

RETIREMENT PLANNING FOR 2008
If you had purchased \$1000.00 of Nortel stock two years ago, it would now be worth \$49.00. With Enron, you would have had \$16.50 left of the original \$1000.00. With WorldCom, you would have had less than \$5.00 left. If you had purchased \$1000 of Delta Air Lines stock you would have \$49.00 left. But, if you had purchased \$1,000.00 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND, you would have \$214.00.
Based on the above, the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle.
(This is called the 401-Keg plan.)

In Memoriam....
 As we go to press the media is reporting that four more American soldiers died this morning (March 22) from an IED bringing the total KIA to 3996. Please take a moment and reflect, perhaps say a small prayer.....

"History teaches that when you become indifferent and lose the will to fight, someone who has the will to fight will take over."
 Colonel Bull Simons

"The Infantry soldier is the centerpiece of all our units. Most effective, flexible and adaptable asset we possess. Rapidly re-tasked from combat to stability operations to homeland defense. Best sensor: receives and processes information better than any technology. Face of the United States overseas. Everything we do is designed to support the soldier. "
 Army G-3, General Cody, February 2005

Sitrep
 4208 N Rogers Rd
 Spring Valley, CA 91977

Reunion Information enclosed, open immediately.
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



"Sitrep"

For all veterans, active or retired, of any era,
 and those attached to or who served with
 A Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division



March, 2008 <http://a-1-8.org/>

Gentlemen and Ladies,

As most of you know we had to move the last reunion up several weeks to accommodate the 4th ID and the active duty A-1-8. And in keeping with the Army's tradition of hurry up and wait, they did not actually deploy until late November and December.

For those unable to attend, wow, you missed a truly great once in a lifetime opportunity! We were treated like long lost family. We had an entire morning on the firing range and everyone, vets and Ladies alike, got to fire everything today's Mechanized Infantry A Company now uses; rifles, heavy machine guns, and tank mounted cannon. The men were impressed but the women were blown away! Debbie Lindstrom was so accurate with the 50 they tried to recruit her! And she smiled a lot too!

The rest of the week included a ride up Pikes Peak on the cog railroad, a tour of the Air Force Academy, and a re-dedication of the McNerny Barracks. As usual Tops comments were brief, on point, and humble, truly a great man.



1st Sgt. David McNerny
 Photo Linda Reed

Former 8th Infantry Commander and Green Beret Lt. Colonel (ret.) Clark Welch was the guest speaker at the Battalion Ball and Punch Bowl Ceremony and he too was brief and well received.

Capt. (ret.) Andy Lepeilbet (we knew him as a Lieutenant.) wore his old dress blue uniform, the only man among us still capable of such a thing.

Chapter elections were held and it was decided that since none of the officers had served an entire term, they were unanimously re-elected. Consequently Ron Westbrook is still President and is being assisted by Vice President Jerry Jensen, Ken McCormack is still your chapter clerk, and John Lindstrom continues as Treasurer.

REUNION 2008

The next A-1-8 reunion is October 6-10 at the Hampton Inn in Gettysburg Pennsylvania.

Gettysburg PA won out over Montana for the next reunion and Donald and Diana Androsky volunteered to set it up. And John Andrews has agreed to assist them. After a lot of research they have selected Bon Voyage Travel to co-ordinate and produce the major events.

Enclosed you will find an information and sign up sheet. Please note that the Travel agency requires hotel rooms be booked by May 1st (and deposit paid) so please do not delay, get those forms filled in and mailed back soon.

The basic itinerary is;

- Monday: October 6, arrive, check in and hang out.
- Tuesday: Buffet Breakfast*, Free day, tour on your own or hang out! Hospitality suite will be open all day.
- Wednesday: Buffet Breakfast, Tour of Gettysburg. Includes Lunch and Dinner.
- Thursday, Buffet Breakfast and a free day followed by bus trip to Wrightsville, Dinner at Lakeview Yacht club, boat ride to river island for the Punch Bowl Ceremony that evening.
- Friday, October 10th, Buffet Breakfast, check out, end of official / organized program, hospitality suite closes.
 *(Breakfast Buffet is included everyday.)

As always everyone is welcome to stay longer or arrive early (and historically, several will), as the hotel will accommodate additional nights either direction.

Use the enclosed form to reserve your room and sign up for the trips. Questions? See the enclosed.

See Y'all in Gettysburg!
 Ken

From Donald Androsky, 2008 Reunion Chair

The '08 reunion is planned for 6 -10 Oct 08 at Gettysburg, PA. October in the Gettysburg, Adams County area is seasonally mild and bursting in color as the leaves turn and the surrounding farm country is transformed in harvest hues.

Plans are for a guided tour of the Gettysburg battlefield, visits to adjacent York and Lancaster counties and a stirring "Punch Bowl" ceremony. We have also planned two "on your own" days for individual exploring of the surrounding area or just hanging around the hospitality suite.

Hotel rates and tour costs are predicated on the number of members and guests planning on attending. We know it is early to make commitments for '08, but numbers are important in planning. For those who might consider RVing, please advise us. Great sites are available right in the battlefield area.

We look forward to hosting A-1-8th in '08 and guarantee you will enjoy the visit. Please contact me via e-mail androsky@comcast.net or phone (443)417-7585 if I can answer questions or be of any particular individual assistance.

