JERSEY RAMBLINGS

by Lee Widjeskog  A/2-506

Some of you may have noticed that in the last edition of our newsletter there were no “Ramblings”. We just ran out of space once we had included all that was necessary. Part of that “necessary” was the Bylaws. I hope everyone has taken time to review the Bylaws we have put together for our organization. This was done as part of the process of incorporating the Ripcord Association to protect the meager assets of the organization as well as the people within the organization. It allows the Ripcord Association to take possession of items such as movie rights, DVD’s and other items if offered. Before this the flags and guidons, though purchased by the Association, belonged to no one except whomever has them. Presently we own the following: one 2TB external hard drive, photo backdrop & stands, 1 laminator, a 22” JVC television with built in DVD player, a full set of flags, guidons, poles and stands and three easels. Not a lot, but necessary to put on the reunion and get out the newsletter.

In the Bylaws you see there is a slot for President, Vice-President, and Secretary/treasurer. To start with, at this time the following are in Acting slots: President: Peter Meloro (C 2/506), Vice-president: Frank Marshall (A 2/506) and Secretary /Treasurer: Lee Widjeskog (A 2/506). These slots will need to be voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held this year in Springfield, MO.

The present board of directors consists of Lee Widjeskog, Frank Marshall and Peter Meloro. Each year at the annual meeting, those positions that need filling will be done by a vote of the members present at the Annual meeting held on the day of the reunion banquet. Anyone wishing to run for any of these offices, contact Frank or me on the website, call or write.

That’s the status of our organization right now. Financially we ended last year with a balance of $42,671.26. Annually our expenses for the newsletter and website amounted to $1,296.22. There are other miscellaneous costs in postage, putting on the annual reunion, the year book, shirts and hats etc. When all is said and done, we break even or make a few dollars. This is due to the generosity of the donations we receive and the money the Ripcord Ladies generate each year with the Chinese Auction.

Well, that’s it from Jersey for now. Kathy and I are gathering gear in preparation for our trip to Springfield. Get your room reservations and reunion reservations in so we can plan well for the event. If you know a Ripcord veteran who has not attended and would like to but cannot due to finances, contact me and we will see what can be done. We have money available for those less fortunate to cover their room and registration if they can get there. Only my wife and I know who the organization pays for and we do not tell anyone. So let us know if there is a fellow in your unit who wants to come but just can’t dig up the dough. We want everyone to get a chance to attend at least once!

Enjoy the warm weather, ’cause winter is here before you know it!

2015 Ripcord Reunion

Oct 7 thru 10, 2015      Springfield, MO
Registration form on page 12 and on our website
Make your reservation for the Reunion NOW!

Hotel Reservations
UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
333 John Q. Hammons Parkway
Springfield, Missouri 65806

417-864-7333 (Ask for Hotel Reservations)
Refer to Group code: RIPCORD
Group Room Rate:
$82 per day (King or 2 double beds) +16.46% tax
$114 per day for King Suites + 16.46% tax
Ripcord meets from Wed. Oct 7 – Sat. Oct. 10
A Credit Card Number is required to guarantee this reservation.
Call by September 5, 2015.

Visit our website at
www.ripcordassociation.com
Read the Ripcord Report on line
Daily updates  ●  History and much more

Please continue to send your letters and comments to: frank@ripcordassociation.com
Everyone would love to hear from you.

Opinions expressed in submitted material are not necessarily those of the editorial staff. We reserve the right to reject any material deemed to be inappropriate. We also reserve the right to edit all submissions, but we will make every effort to maintain the writer’s concept and meaning. Please be brief and concise.

Update on the new Ripcord Book

“Remembering Firebase Ripcord”

“Remembering Firebase Ripcord” is in the process of being published and should be ready prior to the reunion. Stay tuned for information on how you can pre-order a copy. Copies ordered through the Ripcord Association will feature a portion of proceeds going to the association.

If all goes as planned, orders will be taken prior to the reunion and copies made available at the reunion. Chris Brady will be on hand to discuss the project with those interested.

Currently the book is over 420 pages and features interviews with over 200 Ripcord veterans. This project features the memories of those who were there. Less a historical narrative, it reflects the memories and activities of everyone from officers to those who humped the hills surrounding Ripcord and served in the artillery batteries on the firebase.

