



# Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

January 2013

## 2/1 Cavalry Casing Ceremony



Mike, Tom and Lloyd at JBLM CAV HQ

There were four 2/1 Cavalry Association members, CSM Addison, Tom Fey, Mike Levenson and Lloyd Wirkkala, who attended the Casing of the Colors of the current 2/1 CAV Squadron on 18 October. Addison and Fey arrived the day before and were given the VIP treatment by 2LT Jahncy Franklin, LTC Lombardo and his staff and NCO's. During

the ceremony the association members were seated in the VIP section and were announced from the podium as special guests of the current Blackhawks. The Blackhawks were the last to get their colors cased due to the number of battle streamers, even using an enlarged case. They are very proud of the fact and so are we!



Casing of the Colors at JBLM



LTC Lombardo with COL Galani

## 2/1 CAV Care Packages

You'll remember how it was to receive "CARE PACKAGES" from home; well now, you can put together a care package and send it to your old Scout Section/Troop that is now serving in Afghanistan. I would suggest using USPS (United States Postal Service) flat rate boxes as the cheapest way to send packages. Here's how to address your packages:

- Line 1: **Trooper Name and Rank** (or **Section/Troop**).  
*For Mass packages you can put my name, LTC Charles Lombardo on Line 1*
- Line 2: **HHT, TF 2-1 CAV**
- Line 3: **FOB Apache**
- Line 4: **APO AE 09383**

Care package suggestions: wet wipes (HooAhs), candy, magazines, Jerky, lotion, books, music, eye drops.



Transfer of Authority from 1/14 CAV to 2/1 CAV

# Reunion 2012

Well, I hope everyone attending the Blackhawk's Reunion 2012 had a good time. I realize there were some things that needed done that didn't happen; the troop photos for one. I won't forget that again.

I now know the difficulties that Scotty and Janet went through for 26+ years. I want to let those, who were not happy with the beer situation, that the reason we did draft beer is because if we had brought cases of beer in from the outside we would have to pay a "corkage fee" for each can/bottle that was brought into the hospitality room whether it was opened or not. So it was much cheaper to buy our beer in kegs from the hotel in Gettysburg. We'll try to not let that happen the next time.

# Reunion 2014

The After Action Reports from Reunion 2012 indicate Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM), Seattle/Tacoma area, as the preferred Reunion location with Milwaukee and San Antonio as tied for second. HOWEVER, of those Troopers attending Firebase Barker, only five were willing to travel to the West Coast. This presents a difficulty in that most of our Troopers live east of the Mississippi River and if troopers are not willing to travel, where do we host the Reunion! There are many troopers in the west, some come to every

The current squadron will return to JBLM upon their return from Afghanistan and they are very interested in attending. Since we now include them, your leadership team is in a quandary. What we need you to do is notify me, Tom Fey, if you're willing to travel to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Or, to which of the other two locations you'd rather have your reunion. **On the last page is a ballot to fill out and mail to me, or you can email or call me, with your choice by February 28.**

## Association Meeting Minutes

### 2012 REUNION BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Terry Fox presented a program on Longstreet's Assault (Pickets Charge) that the Squadron would walk on Saturday.

There was no SECRETARY REPORT. The secretary was absent, so a recording secretary was appointed for the meeting.

In Tom Schluchter's absence, his TREASURER REPORT was given by Vice-President, Lance Lake. *As of August 01, 2012 the Association General Account balance is \$16,619.37. The Reunion Account balance is \$10,215.63, but money is still coming in and bills still must be paid yet this weekend. The CAV Museum Account balance is \$160.00.*

Under OLD BUSINESS, the item of donating to the Cavalry Museum (tabled in 2010) was taken up. A motion to donate \$2,000.00 was

made, seconded and passed.

Under NEW BUSINESS, the By-Laws change committee, headed by Dennis Scott, reported making an amendment to the current By-Laws to revert to the original By-Laws that stated Viet Nam veterans. The motion to amend the By-Laws was made, seconded and defeated. The current By-Laws remain in effect, essentially meaning anyone who is or has been a member of the 2nd Squadron 1st Cavalry may be a member of the 2/1 Cavalry Association.

