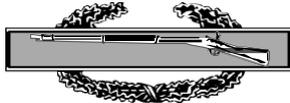


JUMPING MUSTANG BUGLE

1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division

June 2018



Volume 38

Issue Number 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well we are now 6 months into 2018 and it is definitely time to begin planning your trip to our next re-union in Colorado Springs, CO. More information is included in this Bugle edition. I also want to remind everyone of Glenn Sheathelm's word of caution about the altitude level of Colorado Springs (6,300) above sea level and its impact on our oxygen levels. Please check with your doctor about its impact to you and your spouse and what you can do to overcome this impact, ie: c-Pap, B-Pap and Furosemide. The official dates are October 4th to 7th. However, like many of us, you might want to arrive earlier to explore all that Colorado Springs has to offer.

So, my east coast 1st Cav troopers, have you given it any thought? My last Presidents corner asked you to think about hosting a reunion on the East Coast for 2020. I know it's a lot of work, but you're not alone. Jim, Jane, Faye and the entire board are ready to assist you. Show off the city you live in, show off the things your community is proud of, especially those effecting Veterans. Some great cities might be Boston, New York, Baltimore, Richmond, Gettysburg and most locations in Florida.

A lot of progress has been reported lately in the area of MIA identifications especially of World War 11 and Korea MIA's. 18 more have been identified just in the last month. Those 18 will receive a full military Honors burial. "Welcome Home" Our lone MIA Sgt Ellis is still MIA and our prayers go out to him and his family at every re-union.

Another reminder is the Presidents Hot Line directly into the White House. Have an issue, call them and see

if they can get you more attention than the VA. 1-855-948-2311 its available 24/7

I have just uncovered a new site that might be of interest to some of you. VetTix.org allows you to register your interests for all kinds of events in every State. They get donated tickets and give them out to Vets as well as current serving members. They give you coins for registering and doing other things during the month, like reviewing an event or referring someone to their site. You then can use these coins to bid on events your interested in. I am going to see if they ever get any tickets to the Masters golf tournament, what would you like to attend? If you register, use this code 1097619 and I will get some referral coins. You will need to verify you're a Vet but that process is easy. Good Luck and enjoy.

Did you know that June, July and August all have special days in them. June 14, 1775 the US Army was established. June 17, Fathers Day, June 25th 1950 North Korea invades South Korea. July 4th, Independence day. July 21, 1969 Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin are the first to walk on the Moon. July 27, 1953 the armistice to end the Korean War was signed. Finally August 4th 1790 the Coast Guard was established, Aug 7, 1964 Congress approves "all necessary action" in Vietnam, Aug 11, 1972 US Combat troops leave Vietnam and Aug 14, 1945 V-J Day.

I wish that you all have a Happy, Healthy and Safe Summer. I trust you will do your best to join us in Colorado Springs, CO. Call the hotel and make your reservations now. You might also want to check Google Flights for some good fares. See you soon.

**Honor and Courage
Harvey J. Auger
President**

SEPTEMBER 2018 EDITION OF THE BUGLE

Did you have an incident happen to you in Vietnam that you would like to share with the other members of the Jumping Mustangs? Or, do you have some information that would be of benefit or interest to the membership? The Bugle is published each quarter to provide all members with information, as well as activities and articles of interest to the membership. I strongly encourage each of you to send articles or information to me that can be published in the June editions of the newsletter.

Please submit your articles or information to be included in the September 2018 Bugle to me no later than August 17, 2018. Thank you for your involvement.

Any views expressed are those of the individual who wrote them, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Jumping Mustangs. Articles about memories of events and experiences are not checked for accuracy. The editor can make changes to articles so they are more readable, remove negative remarks about individuals, or to remove vulgar or offensive language.

Jerry Prater

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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TAPS

Mary Hancock, wife of James "Doc" Hancock, B Co 67, passed away on March 26, 2018

If you know of a member of the Jumping Mustangs that has passed away, please notify Jim Knafel at jknafel@gmail.com or Roger Talmadge at rogertalmadge@cox.net as soon as possible.

DON CALVANO

Don Calvano is a member of the Jumping Mustangs and was with C Company from 8-65 to 8-66, and he was Capt. Smith's RTO. He has had surgery and has had his stomach removed due to cancer. He has to learn to eat small amounts of food. Please pray for him and his family. His wife, Irene, requests cards and prayers, but no phone calls please. I knew Don while I was there he was a great and is a great trooper.