RIPCORD REPORT

Ripcord Report is a publication of the Ripcord Association, and is the authoritative voice of history for the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord.

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Ripcord on Facebook
by Anthony Chritchlow

https://www.facebook.com/groups/ripcordassociation/

Summer is sure going fast. The wife and I are looking forward to this year’s reunion. We are planning to bring some Idaho wines for Friday’s silent auction.

Today is the 6th of August. We now have 515 members in our Face Book page. Thanks to all members of our FB page. You are the people that make our page interesting. Keep the comments and pictures coming? If you have any one you think would like to know our page please tell them to join.

Dennise and I will be driving to Springfield. I like a nice road trip. Just hoping for no snow on I 70 when we go through Colorado. I’m looking forward to meeting everyone in October. See you there. Be safe.

Anna Britt Nolan Trust
by George and Mary Murphy

It’s hard to believe another year has flown by and Anna Britt Nolan is another year older and another year closer to going to college. She finished her first year of high school with awards in Science, Math and English (for her writing). Keith would undoubtedly be proud to see that his daughter shares his interest in writing.

Once again we will be having a raffle at the reunion for the Anna Britt Nolan Trust Fund. Donations of items for the raffle will be greatly appreciated so we can continue to watch this Trust Fund grow.

See you soon in Missouri!

The address where donations may be sent for the trust fund is:
Anna Britt Nolan Trust
c/o First Bank
6211 Mid Rivers Mall Drive
Saint Charles, MO 63304-1102

Donations
the life blood of our Association

The following have given donations to the Ripcord Association since the last newsletter. These donations help keep the website and newsletters published to keep all our Ripcord members up to date.

Dale Tauer D/1-506
Dave Fishlock E 2/501
Bill Combs A 159 AHB
Wilburn Wall C 2/501
Bill Williams B 2/506
Bill Hand B 2/506
Bill Helvey A 2/506

Ralph H. Forbes 2/94 FA
In memory of Paul Kosanke & Willie Austin
FSB Barbara 29 April 1970.

Dave Corradetti C 2/506
In memory of Steve L. Steward C 2/506 6 April 1970

Joe Minia C 2/506
In memory of Patrick A. Martin

Audrey Wrightsell A 2/11 FA
In memory of brother Sgt. David E. (Big Jim) Johnson A 2/11 FA 21 July 1970

Checks payable to “Ripcord Association”.
Mail to:
Lee Widjeskog,
493 Stillman Ave.
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Our members enjoy reading letters to the Editors, so why not take a few minutes and send us a letter to let other members know about you, your thoughts about the Ripcord Association, our reunions or anything you like to share.

Send your letters to: frank@ripcordassociation.com
2015 Springfield reunion Signups

David & Sophia Kenyon  326 ENG
Bob Tarbuck & Paige Corkhill  C 2/506
Terry Stanger  159 ASHB
George & Mary Murphy  B 2/320 FA
Al & Sondra Martin  A 2/11 FA
Dave & Lisa Snyder  A 2/11 FA
Tex Campbell  D 2/506
Jim & Michelle McCoy  D 1/506
Bob & Red Judd  B 2/506
Lee & Kathy Widjeskog  A 2/506
Ken & Connie Miller  3rd Bde Air
George & Sheila Potts  B 2/319 FA
Mike & Liz Womack  C 2/506
George & Sheila Potts B 2/319 FA
David & Linda Yonts  A 2/506
David & Wendy Yonts guests
Anthony & Denise Critchlow  HHC 2/506
John & Kathy Williams Guests
Don & Rich Kiefer  A 2/506
Dale & Sue Cooper C 2/506
Bill Boles D 2/506
Bob & Mabel Lemon C 2/506
Uwe & Diane Meyer B 2/506
Bruce & Chris Brady  A 2/506
Tim Bohan Pathfinder
Daniel Bohan Pathfinder
Chuck & Jean Holman  A 159 AVN
Doug & Iris Puffer D 2/506
Lee & Debra Tremblay 3rd Bde Air
Ben & Carolyn Harrison 3rd BDE
Polly Atkins Guest
Murphy & Phylis Majoria Guest
Floyd & Diane Alexander 2/319 FA & A 2/506
John & Barbara Hedrick E 2/506 Mortars
Paul Buhr A 2/506
Rudy & Linda Forsman D 2/506
Russ & Maryann Dixon  2/319 FA
Tommy and Judy Counts D 2/506
Lisa Hill Guest
Merle & Ruth DeLagrange D 1/506
Bob Leibechke C 2/506
Joseph & Marion Minias C 2/506
Dave & Cheryl Corradetti C 2/506
Ben & Lillian Peters B 2/506
Mark & Denise Skinner D 2/506
Robin Graham & Sheryl Washburn HHC 2/506
Ken & Maryann David D 1/506
Paul & Laura Hansmann B 2/506
Bill, Pam & Adam Baldwin A 2/506
Bob & Jackie Wallace C 2/506
Rick & Betty Kellogg B 2/506
Audrey Wrightsell A 2/11 FA
Bob Romig D&E 2/506
John & Annette Kuennen C 2/506
Bruce & Jennifer Whipple E 2/506
Troy & Barbara Porter C 2/506 & 3rd BDE Air
Kent Rowland D 2/506
Donald & Linda Holthausen C 2/506
Ron & Linda McCroy E 2/506
Leonard & Carol Moore 3rd BDE Air
Fred & Micki Spaulding HHC 3rd BDE
Andy Hagedus C 2/506
Rex & Carol Flansburg D 2/506
Mike & Cathy Chiarelli B 2/506
Bob & Janice Counts A 2/506
Bill & Lynn Hand B 2/506
John & Debbie Fowler C 2/506
Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld 326 ENG
Billy & Margaret Helvey A 2/506

