

ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2008



DEVILS



DIGEST



August 2008

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ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2008

By Ken Hamill

My trusty navigator, Bonnie and I departed Columbus, GA on Monday. We took state and federal roads, most near interstate quality, four lanes and very little traffic. We arrived in Fayetteville in mid afternoon on Tuesday. I had made the room reservation at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux in January which helped my room assignment. My room was on the third floor of the main building. Roomy and clean and with a fridge and computer desk with internet hookup. All the doors and elevators worked well. Our All American Week registration was fast and painless. The two female soldiers at the registration room were courteous and pleasant and very helpful. We visited Fort Bragg around 4:30 and ate at a nearby mall. We stopped in the hotel grill and bar called Wiley's looking for some after dinner coffee. The bartender "Michael", made us two very fine Nutty Irishmen coffee royals. The place was busy and very pleasant. Wednesday started out as a beautiful day, bright and sunny and around 65 degrees. Free coffee with all the fixings was available in the hotel lobby. Breakfast at the K&W Cafeteria was as always, very good. The first bus left for the Airborne and Special Ops Museum at 11:00 AM. I had not visited this museum in several years and several additions and improvements have been made. A very large steel piece of art dedicated to the victims of 9/11 stands near the museum. Some steel from the mangled twin towers was used in the artwork. A few hundred U.S. flags stood at attention next to the art on six foot poles much like a military unit paying respect to its lost members. We caught a bus to our hotel for a short siesta prior to the picnic at McKellarslodge. We caught the bus to McKellars at 3:30 and were among the first 100 or so to arrive. The chow line was pretty short...

It was help yourself to beef ribs, barbeque chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, potato salad, cole slaw, pie and cake. The drink selections were various iced down soft drinks, draft Budweiser or Killians Red. Hard booze mixed drinks were available. The cost was absorbed by the registration fee. A DJ and older type music were provided. Good food, good music and good people made for a good time. We caught a return bus around 7:30 PM. Thursday morning called for a 6:30 wake up because the last bus would leave at 8:00 AM. We arrived at Pike Field for the parade around 8:30 AM. We heard that the President would attend, so we were not surprised that his Secret Service had taken special security precautions. A portable fence was installed in front of the bleachers screening the lower seats from the parade field. Temporary fences divided the left and right bleachers from the center. A fence behind the bleachers extended the full width of the viewing area. At 9:00 AM the gates were closed and everyone was confined to the area they were located in. All spectators were corralled and could not leave prior to the ceremonies finishing, except the 15000+ paratroopers on the parade field and the old timers who would pass in review first. This method resulted in most old timers who marched not being able to sit with their families. It did not matter, all 5000 or so spectators were thrilled that President Bush was at Fort Bragg to honor the 82nd Paratroopers. When President Bush trooped the line, he walked rather than rode. When the official party departed, the people in attendance filed through a four foot gate in the fence to rejoin their families. All movement was controlled causing planned activities to run an hour or two behind schedule. Lunch with our Paratroopers in the troop area did not happen. We caught buses to the... Continued on Page 2

...82nd Museum for a touching ceremony. The 82nd Global War on Terrorism monument that our Chapter had donated to was dedicated. All wars where 82nd paratroopers died were recognized by veterans who fought in those wars. President Bush read from the book of Isaiah. Several dozen and perhaps hundreds of Gold Star Families of the GWOT KIA's were escorted to the monument one row at a time. The names of the KIA were announced over the PA system while the 82nd Soldiers Chorus sang appropriate songs like Amazing Grace in the background. Paper and pencils were made available so the names of the fallen could be etched or traced from the engraved names on the monument.



GWOT Memorial at 82nd Museum

The buses then returned us to our hotel with plenty of time for a hot shower. The evening banquet was very good. The Soldier and NCO of the year were introduced and received numerous gifts for their accomplishment. SFC Joshua Carswell, an infantryman was from H&H Co, 1-325. SPC Russell Danley, Jr., an infantryman was from H&H Co, 1-505. Both men were very impressive paratroopers. Friday morning we old vets and our families had the option of eating breakfast in the troop dining facilities. Buses carried us to the mess halls, then to Sicily Drop Zone. Static equipment displays were set up much like a fair grounds. We could chat with the troopers manning the displays. Hundreds or perhaps thousands of spectators sat in the bleachers for the Airborne demonstrations. A public address system blared

