

# THE BLUE BADGE

Special Supplemental Issue

2013 Convention Recap on-line Edition



Welcome to this special on line only edition of the Blue Badge. Our reason for publishing this unannounced edition is to test the system, and work out any flaws (unlike a certain health-care fiasco) before the “real thing” starts in January.

This edition is being posted on line only and the subscribers will be notified that it is there. If someone comes across it accidentally, then I guess they can read it too.

There will come a time in the very near future when subscribers will be issued a “secret” pin number to access the on line issues of Blue Badge.

More and more organizations are moving toward the all electronic versions of their newsletters and other correspondences, so the CIA is not the only one trying to reduce costs by going electronic. At least one other organization (larger than the CIA in total membership) with which the editor is personally familiar with is going all electronic with no provision to receive anything by mail. We are offering a “receive by mail option” for an additional fee. See past issues of Blue Badge for more details.

## Jodrey To Lead CIA



Jerry Jodrey of Sunbury, OH will lead the Combat Infantrymen's Association for the next two years. He is a retired US Army Master Sergeant earning his CIB in Vietnam. In addition to his CIB other personal and campaign medals

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## New Commander

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other awards include the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Jerry brings a strong leadership background to the Association. He is a retired deputy sheriff in Franklin County, OH and current Commander of VFW Post 8736 in Sunbury, OH. He is the founder of Ohio Fallen Heroes, the Official Ohio Memorial for deceased military (all branches) from the War on Terrorism.

Jerry will tell you more about himself in the next "regular" issue of Blue Badge which will be published in January 2014.

## The Convention



*Night view of the Holiday Inn Airport, host hotel for the 2013 Combat Infantrymen's Association 2013 annual convention.*

## The First Day ~ Wednesday

Wednesday October 16 was the first day of the 2013 annual convention. Registration began and the hospitality room opened shortly before noon.



In the bottom left photo Jim Kyzer is the first pre-registered member to sign in at the registration desk. Jim is receiving his registration packet from Brenda Eckard who handled the registrations and fielded forty hundred questions form members and guests. Our thanks to her for being there to assist the membership.



In the above photo Inge Kyzer (left) and Judy Thornburg (right) are the two ladies responsible for maintaining our hospitality room throughout the four day event. They insured the room was well supplied with snacks, coffee and soft drinks. Their hard work is appreciated very much by the association members.

Seventeen CIA members arrived throughout the day on Wednesday, most coming a day early to make the trip to Ft Jackson for Thursday's recruit graduation ceremony. Except for the hospitality room, there were no planned activities for the day, so the "room" got a lot of action. Most members had dinner in the hotel restaurant and called it a night.

## Day Two ~ Thursday

Thursday was the big day, the reason for coming to Columbia and Fort Jackson. The government shutdown had an impact on our visit but it was still a great day. We started with breakfast in the hotel restaurant. Today breakfast was from a "limited order" menu and was OK. After eating and brushing our teeth everyone boarded the motor coach (we no longer have busses, they are motor coaches) and headed for Gate 4, Fort Jackson and the recruit graduation ceremony. 1Lt Macioce from the Ft Jackson Public Affairs Office met us at the gate and escorted the group to the graduation. Upon arrival at Hilton Field LtC James Allen, Commander of the 1st Bn, 61st Inf Regt, (the graduating battalion) boarded the



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# Thursday

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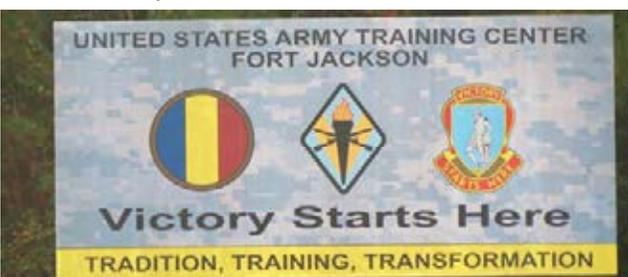
coach and personally welcomed the Combat Infantrymen's Association to the ceremony. Members of the staff escorted us to our reserved seats directly in



front of the reviewing stand. Prior to graduation ceremony the 282nd Army band (above) entertained the audience. In the background you can see the 1/61st Inf trainees preparing to march on to the parade field and hear themselves declared "soldiers".



The Colors are advanced signifying the opening of the ceremony.



The mission of Fort Jackson.



"Sir", Company B is formed.

Ltc James C. Allen, Commanding Officer 1/61st Inf, was the featured speaker at the ceremony. He congratulated the 1,002 graduates and wished them a successful Army career. He then gave the command, "Pass in review".



