



Introducing Joe Montoya by Tom Walinski

Joe Montoya served for 20+ years. His experience spans Artillery to Special Forces. He was one heck of a soldier and the best manager of troops I ever had the pleasure to meet. That would likely be the consensus from all his guys. He is a man you can easily love as a dear friend. He tells it like it is when discipline is needed and has always found time to praise more than criticize. He is a gem to be prized. He was my FDC section chief from 1963 to Jan 1966. He taught every one in his charge to be a better man and a better paratrooper. I went to Vietnam with him in 1965 and am also proud to say that he gave me the opportunity to lead a battery FDC (B 2/320th) from 1/66 to 5/66. He is the Honorary Sergeant Major of the 320th AFA Regiment for many reasons, one of which is his unwavering and untiring devotion to our organization as Chairman for many years. He is a fine man with a great family.



Joe Montoya

508th Airborne Chapter Chairman

From Joe: In 1994 I attended a 2/320 event. Don't remember what the occasion was. Anyway I got to talking with the Command Sergeant Major of the 2/320th at that time. I recounted to him some Vietnam experiences and that I had some pictures of the unit while over there and offered the pics for their Regimental Room. We hit it off right away. In 1995 I invited the DivArty Staff to our Bi-annual reunion banquet for the first time. About a year later the CSM asked me if I would be interested in the position as Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment. I reminded him that I hadn't retired as Sgt Major. He advised me that rank had no bearing on the appointment. Civilians in some cases can be appointed. In April of 1999

I received my appointment from the CG of the Artillery Center at Ft Sill. The new Honorary Colonel of the Regiment was appointed at the same time. This guy is a retired Brigadier General, now you figure that one out. Like I said rank has no bearing on the appointment. I think the fact that I was able to help them out in preserving the history of the 320th and my position as Chairman of the association had a lot to do with it. We had a real nice ceremony where the current Honorary Sergeant Major handed me the Regimental Standard. He had been in the position for eight years and had asked to be relieved. This is my 6th year and I anticipate being in the position until I ask to be relieved. The appointment was initially for two years but subsequent commanders have asked me to stay on. There are some perks, so I'm not complaining.

Joe

The 4th Brigade Combat Team/508th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division stood up on 6 January 2006 at Fort Bragg, NC. The 4th BCT Commander, COL Victor Petrenko and the Command Sergeant Major, CSM Roger Howard are shown below uncasing and displaying the 4th BCT colors at the ceremony.



Colonel Petrenko's Address to the 508th Airborne Chapter

Members of the 508th Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association,

It is a great pleasure and honor to be addressing you for the first time as the 82nd's 4th BCT/508th PIR Commander! As many of you are discovering, the Army's ongoing transformation resulted in the return of the storied 508th PIR to its origins here at Ft. Bragg and the 82nd Airborne. While we are going through many changes during our transformation, I want to ensure you all that we intend on upholding the proud traditions that you have all established for this historical Regiment. The first of our many changes occurred on January 6, 2006 when the headquarters of the Brigade Combat Team (BCT) stood up from the former 82nd ABN Division Artillery (DIVARTY). During this ceremony, the 4th BCT accepted its first Infantry Battalion, its Brigade Support Battalion, and the Brigade Special Troops Battalion as well as standing up our new FA Battalion. Once our transformation is complete, the BCT will have added an additional Infantry Battalion as well as a Cavalry Squadron.

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COL Petrenko Continued: This modular organization will create a more lethal, agile and effective Combat Team that will be able to conduct operations across the entire spectrum of modern warfare. In order to help in the understanding of this new organization, I have included a diagram that gives details on the composition of each battalion after our transformation is complete. I would also like to clarify here that the 3-325 AIR re-designated as the 2-508 PIR on January 6th and that the 3-504 PIR will re-designate as the 1-508 PIR at a future date. As many of you know, the 1-508 is currently serving on active duty in Italy. We will keep the Association addressed of this important event. Again, despite all of this change, we intend on maintaining the spirit of our veteran Paratroopers and we will strive to uphold the proud traditions of this Regiment. I look forward to continuing to communicate what your Regiment is doing. Fury from the sky!



508th Airborne Chapter Members "What were your unit call signs and monikers when you were assigned to the 508th?" Colonel Petrenko, 4th BCT Commander asked this question. Do you remember?