2014 REUNION possibilities were discussed and completing the After-Action report was stressed to the membership.

OFFICER NONIMATIONS were called for, and a motion was made, seconded and passed to re-elect the present officers by acclamation. Thus, your officers will be President, Tom Fey; Vice President, Lance Lake; Treasurer, Tom Schluchter and Secretary, Gary Rosenblum.

Under OTHER BUSINESS, a

motion was made by Jerry Barker to enter CSM Kevin Griffin of the current 2/1 Cavalry Squadron to the active roster and enter him in the KIA list as CSM Griffin was a casualty the week before in Afghanistan, the motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Adjournment approved.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The service was called to order. Dennis Scott led us in prayer. The National Anthem was played. The President welcomed the Troopers and Guests to the memorial service and introduced General (Captain) Barry Hartman who gave a short and powerful tribute to our Brothers. Music was played during the building of the wreath and the KIA names were read by Jerry Barker and Lance Lake. Dennis Scott read the names of the deceased since 2010, a Moment of Silence followed. The Squadron was called to Attention and Taps was played.

## ENDING BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The officer election was revisited as the Troop Representatives were not called on during the opening meeting and they were asked if they would continue as representatives; all agreed to continue. Completion of the After-Action Reports was stressed and the invitation to Firebase Barker, 15-17 September was issued. Orders for Squadron Flags were taken by Vice President, Lance Lake. Lloyd Wirkkala wanted to know if you have any information on troopers living or passed so he can get them on the squadron roles. Adjournment commenced

# Treasurer Report and Thank You

- Tom Schluchter

I would like to thank all that helped at the 2012 Reunion since I couldn't be there because of my daughter's wedding; Lance and Jo Lake, Dennis and Janet Scott, Diana and Paul Watson, and their daughter, Nancy Baker. My utmost appreciation goes to Tom Fey for organizing and keeping us within budget, making his exploratory trips, scheduling activities, and managing the end of year account information.

Our year-end 2012 CAV Association account balance is \$13,914.23. The \$2,000.00 allocated to the CAV Museum Fund, during the Business Meeting in Gettysburg, plus the \$160.00 in CAV Museum donations received, makes the CAV Museum Fund balance \$2,160.00. The Reunion Account balance is \$1,132.69.

I hope everyone had a good holiday.

## Firebase Barker Meeting Minutes

*Sept 16, 2012*

The meeting was started by Jerry Barker welcoming and thanking everyone that came to Firebase Barker. He then introduced President Fey.

President Fey lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and then introduced Scott as the newly appointed Chaplin of 2/1 Cav. Scott then led us in prayer.

President Fey asked Schluchter for the TREASURER REPORT; at which time he reported approximately \$850.00 in the Reunion Account and \$16,495.00 in the Association General Account. The CAV Museum Fund balance is \$160.00.

Fey reminded us that the By-Laws will be updated to include all 2/1 Cavalry Troopers as eligible members of this association as voted on at the Reunion in Gettysburg. This includes everyone from 1833 forward.

After Action reports indicated a slight majority was for Seattle/Tacoma, Washington with Wisconsin coming in second, and the rest was pretty well tied for San Antonio, TX and Myrtle Beach, NC. Fey then proceeded to ask for a show of hands for the 2014 Reunion being in Washington state because of the traveling cost for everyone. At this point, the officers and members agreed to ask for more feedback from membership in the Blackhawk Newsletter.

The Casing for the current 2/1 CAV is tentatively scheduled for October 18th. Fey called for a list of names of people who could attend so he can turn their names in for invitations to be sent to them for the ceremony.

In NEW BUSINESS, an item was brought up concerning the Secretary position. Officers suggested the Secretary position be removed and have a recording secretary appointed as needed for meetings. The president then entertained a motion to "Drop the office of Secretary and replace with Recording Secretary". Questions were raised about the reason behind this, and the president said that we need to make sure someone is available to take minutes for our records at every meeting; it is vital. At that time it was asked if anyone would be willing to take the position of Secretary with no one doing so. At that point the Motion was made, seconded, and passed to present an amendment to the By-Laws concerning "removing the position of secretary and appointing a recording secretary at each meeting of the membership" before the membership at the 2014 reunion.

Trooper Scott, at this time, asked for donations to help the Barker's with the food provided and the hat was passed.

Fey then thanked the Barker's again and there was a motion to adjourn the meeting and all agreed.

