

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2025

Page | 1

Greetings:



Hope everyone is doing well. It's been another busy few months with graduations at Fort Moore. I've been fortunate to get to attend a few of them in the last few months. We've also been busy meeting to finalize the upcoming reunion, May 6th - 9th. Be sure to make your reservations now.

We have some new adventures scheduled for this year's reunion so you don't want to miss out. (We even actually get BBQ again at the Utchee Creek BBQ with the Cadre). More details will follow in the newsletter. Another new change is that Fort Moore is once again called Fort Benning. They're already changing all the signs so we can officially say the reunion at Fort Benning again. I look forward to getting to catch up with everyone at the reunion, stay safe and see you soon.

Play The Game !

Jimmy

Reunion 5-9 May 2025



Editor: Lorene Burch

From the Hatch	Page 1
Chaplin's Corner	Page 2
Editors' note	Page 2
Gone but Not Forgotten	Page 3
SRAP: In the Beginning	Page 4
Reunion Form	Page 5
Reunion information	Page 6

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2025

Page | 2



Chaplains Corner



Hello to everyone,

I hope this finds you well and looking forward to our next reunion. At the time of this writing I'm still at the southern coast wintering, in about three weeks it'll be time to head back home. I've got more bible reading done this trip than in the past, probably because I'm a little older and don't get around like I used to.

With everything that is going on in the world today I hope and pray that we can keep our heads straight and get along with each other, no matter your political views. Remember we all have the right to our own opinion and that's all it is.

So let's gather at Fort Benning and have a good time, you know we're not getting any younger, so let's all look to God for guidance, and please be safe in your travels.

Toby

Greetings:



Hope you are enjoying the Newsletters. It is only through your feedback that I can manage to put in what you want I appreciate hearing from many of you and appreciate your guidance.

Hope to see many of you at the reunion in May.

Lorene Burch
522 Aullwood Rd.
Salina, Kansas 67401
thelmaburch@gmail.com

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2025

Page | 3

Gone But Not Forgotten

Daniel P. Coia, 77, of Ransomville, NY, passed away at home on October 18, 2024 surrounded by his loving family.

Dan was born August 9, 1947, the son of the late Alma Jane Coia.

Dan proudly served his country in the United States Army in Vietnam as a member of the 1st of the 50th Mechanized Division. Dan received the Vietnam

Service Medal with two bronze service stars, the National Defense Service Medal, a Combat Infantry Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Expert Rifle Medal.

Dan was an electrician at Niagara DuPont for 34 years, retiring in 2008, to travel on many worldly adventures with his wife, Patti. Dan enjoyed fishing, traveling to 1000 Islands, and spending time with his loving family.



Dan was a devoted husband to Patricia (Colpoys) Coia; a proud father to Dawn (Brad) VeRost; a loving Papa to Maxwell, Olivia, Bradley, and Edward VeRost; dear brother of late David (Barbara) Coia, Victor Coia, Judy Mesko, Linda (late Bill) Brown, Michael (Bethann) Colpoys, and William (Sharon) Colpoys; loving 'Uncle' to Haleigh (Mia) Bianco, Katherine (Ed) Hanson, and Gianna & Shyah Bianco and many other nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in Dan's memory to AMERICAN LEGION, O. LEO CURTISS POST 830, 2589 Youngstown Lockport Rd, Ransomville, NY 14131, or PURR-FECT FIT ANIMAL RESCUE, 2231 Wehrle Dr, Williamsville, NY 14221.



National Defense Service
Medal



Combat Infantry Badge



Republic of
Vietnam
Campaign Medal



Good Conduct
Medal



Expert Rifle
Medal

SRAP: In the Beginning

By **John Smerdon**, 2002

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2025

Page | 4

The Short Range Ambush Platoon was organized as a small force whose primary mission was night ambush. SRAP was capable of operating independently without the support of any other elements. I can't speak for the entire platoon, but during my time, to my knowledge SRAP was Ranger led, and ably so. The first group was selected by SFC Eldridge Holloway from the battalion on an individual basis.

SFC Holloway began training us with classes and hands-on experience. During this period many a claymore was blown in mock ambush at the An Khe firing range. At the same time everyone was evaluated, and as a result a few individuals were culled including a Green Beret Staff Sergeant whose first tour was with 5th Special Forces; most of us were glad to see him go, without a doubt he was fucking nuts. Holloway made sure we could carry a load. Once I mentioned my ruck was heavy, and without blinking an eye or saying a word he handed me his binoculars and walked off. He was a good teacher and a good leader who easily won the respect of every man.

Once we started operating most insertions were heliborne, although we did a few track insertions along QL 19. The basic SRAP ambush consisted of thirty-six claymores, six M-60 machine guns and twelve M-16's; most people also carried forty five's. Everyone had their own personal preference on grenades. M-60 gunners carried six hundred rounds, while the rest of the platoon each carried two hundred extra rounds for the M-60. This was a minimum load that was usually exceeded.

