

# Red Devils To Deploy



## DEVILS



## DIGEST



November 2006

Vol. 1 No. 4

## 4<sup>TH</sup> BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM / 508<sup>TH</sup> PIR TO DEPLOY

The 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team / 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment is at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana getting ready for things to come. Parts of a 16 October letter sent to us by the Commanding Officer follows: Headquarters, 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team. This new "modular" unit has been in existence since 24 May of this year; we depart for the Joint Readiness Training Center this week for almost a month of squad through Brigade level training in Louisiana and then deploy overseas to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom after the winter holidays. I and several of my officers and men have had the honor of serving in the 508<sup>th</sup> earlier in our careers-whether in Vicenza, Italy or down in Panama. It is a privilege to once again be part of such a unit; Paratroopers who carry on the legacy of their fathers and grandfathers from World War II to today. They will be fully ready for the upcoming challenge facing them in Afghanistan; from the mountains and deserts of the terrain, to the challenge of assisting the law abiding inhabitants of the country, to combat with a determined and resourceful enemy. This team will prove to be our allies' greatest friend, and our enemy's greatest threat. I look forward to seeing some of those great 508<sup>th</sup> vets upon our return in 2008; in the meantime I will ensure we send you our updates from the deployment as well as some pictures for the newsletter. At any time feel free to contact my deputy brigade commander, LTC Sean W. McCaffrey at ... or Regimental Command Sergeant Major Richard R. Flowers at ... for information and refinement. Sincerely,  
Martin P. Schweitzer, Colonel, Infantry, Commanding Officer.

**508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter Members We Need To Support Our Troops During Their Deployment.** We need your ideas and suggestions on how to accomplish this major support effort. Would one or two of you volunteer to manage this project? We are a National Chapter that meets at Reunions, we do not have a clubhouse where we could gather to wrap and mail packages. Would some of you be willing to organize volunteers in your home town American Legion, VFW or Firebarn? Do you know any UPS or Federal Express executives that might help us offset the mailing expenses? Hopefully, most of you will be willing to donate some greenbacks. Chapter Treasurer and CPA Frank Seif has agreed to serve this effort and will be happy to receive any donations and segregate them from general funds, using them only as directed for the support effort. Please write your home town deep pocket employers asking for their advice and assistance. I will do the same here in Columbus, the home of Synovus and Aflac. What will we send to our Men and Women in Afghanistan. Please think about it. Send your thoughts and suggestions to me for now at my E-Mail address [khamill@knology.net](mailto:khamill@knology.net) or to Ken Hamill, 2207 Coventry Drive, Columbus, GA 31904. Donors please make your checks payable to "508th Airborne Chapter" and annotate your check memo line "4<sup>th</sup> BCT Paratroopers". Donations should be directed to the Chapter Treasurer Frank Seif, PO Box 1462, Sun City AZ 85372-1462. E-Mail address [fes508@cox.net](mailto:fes508@cox.net)

**82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Afghan Army Share Ideas**  
**By Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky, USA**  
**Special to American Forces Press Service**

FORT POLK, La., Oct. 30, 2006 – Members of the Afghan National Army have conducted training on American military equipment to prepare for upcoming missions at the Joint Readiness Training Center here. Forty-two Afghan soldiers and police officers arrived here Oct. 23 to train with 82nd Airborne Division soldiers preparing to deploy to Afghanistan. "We've been working to familiarize (the Afghan soldiers) with our .50 caliber (machine gun), M107 sniper rifle and night vision goggles," said U.S. Army Sgt. Colin Cleek, a member of the scout and sniper platoon of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, **508th Parachute Infantry Regiment**. The 82nd Airborne paratroopers also trained the Afghan soldiers on map reading. "Though many of the 42 ANA soldiers grew up in a war-torn country and have combat experience, they did not have modern equipment to work with," Army Staff Sgt. James Darnell, a platoon sergeant, said. At Fort Polk, the Afghans are learning tactics and how to use weapon systems. "The better they are trained, the better prepared they will be to counter the enemy," Darnell said. The Afghan soldiers were pleased with the training and seemed eager to take on a greater responsibility for their country's security, U.S. officials said. "It will be very useful and practical to us in Afghanistan," Jomar Nayz, an Afghan National Army team leader, said. "We never saw some of this equipment before and appreciate the U.S. soldiers teaching us. What we learn here we will teach other soldiers back in our country." The paratroopers also learned from the Afghans. "It's a good experience for my soldiers who never deployed to get a chance to interact with soldiers from other countries," Cleek said. "Their situation is our situation. They're as much a part of the fight as we are, so it is good to work with them here." Darnell, who spent nine months in Iraq training with an Iraqi company, agreed. "It is important to know their culture, the do's and don'ts," he said. Just as the Afghans were eager to learn from the paratroopers, they too were eager to share their knowledge. "They know the (Afghan) land and territory better than any of us," Cleek said. "It was a good learning experience interacting with them." (Army Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky is assigned to the Joint Readiness Training Center Public Affairs Office.) **Editors Note: Go Red Devils**



