

Knights of the Roundtable

# LancerS

Volume 7 Issue 2

B Co 158 Avn Bn 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div

Apr/May/June 2006

## Lancer Huey 67-17650



Picture courtesy of Tommy Taylor; Nose Art courtesy of Brian Bailey

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## Editorials

by Lanny Ruck President and Dana Lane S/T



### President's Message

#### Lanny at Quang Tri

I hope everyone is still well and happy as we enter the second half of 2006 and that SOMEONE (?) has plans to attend the last reunion next week in Minneapolis/St. Paul? Actually, the following are currently scheduled to be in MSP for the 61<sup>st</sup> 101<sup>st</sup> Reunion August 2-6: Myself, Betsy and Dana Lane with one to three guests, Russ and Dorothy Balisok, Terry Kaufman, Clarence Confer, and Margaret and Paul Cole. Any others are more than welcome and would be a nice surprise? The Unit dinner is currently scheduled for Thursday evening (location as yet determined) and the business meeting will be at 9 AM Saturday in whatever room the Aviation Unit meeting is in that starts at 9:30.

My erratic performance regarding the Newsletter continues as evidenced by the lateness of it's arrival. However, I would point out that we needed some pictures from the VHPA and VHCMA to make a full issue. In that regard, we don't have any pictures from the VHCMA in that we only know of three attendees: Steve Plyman, Roger Olson, and Terry Willman. Steve didn't get any pictures nor did he see Roger or Terry; I have a phone message in to Terry in hopes of any pictures and/or a report before I finish this newsletter . . . ah . . . probably about 10 hours from now given my computer expertise? Suffice to say the format will again be the same as the first quarter because Word Perfect for Dummies is my only present option.

You will find a complete report of the VHPA meeting and plenty of pictures from that reunion within this newsletter. A reminder right now that the next VHPA will be in Tucson, AZ in the first week of July so please make plans to attend. While very expensive for events, the VHPA Reunion is a great time and always well run with terrific attendance (over 2700 with family members in Washington, DC)!

Ken Prater is our newest Yahoo Group member and the group is now at 93. Of course the newsletter is on our Lancer Homepage for those with computers and the mailed copy is strictly sent to those Lancers who do not have internet capability. It occurred to me that perhaps the off line Lancers may be interested in what type of dialog goes on within the Yahoo Group so I have decided

to pick a specific topic and share emails regarding the topic. While not every email could be included, the bulk of them are and they involve the future of Lancer Huey 67-17650 which is the lead picture from page one. Should any of you without internet capability have any interesting stories or information about 650, just send a letter to me and I will be happy to share it with the group. In addition to these type discussions is always the normal communications, i.e., jokes, wisdom, questions, mini reunions, VA information, video clips, food for thought, puzzles, games, and occasionally . . . a little ribbing? Of course, I pride myself in not participating in such childish pursuits . . ., and in being a habitual liar!!! (hehe)

Word from Dennis Sousa's son Daniel is the MDL are scheduled to arrive home on or about August 25; the Lady Lancer site indicated their site will close down on August 18 and does have some information on their redeployment to Ft. Campbell absent a final arrival date. I have sent Becki Gaston and Gina Nicolao an email request for information as soon as possible in case any of our members nearby want to welcome them when they get off the plane (JD did this during their last return). I have also asked for information on the homecoming party and when they would like our check to support that function. I will share any response IF I get it before I complete the newsletter.

As always, it goes without saying that I appreciate every Lancer and special thanks to the many who give so frequently to our Association. I look forward to seeing a few of you next week in MSP and everyone else next year when you decide it is finally time to make a reunion before you are too old to have a good time while there! The homepage has email addresses for your Association Officers and should you not be on-line, you may contact me at 915-565-9741 (please leave a message IF you get an answering machine and realize I listen to my messages at least once every two or three days . . . kinda like my email! Your Officers are also listed on the back page of this Newsletter! Everyone hang in there and always have a nice day!

Lanny Ruck - Lancer 13 - 1970-71

### Report from the Secretary-Treasurer

Dana and Betsy Lane

Dana, Betsy and some guests will be at MSP next week!

Hey Dana, why didn't one of us think to name a daughter . . . Liz! (hehe)



Hi Lanny,

Here is the S/T report. Really not much to report as only \$110 has come in year to date. \$100 in donations and a \$10 order for patches. No expenses have been submitted for payment. There must be some postage and newsletter expenses that should be submitted for reimbursement.

