

508TH REUNION IN SEPTEMBER



DEVILS



DIGEST



May 2007

Vol. 2 No. 2

508th Reunion at Clarksville in September

The 508th Airborne Chapter Reunion will be held 27, 28, 29, and 30 September 2007. It will be at the Holiday Inn at 3095 Wilma Rudolph Boulevard, Clarksville, TN 37040. Make your reservations early; we are expecting more people than the hotel can hold. Make reservations at the hotel number, 931.648.4848, not the 800 number. Tell the hotel people you are attending the Red Devil Reunion or (Code RDR.) That way you will get the reduced rate. The 508th Reunion will be held in conjunction with the 320th AFA Association. Separate banquets will be held this year. The 508th Banquet will be held on Friday night at the hotel. The 320th Banquet will be held on Saturday night at the Hotel. You can attend both banquets if you belong to both associations. There will be an additional charge for the second banquet attended. A tour of Fort Campbell is planned for Friday, but is not yet finalized. A Picnic will be held on Saturday at the 101st Club which is out in the country. A Registration Form will be sent to Chapter Members by e-mail when reunion tours, events and plans are final.

This is an election year and there will be vacancies in the office of Chairman and Secretary. If you, or someone you would like to recommend will be available for either office please contact the secretary. We will announce all candidates in the August edition of the Devil's Digest.



Back of this photo annotated "November 1946 New York. 508 Deactivated at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey"
A more complete description of the WWII 508th PIR photo album is located on page two.

HISTORICAL DONATIONS ITEM #4

I got a call from Chapter All American Member Richard George of Birmingham, AL. and HHC, 508th ARCT in 1954-55. Richard spoke to retired MG George O. Pearson the third Commander of the 508th ARCT, who sent several historical items. Richard later delivered those historical documents to Jack Damron at a Reunion. Thank you Richard George, MG Pearson and Jack Damron. The fourth item I'll describe is a photo album. It is a treasure, 96 pages holding one to four photos each. There are approximately 340 pictures. The pics span the war years from Basic Training at Camp Blanding, Florida; to Jump School at Fort Benning, GA; to Camp Mackall, NC; to Ireland and Nottingham, England; to Normandy, France; to operation Market Garden in Holland; to the Ardennes; to Sissone, France; to Frankfurt, Germany and to the troopship docked at New York in 1946. There are 17 5" X 7" photos taken of the troopship at dockside. The decks are jampacked with troops in winter uniforms, Corcoran boots, airborne patch on the service caps and 82nd patch on the left shoulder of those wearing an overcoat. A very large sheet with a Red Devil identified as 508 Parachute hangs over the dockside rail. The majority of the remaining photos are 4" X 5" or 3" X 4". Some photos identify where the shot was taken or the names of the people depicted. In a few cases the activity or units involved are annotated on the back of the photos. One photo is on the front page, others follow.



508th Recruits Report to Camp Blanding, FL 1942



BG Howell, CG of 2nd Abn Bde Addresses 508th



Coffee and Donuts prior to Normandy Jump



Normandy Recon

“Operation Achilles” in Southern Afghanistan
U.S. CENTCOM COALITION BULLETIN
Story by Army Sgt. Tony J. Spain



Paratroopers from B Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division moves out on patrol into the Ghorak Valley of the Helmand Province in Southern Afghanistan, March 6. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Matthew T. Little)

KHANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — At the request of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's government, soldiers from NATO's International Security Assistance Force and the Afghan National Security Force launched a major operation targeting Taliban and drug traffickers in southern Afghanistan March 6. "Operation will focus on improving security in areas where Taliban extremist, foreign terrorists and [narcotics] traffickers are trying to destabilize the government of Afghanistan," said Dutch Maj. Gen. Van Loon, commander, Regional Command-South. "We also intend to empower village elders to take charge of their communities as they have been doing so in other parts of southern Afghanistan, without the influence of Taliban extremists," he said. Code named "Operation Achilles," the multi-national force operating in the northern region of the Helmand province involves 5,500 soldiers including, 1,000 soldiers from the Afghan National Security Force and up to 1000 Paratroopers from Fort Bragg's 82nd Airborne Division. The first elements of the operation reached their positions early March 6, said Van Loon. Paratroopers from the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, are also playing a key roll in "Operation Achilles." "Our Paratroopers coordinated a convoy and night air assault in the Ghorak Valley of the Helmand Province," said 1st Lt. Mathew Catalono, 1-508th PIR. "The main effort is actually the British; we are a supporting effort to help isolate and prevent Taliban from escaping," said Capt. Tom Reinner, 1-508th PIR. "This is the largest multi-national combined ANSF and ISAF operation launched to date and it signifies the beginning of a planned offensive to bring security to northern Helmand and set the conditions for meaningful development that will fundamentally improve the quality of life for Afghans in the area," Van Loon said. Although "Operation Achilles" focus is on improving security conditions, its overreaching purpose is to assist the government of Afghanistan in improving its ability to begin reconstruction and economic development in the area. "Strategically, our goal is to enable the Afghan government to begin the Kajaki Project," Van Loon said. Van Loon noted the Kajaki multi-purpose dam and power house will improve the water supply for local communities, rehabilitate irrigation systems for farmlands, as well as provide sufficient electrical power for residents, industries and commerce. Soldiers from the ANSF captured a high-ranking Taliban commander and suicide bomb attack facilitator during the second day of operation. Mullah Mahmood was arrested at an ANSF check point as he tried to escape dressed in a burka, a veil worn by Islamic woman here. "The capture of this senior Taliban extremist is another indicator that a more normal life is returning to the Zahre and Panjwai districts, and is a testament to the great work the ANA is achieving," Van Loon said. "Yesterday's security crackdown in Panjwai is an example of the ultimate goals of "Operation Achilles." With stability provided by the ANA, much needed reconstruction will commence for the people of southern Afghanistan," he added.

CHAPTER ASSISTANCE TO OUR TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN

Chapter Treasurer Frank Seif reports the following membership donations and transactions pertaining to assistance for our Red Devils in Afghanistan. To date, \$648.00 has been donated by our members. The 508th Chapter Chairman and Staff decided to donate \$1000.00 of our Chapter funds to this effort. So far a total of \$1648.00 has been sent to Ken Glynn for distribution to our troops. Donors please make checks payable to "508th Airborne Chapter" and annotate your check memo line "4th BCT Paratroopers". Donations should be directed to the Chapter Treasurer Frank Seif, PO Box 1462, Sun City AZ 85372-1462.

Chapter Quartermaster Ken Glynn reports sending 16 boxes to the 508th PIR / 4th BCT so far. Some have been for female troopers and have female identified on the label. Ken asks Chaplain Larry Pundt and troops that respond what they need or want. Ken said "Anything we can do for you over there let us know and if possible we of the 508th Airborne Chapter will send it". Ken and the Orlando Chapter have sent or are in the process of sending books, coffee cups, decals, DVD's, flags, magazines, patches, toiletries, T shirts, 508th and 82nd memorabilia and souvenirs. Ken assures them that we of the 508th Airborne Chapter are proud to send packages to our troopers in harms way. Ken also reports that Chaplain Larry Pundt is very positive and appreciative of our efforts for the troops. Ken goes on to say that sometimes the troopers are either real busy or possibly located in remote areas and may not have the means of replying back. Ken sends return envelopes with the packages he sends. Some troopers respond requesting books, magazines and DVD's for the most part. Ken honors their requests. Ken will keep sending the packages and keep us informed of the feed back from our paratroopers. Ken Glynn and the Orlando Chapter are spending a lot of time and effort and doing it right. Hooah and thank you from the 508th to Ken Glynn and the Orlando Chapter.

Chaplain Larry Pundt sent the following messages: Sir--Thanks so much for the latest care package. It's a constant challenge to keep our troopers stocked with necessities especially in remote locations. One of our Task Forces out of sector has been "in the bush" for a while and is now back at their static location. My assistant and I are going to see them at that location next week. We will take yours and others' packages as we have sent many from here. That RST is with NATO forces that don't take care of them nearly as well as we would. So, many thanks. You and your chapter's diligence is a HUGE blessing to those who are doing the dirtiest jobs. ALL THE WAY! Fury! Lar-- "You the man," Ken. Wow. Thanks. You all are absolutely blowing us away with your incredible support and loyalty to the AA. Peace...Lar-- Gosh, at least 16, Ken! Thank you. Mail gets here now within 5 days from the East Coast. No kidding. We're very Airborne appreciative! Blessings All The Way! Lar-- the regular flow of toiletries is wonderful. We have some FOBs that either have no PX or the PX is 3 shelves and is open 2 hours a week (for example). Deodorant and toothpaste are hot commodities especially for our heroes in those austere locations. We are constantly sending your packages on to those folks. They've been very well received. And we let them know, of course, that the source is not us but our good people of the 508th and Orlando Chapters. Thanks a bunch, Ken and Chapter members, you have already been a tremendous blessing and morale boost. Lar--

The 508th PIR / 4th BCT Regimental Sergeant Major left the following message on our Website Message Board: Greetings to all that have come before us! We strive to keep the "spirit" of the 508th alive and proud! As the Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the 4th BCT, 82nd Airborne Division, we are presently deployed to Afghanistan doing our duty all over the place. On behalf of the Brigade Commander, COL Martin Schweitzer, we want to thank each and everyone for your support of the troopers and the families of the 508th. Take care and God Bless!