out what would happen during the Joint Training Exercise and we watched it happen. Heavy drop aircraft dropped howitzers. Several plane loads of paratroopers then hit the silk. Attack helicopters swarmed in on the objective area and used suppressive fires. The Airborne Infantry units then used fire and maneuver techniques to attack and assault the objective. This demonstration went like clockwork. The People attending were heading for buses back to the hotel by noon. We caught a bus to Fayetteville Clubhouse at 1:30. The ribs, bbq chicken, cole slaw, buns, hot dogs and hamburgers were tasty and plentiful. We drank the free beer and did some old timer dancing to the tunes provided by the lady disk jockey. The Fayetteville Chapter and their great Clubhouse with the outside picnic area does a great job of supporting all aspects of the 82nd Airborne Division, our association, All American Week and the 82nd Museum. Chapter Chairman Frank Seif was unable to attend All American Week and will not attend the convention in St. Louis, so I was designated as our Chapter Delegate to AAW and the Convention. Our Chapter paid my Delegate / Registration fee of \$82.00 for the convention. A delegates meeting was scheduled for Saturday morning at 9:00 in the host hotel. It was my first time as a delegate and I arrived there early. Executive Director Manny De Jesus passed out a four page outline describing the meeting topics and listing the 60 delegates and the chapters they were from. Past President Ron Rath had the Chaplain give the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance, called the meeting to order and briefed us. He took nominations for the Delegate Spokesperson and we elected, I believe, Chet Cassidy of WLV Chapter. Chet took over and we elected a recorder whose name I did not catch. Chet conducted roll call and had replacement delegates names added to the minutes. The results of our discussion would be considered at the Directors Meeting to follow. We were the sounding board, the Directors made the decisions. We discussed five old issues: (a) Executive Director to email changes of address received from PCS and ETS'd Troopers to Veteran Chapter versus mailing. (b) Late fee for Convention Registration and Refund Information. We have to...Continued of Page 3

read the Convention Registration Form. (c) Webmaster to obtain assistant – Nixed. (d) Extend the window of opportunity for former troopers to apply for Educational Fund Grants. (e) Lack of contact information for the 307th Engineering Battalion All American Engineers Chapter. We discussed three new issues – (A) Possible changes to the existing system of Active Duty Memberships that requires a By-Law change. (B) Extend window of opportunity beyond two years for former troopers to apply for Educational Fund Grants that requires a By-Law change. (C) Membership acceptance for Air Assault Qualified Personnel into the Association that requires a By-Law change – not popular. The Delegates Meeting went well and we finished around 10:00 AM. AAW 2008-Hooah!



Ken & Helen Glynn at McKellars Lodge



Bob Hayes at McKellars Lodge

CHAPTER AFGHANISTAN EFFORTS

Ken Glynn met and spoke with the 508 PIR commander, COL Schweitzer and CSM Flowers at All American Week. They thanked our Chapter for the assistance and assured Ken that the money we sent to the 508 Family Assistance Group was distributed equitably. They also said all the shirts, flags and all the other things sent to Afghanistan were appreciated by the troopers and nothing went to waste. They invited us members of the 508 Chapter to the 508 hospitality room at the Kansas City Convention. Ken Glynn also heard from Chaplain Pundt as follows: Hi, Ken! Thanks so much for the gift certificates. Our Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants have been absolutely overwhelmed with 14 Strong Bonds Family and Single Soldier Retreats. They have led and trained over 400 couples and almost 1000 single troopers in the last 3 weeks. Whew! These events targeted families for healthy skill-building and the singles with tools to prepare for healthy families now before they take the big plunge. As a way to bless our UMT's, I presented each family / trooper with a Gift Certificate at our Spiritual Renewal Retreat during Memorial Day Weekend. There was simply no time for any other kind of event as our calendars filled up with typical airborne speed. Thanks again, sir, to you and the 508 Chapter. Your generosity has blessed a population of Paratroopers that constantly give and rarely have time or opportunity to receive. Your magnanimous contribution made that happen. Thank you! ATW! Larry Pundt-*Editors Note: Thank you, 508 Chapter Members, your generosity helped make our Afghanistan combat veterans feel appreciated. You have every right to feel good, Hooaaaaah!!!!*

The 82nd Airborne Division Association's 62nd Annual Convention, August 11-17, 2008, St. Louis, MO. Contact point is Gateway Chapter, PO Box 192, High Ridge, MO 63049. Hotel telephone # 800.325.7353 Our Chapter Secretary can provide information, schedule, directions or check our website News / Events page at www.red-devils.org.

