



ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH

ACADIANA CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEETS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, 415 ROBLEY DR. LAF, LA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

(337) 684-6175 or Cell (337) 288-2730

2424 Pierre Matte Road, Branch, LA 70516

THE AUG MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY AUG 4TH IT WILL BE HELD AT BUILDING D AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, IN LAFAYETTE, LA BEGINNING AT 1030 HRS. WE WILL MEET IN BLD D.

CHAPTER WORKING ON A TRIP TO FT. BENNING TO THE JUMP SCHOOL.

The Chapter voted to work on another trip to Ft. Benning, GA to visit the Jump School. We did this twice in the past. We traveled there in 2013 and 2014. Once the Jump School cadre approves it, we will follow the schedule of our previous trips. Travel to Ft. Benning on a Tuesday. Visiting the school Wed, Thursday and Friday and travel home on Saturday. We will group up in POV's and stay (hopefully) on post. On our previous trips we were given a welcome briefing by the 507th (Jump School Cadre), and escorted around the training area. We observed the trainees doing the things we did including going out the DZ to observe their jumps. On Friday we will observe

the graduation ceremony and pin wings on those graduates who do not have family members there to do it. It is quite an honor. In addition to this, we ate meals in the mess hall.

ACADIANA CHAPTER'S 38TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019 AT CHEF ROY'S.

We will conduct our 38th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday January 19, 2019 at Chef Roy's restaurant in Rayne, LA. In communicating with the PAO office at Ft. Polk, I am told that tentatively the Post Garrison Commander Colonel Thomas is slated to be our guest speaker. I have not confirmed the menu or costs yet, but will put that out along with a meal form as soon as possible. I request that you make a real attempt to attend this annual function. We normally have our best Chapter turnout for this event. Please come out, meet your fellow "Airborne" veterans, and enjoy some real camaraderie with those who shared the same experiences.

DEPLOYMENT OF 3RD BDE OF THE 82ND TO VIETNAM

The communist Tet offensive began January 30, 1968. In response to this, the 3rd Brigade of the 82nd Airborne Division left for Vietnam on 14 February 1968. It took more than 155 C-141 flights and six C-133 Cargomaster planes to move the entire brigade to Vietnam. The move was so swift it caught American military officers in Vietnam off guard.

When the division landed at Chu Lai Air Base at 11A.M. on 15 Feb., installation officials had to scramble to find a place to put all the paratroopers and equipment. Second lieutenant Murill, the brigades' supply officer said, "They didn't know we were coming." He said the installation officials said, "The best we can do is put you in this field over here and get you some tents." At Chu Lai, the 3rd Brigade began to organize itself, and it wasn't long before it headed north to the area around Hue, Phu Bai, and Danang. The deployment of the brigade in Vietnam was rapid, and they were soon thrust into combat

as part of the most northern forces in South Vietnam. On 18 Feb., less than a week after it was alerted to deploy, the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, deployed to a firebase to begin Operations. The rest of the brigade headed further north, where it protected supply lines and existing bases, and rooted out NVA and VC forces who were preparing for another Tet-like attack. Some of those same paratroopers were; later tasked to move south and defend Saigon.

The brigade lost its first paratrooper, Staff Sergeant Joe Rodriguez, to a booby trap in the early days of the deployment. Its temporary home in Vietnam, Camp Rodriguez, was named in his honor. The "Golden Brigade" spent 22 months in Vietnam, returning to Ft. Bragg in December 1969. The Brigade lost 227 paratroopers killed in Vietnam.

The "Golden Brigade" celebrated their 50th anniversary of its deployment to Vietnam at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, this summer, with a reunion from 11 to 16 June.

IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDING CHAPTER MEETINGS

Again, I am asking each of you to make a real effort to attend this meeting coming up. It is important because our organization has its

strength in our members. You will benefit in the opportunity to interact with fellow paratroopers and you have a voice in all that we do. We will be discussing a possible trip (as a Chapter) to Ft. Benning to visit the Jump school as we have on two previous occasions.

AIRBORNE HISTORY – PARACHUTES

The T-4 was the first parachute specifically designed for troop use. Developed during the spring of 1940, it was a static line version of the prewar T-3. The T-4 was delivered to Fort Benning in May 1940 and saw extensive use with the original Test Platoon, the early 501st Battalion, as well as in Panama by the 551st PIB as late as 1943.

The T-4 featured the standard AAF (Army Air Force) type bayonet connection harness and a shallow pack tray mated with the characteristic box-like cover to encapsulate the canopy. The static line was S-coiled under a single rubber retaining band and employed a large, heavy, simple static line snap hook.

The cumbersome reserve was loosely slung across the chest via two snap hooks and was permanently attached to the harness via an extra set of risers.

82ND 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION ORLANDO, FL. 8-11 AUG 2018

The registration fee per person is \$110.00, which includes the Hospitality Room and banquets. The Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. Deluxe Rms \$85.00. Call 800-204-7234 (refer to 82nd Abn Division Association. If you want a hard copy mailed for the registration, please let me know. I am e-mailing a copy with this newsletter.

WWII BOOK "SURVIVOR"

I would like to recommend a personal narrative history of the life of a WWII soldier, Mr. George F. Schneider who served with the 30th Infantry Division (The Old Hickory Division) in Europe. Mr. Schneider lives in Lafayette, LA. I met him at the VA Clinic and purchased a copy of his book some time ago. It is a well-written and interesting book. This book is available on Amazon.com, but Mr. Schneider said he would sell copies for \$15.00 to members of our Chapter. At this time, Mr. Schneider and his daughter are planning to attend our meeting on August 4th. If anyone wants more information, call me.

RENEWING CHAPTER MEMBERS:

LIFE MEMBER – William S. "Bill" Blackwell – lives in Mandeville, LA. He is a retired Louisiana State Trooper with 28 years' service. He also served with

the N.O. PD as a SWAT team member for 5 years. He served with the 82nd Airborne Division C 3/504 Oct 86 - May 90. He is a combat veteran of Panama Invasion.

RENEWAL – Earl F. Lacombe, lives in Rayne, LA. He served with the 20th Special Forces 2-62 to 2-1977. He retired as a CSM.

We thank Bill for signing up as a life member after many years as an Annual Member.

Thank you Earl for your renewal

We thank both for their continued membership in our Airborne Chapter.

Please check your membership card to see when it expires. If you are close, please renew.

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Our website is located at:
www.acadianairborne.org/
Please bookmark this site on your computer for quick reference.

ACADIANA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE:

Please bookmark on your computer to check on it.
www.facebook.com/pages/Acadiana-Chapter-82nd-Airborne-Division-Association/174739489213482?fref=ts

Please copy and paste on your browser. We have

announcements and pictures frequently on the site.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

First, wear an Airborne Cap and you will smoke people out. We ask you to keep a copy of the application form and recruit new members! Applications can be downloaded from our Chapter Website.

Thanks and “Airborne All The Way!”



John R. “Randy” Vidrine
HHC 2/325th Dom Rep 1965
Chapter Chairman Acadiana
Chapter 82nd Abn Div Association
2424 Pierre Matte Road
Branch, LA 70516-3631
Home Ph (337) 684-6175
Cell Ph (337) 288-2730
E-mail: jrvidrine@aol.com

