

# RIPCORD REPORT

For Friends and Survivors of the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord  
Republic of Vietnam • 12 March – 23 July, 1970



Number 63

Summer, 2004

## The Top Ten Reasons Why You Should Be In Des Moines, Iowa This October



10. If it ever comes up in a trivia game, you'll know what the capital of Iowa is.
9. It's in the middle of the USA, so while you're there, you'll always be half way to the ocean.
8. Just like Ripcord, Des Moines is an abandoned US Army outpost (1840's), only closer to home.
7. It's got more flush toilets than all of Thua Thien Province and no "sh\*t-burning" detail.
6. Always wanted to visit a city that was built at the junction of the Des Moines River and the Raccoon River and not named "Raccoon".
5. It's not 1970 at FSB Ripcord.
4. It's a lot cheaper than Disney World (or Disney Land).
3. **FREE BEER** (in the Hospitality Room).
2. You always thought you were John Wayne in Vietnam, here's your chance to see where you were born.

*And the Number 1 Reason.....*

**The Ripcord Association Reunion will be there October 4–7**

Don't Forget...You must have your reservation fee & form in **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 4, 2004.**

## A CHARLIE COMPANY LEGEND REMEMBERED

The term "Point Man" conjures up thoughts of many great men who served in this role during the Ripcord battle. If you served in the second platoon of Charlie Company, 2/506th Infantry during the Ripcord battle, inevitably visions of two most remarkable men, Spec. 4 "T.C." Manbeck and Spec. 4 Sam "Cisco" Garcia, immediately pop into one's mind whenever the term Point Man is used. T.C. and Cisco had been joined at the hip sometime shortly after their arrival in Vietnam near the end of 1969 while serving under Charlie Lieb in the second platoon and remained that way until their

DEROS a year later. They were inseparable and the closest of friends and I have never in my life thought of one of them without thinking of the other. I cannot eulogize one without talking about the other for these two great soldiers formed a "point/slack team" that had no equal during my tour in Vietnam. Whenever hereafter I express my feelings about T.C. the same feelings would also apply to Cisco.

The two of them had as many similarities as they did dissimilarities. They were both about 5' 7" in height, around 19 or 20 years in age, and I believe both of them were draftees.

T.C. weighed about 140 pounds soaking wet and Cisco was just a few pounds heavier. T.C. was a free spirit, impulsive, full of energy and wit, and moved around under a "Cotton Top" mop of the blondest hair I believe I have ever seen. Cisco was much more introverted and methodical and had jet black hair that contrasted with T.C.'s Cotton Top. T.C. was from Pennsylvania and Cisco was from Colorado.

Many great men walked point for the second platoon during my tour in Vietnam. It is not the intention of this article to slight any man who did so, as I am indebted

*(continued on page 3)*

# FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank those who continue to send articles and information. As I have room, I will try to use all the correspondence that arrives.

I have been updating the website ([www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)) and plan to add more features as soon as time allows. Check it out and let me know what you think of it. I am always open to suggestions on how to make it better. If you have photos or information you would like posted, e-mail it to:

[frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com).

## DONATIONS

**Donations are very important!** Donations pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletter. All checks should be made payable to "Ripcord Association". Please send all donations to:

Fred Spaulding  
7702 White Dove Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46256-1750

## ARTICLES

**DEADLINE November 11, 2004**

Please send all articles, photos, incoming mail, and interesting reading to:

Frank Marshall  
224 Derry Hill Ct  
Mt Laurel, NJ 08054-3709  
e-mail: [frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com)

## RIPCORD BIOGRAPHIES...THEN AND NOW

Please send us a brief bio on yourself to be included in the newsletter. Include which company you served with, the dates you were in the service, the dates you were in Vietnam, your rank, any interesting facts about your involvement with FSB Ripcord, what you did after Vietnam, career, family, and some comments of your choice. You may include a picture if desired. Send all information to:

Lee Widjeskog  
493 Stillman Ave  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302  
e-mail: [leewidjeskog@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:leewidjeskog@ripcordassociation.com)

## We need your E-mail address

Send us your e-mail address and receive all the updates and new information on The Ripcord Association immediately. We do not send junk mail, only important information and news. If you are not currently receiving updates, please send your e-mail address to:

[frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com)



*Ben Harrison (R-L), MG Chu Phong Doi, interpreter Hau and Doi's wife at Doi's home in the country 10 KMs west of Cao Bang. Ben returned to Vietnam this past spring.*

## Electronic Newsletter

A lot of members are receiving the newsletter via e-mail. If you have **Adobe Acrobat Reader** on your computer (most computers do) you can receive the newsletter by e-mail, just open it and read it, print it or save it. But, we must have your e-mail address to send it to you.

