!



### B 1-35 Reunion Luncheon

**B**ravo Company, 1st Battalion (Cacti Green), 35th Infantry Regiment will hold their annual reunion lunch at 12 Noon on Friday, September 28, 2018 at The Old Spaghetti Factory in downtown Portland. This is the 13th consecutive year that the company will have its own separate get together in conjunction with the annual Cacti Regimental Reunion. There will be no set program but plenty of time to visit with old friends in a casual and comfortable setting.

The Old Spaghetti Factory a casual Italian style chain but their first restaurant was established in Portland in 1969. It is located on the Willamette River and is easily accessed via public transportation (the Mt Hood Ave MAX Station is a short walk from the hotel and it connects to the SW Lowell & Bond Stop of the Portland Streetcar which is a block from the restaurant; details will be provided). It is also close to many unique Portland activities such as the South Waterfront Lower Tram. Prices range from \$11-17 dollars, not including gratuity & taxes. (Note: there is no State tax in Oregon).

We'll have our own separate area and will be using the banquet menu which is a three course meal to include: a crisp salad, hot baked bread and spumoni ice cream for dessert, along with choice of one out of the three selected entrees (which are being selected by those attending). Take a look at the location and menu on their web site at: <http://www.osf.com/location/portland-or/>

All Bravo Company, 1/35 veterans, family and friends who would like to attend should contact Ralph & Jeannie Holtby as soon as their plans are set so we can let the folks at The Old Spaghetti Factory know how many of us to expect. This can be done by email [ridgetopview@hotmail.com](mailto:ridgetopview@hotmail.com); phone 541-480-5214 or snail mail at 6961 NE 1st St., Redmond, OR 97756-8756

Looking forward to seeing all Bravo Company members and guests in Portland and especially for lunch on Friday, September 28 at 12 Noon!

Thomas J. Blue – Bluffton, SC -- [TEEJ1010@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TEEJ1010@GMAIL.COM) -- 03/25/2018

### B 2-35 Reunion Luncheon

**I**n conjunction with the Cacti Regimental Reunion in Portland OR Sept 27th to Sept 30th, 2018, Bravo Company will meet again for lunch. Friday the 28th we will be at our hotel once more after all those years of convoying. Location: The Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel 8235 NE Airport Way Portland OR 97220

A 70-seat room has been provided for us at no cost so that we can enjoy our luncheon and then conduct our business. Lunch @ 1:00 pm followed by business meeting. Meal: THREE CHOICES to pre-order. Please write choices on your check.

CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD: Hearts of Romaine, Croutons, Shaved Parmesan Cheese, Creamy Garlic anchovy dressing.

DELI SANDWICH: Choice of Ham, Turkey, Roast beef, or Vegetarian. Whole wheat with Swiss Cheese, Potato Chips.

SAUSAGE AND PEPPERS: Penne Pasta, Pomodoro Sauce, Grilled Sausage, & Sautéed Sweet Peppers.

Price: \$20.00 pp includes iced tea, dessert tax, tip, and Cacti friendship!

Sign up: Please make out your check and mail to:

**Peter Birrow**  
**6060 Shore Blvd So #103**  
**Gulfport FL 33707**

All reservations have to be received before Sept 24th.  
BRAVO 2/35th BEE THERE or BEE STUNG!

Peter Birrow B2/35 68/69 -- [birrowp@hotmail.com](mailto:birrowp@hotmail.com) -- Gulfport FL -- 05/10/2018

# CACTI PX ORDER FORM

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 1 September 2018.



Note: the 2018 T-shirt color will be maroon.



