



Ray Hilgart, Editor  
8211 Poplar Grove  
Warrenton, VA 20187

# *The DC Trooper*

*NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER INC.  
82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.*

2007 No.1 –January 2007

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Fellow Paratroopers, Glidermen, and Friends,

Best wishes to all the Chapter Troopers and their families for a Happy New Year and great success in 2007. I want to welcome the operational team of Officers and Directors that are on board for 2007. I have a great team to work with. There are some new faces and some seasoned members that will help us in directing a successful year for the Washington, DC Chapter. One of my major goals for the year is to get more of the new, younger Troopers involved in Chapter activities and develop a nucleus of future Officers and Directors. I ask each of you to encourage their participation. Without this new leadership, our Chapter will cease to function. As I have often said, we can no longer expect the same Troopers to continue to lead and administer. If everyone did a little something, it would take the load off the few who do everything. Because this is not the case, we need to replace our officers more frequently.

The year offers each of us an opportunity to once again demonstrate our fellowship as members of the elite fraternity of Paratroopers. Our calendar includes the regular scheduled activities such as the Andrews AFB Open House in May, Veterans' Day Hospitality activities in NOV and the Christmas Party in DEC. What I would like to also do is renew scheduling our monthly meetings at different venues and with more guest speakers. We begin this change with our FEB 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA. See you there.

We have a great program set for 2007. So, it is time to "Stand in the Door" and join us!

**AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY! Bill Ridley CHAIRMAN**



Next Chapter Meeting: SAT (3 FEB) 13:00  
American Legion Hall – Fairfax, VA (see directions below)

## WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER NEWS

**Association Awards:** The Washington DC Chapter was presented the President's Award for the following activities:

- Outstanding Support as the 2006 Veteran's Day Activities Co-Host Chapter and for Outstanding Service and Dedication to the Goals of the Association
- Outstanding Support as the Host of the 2006 Christmas / Holiday Banquet and for Outstanding Service and Dedication to the Goals of the Association

**Association Certificates:** The following members of the Washington DC Chapter have been presented with the Association's Certificate of Appreciation for Outstanding Service and Dedication in Support of the 2006 Veteran's Day Activities and to the Goals of the Association.

|                   |                     |                    |                       |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert P. Amos    | Wilson Carr         | Reginald C. Grier  | SSG James D. Infanger |
| Dina Infanger     | Herman Krum         | Kenneth J. Leggett | Rita H. Leggett       |
| Robert F. Elliott | Tim Robertson       | Richard Yates      | Rachel "Skip" McGrath |
| William Ridley    | Geraldine J. Porter | James V. Rodier    | SSG Jonathon Stevens  |
| Mathew Brady      | Robert Woods        | Laurie Benjamin    | SSG Matthew Condliffe |

**Washington DC Chapter Membership Status as of Jan 5, 2007:** See Chart below.

For those 43 Year 2006 members in arrears, a renewal form is attached to this newsletter.

| <b>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</b>                 |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>DC CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP TYPE</b>          | <b>5 Jan 2007</b> |
| Paid-for-Life AA Members (Active Duty)     | 82                |
| Paid-for-Life AA Members (Veterans)        | 210               |
| Paid-Up Annual Members for 2007            | 23                |
| <b>Total Paid-Up DC Chapter Members</b>    | <b>315</b>        |
| Association Honorary Members               | 1                 |
| Washington DC Chapter Honorary Members     | 7                 |
| <b>2006 Association Members in Arrears</b> | <b>43</b>         |

**Donations to 1SG Funk (MOH) Education Fund:** Two Chapter members, Patrick F. Barron and Col (Ret) David Yohman have made donations to the Chapter Education Fund. The Chapter expresses its gratitude and appreciation for their generous support to this worthy activity.

**Officers and Directors of the Washington DC Chapter for Year 2007:** See Chart below.

| <b>OFFICERS</b>          | <b>DIRECTORS</b>        |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chairman - Bill Ridley   | Dir #1 – Reggie Grier   |
| Vice Chair - Matt Brady  | Dir #2 – Bob Elliott    |
| Secretary - Ray Hilgart  | Dir #3 – Bill Bell      |
| Treasurer - Ken Younger  | Dir #4 – Wilson Carr    |
| Chaplain - Reggie Grier  | Dir #5 – James Infanger |
| Past Chair - Ken Younger | Dir #6 – Rick Sherlock  |

**The February 3<sup>rd</sup> General Membership Meeting of the Chapter:** The February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be a lunch meeting at the American Legion Hall Post 177 in Fairfax, Virginia. Cost of the buffet lunch is \$15 starting about 1200 hours with the meeting scheduled for 1300 hours. The Legion Hall is located at 3939 Oak Street in Fairfax, near Paul VI High School. The Legion Hall telephone number is 703-273-2250. Directions to get there is below. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Lucien Stervinou, President of the French WWII Veterans Association. Mr. Stervinou will describe his activities & experiences in French Indo-China in 1945 and 1946.