This saves the cost of postage and you receive the newsletter before anyone in the snail mail.

You can download **Adobe Acrobat Reader FREE** at:  
[www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html)

## Ripcord Association Website

The Ripcord Association website is on line and very informative. You can check it out now at:

[www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)

### New Website Features

Ben Harrison's trip to Vietnam  
T.C. Manbeck Tribute  
Air Assault Badge Controversy  
Fallen Hero's – *by Chuck Hawkins*  
Newsletter – July, 2004  
Travels with Lodi #2 – *by Jim Campbell*  
Ripcordettes Column  
Troubling Lies *by – Chuck Hawkins*

## Donations

The following have sent donations since the last newsletter: Don & Judith Otto, Craig & Sandy Van Hout, Floyd & Caroleen Ferrell, Bill & Shiela Williams, Jim (Tiny) & Irene Aanonsen, Gary & Kathy Watrous, George Westervelt, Steve Wallace & Susan, John & Bette Serris (In memory of T.C. Manbeck), Charlie & Juanita Tipton, Al and Bonnie Martin.

# A Legend Remembered

(continued from page 1)

and grateful to every single one of them. However, there will always be a special place in my heart for "T.C." and "Cisco" as they were the most incredible "point/slack team" I was privileged to follow in Vietnam. There is something mystical about this job of point man as not every soldier can do it comfortably or with confidence. It requires more than just courage. I have often wondered over the years what made some men more adept at it than others. I believe that the great ones were all possessed of the following attributes:

(a) an undaunted courage in the face of the enemy together with lightning quick reflexes,

(b) a supreme confidence in their ability to perform the job,

(c) an inner pride in performing a job that many others did not openly seek,

(d) a vision equal to a wild turkey moving through the woods,

(e) a keen ear that can clearly distinguish the different sounds of the jungle,

(f) a deep conviction from within that the platoon was most comfortable and best served when they were "On Point", and

(g) most importantly a sixth sense that is unique to only some individuals and includes an almost supernatural personal instinct to feel the situation in front of them.

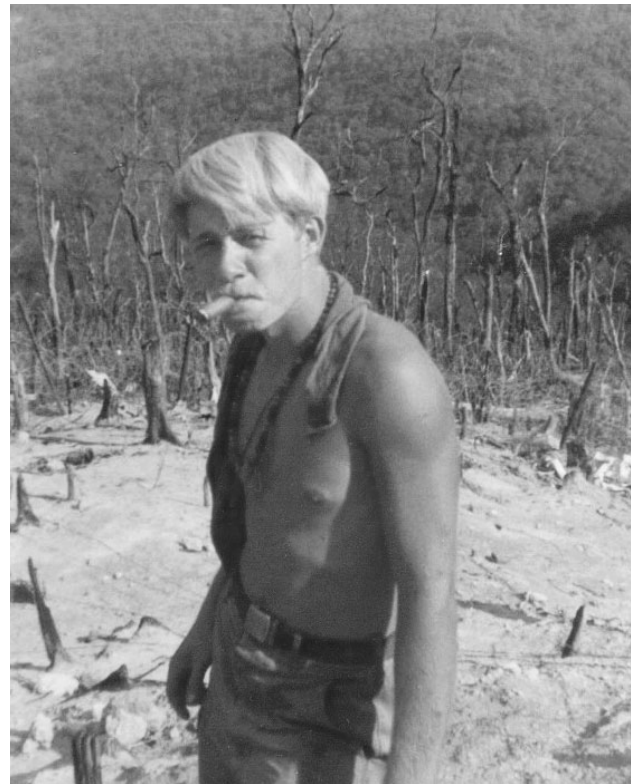
It is these qualities that stood out so in T.C. and Cisco and despite the passage of years it is still very easy for me to visualize these two magnificent soldiers cautiously and courageously working the trail for the rest of us to follow.