The cash in checking has a balance of \$1,651.92 as of June 22, 2006.

Two new lancers have joined the Association, Bruce R. Beban and Ken Prater.

If you need more let me know.

Dana

## A future for Lancer Huey 67-17650?

As stated in my P's message, I'm going to place correspondence concerning the above subject matter so those of you who are not on-line can have some idea of what goes on within the Yahoo email Group. I will start with the email I received from Bill Rogerson on 5/31/06 and do my best to place things in the order they were received albeit not all emails may be included. A picture or two may be included as well as a webpage (one can always go to any Public Library and ask for help in accessing any particular address!).

Lance, I recieved a email from Frank Tresenrider with the Wings and Rotors Air Museum, Murrieta, Ca. He was with Kingsmen AHC 68-69. They have a chance to get 67-17650 to restore, it is flyable with a little work. The museum is asking if the Lancers org. would be willing to collect and donate money to restore it. They are considering another helicopter 808 from the 118 AHC. The decision hasn't been made yet as to which they will choose. He stated that if we were willing to help raise money to restore 67-17650 it may tip the scales toward 650. There website is [www.wingsandrotors.org](http://www.wingsandrotors.org). Let me know what you think. Take care. Bill Rogerson

Flight: Just received this from Bill Rogerson . . . he did not indicate the missive was personal or confidential . . . so I am sharing it with you for your thoughts. Ah . . . haven't even checked to see if Bill is on Yahoo (don't ever remember hearing from him before?) nor whether 67-17650 was ever in our inventory or even that of the Kingsmen? I'm all for restoring any Vietnam helicopter if I get a "little stick time" . . . no 25' hovering autos . . . I

promise . . . but I don't think I'm interested in any bidding war? 118 AHC???? The CAV??? The only nightmares I have about Vietnam are winning \$20 at the pool table and the guy, as he hands me the twenty, says in a whinny voice: "IF YOU AIN'T CAV; YOU AIN'T SHIT"! I always awake then and realize it's just a recurring nightmare . . . hell, IF it actually happened I would have said: Why Thank you, I think that is a double negative and grammatically incorrect . . . have a nice day! (hehe)

While I think our funds are sound, we do have a commitment to the FRG for \$1000 for the B/5/101 homecoming this fall . . . I think we should handle that before anything else as an Association. Ah . . . please give all you can to the below fund . . . right after you have donated a like amount to Our Association! Lanny - 13. PS: Bill: nice to hear from you . . . hope you are well and happy? Are you on Yahoo? I will view their website this weekend when I have some free time; don't take my comments too seriously. . . ah . . . I drink a lot and am frequently incoherent!

From: [Gary Bowman](mailto:Gary.Bowman@yahoogroups.com)

To: [Lancers B Co 158th Avn Bn@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Lancers_B_Co_158th_Avn_Bn@yahoogroups.com)

Sent: Thursday, June 01, 2006 8:41 AM

Subject: Re: Fw: helicopter 67-17650

Lanny,

I am biased on this one, but one of our own, 69-15140, is in Everett, WA being restored for the Museum Of Flight in Seattle. It will never fly again, but if the association should donate any funds towards a restoration project, it should be one of our own.

GB (Gary Bowman)

Re: Fw: helicopter 67-17650

67-17650, according to the data provided by Gary Roush, was a Lancer bird.

<http://thelancers.org/ACdatabase/67-17650.HTM>

w2 (Walter White)

Well . . . according to the link WW just sent, 17650 was ours? We got anybody who remembers this incident and/or was involved? IMWTK. Ah . . . perhaps IF they get this done, we could sneak over one night and change that white diamond to a white circle? (hehe) Lanny

Re: Fw: helicopter 67-17650

Russ and Reggie could take it out of the hanger, fly to Arizona get Bob and WF to have a full crew, then just keep headin east over IH 10 pickin up Lancers as they went along.

w2

Lanny...

650 was definitely one of ours and was in the initial series. I'm not sure who it was assigned to, but Fort, Eisenhower and Kroese (who I think had 652, now that I think more about it) flew it regularly.

I agree we should focus on FRG and the homecoming expenses, before looking to 650, however.

Russ (Russ Balisok)

Well if I remember correctly 650 was parked on the flight line right behind 684 down in the hole. I believe there is a picture of it with the words "For Sale" on the nose.