# Troop Representatives

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## A Troop

By *Brian Kosteck*

Another reunion is now behind us. Time for some of us to reflect upon the moments we had together with those with whom we share the memory/memories of Vietnam. For others, it is time to begin the planning and coordinating of the next reunion. Where will it be held? What place has a hotel with a meeting place/hospitality room large enough to accommodate the 2/1 Cavalry? Whatever the decision and wherever it may be, I know that A-Troop will support and attend in our usual fashion. Waiter, Can Beer please!

To be serious for just a moment, the most telling moment of Gettysburg this year was the reading of the names of those that have passed since the last reunion two years ago in D.C. If the mirror in your bathroom is not doing the job, I am here to tell you we are not getting any younger. Do not put off the idea of attending these reunions because “you can or will make the next one”. Time waits for no man. There are a number of reasons and numerous other factors that influence the decision to attend or not attend. Take a moment now to plan to attend and back up your plan with an action that will allow you to follow through and be there next time. The Good Lord willing; Janet and I will see you then.

I had the opportunity to meet up with a fellow A-trooper who was with us for only a short time in 1970, before he was reassigned to another unit. (1st Air Cavalry) Dave Taylor was going to their reunion in Michigan and stopped in Fort Wayne on his way back home to visit with me and catch up. Dave stated his best memories of Vietnam and

the people he came into contact with were the A-Troopers he met. Dave is looking forward to seeing all of you at the next reunion.

Again, I welcome any and all advice and commentary you may have. If you have any ideas or suggestions for things to be included in the Blackhawk Bulletin, you can call me, e-mail me, snail mail or any combination. I am not the greatest person for timely reviewing e-mails so if you send something, don't be afraid to call me to let me know you have sent me something. All of my contact information is listed in the Officer Call section of this newsletter.

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## B Troop

By *Warren Roach*

Well another reunion has passed and I am looking toward the next one in 2014. Gettysburg was a big hit as all of our get togethers have been. Our leadership put together an outstanding week for us as always. It was nice to see my old Comrade Steve Benoit, as well as all the other B-Troopers and the Troopers of the whole Squadron.

I didn't make it to Firebase Barker, but I know Elaine and Jerry put on another exciting time. Maybe I will make it next year.

Back in September I got a call from Jim Jordan who was coming across the country to meet up with his wife, who had gone ahead of him to Hilton Head, SC. He and I decided to meet up at a place in North Carolina in the town of Morrisville at a café named Richard's Coffee shop. This little shop named Pat's Gourmet Coffee Shop, named in honor of his wife, became much more. It became a “Living” Military Museum, named in honor of the man who spent the last 14 years of

his life honoring and supporting America's Veterans.

It was owned and operated by Richard Warren, a U.S. Army, Vietnam combat pilot who flew a Huey attack helicopter, or “gunship”, with the call sign “Mustang 53”. With his background, Richard made a point of extending the traditional veterans greeting of “Welcome Home” to every veteran who came in to the shop. Over time, Pat's became a gathering place for veterans of all ages and a collection of artifacts, awards, magazine and newspaper articles slowly accumulated. It's dedicated to honoring America's Veterans, Active Duty Military, Police, Fire, and Emergency personnel. All are welcome to join us in honoring their commitment. If you ever get to North Carolina on RT# 77, check this place out. You will love it; only takes an hour or two, but they will make you feel like you just came home. Scouts Out!!!



*Warren Roach and Jim Jordan*

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## C Troop

By *Wayne (Hooker) Hook*

Thanks to you that attended the 2012 Reunion and Firebase Barker. The auctions were a success because of your participation. I hope each and every one of you had a good Holiday season.

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## D Troop

By Ray Marple

Well fellow D Troopers it's time once again to have some Como with you. We all had a great time at the Firebase Barker weekend get together; besides the great company, the food and drink were excellent. We had a pretty large turnout for it being an on year for the regular Reunion. Much was discussed about the "14" reunion. We are pretty sure that it will be Ft Lewis, WA or the Sea-Tac area, but things can always change so let us know how you feel about it.

Getting ready to go dog here in Michigan, It looks like it's going to be a cold one this year. If anyone has any suggestions give me some Como and I'll see that it gets to the right person. As ever ... IF IT AIN'T CAV IT AIN'T S\*\*T.