**WE ARE THE 508<sup>TH</sup> AIRBORNE CHAPTER**

We are the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association. Our members served in all phases of 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne history. We have members who served in the 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II. We have members who served in the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Regimental Combat Team at Fort Benning, Fort Campbell and Japan 1951-1957. We have members who served in 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Battalions, as part of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, Dominican Republic and Vietnam. We have members who served in 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Battalions in Panama prior to and during Operation Just Cause. We have members who served in 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Battalions, in Vicenza, Italy, in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade. Some people confuse us with the 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Association. We are not the 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment Association. The 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Assn was formed in 1975; membership was limited to those who served in the 508<sup>th</sup> during WWII. This membership prerequisite ensured eventual demise of the organization. Mr. O. B. Hill was founder and permanent Chairman of the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Association until his death in June 2002. Their regimental standard was retired at Camp Blanding, Florida in October 2004. The 508<sup>th</sup> Association is retired, but these WWII paratroopers still stay in touch and have mini reunions.

## HEADQUARTERS COMPANY THIRD BATTALION MINI REUNIONS BY ORLAN R. McCLUNG

We do try to have mini-reunions of a bunch of the men that were in H-3 during the period 1951 to 1954. This was started by some of the members of the unit back in 1988 or 1989. Mainly by Ron Anderson, Gerald Camp and Bert Jaeger. These gatherings are usually held in early or mid June but it was moved back to late September and held in Branson, MO this year. It was held at The Old Southern Inn, 3957 Hwy 265, Branson, MO on September 25 to 28, 2006. No group functions were planned except a dinner on Wednesday evening the 27<sup>th</sup>. Each individual paid for their own dinner (dutch treat) at the restaurant that evening. Those in attendance were: Gerald Camp, Larry Coogan, Bob Fitzgerald, Ray Henderson, Don Hinton, Bert Jaeger, Gene Johnson, Micky Kochwelp, Orlan McClung, Charley Palsa, Harry Ullmann and Wally Wierprecht. Col. Sayre could not attend due to illness. We had a great time visiting and seeing the good shows in Branson. Soft landing, Orlan

### HISTORICAL DONATIONS ITEM #2

Jack Damron presented three boxes of history to the 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter. The second item I'll describe is a folder of photographs. There are nineteen 8" X 10" shots and twenty six 4" X 5" shots. The smaller photos were probably taken in the early 1950's. Some depict a social gathering, perhaps a wedding, perhaps in the O Club. Others show individual soldiers, awards formations and parades in both Khaki and OD uniforms. Most of the larger photos were taken by J.P. Wolf of 508<sup>th</sup> PIO in 1952. There are eight jump photos. The others depict a briefing at the O Club; Inspection; MG Young and COL Pearson; the 320<sup>th</sup> AFA C.O.; a second battalion review; on the rifle range; Bernard L. Montgomery at Fort Benning; a Regimental formation when COL Pearson announced 800 paratroopers would be reassigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Division and the 508<sup>th</sup> as aggressors at Fort Rucker including a hidden officer (Dillender) who suggested the 508<sup>th</sup> motto "Fury From The Sky". The Chapter thanks you Jack Damron for your generosity.