Dennis (Dennis Sousa)

Lanny, Russ

I agree we should not let the aircraft become our first priority. Besides as old as we all getting we will a step-letter just to get our foot high enough to put it on the toe of the skid let alone the contortions that will be needed to pull our jockey shorts out the crack in our fat ass just to strap in. Hell we ain't even fired up this beast and I am ready for a nap!

Bob (Bob Stroud)

67-17650 was ours I was the her C.E. from may 69 on. Here are a couple of pictures taken of her from may to july 69. (Tommy Taylor)



684: Thanks . . . who are you? I guess I've had another alcohol induced brainfart . . . I couldn't find you in the directory . . . possibly another brainfart? Give me a clue at least? But you (and others) are definitely right, 650 was definitely ours! I had a call from Brian Bailey (Lancer 33) last night and he said he was sure it was the aircraft he put a "For Sale" sign on, had seen the picture on our homepage before but couldn't open it now.

Flight: Brian has come through his surgery fine but had a "minor" stroke while recovering at the hospital. It must have been minor as he sounded great and very loose . . . ah . . . lucid - Yea, that's the ticket. He was going to do some research of his own and get back with me . . . hopefully he will do it in an email to the group.

Russ: Thanks, ah . . . they pay me the "big bucks" for my office and my ability to "speculate" on any issue and attempt to get others to speculate also!

Bob: Ah . . . hell. . . perhaps 650 could give you a "sling load" ride while you nap . . . best of both worlds? (hehe) Going to Tucson June 15th thru 17th for some golf . . . available to any and all in the evening for dinner any of those nights . . . hell, come over Saturday and we can watch the big fight . . . Wright v. Taylor I think?

WW: Brian said he thought 650 was the one he had a caution light on and landed somewhere in the flats . . . they fixed it or at least found they could fly it back to Evans (can't remember . . . it was yesterday); he tried Bill R's link to the California group but said it wouldn't open . . . anybody else tried it?

HITHAND - Lanny PS: Thanks to anyone else who answered concerning 650, ah . . . I thought Brian's For Sale sign was pretty snazzy . . . indicative of a "big tool and dye guy" and Poet Lariat! (hehe)

Lan,

I lost track again...to where do we donate \$ to the Lancer's Association?

...and is my question grammatically correct?

aa (Andy Archer)

Lance

I just tried the Wings and Rotors web site and it was working fine.

Tom Taylor

Russ,

You are right about 652 belonging to Jerry Kroese and WGW. I wish I could remember our DG and Crew Chief. How's your memory on that?

WGW (Glen Weeks)

Howdy,

I was crew chief on 650, right after Don Turney. The last I saw of that ship was right after I got hit Feb. 18 1971 on fire base ranger near Khe San, full of holes but still flying. Holger Renken

Hi Russ;

Close, but my first was 67-17654 with Ed Ellison as Chief.

Ken (Kenneth Fort)

67-17650 Lam Son Incident

According to records from the archives on Lam Son 719, aircraft 650, on Feb 18, 1971, suffered major damage in Laos from a mortar. At 1530 hours damage was suffered on landing at 5 feet at zero airspeed at grid coordinates 591515.

John Donaldson Lancer 14

John...I remember an a/c (don't know for sure if it was 650) getting hit going into Ranger North. I believe the mortar went off at about the 8 O'clock position and did considerable damage to the a/c. I remember the crew and maintenance counted well over 100 holes in the left side of the a/c. At the time, both Ranger North and South were under heavy attack by NVA forces to include T-51 tanks doing pedal turns in the perimeter wire. Although, I sometimes wonder if I have all the facts right after 35 years. Is there anyone else out there that remembers this incident in Lom Son. Also, how do you get to the archives? Don Pipes

A lady walks into a drug store and tells the pharmacist she needs some cyanide. The pharmacist said, "Why in the world do you need cyanide?"

The lady then explained she needed it to poison her husband. The pharmacist's eyes got big and he said, "Lord have mercy, I can't give you cyanide to kill your husband! That's against the law! I'll lose my license, they'll throw both of us in jail and all kinds of bad things will happen! Absolutely NOT! You CANNOT have any cyanide!"

Then the lady reached into her purse and pulled out a picture of her husband in bed with the pharmacist's wife. The pharmacist looked at the picture and replied, "Well now, you didn't tell me you had a prescription."

