



★ RANGERS LEAD THE WAY ★

RANGER REGISTER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY
RANGER ASSOCIATION, INC. DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS
AND PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY RANGER.

Special ARM-2006 and Election Issue

FROM THE CO's TENT

Rangers,

Springtime Greetings to you all. This edition is a special Annual Ranger Muster and election reminder issue.

For the first time in a while, and I made mention of it during last year's election, we have a contested election. Although advocating for such, in the interest of healthy volunteerism, it comes as no surprise that contended elections can be contentious. A political component exists in all elections and USARA is obviously no exception, certainly not when compared to what I've witnessed with veterans groups generally [Please vote, and please vote judiciously!]

Some of this bears on my own Presidency, now in its waning months. Among a number of goals I had when beginning my term in 2004, was harmony and fresh ideas. Coming out of a period of rancor and dissention in the '01 to '03 period, I sought consensus to be a critical objective. Veterans' organizations tempt a top-down, military style command, but are ultimately ill-suited to a non-profit corporation. This was true within USARA, but our relationship with other Ranger organizations was in dire need of bridge building. This was accomplished, but not easily. And this leads me to the fresh blood issue.

In pursuit of fresh ideas, I filled vacancies and brought in a number of new leaders: With the exception of Central Region's Ranger Tim Swain, a prominent Illinois attorney and our Treasurer,

Ranger John Senior, who is President of I-Way Software, all our additions were former colonels/lt. colonels with extensive experience in Army Ranger matters: Rangers Linc German (International Region), Frank Casey (Executive VP) and Craig Vanek (VP for Pers & Log). Further infusions of fresh blood are still needed.

"Practice what you preach" is in part why I am stepping down. After 10 years on USARA's Board, culminating with two as President, it's a perfect time for a new patrol leader. I might add that during my term, the Board has been enormously supportive, through quite a lot of second guessing from without. Their backing has been very gratifying, and for this, I must express my sincerest gratitude.

So on the contentiousness front, there is, as is common enough in politics, a recrudescent effort afoot, by a couple of former board members. Claims and counter-claims naturally abound.

**Reserve Now ARM
2006
Radisson Branson
Hotel
Branson, MO
15-18 June 2006**

Although I cannot in this forum, endorse anyone presently running for office, or even the pros and cons of the issues at stake, I am available to give my rather informed observations to members, on every issue now before USARA, by phone (703-979-0073), or email (maguire46@comcast.net). As in all elections, I urge you to judge some of the campaign rhetoric as you ordinarily would. Exaggerations and promises seem not to be in any less short supply.

Last year, I urged all USARA Rangers to vote, to fulfill the legal requirements of membership, uncontested as the election was. This year I urge you all to vote for the additional reason that your vote will determine one of two trails the association will take.

Other Issues Department:

Considerable time has been spent during the past six months on our bylaws (and for the first time, they are now available at our website). Why? Firstly, since they were entirely rewritten and approved by the membership in 1996, we did not have a solid complete electronic version of them. Since '96, amendments had been made, attempted and studied. Some had been noticed and ratified, some partially and some not at all. Fragments existed in numerous places, with various members, some on the Board and some not. Opinions on all of this were even more scattered, while the strongest opinion were the most plentiful. Contentiousness around interpretations only exacerbated the issue. Frankly, it was a mess, and I set to cleaning it up as a priority.

And thanks to Ranger attorney John Hollstein, the author of our '96 rewrite and archivist extraordinaire, who again so generously volunteered his time and effort, we were able to put together a complete legal set in electronic shareable form. In this task, John and I discovered that some desirable amendments that had been ratified in 2003, had not been properly noticed, and so were not legal. Other desirable changes had been passed by the board, but had not been either noticed or ratified. Naturally, they were not legal either.

So, what is posted is what is presently legal, and includes amendments up to 1999. So, where do we go from here? Beginning with the old, still desirable amendments, they need to be again accepted by the board, the membership properly noticed of said changes, followed by adoption/rejection at the Annual General meeting. That's it, no more, no less, and the only alternative is to return to the bad-old days of inchoate nebulous bylaws, guided by contentious interpretations.