Visit our website for updates for new updates of who registered
www.ripcordassociation.com
Ripcord Casualty update
138 Americans KIA

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the accurate number of casualties that occurred during March 12, 1970 and July 23, 1970 defending Firebase Ripcord, I have done a lot of research and spoke with a lot of members from different units. There were a total of 564 Americans died in I Corp between Mar 12 and July 23, 1970 from all branches of service. I researched each name one by one and locating their branch, their unit and if they were involved in Operation Texas Star. Then narrowed the search to those directly involved with Ripcord which tends to be 138 Americans killed.

My search of Operation Texas Star KIA (excluding the Ripcord KIA on my list) has another 252 Americans KIA which still has to be verified. Ripcord was part of the Texas Star operation and other battles that took place on other firebases should have and deserve to have their own recognition as part of Operation Texas Star.

The bulk of the Ripcord casualties incurred were under the operational control of Lt. Col. Lucas, the 2/506th battalion commander, when they were killed. The remaining casualties incurred were aviators supporting the Ripcord battle and those men from Otis Livingston’s battalion who died in the battle while under the operational control of Ben Harrison during the month of July 1970.

PLEASE understand that if anyone has a specific soldier who they think belongs on the list, they need to contact me by ASAP to further discuss the issue about that particular soldier. I will do my best to correct any issues you may have. My e-mail is frank@ripcordassociation.com or call Frank Marshall or Lee Widjeskog.