Just a test to see IF you are paying attention? (hehe)

I remember George McInnis and Rusty Myers getting injured when their aircraft was on the ground delivering ammo and a mortar round landed nearby. George had a minor head/eye injury and Rusty took some shrapnel to his lower leg. I don't remember the LZ but I remember picking them up. Somewhere I have a picture of them in the back of my aircraft. I think I was with Capt. Kain but it's been a long time and I'm not sure.

Terry Kaufman

Holger,

Do you remember more details? Were you on 650 when you got hit on Ranger? Was it a mortar? Do you remember the crew?

John Donaldson Lancer 14

Don,

There is no internet connection to the archives that I got this information from. I ordered it back in the nineties from the National Archives on paper. It was about 200 pages of crap with about 30 pages of meaningful data. It was 25 cents per page and I think it has gone up to 50 cents per page now.

Maybe I should take the time to enter the meaningful data. I have talked about it a lot, but haven't done it.

John Donaldson Lancer 14

John, I was the CE in the aircraft at that time. You've got everything right except the time, it was about 1000 hrs. Maybe that was the time it was recorded. A mortar landed on both sides of the aircraft, I got hit, blew the watch off of my left wrist ( 3 tendons, 2 nerves and one artery), a smaller wound on my left forearm and several cut on my legs. Also split the soles on both my boots. The gunner got a small cut on his forehead as far as I know. They dropped me at an aid station, there was a blur of several hospitals and one RPG attack and I was in Japan, 2 weeks later I was at Great Lakes Naval Base.

In a prior writing I stated that I was with Don Turney on 650 but after some thought I think I was a gunner for Don on 657 before getting assigned to 650 as crewchief, don't know who had it before me. Holger Renken

Flight,

I've been away for a while and haven't read all the thread, but 650 was one of ours. It was the bird Capt Waller used as maintenance and recovery bird. He dragged some

of us out of a couple of nasty areas in it when we were on recoveries.

I was fill in cc for a couple months during 1970. Ralph Furulli later become her crew chief

BP (Bruce Pussey)

Pig, Why don't you write down everything, as a diary, log, memoirs, book..? I have followed this Lancer circle for a few years, and I have followed you, as your old friend (remember visiting Yazoo Co.?) As a contributor to the discussions. You've done your research, you have the formal education, and, by the way, we entered the cockpit at Camp Evans at the same date, roomed next door in the hootch, and flew into hell and back as AC's....., and D-Ros'd at the same time.

Anyway, Old Crow tells me to shut up. It's 1940hrs. Proud to have known you, and want to hear from you. Jerry- 51 (Jerry Horne)

Flight: The first bad news in I will be unable to get out the 2d quarter newsletter until the week of July 10th. I was going to do an abbreviated 10 pager concentrating on Huey 17650 (thanks for the resend of the photo, Dennis - the dummy has saved it now!) and a few VA articles but have decided to wait so I can put pictures from the VHCMA (Steve Plyman???) and the VHPA (I'll get those). I leave tomorrow early for a week with the family!

The second bad news is that we had to put Whiskers to sleep yesterday after 13 years . . . failing kidneys. The girls took it pretty hard and I'm taking it even harder. I guess if there is any consolation, she only suffered about an hour and John Don won't be forced to view her private parts in future Xmas pictures . . . ah . . . not sure why he was focusing there in the first place? Petophile? (HeHe)

The good news is Dana reports we have \$1651.92 in our funds which is enough to give our homecoming party gift to the FRG and take care of the next newsletter with 3 or 4 hundred left over. I'll be changing my email preference to on-line later tonight so you only have about 10 or 12 hours to screw with me before I'm out of the AO until July 7! (hehe) HITHAND - Lanny - 13. PS: GB: Do I need to call you and tell you what we shot in the Golf Scramble . . . or can you wait until I return? IMWTK? PPS: Yo . . . Horney . . . don't give JD too big a head with all those compliments . . . albeit . . . we could all use a "little" head once in a while!

Ah . . ., this obviously concluded the email thread about Lancer Huey 67-17650; newsletter by July 10? Did I mention I was a habitual liar and a procrastinator? Do YOU have any information about 650? Send it to me and I will share it with the Group. Better yet, now that you

see how stimulating the discussion is, just go out and get a computer and enter the 20<sup>th</sup> century; it only hurts for a little while! Hell, IF you absolutely can't join us on Yahoo, the least you can do is make a reunion next year.

