



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 75TH RANGER REGIMENT



AORG-SE

14 December 1993

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM THRU

Commander, US Army Special Operations Integration Command
(Provisional), Fort Bragg, NC 28307-5200

Commander, US Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC
28307-5000

Commander, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill AFB, FL
33608

FOR [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Request to change AR 672-5-1, paragraph 5-29 to recognize
the Vietnam era Rangers

1. Request that AR 672-5-1, paragraph 5-29 be revised awarding the Ranger Tab to those Vietnam era Rangers that served our Army and Nation with such valor and distinction during the Vietnam War. (See Enclosures 1 and 2)
2. As part of a historical oversight, the Vietnam era Rangers have not been officially recognized. As you know, their contributions to both our Army and our Nation are a matter of historical record -- many written in Ranger blood. The intent is to recognize the contributions of these heroic individuals, as well as their units, as US Army Rangers.
3. Members who have served in Ranger type units in the past such as Merrill's Marauders have received recognition in the form of being awarded the Ranger tab. In addition, personnel assigned to Special Forces units in Vietnam were awarded the Special Forces tab without having completed the Special Forces qualification course. In the same sense that the Army officially recognized other Rangers from the past, we respectfully request that these Vietnam era Rangers receive the appropriate US Army recognition.
4. The requested units to be recognized are the US Advisors that assisted Ranger units (Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)) of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP)/Long Range Patrol (LRP) companies/detachments that served in the Republic of Vietnam prior to 1 February 1969, and the Ranger lettered companies C-P, which served in the Republic of Vietnam after 1 February 1969.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY



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2. As part of a historical oversight, the Vietnam era Rangers have not been officially recognized. As you know, their contributions to both our Army and our Nation are a matter of historical record, many written in Ranger blood. The intent is to recognize the contributions of these heroic individuals, as well as their units, as U.S. Rangers.
3. The approval of this recognition would correct both the historical oversight, as well as elevate the men and units of the Vietnam era Rangers to equivalent status such as the men who served with the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional (Merrill's Marauders) during World War II.

Encl

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5. By way of historical perspective, on 1 February 1969, the 75th Infantry (Ranger) was activated and all of the LRP, formerly LRRP units, became lettered Ranger companies. Their missions remained the same -- patrolling deep into enemy territory, collecting intelligence and conducting raids and ambushes. The BDQ advisors performed typical Ranger operations. The sad fact is that the BDQ Advisors, members of LRRP/ LRP, and Ranger companies that performed these dangerous tasks are unofficially recognized by the entire Ranger community as brethren Rangers.

6. The approval of this recognition would correct both the historical oversight, as well as elevate the men and units of the Vietnam era Rangers to equivalent status such as the men who served with the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional (Merrill's Marauders) during World War Two.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Encl
DA 2028
Table 2-4



7, 6

OUR HERITAGE

This history deals with the activities, personnel, and accomplishments of Company C (Ranger), 75th Infantry during the period 1 February 1969 thru 25 October 1971, and Company E (Long Range Patrol) 20th Infantry (Airborne), from 25 September 1967 thru 1 February 1969 which preceded the designation of Company C (Ranger), 75th Infantry.

Throughout history the need for a small, highly trained, far ranging unit to perform reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and special type combat missions has been readily apparent.

In Vietnam this need was met by instituting a Long Range Patrol program to provide each major combat unit with this special capability.

Rather than create an entirely new unit designation for such an elite force, the Department of the Army looked to its rich and varied heritage and on 1 February 1969 designated the 75th Infantry Regiment, the present successor to the famous 5307th Composite Unit (MERRILL's MARAUDERS) as the parent organization for all Department of the Army designated Long Range Patrol (LRP) units. The parenthetical designation (RANGER) in lieu of (LRP) was given and the units were identified by letters, as a result, Company E (LRP) 20th Infantry (ABN), assigned to First Field Force Vietnam, became Company C (RANGER) 75th Infantry. The 5307th was organized on 3 October 1943, and trained for deep penetration missions behind enemy lines in Japanese-held Burma. On 10 August 1944, the 5307th was consolidated with the 475th and the combined unit was designated the 475th Infantry Regiment and was designed as a long range penetrating force. The 475th was inactivated on 1 July 1945 in China. On 21 June 1954, the 475th was redesignated the 75th Infantry Regiment and activated in Okinawa on 20 November 1954 and remained active until 21 March 1956.

On 25 September 1967, Company E (Long Range Patrol), 20th Infantry (Airborne) was activated and assigned to I Field Force Vietnam, commanded by Lt. Gen. William B. Rosson. The unit was originally formed in Phang Rang by procuring combat veterans from the 1st Brigade (LRRP), 101st Airborne Division, along with personnel who were scheduled to join the 18th Military Police Brigade. Additional assets were also drawn from the replacement detachments.

Company E (LRP) 20th Infantry (ABN)

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Company E was originally commanded by Major Danridge M. Malone and provided long-range reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition and special type combat missions on a corps-level basis. In addition, the company had the capacity to operate as a platoon-size force and conduct regular recon-in-force missions.

On 15 October 1967, Company E was placed under operational control of the 4th Infantry Division, and was relocated to the division's base camp at Camp Enari in the western Pleiku Province. The company trained through December and phased it's four platoons through ten day preparatory courses, followed by sequential attendance at the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang, which was run by Special Forces Cadre.

The first platoon completed its program and was declared ready on 1 December 1967, and the entire company was declared combat operational on 23 December 1967.

Company E was organized for 230 men broken down into four platoons of seven six man teams each, a headquarters section handled all the administration and logistical work, and a communications platoon was responsible for the vital radio contact with the teams.