Company A, 1/61st Inf "Roadrunners" passes in review

Following the graduation and the long wait to get out of the parking lot we had a riding tour of Fort Jackson narrated by Stan Thornburg who pointed out the some of training areas, troop barracks, recreation facilities, clubs, exchange, commissary etc. The photo to the right, taken from the bus shows the water tank on the famed "Tank Hill" Many of us who went through basic combat training at Jackson remember well "tank hill" and the training companies close by. (The water tank is not leaning, the camera was). At the conclusion of the riding tour we went to



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Above is one of the modern troop quarters, somewhat different than the old WW II barracks we remember!!

## Thursday Continued

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the Ft Jackson NCO club for lunch. Note the welcome sign



that was posted in the NCO Club lobby. The buffet lunch was good also and presented the opportunity to meet some of the active duty soldiers. Below is Stan Thornburg and 1Lt Macioce



relaxing after lunch. Note the CIB the Lt is wearing. Did anyone recruit him into membership? His name is not on the master roster. At the top of the next column Lorenzo Ortega and another member are relaxing after lunch. In the second photo Nick Hubbell (chief of staff) facing the camera, and other members wait to board the bus outside the NCO club.



From the club we were off to the Ft Jackson museum where we were met by our guide (and heaven help me I forgot her name) for a tour of the museum



which was laid out following the sequence of training that the recruits follow. First week, the shots, haircuts, clothing issue, right through the 10th week and graduation. To say the least it was an interesting tour and we all left with a better sense of understanding of today's recruit training. Outside the museum was a display of vehicles that most were familiar with. One of them is shown below.



## Thursday Continued

There were several other stops planned but the Government shutdown prevented us from doing them.

On the way back to the hotel the coach made a drive-thru of downtown Columbia while Stan Thornburg pointed out some of the local historic spots and attractions.

Once back at the hotel the group found that Judy and Inge had the hospitality ready with much appreciated coffee, soft drinks and snacks. First business of the afternoon was to see who had arrived during the visit to Ft Jackson.

At 1700 hrs the evening's activities began with a social hour and hors d'oeuvres. National Commander Bill Cross (below) welcomed everyone to



the convention and introduced members attending for the first time and cordially invited them to continue their support of the association.

It was a long day so no further activities were planned for the evening. Most had dinner in the hotel restaurant and made an early exit to their rooms.

## Day Three ~ Friday

The day dawned crisp, cool, and moist but it did not dampen anyone's spirit. After breakfast in the hotel restaurant the CIA tourists boarded the motor coach for a tour of our host city, Columbia, SC. As we traveled along the guide pointed out some of Columbia's culture history, culture and heritage. Some of the educational and interesting stops made included the South Carolina State Museum (t Military Museum, State House, National Guard Museum.

The State Museum (top right) with 70,000 artifacts, has four large floors devoted to the disciplines of art, history, natural history and science/



technology. It houses both long-term exhibits and five changing exhibit galleries. The Museum is housed in its largest artifact, the former Columbia Mill. This former textile mill also is a world-first.

When it opened in 1894, manufacturing cotton duck cloth (a canvas-like material), it was the first totally-electric textile mill in the world. Also housed in the same building is the Confederate Relic Room and Military History Museum. For over a century, this museum's mission has been to collect and preserve the military history of this state from the Revolutionary War to the present War on Terror.

Strategically centered in Columbia, the current South Carolina State House is the result of construction which lasted half a century-spanning from 1855 to 1907. Built primarily out of blue granite, South Carolina's official state stone, the State House is completely fireproof, allowing it to safely store many important state documents and house two of our three branches of state government. Both the executive and legislative branches meet in the lower and upper State House lobbies, respectively. The building contains several unique architectural features that can be observed from both the exterior and interior, including a false dome centered within the main lobby and an outer dome made of copper centered to the outside of the building.

The rich history of the SC National Guard is captured in the South Carolina National Guard Museum's many exhibits. From the SC Guard's early days during the Colonial Wars to its current efforts in the Middle East, each time period is included and weapons and artifacts from each era are displayed. The museum has four of the most important collections in the country. **The "Hall of Heroes:** These are the South Carolinians who by birth or residence have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. **"Carbine" Williams Collection:** Williams developed the Carbine rifle for the U.S. Army, which was in use from WWII through Vietnam. **Captain Peter Mason Collection:** Mason was part of the British OSS as well as the official Assassin for the Queen and later head of Churchill's Death Squad. **Colonel Melvin Purvis Collection:** Purvis was the Agent that shot John Dillinger at the Biograph Theatre. Between the museum visits and the riding tour of Columbia, a stop for lunch—on our own—was made at the Lizzard Thicket restaurant.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, all was not play. Bill Cross, Earl Kennedy and their team of vote counters counted almost

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## Friday

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900 ballots to elect a new National Commander. The result was kept secret until the announcement was made at the general membership meeting. Thanks to the members of the team who gave up their day to count votes.