Don Calvano
2690 East 121st Place
Thornton CO 80241

Henry Roybal

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for the Jumping Mustangs are \$10.00 per year, payable at the date of the annual reunion. The dues paid at the date of the 2018 reunion in Colorado Springs is for the year 2019. All members who attend the reunion should include the \$10.00 dues on the reunion pay sheet, which is the last page of this edition of the Bugle, and mail the payment to Jim Knafel. **If you are not going to attend the 2018 reunion, you can still use the reunion pay sheet to pay your dues because the address to where the payment is to be mailed is printed on the pay sheet.**

If you have not paid your dues each year, we ask that you pay the \$10.00 for each year in which you have not made payment. Membership dues are very reasonable, and they do help offset a lot of the expenses incurred as the result of the Jumping Mustangs activities.

Thank you for your membership, and thank you for keeping your dues current.

Jerry Prater

VICE PRESIDENT POSITION

The position of Vice President of the Jumping Mustangs will be vacated after the reunion in Colorado Springs, and the membership will vote on the candidates and elect the new Vice President during the 10:00 business meeting Saturday Morning, October 6, 2018.

If you would like to be considered for the Vice president

position, please contact Harvey Auger, Rick Wagner, Jim Knafel, or Jerry Prater and let us know of your interest.

Jerry Prater

Current Email Address

Currently, the Jumping Mustangs has approximately 350 members on the active roster. However, only 226 of the members have provided us with an active email address. About three weeks before the Bugle goes to press each quarter, I send an email message to all members of the Jumping Mustangs. This message informs members of the cutoff date for all articles or information that is to be included in next edition of the Bugle.

If you are not receiving this email message, it indicates that you do not have an email address on my contact list, or that the email address you provided is not a deliverable address. Since the Bugle will not be mailed to members by the Post Office beginning with the March 2019 edition, we ask that you provide us with your current email address as soon as possible. If you do not have an email address, I strongly encourage you to ask your children or grandchildren to create one for you, and train you on the basic operations of sending and receiving email messages.

Your current active email address can be provided to Jerry Prater at jerryprater1018@yahoo.com or 214-263-4567 or to Jim Knafel at jjknafel@gmail.com or 260-244-3864

Thank you for your prompt response.

Jerry Prater

RECEIVING THE BUGLE ELECTRONICALLY

In the Presidents Corner of the September 2017 and the March 2018 editions of the Bugle, Harvey Auger informed all members of the Jumping Mustangs that, beginning January 2019, members would receive their copy of the Bugle either by email, or by reading it on the Jumping Mustangs Group on Facebook. This will enable members to have access to the current edition of the Bugle much faster, and it will reduce the costs incurred by our organization by approximately \$600.00 per quarter.

You can receive the Bugle electronically by three different methods:

Email – Simply provide me with your current email address and I will begin sending your copy by email with the next edition. Currently only 191 of our 350 plus members receive the Bugle by email. I encourage all of you to consider receiving your September 2018 and all subsequent editions by email.

Facebook – The Bugle is posted on the Jumping Mustangs Group on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account and are not a member of the Jumping Mustangs group, all you need to do is contact any member of the group and request membership.

Jumping Mustang Website – The website can be found by using google, or another search engine, and type “Jumping Mustangs”. You will see an option “Jumping Mustangs, 1/8 Cav in Vietnam, Honor and Courage”. Click to open that link and it will open to the home page. On the second box from the left on the second line, you will see “Bugle”. Click to open that file and the current copy of the Bugle will be available for you to read.

If you would like to begin receiving all future editions by email, please contact me at 214-263-4567 or jerryprater1018@yahoo.com

If you would rather view the Bugle on Facebook or on the website, please let me know so I can stop mailing a paper copy to you through the post office.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in reducing the costs of the Jumping Mustangs.

Jerry Prater

OCTOBER REUNION

The Jumping Mustangs Reunion will be October 4-6, 2018, at the Hotel Elegante, 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO. The room rate is \$119 per night plus tax, and includes complimentary breakfast for two guests per room, per day. Suites will be available for \$159 per night, plus tax. Reservations can be made by calling the Hotel direct at 719-576-5900. You must ask for the Jumping Mustangs rate, and the reservation deadline is August 29, 2018.