To get to the American Legion Hall in Fairfax, Virginia at 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA, we first select a reference point, that of the intersection of I-495 (beltway) and I-66 interstate in Virginia. From this reference point:

1. Go WEST on I-66 to junction with Hwy 123 (about 3 miles).
2. Get off I-66 such that you can get on Hwy 123 SOUTH
3. Go SOUTH on Hwy 123 a few blocks (about 1300 yards) to Lee Highway which is Hwy 29 & 50. Note that this is a major intersection with traffic light control.
4. Turn RIGHT onto Lee Highway and go westward approx 1000 yards passing the Paul VI High School on your left.
5. Immediately past Paul VI High School, turn LEFT onto Oak Street. Note that it may be difficult to turn left from Lee Highway onto Oak Street because to do so one has to turn into oncoming traffic and there may not be a traffic light.
6. Once on Oak Street proceed through intersection with Cedar Avenue (STOP SIGN HERE).
7. Just past the STOP sign, on your left is the American Legion Hall at 3939 Oak Street.

**2006 Christmas/Holiday Banquet:** Skip McGrath, Coordinator for the Christmas/Holiday Banquet, reports that the program held on/ December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Fort Myer, Virginia Officers Club was from all indications a great success. She stated that from the reports she received the food was delicious, the service was excellent and the guest speaker, LTG Kellogg was marvelous. She especially was appreciative of all the assistance and support she received from so many, just to name a few, like Herm Krum for the door prizes, like Bob Elliott for taking care of so much of the detail which are so easily overlooked, and like Gordon Sumner for his masterful handling of the MC tasks.

One area which she thought could have been better handled by the Club was the bar service. If we are going to pay extra for the Club's bar service we should get our money's worth. Skip closed by stating that the banquet for Year 2007 will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, again at the Fort Myer, Virginia Officer's Club. Chairman Ridley extends to Skip the grateful appreciation of the membership of the Washington, DC Chapter for her diligence, devotion and effort on making the Christmas- Holiday Banquet a great success.

**Sick Call and/or Condolences:**

- Jim Rigas, All-American and WWII Vet of the 82<sup>nd</sup>, is at home but remains under a physicians care for continuing medical analysis and treatment for a throat (larynx) condition.

- George Stoeckert, All-American member and WWII Vet of Company C, 508<sup>th</sup> PIR, recently underwent surgery and is presently recovering at home.
- Ken Younger reports that his Father-in Law had recently passed away in North Carolina. The Washington DC Chapter extends sincerest sympathies to his family.
- All-American Member, Charles F. Stunkard, born 13 Jul 1922, passed away at Churchville Maryland on 29 January 2005. A World War II combat veteran, he served with the 82nd as a member of Item Company, 505 PIR from Oct 1942 thru Sep 1945. The Chapter Secretary only recently was notified of his passing.
- Cathy Childers, wife of All-American Association and DC Chapter member, William "Dave" Childers, of Oxon Hill, Maryland, passed away during the Christmas holiday period. The funeral and burial was in North Carolina. Washington DC Chapter extends sincerest sympathies to the family of Dave Childers.
- Mrs. Mildred Virginia Amos, mother of All-American Association and DC Chapter Member, Robert P. Amos, passed away on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006. The funeral was held on Friday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Burial was at the Colesville Cemetery in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Washington DC Chapter extends sincerest sympathies to the family of Bob Amos.

### **ASSOCIATION SHORT SHOTS**

**Association President, Ron Rath** underwent surgery for cancer on 27 December at Moore County Hospital in Pinehurst, North Carolina. The operation was a success and after spending two days in the hospital he is now home recovering for another six weeks.