The designation each day of the point team in the platoon is not always that easy a decision for the platoon leader. Generally I tried to follow a rotation system between the squads, with each squad taking turns in furnishing the point element for the day. I concluded that this was the "fair" way of doing things. However, it was not long before I found that I could not always follow the normal rotation. I found myself ignoring the normal rotation when things got difficult and that it became increasingly easy for me to

call for T.C. and Cisco and turn em loose. The whole platoon felt better when we were moving and the two of them were "On Point". It was unfair of me to do so and I felt for many years that the two of them most probably resented me for it, although neither of them ever once whined or lodged the first complaint to me about it. When I first got back with T.C. at the Mobile Reunion after some 27 years, and after we had all consumed a whole lot of beers one late evening, I expressed my regrets to T.C. for having used him and Cisco out of the normal rotation too much of the time and in the worst of times. He

threw his head back and laughed and said to me "You damn right you did, L.T., but it don't mean nothing. It damn sure ain't nothing to lose no sleep over." I could say nothing at that point to him other than "You be the man". T.C., Layne Hammons, Paul Burkey, Frankie Marshall and I spent the remainder of the weekend in Mobile drinking all day and into the wee hours of the morning. Ben Harrison and Carolyn Harrison will remember this weekend vividly for they both stayed up talking to T.C. and Layne in the hospitality suite until 1:30 in the morning. It was T.C.'s first reunion and he was a ball of fire. He gave an inspiring speech to the group after the banquet about how we all had to keep this great thing going. He passed around an empty water pitcher that came back with around \$700.00 in it for the Association, which was remarkable in that there were only about 30 people at the reunion..

T.C. passed away on May 25, 2004, from a massive coronary attack. T.C., like many of us, had a lot of ups and downs in his life after Vietnam. He loved his two sons and his daughter very much. He loved his fiancée and her daughter. He found the Lord late in his life and became a good Christian. I



**"T.C." Manbeck**

believe that this enabled him to find the peace that had eluded him earlier in his life. He gave up drinking soon after the Mobile Reunion and successfully battled a bout with cancer. He particularly enjoyed attending the Ripcord Reunions. He would become terribly embarrassed when his old L.T. would introduce him or refer to him as "The Legendary Point Man, T.C. Manbeck." and would say "Cut me some slack, L.T." He never gave a damn about accolades, praise, medals or glory. He knew that the respect and admiration of those comrades who had fought along side him was all that mattered. He also knew that he had given to the platoon all that was asked of him and much more. A young lieutenant could not be more grateful or blessed than to have served with such a remarkable soldier. The nation has lost a great warrior. We all mourn his passing. I am quite sure that today "The Legendary Point Man T.C. Manbeck" is walking with angels in the heavenly kingdom. He may have had to adapt from the jungle to the clouds but there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that he is leading the way down the trail "On Point".

Currahee,  
L.T.

# INCOMING MAIL

My name is Carie, and I am Tom "T.C." Manbeck's daughter. I wanted to write and thank all of the veterans who served with Dad for the flowers and wonderful sentiments. Dad didn't talk about what happened in Vietnam or with Ripcord. We didn't even know he was a point man. My family and I know how strong and brave my dad was, but it is nice to learn that he was also those things for his country.

I also wanted to let you all know how proud he was to be a part of Ripcord. He lived with me when he went to his first Reunion in Shreveport. He talked for weeks beforehand about the trip and the friends he hoped to see there. Once he came back, I was overwhelmed with stories about all of you. You were like an extended family that he finally got to see again! Dad treasured the pictures, jacket, book, hat, and memories from the reunions.

A special thanks to Bob Smoker for speaking at the service today and Gary for coming to the reception afterward. There were so many questions we wanted to ask and not enough "ThankYou's" in the world to cover how grateful we are for your presence. For those who could not make it, from the cards we received, I know Dad was in your thoughts.

Dad's service was finished with a flag folding ceremony, rifle salute, and taps... he deserved positive recognition (as all of you do!) for serving his country.

On a side note, I would love to hear from anyone who would like to write, especially "LT" and "Cisco".