82ND ABN DIV ASSN CREDIT CARD

Several months ago one of our members voiced concern that the 82nd Association was providing personal information in exchange for the association credit card. I passed this concern on to National. The Association Executive Director sent me a two page answer. That explanation has been edited to fit into our newsletter and follows: In reply to your email, and our telephone conversation concerning a complaint from one of your members, regarding the sale of his name for marketing purposes. I wish to correct this misconception with respect to the "selling" of our membership list. The membership list has never been sold, nor will it ever be. I would also like to take this time to give you some background information regarding Bank of America and the Association's Credit Card. In 1985, the members requested that the National Office investigate the possibility of obtaining a credit card, reflecting the Association logo, parachute and glider wings, to be offered as a benefit to our membership as many other Associations have. Negotiations began and in 1988 a contract was signed with INTEGRATE to issue such card. The agreement stated that the Association was to release its membership listing (addresses only) to them for marketing purposes and a percentage of the cards' use (royalties) would then be provided to the Association to assist in defraying the cost of running the organization. The program was then brought to the attention of the Board of Directors, all Chapters and the membership via a General Membership Meeting, who in turn approved the project. In 1992, the contract was terminated at the request of INTEGRATE. Hence, due to the popularity of the credit card with our members, the National Office was once again advised to obtain another company to sponsor this program. In 1993, the three most reputable credit companies within the United States were contacted, and asked to submit a proposal outlining the design of the card and the amount of royalties the Association would receive. MBNA, being number two in the market and serving over 18 million customers, submitted the best proposal. Their long history of dealing with over 3700 other endorsing organizations was also a deciding factor. Therefore, the Board, Chapters and, once again, the General Membership approved the bid. Consequently, as soon as the Association's Judge Advocate had thoroughly reviewed the proposed contract, made several necessary changes, and approved the final contract; the agreement was signed for a period of five (5) years with the option to continue on a yearly basis unless

either party decides to cancel. Be advised that one of the stipulations in our agreement with the MBNA (Bank of America) is that they have to sign a non-disclosure contract prior to receiving our mailing lists. Not to mention the applications are to refer only to our Association when mailed to the membership. Since we signed the contract on 30 June 1995, the Association has received over \$35,000.00 in royalties. This money has helped to keep the Association financially solvent, helped to grant former troopers and their dependent children college scholarships, and has assisted in keeping our annual dues low when compared to any Airborne / Military Association. We do understand the frustration of some members about being contacted. We ask that you consider the Associations growth since this program's inception with over 31,000 members and an operating budget close to half million dollars. Therefore, we still feel it necessary to establish programs and contracts with companies who offer services to our members at no cost to the Association and yet allow royalties to come in and assist with the overall financial support. In regards to what other and to whom else this information has been "passed on to"; I assure you that our database is not available to the public. The only individuals who are eligible to receive any information are the Chapter Officers for the purpose of maintaining membership rosters and Bank of America, again with whom we have a signed non-disclosure agreement. Our members are proud to display the card, it is a recruiting tool and provides great benefit to the Association and our Educational Fund. However, if members want to opt out, they can inform National and their names will be added to the list with the other 4 members (out of 31,253) and their membership coded in our database to reflect that decision. Hoping I have answered your concerns...I remain...Fraternally,
Manuel E. De Jesus, Executive Director

The Friends and Family of the 508 P.I.R. will celebrate the 66th Anniversary of of the 508 P.I.R. in Fayetteville and Fort Bragg 14 – 18 October 2008. Contact person is James Smith, 1403 Valencia Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303, telephone 910.488.6201. You can contact our Chapter Secretary for information or check our website News / Events page at www.red-devils.org. This is a fine group of people who are very supportive of Red Devils from all eras WWII to the present.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
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QUARTERMASTER

TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS
RECENTLY DECEASED

- Ronald L. Anderson, All American Member,
Woodbury, NJ, HQ3 51-54, 25 April 2008
Lawyer E. Cummings, Jr. All American Memb,
Memphis, TN, Med Co 54-56, 2008
Donald S. Cunningham, CPT Ret, Annual
Member, Pinebluff, NC, E Co 55-56, June 2008
Joseph J. Esposito, HQ1 42-45, 2008
Harold A. Kasper, G3 42-46, 2008
William C. Kirsch, All American Member,
Glassboro, NJ, H&H Co 53-55, 12 Dec 2007
Paul W. Lavendar, LTC Retired
Columbus, GA, B Btry 320 AFA, 24 June 2008
Joe D. Olson, HHC 42-45, 8/8/2008
Kenneth E. Spann, B1 55-56, 2008

NEW MEMBERS

Raymond R. Hanson, Auburn, Mass
Item Company, Sep 54 – Sep 56

NEW ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS

**Reinaldo Granado of Corpus Christi, TX and
A Company, 2-508 1976-80**
**Paul D. Henry of Beach Lake, PA and
C Company, 1-508 1976-79**
**Joseph R. Leger of Shediac, NB, CAN and
H & H Company, 508 ARCT 1951-54**
**Luis R. Reza of Montebello, CA and
C Company, 508 ARCT 1954-56**

My apologies to Chapter Members, my computer crashed and a careless guru lost data from my hard drive. I copy the database to CD backup. My last backup was three months old. I am still updating the database from files and correspondence to the membership. The below statistics may be slightly off. Sorry about that!