**All-American Week Cancelled:** It is official. MG David M. Rodriguez and CSM Thomas R. Capel regretfully had to cancel All American Week 2007. Unfortunately this announcement is not a big surprise as more than 75% of the Division is either currently deployed or will deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan in the near future. As for the remaining 25%, Task Force Devils in Baggy Pants is presently 'holding down the fort' as the Division's Ready Brigade (DRB) as well as conducting intensive training in preparation for their deployment in June or July of next year. Consequently, President Rath, in coordination with the Executive Committee, made the decision to cancel the Veterans' portion of the All American Week Activities. This includes the Directors' and Delegates' Meetings as well as the other meetings such as the Educational Fund. Following this announcement Fayetteville Chapter Chairman, Ray Willard, also reported the Fayetteville Chapter Activities to be canceled. Please be sure that all of our members are informed of these decisions and encourage them to transfer their travel plans from Fayetteville, NC in the May to Harrisburg, PA in August for our 61st Annual Convention. Who knows, perhaps we will be able to partake with the incoming or outgoing troopers at that time.

**Major General Bobby B. Porter** passed away on 5 January 2007 at 0720 in Jonesboro, AR. Services were held on 10 January at the Emerson Funeral Home in Jonesboro. General Porter was Division CG from June 1985 to January 1986. During his 33 year career he advanced from Private in the Arkansas National Guard to Major General first commanding the Division and then the US Army Military Personnel Center in Wash. DC. Prior to assuming command of the Division, he also commanded the 2d Brigade (325 AIR), served as Chief of Staff and was the

ADC-O. In addition he served two tours during the Vietnam Conflict. General Porter is survived by his wife, Sue and three children who request that any memorials be made to the 82d Airborne Division Association Educational Fund. We extend our deepest condolences to the family.

**Anniversary ???:** The Association has recently extended its congratulations to the Washington, DC Chapter for attaining its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. However, they were about 14 years too early. Actually, as of August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Washington DC Chapter is 46 years old as its Charter was established on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1960.

**LTG Lloyd J. Austin III:** At a ceremony held at the Main Post Parade Field, LTG Lloyd J. Austin III assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg from LTG John R. Vines who retired after 35 years of distinguished military service. General Austin previously served within the Division as Commander of HHC/2-508 PIR, Assistant S3, HHC, 504 PIR and Commander of the 505 PIR. LTG Austin's previous assignment was as CENTCOM's Chief of Staff... He has been an All American Member of the Association since 1998.

**2<sup>nd</sup> BCT (325 AIR to Iraq:** The Division's 2d BCT (325 AIR) was notified on December 27<sup>th</sup> that they would be deploying to Iraq. This includes the 1/325 AIR who recently returned from a tour there. In the best tradition of America's Guard of Honor and as part of America's Strategic Response Force, they began deploying on 3 January and the deployment has been completed.

**To Afghanistan:** Division Headquarters, 4th BCT (508 PIR), the remainder of the Combat Aviation Brigade and the newly activated Special Troops Battalion began their deployment to Afghanistan today in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

**General John P. Abizaid,** CENTCOM CG and former Devil 6 (504 PIR), will retire in Mar 07.

**LTG David Petreaus** (former Devil 6 and ADC-O) has been nominated for his fourth star and will become the CMDR of the Multi-National Forces – Iraq. He is replacing General Casey who will become the Army Chief of Staff, replacing General Pete Schoomaker who is also retiring.

**2007 Convention in Harrisburg, PA:** The 61<sup>st</sup> National Convention will be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania during Aug 13 – 19, 2007. It will be hosted by the Central Pennsylvania Chapter.

- Headquarters will be the Harrisburg Hilton and our troopers will billet at the New Cumberland Barracks. Plans for side trips include a tour of the Harley-Davidson plant in York, PA and a tour of Hershey, PA to include the famous Chocolate World, just to name a few. In fact we have purchased a 2007 Harley-Davidson XL 1200 Custom Sportster to be raffled at the, Convention. A limit of 2500 tickets will be sold for \$20.00 each. YOU could be the lucky winner. Musical entertainment could be a BIG surprise for you. As planning continues we will keep you informed.
- The Host Chapter reports that the overflow hotel, the Crowns Plaza, is a short walk, about three minutes, from the Hilton. It too has an indoor pool so remember your bathing suit! The past two years have seen a major change in the downtown area. The couple blocks north of the hotel are referred to as “restaurant row”. Also there are several new spots where you can wet your whistle with your buddies and the locals. The Hilton has added spa and beauty salon services and the specialty shops of Strawberry Square are connected to the hotel via an enclosed arcade. Also connected is an IMAX theater.