Although the company was designed to field two active patrol platoons while the other two platoons trained and prepared for further missions on a rotating basis, it wasn't long before every platoon was tasked with their own mission at the same time. Each platoon consisted of a platoon leader (2LT), platoon sergeant (SFC), the seven teams, and communications support as required. Active platoons were deployed to mission support sites, such as forward fire bases and Special Forces camps.

Each team was structured for a team leader (SSG/SGT), assistant team leader (SGT/SPC), radio telephone operator (SPC/PFC), and three scouts (SPC/PFC), however, as time went on and personnel were rotated out for a variety of reasons, it was not uncommon for a team to consist of five men or less, and be led by a specialist (E-4). This did not stop the teams from completing any assigned mission, and after training together as a team, the men were capable of handling each others duties and positions regardless of their rank. On some occasions two or more teams would be combined (two-teamer) for specific missions, such as a reaction force, prisoner snatch, or downed aircraft search/recovery (SAR) team.

~~10/25~~ LAST PAGE OF History

Company E (LRP) 20th Infantry (ABN) and Company C (RANGER) 75th Infantry are entitled to the following:

Campaign Streamers: Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross
Valorous Unit Award

Decorations: Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit
Citation
Valorous Unit Award Unit Citation

Traditional Designation: Merrill's Marauders

Motto: Sua Sponte ("Of their own accord")

Distinctive Insignia:

The shield of the coat of arms.

Symbolism of the coat of arms: The colors: Blue, white, red, and green represent four of the original six combat teams of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), which were identified by a color code word. To avoid confusion, the other two colors, khaki and orange were not represented in the design. The unit's close cooperation with the Chinese Forces in the China-Burma-India Theater is represented by the Sun symbol from the Chinese Nationalist Flag. The white star represents the Star of Burma, the country in which the Marauders campaigned during World War II. The lightening bolt is symbolic of the strike characteristics of the Marauders behind-the-lines activities.

RANGER Designation:

Rational--The rationale for selecting the 75th Infantry as the parent unit for all DA Authorized Ranger Units is as follows:

(1) Similarity of missions between those missions performed by Merrill's Marauders and those currently assigned to and envisioned by the new Ranger Companies - Operations deep in enemy territory.

(2) It returns to the rolls of the active Army Regiment having a distinguished combat record and a unique place in the annals of the United States Army.

(3) It provides the Ranger Companies and the United States Army with a common regimental designation identifying an uncommon skill.

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Table 2-4

Vietnam era South Vietnamese Ranger Biet Dong-Quan (BDQ), Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, Long Range Patrol and Ranger Units.

South Vietnamese Ranger Units Biet Dong-Quan (BDQ)

US Army Ranger Advisors: Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) 1960 -1962
Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) 1962 - 1973.

Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (Provisional)

<u>Unit Designation</u>	<u>Period of Service</u>
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate), LRRP (Provisional)	May 1965 - 20 Dec 1967
1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, LRRP (Provisional)	July 1965 - 10 Jan 1968
1st Infantry Division, LRRP (Provisional)	Oct 1965 - 20 Dec 1967
1st Cavalry Division, LRRP (Provisional)	Sep 1965 - 20 Dec 1967
4th Infantry Division, LRRP (Provisional)	Sep 1966 - 20 Dec 1967
9th Infantry Division, LRRP (Provisional)	Jan 1967 - 20 Dec 1967
25th Infantry Division, LRRP (Provisional)	Mar 1966 - 20 Dec 1967
196th Infantry Brigade (Separate), LRRP (Provisional)	Jan 1967 - 20 Dec 1967

Long Range Patrol Companies and Detachments

<u>Unit Designation</u>	<u>Major Command</u>	<u>Period of Service</u>
Co. E, 20th Infantry (LRP)	I Field Force Vietnam	25 Sep 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. F, 51st Infantry (LRP)	II Field Force Vietnam	25 Sep 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. D, 151st Infantry (LRP)	II Field Force Vietnam	26 Dec 1968 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. E, 50th Infantry (LRP)	9th Infantry Division	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. F, 50th Infantry (LRP)	25th Infantry Division	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. E, 51st Infantry (LRP)	23rd Infantry Division	12 Dec 1968 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. E, 52nd Infantry (LRP)	1st Cavalry Division	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. F, 52nd Infantry (LRP)	1st Infantry Division	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. E, 58th Infantry (LRP)	4th Infantry Division	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
Co. F, 58th Infantry (LRP)	101st Airborne Division	10 Jan 1968 - 1 Feb 1969
71st Infantry Detachment (LRP)	199th Infantry Brigade	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
74th Infantry Detachment (LRP)	173rd Airborne Brigade	20 Dec 1967 - 1 Feb 1969
78th Infantry Detachment (LRP)	3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division	15 Dec 1968 - 1 Feb 1969
79th Infantry Detachment (LRP)	1st Brigade, 5th Mechanized Division	15 Dec 1968 - 1 Feb 1969

Ranger Companies

<u>Unit Designation</u>	<u>Major Command</u>	<u>Period of Service</u>
Co. C, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	I Field Force Vietnam	1 Feb 1969 - 25 Oct 1971
Co. D, (Ranger), 151st Infantry	II Field Force Vietnam	1 Feb 1969 - 20 Nov 1969
Co. D, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	II Field Force Vietnam	20 Nov 1969 - 10 Apr 1970
Co. E, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	9th Infantry Division	1 Feb 1969 - 12 Oct 1970
Co. F, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	25th Infantry Division	1 Feb 1969 - 15 Mar 1971
Co. G, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	23rd Infantry Division	1 Feb 1969 - 1 Oct 1971
Co. H, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	1st Cavalry Division	1 Feb 1969 - 15 Aug 1972
Co. I, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	1st Infantry Division	1 Feb 1969 - 7 Apr 1970
Co. K, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	4th Infantry Division	1 Feb 1969 - 10 Dec 1970
Co. L, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	101st Airmobile Division	1 Feb 1969 - 26 Dec 1970
Co. M, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	199th Infantry Brigade	1 Feb 1969 - 12 Oct 1970
Co. N, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	173rd Airborne Brigade	1 Feb 1969 - 25 Aug 1971
Co. O, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	3rd Brigade, 82nd Abn, Division	1 Feb 1969 - 20 Nov 1969
Co. P, (Ranger), 75th Infantry	1st Brigade, 5th Mech. Division	1 Feb 1969 - 31 Aug 1971