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4/18/1970 VAGNONE MICHAEL JOHN A 2 501 362164 YD362164 supporting 2/506
4/18/1970 DANGBERG ROBERT LEE A 2 501 362164 YD362164 supporting 2/506
4/19/1970 FREY DEAN LEE A 2 501 363164 YD363164
4/19/1970 JOSEPH JEFFREY JOEL B 2 501 368163 YD373162 Re up Hill
4/19/1970 JARRETT JAMES DALE B 2 501 368163 YD373162 Re up Hill
4/28/1970 SUSI RAYMOND PETER E 2 506 343194 Helo crash
4/29/1970 BERNER EDGAR DAVIDSON HHC 101st AHB 367162 YD367162
4/29/1970 KLAVES JEFFREY JOHN HHC 101st AHB 367162 YD367162
4/30/1970 STATON DAVID WALDEN B TRP 2/17th CAV 474144 Hit by RPG
4/30/1970 SENSING JOHN LESLIE B TRP 2/17th CAV 474144 Hit by RPG
4/30/1970 MASSETH ROBERT EUGENE B TRP 2/17th CAV 474144 Hit by RPG
5/8/1970 HUBERTY DAVID JEROME HHC 3rd BDE 362148 YD362148
5/11/1970 MILBURN ALBERT D 2 506 351148 YD351148
5/14/1970 LOWE ROBERT ERNEST A 2 506 362147 YD362147
5/16/1970 MAUNey GERALD CLinton C 2 506 362147 YD362147 WIA 5/14
5/18/1970 SAUNDERS NICHOLAS GABRIEL C 158th AHB 296161 Helo disappeared resupplying
5/18/1970 COLE ROBERT KENNETH C 158th AHB 296161 Helo disappeared resupplying
5/18/1970 GRAY CARLTON COE C 158th AHB 296161 Helo disappeared resupplying
5/18/1970 STONE HARRY JAMES HHC 2 506 296161 Helo disappeared resupplying
5/18/1970 DARLING JOHN EDWARD JR HHC 2 506 296161 Helo disappeared resupplying
5/26/1970 JOHNSON DAVID KEITH 326 MED Eagle Dust Off 331217 medivac for YD338170
5/26/1970 HAWKINS WILLIAM EDWARD 326 MED Eagle Dust Off 331217 medivac for YD338170
5/26/1970 O BRIEN EDWARD TERRY 326 MED Eagle Dust Off 331217 medivac for YD338170
5/26/1970 GRAHAM BRUCE ELLIOT 326 MED Eagle Dust Off 331217 medivac for YD338170
6/3/1970 NORRIS WIELAND CLYDE A 2 506 340192 YD340192,
6/5/1970 HOVEY VERNON FLETCHER III B 2 17th CAV 343194 supporting infantry unit
6/8/1970 SMITH WINFRED LEE A 2 506 347177 WIA June 7
7/2/1970 RADCLIFF ROBERT PAUL JR C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 HARBER STEPHEN JAMES C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 ZOLLER ROBERT WILLIAM II C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 LENZ LEE NEWLUN C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 HEWITT THOMAS THEODORE C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 HERNON THOMAS HAYDEN C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 SUMRALL ROGER DALE C 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/2/1970 CONRARDY RICHARD JOHN HHC 2 506 337172 Hill 902
7/3/1970 UTECHT ROBERT STEPHEN B 2 506 360180 YD360180
7/5/1970 WAYMIRE MICHAEL KARL HHC 2 501 343194 YD343194
7/6/1970 PORTER SANDY HILLY B 1 506 teamed up with D/2-506
7/7/1970 RISINGER GERALD LEE C 2 506 334221 YD334221
7/7/1970 HOWARD LEWIS JR D 2 506 334194 Hill 1000
7/7/1970 GRIMM MICHAEL JOSEPH D 2 506 334194 Hill 1000
7/7/1970 BEALS CHARLES ELBERT D 2 506 334194 Hill 1000
7/8/1970 SCOTT RICKEY LEROY C 2 506 334194 Hill 1000
7/8/1970 HUPP JAMES EARL C 2 506 334194 Hill 1000
7/9/1970 WILLIAMS TERRY EUGENE E 2 501 343194 Non-hostile causes, at Ripcord
7/10/1970  RAYMOND FREDRIC CAROL JR  A  2/11th ARTY  343194  Ripcord
7/10/1970  DE FOOR VICTOR LEE  B  2  506  343194  Ripcord
7/10/1970  JOHNSON ROY ALBERT  E  2  506  343194  result of an accident booby trap
7/10/1970  BOHAN PATRICK JOHN  PATHFINDER  343194  Ripcord
7/14/1970  HUFFINE DENNIS WILLARD  B  2  501  326192  YD326192