Support for Active Duty Rangers

As I've described in previous Registers, USARA's mission as laid down in its constitution is dedicated to giving such support. For this, we rely on the Commands of the Regiment and RTB to provide us with guidance and requests. During the course of the year, we do this in the form of several requests that come in. We send them, or any of the six battalions, several hundred dollars, up to \$1,500 for the "Best Ranger" competition. Individual items such as dress blue uniforms for Soldiers and NCOs Of The Year, for both the 75th and RTB, formal balls held after deployments and funds to support the Ranger Snake Handlers in the Florida Camp are but a few of the requests with which we've recently assisted.

Since the start of the war, the idea of "support for Ranger families" occasionally comes to the fore, both from the membership and the Board itself. Although as well-intended as it is vague, some study of the matter has revealed several things: The Army has developed a number of new initiatives and programs that serve families in ways never before dreamed of. Command sensitivity about such matters is coordinated and detailed. For wounded Rangers, Special Operations Command has assigned two senior NCOs at Walter Reed to absolutely insure that no Ranger falls through any crack. I visit with them regularly. Once a patient myself at WR for 15 months, I can say that programs like Fisher House and Wounded Warrior are quantum leaps from our Vietnam days. At long last, the Army is "taking care of its own."

On a rare occasion or two, Ranger Chaplains have approached us with a small request to augment some family expense. The Board has scrutinized these carefully on two levels: the nature of the "expense," and the need for the USARA treasury to not become their first choice. Our funds are limited, derived primarily from member dues and plussed up by some royalties from logoed items. We've seen it as our duty to husband these resources.

In addition however, we do support the Ranger Memorial Foundation, which has a scholarship program for Ranger families. BTW, our treasury has grown very little this year due to increases in all of the above.

In summary, I've come to the opinion that ambiguous notions of "support" may sound good to members who can recall times when there was little of anything, but there are potential black holes in our making ill-defined offers of "support." I am much more comfortable maintaining our present policy of dealing directly with the Ranger Commands, and targeting well-aimed support at Ranger-oriented things – things we've satisfied ourselves that they have no other alternatives.

USARA has also supported, both financially and organizationally the "American Ranger Monument Association" now that it has attained 501(c)(3) status. Their purpose is to build a monument to Ranger sacrifice and service from Colonial days to the present, at or near Arlington National Cemetery. We are also providing representation on its planning committee. More as things develop.

Annual Ranger Muster 2006

Next, our Annual Ranger Muster in Branson Missouri, which we have announced in the last two Registers: June 15 to 18. Registrations are steadily coming in. Be one of them! Call and make your reservation as a US Army Ranger at:

Radisson Hotel Branson
120 SOUTH WILDWOOD DRIVE
BRANSON, MO 65616
(417) 335-5767
Located centrally on Hwy 76 Country Blvd.
Please check it out at:
www.Radisson.com/bransonmo

Also as previously mentioned, The 2nd Annual Vietnam Veterans Homecoming "WELCOME HOME 2006," is going on all that week, starting on June 11th. They have some small amount of news at:

<http://www.welcomehome2006.org/preleases.asp>

Don't sign up there however. USARA registration forms can be downloaded at:

<http://www.Ranger.org>

Have you gone on line yet, to take a look at some of the many things that are available in the Branson area?

www.Branson.com
www.BransonTourismCenter.com/
www.BransonChamber.com/

Make your reservations now, and join us in Branson! This promises to be a great opportunity to spend some time with a great bunch of US Army Rangers, in the center of a whole lot of Vietnam veterans, with a simultaneous chance to see and hear a myriad of fine entertainment acts. Check out the concert halls for what interests you.