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RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PUBLICATIONS AND BLANK FORMS <small>For use of this form, see AR 310-1; the proponent agency is the US Army Adjutant General Center.</small>						Use Part II (reverse) for Repair Parts and Special Tools List (RPSTL) and Supply Catalogs/Supply Manuals (SC/SM).	DATE 14 DEC 93
TO: (Forward to proponents of publication or form) (Include ZIP Code) CDR, PERSCOM ATTN: TAPC-PDA Alexandria, VA 22332-0471						FROM: (Activity and location) (Include ZIP Code) Commander 75TH Ranger Regiment Fort Benning, GA 31905	
PART I - ALL PUBLICATIONS (EXCEPT RPSTL AND SC/SM) AND BLANK FORMS							
PUBLICATION/FORM NUMBER AR 672-5-1						DATE 1 OCT 90	TITLE Military Awards
ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.	PARA-GRAPH	LINE NO.*	FIGURE NO.	TABLE NO.	RECOMMENDED CHANGES AND REASON <small>(Provide exact wording of recommended change, if possible)</small>	
4	34	5-29			2-4	<p>ADD: Definition: South Vietnamese Ranger Units Biet Dong-Quan (BDQ) A counter-guerrilla force of light companies trained and led by US Army Ranger advisors whose unit mission was primarily to conduct patrols, raids and ambushes. They were also used as reaction forces for regular Vietnamese units.</p> <p>Definition: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) / Long Range Patrol (LRP) A Company or Detachment assigned or attached to a major army command that specialized in reconnaissance and were tasked by the commander to conduct specialized patrols, raids, ambushes and prisoner snatch missions within or behind enemy lines up to 50 kilometers from the nearest friendly forces. The Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) and Long Range Patrol (LRP) teams operated in four to twelve man teams with a typical team consisting of six men.</p> <p>Definition: Ranger Company A company assigned or attached to a major army command that specialized in reconnaissance and were tasked by the commander to conduct specialized patrols, raids, ambushes and prisoner snatch missions within or behind enemy lines up to 50 kilometers from the nearest friendly forces. The Ranger team operated in four to twelve man teams with a typical team consisting of six men.</p>	
<small>*Reference to line numbers within the paragraph or subparagraph</small>							
TYPED NAME, GRADE OR TITLE [Signature]			TELEPHONE EXCHANGE/AUTOVON, PLUS EXTENSION [Signature]			SIGNATURE [Signature]	

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO PUBLICATIONS AND BLANK FORMS						DATE 14 DEC 93
For use of this form, see AR 310-1; the proponent agency is the US Army Adjutant General Center.						
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PUBLICATION/FORM NUMBER			DATE		TITLE	
AR 672-5-1			1 OCT 90		Military Awards	
ITEM NO.	PAGE NO.	PARA-GRAPH	LINE NO.*	FIGURE NO.	TABLE NO.	RECOMMENDED CHANGES AND REASON (Provide exact wording of recommended change, if possible)
1	34	5-29c	12			<p>Add: c. Retroactive award. The Ranger Tab may be awarded to any person on active duty, active status in the Reserve Components, in retired status, or honorably discharged who meets the appropriate criteria listed below.</p> <p>(1) Must have been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) or Combat Medical Badge (CMB) for such service in one of the units indicated in table 2-4, unless the CIB or CMB had been awarded prior to such service.</p> <p>(2) Must have served for 30 consecutive days or more, in the Republic of Vietnam, as an officer or enlisted member in one of the units indicated in table 2-4.</p>
2	34	5-29c			2-4	See enclosure.
3	34	5-29d				<p>Add: d. Application. Application for award of the Ranger Tab under the provisions above will contain detailed information, accompanied by substantiating documentation to justify the claim.</p> <p>Justification: (1) As part of a historical oversight, the Vietnam era Rangers have not been officially recognized. The units to be recognized are the US Advisors that assisted Ranger units (Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)) of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP)/Long Range Patrol (LRP) units and Ranger companies that served in the Republic of Vietnam.</p> <p>(2) The Ranger's contributions to both our Army and our nation are a matter of historical record—many written in Ranger blood. The intent is to recognize the contributions of these heroic individuals, as well as their units, as US Army Rangers. Members who have served in Ranger type units such as Merrill's Marauders during World War Two received recognition by being awarded the Ranger tab.</p>
*Reference to line numbers within the paragraph or subparagraph						
TYPED NAME, GRADE OR TITLE			TELEPHONE EXCHANGE/AUTOVON, PLUS EXTENSION			SIGNATURE

173rd Airborne Brigade:

During May 1965 the 173rd Abn. Bde. arrived in South Vietnam for 90 days TDY. Initially, the 173rd relied on Troop "E" 17th Cavalry Aero Scouts and its motorized jeeps to conduct mounted scout roles, routine reconnaissance and light cavalry operations. On 25 April 1966 General Paul F. Smith organized a PROVISIONAL Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Platoon (LRRP) adding it to Troop "E" 17th Cavalry to perform reconnaissance and small ambushes. The Brigade LRRP evolved into the 74th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol (LRP), and ultimately, into Company N, (Ranger) 75th Infantry. Some of the original members served in all of the foregoing units during the metamorphosis from LRRP to LRP to Ranger.