A special thank you goes to All American Member, David J. Compton of Brewerton, New York and 3rd Battalion, 508th Airborne, Panama in 1966. Dave sent two large and beautiful coffee mugs. One has the 508th ARCT patch on the side. The other mug displays the 508th Red Devil under a parachute. It cost over \$5.00 just to mail each of these gifts. Your generous donations will be raffled off at the Clarksville Reunion to add to our Afghanistan Troop Assistance effort. Thanks again Dave.

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
508 AIRBORNE CHAPTER**

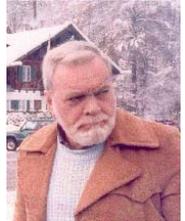


CHAIRMAN

Joe Montoya
62 Bel Air Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37042-4061
Tel: 931-552-0741
Email: redleg508@gmail.com

VICE-CHAIRMAN

David Burns
11744 Crooked lane
South Lyon, MI 48178-9398
Tel: 248-437-5370
Email: dburns5087736@sbcglobal.net



SECRETARY

Jim Lutes
307 Rio Pinar Drive
Ormond Beach, FL 32174-3707
Tel: 386- 673-7445
Email: jimlutes508@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Frank Seif
PO Box 1462
Sun City, AZ 85372-1462
Tel: 623-875-9016
Email: fes508@cox.net



WEBSITE & E MAIL

Ken Hamill
2207 Coventry Drive
Columbus, GA 31904-5034
Tel: 706-327-3207
Email: khamill@knology.net

QUARTERMASTER

Ken Glynn
836 Glendale Street
Lakeland, FL 33803-4122
Tel: 863-682-3382
Email: kglynn1@tampabay.rr.com



TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS RECENTLY DECEASED
Francis Ermence, All American, HQ&HQ Co 55-56 Kailua Kona, HI 12 Oct 2006
Cliff Villeneuve, All American, HQ1 51-53 Lisbon, NH
Fred Knise, A Co 51-53 Highland Beach, FL 13 Feb 2007
Harold Raines, 598th Engrs 51-53 Madison, GA
Gordon Schmauch, B/2, 71-83 Tacoma, WA
Delbert Finke, K Co 55-56 Coralville, IA 31 Nov 2006
Ken Bleecker, I Co 53-55 Largo, FL
Norman Grenier, K Co 53-55 South Norwalk, CT
John E. Davidson, H3 53-55 Clayton, DE 16 Apr 2007
James L. Adams, 598 Engrs 54-56, Gold Beach, OR 2007
Robert F. Schlesinger, Latham, NY 12 Apr 2007
Norman R. McLeod, HQ1 51-54 Scottsdale, AZ 15 July 2006

NOTE: The 508th Chapter received a thank you note from the Schlesinger family for our sympathy card.

NEW MEMBERS

Chester Hodgkiss, C/3 63-65, Oregon City, OR
Ralph Domjan, A Co 51-54, Melville, NY
Jack Unroe, HQ/2 54-56, Gallipolis, OH
Dave Crance, B Co 88-90, Quantico, VA

Bernard Tucker, I Co 52-53, Phila, PA
Henry Perkins, I Co 54-56, Harlingen, TX
Robert Johnson, F Co 54-56, Easton KS

NEW ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS

Al Vaitkus, Spt Co 55-56, Mission Viejo, CA
William Kirsch, H&H Co 53-55, Glassboro, NJ
John Greer, HQ/3 66-68, Kingsport, TN

David Burkman, A/3 68-69, Lancaster, CA
Delton Plunkett, B Co 53-56, Corinth, MS
Bill Chance, HQ/3 53-55, Olympia, WA