When the tour group returned, again Inge and Judy had the hospitality ready for business. After a few refreshments in the hospitality everyone moved on and got ready for the evening's activities. At 1800 hrs the social hour began followed by a leisurely three entrée dinner buffet—which by the way was outstanding—equal to any mess hall. After dinner the remainder of the evening was spent enjoying the comradeship of other combat infantrymen.

## Day Four ~ Saturday

Following breakfast the general membership meeting was held, National Commander Bill Cross presiding. Jerry Jodrey of Sunbury, OH was elected as the new Commander. See the cover story for more details on Jerry. James Bourgeois has a year to go on his term as Deputy commander. A new deputy will be elected at the next convention in Kissimmee, FL. Below Jerry is shown being sworn into office. Immediately below Jerry is Henry Baker being sworn in as Commander of Division 7.



Kissimmee, FL was reaffirmed as the 2014 convention site. This year we will return to the regular four day—three (Thursday—Sunday) night convention. Dates are set for October 02-05 at the Ramada Gateway hotel. Please do not try and make reservations until the reunion details are published. More information will be in the January issue of BB.

Then it was banquet time. Ladies spent the afternoon primping and the gentlemen did the famed 5 s' - (blank), shine, shave, shower, shampoo and the end result was pretty good. A number of members are still able to get into their uniforms and proudly wore them to the banquet.

The evening began with Mess Call signifying that everyone should take their seats. After the playing of the National Anthem, outgoing National Commander Bill Cross opened the festivities by welcoming everyone and proposing a toast to the United States of America. Other members proposed additional toasts. Then dinner was served.

Thanks again to the efforts of Stan Thornburg and Jim Kyzer the members of the 282nd Army band played some



pre and after-dinner music. They were invited to have dinner with us and band members sat at different tables with our members and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening with us.

The very special guest speaker for the evening was Command Sergeant Major Kevin Benson. CSM Benson



was accompanied by his lovely wife, Mary. He spoke to us on the state of today's Army, the training, the strain of multiple deployments and family

# Saturday

welfare. As you can see the CSM is a proud CIB holder. He and Mary were warmly received by the membership and we hope to see him at a future CIA reunion (especially since he planning to retire in February 2014. CSM Benson serves as the Command Sergeant Major of Fort Jackson.

The memorial service paying tribute to deceased members was conducted by National Chaplain Col (Ret) Ralph Smith assisted by Bill Cross. The Remembrance Table below was one of the keystones of the service.



Commander Bill Cross awarded several plaques and other awards to members for their contributions to the Association.

The final event of the evening was the formal change of command ceremony. Just prior to the passing of the flag, outgoing Commander Bill Cross made his final remarks by saying it had been a challenge and an honor to serve the association. He thanked the membership for their support and especially the volunteers who helped carry the load. He urged the officers and members to fully support the incoming commander and help him adjust and carry out his own ideas and agenda. With those words, the flag was passed and we had a new commander.



After accepting the flag, signifying his assumption of command, new National Commander Jerry Jodrey spoke to the membership. He thanked them for the honor of being elected to the pinnacle of leadership within the CIA and promised his best efforts. He asked for everyone's support and promised his best efforts to lead the association in achieving the future goals that he briefly outlined. Good Luck Jerry, we are all with you.



Here we have a not-so-common occurrence, a father and son, Charles T. Gary and Charles T. Gary, Jr. attending the Saturday night banquet together. Charles, Sr is a CIA member.



Larry Eckard, Blue Badge Editor (left) and Earl Kennedy, past Commander and present Finance Office/Advisor receiving a plaque for their service to the Association.



At the left is one of the "unsung heroes" Brenda Eckard who manned the registration desk and fielded dozens of questions from members.



Above, banquet Guest Speaker CSM Kevin Benson is delivering his message to CIA members. Below, first time attendees Ronald and Irene Walker enjoying the banquet. We hope to see them in Kissimmee in 2014.



Jim Kyzer (left) and Stan Thornburg (right) received a framed poem about the Vietnam wall for their services to the Association. Both were instrumental in getting us on and arranging the tour of Ft Jackson. In addition Jim is a past commander of Div 7 and leaves big shoes to follow. For the record, their wives, Judy and Inge "manned" the hospitality room



Allen Matthews (left) dressed in the VFW uniform. Right CSM Ted Jackson looks ready to hump another rucksack for 10 mi.



Left is CSM Stan Thornburg and wife Judy; at the right is CSM James Bourgeois and wife Erika. Notice how many Command Sergeants Major we have in the association?

Col David and Pat Ulmer enjoying the Saturday night banquet. Col Ulmer is the CIA's Chief Trustee.



On the left Paul Birschbach and Nancy Lee and on the right and John and Sharon Korosec pose for the camera at the banquet.



Left Ray and Marlene Dunn listening intently to their table-mate's Conversation. Ray is the Association Monument Chairman.