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## HHT Troop

By Lloyd Wirkkala

I hope all of you HHT members had a Merry Christmas and that you will have a prosperous and healthy new year. Be sure to make a suggestion for the upcoming reunion.

Recently the widow of Anthony Conti submitted a video of her trip to Viet Nam to visit the site where Tony was killed so I know she reads this publication, this is the 2nd time she has reached out to find someone who served with Tony but never leaves any contact info, I was driving the ACAV 3A when we struck the mine that killed Tony and Donald Jones, myself and TC Sgt. Kittrell were badly wounded, I have a picture that I took that morning of Tony. She can e-mail me (james41049@comcast.net) or write to me at 683 Brock Ave. New Bedford, Ma. 02744, Thanks.

# President's Corner

Well another reunion is complete and it was an education for me. Thanks to our Treasurer Tom Schluchter and Past President Dennis Scott for their guidance through my first reunion as your president. From the After-Action reports it seems everyone had a good time. I know there were a few glitches and from those we all learn. Thanks also to the Watson's for all they did; registrations, store, wreath/flowers and everything else. Since I didn't know what snacks to get, Janet Scott along with the other ladies, did what they've done for years, and got us the snacks. Thank You. Our Vice President Lance Lake, and his wife, Jo were indispensable working in front and behind the scene. Jo provided a great spouse program and silent auction, while Lance was always there assisting me. Wayne and Jeanne Hook, along with assistants Marlin and Ruth Pint, did another fine raffle. I know I'm missing others, but the mind is the first to go as they say. I really must say that Dennis, Jerry and Lance did a wonderful job of reading the names of our deceased brothers. Captain (General) Hartman provided the best eulogy that I can remember, Thank You!

With the 2012 Holidays now over, I hope each of you had a joyous season and 2013 is proceeding at a rapid pace; take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

Now it's time to prepare for our 2014 reunion so fill out your ballot in this newsletter and mail it to me ASAP so your officer team can get started.

— Scouts Out, Tom

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## Vice President – Lance Lake

The reunion in Gettysburg was great. I really thought it turned out pretty good with no great tragedy. I love each and every one of the Troopers sincerely, and it was awesome to see all the family members that also attended. The children, and now the grandchildren, are the ones that will carry on our story. It is so great that each and every one of them took the time to share this with us.

Jo and I attended our first Firebase Barker and what an event that is. Kokomo was a new experience for us as well. Thanks to the Barker's for their hospitality. The food was great and all the work they

do for fellow Troopers and their family is phenomenal.

It is always very difficult to say goodbye when it is over. Going through this at the reunion in Gettysburg and then again at Firebase Barker, just weeks later, was really bad. But, because Jo is retired from the school system now, we will not have to miss seeing everyone again next year at Barker's.

PLEASE, respond and give us more feedback on our next reunion. A slight majority of the After Action Reports (that we received back) was for Fort Lewis in Washington. We are asking for more input on this and from all of you. Wherever the vote takes us, we want all of you to be there. Therefore, we will let you know ASAP so you can start making your plans.

# Squadron Commander's Corner

- LTC Charles T. Lombardo "Blackhawk 6"

Team,

The Blackhawk Squadron has made it to Zabul Province Afghanistan safe and sound. From the moment our Troopers hit the ground they have been working hard and diligently. The Squadron is excited and energized about the mission that lies ahead. A lot of progress has already been made here in Zabul. The Troopers of 2-1 CAV look to continue the improvements made by our predecessors in preparing our Afghan partners to take the lead. Our brothers in arms from 1/14 CAV left us with a safe and comfortable place to work and sleep. I would like to thank LTC Dunivan, CSM Miller, and the 1-14 CAV team for their incredible hospitality and hard work. We also want to say thanks to two incredible Brigade Combat Teams. Our parent Brigade, 4/2 SBCT Raiders-Dragoon, enabled this Squadron to hit every gate in the ARFORGEN Cycle and has allowed us to train and push our Squadron to achieving greatness as we prepared for this deployment to OEF. Finally, want to thank Col Crider and CSM Kirkover and the Marne Raider Brigade for their warm, professional welcome into the team. Look forward to writing history and turning over and supporting our ANSF partners in Zabul.