7/14/1970  PALM TERRY ALAN  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/14/1970  GUIMOND PAUL GERALD  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/14/1970  SCHNEIDER GARY LEE  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/14/1970  UTTER KEITH EDWARD  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/14/1970  JONES WILLIAM EDWARD  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/14/1970  HEMBREE JAMES THOMAS JR  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/14/1970  KEISTER JOHN LOY  D  2  501  362187  Hill 805
7/16/1970  TIMMONS RICHARD RUSSELL  A  2  501  West of Triple Hill vic.
7/18/1970  WALKER MICHAEL ALLEN  A  159th AHB  343194  Shinook shot down
7/18/1970  MILLER BURKE HOLBROOK  A  2  11th ARTY  343194  Ripcord
7/18/1970  BEYL DAVID ROBERT  D  2  501  334194  Ripcord Hill 1000
7/18/1970  ROLLASON WILLIAM DAVID  D  2  501  343194  Ripcord
7/20/1970  PLETT LARRY JOE  B  2  319 ARTY  343194  Ripcord
7/20/1970  FISHER DENNIS FAY  B  326TH ENG  343194  Ripcord
7/20/1970  CALHOUN DURL GENE  B  326TH ENG  343194  Ripcord
7/20/1970  KNOTT JOHN CHARLES  D  1  506  376189  Hill 805
7/20/1970  BROWNING BILL GWINN  D  1  506  376189  Hill 805
7/20/1970  DE WULF PATRICK THOMAS  D  1  506  376189  Hill 805
7/20/1970  VALLE ELOY RUBEN  D  1  506  376189  Hill 805
7/21/1970  LAW BRENT ROBIN  326 MED Eagle Dust Off  353177
7/21/1970  JOHNSON DAVID EARL  A  2  11th ARTY  343194  Ripcord Mortar attack
7/21/1970  KALSU JAMES ROBERT  A  2  11th ARTY  343194  Ripcord Mortar attack
7/21/1970  MCDOWELL LARRY J  B  2  506  Ripcord died 7/27/70
7/21/1970  FLORES ROBERTO C  B  2  506  343194  Ripcord
7/21/1970  MAUNE FRANCIS EDWARD  B  2  506  343194  Ripcord
7/21/1970  SCHULTZ RONALD JAMES  D  1  506  fell 400 ft from Helo skids
7/21/1970  WORKMAN DONALD RENAY  D  1  506  376192  Hill 805
7/21/1970  HAYS ROBERT BRADFORD  D  1  506  376192  Hill 805
7/21/1970  ASHER FRANK LOUIS  D  1  506  376192  Hill 805
7/21/1970  HUK PETER PAUL  D  1  506  376192  Hill 805
7/22/1970  FRIES DANNY JOE  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  SPRUILL OVELL  A  2  506  353177  WIA 22nd Died 8/4
7/22/1970  JOURNELL ROBERT MASON III  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  BIXBY VIRGIL MARTIN  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  DRAPER MARK GREGORY  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  PAHISSA WILLIAM ANTHONY  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  SCHULTZ THOMAS RUSSELL  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  SINGLETON GERALD BLAINE  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  KRECKEL JOHN WILLIAM  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  BROWN ROBERT JOSEPH JR  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  BABICH JOHN MICHAEL  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  SEVERSON DONALD JON  A  2  506  353177  YD353177
7/22/1970  OLSON STEVEN ALLAN  B  2/319 ARTY  353177  YD353177 A co / FO
7/22/1970  DIEHL STANLEY GENE  D  2  506  343194  Ripcord remains removed Aug 5
7/23/1970  NEAL HARVEY RAY  A  2  506  Ripcord Patrol
7/23/1970  ALLEN GUS  A  2  506  343194  Ripcord Mortar attack
7/23/1970  WARNER WILFRED WESLEY JR  D  2  501  362187  Ripcord Hill 805
7/23/1970  TANNER KENNETH PAUL  HH C  2/506  343194  Ripcord Mortar attack
7/23/1970  LUCAS ANDRE CAVARO  HH C  2/506  343194  Ripcord Mortar attack
INCOMING MAIL