Note: the 2018 T-shirt color will be maroon.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph.# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to: **Joe Henderson.**

ITEM	COST	QTY	TOTAL
BELT BUCKLE	\$20		
ASN COFFEE MUG	\$10		
35 <sup>th</sup> REGT COINS	\$10		
ASSN HAT	\$15		
4 <sup>th</sup> VIET VET HAT	\$10		
25 <sup>th</sup> VIET VET HAT	\$10		
25 <sup>th</sup> KOR VET HAT	\$10		
CIB VIET HAT	\$10		
VN RIBBON HAT	\$10		
PURPLE HT. HAT	\$10		
10 in. ASSN PATCH	\$25		
ASSN PATCH	\$5		
REGT PATCH	\$5		
4 <sup>th</sup> ID PATCH <b>White</b>	\$5		
4 <sup>th</sup> ID PATCH <b>OD</b>	\$5		
25 <sup>th</sup> ID PATCH <b>Red</b>	\$5		
25 <sup>th</sup> ID PATCH <b>OD</b>	\$5		
25 <sup>th</sup> ID PATCH <b>Brown</b>	\$5		
CI LAPEL PIN	\$5		
CMB LAPEL PIN	\$5		
CIB (FULL SIZE)	\$5		
35 <sup>th</sup> REGT CREST	\$3		
CIB BUMPSTICK	\$3		
35 <sup>th</sup> BUMPSTICK	\$3		
Shipping & Handling	See below		
<b>TOTAL</b>			

ADD S&H TO ALL ORDERS: Up to \$5= \$1; \$6 to \$15=\$5; Over \$16=\$8

**The Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel** is sold out on Friday and Saturday night, but check as cancellations can occur. We've received a room block at the Hampton Inn right next door.

**Hampton Inn Portland-Airport**

8633 NE Airport Way, Portland, Oregon, 97220, USA  
Tel: +1-503-288-2423

\$119 a night excluding %15.3 Tax  
Free Parking  
Comp breakfast

Hampton Inn Portland Airport online booking link: [http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/P/PDXAPHX-35I-20180927/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/P/PDXAPHX-35I-20180927/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

## CACTI PX Continued from previous page.



The Jacket is 96 percent polyester and 4 percent spandex and is lined for spring or fall in the North. Large, XL and XXL are available now; sizes bigger or smaller will have to be ordered

The cost is \$60, postage included.



## Reunion Golfers

I've set up the Golf Outing for the Reunion in Portland, Oregon this fall. We'll be playing at the Heron Lakes Golf Club in North Portland on Friday Sept 28<sup>th</sup> with an 8am Shotgun start.

Please let me know if you want to play and/or if you need rental clubs. Specify right or left hand please.

**Doc Johnson**, E 2-35, 1968-69, Secretary, Reunion Planner, Past President

[DonJohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net](mailto:DonJohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net)—Phone: 225-247-9321— Mailing address on back page.

## Life Membership Fee Schedule *(Not available after January 1, 2019)*

Electronic "Cacti Times" Life Membership		Mailed "Cacti Times" Life Membership	
Age	Dues	Age	Dues
20-24	\$540.00	20-24	\$1,080.00
25-29	\$500.00	25-29	\$1,000.00
30-34	\$450.00	30-34	\$900.00
35-39	\$400.00	35-39	\$800.00
40-44	\$360.00	40-44	\$720.00
45-49	\$310.00	45-49	\$620.00
50-54	\$270.00	50-54	\$540.00
55-59	\$230.00	55-59	\$460.00
60-64	\$190.00	60-64	\$380.00
65-69	\$150.00	65-69	\$300.00
70-74	\$120.00	70-74	\$240.00
75+	\$100.00	75+	\$200.00



# 35th Infantry Regiment (Cacti) Association

## Membership Form



*Having served with the 35th Infantry Regiment, I hereby apply for membership or renewal and enclose my dues.*

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion: \_\_\_\_\_ From: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_\_ To: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: dd/mm/yy \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAY** we provide your contact information to other members of this Association? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**MAY** we list your unit, name and dates of service on our website roster? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**MAY** we list your email address on our website roster? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** Your address and phone number will NOT be listed on the website roster.