An ambush patrol led by Sergeant Harold Kaiama on 17 January 1967 of the LRRP killed several Vietcong. (Troop "E" 17th Cavalry After Action Report dated 25 Feb. 1967, pp15-16.)

On 20 Dec. 1967 the 74th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol was authorized by Hq. DA, however, it was not activated until 5 Feb. 1968. Stay behind patrols from the 74th LRP conducted ambushes of enemy scavengers frequenting patrol extraction sites. (173rd Abn. Bde. operation report dated 15 May 1968 p.46.)

During October 1968 the 74th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol formed Hunter-Killer Teams to seek out and ambush the enemy. These were small highly airmobile patrols designed to seek out and ambush the enemy in a campaign of sustained harrassment. (Rangers at War: Combat Recon in Vietnam p.196.)

On 13 November 1968 Team Delta led by Staff Sergeant Laszlo Rabel established a patrol base overlooking the Nui Long river. Detecting movement outside the patrol base, Rabel and another team member were preparing to perform counterreconnaissance when a grenade was thrown into the patrol base perimeter. Rabel threw himself on the grenade without hesitation, absorbing the full impact of the blast, saving his team mates lives.

Killed in action as a result of his selfless heroic act, Laszlo Rabel became the sole member of any LRP unit to be awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action. Had he lived an additional 93 days, Rabel would have led the same Team as a member of Company N, (Ranger) 75th Infantry.

On 19 February 1971 Cpt Tanaka led four Ranger Teams of eight men each from Company N, (Ranger) 75th Infantry in an attempt to liberate prisoners, including six Americans, from the Kron River POW Camp. (173rd Abn. Bde. BRIGHT LIGHT After Action Report dated 20 Feb. 1971.)

1st Infantry Division:

During October 1965 1st Div. reconnaissance was mounted from bases at Di An, Phu Loi, Lai Khe and Phuoc Vinh, War zones C,D, the Iron Triangle, the trapezoid, Michelin Rubber Plantation, Long Nguyen Secret Zone, Song Be corridor, Cambodian frontier and the Rung Sat Special zone.

Initially Troop D, 1st Squadron 4th Cavalry with an aero rifle platoon of limited patrol capability was relied on for reconnaissance. During April 1966 Major General William E. DePuy formed a PROVISIONAL Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol contingent (LRRP). The LERPS performed missions in enemy controlled areas for several days and were attached to Troop D, 1/4th Cav.

Rappelling into dense jungle during Operation Birmingham in April 1966 the numerically superior NVA forces caused emergency extraction of all the patrols.

On 28 September 1967 Major General John H. Hay Jr. formed a Division Long Range Patrol Detachment called the "Wildcat LURPS" at Lai Khe, and controlled by Division G-2. During October the training teams found a new base camp and an old one under repair and killed several Vietcong with rifle fires.

Reconnaissance teams on "stay behind" missions organized ambush sites when larger Infantry units they inserted with left the area. On 20 December 1967 Company F, 52nd Infantry Long Range Patrol was activated. On 31 January 1968 a Team led by Sgt Ronny O. Luse prepared to ambush a group of Vietcong who abruptly melted into the jungle only to re-appear an hour later leading a battalion of VC.

Ordered to withdraw, the Team moved allowing direct fires from the 105mm howitzers into the ranks of the Vietcong making the early TET attack on the 1st Division during 1968. Forewarned by the LURP's the battle raged through 3 February. Two battalions of the Vietcong 273rd Regiment and a battalion of the Dong Nai Regiment were identified. Following TET, an ambush patrol of ten men was led by Lt. Paul Mattox near An Loc from the LRP.

An ambush patrol led by Sgt Franklin Jones of F/52nd LRP directed artillery on a group of Vietcong hoping to force them into the Team kill zone, however, dozens of Vietcong fled the jungle as artillery impacted, surprising even the patrol. Fortunately they had not ambushed the flank security of the main VC force.

A four man LURP Team led by Sgt Robert P. Elsner F/52nd LRP during June 1968 verified enemy movement. Pinned down by enemy fires and with the enemy massing for an assault on the team, an AH-1G Cobra attack helicopter extracted the team from the rice paddy as Elsner popped flares over the enemy. Riding the skids, a rocket pod and the small wing a successful extraction under fire by a Cobra gunship was made for the LURP Team.

On 22 February 1969 Robert D. Law moved to the flank of his Ranger Team from Company I, (Ranger) 75th Infantry placing accurate fires on the Vietcong. When a grenade was thrown at his team, Law threw himself on the grenade saving his team. He is the 1st Ranger MOH recipient in the history of the U.S. Army

196th Infantry Brigade (Separate):

The 196th Inf. Bde (Sep) later became a Brigade in the 23rd Infantry Division, (Americal). Formed on 2 January 1967 by General Richard T. Knowles the 196th Inf. Bde. Long Range Patrol Detachment was assigned to Brigade Intelligence, however they were under the administrative control of Troop F, 17th Cavalry. Troop F, 17th Cav. was not organized, trained or equipped for Long Range Patrol missions.

One of the first missions assigned to the LRPD was an AMBUSH mission ...a night ambush patrol led by Sgt Anthony Mazzuchhi. He organized a hasty ambush to discourage enemy trackers following patrol insertion and eliminated three Vietcong. Forming a defensive perimeter the team directed Artillery fires that destroyed a platoon from the 271st Vietcong Regiment.

On 22 November 1967 Major General Samuel Koster formed the Americal Long Range Patrol Detachment, (LRPD). On 20 Dec. 1967 Company E, 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol was formed.

The LRPD created several "Tunnel Rat Teams," using two members of the Recon Team and two indigenous Scouts from Special Forces. The Tunnel Rats explored the natural caverns of Nui Ba Den mountain which served as transient quarters for Vietcong.

During March 1967 a reconnaissance Team from the LRPD led by SP4 Robert Webber established a point recon position five yards from a suspected Vietcong infiltration lane.