Annual Members...71
Affiliate Members...13
All Americans.....312
Total Members.....396

Carl H. Bludau is very involved with the Wounded Warriors (WW) Program. Please read his story on page 11 of the latest Paraglide. The wounded warriors, some family members and supporters had a great time at Port O'Connor, Texas. A motion was passed that allows each Chapter to sponsor a Wounded Warrior to attend the 82nd Abn Div Assn Convention. The Chapter would pay for the Troopers room and transportation and National would pay for their registration. We spent \$7763.00 helping our Red Devils in Afghanistan and feel darn good about the effort. I would like some feedback from our members about sponsoring a wounded warrior to the Convention. Do you want to sponsor a wounded warrior to the convention? If so, when do we start, this year or next year? Please get back to me.

Movers and Snow Birds are reminded to send your Change of Address to Chapter or National. The next Paraglide will be mailed out on October 15, 2008. Save our Assn 50¢

MEMORIES OF A PARATROOPER

By George Leese

I was not in the Heavy Weapons Platoon at the time, but I do remember them using the 106 spotting rifle to take out shooters on a balcony across the river. Another story I was told, the 106 took out a large boat or ship, depending on the teller, that was going up & down the river in Santo Domingo, taking pot shots at our guys who were at the still on the east side of the river. Another story, the 508 had a .50 caliber in an enfilade position on the east side of the river somewhere near the Naval Academy. As the story goes, because we had been ordered to only return fire with like caliber weapons when fired on, another Rule Of Engagement that convinced me to give up the Army as a career, our guys spotted a sniper who was using a balcony as a firing position to shoot at the Marines who were guarding evacuees at the Polo Grounds to the west of the city. We were prohibited from shooting at him, because he was not shooting at us, but in the opposite direction. To get around this ROE, the 50 crew did an adjusted fire on the side of the building to get the range, then adjusted precisely to the timbers supporting the balcony. One long burst from the 50 took out the supports and the sniper fell 3 stories. He never knew he had been targeted. Of course he had not been targeted, only the supports under his balcony, therefore, no rule violation. These stories were common, we paratroopers sometimes had to find a way to work around the rules of engagement. After the 2 - 508 took up positions along the dividing line between the rebels and the Dominican Army, things were always in a state of flux. One day we would be helping the Government forces, the next we would be neutral and actually arrange for food to be delivered to the rebels. After a while, things got so boring, there were special mission patrols made up of entirely Sergeants who volunteered just to do something. I remember one of these non patrols that actually made the papers in the US. Somehow, the rebel's arms cache in a Dominican Army facility the rebels had occupied in southern Santo Domingo, mysteriously blew up. The rebels claimed that they had been attacked, but that

could not have been the case because we were officially neutral. Too long ago to remember much more, except that just prior to my ETS I was in charge of a guard detail that assisted in protecting the future President of the Dominican Republic. If I remember correctly, his name was Betancourt, not sure of the spelling. We were at the Dominican Republic's Military Academy at the time. George Leese, HQ Co 2/508

HISTORICAL DONATIONS ITEM #7

These historical items were safe-guarded and donated by Jack Damron. Some came from MG Pearson by way of Richard George. The seventh item I'll describe is a photo copy of a book contained in a notebook binder. It has approximately 100 pages of text with dozens of photographs and maps. The common page header is "The 508th Parachute Infantry". There is no book cover, credits or author listed. The contents page names the five book parts that we have – Prelude To Combat, Normandy, Holland, The Ardennes and Occupation. Sixteen pages are missing, identified as Highlights of the Regimental History, Men Killed In Training Accidents, Battle Casualties, Combat Awards, List Of Combat Awards, Battle Field Commissioned Officers and Unit Citations. Another page titled Battle Credits lists Normandy, 6 June to 24 July 1944; Rhineland, 15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945; Ardennes – Alsace, 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945; Central Europe, 22 March to 11 May 1945 and Normandy with Spearhead Device, 6-7 June 1944. My guess is that this book was published by the U.S. Army. If any member knows how this book originated or where it came from or perhaps the title, please send that information to the Chapter Secretary.