Take care and God bless you!!!

Carie (Manbeck) Moore

Carie Moore [cltaylor13@mail.com]

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Mr. Widjeskog,

This seems a bit odd to send a random e-mail to a complete stranger – but I think it is, in large part, an honor. You see, all my life, I have heard of you and the other men in your company. My dad, Gary Foster, served with you and the others in Vietnam during the battle for Ripcord. When he tells us (me and my other two brothers) about the battle, he always talks about you and the others in the platoon and the heroism of everyone that lived and died in that battle.

Honestly, I thought I would live my life never seeing any of the men he spoke about. Luckily, and by pure coincidence, I found the book by Keith Nolan and was able to at least get a "broader view" of the firefight. The book really changed my perception of my dad and all the men in the battle. Reading an account of what all of you did and survived from a different point of view has given me a new understanding and appreciation for the war – and my dad.

I saw the pictures of you and dad when you came to visit him in Kentucky. I really appreciate the time and effort you took to visit him. To be honest, I think it really did my dad a lot of good. I really wish I could have been there to meet you in person. I did however, get the next best thing by watching the documentary produced by Fox News and Oliv-

er North. Again, having heard the names of the various men all my life was one thing – but actually being able to see them was another. In an odd sort of way, it's almost as though being able to put names of the men with the faces, and to hear the accounts of the battle sort of brings a lot of my childhood and youth "full circle". It resolves, for me, the wonder of who these men were dad would talk about. Now I know the story has been told.

I especially want to thank you for telling the story of my dad. Throughout my life, I read the commendation letter he received a number of times, but again, hearing the story from someone else – someone who was there – is a whole new sense of pride for me. The account in Mr. Nolan's book filled us in a lot of details dad had never told us before (I don't remember him telling us about anyone handing him a half-cooked grenade, for example). But there is something different about hearing the story from someone else. There's no good explanation than to say it really changes the way I look at my dad. Somehow, there's a higher level of respect than I ever had. I'm extremely proud to say he is my father – and I am glad he served with all of you.

Thank you for your time and service to America,  
Scott Foster.

*Lee Widjeskog's Note:*

*In the book Gary Foster was miss identified as "Whitcot-ton" this error was brought to our attention by Gary's wife. Gary arrived in the jungle with Alpha 2/506 on 18 July (he saw the Chinook blow up the firebase), and was medivaced out on 23 July with a broken nose, two burst ear drums and various shrapnel wounds never to return to Vietnam. In the process of passing thorough our company he saved the life of my platoon sergeant, shot multiple North Vietnamese soldiers and was awarded a Silver Star. Alpha Company survived that day due to actions by Gary foster and others like him.*

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Frank,

I served with B CO 2/506th Nov 68 to June 69. I recently found out that one of my former squad leaders passed away. I talked to his sister and found out he had gone back to Nam and was wounded Jan, Feb and real bad in March of 1970. His name was Joe Strucki. I would like to hear from someone who knew him.

JJ Jordan  
chad2003@iglide.net

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My name is Gary Turner. I was with the 82nd, 1st Infantry Div. and the 25th Infantry Div. from 7 July 69 to 7 July 70. My best friend, Burke Miller, was killed in action on Ripcord on 22 July 70, about 2 weeks after I got home. Carol Miller Ebrite, Burke's sister, left for Colorado the morning the family was notified of Burke's death. They could not find Carol. She got home 2 weeks later, so she

# INCOMING MAIL

could not attend Burke's services.

On the weekend of Sept 10, 11 and 12th there is a planned reunion and memorial service for Burke in Springfield, MO. Many of Burke's fraternity bro's, friends and hopefully Burke's 101st Brothers will be able to attend. A block of rooms have been set aside for attendees.

I would appreciate your help in getting the info out to your members. Please let me know what we need to do, to make this happen.

Thank You.

Gary Turner - 11B40

GTurner@ndbh.com

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The newsletter is absolutely superb. You, Lee, and Dennis are doing a most remarkable job with it. I think it was great that you printed Martin's response to some of the criticism of his show as perhaps those people who were disappointed in the show will begin to understand how difficult it is to do what Martin did. He is a great friend of the Ripcord Association.