- Early bird specials being planned are: Monday, a golf tournament and Tuesday, a tour of the Yuengling Brewery in Pottsville, PA, the oldest brewery in the US and they are looking forward to hosting us. Side trips include a tour of various Veterans and Fraternal Clubs in the area; they are rolling out the red carpet for us; Hershey Chocolate World; the Harley-Davidson factory in York; Gettysburg Battlefield and the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg. Plan now to join us to meet old friends and to make new ones. The AIRBORNE camaraderie awaits you!!

**How to Increase the Membership:** The Chair of the Association's Public Relations Committee, Ed Herlihy, provides some ideas on how to increase the membership of the Association and its Chapters by making the general public more aware of our existence.

- Chapters can adopt portions of local highways for police. This gains the name of the Chapter on two highway signs and lets those passing by as well as locals, know the Chapter is present and assisting the local community.
- Check on getting your chapter listed in a special section of the telephone directory, under groups and organizations. Since we spell "Airborne" with an "A", we're right near the first of the listing. There's no charge in our area for such a listing.
- Wear airborne caps and jackets, and use decals on your cars; advertise that you're Airborne and have applications on hand when questioned. We have several Chapters who have developed an Airborne License Plate, and several others have begun the process.
- Set up and man a booth at local festivals or at air shows, etc..
- Sponsor a little league sports team.
- Every Chapter should have a color guard and members of the color guard should have applications with them when they appear locally or in nearby cities/towns. People come out of the woodwork at the showing of the flag, especially an Airborne flag.
- Many members belong to the Legion, VFW, DAV, Elks, Moose, etc.. Get blurbs about your Chapter activities in publications - hang Airborne, posters, with a contact name telephone number, in their clubrooms operations. Contact the Executive Director for free posters.
- Utilize the Association's personal business cards. One Chapter has developed a generic card with their membership chairperson's telephone number; the Chapter purchases the cards and distributes to members to use as a recruiting tool.
- Coordinate with local elementary, high schools and colleges to have a Chapter speaker share information about the military as a career and give students personal insights of any conflict, particularly World War II. Local recruiters can assist and will welcome the assistance.

**Stolen Valor Act:** The House of Representatives has passed a Senate approved bill that would make it a felony to claim unearned military decorations. The bill closes a loophole in current law that allows phony recipients to escape prosecution as long as they do not physically wear the awards they claim. If signed into law by the President, the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 would impose up to six months imprisonment and a maximum \$5,000 fine for any false verbal, written

or physical claim to an award or decoration authorized for military members. Penal ties would be doubled for fraudulent claims" to decorations specifically awarded for combat valor, such as the Navy Cross, Silver Star and Medal of Honor.

**Office Symbol Change:** Due to reorganization of the Division, the office symbol of the G1/AG office has been changed resulting in the return to sender of several Centurion Wing applications and Food Locker donations. Please use the address below on such applications and donations.

Commanding General, 82d Airborne Division  
ATTN: AFVC-PE (G1/AG SGM)  
Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5100

**Food Locker:** The Food Locker is in excess of \$8,000. Thus the DoD LNO recommends that donations be stopped until a lower balance is reached. Chapters will be notified via the Bulletin when donations should begin again.

**Top Five Chapters as of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006:** The top five chapters of the Association when membership is taken into consideration are:

| <u>SEQ</u> | <u>CHAPTER</u>                                 | <u>Members</u> |
|------------|--|----------------|
| 01         | – Fayetteville, NC.....                        | 1095           |
| 02         | – 508 <sup>th</sup> Airborne – Nationwide..... | 330            |
| 03         | – North Jersey – New Jersey.....               | 321            |
| <b>04</b>  | <b>– Washington, DC.....</b>                   | <b>313</b>     |
| 05         | – LTG James M. Gavin, New England.....         | 300            |

**Reconfiguration of XVIII Airborne Corps:** XVIII Airborne Corps is being reconfigured as are the Divisions. It will plan and deploy as a command "module" of the Army in the field and will no longer handle the training of former subordinate units. Their mission will primarily focus on war-fighting missions. The Corps current units, such as the 3rd Inf Div, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Div, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div, 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div and the other twelve (12) separate commands will eventually report directly to Forces Command who, as previously reported, will be relocating to Fort Bragg from Fort McPherson, GA in 2009 or 2010. The twelve (12) separate brigades will be reduced to six (6) and report to the 82nd. The 82d will not only be assuming responsibility for these six new brigades, but will also take on the duty of managing Fort Bragg.