Ranger Hall of Fame

A quick status report regarding the Ranger Hall of Fame--USARA had four members go forward this year, three regular Association submissions and one by way of a Living Member of the RHOF. The Hall of Fame board met on March 28 and all four were selected:

- ❖ **Clark Welch**
- ❖ **Mike Ranger**
- ❖ **Jack Singlaub**
- ❖ **James A. Gardner (CMH)**

As always, remember to send address and email changes, to USARA's Secretary, Ranger Gregg Orth:

ISolutionsGOrth@aol.com

Rangers Lead The Way!
 Steve Maguire, President

USARA 2006 NATIONAL ELECTION

The USARA 2006 National Election will be held 1-31 May 2006. Official ballots are being sent by first class mail to members in good standing.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Vote for the candidate of your choice by placing a check mark or "X" in the blank after his name. **There is no provision in the USARA Bylaws for write-in votes.**
2. You can vote for candidates running for President, Vice President Personnel & Logistics, Treasurer. But you can only vote for the Northern and Central Regional Directors if you reside in those regions.
3. Be sure to PRINT AND SIGN your name and provide your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, then place your ballot in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided.

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Mail the ballot to USARA, ATTN: Teller Committee, P.O. Box 52126, Ft Benning, GA 31995-2126. **Ballots must arrive at this address NLT 31 May 2006.**
2. Members may cast their votes electronically during the month of the election up until 2400 hours EDT the last day of the month of the election, which is 31 May 2006, and if a signed written mailed confirmation is received by National Headquarters (Ft Benning address) within ten (10) days of the electronic vote, but not later than 2400 hours EDT of the seventh (7th) day of the month following the election. Electronic voting includes signed facsimile or email from the address specifically identified to the voter. It does not include telephone or radio communication. The email must be marked by the internal identifier or having been sent before 2400 hours EDT the last day of the month of the election.

**OFFICES AND CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION
(THIS IS NOT A BALLOT)**

1. PRESIDENT:

BILL ANTON

LINC GERMAN

2. VICE PRESIDENT PERSONNEL & LOGISTICS:

JIM GRIMSHAW

CRAIG VANEK

3. TREASURER:

JOHN SENOR

4. NORTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

WALT ECKHARDT

5. CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

TIM SWAIN

USARA REGIONS

Northern Region: Walt Eckhardt, Director
Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Washington, DC, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Rhode Island, New Jersey.

Central Region: Tim Swain, Director
Texas, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, Iowa, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, & Arkansas.

Southern Region: Art Silsby, Director
Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi.

Western Region: Peter Stevens, Director
Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii.

International Region: Linc German, Director
APOs, Guam, CNMI, Puerto Rico, and the allied nations of the world.

Bataan Memorial Death March



USARA-sponsored team from 3/75 with veterans of the original Death March

On Sunday, March 26, 2006, the 17th Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Marathon was held at White Sands, NM. It was a very special event for several reasons. First and foremost, it provided the communities of Las Cruces, NM and El Paso, TX an opportunity to express their thanks to a handful of survivors of an ordeal involving over 70,000 soldiers, most of whom perished.

The 26-mile marathon, hosted by the White Sands Command, involved many civilian volunteers, as well as over 4,000 runners and walkers from every State and various foreign countries. There were several categories of competition which enabled young and old, male and female to participate; one soldier ran carrying his young son on his shoulders. One had 5 sons, of whom two or three are Rangers. He served with the 82nd Airborne. A few of the Bataan survivors were seated at the finish line ready to congratulate the runners and, in turn, to receive the competitors' gratitude for the noble sacrifices made by them during their years in captivity.

USARA sponsored a five man team from the 3/75th Rangers, which placed second in the Military Heavy Team category (40 lb. rucks). For the second year in a row a team from the 8th Army, Korea, crossed the finish line first. The 3/75th Ranger team was headed by CPT Detro and included COL Friske, an Orthopedic Surgeon, who was credited by the Rangers with saving many lives (+/- 20) following a serious firefight during their last deployment.