It also appears that the Association is beginning to find some aviators who flew in the battle. I think this is great as their contribution to the Ripcord battle is overwhelming.

Keep up the great work.

James Campbell

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Hello,

I am Redskin32 - aka Dave Grubb - and was a Cobra pilot with D/158AVN.

I fought at the Ripcord battle and was wondering if your reunion is open to anyone or primarily the ground troops. I live in Rochester, Il. and your reunion location is close for me this year. I was talking to another Redskin pilot the helicopter pilots reunion and he mentioned your organization and that you have reunions also.

The thing I recall most about Ripcord was that our company was out of pilots, but we could put up one more aircraft if I used my crew chief in the front seat. The crew chief had a fixed wing license in civilian life and could fly the Cobra at least straight and level and could possibly get us back to base if I got hit. The CO agreed to the plan and my crew chief and I worked the mission hard all day. We never got out of the aircraft. We did not refuel and rearm. The CO in effect closed the company area and everyone just stayed at the ammo pile and did not rearm. At one point in a gun run the crew chief looked at me in a little rear view mirror the Cobra had and said "Sir there are tracers coming at us." I tried to be as calm as possible and said "just use the minigun on any area use see tracers coming from when I make our turn." I had given him a quick gunnery course on the way out to Ripcord so he did just as I asked and fired back long and hard every time we made our break. When the day was done for us the crew chief was real quite and I

think for him the war got real in an instant. He was a hero with the other enlisted guys for awhile, but I am sure his view of things was never the same.

David Grubb [grubb71@hotmail.com]

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My name was Regina Miller

My husband was a soldier with the 101st A/2/502 he was killed in Thua Thien South Vietnam on the 5th of May 1970... His name was E5 Green E Miller Jr. He was blonde, blue eyed and from Ala.. I was notified that he was MIA, ten days later I was notified he was KIA.. What has haunted me is ,did they capture him.. ??? God I pray not.. But if they did, I am no longer 19... and it is OK to know.. If anyone is out there that knew him and feels OK to talk to me I would appreciate it.. Every summer for all these years I see him.. I have a wonderful husband and fine children and grandchildren. My life has been good.. But this issue has always been unresolved, help me if it will not hurt you.. I do not want to harm anyone..

thank you... Regina from Texas

Regina Williams

inez@ktsnet.com

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Frank,

Please inform our members they can give their Oral History about their experiences in War so future generations will remember what they did in Viet Nam. It would be great that a relative would be able to hear what their Great, Great, Great, Grand parent did in the War. I have the following Web site they can go to or they can contact their local American Legion or VFW

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/vets-partners.html>

Best Regards,

Terry Stanger

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Although a Veteran of Ripcord I have only become aware of it's significance. I came upon this web site by accident about a year ago. I have been in contact with Chuck Hawkins for over a year now and have enjoyed the web site. I have read the book and watched the program on Fox. I was one of the few that came out of the battle on July 22 unscathed. I was also one of the group with Hawkins in his impromptu Command Post during that day thought they did a decent job on our units involvement with the time allowed. I thought they should have explained the political aspect more than what they did. All in all the overall picture of our involvement in the Last Major War of Vietnam was well done. I'm proud to have served with you guys, especially Alpha Company. My wife & sons never realized what we went through because words never express it. Like they say, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Tim Newman Alpha Co.2nd/506th

## Mike Chiarelli, B 2/506

Mike Chiarelli grew up like most of the other guys that participated in the battle for Ripcord. He wasn't planning on entering the armed services any sooner than needed and was thinking how he would live his life once out of high school.

Mike was raised on Long Island, New York where he graduated from high school in 1967. While attending a nearby barber college in 1969, he received his draft notice and all his plans took a two year detour. Upon graduation Mike was inducted and shipped out to Fort Jackson for basic training and later AIT. From there he was sent to Aberdeen, MD where he qualified with the .45 every day for three weeks. Then the Army decided Chiarelli needed to learn to drive tanks in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Here



he enjoyed many good experiences with Vietnam veterans who treated and taught him well. As expected he received orders for Vietnam. Mike hadn't thought much about going to Vietnam till he told the veterans about his assignment. They didn't say much but gave him this strange look when he mentioned his orders. Once he got in country he had a better understanding of what that look meant.