**All-American Centurion Club:** Application for All-American Centurion must be mailed to the G1/AG Sergeant Major (DOD Liaison and President, Centurion Club) at Division Headquarters, not the Association's National Office. Address and criteria are outlined in the Awards SOP; copy of application was published in the 2006 Fall Issue of the Paraglide. Chapter chairmen and secretaries are encouraged to maintain a copy in their continuity file for future reference.

**PLANNED ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR YEAR 2007  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR YEAR 2007**

LOCATION - UNLESS ANNOUNCED OTHERWISE, MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL WITHIN THE MAIN POST CHAPEL @ FT MYER, VIRGINIA. THE MAIN POST CHAPEL IS LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MAIN POST EXCHANGE.

-----

|      |       |   |
|------|-------|---|
| Sat* | Feb 3 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting – Meeting Location is American Legion Hall in Fairfax, VA. Combined Lunch & Meeting. Buffet Lunch @ 1200 hours. Expected Guest Speaker. Details at January 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting |
| Sat  | Mar 3 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting  |
| Sat  | Apr 7 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting  |
| Sat* | May 5 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting  |
| Sat  | Jun 2 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Abbreviated Meeting at The 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Luncheon. Location to be Announced..   |
| Sat* | Sep 8 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting  |
| Sat  | Oct 6 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting  |
| Sat* | Nov 3 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting  |
| Sat  | Dec 1 | 1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Abbreviated Meeting at The Christmas/Holiday Banquet. Location to be Announced.  |

Note 1: Asterisk (\*) denotes a Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled one hour prior to the general membership meeting. All Officers and Directors should attend.

## **OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YEAR 2007**

NOTE: The annual 1SG Leonard Funk (MOH) Education Fund Award is planned for Year 2007. The applications must be mailed early enough so that they are in the possession of the Washington DC Chapter Secretary not later than November 1, 2007. Applications can be obtained from the Wash. DC Chapter Secretary or by downloading forms from the Washington DC Chapter Web Page. The Award Committee consists of select members of the Chapter Board of Directors with the Awards Committee Chairman appointed by the Chapter Chairman.

|           |             |  |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| Thu – Sun | May 17-20   | Armed Forces Day Open House and Air Show @ Andrews Air Force Base – DC Chapter operates a booth to show and tell the Airborne Story, show the flag and sell Chapter paraphernalia  |
| Monday    | May 28      | Memorial Day Parade in Washington DC on Constitution Avenue At 1200 hours. Details to be presented at the January 6 <sup>th</sup> meeting.   |
| Saturday  | Jun 2       | 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Commemoration, 82 <sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Memorial Ceremony and Luncheon. Location is Arlington National Cemetery and tentatively the Spates Community Center at Fort Myer, Virginia. Point of Contact to be announced later. |
| Saturday  | June 23     | Washington DC Chapter Picnic – Date is tentative; Location, point of contact and other details to be announced at a later date.  |
| Mon – Sun | Aug 13 – 19 | 82 <sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Assn - 61 <sup>st</sup> Annual Convention @Harrisburg Pennsylvania  |
| Sunday    | Oct 7       | DC Chapter supports the Army Ten-Miler. The date is tentative and the Point of Contact to be announced at a later date. The Army Ten-Miler takes place in the general vicinity of the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.                             |
| Tue – Sun | Nov 8 - 11  | Veteran’s Day Operations – Chapter operates Hospitality Suite for visiting veterans usually at Arlington Days Inn near Fort Myer, Virginia. The Point of Contact to be announced at a later date.  |
| Saturday  | Dec 8       | Christmas / Holiday Banquet, usually held at the Officers Club at Fort Myer, Virginia. The specific date and time, the point of contact and other details to be confirmed at a later date.   |

*Dear Association and DC Chapter Member:*

*Please don't forget to submit a change of address card if (when) you move.*

*It costs your Association 75 cents each time a Paraglide is returned to sender.*

*Each issue of the Paraglide contains a blank "Change -of -Address" notice which can be removed, filled out and sent to the following address:*

*Assn Administrator*

*P.O. 9308*

*Fayetteville, NC 28311-9308*