Frank,

As you know July 22 is my birthday. To each of us that is a special day if only because it signifies when we got our start in this world. In 1970, July 22 was a significant day for many members of Alpha Company 2/506. After days in the jungle, this was the day we were originally scheduled for a re-supply. First platoon left our NDP around 8 or 9 AM to blaze a trail to the LZ that laid west of our position for the resupply. Word came down from Lt. Col. Lucas that we should instead move to the north and be extracted from the field. By the time 1st got back to the NDP it was 1PM and now 2nd would lead the way.

From my point of view and as I remember, I was thinking of only two things (1) It was my birthday and (2) with resupply would be mail which was always a high light of any day. Those were still my thoughts until we were told to head north. Then it was extraction and mail. I do not remember being aware that all the other line companies with the exception of Bravo on Ripcord had been removed to Camp Evans. I started the day anticipating maybe getting a letter in the mail or at least some Tastycake Krimpets!

The day I turned 24 I had 75 members of the A 2/506 infantry company to share my event! It looked like we would all take helicopter rides as part of the celebration and return to Camp Evans where we could relax in some semblance of comfort. However, this plan like many others went awry when hundreds of unexpected party crashers showed up as we walked towards the helicopter pick up point. This caused an immediate change in plans since we felt we just did not have enough supplies for all these new people. They appeared to be upset as we tried to persuade them not to join us. They rapidly let us know they were not happy with our decision. Since I thought I was the guest of honor (probably not really the case, but when it is your birthday you think everything revolves around you) I was not surprised to see these new guests tossing “potato mashers” and packages wrapped in brown paper with strips of bamboo and smoldering fuses. What was surprising was that all the “gifts” blew apart and left little for me to find if pieces did not get stuck in me or some of my friends. These explosions were quickly followed by rifle and machinegun fire, mortars and rocket propelled grenades.

Since I was certain my birthday was important to all, it took me some time to figure these party crashers were not there to gratulate me but were there to make it my last birthday! Luckily my fellow soldiers in Alpha Company were quite incensed that the party crashers should be trying to end my days and they decided to return fire and throw presents of their own at the crashers. For the next 5 or 6 hours the party crashers and my friends from Alpha Company went back and forth trying to get the upper hand and run the party. Finally, Chuck Hawkins, our company commander, decided “Enough is enough” and called in artillery, Cobra gunships and F-4 Phantom jets to make the crashers leave. The crashers were finally persuaded to leave after a 250 pound bomb landed amidst their numbers. The party crashers left but by then it was getting dark and too late to take the promised helicopter ride. Plus by this time, most of us were exhausted from all the effort we used in chasing off the unwanted interlopers.

To make up for the lack of the rides during the day Captain Hawkins spared no expense in having aircraft fly over us all night dropping pretty white flares from the sky above us. While these light were quite beautiful it made it hard to sleep and most of my friends were unable to sleep before dawn. But no sooner did we sleep when who shows up but Delta 2/506 and their shotgun toting officers. They had heard we were unable to get the promised helicopter ride on my birthday. Thinking that such a happening was quite unfair, they decide to come join us and help construct a landing zone at our site. With that done we soon got the promised helicopter ride to Camp Evans.

I never had the chance before, but I would like to thank all the guys in Alpha Company for helping me celebrate my 24 birthday by allowing me to go at least one more year! Also, a big “Thank You” to Delta Company for helping all of us to finally get that helicopter ride we had planned to take the day before!

Lee Widjeskog
Second Platoon
A 2/506

In Search of:

My uncle Gordon Bryon Quackenbush was assigned to the third Brigade 101st Airborne Division during the battle of fire support base Ripcord. Do you have any information concerning him or his service during this battle?

Sandy Lawrence
sandy.lawrence1@att.net
**INCOMING MAIL**

**Dear Frank,**

Please send me the Ripcord News on a regular basis via “Snail Mail”. My name was dropped from the web site membership. Please add my name again.

I wondered if you all know anything about Chuck Holman from A/159. He was rescued off Ripcord July 22, 1970 along with a few other of our guys.

Forgive my poor writing, last 10 years have been hit with MG, Bells Palsey and a stroke … Oh! And getting older!

*Take care guys!*

*William Combs,*
*A/159 Armorer*
*Feb70 – Jan 71.
*(Ed.note: We put him in contact with Holman!)*

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**Dear all veterans of Ripcord,**

I was so glad when I met Mr Gary Radford my platoon sergeant D co 2/506 at Hue on 4th June, we had memories beautiful and I wish would see each other and with all veterans of battalion 2/506 especially Lt James Mcall my platoon leader D co, S5 chief and Steve Gunn, good healthy to you and all veterans

*Nguenthuyet Nguyenthuyet*  
*nguyenthuyet1947@gmail.com*

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**New Members Mail**

I took my Abn Inf Tng at Ft. Gordon, Ga., in 7/69 to 9/69. I served a year with the 25th Inf Div and also took a team into Cambodia on several occasions. I extended my tour from 12/70 to 06/71. My Unit (2nd Bdg/2/bn 27th Inf (“Wolfhounds) stood down while on leave. I was assigned to the 101st Abn Div at Camp Evans attached to the 3rd Bde/506 Inf. I was a team leader of a 5-man tracker team and two dog handlers and dogs (a scout dog and a tracker dog named “Booger-bear”) I am proud to be an associate member of the Ripcord Association because of its history and because of a close and good home-town buddy, Bruce McCorkle.

