



# BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Assn

MARCH 2009

## **REST EASY, BROTHER** ... Dennis

Scott



It is with the deepest sadness and remorse that I share with you the news of Robert 'Deacon' Indermuehle's death on January 11, 2009. After a truly courageous fight with cancer over the past few

years, 'Deacon' slipped peacefully away at his home in Emporia; joining our brother Cavalrymen at 'Fiddler's Green'. He was 62 .

There is one unique tie that binds all of us Blackhawks to 'Deacon'. And, whether you knew him or not; should create in us all an abiding admiration for this man and the gift he has given to us. Simply put, we all owe a debt of gratitude to him for founding this Association and guiding its footsteps through the early years of its existence. Supported and encouraged by his wife, Jody, 'Deacon' was the catalyst that brought 20-plus C Troopers into Emporia, Kansas in 1985.

It was during that gathering that we decided to organize ourselves as "C Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry", the sole purpose of this informal bunch being to meet again in two years and bring along any other C Troopers that we were aware of, or could find. To make this group 'official' we selected 'Deacon' as our President, Jerry Barker as our Vice President, Tom Schluchter as Treasurer and me as Secretary. Jody automatically became our Command Sgt. Major. And, led by the 'Deacon' and Jody's organizational skills, we made a pretty fair team; holding larger and larger reunions in 1985, 1987, 1989, 1992, '94, and '96. By that time we had begun to gather 'strays and lost troopers' from the other Troops and Platoons and increasing our membership significantly.

In 1998, 'Deacon' decided to step aside as the unit's organizational head; having built a 20-man association into a membership that represented all Troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> (Armored) Cavalry. He was not allowed to get too far away from us, though, being convinced to assume the responsibility of Troop C Representative; an office that he held for several years.

'Deacon' was buried in Greenwood Cemetery on Emporia's south side on Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, with full military honors presented by the Kansas Army National Guard Honor Detail. Among the friends, relatives and family members that listened so intently to the heartbreaking strains of "Taps" were 14 members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> (Armored) Cavalry Association, there to render their final earthly good-bys to one of their own. Included were Dennis Scott; Jerry, and son, Jeremiah Barker; Tom and Linda Schluchter; Fred and Glenda Pugh; Al Doty; John McLaughlin; Lori Woodard; Diana Watson and daughters, Nancy and DeAnna and Bob Brothersen, pallbearer. To us 'Deacon' will always be nearby, walking 'point' and waiting to give us a hand up when the Lord sees fit to bring us home, as well. Until then, we'll wait for the order. ... SCOUTS OUT!

## **NOT PRETTY, BUT** ... Dennis Scott

Well, Firebase 2008 at Fort Riley has come and gone, leaving each of us with our own conclusions as to how successful it was. Like any other military plan, this one ended up taking different routes and several detours that included confusion, humor, disappointment, monsoon-like rains and exploring sections of the Post that even the Army didn't know they had. But, just as our

Cavalry forefathers had done in generations past, we adapted and forged ahead until we ultimately reached our goal; arriving at the Post Chapel for our Memorial Service. And even that was unplanned, taking us away from our scheduled stop at Cavalry Field where we had intended to observe a demonstration by the Commanding General's (Horse) Mounted Color Guard, followed by an outdoor Memorial Service. And that was just Friday! As we dismounted from our buses back at the Courtyard Marriott, I wasn't the only one that was wondering what other surprises might be ahead of us.

But, I'm getting ahead of myself so let's back up a little. As advertised, our Registration procedure began Thursday morning with each trooper getting his welcome bag containing, among other things; his hat, shirt, up-dated roster, events schedule and other things that he couldn't live without. With Tom Schluchter's experience to guide them, Paul and Diana Watson; assisted by their daughter, Nancy and Jeannie Hook; turned the registration process into a model of efficiency. Before they knew they were finished, most of the arriving Blackhawks were directed to the Hospitality Room to select a beverage of their choice, a few snacks and the beginning of a three-day, non-stop story telling festival. So far so good!