USARA's Western Region was well represented by Ranger Monte Wolff, Western Region Washington State Area Commander, Ranger Len Boulas, former Colorado State Area Commander and current resident of Las Cruces, and Peter Stevens, USARA Western

Region Director. The Western Region Rangers made presentations of USARA's licensed items (shirts, hats, knives, sunglasses), all supplied free through our Marketing Agent, CLA, administered by USARA's Marketing Director, Ranger Jim Grimshaw. Members of the 3/75th Rangers received shirts, knives and sunglasses with a strong preference for the sunglasses. White Sands is a bright place, even on a cloudy day. The survivors liked the hats, shirts and pullovers best. These gifts were very well received. Peter, Monte, and Len told the recipients that "THE GIFTS WERE SYMBOLIC ONLY AND THAT THE REAL PURPOSE WAS TO PERPETUATE THE BOND THAT THE POWs AND THE RANGERS ESTABLISHED OVER SIXTY YEARS AGO AT CABANATUAN." Every so often you could catch a tear or two that someone was trying to conceal. It was a moving and memorable experience

The Western Region thanks the USARA BOD for sponsoring the 3/75th Ranger Team. They did us proud. Thanks to Jim Grimshaw, CLA and our various licensees for their generous and timely contributions. And a BIG thanks to Rangers Stevens, Wolff and Boulas. They really made it happen.



Western Region Trio: Rangers Wolff, Boulas and Stevens

Ranger Ben Defoe Passes

Ranger Paul Hickson reports that Ranger Ben Defoe passed away peacefully on 27 March 2006 from natural causes. Rangers Hickson, Mark Vance, and Kevin Leppla attended the service. Ben was cremated and his ashes spread on the family ranch near Grangeville, ID in company with the remains of his wife Mae. The family was comforted by the presence of Ben's Ranger comrades, including two active duty Rangers who drove over 800 miles roundtrip to pay their respects to this proud Ranger veteran of WWII. What a brotherhood we have.....

Ranger Jonathan Heppner has some pictures of Ben's funeral that he has posted. Here's the link.
http://www.kodakgallery.com/Slideshow.jsp?Uc=316ma8m.bbxzrxj&Uy=5hog86&Upost_signin=Slideshow.jsp%3Fmode%3Dfromshare&Ux=0&mode=fromshare&conn_speed=1



★ RANGERS LEAD THE WAY ★

USARA ANNUAL RANGER MUSTER 2006
THE RADISSON HOTEL, BRANSON, MISSOURI
THU 15 JUNE - SUN 18 JUNE 2006
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
An American Flag Will Be Present At All Ranger Events!!
www.ranger.org

THURSDAY
15 JUNE

1000 TO 1700 USARA REGISTRATION THE RADISSON HOTEL

1000 TO 1700 Opportunity to "Scout" Shows and Events to Attend While at ARM

1700 TO 2100 Welcoming Reception at The Radisson for Rangers and Guests

1900 TO 2300 USARA HOSPITALITY ROOM / VENDOR ROOM / RANGER STORE OPEN

FRIDAY
16 JUNE

0600 TO 0700 PT for Rangers "Willing & Able" - Leader: Ranger John Senor -bench presses 340 lbs!

0700 TO 0800 Continental Breakfast at The Radisson

0830 TO 0900 Formal Opening Formation/Presentation of Colors - 75th Ranger Regiment

0900 TO 1200 USARA BOD MEETING - Presiding: Ranger Steve Maguire, President USARA

1000 TO 1700 VENDOR ROOM/RANGER STORE OPEN

1400 TO 1600 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/INSTALLATION OF ELECTED OFFICERS/DIRECTORS - U.S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION (At The Radisson Hotel)

1800 TO 2100 FORMAL USARA BANQUET - Presiding: Ranger Steve Maguire, President USARA
(at The Radisson)
(a) John K. Graham Presentation of Official March of the U.S. Army Ranger Association
(b) Motivational Lead In Address by Ranger Dana Bowman
(c) Banquet Speech - Ranger Veteran of Afghanistan and/or Iraq