A ten man VC patrol approached from the team's rear as they remained silent allowing the VC to pass. The team stayed put as other VC elements passed them on the trail, for what seemed like hours.

Later during the night the team heard rustling in nearby bushes and observed thirty-five Vietcong Soldiers cooking and talking directly behind them. Hearing noise to the left of his security position Pfc William Conner observed three VC walking directly at him. When they failed to turn away Conner opened fire killing the first VC as Pfc Mark Brennan opened fire killing the other two. Pfc's Valleriano and Rosselli threw grenades to cover the team's withdrawal, however the stunned VC did not pursue them.

The LRPD during its last six months had team integrity threatened by disease, injuries, R&R, and leaves. Four man teams were deployed instead of six until seven man patrols were instituted, however it had the effect of reducing the number of teams available.

At 1030 hours on 20 November 1969 Team Oregon led by SSG Robert J. Pruden was establishing an ambush/POW snatch site when a team member was pinned down by enemy fires. Wounded twice while charging the enemy Pruden continued his attack until wounded again. He was awarded the Medal of Honor Posthumously by Company G, Ranger 75th Infantry. He issued instructions for extraction before he died.

101st Airborne Division:

During December 1965, the 1st Brigade 101st Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon was organized at Bear Cat-Bien Hoa and divided into nine 6 man Teams. Their title as Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol was usually written as 1/101 LRRP.

During February 1967 the 1/101 LRRP executed a Seaborne Commando landing from clandestine military Junks of the South Vietnamese Navy Coastal Group. (1st Bde. 101st Abn. After Action Report dated 6 March 1967.

On two occasions during June 1967 the 1/101 LRRP Platoon conducted airmobile Raids in the Song Ve Valley.

On 11 June 1967 Lt. Daniel McIsaac led the 33 man Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon (LRRP) on a carefully planned RAID on a known Vietcong village. Flying at treetop level the platoon landed, rounded up the population of the village in twelve minutes just before dusk.

Their RAID netted a high ranking Vietcong Political Officer who had been sought since the first Indo-China War, along with fifteen other detainees and numerous documents. A successful Prisoner Snatch of a Communist sought since the 1950's was accomplished during the RAID mission by 1/101 LRRP. (1st Bde. 101st Abn. Div. After Action Report dated 19 June 1967, p.3.).

Company F, 58th Infantry Long Range Patrol (LRP) was activated on 10 January 1968. By 28 January 1968 half the company was located at Bien Hoa and the remainder at Song Be. Because of the 1968 TET Offensive by the Vietcong/North Vietnamese, Company F/58th Infantry Long Range Patrol became involved in heavy fighting at both places.

The Vietcong attack at Song Be succeeded in overrunning the quad .50 caliber machinegun of another unit. Comapny F/58th LRP led a counterattack that repelled the enemy and recovered the quad .50. (Rangers at War, p. 170, 171.)

During July 1967 the 1/101 LRRP occupied blocking positions to protect Engineers opening Route 1, between Dien Truong and Sa Huynh.

On 19 November 1968 a twelve man "heavy team" from Company F/58th Long Range Patrol executed an ambush killing nine of the ten North Vietnamese. Failure of the 101st Airborne Division's leadership to provide extraction helicopters following the ambush allowed the North Vietnamese to return to the ambush site nearly twelve hours later, detonate a large Claymore mine killing four Team members and wounding the other eight.

The remaining eight wounded LRP Team members known as LURPS fought and repulsed several ground attacks from different directions until a helicopter arrived with a hastily assembled reaction force from the LRP company. A single Helicopter Pilots unilateral decision to divert from his primary mission upon hearing radio calls revealing the LRP were down to one round of ammunition apiece saved the Team as the reaction force assaulted up the hill to reach their wounded and dead LURPS.

1st Cavalry Division:

The 1st Cavalry Division arrived in Vietnam during September 1965. The 11th Air Assault Division, Test, had been involved in development of the Airmobile concepts for several years at Fort Benning, Ga., perfecting Air Mobility, Logistic, Operational and Intelligence techniques prior to reorganizing as the 1st Cavalry.

A unique reconnaissance and intelligence gathering technique was developed at Fort Benning through use of "Pony Teams." Select men were drawn from all units, trained in intelligence gathering and Long Range Patrol techniques then returned to their unit(s) until a need for their expertise arose.

Working directly under the Division G-2 in Vietnam, Pony Teams of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol were assembled, rehearsed, inserted, conducted their LRRP missions and, following return and debriefing, returned to their parent units and continued the mission.

On February 2, 1967 the 1st Cavalry organized a single LRRP entity nicknamed the "Pershing LERPS," after their assigned mission, Operation Pershing. During April 1967 Major General John J. Tolson III expanded the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) element into the 1st Cavalry Division Long Range Patrol Detachment, (LPRD). The LPRD consisted of 118 U.S. Soldiers, 18 Montagnard tribal warriors and 18 South Vietnamese Scouts. (1st Cav. Div. Opn. report dated 15 November 1967, p.18).

The Pershing LERPS of the LPRD inserted on 5 Dec. 1967 in the mountains of the Soui Cai Valley and ambushed three Vietcong wearing green uniforms killing one and capturing two. The patrol had intercepted a high ranking Vietcong delegation from their Binh Dinh Province Headquarters moving in an area now well interdicted by American patrols.

Among the two captured was a senior Vietcong Intelligence Captain who had recently completed a two year course of studies in the Soviet Union. The dead Vietcong was the Battalion Executive Officer. (1st Cavalry Division Memo for Record Operation Pershing dated Feb. 1968, p.9).

Lieutenant General Burton D. Patrick, a former advisor to the 42nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion at Bac Lieu, Mekong Delta during 1965 and later a Brigade Operations Officer with the 1st Cavalry Div., revealed publicly on many occasions that there were three great killers of the North Vietnamese and Vietcong.