THEN CAME FRIDAY as I reported at the start of this piece. It was raining when we boarded our buses and headed for Ft. Riley. There we were met by a pair of civilian 'guides' (who were late) that took us into the fort for a short welcoming statement from Lt. Col. I Still Don't Know; Ft. Riley's version of Beadle Bailey. He was assisted by his sidekick, Zero; whose name says it all. **It continued to rain!** The third bus was basically an unguided 'go where you want to go' transport that ended up providing us with a quite laughable tour of the fort. By some type of miracle each of these buses did locate a couple of simulators, museums and/or stables; home to the Mounted Color Guard's very spoiled and well-groomed mounts. As one trooper noted in his "after action report" this unplanned, limited support tour utilizing three buses with drivers who didn't have a clue; was a "good job (of) adjusting to weather problems." Another Blackhawk mentioned that he "liked the simulator, enjoyed seeing the horses".

And, in contrast, one of our travelers simply said that his impression of the activities was "Excellent". *I wonder where he was!*

Our agenda for Friday also included a demonstration by the C.O.'s Mounted Color Guard at Cavalry Field, to be followed by our Memorial Service which featured our traditional wreath building ceremony. Additionally, our featured speaker for the occasion was Lt. General Daniel Zanini (Ret.), a two-tour (one with the 2/1 Cavalry) veteran of Vietnam and a Brigade Commander during Desert Storm. *As I said earlier, 'It Rained!'* We were not going to let a little rain keep us from honoring our fallen brothers, though; so we took off in the direction (we hoped) of the Post Chapel.

This is where, I believe, that our 'Good Luck' turned into "Divine Intervention". Naturally, the Chaplain we had scheduled to assist us with our service never showed up. BUT one of his aides happened to be leaving the Chapel as our buses rolled into the parking lot. After a long review of what our day had been like, supported by a great deal of prayer; this young man got us into the building, located an available officer to provide us with the security clearance to remain there, arranged for an impromptu rifle squad and a bugler. *We had been SAVED...delivered into what one of our Hawks described as "one of the highlights" of the reunion.* Many of his comrades agreed; citing this service as "Heartbreaking" and "very moving, a proper service for our beloved Troopers".

And the comments on General Zanini's message were "Well done, (I) enjoyed the General's comments." Several of the reports commented on how "moving" and "outstanding" General Dan's remarks were. Many attendees were extremely pleased with the location of the Memorial Service, noting that it was well and proper for our list of KIA's to be recalled and remembered in a house of worship.

Saturday morning was an open day until our dinner/dance at 6:00 p.m. But the morning began a lot earlier for some of us who headed down to the Hospitality Room for a cup of coffee or 'other' beverage. But, as usual, we had all been beaten there by General Zanini and he was teachin' and preachin' about the Army's future technology. His audience grew in number as other 'Troopers' wandered in, allowing his

remarks and slides to demonstrate how a totally tied in signal net could coordinate not only the immediate squad but it's support artillery, air cover and even naval ships sitting offshore just waiting to turn their missiles and big guns loose.

The rest of Saturday was spent any way that the troopers and their families wanted it. Some went touring, shopping or just looking around. Many of the Blackhawks gathered around old film and pictures that had been cleaned up and put on DVD's. It was a great time of camaraderie as we all began to understand that this was the final evening of our Fort Riley Firebase. A dinner buffet was spread out for us at 6:00 P.M. followed by the drawings and raffles of a couple dozen items. Those dollars went right into the Treasurer's hands for use as 'starter cash' for Firebase 2010 wherever that ends up. That decision is still in the committee's hands and we will know as soon as they are able to "compare apples to apples" and make their decision.

On Sunday morning we once more gathered in the Hospitality Room to say our "Good Byes" and enjoy a huge hug-fest. And, as we dispersed to our rooms, vehicles and private thoughts; many of us were trying to understand why our time together always seemed to disappear so quickly. So, Brothers and Sisters ..... See you in 2010! Scouts Out!!!

## **YOUR OPINION MATTERS** ...

Dennis Scott

Our thanks goes out to you 47 'Hawks who answered our "After Action" questionnaire, especially to the nine 'first timers'. Whether this was your first reunion or your 11<sup>th</sup>, we are committed to providing you with a memorable experience that will encourage you to be in attendance at the next reunion. We understand that no one is going to be able to enjoy all the sites and sounds of a particular venue in a three-day gathering, but your requests and comments do provide us with the guidance and program ideas that you may see at our next reunion. Our goal for each Firebase is to make it so interesting you simply can't stay away.