**Bernard L. Montgomery with the  
Fort Benning CG**



**Fort Benning Jump From a Flying  
Boxcar with Clamshell Doors Off**





**Jumping T-7's at Fort Benning**



**Mass Jump of T-7's at Fort Benning**



**General Hickey and COL Pearson  
checking Range Training**



**Sand Hill Formation When It Was Announced  
that 800 Men would be Reassigned to the 82nd**

### **Need Some Paratrooper Items?**

Our Quartermaster Ken Glynn reports the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Museum can supply most military items wanted by us old vets, including 508<sup>th</sup> Coins. Contact them at PO BOX 70119, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-0119 or 910-436-1735 or [abn82d@earthlink.net](mailto:abn82d@earthlink.net)

### **MEMORIES OF A PARATROOPER BY WALTER KNIGHT JR.**

I have a little story here, don't amount to much, but gave me a scare. Was at Fort Benning as a seventeen year old paratrooper back in 1951. I was second man in the stick, just behind my friend David B. Flury who was number one. He left the plane and I was like right on top of him. His chute came out just under my feet the same time mine did. So there I am walking around on his chute. I am thinking – "What am I doing here"? His chute is starting to get a little too soft for me, so I reached up and grabbed my risers as far as I could grab them, lifted my legs straight up toward my chute and away I went. To me that was scary. Oh! I told David about it when we hit the DZ. He just laughed; it was no big deal to him. But, it was a life long memory for me. Have a good life Red Devils.....Walter Knight Jr. From the good ole state of MAINE.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS  
508th AIRBORNE CHAPTER**

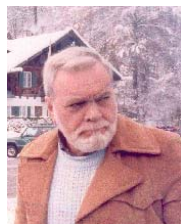


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**TAPS**

**508<sup>th</sup> Paratroopers Recently Deceased**

Life Member Richard Sanborn, Hq Hq Company, 1954 – 1955, June 26, 2006  
Charles W. "Bud" Bradshaw, Able Company 1954 – 1956, January 2006  
George M. Cafferello, Easy Company, 1951 – 1953  
Yancy "Bud" Dalton, Baker Company, 1944 – 1946, August 12, 2006  
Gunter Frauenpreis, Easy Company, 1951 – 1953, August 1, 2006  
Gertrude Funk, widow of MOH Winner 1SG Leonard Funk Sep 18, 2006

**NEW MEMBERS NONE**

**A REQUEST FOR HELP FROM HARRY M. MEYER, SR.**

Harry Meyer of Vine Grove, Kentucky is looking for anyone who remembers his injury on the bayonet course at Camp Chickamauga, Japan that hospitalized him in 1956 and kept him from making the trip to Thailand on Operation Firmlink. Harry was a member of Weapons Platoon, Easy Company, 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT. Ken Hamill can provide Harry's phone number, snail mail & e-mail address.

2006 Dues to renew your membership should be sent to the Treasurer today if you have not already done so. Why not renew your membership as an All American Life Member and eliminate those annual payments. Just below the return address on the envelope, your membership date appears. If yours is 2006, your dues are late and you should send them to the treasurer as soon as it is convenient.



ALL American Life Members.....	298
Annual Members.....	241
Annual Members W/Dues Current.....	104
Affiliate Members.....	35
Number U.S. States with Members.....	50

## CHAPTER MEDICAL REPORT



Our Chapter Vice Chairman David Burns spent 13 days in the hospital recently. He will start an experimental cancer program when his strength returns. Dave wants to thank everyone for their prayers and kind thoughts when he lost his dear wife.

Don Cunningham has recently suffered amputation of his left leg above the knee. After spending 3 1/2 weeks in the hospital he is home now and making a slow recovery. His daughter asked that we please keep him in our prayers.

Our Chapter Secretary Jim Lutes had surgery on 14 November. He had a blockage removed from his right leg main artery and two stints installed. One stint was placed in his right leg and the other in his left shoulder. Mrs Lutes reported that Jim is doing very very well.