First and most obvious was the B-52 Arc Light bombings. Secondly was the armed helicopter gunship. Finally the members of the Long Range Patrols and Rangers whose mechanical ambushes were described by General Patrick as taking out more of the enemy than the regular infantry was able to. (Address by then MG Patrick June 1986 to the assembled LRRP, LRP and Rangers at Ft. Campbell, Ky.).

9th Infantry Division:

The 9th Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol platoon was formed at Fort Riley Kansas after Major General George S. Eckhardt flew to Vietnam for orientation and noted the LRRP in each division.

Arriving in Vietnam during January 1967 after training in Panama, the entire platoon became Recondo qualified at the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang.

9th Division patrollers worked the Rung Sat Special Zone, Mekong Delta. The flatness of the Delta, the rice fields and wetness did create special problems for patrolling. Nearly 75% of all patrollers had clinically recognizable infections after 120 days in the Delta.

A four man Long Range Patrol Team was inserted into Phuoc Tuy Province and immediately observed a column of the 5th Vietcong Division. SP4 Hulin fired a magazine into the VC who stopped right in front of him and who appeared shocked seeing Hulin.

During June 1967 the LRRP were told they would expand into a full company sized unit. On 8 July 1967 the Long Range Patrol Detachment was organized. SSG Richard T. Cottrell led an LRPD patrol into the jungle near Long Thanh locating a Vietcong position. Using deception, Cottrell's team assaulted the Vietcong perimeter from an unexpected direction overrunning the position. They then ambushed a Vietcong relief force. The team returned to Bear Cat with information on the 4th Vietcong Main Force Battalion of the Thu Duc District.

Other 9th Division Teams uncovered a massive underground system east of Bear Cat and spent two weeks uncovering huge quantities of weapons, clothing and ammunition during operation Akron.

A Team from the LRPD led by Sgt Hilan Jones was preparing for extraction when they observed Vietcong activity. Calling for the VC to surrender, Jones threw a grenade into the house when the VC made a lunge for their weapons and opened fire killing six VC. Within an hour helicopters of the 3rd Squadron 5th Cavalry carrying aero scout platoon members descended into the area. When an enemy machinegun located in an adjacent house opened fire on the aircraft, Jone's team assaulted the machinegun position killing a gunner.

On 20 December 1967 General O'Connor activated Company E, 50th Inf. Long Range Patrol. During January 1968 E/50th LRP Teams combined with U.S. Navy Seal Teams for highly selective patrols called Seal-Echo missions. Inserted by various means the teams AMBUSHED sampans, blocked waterways and seized prisoners.

After TET 1968 the E/50th LURPS began using nine provisional reconnaissance unit (PRU) indigenous scouts from the CIA. Incorporated into heavy fire teams. During July 1968 teams were involved in heavy fighting in the Plain of Reeds. (9th Div Opn Rpt dtd. 12 May 68).

During 1967/68 LRP Teams walked point for the 32nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion and also used sniper and dog teams to assist the 32nd.

25th Infantry Division:

During June 1966 Major General Frederick C. Weyand ordered that a PROVISIONAL Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) be raised and assigned to the 4th Cavalry. They were operationally ready by June 30th. Previously, Delta Troop 3rd Squadron 4th Cavalry formed an LRRP for long range reconnaissance patrol missions that was distinguished from the aero scouts in use at that time by cavalry units.

During July 1966 the 25th Division conducted four COMBAT patrols using the LRRP in Hau N Ghia, Tay Ninh and Long Khanh Provinces. (25th Div. operational report dated 30 Aug. 1966 pp. 13,22). Advanced training for water infiltration was conducted by the LRRP and culminated in two successful river/canal RAIDS by the LRRP. (25th Div. operational report dated 18 Nov. 1966, p.12).

During August 1967 Major General Fillmore Means expanded the LRRP to a Long Range Patrol Detachment (LRPD), still attached to the 3rd Squadron 4th Cavalry and they initiated two ambush groups from the LPRD. (Rangers at war, p.144).

On 20 Dec 1967 Company F,50th Infantry Long Range Patrol was activated and was distinguished from the 4th Cavalry LRRP that continued operations. On 6 April 1968 a five man RECON Team established a night AMBUSH position outside OP Ann Margaret.(Co. F/50th Inf. LRP after action report dated 9 April 1968).

On 3 May 1968 two 6 man RECON Teams combined for an ambush along a canal in the Ho Bo Woods. At 2230 hours a Sampan moved into the killing zone and was engaged by the LRP. The ammunition laden sampan bound for the Vietcong exploded.(25th Div. after action report dated 3 June 1968, p.3).

On 4 May based on the success of the ambush by a heavy RECON Team the previous night, other Long Range Patrol Teams reinforced the original ambushers at the site and waited. Between 2100 and 2400 hours they engaged sampans from the expanded ambush site killing 20 Vietcong and destroying seven sampans.(18th MHD after action report dated 30 May 1968).

During August 1968 Major General Ellis W. Williamson re-directed F/50th Long Range Patrol operations toward gathering information on the VC then harrassing them. On 5 November 1968 a RECON Team ambushed a sampan in a canal in the Ho Bo Woods.(3rd Squadron 4th CAv. operations report dated 31 Jan. 1969,p.L-2).

On 1 Feb. 1969 the LRP completed the metamorphosis to become Company F,Ranger, 75th Infantry. During October 1969 Major General Harris W. Hollis placed the Ranger Company under control of his Division G-3 where employment emphasis was focused for raid, rescue, ambush reconnaissance and sniper operations.

In short, the mission statements changed from reconnaissance to both combat and reconnaissance missions, however, the Rangers continued what the LRRP and LRP had performed earlier. Co. F/75th conducted a nighttime RAID by helicopter to secure prisoners with the U.S. Navy and South Vietnamese forces.(p.155 Rangers at war).