In March of 1970 he left Oakland, flew to Hawaii and landed in Cam Ran Bay. Here he discovered he was assigned to the 101st. He assumed there must be a mistake because he was not airborne qualified. If he's going to be jumping from airplanes he figured he was as good as dead. Only later did someone clue him in that the 101st was now airmobile and you weren't expected to jump with a parachute. No one mentioned or knew that this was the outfit that was to see most of the fighting over the next four months.

By early April he was deemed ready to join Bravo 2/506. Someone got him on a helicopter at Camp Evans and he was soon dropped into a jungle opening where he met his new friends. As a new guy he was fortunate because the fellows of his squad made sure he learned how to adjust his rucksack and all the other little things that help you survive and tolerate the heat and the jungle.

The first action he saw was in the area of Hill 805. Bravo combat assaulted into a hot LZ (landing zone). Mike jumped out of the helicopter with bullets hitting the ground around him. He ran and rolled out of the LZ and sought cover behind a tree as he fired his M-16. Soon Cobras came zipping in firing as they went. This was enough for the NVA who immediately left the hill. As Bravo pushed up onto the hill a bolt of lightning hit the hill and Mike and a number of others were knocked to the ground. At first they thought

they had been hit by artillery but there were no wounds. Mike's legs were numb for about 30 seconds before returning to normal. After that the company set up a NDP (night defensive position) on the same hill they had just chased off the NVA. Each of the four nights they stayed on the hill they got hit by the NVA. Captain Williams, the company commander, had "Puff" over head many nights to help keep the enemy at arms length. One night Mike found himself on LP (listening post) with a radio and two others. They had been out there a while when an RPG swooshed by their position and went off. That was enough for Mike and the men of the LP. They rushed back to the NDP hollering anything they could

think of so as not to get shot by the other Bravo boys.

It was soon after that event when Bravo Company walked to Ripcord to get a rest from action. The rest was non-existent since Bravo Company received incoming fire just about every night while on Ripcord.

It was while on Ripcord that the men of Bravo Company began to make use of Mike's skills as a barber. Even today Ripcord survivors talk about the guy who gave haircuts while the customer sat on artillery ammo boxes. Mike managed to keep down and out of harms way long enough to get ready for the evacuation of Ripcord on the 23rd of July. As he and others were burning equipment in preparation for the move, an explosion from gasoline and a trip flare seared Chiarelli's face leaving him with second-degree burns on half of his face. However, he and the others were in such a rush to get on the chopper and leave the firebase, he didn't feel or notice the burn. Back at Camp Evans he got off the chopper and was grabbed by a medic who quickly sent him to the hospital for treatment. It was only then that he realized how badly he was burned.

After healing he was assigned to the fire direction center of a mortar unit on Firebase Kathryn. Compared to Ripcord this was heaven. He spent his R&R in Bangkok and managed to get a 30-day drop so he left country early.

A few years after returning he married, started his own barber shop and helped raise three children who have just about all grown and moved on with their lives. He still enjoys the company of the same wife after 26 years but now cut hair by appointment only without the headache of running ten-person shop.

The Ripcord reunions are the only place you can get your hair trimmed by Mike Chiarelli without an appointment!

# Fellow "Ripcorders and Ripcorderettes"

As of this date, we have 57 total registrations. A little less than last year at this time, but hope to increase the number of attendees in the next few weeks.

I will be in Des Moines, 20 – 24 July 04, to finalize the banquet (meal), and to order the bus trip for the tour to Winterset Iowa, birthplace of John Wayne, and also the area of the movie, Bridges of Madison County.

After the tour, we will be going to Uwe Myer's farm for a picnic. We should be returning to the hotel around 1600 – 1630 hours. At which time the hospitality room will be open and in operation until the late hours.

That's all of the 2004 reunion news update that I have, but I do need to bring up a matter that evidently some people are not happy with. And that is, starting the reunion on a Monday (early birds arriving a day or two before) and departing on Thurs.