### *61<sup>st</sup> 101<sup>st</sup> Reunion in Minneapolis*

Minneapolis, known as the "Land of 10,000 Things to do" is the perfect location for the 2006 Reunion. The "Twin Cities" of Minneapolis & St. Paul share the Mississippi River however, they have very little else in common. Minneapolis has its tall, sophisticated, buildings and big city lights, while St. Paul offers fairytale turrets and old fashioned street lamps. These two cities offer world class attractions including, art galleries, award winning theatre, historical sites, many restaurants and wonderful shopping. There is no tax in Minneapolis on many items including Books, Shoes, Clothing, etc. so prepare to save!

Your reunion begins with a casual reception at the hotel on Wednesday evening; this will be a wonderful chance to catch up with your friends. Reunion tours begin on Thursday; you will be thrilled, charmed, and entertained at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre, the nation's largest professional dinner theatre, and the largest restaurant in the state of Minnesota. The Minneapolis/St. Paul City tour on Friday will feature some of the city's oldest neighborhoods, historic Fort Snelling, the Governor's Mansion, State Capitol building, and Saint Paul Cathedral. Saturday, don't miss the opportunity to tour the Wabasha Street Caves, learn about famous gangsters like John Dillinger, and see where they hid while plotting their next crime. The historic Riverfront Area and the Mill City Museum will bring history to life. This reunion will offer an unforgettable visit to one America's best loved cities, and give you memorable experiences to share with family and friends.

The official reunion dates are from Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Rooms are being held for those of you would like to arrive earlier. You will be staying at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel—Minneapolis South which is located at 7800 Normandale Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55439. The Sheraton Bloomington is in close proximity to many of the areas top attractions. You can visit the hotel website by clicking on the picture to the right.

This full service hotel offers many amenities including a fitness center, an indoor pool, 2 full service restaurants, a lounge, as well as room service. For those of you driving to the reunion, the hotel offers plenty of complimentary parking. If you are flying the hotel offers complimentary shuttle service to the surrounding area and Minneapolis International Airport (MSP).

The room rate is just \$99.00 plus tax per night. Please make your hotel reservations TODAY by calling the hotel directly at 952-835-7800 between 9-4 pm CST and ask for in-house reservations. Mention that you are with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Reunion to assure you get the special room rate. You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (handicap accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 3:00pm. Please don't expect to get into your room before then.

Make your hotel reservations NOW! You may cancel your hotel room later (up until 72 hours before arrival) and not be charged. Due to the popularity of this city the hotel will sell out fast, so don't get left out by waiting too long. We have a limited number of rooms and may not be able to get additional rooms. You must call by July 1, 2006 to receive this guaranteed rate.

For driving directions please ask the hotel when you make your reservation or [Click Here](#) for map directions.

Travel safely and we will see you in Minneapolis!

Just thought I would throw this in again for any who might make a last second decision to join us in MSP! While the hotel is now sold out, there are other hotels in the immediate area. As we will have our business meeting in MSP, here again are the minutes from the last meeting in Tampa Bay.

#### Annual Meeting of the Lancer Association Minutes 13 August 2005

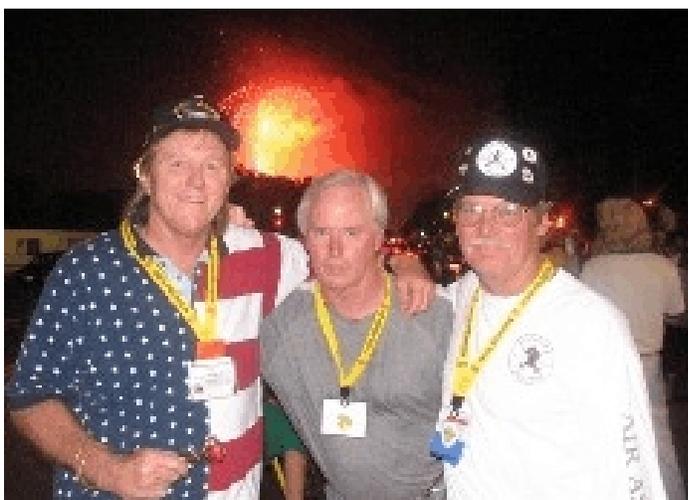
1. Meeting was called to order at 1100 hrs.
2. Invocation was delivered by Chas Grabon
3. Roll call of officers was taken:
  - a. President, Lancer Ruck, present.
  - b. Vice-President, Walt White, not present.
  - c. Secretary-Treasurer, Dave Mussey, present.
  - d. Member attendees: Don Pipes, Chas Grabon, Rick Bergquist, Bill Rogerson, and Bill Griffith.
4. Dave read the minutes of 2004. Motion to accept the minutes as read by Chas G., second by Bill G.. Vote approved.
5. The Secretary-Treasurer report was given by Dave. Motion to accept was made by Bill R., second by Rick B.. Vote approved.
6. Committee Reports. None
7. Old business. An update on the status of the brick program was reported by Dave. All Lancers are accounted for, including the MDL. Dave had reported that he has had no luck in finding someone to lead the scrapbook project. Rick B. volunteered to tackle the job and was given some of the Lancer items to begin with. We still haven't found a good way to identify any Lancers in need of assistance to attend a reunion. We will still continue the effort though. The store is currently low on items but the association will do restocking of the items in demand soon.