From Jerry Horton

Hi Guys,
Cynthia and I had the honor of attending the 3rd Shake 'n Bake Reunion recently. It was great. We saw infantry training, basic training, and were the guests of honor at the Airborne Graduation. As you know Ft. Benning is the home of the Infantry and they are making big plans to honor us infantry, old and new. They are building a National Infantry Museum that is first class. It opens November 2008. I know I want to see it, the old one was great. At Ft. Benning they know what it means to be infantry and are intending to give us our due for our sacrifices. I recommend that everyone visits it.

Remember: Only two defining forces have ever offered to die for you, Jesus Christ and the American GI. One died for your soul, the other for your freedom.

From the new Infantry Museum web site;

The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park features an 180,000- square-foot museum

dedicated to the 232-year legacy of valor and sacrifice of the American Infantryman. It is located on a 200-acre parcel of land linking Columbus, Georgia, and Fort Benning, the Home of the Infantry.



At the entrance of the museum, the "Follow Me" statue, an icon of the American Infantryman, will stand in an open rotunda. Inside, six era galleries ranging in size from 2,700 to 5,600 square feet, will tell the Infantry story from pre-Revolutionary times to the present. The galleries will open onto a grand hall large enough to seat 500 for special dinners.

Soldier Center will feature a 3-D IMAX Theatre, themed café, gift shop and simulator attractions. Patriot Park will include an authentic World War II Company Street, a memorial walk of honor and a seven-acre parade field for Infantry school graduations.

The National Infantry Foundation has a link to the plans for the new Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning. The link from their site is interactive and shows the new features. Included as part of the plan is to have several old buildings, including Patton's HQ and a WWII barracks (which is what we lived in at Harmony Church during AIT). Also to be included on the grounds is one of the 250 foot airborne training towers. The rigger shed underneath is to have a snack bar and a satellite souvenir shop.

Check out www.nationalinfantryfoundation.org for more information.

U.S. soldiers capture major al-Qaida player

Amanda Kim Stairrett / Killeen Daily Harold
Friday, March 21, 2008
(used with permission)

After chasing him for three years, U.S. forces captured the No. 4 al-Qaida target Wednesday afternoon.

Maj. Gen. Jeffery W. Hammond, Multinational Division-Baghdad and 4th Infantry Division Commander, talked about the incident on Thursday during a videoteleconference from Baghdad, Iraq.

This target is responsible for more than 200 Iraqi deaths and the deaths of American soldiers, Hammond said, and leaders drilled the suspect's description into their soldiers' heads. Multinational Division-Baghdad soldiers were performing a house-to-house search in Baghdad on Wednesday when a young soldier knocked on a door and the target answered the door.

"It's you! You're the guy! You're the guy!" Hammond quoted the soldier as saying.

These al-Qaida operatives think they're invincible, Hammond said, and the No. 4 target was shocked.

Hammond said he would pin medals today on the "kids" who detained the suspect. Who knows how many lives were saved with the capture of this individual, he added.

This deals a blow to al-Qaida, Hammond said, but it is not yet defeated. Instead, it is disrupted. In the last 98 days, 246 al-Qaida operatives have been captured by 4th Infantry and Multinational Division-Baghdad soldiers. Those captured range from senior media leaders to attack coordinators.

"We have flat out gotten after it," Hammond said.

The soldiers will continue to press hard, Hammond said, going on to liken the situation to a basketball game. Forces aren't picking al-Qaida up at half court anymore, he said; it's a full-court press.

It's been a good 48 hours, and Hammond said he is "very, very positive."

"The fire is certainly in my belly."

Still, incidents happen, whether it's a good or bad

day, Hammond said. Operatives can still slip a car bomb in or send in a woman wearing a suicide vest.

"We're trying like hell to be perfect, but we do have a bad day now and then."

Hammond discussed the 4th Infantry's 1st Brigade Combat Team's movement into Iraq. The brigade began leaving Fort Hood in February, and its forces are now arriving in Iraq from Kuwait, Hammond said.

"Multinational Division-Baghdad is turning more and more green of an Ivy shade," he joked.

The brigade, led by Col. Ted Martin, will occupy "critical battle space" in southern Baghdad, Hammond said. It will take responsibility of the area in about a month from the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Brigade Combat Team.

Hammond and Command Sgt. Maj. John Gioia, Multinational Division-Baghdad and 4th Infantry senior noncommissioned officer, also talked about the makeup of the American soldiers in Baghdad.

Hammond said 12,700 soldiers are on their first deployment; 10,000 on their second; 5,000 on their third; and 2,300 are on their fourth or more deployment. The average rank is specialist, Gioia said, and the average age is 22. The average soldier makes about \$2,000 per month. Eighty-five percent are male, and 15 percent are female, he added.

Right now, soldiers occupy 100 different locations – joint security stations, combat outposts, etc. – across Baghdad. They "live on the line" for seven days and then go back to forward operating bases to "refit." That includes getting a shower, a hot meal and having some contact with home before going back out, Gioia said.

"We have 12 months to make a difference," Hammond said, adding that the soldiers may never get another opportunity to make such a difference in the lives of so many.

*"When you men get home and face an anti-war protester, look him in the eyes and shake his hand.
Then, wink at his girlfriend, because she knows she's dating a pussy."*

Attributed to General Tommy Franks