*James Chaney*
*66th Inf Plt Cbt Tracker–25th ID*

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I would like the family of Capt. David Rich to know that he was a great person. I am very proud to have served under him I’m very sorry to hear that he passed.

*Vito Stabile*
*B/2-319th Arty*

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I was one of the pilots taking guys off the hill. I had been there many times on re supply missions.

*Jeffrey Lacey*
*101 Airborne, C Company, Blackwidows*

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**Veterans Healing Net**

*When Katherine and I retired in ’13 we quickly became bored and decided to network on behalf of veterans. We’re having more fun than we ever thought. We’re discovering creative ways to engage veterans and their spouses.**

**Services**

We have attended some large gatherings of people involved in personal growth. Everyone has a fond spot for veterans and almost everyone asks – what can I do? In many cases we have been able to network support based on what they care about. For example, we found a dentist who will work on indigent vets free in Allegan County, a kinesiologist who want to turn on muscles for amputees and a chiropractor who wants to volunteer at the VA. One woman will give a free aroma-therapy healing session to vets in West Michigan. Three of them are non-veterans.

We are particularly interested in people who offer their services more widely than locally. For example there is a woman in Los Angeles who does one-session trauma healing, either in person or over the phone. Katherine had a sample and thinks we should put her (continued next page)
to the test. The idea is for a vet to work with her ($75 cut rate for vets) and a buddy works free. Do you know another guy who would want to check out her claim? We have been energized by Landmark Education – Live the Life you Love. We just learned that tuition is paid by the VA. Don’t yet know eligibility requirements or how to apply, but if you want more info on the program or how to get the scholarship. Let us know.

Networking Needs

A vet from Company C 1/506 came to visit recently and we were concerned by his insistence to talk about horrible things that happened in Vietnam. Here we are, all these years later, and he is stuck like glue in the “back then”. He really needs to tell his story with someone who wants to listen. The reunions are a great way to start this process for those who will attend. We meet many vets of all eras who aren’t interested in reunions, yet are isolated and really need to connect with other vets. How can we put guys together so they can tell their story, be heard and become ready to move forward? Are you someone who could be a phone buddy?

Veterans Creating New Futures

Jeff and I have been fortunate to be in a really cool online discussion group. The leader suggested a project called “Veterans Creating New Futures”. A vet is matched with a “committed listener” who conducts a guided conversation designed to cause a shift from stuck, to seeing possibility where none was seen before. This isn’t therapy and it’s not past-based. In one free phone conversation a pesky issue of today that looks insoluble is shifted. In the process, the vet learns a new skill that can be done with anyone. We had a very unhappy vet join us when we were learning how to do this and it is like magic when the shift occurs. It’s easy. It’s free and the potential is huge for vets. Let us know if you’d like to have one of these conversations and then let us know how it goes and if you see value for vets? Maybe you’d like to be a “committed listener” and create magic for others? You can check out the Facebook page Veterans Creating New Futures. It’s just getting going.

Salons

Jeff is building the local vet community. We’re finding that a lot of vets aren’t too excited about joining something, attending meetings to discuss stuff they’re not interested in. We have been to several salons in the last year where people get together to discuss a particular topic just for the fun of it. It’s a guided conversation where everyone gets to say something. The purpose is to have fun and build community. This month Jeff and a vet buddy are hosting their first vet salon. Based on some recent articles where vets say they don’t want to be thanked, the topic is “Thank you for your service”. There’s enough meat that vets can talk and get to know each other without going down the old paths of what it was like in the service. Let us know if you’d like more info.

A wife Katherine met at a Company C reunion has reached out to see how spouses could be brought together at their next reunion. Given the interest of spouses to talk at last year’s reunion Katherine would like to hear if spouses would be interested in a salon at the Ripcord reunion? A possible topic is “What’s great about living with a vet?” Other topics? Let her know your thoughts.

Social Networking

We’re just catching up with social networking. Please let me know if you’re doing service work or hear how people are supporting vets and I’ll post on my Facebook page (West Michigan Veterans) and my webpage.

Katherine has been collecting therapies and tips for dealing with PTS. If you’ve heard of some treatments or life-style changes that have worked for you, neat links, or anything else useful let her know so she can post on Facebook – Veteran Healing Network and webpage vethealing.net. Also please like these pages and follow.