As we approach the holiday season I encourage everyone in the 2-1 CAV family to keep the lines of communication open. Separation from family and friends during the holidays can be a hard time for Soldiers and families alike. I am confident that the strength of our 2-1 CAV association, its' families, FRG, and our team deployed, will carry us all forward. As always, I would like to remind Blackhawk family members to "Like" 2-1 CAV's Facebook page. The site is an excellent way for friends and family to keep up to date with their Troopers while deployed. I would also like to remind families to participate in FRG meetings and activities. FRG allows families members to connect and share common questions and concerns.

I cannot express strongly enough how impressed I am with the performance of our Troopers. After only four weeks on the ground they have a strong grasp on the areas in which they operate and are executing successful reconnaissance and security missions every day.

I would like to wish all of our family and friends a very happy holiday season and a healthy and fun new year.

# A Son's Thought

- By Jeremiah Barker

Greetings sons, daughters and grandchildren,

My name is Jeremiah Barker, the youngest son of Jerry and Elaine, the hosts of Firebase Barker. Ever since my first reunion at six years old in Kansas (1989), I have carried an extreme amount of love and pride for this organization. Our veteran fathers have been my heroes and part of my family. I'm truly blessed to have all of them in my life.

At the 2012 reunion in Gettysburg I talked to President Fey and a few other veterans about an idea I've had for a long time about the sons, daughters, and their significant others getting together while the business meeting and ladies social are being held. In doing this meeting/gathering we can find out more about each other and the organizations past, present and future. I do not want to make this a stressful or awkward venture where you might feel forced or obligated to attend. I thought it could be fun to get together and talk about our fathers and all the memories over the years and what the organization means to all of us. I talked to a small group of you, who attended the reunion, and received a positive response; several said this was overdue.

I know there will not be a National Reunion in 2013, but there is always fun to be had in Indianapolis at Firebase Barker in September. I'll talk to those who attend the Firebase and get other ideas and options. In the meantime, I can be reached by email at [Jere.Barker23@gmail.com](mailto:Jere.Barker23@gmail.com) with your ideas. I look forward to the fun times

Take Care, I heard someone say once ... "it's a Jungle out there".

## Looking for Lori Conti

Dear Lloyd, recently the widow of Anthony Conti submitted a video of her trip to Viet Nam to visit the site where Tony was killed, so I know she reads this publication. This is the 2nd time she has reached out to find someone who served with Tony, but never leaves any contact information. I was driving the ACAV 3A when we struck the mine that killed Tony and Lt Donald Jones. Myself and TC Sgt Kittrell were badly wounded. I have a picture, that I took that morning, of Tony. Please put this in the next newsletter letting her know she can e-mail me: [james41049@comcast.net](mailto:james41049@comcast.net) or write to me at 683 Brock Ave., New Bedford, MA 02744. Thanks.



# 2nd Squadron 1st Cavalry Association

## Regiment of Dragoons

### *Trooper Registration/Change of Address*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Service Dates (from/to) with 2/1 Cav: \_\_\_\_\_

Theater/Area of Operation (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Troop/Platoon: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Mail to:**

2/1 CAV • PO Box 87 • Bay City, MI 48707-0087

## Communicate Your Move

It greatly helps the Association if you keep your mailing information up-to-date. The *Blackhawk Bulletin* goes out to over 2,000 members and for every trooper that moves, and does not notify us, it costs the Association to locate you again. Please help us defray mailing fees by communicating your home address change so you may continue to get the *Blackhawk Bulletin*. Thank you for helping us out in this area.

### **2013 Association Dues**

Dues can be paid by check or money order to  
2-1 CAV, PO Box 87, Bay City, MI 48707-0087.  
We suggest your annual dues to be \$10.00, but anything you  
can send is greatly appreciated.

### **Ballot for 2014 Reunion**

*Vote for ONE*

- Joint Base Lewis McChord (Seattle/Tacoma)
- San Antonio
- Milwaukee

*By 28 February, return the ballot to:*

**Mail:** Tom Fey, 4320 Upham St., Wheat Ridge, CO 80033  
(winter address)

**Email:** [tomefey@gmail.com](mailto:tomefey@gmail.com)  
or **Call:** 303-619-7571

2/1 CAV  
PO Box 87  
Bay City, MI 48707-0087

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

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