Ivan Mehosky, son of Edward S. Mehosky, former "A" Company Commander 1951-52, has written a book about his father. The book covers his fathers jump into Normandy, to Fort Benning, to Korea and his retirement after 31 Years. To purchase an autographed copy, send \$12.50 to Ivan Mehosky, 6 Valley Forge Place, North East, MD 21901

508th REUNION IN ATLANTA

508th Chapter to meet in Atlanta with Airborne Awards Event

The 508th Airborne Chapter along with the 320 AFA Assn will hold a reunion in conjunction with the Static line's Airborne Awards in Atlanta in April. The four day event will begin on Wednesday, April 19th and will include a bus trip to Fort Benning on the second day. Highlight of the trip will be the pinning of jump wings on new Airborne graduates. Other events include a Memorial Luncheon on Friday and an Airborne Awards Banquet on Saturday night. Attached to this newsletter is a complete breakdown of the events and an application.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE 508th ARCT MONUMENT

The 508 Chapter is soliciting donations to pay for the 508th ARCT Monument similar to the one pictured in the last edition of the Chapter newsletter. The total cost of the monument will be \$3000.00 and it will be placed at the Army Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Little or no recognition has been rendered to the 508th ARCT and AIR and this will be a way to let the world know who we were/are. Please send your donation to;

Treasurer, 508 Airborne Chapter, PO Box 1462, Sun City, AZ 85372-1462.

Make your checks payable to the 508 Airborne Chapter but also on the memo line, write "Monument Donation".

Advice From Bruce Tyler

Chapter member Bruce Tyler worked three years for the Disabled American Veterans as a Hospital Service Coordinator. He still receives veteran's rights information from friends and shares it with us. Bruce arranged for volunteer drivers and coordinated transportation for vet's in need, or drove them himself. He has talked to a lot of veterans and helped them file claims. Bruce advises veterans who have a problem to talk to a DAV Service Officer.

A Special Reminder From Our Treasurer Frank Seif

If you have not renewed your 508th Airborne Chapter Membership, the Paraglide and Chapter Newsletter subscriptions will end. Send your dues to the Chapter Treasurer Frank Seif, Post Office Box 1462, Sun City AZ 85372-1462. E-mail: fes508@cox.net

Lifetime Member Bobbie Joe Bush of Richmond, Kentucky has a life threatening illness requiring a miracle. Bobbie and his wife Shirley need our thoughts and prayers. Bobbie is a veteran of Headquarters Company, Third Battalion during 1955-56 and was a regular attendee of the 508th Reunions.

Memories Of A Paratrooper By Wentworth L. "Lefty" Stone

I wonder if anyone remembers the following incident? In 1953 I was with a group of troopers who were going to jump using T-10 parachutes by the 508th for the first time. We were suited up and Jumpmaster checked at an assembly area at Lawson Field waiting for some Air Force Pathfinders to do a wind dummy drop. While watching them exit from planes (C119's I think), one of the jumper's chute separated from him and drifted away. His body plummeted to the earth. He failed to activate his reserve. The jump was immediately cancelled and we turned in our chutes and returned to Sand Hill. The story that we got later was that the dead jumper's chute harness had been stapled at the factory and not stitched so that the opening shock popped the staples and the canopy left the risers. Rumor has it that the log book in the back of the chute was signed by a rigger who had missed the stapled but not stitched problem. The rigger was courts martialled and all the new T-10's were unpacked and repacked. I also recall that in 1952 we jumping T-7's from C46's and C47's of WWII vintage. On one jump, I remember the thrill of rolling down the runway at Lawson Field in a C47 towards takeoff and all of a sudden the pilot aborted because he couldn't get the RPM's up. We taxied back, unloaded and were put into another plane which did get airborne. I've attached 2 pictures taken 50 years apart of those aircraft. I also have a "refuse to jump from an aircraft in flight" story of a Lt. with 18 jumps who rode the plane back to Lawson. I was the Jumpmaster on that flight. Or how about, on a night jump, releasing the chute on landing into what I thought was the Chattahoochee River that turned out to be a hardtop road? Or meeting Sherri North at Chad's Rose Room in Phenix City? Or meeting Ferlin Husky there? You'd have to have been an early 50's Kitty Wells or Hank Williams loving trooper to remember his name. Or troopers having to be checked before going out on pass to see if they had bloused their boots with chains or had the Airborne patch sewn over a silver dollar on their caps with razor blades sewn along the blue piping? Both practices were considered to be weapons for bar hopping purposes. Those were the Brown Shoe Army days. Regards, Wentworth L. "Lefty" Stone, US Army Retired.



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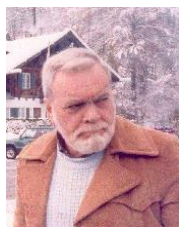


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TAPS RECENT DECEASED MEMBERS

Charles H. Richards, Service Company, 1953-56
Harry Wilson, Support Company, 1955-56

NEW MEMBERS

Ken Bleecker, Item Company 1953-55
James Dickerson, Item Company 1953-56
Samuel D. Rottenberg, Bravo Company 1981-82

NEW ALL AMERICAN (LIFE) MEMBERS

Jack Clark, 519th Quartermaster 1951-53
Walter J. Kern, Headquarters, 3rd Battalion 1951-53

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.