WHAT THE VA DOES RIGHT

BY BETSY McCAUGHEY, FROM BRUCE TYLER

This article has been edited. For the complete story go to the hyperlink in the bottom line. The average hospital patient is given the wrong medication or the wrong dose at least once a day, according to the Institute of Medicine, a research organization that advises Congress. The good news is that these mistakes are less likely to happen in a hospital run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Surprised? Recent news accounts might lead you to believe that VA hospitals are a national embarrassment. That may have been true at one time. Not any more. VA hospitals have undergone a remarkable turnaround in the last decade. On average, they earn higher marks for patient safety and quality of care than most other hospitals in America. The shameful conditions of Walter Reed, which is an Army hospital unaffiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs, have misled the public. The situation has been exacerbated by attacks from politicians in both parties who are excoriating the VA without knowing the facts. The VA system is well ahead of most hospitals in protecting patients from medication errors. How? By adopting bar coding. The nurse scans the barcode printed on the patient's bracelet, indicating the name and dose of each medication the patient should be getting. Then the nurse scans the barcode on the pre-packaged medication to make sure it's a match. Another new technology — computer physician order entry — is designed to stop doctors from prescribing the wrong medication. With CPOE, the doctor enters the prescription at a computer terminal instead of scribbling it on a pad. The computer is programmed to identify incorrect doses or a medication that conflicts with other meds the patient is already taking. If the computer sounds an alarm, the physician has to override it. In Australia, Great Britain, New Zealand, and much of Western Europe, hospitals have already adopted CPOE, but most American hospitals have resisted it. The exception is the VA hospital system, which has installed CPOE nationwide. The VA has also pushed ahead of most hospitals in America by investing in electronic medical records, allowing a patient's medical history to be accessed in a few seconds. The VA database is a resource for medical researchers and the envy of the private sector. The director of the National Center for Patient Safety at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. James Bagian, points out that the VA is ahead on a wide range of other safety initiatives. One is preventing injuries related to falls, by providing fragile patients with easy to wear padded hip protectors. Mr. Bagian is zealous about patient safety. He described the difficulties of getting older patients in and out of hip-protectors and the importance of preventing life-altering fractures. VA hospitals are also ahead of the industry in fighting one of the most feared, drug-resistant hospital infections, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA. In 2002, the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System launched a pilot program that reduced MRSA infections by a stunning 85%. How? By enforcing meticulous hand hygiene, screening to identify patients carrying the bacteria, and taking precautions to prevent the bacteria from spreading to other patients via gloves, wheel chairs, stethoscopes, nurses uniforms, and doctors' lab coats. Now the VA is instituting the same approach nationwide, including providing rapid MRSA testing equipment. Patients in VA hospitals are also more likely to receive optimal care than patients in other hospitals. In the late 1990s, the VA re-engineered its health care system using information technology to track and measure the care each patient was given. The result is significantly higher compliance with best practices. According to a study in the May 2003 edition of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, patients in VA hospitals, compared to Medicare-eligible patients in nongovernment hospitals, received better care in 12 out of 13 measures. Measures included care for diabetes, depression, congestive heart failure, and preventive cancer screenings. A RAND study of 12 VA hospitals published in 2004 in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* showed similar results, though it also found a higher mortality for coronary bypass procedures in those hospitals. Also, the Department of Veterans Affairs inspector general recently cited the James A. Haley Medical Center in Tampa, Fla., for serious shortcomings, and another report cited substandard conditions at the Nashville and Murfreesboro, S.C., facilities. Physical shortcomings aside, the VA delivers better care than most hospitals. It shouldn't be a surprise that the American Customer Service Satisfaction Index, based at the University of Michigan, shows that patients in VA hospitals are more satisfied with their care on average — 84% to 74% — than patients in private sector hospitals. Type this link into your browser: <http://www.nysun.com/article/51962>

CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

By Rodger Jacobson

Sgt Walter Ducharme HQ Btry 320th AFA 1955-56 had a personal Representative at the "Gathering of the Eagles" on 17 March. Walt's 22 year old Grandson Bobby went to Washington D.C. and did a Proxy run for all the 320th Field Artillery Troopers. The anti war protesters made a very small showing. Bobby sent this Photo Slideshow to Walt for all of us with Internet Service to enjoy. Type the following internet address into your browser: <http://s148.photobucket.com/albums/s38/GoE-Bux/>