Obviously we weren't a trekking outfit. But we went deep... very deep. When you're operating twenty-five minutes by helicopter due south or north of An Khe, your radios may not work, you might be way out of the artillery range fan, and a spotter plane may be your only link to the rest of the world.

In an ambush every weapon was engaged simultaneously for about thirty seconds. Then we listened for targets we had missed and engaged again accordingly. This configuration varied some depending on the mission, but it was our basic ambush and it worked well. I'm not saying everything went perfect every time because it didn't. As with all combat operations, sometimes times Murphy's law prevailed ("if something can go wrong it will").

Some of us were Rangers, some Airborne, some both, while some were just good soldiers; but we were all 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry and damn proud of it.



Reprinted from the 1st Bn (Mech) 50th Infantry website <http://www.ichiban1.org/>

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2025

Page | 5

Reunion 5-9 May 2025

Fort Benning, Georgia

Registration Form

Member Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Badge Name _____ Shirt Size _____

Guest Name _____ Badge Name _____ Shirt Size _____

(Use separate sheet for additional guests)

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____ Hotel Name _____

(Host Hotel is Hampton Inn and Suites, Phenix City, AL)

Host Hotel is the Hampton Inn, Phenix City (866)799-3642 for reservations). YOU MUST make your hotel reservations DIRECT with either the Hampton or other hotel of your choice. Submitting this registration form does NOT cover your hotel reservations. Ask for 1/50 rate of \$119. (cutoff for this rate is 15 April, 2025). If you have any reservation problems, please contact Sales Manager Michelle Spivey at (334) 664-0776. NOTE5: Do not call the Phenix Inn Property and ask for Michelle. Her office is not on site in Phenix City.

Registration Procedure:

Registration Cutoff Dates:

Registration Costs:

(Per Person)

Early Registration: Before April 15. \$200

Registration: After April 15. \$250

Mail this form along with check to:

Gary Quint, Secretary
1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Association
438 Fairway Lane
Kirkwood MO 63122

Please make check payable to: 1st Bn 50th Infantry Association

Registration Fee Includes:

6 May Evening Reception

7 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses

8 May Lunch, Dinner, Buses

9 May Buses

Also: Gifts for hosts, Event Shirt & Hat, Auction Items, Door Prizes

1ST BATTALION, 50TH INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association



April 2025

Page | 6

2025 REUNION SCHEDULE As of 6 March 2025

DTG	EVENT	LOCATION	RESPONSIBILITY
5 May	Monday		
1100	Coordination	Bn HQ	Topper/Lewis
6 May	Tuesday		
0530-0730 (T)	Copley Challenge	Battalion Footprint	Battalion
1200-1800	Registration	Hampton Inn Phenix City	Alumni Association
1500	Rehearsal	Bn HQ	Topper/Lewis
1500-1615	Social Hour Charcuterie	Hotel	Hotel Staff
1800-2100	Reception (Open Mic)	Hampton Inn (Hospitality)	Melendez/Association
7 May	Wednesday		
0830-0930	Executive Committee Meeting	Hampton Inn	Jim Segars
0930-1045	Association Annual Meeting	Hampton Inn	Jim Segars
1100-1145	Travel to Battalion DFAC	Bus	1/50 Escort
1200-1300	Lunch	DFAC	Association
1300-1430	Battalion Briefings	BLDG 3560	Battalion
1430-1500	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
1700-1745	Travel to Uchee Creek	Bus	1/50 Escort
1800-2000	BBQ w/ 1-50 Cadre (Speaker)	Activity Center, Uchee	Battalion
2000-2045	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2045-2200	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	1/50 Escort
8 May	Thursday		
1030-1100	Travel to Bn HQ	Bus	1/50 Escort
1100-1145	Wreath Ceremony (Speaker)	BLDG 3560	Battalion
1200-1245	MRE Lunch with Soldiers	BLDG 3560	Battalion
1245-1300	Travel to Clarke Sim Center	Bus	Association
1300-1430	Tour CSC	Museum	Association
1430-1500	Travel to Hotel	BLDG 3560	1/50 Escort
1730-1800	Travel to Club	Bus	Association
1800-2200	Association Banquet (CG)	Club	Association
2200-2230	Travel to Hotel	Bus	1/50 Escort
2230	Hospitality Room Open	Hampton Inn	1/50 Escort
9 May	Friday		
0830-0900	Travel to Air Cav/Armor Mus	Bus	1/50 Escort
0900-1130	Tour Museum	Museum	Association
0900-1130	Golf Scramble	Benning Golf Course	Battalion
1100-1130	Travel to Hotel and Open Time	Bus	Association
1800-2200	Formal Dinner	Iron Works	Battalion
10 May	Saturday		
0800-1200	Checkout	Hampton Inn	Association

Yellow Highlights Indicate Battalion responsibilities

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

1ST Battalion 50th Association

April 2025

Page | 7



Gary Quint
438 Fairway Lane
Kirkwood, Mo. 63122