8. New business. Nominations were opened from the floor for last minute nominee names for the offices of president, vice-president and secretary-treasurer. No additional name given, the slate stood at Lancer Ruck for president, Walt White for Vice-president and with Dave Mussey withdrawing, Dana Lane for secretary-treasurer. By a unanimous decision these candidates were all elected. A letter was read from Walt Fuller nominating Don 'Doc' LaRue to be an honorary Lancer for his support to the Lancers and 101st Airborne Division during his tour in Iraq. Motion by Bill G. to accept the nomination, second by Bill R. and accepted into the Lancers approved by all present. A discussion ensued about giving our support to the 101st Airborne Association in the form of encouraging membership of Lancers to the larger association. We will continue to provide our members, who wish, the info they need to join the 101st Airborne Association.

9. Communication. None

10. Motion to adjourn was made and accepted. Meeting adjourned at 1200 hrs.

Do you remember reading about the "BIG Party" in Washington, DC in the last newsletter? Well, it was really big with over 2700 Pilots, family, and friends . . . the largest VHPA Reunion to date and it was a Terrific time!



L to R: Rick Siler (Ghost rider), Bob Furiagh (Musket), and Lanny Ruck (Lancer 13) on the Mall in Washington, DC for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display over the Washington Monument. Rick was a classmate of Chas Grabon and Bob went to flight school and roomed with me at Ft. Rucker with two others.

**The 2006 VHPA Reunion in DC!**

Agggggggg! Damn ^\*&%\*^ (& computers!

When I went to add the remaining pictures here I began getting an "unknown file format" message . . . something to do with my caApp or something . . . seems strange it did the last picture but won't do any more? I tried the only thing I know . . . turn it off, wait 10 minutes (20 if you smoke a cigar and have a few glasses of wine), cross your fingers, turn it back on, and pray! \*^%\*&(& didn't work. Ergo, since I need to get this out NOW, the pictures must be omitted and I am going to make this a one stamp edition (10 pages folded without an outside mailing envelope). The reason is I want this to arrive on the first or second of August so some you in within a 3 to 500 mile radius might take a ride up for a day and meet some fellow Lancers . . . I'll buy! Call me on my cellular at 915-491-5685. Certainly I'm going to call Glen Anderson at the current number I have from the 2003 directory since he lives in Minneapolis!

However, there is some very good news that also needed to be in this edition in case any of you wanted to join us for the welcome home party for the Modern Day Lancers. I have just received this from Becki Gaston:

Hello,

Its wonderful to hear from you! I mailed you a few months ago and never heard back- so I was afraid that we had lost contact. I feel awful that we have not communicated more this deployment; I have just been so busy! I have a 15 month old son and a NEW baby girl, that is only 8 weeks old! So as you can imagine my days are fairly busy.

All that aside we have finally been able to begin working on the welcome home party! We are all so excited about it; Gina and I have wanted to let you guys know sooner what our plans were for the Welcome Home party- but until our last FRG meeting nothing had been decided, in fact for the past 3 meetings things have changed from one idea to another. We (MANY women) were finally able to reach a decision that everyone was happy with last time. As I believe Gina emailed you last night, we plan to do it at Beachaven Winery on Friday October, 27th. Someone suggested to me yesterday that rather than calling it a welcome home we should call it a LANCER family reunion! I thought that was cute and will present it as an idea at our next meeting, which is mid August.