Those who attended the reunion in Charleston S.C. should recall, that at

our "business meeting", one afternoon, it was discussed (and approved) to move the reunion to July 23 or as close to the 23rd as we could get it. The purpose for this was, the culmination of the battle of Ripcord, was on the 23rd of July, not October, secondly it was discussed and approved to move the starting day of the reunion to Monday and end on Thursday, instead of Wednesday thru Sunday. As discussed in Charleston, the reason for this (as stated during the discussion) was that we could get the room rates 25-45 dollars cheaper per night, if we came in at the beginning of the week and left before the weekend, rather than come in on a Wednesday and leave on a Sunday. All those in attendance discussed these changes and approved them. Now, I am told by Frank Marshall, that he is receiving e-mail stating there is much dissent among some of the personnel that starting at the beginning of the week is unacceptable.

To me, what is unacceptable is having a reunion at hotels that only a few people could afford to go to. For example, we could go to San Antonio for \$135.00 per night and \$30.00 a day for parking. Or Tampa Bay for \$95.00 per day, plus \$11.00 per day per person resort fee.

We are scheduled for Indianapolis, Indiana (my home town) in July 2005 at the Marriott east. The per night room rate (right now) is \$189.00 per night. We, however, are being charged \$74.00 per night and that includes a continental breakfast. We're going back to Charleston in July 2006. After that, whoever is in charge, can have the reunion anywhere, anytime they so choose.

As I have stated in earlier correspondence, I'm quitting. July 2005 reunion, will be my last. I recommend that those doing all the complaining, get together, have a meeting or whatever and select someone to replace me. Whoever that person is, have them follow me around during the Des Moines and Indianapolis reunions, because they will be running the reunions from 2006 on into the future. Charleston has already been selected for 2006, after that, you will have to select your own hotels and locations.

See you in Des Moines  
Fred Spaulding.

**Editor's Note... I think Fred has done an outstanding job with the reunions. I would appreciate your comments and suggestions on the future reunions. Send your ideas to: frankmarshall@ripcordassociation.com**

## Book Title Suggestions

I'm getting down to the wire for my book with a goal for completion of the manuscript and submission of 20, July. I would appreciate suggestions for the title be sent to me via email or telephone. Below are some that I am considering:

*Doi's Division Surrounds Currahee Battalion at RIPCORD*  
*CURRAHEES Surrounded at RIPCORD*

*RIPCORD—The View From Hanoi*

*RIPCORD—CURRAHEES Surrounded*

*North Vietnamese Outnumbered Us 10 to 1*

*Besieged At RIPCORD*

*Gen Doi: "Destroy Firebase RIPCORD"*

The person providing a title, if accepted by the publisher, gets a free hardback book.

Ben L. Harrison

Phone: 254-939-0207 Email: bharr7232@aol.com

## RIPCORDERETTE'S CORNER

We are only 3 months away from our reunion in Iowa. I found some interesting places you may want to visit while there.

First, known for their award winning blue cheese is the Maytag Dairy Farm. Located at 2282 East 8th St., N in Newton, Iowa. Their toll free number is (800) 247-2458. Next, why not get your chocolate fix from the Chocolaterie Stam located at 2210 Ingersoll Ave. in Des Moines. They also have a website you can visit at [www.stamchocolate.com](http://www.stamchocolate.com).

Lastly, a bakery for all your fresh bread needs. Jaars-

ma's Bakery at 727 Franklin St. in Pella, Iowa. Here's their website if you are interested in going, [www.jaarsmabakery.com](http://www.jaarsmabakery.com).

Hope you can use this information while planning your trip to the reunion. Please don't forget your things for our Ripcorderette auction. I'm looking forward to buying lots of tickets.

Juanita Tipton

[cwtip@msn.com](mailto:cwtip@msn.com) or 910-436-4667

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## **New Ripcord Message Board on the Internet**

Richard P. Johnson of A/2-501 has set up an 'EZBoard' message board called 'The Ripcord AO' that is primarily for the use of all those who fought at Ripcord or in the Ripcord Area of Operations during 1970. This board will allow for the instant posting of messages and hopefully will provide a quick and easy way for members to communicate with one another. The URL for the board is: <http://p221.ezboard.com/btheripcordao>

When you get there, go to the 'General' forum, and view the 'Welcome' message for a bit more information on the purpose of the boards. See the 'How to use these boards' message for information on getting started if you are unfamiliar with EZBoards. Hope to see you all there.

## **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.

### **Ripcord Report**

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