**Send completed form and payment to:**

**Don "Doc" Johnson, Secretary**  
**14516 Shenandoah Ave.**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70817**

**Note: Life Memberships will no longer be available after January 1, 2019. Annual Membership Dues will be reduced to \$20 for Annual Mail and \$10 for Annual Email Memberships.**

SEE BELOW FOR DUES INFORMATION:

**Annual "Electronic Times" Membership Dues (\$15.00 per year)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual "Mailed Times" Membership Dues (\$25.00 per year)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Active Duty Dues (\$20.00 per year)\***

\_\_\_\_\_

**Life Membership "Electronic Times" \*\***

\_\_\_\_\_

**Life Membership "Mailed Times" \*\***

\_\_\_\_\_

**Donation for Cacti Times Publication Costs**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Donation for Health & Welfare**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Donation for Scholarship Fund**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Memorial Donation**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Indicate in Memory of Whom if applicable**

( \_\_\_\_\_ )

**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\* 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 23 for Lifetime Membership Fee Schedule**



## 35<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT (CACTI) ASSOCIATION

REUNION 2018 – PORTLAND, OR  
SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> – SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2018  
SHERATON PORTLAND AIRPORT HOTEL



Name \_\_\_\_\_ NickName \_\_\_\_\_  
(FOR NAME TAG)

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 1<sup>st</sup> and \$5.00 per additional guest over 18).

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday Banquet Total

There are two choices for dinner; please indicate a selection for each person attending:

- 1) **5 oz. Seared Salmon with Tomato-Caper Vinaigrette** Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each
- 2) **9 oz. Prime Rib with Creamed Horseradish** Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 each

*Slices of tender grill beef served with Madeira Wine Sauce and Wild Mushroom Ragout.*

*All Dinner Entrée selections include: Caesar Salad, Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Mixed Vegetables, Rolls and Butter, Harvest Carrot Cake, Coffee, Decaf, Tazo Teas and Iced Tea*

*(Special Dietary Needs)* \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality Room Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Cacti Times Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Troop Support Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Reserve Fund (Minimum \$100/Yr for 5 Yrs. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Dues for 2018 (if needed)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** (Make checks to "35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Reunion 2018").

**REUNION HEADQUARTERS HOTEL**  
**Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel**  
**8235 NE Airport Way**  
**Portland, OR 97220**

**Note: The Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel is sold out on Friday and Saturday night, but check as cancellations can occur. We've received a room block at the Hampton Inn right next door. See top of page 23 for details.**

**FOR ROOM RATE AND RESERVATION INFORMATION: Call Toll Free 800-325-3635 or direct 503-281-2500 or**

**the online link: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1710107314&key=303825A8>**

Room rates are \$109.00 for Single /Double/Triple/Quad. Be sure to use the Group Code "35<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt Assoc Reunion". These rates do not include 16% room tax. A credit card is required to secure the reservation. Reservations must be made by September 11, 2018. **Rooms are limited so make your reservations early.** Rates +/- 3 days of the Reunion based on availability. Rates include Complimentary Breakfast, Wi-Fi, Airport/Local Area Shuttle and Parking.

**QUESTIONS on registration-- Don Johnson 225-247-9321 or [donjohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net](mailto:donjohnsonbtr@bellsouth.net)**

**Information or questions on Portland and Area check <https://www.travelportland.com/> or call Travel Portland at 503-548-0974.**

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

**Don "Doc" Johnson**  
**35<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY ASSN.—REUNION 2018**  
**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, 2018. (We need this info for planning purposes.) Cancellations will be accepted until September 15, 2018 with full refund, after that a refund will be based on circumstances and a review by the Reunion Committee.



***Saddle up for the  
2018 Cacti Reunion in  
Portland, OR***

***Take Arms!***

*Return Address:*

**Don Johnson, Secretary  
14516 Shenandoah Ave.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70817**

Please note your address label on this Newsmagazine. If it is incorrect, please contact 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*

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