The hotel is 88 miles from Denver International Airport (about 90 minutes) and about 8 miles from the Colorado Springs Airport. Shuttles are available from both airports, as are rental cars. Hotel Elegante is to the east

of Interstate 25 at Exit 138, about 70 miles south of Denver and 140 miles north of the New Mexico border. Coming from the east, it is approximately 180 miles from the Kansas state line. From the western border with Utah is about 300 miles.

There will be a tour of Fort Carson on Thursday morning at 10:00 am. The itinerary is being finalized. There is no charge for the tour and lunch will be on post with a charge of \$5.60 per person. The tour is limited to 40 people. Fort Carson will send a bus to the hotel to pick up participants.

A tour has also been arranged for Dragonman’s Military Museum on Friday morning. Participants will meet at the museum (so carpooling and private vehicles will be necessary) and pay there, \$10 each. The tour is limited to 40 people.

If you are interested in either tour, please let us know as soon as possible so that we may add you to the list. (Jacobs501@aol.com or 719-578-5124. Please leave a message if we don’t answer.)

There are many other attractions in the area to see during your free time: Pikes Peak (America’s Mountain), Garden of the Gods, United States Air Force Academy, Cave of the Winds, Manitou Cliff Dwellings, Seven Falls, The Broadmoor Hotel, Academy Riding Stables (horseback rides through Garden of the Gods), Western Museum of Mining and Industry, The Royal Gorge (World’s Highest Suspension Bridge outside of Canon City, about 50 miles away), the National Museum of World War II Aviation, the Olympic Training Center, and Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, just to name a few. Gambling is available in Cripple Creek (about 50 miles) and the hotel can arrange for the shuttle to stop at the hotel. There are many shopping areas in Old Colorado City on the west side and in Manitou Springs, along with several malls across the city. There are many good restaurants in the area. For more information, please go to www.visitcos.com

The elevation of Colorado Springs is about 6,100 feet, so it is best to take it easy when you first get here to acclimate yourself. Also, drinking plenty of water helps. The weather in early October is generally warm, but with very cool evenings and nights, so bring a jacket!

Please contact us at Jacobs501@aol.com or 719-578-5124 if you have any questions. See you soon!

Alan and Sharon Jacobsen

FORT CARSON, COLORADO

Many of today's US Army soldiers at Ft. Carson are combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and were awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge or, established with the Iraq war, the Combat Action Badge, which is intended for non-Infantry soldiers in combat. The fighting soldiers at Ft. Carson travel in and fight from vehicles-- the Stryker, an 8-wheeled, 23 feet long, 18-ton, armored vehicle, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the M1 Abrams tank. Specific information about each vehicle is below.

Ft. Carson was established in 1942 and was used as a training base. During WWII 9,000 German and Italian POWs were held there, and some were used as farm and logging workers. Subordinate Army camps in the Rocky Mountains were used for cold weather and mountain warfare training. It was named in honor of General Christopher "Kit" Carson, the legendary Army scout.

Ft Carson has about 25,000 soldiers with a modern size of 137,000 acres, and an added separate field-training area of 235,000 acres located 150 miles to the east. The US Army's 4th Infantry Division has been the major unit based at Ft. Carson, with unit deployments to Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Due to its location and scenic beauty, Ft. Carson has been considered among the Army's top two most popular stateside Army duty stations, along with Ft Lewis, WA.

The 4th Infantry Division's major units include the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, the Division Artillery and the 4th Sustainment Brigade. Other units include the 10th Combat Support Hospital, the 10th Special Forces Group, the 43d Sustainment Brigade, the 71st Ordnance Group (EOD), and the 59th Military Police Battalion. Each of the three Brigade Combat Teams contains about 4,000 soldiers and each has in support a Cavalry Squadron and one each Field Artillery, Engineer, and Support Battalions. As its main fighting units, the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team has 3 Stryker Infantry battalions. The 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team served in Afghanistan with its three Infantry Battalions, with Bradley Fighting Vehicles, while its 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry was deployed to Kosovo with the Multi-National Battle Group.

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team contains one Infantry Battalion with Bradleys and two Tank

Battalions with Abrams tanks.

Other area US military units include the NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) located 1 mile west of Ft. Carson, which provides surveillance and control of US and Canadian airspace.