On the After Action Report, we asked for your overall impression of Junction City as a reunion site. (Question #2) Your responses

ranged from 'Excellent', to 'Great (centralized) Location', to 'Better than I expected', to 'Not very impressed', and ... 'Isolated ...small ...not much to see. "

With the exception of those folks who endured a broken elevator during their stay, almost everyone thought the Marriott (Question #3) was 'Excellent' and 'Outstanding'. The 'friendly (helpful) staff' was referred to many times.

As for the activities at Fort Riley (Question #4), I could fill an entire newsletter with the differences of opinion. You thought they were 'lots of fun', 'very good', 'mixed up, but great' and 'It rained, Remember?' But, even with the monsoons, approximately 90% of you gave the program a thumbs up.

Our Memorial Service 'Couldn't be any better', was 'the best one yet', 'Beautiful', it was 'Outstanding' and 'Heartbreaking' at the same time. 'Very appropriate', and 'not many dry eyes when it was over.

Question #6 concerned the dinner/dance and will be the topic of the day when our committee gets going on Fire Base 2010. 'It was nice to have such a large room', 'Great', 'DJ's were too young', 'Don't need the DJ's', 'Music so loud you can't talk', '...need to know our music, and 'Best (banquet) yet', and 'Dinner and dance were very good, DJ's were great.' It was nearly unanimous that the meal was 'Excellent'; but we also had one report that the 'food was very bad' and 'expensive'.

The location of our next reunion is always a challenge. We have suggestions from Fort Lewis (Washington state) to Niagara Falls, Washington D.C. to Fort Drum (New York) and San Antonio to Gettysburg. Choosing the next site will not be for the faint of heart! This committee has already reviewed the 26 suggestions we have received, and has evaluated and culled that group to a more manageable number for their further investigation. Many troopers indicated we should forget about going to active forts due to the long delays required and tight security that has been in place since 9-11. This is a point well taken based upon the very difficult time we had in getting anything scheduled or discussed with the 'powers that be' at Ft. Riley. We still, however, have the opportunity to enjoy the countless historical

battlefields and fortifications we have throughout our Country.

Timing is another issue that affects our planning. Although the bulk of our responses still seem to favor a Labor Day connection for our reunions, some sites and accommodations are not available at that time. In addition, there are weather considerations in some parts of the country. For instance, Florida or Texas would still be "hot, hot, hot" in early September. Frank Whitten has done a lot of research for us in the Myrtle Beach, South Carolina area and he's forwarded some attractive information. But a reunion there would probably be held in mid-to-late October to nullify any concerns regarding hurricane season and because facilities are not available to us over the Labor Day period.

Twenty three After Action Reports indicated a desire to return to Washington, D.C. Most likely, a D.C. reunion would be held in the Labor Day time frame. At this point in the 'search' process, Myrtle Beach and Washington D.C. are the two sites we are investigating. Please feel free to let your Troop Rep know your opinion on either of these possibilities. We are planning to have a great party and we want YOU there!

## **FIREBASE BARKER/KOKOMO**

... Jerry Barker

Sit rep-negative change except the dates are different this year. R&R is Fri-Sat-Sun, September 18-19-20, 2009. Our usual AO will be observed, to include the 27th Annual Viet Nam Vets Reunion in Kokomo, Indiana, the oldest in the nation.

Saturday evening's stand down will feature roasted pot-bellied pig with NUOC MAM sauce, followed by Cavalry Communion. Being an off-year attendance numbers are very important for logistical purposes. LET US KNOW!!!

Lodging information is available upon request. C&C has a new phone number this year. It's (317) 271-7844, or [JB8555@aol.com](mailto:JB8555@aol.com) Travel safely... It's a jungle out there! Over and Out!