The South Florida Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association will host the 2008 Florida All Airborne Days at Fort Lauderdale 16 – 18 October 2008. Contact person is Robert L. Buffington, 2765 Garden Drive, Cooper City, FL 33026-3605. You can contact our Chapter Secretary for information or check our website News / Events page at www.red-devils.org.

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Quartermaster Sales Form---(Members Only)

Complete this form and mail your check payable to Kenneth Glynn along with your name and address in the box above to: Ken Glynn, 836 Glendale St., Lakeland, FL. 33803-4122

Please include shipping and handling charges in the amount column to the right of each item ordered.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE (CIRCLE)	COST	SHIPPING/HANDLING	AMOUNT
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo, Embroidered		One Size Fits All	\$14.50	\$1.50 Each	
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo, Screened		One Size Fits All	\$12.00	\$1.50 Each	
Sweatshirt, Grey, Chapter Logo, Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$2 Each Additional	
Sweatshirt, White, Chapter Logo, Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$2 Each Additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo, Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, Chap Logo Embroidered		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$1.00 Each Additional	
Patch, 508th Abn Chapter (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 508th ARCT (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, Para Red Devil (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 320th Abn FA Bn.			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Pin, 508th ARCT			\$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			\$3.00	No Charge	
*= Add an additional \$2.00 for each X above XL (XXXL size is a special order) 1= All patches can be purchased 3 for \$15.00 + Shipping and Handling. PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY					TOTAL \$

**GI BILL UPDATE
 RAO BULLETIN 15 JUL 2008**

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced that the Montgomery GI Bill will soon be increased by 20% -- a total increase of nearly \$220 a month increase over last year's rate. The increased full-time student payment rate of \$1,321 multiplied by the 36-month brings the GI Bill total payout to over \$47,500. If you are GI Bill eligible and have benefits remaining, you get this increase no matter when you became eligible or begin using it. This is increase that will help pay college costs until the new GI Bill goes into effect in AUG 09. Source-NAUS Weekly Update 11 Jul 08.

DR. JIM JACKSON

Dr. Jim Jackson was named and received the International Orthomolecular Medicine Doctor of the Year Award at the 2008 Orthomolecular Medicine Hall of Fame on May 3 in Vancouver, BC. As Jim said - Not bad for a former PFC!! I asked Jim to explain "Orthomolecular". His reply - An orthopedic doctor straightens out bone; an orthodontist straightens teeth. Orthomolecular medicine straightens out molecules...

...Orthomolecular medicine is related to nutritional medicine... due to nutrition deficiencies and various toxins, people get very sick. Their molecules are messed up. Orthomolecular medicine does not give a pill for a symptom, but finds the cause of the disease and "straightens" out the molecules.

THANK YOU RODGER JACOBSON

Hats off to Rodger Jacobson for the great job he has always done finding veteran Red Devils. Initially, Rodger would find them, send their data to Jack Damron and Jack would add their names and personal data to our 508 Chapter Database. Rodger is overwhelmed by 320 AFA Assn duties and recently sent me unit rosters. The majority of the rosters are from the 508 ARCT Companies 1951-57: H&H, HQ – 1, Med, MP, SVC, A, B, D, E, F, I, L, and M. There are also rosters of A & C, 1 – 508 1960's thru the 90's. There are rosters of A, B & C, 3 – 508 in Panama in the 1960's. The largest roster spans many units from the 1960's to today. There is also a large list of 1239 vets with roster changes and deceased announcements.



Ken Hamill, Secretary
 508 Airborne Chapter
 2207 Coventry Drive
 Columbus, GA 31904-5034



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT)

508th Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association

All American Renewal New Member Reinstatement

Enclosed \$15.00 for my annual dues for the year _____ which includes Paraglide subscription.

Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Last Rank Held: _____ Serial Number: _____

508th Unit (Fill In) Company: _____ Battery: _____ Battalion: _____

Major Unit (Select One) 2nd Abn Inf Bde: _____ 82nd Abn Div: _____ 508th ARCT: _____

193rd Inf Bde: _____ Golden Bde: _____ SETAF: _____ 173rd Abn Bde: _____

Dates of 508th Service: From: Month: _____ Year: _____ To: Month: _____ Year: _____

Present Occupation: _____ Single: _____ Married: _____ Spouse's Name: _____ # of Children: _____

PLEASE MAIL TO: 508th Airborne Chapter, P. O. Box 1462, Sun City, AZ 85372-1462
National Association requires rank, serial number and copy of DD214 or orders
indicating the award of the Parachutist Badge from initial applicants.

*** \$8 Affiliate Members Only: I am presently a member of the _____ Chapter

I do / do not want to transfer to the 508 Chapter. Signature: _____