Combat Vehicles at Ft Carson. The most unusual "new" armored combat vehicle is the Stryker. It is a wheeled vehicle that is propelled by eight "knobby" tires and can carry 11 soldiers and equipment in relative safety up 45 degree slopes into battle. Infantry Strykers can be armed with a .50 caliber machine gun, 40 mm grenade launcher, 30 mm Bushmaster cannon, Javelin anti-tank missile, 7.62 mm M240 machine gun, or can pack 120 mm mortar or a 105 mm main gun rifled cannon. The Stryker is 23 feet long and 9 feet wide, 9 feet high and weighs 18 tons. It has a 450 HP Caterpillar C7 diesel engine with 4-wheel and 8-wheel drive with a top speed of 60 mph. The Stryker vehicle can be configured to carry an Infantry squad, with blast-attenuating seats, or be in a fire support role with a heavy mortar team, or a 105mm main gun cannon. By 2020, Army Air Defense Artillery units will have Strykers with the Avenger Short-Range Air Defense (SHORAD) system. The Stryker has thermal sights, day-night thermal imaging camera, and periscopes, and it is a "lighter" vehicle, in terms of armor protection & weapons, than the Bradley. The Stryker is very suited to combat in urban areas, delivering and supporting an Infantry squad in most-any terrain, performing reconnaissance and convoy escort, and providing fire-support. It gains much of its defense against enemy heavy weapon systems from speed, communications and maneuverability.

The Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle is a tracked vehicle, weighs 28 tons, has thicker armor protection (from 30mm projectiles) than the Stryker, is armed with a 25 mm chain gun, the TOW anti-tank missile, coaxial 7.62 mm machine gun and "firing port weapons". It has a crew of three and carries six fully equipped soldiers. The Bradley is designed to transport Infantry or Scouts with armor protection, while providing covering fire to suppress enemy armored vehicles and troops. Its engine is a 800 HP Cummins diesel and the top speed is 56 mph. It is 21 feet long, 12 feet wide, 10 feet high and has a 360 degree outside-view camera and improved sensors. The Bradley is highly capable of keeping pace in cross-country open terrain with the M1 Abrams main battle tank, in accordance with one of the main design objectives. Using its TOW anti-tank missile, the Bradley can combat any vehicle on the battlefield. Variants of the Bradley are used for cavalry scouts, engineers, command and control, Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and Stinger missile team carriers.

The Abrams M1A2 Main Battle Tank weighs 68 tons, has a multifuel 1,500 HP Honeywell turbine engine with 500 gallon fuel tank, an off-road speed of 30 mph, a 120 mm smoothbore main gun, .50 cal., two 7.62 mm machine guns, a crew of 4, heavy armor protection using depleted uranium materials, with a 42 round basic-load of 120 mm ammunition stored separately from the crew.

Helicopters within the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade are the UH-60 Blackhawk, which can lift an entire 11-person, fully-loaded Infantry squad in most weather conditions, or a 105 mm howitzer with its crew of 6 & 30 rounds of ammunition, in a single load), the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, the CH 47 Chinook medium helicopter and light observation (scout / reconnaissance) helicopters. The Blackhawk, with "folded" blades, can be transported inside the USAF C-17 aircraft. The Aviation brigade has about 2,700 soldiers.

Tom Brett
30 ½ Years, US Army

MY LIFE, MY COUNTRY

I made up for my mistake, lifetime disability.

When I charged the ambush it was because I felt that it was largely my fault that it happened. At the time I was acting NCOIC of H. Q. platoon. I was being coddled and I was eating it up hanging close to the C. O. I dropped my guard and didn't check up on my new squad leaders.

The temperature was 114 degrees in the shade and everyone was tired. Enemy comms wire was strung about the ground everywhere. Toe and heel trails were deep like wagon tracks (wheeled gun, captured).

The H. Q. came onto a small clearing with a graveyard. Stopped in place long enough at the tree line to smoke cigarettes and rest, then decided to check out the graves for disturbed ground. Squad leaders reported two squads were out on the left and right flanks and the rear was covered.