## **TROOPER DOWN** ... John

McLaughlin

Just received word (March 1<sup>st</sup>) from one of the "A" Troopers, Michael Provine, out of Kansas, that he is in the hospital with Cancer (pelvic area). He is on chemo and expected to go home sometime next week. He called me last night and sounded down.....I tried to cheer him up the best I could and called him again today. He sounded a little better but could use more cheering. He attended his first reunion at Ft Riley last year. He has no close relatives he can count on and lives by himself. His cell phone # is 620-755-5605. He has no computer or e-mail. Cards and well wishes can be mailed to MICHAEL PROVINE, 704 North Chestnut, McPherson, KS 67460-3308. The Hospital address is: MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, 1000 Hospital Dr., McPherson, KS 67460. The Hospital phone # is 620-241-2251.

I guess he called me because I made some special plaques for him and my number was the only one he had. Please see what you can do to cheer him up a little. He was infused to the CAV from the Big Red One. He was in A and HHT from 5-68 to 1-69. If you need more information let me know by emailing: [jrmac79@comcast.net](mailto:jrmac79@comcast.net)

## **TROOP REPORTS**

**HHT Troop Report** ... Lloyd Wirkkala

This being my first time for this, I will give a little information on my tour. I was in Squadron Maintenance, March 1968 to March 1969 on five ton wrecker mostly.

All of you HHT troopers, let's get alive and show up at the reunions. I have been to six and every time I meet old friends, and make new ones.

Condolences to CSM Major Mike Basozki as his wife passed away recently.

If you haven't connected with VA get connected at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

## A Troop Report ... John Mavon

Not much to report. All anxiously awaiting news of location for Reunion 2010.

## B Troop Report ... Warren Roach

The reunion at Ft. Riley was a great reunion, even though we got rained out on some things. As always, the Cavalry adapted to the situation. Looking forward to the next reunion wherever that may be. Ellen and I had a great time at Barker's after the reunion. As always, Elaine was the gracious hostess with the mostest. Other than that, things have been quiet.

## C Troop Report ... Wayne Hook "Hooker"

Greetings to all. Hope everyone had a great time and a safe holiday season. Also, the same for everyone at Ft. Riley. A big thank you to Jerry and Elaine Barker for opening their home for Firebase Barker.

On a sad note, here is a list of C-Troopers that I received of passing brothers:

Edward J. Lelko	67-68	Chino, CA	2-2-08
Roger D. Hodge	70	Johnson City, TN	5-23-07
Thomas Geathers	68-69	New York, NY	1-17-02
Joseph J. Daly	68-69	San Jose, CA	10-3-88
Benjamin Howard	68	CA	1-74
Bryon E. Neff	70	VA	3-30-71
Thomas S. Hill	68	Runnemede, NJ	2-29-08

Please let me know if you have any news.

## D Troop Report ... Raymond Marples

Who can believe that it's been six months since we met at Ft. Riley, KS. I don't know about all of you, but it's been a brutal winter up here in Michigan, but clear skies are just around the corner.

A few D Trooper's have contacted me since the reunion and I have encouraged them to join our ranks. We are growing in numbers even though it is slow. I plan on attending the weekend in Indianapolis, IN this September so if any of you have any ideas you would like brought up, please e-mail me: [rangerf425@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rangerf425@sbcglobal.net) or call me on the land line and let me know. I always enjoy talking with any of you, even though I'm not much of a phone person. If you haven't yet obtained a coin be sure to get your coin before they are all gone. "SCOUTS OUT"

## GARAGE SALE!!

Following our return to our respective homes, Tom and Linda Schluchter, the Watson's and the Scott's completed inventories of any merchandise we thought you may want to purchase. We didn't (as planned) come back with much in the way of clothing. Jesse Paul and Diana have 9 of the 2X size and 5 of the 3X sized T-shirts. You may purchase them for \$15 per shirt, plus postage of \$4 for the first package and another \$1 per shirt after that. To place your order just give them a call at **660-849-9301**. They also have a great selection of products to create your 'one of a kind' garment or hat, so keep them in mind for that 'special gift' you're looking for.

The Schluchter's have approximately 250 of our "big and beautiful" challenge coins left in their possession and these have been selling very well. They are numbered individually and bear the red, white and black colors of the Blackhawk crest on the front side. The back of the coin is done in a 'Fiddler's Green' background with a tank and unit motto enhanced in gold-colored wording. These are great as gifts to other veterans and friends of the Cavalry. These may be ordered at a cost of \$12 per coin plus shipping of \$3 per package. Mail your coin order and check directly to the 2-1 CAV postal address.