## AN ODE TO AMERICA

BY CORNEL NISTORESCU AND FROM BRUCE TYLER

Excerpt from a Romanian Newspaper: Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs. Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, or the secret service that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed out onto the streets nearby to gape about. Instead the Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand. After the first moments of panic, they raised their flag over the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a government official or the president was passing. On every occasion, they started singing: "God Bless America!" I watched the live broadcast and rerun after rerun for hours listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player, who gave his life fighting with the terrorist and prevented the plane from hitting a target that could have killed other hundreds or thousands of people. How on earth were they able to respond united as one human being?; Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put into a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit, which no money can buy. What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their history? Their economic Power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases with the risk of sounding commonplace, I thought things over, I reached but only one conclusion... Only freedom can work such miracles.

## CHAPTER WEBSITE INFORMATION

Our only method of controlling spam if we stay with NWS the current provider, is to make the site password protected as it once was. If and when we return to a password protected website, the password will be distributed via e-mail to members only. Your comments are requested.





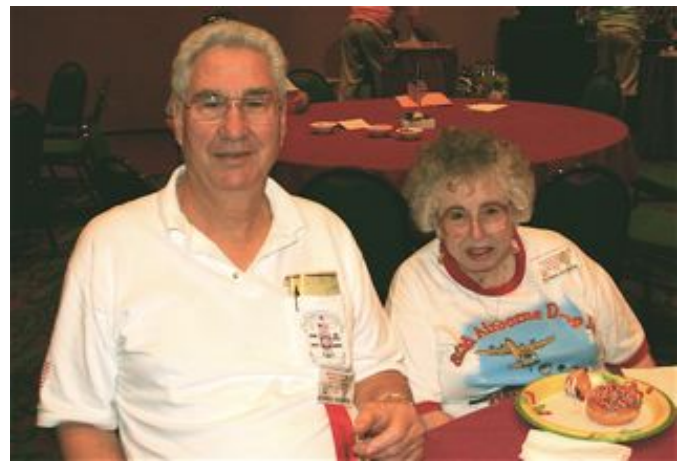
**Jack & Ruth Damron**



**Lee & Joyce Damon**



**Ken & Helen Glynn**



**Bobby & Donna Henson**



**Bill & Rita Fernandez**



**82<sup>nd</sup> Troopers and Bill Fernandez**



**Jack Wheeler**



**82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Chorus**



**Dick Yates**



**World War II USO Reenactors**



**PFC Jedediah Cali  
and  
SPC Khabib Zakirkhodjaev**



## 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter Membership Application

Please PRINT and COMPLETE all items. Make checks payable to: 508<sup>th</sup> AIRBORNE CHAPTER

Mail to: 508<sup>th</sup> AIRBORNE CHAPTER P.O. BOX 1462, SUN CITY AZ, 85372-1462

All American (Life \$100 over 50; \$150 under 50); Annual (\$15); \*\* Affiliate (\$8);

Reinstatement (\$15)

Please circle one of the above

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_, First: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

508<sup>th</sup> Service From \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ (Month/Day/Year)

Unit: Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Battery: \_\_\_\_\_; Battalion \_\_\_\_\_,

508, 320 AFA, 427 AAA, 519 QM, 598 Eng.  
(Circle One)

\*\* AFFILIATES ONLY, please complete: I am a Member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of the  
82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Assn, I DO / DO NOT wish to transfer to the 508<sup>th</sup> Abn Chapter.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail To: 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Chapter, P.O. Box 1462, Sun City, AZ 85372-1462

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 Ea additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, T, White, Web Site 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.Ea Additional	
Pad, Mouse, Chapter Logo Screened			\$7.50	\$2.00 Each	
Pad, Mouse, Regimental Logo Screened			\$7.50	\$2.00 Each	
Patch, 508 <sup>th</sup> Abn Chapter (See 1, below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 508 <sup>th</sup> 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, 320 <sup>th</sup> Abn FA Bn			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Pin, 508 <sup>th</sup> ARCT			\$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			\$3.00	No Charge	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Chapter Logo Screened			\$3.00	\$1.00 Each	
Wrap, Can Cooler w/Regimental Logo Screened			\$3.00	\$1.00	

\* Add an additional \$2.00 for each X above XL (XXXL size is a special order)  
 1. All patches can be purchased for 3 for \$15.00 + Shipping and Handling.  
**PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY**

<b>TOTAL \$</b>
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