I asked a squad leader if anyone was out front. He said no, and I asked him how far out his men were on the flanks. He said 10 to 15 meters. I told him to get them out at least 30 meters. I then turned to the C. O. to discuss putting out front guard and had already directed the left flank to move forward while staying in the tree line when directly to my front the first 6 to 10 Chinese stick grenades filled the sky. A dozen grenades

exploded all around. I dove for cover and looked at the C. O. A grenade struck the ground bounced and slid across the top of a grave slab to stop about 5 feet away. I looked in the direction of the C. O. and saw him crouched behind a grave stone and I just got up and ran directly at the ambush.

I was embarrassed for dropping my guard and decided to make up for my mistake. I ran screaming and firing to draw fire on me and away from my Commanding Officer. Up until this time only grenades. No gunfire. 29 June 1966 morning south of the Song Baa River.

James Holland

MY HUSBAND'S JOURNEY

Louis Hoerner and I were married in July 1965, and he was drafted in November 1966. I did not realize it at that time, but I was pregnant with our first child when he was drafted, and I was 4 months pregnant when he left for Vietnam in March 1967. During the entire year he was in Vietnam he never wrote me about anything bad that was going on. He wrote all positive things, and sent plenty of film home so I could get the pictures developed. The pictures were mostly scenery and pictures of the people there. He never mentioned about being in a combat unit and the people being wounded or killed, but he did send some pictures of weapons that his unit captured. He tried to reassure me and that being there was like being on vacation. I knew better, all the television coverage was sparse and never good. The television coverage was mainly about combat and wounded or dead soldiers being loaded on helicopters. They did a lot more coverage of the war protesters than our soldiers.

When our daughter was born on August 1, 1967 I had to take care of her needs and not dwell on what was going on in Vietnam. Taking care of her was a full time job and it helped me maintain my sanity. Louis was wounded in December 1967 and I did not know this until he got home. He told me if someone knocked on my door the news would not be good. He returned home in April 1968 to be greeted by protesters in Seattle, cursing him and other returning soldiers. When his plane arrived in New Orleans it was forced to unload on the tarmac and we left from there, not going into the terminal because of protesters. I stayed with my parents while Louis was in Vietnam, and I was able to keep our house and am thankful for that.

When my husband returned from Vietnam, I knew something was different. Louis would jump out of bed in the middle of the night trembling about some nightmare he had. He did not want to be around people and became very introverted. I had trouble getting him to leave the house, and when he did he could not wait to get back home. Any sudden noise would terrify him. He did not sleep well and was always looking over his shoulders. He had to be reminded to take a bath and change clothes. He said he would wear the same clothes for up to 3 weeks and did not see the need to change clothes at home. He returned to work and as time passed and our family grew he was able to back-burner many of his emotional issues.

Louis had back problems when he returned home from Vietnam and I would massage his back and help him stretch out. We did not have a lot of money, but luckily one of my nephews was a chiropractor and he would see my husband for adjustments. This helped some but there was still pain. My husband continued to be treated until my nephew died expectedly in the mid 1970's. After that my husband self-medicated with over the counter meds, along with my massages and stretching.

Louis' employer transferred him to Atlanta in early 1990 and shortly thereafter his back pain got worse. He went to Emory University hospital and had an MRI. The MRI showed grade 2 spondylosis and Louis was set up for physical therapy. Between the physical therapy and several trips to chiropractors, he was able to get along. He took an early retirement in 1998 and we returned home to the New Orleans area. The early retirement was partly due to his back pain.

From 1998 to early 2002 Louis was able to function with the help of over the counter meds and my massages. He registered with the VA in early 2002 and started getting treatments for his back. From 2002 to the present he has been treated at the VA for his back and other conditions. After multiple x-rays, CT scans and MRI's his condition has gotten worse. He has been through most, if not all, the pain clinic protocols with little or no relief.

It hurts to see him in such pain. He has trouble getting out of bed in the morning without some stretching and twisting to relieve some of the pain. He is unable to do very little chores and even minor repairs around the house. I do most of the work now and am not complaining about that, but it makes him feel bad when

he cannot help out. He loves his grandchildren dearly but has limited activities he can be involved with them.

Linda Hoerner

God and the Soldier, we adore,
In time of danger, not before.
The danger passed and all things righted,
God is forgotten and the Soldier slighted.

Kipling

A veteran is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for any amount, up to and including their life.

=====
Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering and worrying if they actually made some sort of difference in the world.

VETERANS don't have that problem.
=====

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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