We’re looking forward to seeing you in Missouri in October.

Jeff and Katherine Wilcox

Jeff Wilcox - jeff@jeffwilcox.com

Katherine Wilcox – comments@vethealing.net

Ripcord Association   Newest members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ripcord Association</th>
<th>Newest members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chaney James</td>
<td>Associate Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lombardi Gene</td>
<td>A/2-506</td>
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<td>Stabile Vito</td>
<td>B/2-319 Arty</td>
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<td>Bernard Frank</td>
<td>C/159th ASHB</td>
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<td>Tatum Herbert</td>
<td>C/2-506</td>
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<td>Lacey Jeffrey</td>
<td>C/101 AVN</td>
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<td>Blackwidos Rich</td>
<td>Associate Member</td>
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<td>Pozniakov Robin</td>
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<td>Rowe William</td>
<td>C/101 Blackwidos</td>
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<td>Joice Jim</td>
<td>1/506 Recon</td>
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<td>Bauer Jim</td>
<td>101 Avn</td>
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<td>Fairley Gerald</td>
<td>C/158 Avn</td>
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2ND Annual Ripcord Shoot

The 2nd Annual FSB Ripcord shoot was held at the Langhorne Rod and Gun Club in Holland, PA. Two years ago the club members decided they wanted to hold a July shoot using the M-16 caliber and style semi-automatic rifles commemorating a battle in July in Vietnam. When they googled it on the computer up sprang The Battle of FSB Ripcord. They never heard of it before, but one of their members who had married Frank Marshall’s sister had heard of it and told them to talk to Frank. They were surprised about the battle that hardly anyone had heard of being so big. Thus was born the annual FSB Ripcord Shoot.

Each year they have made a donation to our association from money taken in at the shoot. This year there were 9 Four person teams. They fire at targets and are limited to 240 rounds. There is also a time limit so you cannot spend a lot of time slowly aiming. The maximum score for a team is 720 points and this year's winner tallied 650 points. The winning team was a family, consisting of Mom, Dad and two sons. They did not wear lots of gear, but they knew how to shoot! All shooters did well but the family was best by quite a few points. Kathy and I enjoyed our visit and before we left, Jay Wetherby, one of my Sergeants from A 2/506, dropped by to say “Hi!”. It was a great day with nice weather and many appreciative people.
[ ] Yes, I’ll be there!
[ ] I have not attended a Reunion since 1997 and have not received a Ripcord Coin.

NAME___________________________________ PHONE______________________
ADDRESS___________________________________ UNIT IN ‘NAM___________
CITY________________________________ STATE____ ZIP__________________

Will a family member(s) be attending? If yes what are their names? (For name tag purposes only).

______________________________

Arrival Date_______________________ Departure Date_______________________
THE HOTEL PROVIDES FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT.

Registration fee of $__________ is enclosed for # _________ Adults and #_______ children under 18.

$35 for children under 18. For adults see discounts below!

DISCOUNTS FOR EARLY REGISTRATION:
Before June 30, 2015, $75 per adult
July 1 through 31, 2015 $80 per adult,
August 1 through September 6, 2015 $85 per adult.
After September 6, 2015 $90 per adult.

Your registration fee covers the cost of the snacks, beverages, hot hors doers on Friday night and dinner on Saturday.

Registration fee due no later than October 1, 2015.

Make your check payable to “RIPCORD ASSOCIATION”
Mail your check with this form to:
Lee Widjeskog, 493 Stillman Ave., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.
Questions? Call Lee at 856-451-1108 before 1 October 2015. (After call 609-774-6951)

AGENDA
Wednesday, October 7: Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)
Thursday, October 8: Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)
Friday, October 9: Hospitality 1200 Hours. Ladies raffle 1800 hours (6PM)
Saturday, October 10: Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room.
Dinner with cash bar starting at 1700 hours done by 2200 hours.
Sunday, October 11: Homeward bound
Thursday golf outing (a separate fee). Check if you will play [ ].

HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPERATELY
BY September 5, 2015
CALL 417-864-7333

Ask for HOTEL RESERVATIONS and mentions the
GROUP CODE: RIPCORD
(Price is $82 per night plus tax: breakfast is included.)