Lastly, I am the guardian of the Blackhawk crest designed for adhesion on the inside of your glass window, etc. They are 3 1/2 inches in diameter with a Cavalry gold background. Against that background, Rocky Marino has placed a small map of Vietnam with its colors showing inside the country's outline. It also pictures the black shape of the 'Hawk and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry wording around the outside edges of the decal. These very classy stick-ons reveal your pride of service and won't come apart due to any exterior weather or malicious exposure. You may order these pieces from me, Dennis Scott, at **989-224-2601**. They are a mere .50 cents apiece plus postage of .50 cents per package/envelope.

## GUESTBOOK COMMENTS

*From Dana "Garrett" Sloane* ... "Just

returned from Junction City Reunion '08 and had a WONDERFUL time! Most don't know me, my grandfather is Ron Garrett aka SGT Garrett. Just wanted to say how incredible this Association is. It does so much for my grandfather and that trickles on down into our entire family. Thank you all for all the hard work you do for him and all the vets. I know it means the world to him and so it does for me! Thanks to all for keeping the memories and stories alive and for sharing everything with me and the next generation. I love getting a peek into my grandfather and the man he was then. Keep it up and we'll see you all in two years. Thanks again!!!"

## **CHECK IT OUT!!!** ... Lohr & Scott

To many of you this may be 'old news' but, I'm sure, it will be fresh meat for the majority of Blackhawks and go a long way toward satisfying some of their suggestions and improve our capabilities. What is it, you ask, that can make so profound a change? All you'll need is one small hint ... punch up the Association's web site at [www.2-1Cavalry.com](http://www.2-1Cavalry.com) and prepare to be impressed.

Ever since the initiation of this asset many moons ago, Robert Sparks and his son have been the keepers of the net; with Robert telling Matt what we wanted on the site and then letting Matt figure out how he was going to do it.

Robert and Matt's work has been the bedrock of the 2-1 CAV website for several years and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Unfortunately, time, work, and other factors limited the time Matt was able to invest into the website for our enjoyment. This meant it was time for a "change of command" as far as the responsibilities for the 2-1 CAV website was concerned. Luckily for us, Fred Lohr a "D" Trooper with 2/1 CAV 68-69 had the skills, some time, and the will to pick up the ball and run with it for us.

The format of the webpage has been changed to a more intuitive and hopefully more

concise layout. A new guestbook (without advertisements) has been designed that can enable users to add pictures to their comments. The old guestbook remains available for viewing.

Fred is slowly adding all the photo and document content of the old webpage to the new page as he finds time, which is hard right now as he is building and moving into a new house over the next few months.

A key addition to the webpage is the "**CAV Lounge.**" The CAV lounge is a software forum you can access through the 2-1 CAV website menu. For the less computer minded of us, this is a place we can visit much like we visit each other during reunions. Just as we used to head from our rooms to the downstairs meeting rooms at the reunions, we can meet on line through the CAV Lounge. There is nothing mysterious about the CAV Lounge, nor can you "hurt" anything by using it. It is unbreakable.

To be able to use all the features of the CAV Lounge, please register. Unless you want to remain anonymous, you probably ought to pick a user name on the CAV Lounge that your friends will recognize so they know who they are responding to. When you register, the program will present you with a box that contains various graphic letter and numbers. These may be hard to see since they are designed to impede spam robots from registering automatically through the internet. By entering these characters manually when you register, we know you are a human and not an Eastern European spam robot. There is also a link that allows you to hear the characters you need to enter.

If you have a problem registering or using the CAV Lounge forum, please email [admin@2-1Cavalry.com](mailto:admin@2-1Cavalry.com) or [fred@fredlohr.com](mailto:fred@fredlohr.com). Once you are registered and Fred has activated your account, please log in for complete access. Feel free to post your thoughts on any subject you want, just like at the reunions. You can send and receive messages, post pictures and email from within the forum. You can conduct polls and add topics.

Best of all, we can stay in touch with each other between our physical reunions.