2100 TO 2300 USARA HOSPITALITY ROOM

SATURDAY
17 JUNE

0600 TO 0700 PT for Rangers "Willing & Able" - Leader: Ranger Art Silsby - Airborne Man of the Year

0700 TO 0800 Continental Breakfast at The Radisson

0900 TO 2300 OPEN TO VIEW SHOWS AND EVENTS AT BRANSON:

Examples: Andy Williams; Jim Stafford; Bobby Vinton; Mickey Gilley; Ray Stevens shows; Yakov Smirnoff (Russian Comedian); Shoji Tobuchi (Japanese Fiddler); numerous family owned shows; Silver Dollar City; Arkansas Missouri Railroad (couple of hours train ride through Ozarks, leaves/returns to downtown Branson); evening shows - Shepard of the Hills (Branson); Passion Play (Eureka Springs, AR); fishing - Table Rock Lake (bass); Bull Shoals (bass); Lake Tanycomo (trout); Bass Pro Shops Hq. & large store w/ many exhibits (Springfield,MO); College of the Ozarks, south of Branson has a museum with the truck from the Beverly Hillbillies TV series; Fantastic Caverns (Springfield) - has a jeep drawn cave tour, etc. As our local Ranger contact (Pete Rothrock) states: "Branson has a lot of tourists in June, best to get a map of the area and not try to just drive to a location without knowing the easiest route. The Branson Veterans event in June draws a lot of people each year. Will be a lot more people in town than normal."

1900 TO 2300 USARA HOSPITALITY ROOM / VENDOR ROOM / RANGER STORE OPEN

SUNDAY
18 JUNE

0700 TO 0800 Continental Breakfast at The Radisson

1130 TO 1330 Group "Dutch treat" joint luncheon

1200 Official end of ARM 2006 Branson
(12 noon normal check out, but if requested USARA rooms have until 1300)



*** RANGERS LEAD THE WAY ***

U.S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION, INC.
ANNUAL RANGER MUSTER 2006
THE RADISSON HOTEL, BRANSON, MISSOURI
THU 15 JUNE - SUN 18 JUNE 2006
REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: _____
 LAST FIRST MI

ADDRESS: _____
 STREET CITY STATE ZIP

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE _____ USARA MEMBER NR _____

1. REGISTRATION FEE (per person)	\$50.50 BEFORE 1 MAY	\$ _____
FEE COVERS MEDALION, HOSPITALITY ROOM, BEVERAGE, BANQUET FRIDAY NIGHT; AND OTHER OPERATIONAL EXPENSES.	\$60.50 AFTER 1 MAY	\$ _____

2. PERSONS ATTENDING: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

NAME OF GUEST(S) _____

THE CP IS THE RADISSON HOTEL, BRANSON, MISSOURI. HOTEL POC: Kristie Blakey, Sales Manager
 YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS. BE SURE TO TELL THEM THAT YOU'RE WITH USARA (Booking Number: 9710). CALL (888) 566-5290 FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS. ROOM RATE: \$95.37 PER ROOM PER NIGHT, INCLUDES TAX AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

BUSINESS MEETINGS, HOSPITALITY ROOM, RECEPTION AND FRIDAY EVENING BANQUET ARE ALL AT THE RADISSON HOTEL. YOUR REGISTRATION PACKET WILL CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS EXCEPT THOSE TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Presently, the U.S. Army Ranger Association is searching for a banquet speaker who will be able to update the Rangers and their guests about America's War on Terrorism, and specifically about combat actions in Afghanistan and/or Iraq.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS CAN BE OBTAINED ON THE INTERNET AT www.radisson.com/bransonmo.

A multitude of family entertainment and shows are available at Branson, and it is suggested that each attendee check the Internet and do his due diligence in selecting the specific entertainment and shows that he wishes to attend and view. The goal of USARA is to make this best ever ARM by offering a family-friendly venue. Your help and support in achieving our goal is requested and appreciated.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USARA ARM 2006
 MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM AND FEES TO: U.S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION ARM 2006
 C/O RANGER TIM SWAIN
 Chairman, ARM2006 BRANSON
 411 HAMILTON, SUITE 1812
 PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61602

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT TIM SWAIN (800) 728-1806 E-MAIL:
timswain@airborneranger.us
 or
timswain@peorialaw.com

**FROM:
U. S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. BOX 52126
FORT BENNING, GA 31995-2126**

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TO:

**ANNUAL RANGER MEMBERS
IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED FOR 2006--IT'S TIME
SEND YOUR RENEWALS AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:**

**SECRETARY, USARA, INC.
PO BOX 52126
FORT BENNING, GA 31995-2126**

U.S. ARMY RANGER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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RANGER STORE

The Ranger Store is on-line at <http://armyranger.usptgear.com>.