With everyone coming home at different times and dates, and not knowing WHEN, and then block leave, plus the fact that they will eventually have to go down to port to fly the helo's back- there is just no time sooner then October to do it. We all wish it could be closer to their arrival, but its so hard to plan something without knowing dates. We are hearing that the majority of our soldiers will be home late August, but no specific dates have been mentioned- probably because they

would just change anyways! We do have a couple due home in a few days, and a small group coming around the first or second week of August, but I believe that the majority of our company will not be till the last week or 2 of August. As time draws closer and we hear things Gina and I will keep you in the loop to the best of our ability. We are only receiving phone calls 24-48 hours before their arrival. We have been told that only after the plane has left Kuwait is when we will get a call letting us know that they will be to Ft Campbell within 24 to 48 hours.

As far as the donation check goes, I will let Gina handle that! She is our finances lady and does a great job. We appreciate your guys' generosity more than I can say! Thank You does NOT begin to express our thanks! That and your support and willingness to be here for our soldiers when they arrive is very admirable and sweet. I know the guys look up to you men who came before them. We as wives appreciate you also, because without your sacrifices and service we would not be where we are today. So thank you on behalf of all of us- words just can not say enough!

I hope all is well with everyone there- we are all fine and getting more anxious everyday. We are all ready to put this deployment behind us and move on with our lives as FAMILIES!

I hope this information was helpful and I also hope to hear back from you! Let me know if there is anything I can do to help you guys get here, find hotels, or whatever you guys may need. Our website has a list of local hotels, but I would be willing to help further- if anyone needs picked up from the airport I know we can arrange that as well.

Thank You again for your support! I look forward to meeting you- if you would like to give me a call sometime so we can talk in greater depth please feel free to do so! XXXX\*- I would love to chat with you and get a better feel of what we can do to help you guys be here. Or if you want to email me your number I can call you too.

Thanks again- gotta run and feed the baby!

Hugs Becki Gaston

\* I have removed Becki's number as this ends up on our Lancer Homepage (eventually?) wherein anyone can see it. I have just had a phone conversation with her to insure it was OK to place her email within the newsletter.

**Lancer Family Reunion Oct. 27, 2006!  
at the Beachaven Winery!!!**

Ah . . . I don't think I could have picked a better location myself (hehe). Please let me know as early as possible IF you plan to attend; this will be a great homecoming party for the MDL returning from their second tour in Iraq.

## VA Information

While I have 3 or 4 articles from Dave for this edition of the Newsletter, that was when it was going to be a full 20 pages and is no longer possible. Of course, the Lancers on line are all well aware of the VA and what services and benefits are available. WE want those who are not on line to also be aware, particularly IF YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TO THE VA OR CONSIDERED FILING A CLAIM FOR BENEFITS. Here is a recent email from Walt Fuller that I think pertinent:

My Lancer Brothers...

Received the good news this evening of a 100% victory in the case of fellow Lancer Door Gunner, George Lewis vs The Bureaucratic Machine. Bill Potteet and I took up the fight for George around the beginning of the year and were assisted with documentation and letters from several other Brother Lancers.

Take your hats off to "Wild Bill" Potteet. His efforts and dedication were paramount in winning the claim for George's benefits.

We are Lancers and we take care of our fellow Lancers !!!! No stopping until we all have the benefits we earned so many years ago. Together we can do it.

WF Lancer 565

Way to go Walt and Bill! There are plenty of Lancers who are more than willing to help you with any questions you may have about the VA; all you need to do is contact one of us . . . Hell, come see me in MSP and I can give you information directly! (hehe) Seriously, IF you have never been to the VA, you owe it to yourself and family to go - END OF STORY!!



## LancerS

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whomever we can get to do it, right now it's  
your President!

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If you have any questions or comments concerning this Newsletter or any other matters concerning the Lancer Association, feel free to contact any of the Officers above.

IF you would like to make a donation to the Lancer Association simply send it to Dana Lane at the above address. Any donation is tax deductible.

Also remember that we have various Lancer items in our company store that are available for purchase. And ALWAYS remember to Hang in There and Have a Nice Day!!!

If you feel you are receiving this Newsletter in error or do not want to receive this Newsletter in the future, please call the P's number on page 9. You may call collect if you desire to be removed from the mailing list!