Field Force II:

Comapny F, 51st Infantry, Long Range Patrol became FF II's exclusive Long Range Patrol Company which was ultimately replaced by Company D, Long Range Patrol, 151st Infantry, which, during February 1969 became a Ranger company along with formation of the 75th Ranger Infantry companies, however, as a National Guard unit they maintained their lineage to the 151st.

Prior to Company F/51st LRP, FF II relied on Special Forces Project B-36 Rapid Fire. Company F/51st Inf. LRP and their employment in a wide range of COMBAT patrolling missions has been described earlier in this series exclusively.

Company D, LRP, 151st Infantry conducted 573 patrol from Feb. 69 to Aug. 69 in War Zone D, and eastern Bien Hoa province, during which time they reported 134 enemy sightings and made 94 contacts with the enemy resulting in 76 VC/NVA killed by direct fires from teams and many more through artillery and air strikes directed by the LURPS.

The Indiana Rangers began Long Range Patrols in War Zone D, and the Vietcong U-1 secret base in Bien Hoa Province. On the last day of February 1969 shortly after Co. D, 151st LRP began operations- they had a team in heavy contact NW of Bien Hoa. With three wounded they requested Dustoff. A USAF helicopter from the 38th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron's Detachment with para rescue technician MSG David D. Rhody on board was riddled with 24 hits and returned to base.

A reaction team from D, 151st was inserted while the USAF HH-43 Pedro helicopter lowered MSG Rhody to the ground. He raised two WIA's to the helicopter and waved the pilot off due to ground fires. He stayed with the LRP Team rendering first aid and was extracted with the wounded LURP in a helicopter that received five more hits.

A five man recon team, # 42 led by Sgt Dave Waters conducted an ambush during Sep. 1969. At 0800 SP4 Mike Slabaugh observed three VC walking down a trail and who suddenly observed the team. Initiating contact with claymore mines, the team searched the area and found food, clothing ammunition, a rucksack and hammock but no VC.

Company D, Ranger 75th Infantry was formed to replace D, 151st during November 1969 and General Ewell placed it OPCON to the 3rd Squadron 17th Cav. on 1 Dec. 1969. D/75th Rangers conducted an ambush the next day (2 Dec. 1969) during which they killed the Transportation Executive Officer of Communist Sub-Region 5 who carried a payroll of 35,000 piasters.

During early January 1970 D/75th Patrols 14 and 15 killed 11 NVA from the 274th NVA Division and fixed its location for analysis by higher Hq's. They also conducted three man recon patrols, both area and point.

During 4 April 1970 D Co. 75th Ranger Infantry was inactivated after fielding 458 patrols involving 68 contacts resulting in 88 VC/NVA killed by direct fires while suffering 2 KIA and 24 WIA. (FF II report dated 14 Feb. 1970 p.6 & 30 Apr 1970 p.6).

Field Force II Rangers:

During August 1966 Special Forces organized Detachment B-56 for Project Sigma, which was operational by Oct. 1966 During Autumn 1967 MACV Commander General William C. Westmoreland told General Weyand project Sigma would be transferred to MACV for cross border raiding.

Weyand complained he was losing Special Forces and 173rd Abn. Bde. reconnaissance assets which caused General Westmoreland to order Special Forces to create B-36, Project Rapid Fire for FFII while they stripped the 173rd to create Company F, 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol. On 26 September 1967 FFII activated F/51st LRP and they were operational by 2 Dec. 1967.

On 18 July 1968 F/51st LRP was included in a Task Force with the South Vietnamese 36th Ranger Battalion and Delta Troop 17th Cavalry for a RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE Operation. The AD HOC Regiment participated in 60 missions that established more than 300 ambushes in the Long Binh-Binh Hoa area.

General Walter T. Kerwin Jr. added the 3rd battalion of the Special Forces 3rd Mobile Strike Force Command and Delta Troop from the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and mechanized Troop "E" to the AD Hoc Regiment for combat operations. (Rangers at War p.235).

Cpt Dennis Foley F/51st Operations Officer said, "WE RARELY CONDUCTED RECONNAISSANCE PATROLS." The F/51st Long Range Patrol Teams were given missions to RAID, AMBUSH, KILL CAPTURE OR DESTROY something, when they left the LRP helicopter pad. Reconnaissance was secondary.

The Company was under the operational control of Field Force II G-3 Operations. They were shooters not lookers. During Dec. 1968 F/51st was scheduled to be replaced by Company D, Long Range Patrol from the Indiana National Guard which became a Ranger Company concurrent with all regular Army LRP Companies and Detachments conversion to Ranger Companies of the 75th Infantry.

The Indiana National Guard LRP Company retained their unique designation and became Company D, Ranger 151st Infantry. Although F/51st was officially inactivated on 26 Dec. 1968, in actuality it continued patrolling along with Co. D, 151st Rangers.

In this hidden personnel assets role F/51st completed an additional 208 patrols involving 82 enemy sightings and 62 contacts. F/51st captured 7 North Vietnamese and killed 27 by direct fires while suffering 6 KIA and 35 WIA during the period from November 1968 through January 1969, long after it was "OFFICIALLY" inactivated.

4th Infantry Division:

On 1 Nov. 1966 Major General Arthur S. Collins Jr. established the 4th Division Recondo School at Brigade and Battalion level. During Jan. 1967 Major General William R. Peers assumed command and a Division Sniper School was instituted. Recondo Countermeasure patrols were formed at each Brigade to eliminate enemy couriers, officers or sentries in their areas of surveillance. (Rangers at War p.95 and appendix 13, p.323).

