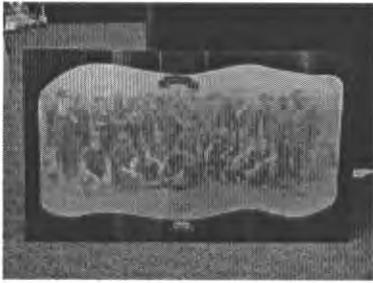
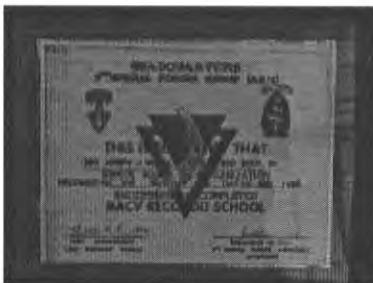


The Vietnam Archive  
Texas Tech University

Joseph J. Welsh Collection

75th  
Ranger

First Sergeant Joseph J. Welsh, USA [Ret.] served with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and Company E, Long Range Patrol (LRP), 20th Infantry First Field Force Vietnam (IFFY) in the Republic of Vietnam. He held many different positions such as; Radar/ Recon Vehicle Operator, Infantry Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant (SGT), Long Range Patrol Team Leader, Infantry Operations and Intelligence SGT, Special Forces Medic, Drill SGT, Reconnaissance Instructor, Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy Instructor, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Advisor, Interpreter, First SGT, and Special Forces Senior SGT and received numerous awards and certificates during his twenty-five years in the United States Army. This Collection contains information about 1SGT Welsh and photographs from his service in Vietnam.



These items were donated by First Sergeant (1SG) Joseph J. Welsh Retired (R) currently residing in San Antonio, Texas.

1SG Welsh (R) spent almost 25 years in the United States Army (U.S. Army) and served in numerous units to include; Headquarters (HQ) 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (BN) 509<sup>th</sup> Airborne (ABN) Brigade (BDE), Mainz, Germany, 1<sup>st</sup> BN 101<sup>st</sup> ABN Division (DIV), Republic of Vietnam (RVN), Co. E Long Range Patrol (LRP) 20<sup>th</sup> Infantry First Field Force Vietnam (IFFV), RVN, HQ, Co. 3<sup>rd</sup> BN 325<sup>th</sup> INF, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV, 7<sup>th</sup> INF DIV, U.S. Army INF Training (TNG) BDE, Ft. Benning, GA, XVIII ABN Corps, Ft. Bragg, NC, Joint Allied Task Force, Izmir, Turkey, 96<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs BN, United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), Ft. Bragg, NC; 1<sup>st</sup> BN 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group (SFG) ABN, Okinawa, Japan, 3<sup>rd</sup> BN 1<sup>st</sup> SFG, ABN, Ft. Lewis, WA, U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOCOM), and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, Ft. Bragg, NC.

He held many different positions such as; Radar/Recon Vehicle Operator, Infantry Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant (SGT), Long Range Patrol Team Leader, Infantry Operations and Intelligence SGT, Special Forces Medic, Drill SGT, Reconnaissance Instructor, Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy Instructor, Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Advisor, Interpreter, First SGT, and Special Forces Senior SGT.

1SG Welsh (R) attended the following courses throughout his career to include; Infantryman Course, Airborne School, MACV Recondo Course (RVN), U.S. Naval Swift Boat Training, Drill SGT School, XVIII ABN Recondo Course, Jumpmaster School, Pathfinder Course, Dragon Gunner Trainers Course, Basic NCO Course, Advanced NCO Course, Pre-commissioned Officer Course, SERE (Survive, Evade, Resist, Escape) Instructor Course, Operations and Intelligence Course, Civil Military Operations Course, Individual Terrorism Awareness Course, Thai Language Course, 1SG Course, Spanish Language Course, and Emergency Lifesaver Course.

His decorations and awards include; the Bronze Star Medal with a "V" device (valor) and 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (3<sup>rd</sup> award), Army Commendation Medal (4<sup>th</sup> award); Joint Service Achievement Award, Army Achievement Medal (4<sup>th</sup> award), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Good Conduct Medal (6<sup>th</sup> award), National Defense Service Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> award), Vietnam Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2<sup>nd</sup> award), Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (K) - Kuwait Liberation Medal (SA), Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, MACV Recondo Badge, XVIII Airborne Corps Recondo Badge, Philippine Army Master Parachutist Badge, Royal Thai Army Master Airborne Wings, Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle and Pistol Bars, 5 Combat Patches, and 3 Overseas Bars.

1SG (R) Welsh now resides in San Antonio, Texas. He is an active member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn. Inc., Co E (LRP) 20th INF ABN/Co C (Ranger) 75th INF ABN Assn., the Alamo Silver Wings Airborne Assn., the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Sam Houston Post 76, the Disabled American Veterans, and the Professional Association of Diving Instructors. He is currently a 100% disabled veteran from injuries and illness incurred during his career. His hobbies include playing the Blues harmonica and riding his Harley Davidson Springer. He has 2 children, Michael and Shelly, and is currently married to the former Dr. Carrie Lorraine Chesson.

For further information on the LRPS and Rangers in Vietnam you can contact [www.75thrangers.org](http://www.75thrangers.org), [www.e20-lrp-c75-rgr.org](http://www.e20-lrp-c75-rgr.org), or read Charlie Rangers written by Don Erickson and John L. Rotundo.