MEMORIES OF A PARATROOPER BY JACOB (JACK) PANZER

A picture of Colonel Cleland Accepting the 508th A.I.R. Colors at the Activation Day Parade, May 1951 is in my possession. Every once in a while I would look at it and after 55 years still feel something. I was there; I was part of that historical scene. Before being drafted I was a pastry cook. When I volunteered for Airborne, surprisingly I was encouraged to be a baker. Baking nights in the mess hall for Hq Co, 1st Battalion. I met many officers coming in to ask, "Jack, can you make me a sandwich please". Some might remember. I remember the next morning after baking the first night. I was lying in my upper bunk, while all the other men were outside for roll call. The CO. and first sergeant were inspecting the barracks, the C.O. spots me with my eyes closed (I was not asleep). He says to the First Sergeant," What the f__k is he doing there". The First Sergeant answers, "He's the new company baker". The C.O. replies "*Shhh, Don't wake him up.*" I remember the trip to San Angelo, Texas for Operation Longhorn. We went by truck convoy. I would bake, help the cooks serve breakfast, and make roast beef sandwiches for lunch. We had a great mess sergeant, Sgt. Roy, who would buy fresh fruit and vegetables from the farms along the route. I remember crossing the Mississippi River for the first and only time. I remember having a lucky run at poker, sending half home to my lovely bride Barbara, in cash - the other half I lost back. I remember the first day in San Angelo. It hailed as big as golf balls. We dived under the trucks. The region was in a drought for about 10 years. The farmers were burning the needles off the cactus to feed the cattle. Over three thousand troops who had just gotten paid which included the extra fifty-dollar jump pay arriving into town was a welcome event. {I was in that infamous "Jump"} San Angelo in the Texas pan handle as it is called was a dry town - no saloons, no bars - I was and still am not a drinker, maybe a beer. One day, two of my buddies and I walking in town met a very friendly man (they were all friendly) invited us up to his hotel room and offered us whiskey. He was the "Town Sheriff" — *True Story*. November 15, 1951, I was married in New York on furlough. Two of my buddies in uniform were there and signed the marriage certificate as witnesses, William E. Hams and James Graham. I remember living in town with my bride. (Columbus, GA - Phenix City was just over the bridge). We became very friendly with the family of Jerome and Pauline Spandoffer. Many troopers may remember them as Paul Jerome Jewelers. They had an Army Navy Store, a Jewelry Store and a Jewelry counter at the famous bus station. Ah, yes, I remember it well - Thanks for giving me the pleasure to commit some of these fond memories to paper. Jacob (Jack) Panzer



ALL American Life Members.....	313
Annual Members.....	110
Affiliate Members.....	15

Chapter Medical Reports

Victor Moruzzi had his leg amputated in January 2007 caused by blood clots.

508th Airborne Chapter Membership Application

Please PRINT and COMPLETE all items. Make checks payable to: 508th AIRBORNE CHAPTER

Mail to: 508th AIRBORNE CHAPTER P.O. BOX 1462, SUN CITY AZ, 85372-1462

All American (Life \$100 over 50; \$150 under 50); Annual (\$15); ** Affiliate (\$8);

Reinstatement (\$15)

Please circle one of the above

Last Name: _____, First: _____ MI: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ - _____

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail: _____

Married _____ Wife's Name _____ Children _____ Occupation _____

508th Service From _____ / _____ / _____ to _____ / _____ / _____ (Month/Day/Year)

Unit: Company: _____ Battery: _____; Battalion _____,

508, 320 AFA, 427 AAA, 519 QM, 598 Eng.
(Circle One)

** AFFILIATES ONLY, please complete: I am a Member of the _____ Chapter of the
82nd Abn Div Assn, I DO / DO NOT wish to transfer to the 508th Abn Chapter.

Signature: _____

Mail To: 508th Airborne Chapter, P.O. Box 1462, Sun City, AZ 85372-1462

Name _____	Address _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____

Quartermaster Sales Form----(Members Only)

Complete this form and mail your check payable to Kenneth Glynn along with your name and address in the box above to: Ken Glynn, 836 Glendale St., Lakeland, FL. 33803-4122. Please include shipping and handling charges in the amount column to the right of each item ordered.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE (CIRCLE)	COST	SHIPPING/HANDLING	AMOUNT
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo, Embroidered		One size fits all	\$14.50	\$1.50 Each	
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo Screened		One size fits all	\$12.00	\$1.50 Each	
Sweatshirt, Grey, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 +\$2 Ea additional	
Sweatshirt, White, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 +\$2 Ea additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, Chap Logo Embroidered		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$1.Ea Additional	
Patch, 508 th Abn Chapter (See 1, below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 508 th ARCT (See 1, below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, Para Red Devil (See 1, below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 320 th Abn FA Bn			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Pin, 508 th ARCT			\$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			\$3.00	No Charge	

TOTAL \$

<p>* Add an additional \$2.00 for each X above XL (XXXL size is a special order) 1. All patches can be purchased for 3 for \$15.00 + Shipping and Handling. PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY</p>