Patrol doctrinal differences became blurred between Recondo and the Hawkeye Teams as both became skilled at hit and run ambushes, and, gathering battlefield intelligence.(Ibid).

On 19 May a four man patrol executed a hasty ambush killing five NVA and were extracted because their RECONNAISSANCE mission was now compromised.(Rangers at War,p. 96,97.).

During October 1967 Sgt Jean Guy Sejourne led a three man patrol that experienced radio problems. He established an ambush site on a trail and executed it at 1803 hours killing 6 NVA and engaging 9 others. Later, when being decorated by General Peers he said, "they insisted on remaining in position along a jungle trail despite failing communications with their unit until the mission was completed; a three man LRRP Team.

On 20 Dec. 1967 General Peers activated Company E, LRP 58th Infantry. On 1 February 1969 the LURPS completed the metamorphosis to become Rangers of Company K,75th Infantry.

One week later Ranger Team 3-6 was awaiting extraction on 8 Feb. 1969. The Team was not heard from again. Eight days later Sgt Do Van Luong of the 95B NVA Regiment was captured by the 35th Infantry. He described a wounded American Don A. McPhail being transported to North Vietnamese Army B-3 Front Headquarters on a stretcher. He was returned to the United States following the cease fire.

On 16 Feb. 1970 Company K,Ranger 75th Infantry participated in a prison rescue mission Raid known as Operation Wayne Stab II. (4th Inf. Div. Opn. Rpt. dated 31 May 1970 pp13-15).

199th Infantry Brigade:

When Company F, 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol completed training, selected personnel were transferred to the 199th Infantry Bde. On 20 December 1967 the 71st Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol was formed with 61 men. The unit was operational within a month and for six months conducted surveillance and AMBUSH patrols in the Long Binh-Binh Hoa area. (Rangers at war, p.248).

During April 1968 an ambush patrol from the 71st LRP recon team led by Sgt Carter observed 20 VC approaching Camp Frenzel-Jones in the Long Binh area. Firing two claymores and with rifle fires several of the approaching enemy were killed.

Following TET 1968 the 199th Inf. Bde. relocated Southwest of the Saigon area. During this period the 71st LRP landed AMBUSH patrols along the mud flats and reed covered shores from Navy Patrol Boats along the Song Van Co River.

On 1 February 1969 the 71st Inf. Det. LRP was inactivated and replaced by Company M, Ranger, 75th Infantry. Brigadier General Frederick E. Davis paired Co. M/75th with the 17th Cavalry's Troop "D".

During the following year Company M, 75th Rangers interdicted so many enemy supply trails that the 274th VC REGiment was reduced to eating bananas while the 33rd NVA Regiment withdrew from Long Khanh province altogether. Patrols from M/75th Rangers tracked the 33rd NVA into Binh Tuy province before the company was inactivated on 12 Oct. 90.

1ST Bde.

5th Inf Div (MECH) 3rd Bde:

As Company F, 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol prepared for inactivation and replacement by Co. D, 151st LRP of the Indiana National Guard, the unit began to reflect in Army documents as Co. F/51st LRP (-).

What was occurring at the time was the formation of the 78th and 79th infantry detachments Long Range Patrol from the personnel assets of F/51st LRP. The 78th Inf. Det. LRP was assigned to the 3rd Bde. of the 82nd Abn. Div., and the 79th Inf. Det. LRP was assigned to the ~~3rd Bde~~, 5th Inf. Div. (MECH).

1st Bde.

During Dec. 1968 the 79th Inf Det LRP was formed from F/51st assets. As a detachment it never officially reached operational status, however, one team fought a three day running battle finally entering the U.S. Marine Base at Khe Sahn.

In less than two months the 79th LRP was replaced by Company P, Ranger 75th Infantry. Among the most successful missions conducted by P/75 Rangers was the assassination mission targeting Nguyen Quyet. XXIV Corps Intelligence considered him the most wanted man in Quang Tri Province. Special Forces had tried, unsuccessfully, to kill him for six years.

A heavy team of P/75 Rangers was inserted into the Ba Long Valley eight miles SW of Quang Tri. They established an ambush site and waited. At a range of 20 meters a P/75th sniper took Quyet out with a single round. His body was positively identified by villagers by the missing finger on his right hand.

Without his leadership the Quang Tri guerrillas ceased activity. (Rangers at war, p.265). On 31 Aug 1971 Company P, 75th Rangers was inactivated. Personnel assets for the most part were transferred to Co. L, Ranger 75th Infantry. Later when Company L/75th was inactivated most of their personnel assets transferred to Company H, Ranger 75th Infantry 1st Cavalry Div. H/75th was the last U.S. Ranger unit in Vietnam and conducted operations through August 1972.

82nd Abn.3rd Bde:

Upon being ordered to Vietnam by President Johnson, the 3rd Bde. of the 82nd Abn Div had no Longe Range Patrol assets. They formed Ad Hoc reconnaissance elements from their mounted recon platoon and antitank platoon.

On 15 Dec. 1968 the 78th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol was formed from the inactivated Company F/51st LRP assets and began to scout the Nha Be river to interdict traffic. During one village search the 78th LRP captured a leading VC female spy and tax collector. Following her capture, the 78th LRP Team prepared an ambush site near her village along the Nha Be River. Observing suspicious debris in the river, the team opened fire causing a tremendous explosion, followed by secondary explosions.

The 78th Long Range Patrol had interdicted a major vietcong resupply system.(USARV IO Rpt. V-5, dtd 3 Feb 1969,p.13).

On 1 Feb. 1969 the 78th Inf. Det. LRP became Company O,Ranger 75th Infantry.A recon patrol led by SSG MA1com M. Budd conducted five successful night operations during January 1969.

On the final mission he detected a VC squad attempting to cross a collapsed bridge on the Song Saigon. The O/75th Rangers engaged the VC killing three and recovering important documents.

