

WINTER 2023

# 2023 RECAP

Events and reflections of the past year  
& what is ahead in 2024



3-187 D-co Rakkasans present at the Pylon Ceremony in May

## Reflections, Rowdiness and Recharging

In May 2023 the Hamburger Hill Chapter hosted the National Association to round up the boys and reminisce. Fox News host and Choppin' Alum Pete Hegseth charged the crowd up with his speech about American greatness as the formal dinner Guest of Honor.



Hamburger Hill Chapter treasurer Mike Smith, Fox News host Pete Hegseth and Hamburger Hill chapter president Bob Harkins at the formal dinner.

The 67-68 Era Rakkasans held their memorial gathering in Ardmore, OK in September, the 101st Airborne Division Association survived the San Antonio heat for their annual reunion in August and the snowbirds escaped to Florida for the return of the West Coast Florida Chapter's yearly get together.

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## CORE VALUES

### VISION

To be recognized Nationally and by U.S. Army units as the best Regimental Support Organization in the Nation.

### MISSION

The mission of the Rakkasan Association is to provide two critical functions:

We are the link that helps our Active Duty Soldiers understand that they are a part of one of the most prestigious Regiments in the history of our great Nation.

Additionally, we are the best vehicle of continued camaraderie between Rakkasan Veterans. Many Rakkasan Veterans feel tremendous pride in their service and knowing that there is an Association full of people that appreciate their service is immensely valuable.

### CORE VALUES (I CARE)

- I**ntegrity of actions
- C**ommunications up and down the ranks
- A**llegiance to the Rakkasan Regiment by contributing to its success
- R**espect for all
- E**xcellence in all actions

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**LG (RET) Frank Weircinski**

Honorary SGM of the regiment

**CSM (RET) Gerard Counts**

## Interested in serving on the board?

**What is stopping you?**

**For details on how you  
can get involved with the  
National Association or  
plan events in your area  
email us at**

**info@rakkasanassociation.org.**



Photo: Board Member Mike Smith and Association President Bob Harkins flank former Iron 6 COL Jeremy Bowling and former Iron Rakkasan CAPT Justin Wright in Columbia, SC,



Walter Tangle (Arty, 1969), Christopher Shaw (British historian) and Duane Kinkade (Arty, 1969) in the hospitality suite at the Hamburger Hill reunion in May.



Theresa Scheets, Jose Yopez, Pat Satterfield, Drew Weiss, the one and only Donnie Schuereman and Louis Satterfield at the 101st Reunion in San Antonio this August.



*“The 2023 snowbird reunion was a great time! We had quite a few Desert Storm age veterans as well as the awesome compliment of Vietnam vets. We were also graced by legend himself, Vinny Speranza. As most of you know Vinny Jumped into Valhalla recently. Next year will be the last year for the snowbird.” -Beau Brumfield*



Vinny and Fred Behrends holding court in the hospitality suite at the Snowbird in Tampa



Mick... always mixing



Vinny, lost in lyrical thought.



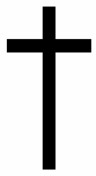
Faye Wishik and Jeffrey Wishik in Ardmore.



Samantha Wreath and Bruce Lemont at the '67-'68 Rakkasan reunion in Ardmore, OK in September



Kathleen Smith and Bill Heaney in Ardmore.



PRO DEO ET PATRIA



Real Freedom

“Freedom is just a word,” was part of the lyrics to a song, that was once a popular. Fourth of July celebrations are all passed and the last of the fireworks have faded out. There aren’t as many flags flying and the patriotic bunting has been mostly taken down. Freedom and it’s celebration, may be a one day event or may be just “a word”, to many in our great country. Yes, I said, ***our great country.***

The United States of America, has been and continues to be the example to the world of freedom. Men and women have given their lives to protect and defend our rights, endowed by our Creator. It is a privilege to know, so many past and present military members. To them and to the Rakkasan family, freedom is of the highest value and preserving it, the greatest mission. It is good and noble freedom loving men and women, who will keep America great.

During our recent Hamburger Hill, Desert Storm, and Rakkasan Reunion, patriots of all ages and wars/conflicts demonstrated their unashamed love, honor, and respect for those they served with and those currently serving. We remembered our Fallen Rakkasans and are determined to honor them, by telling of their great sacrifice.

## ***JOHN 8:32 YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH AND THE TRUTH, SHALL MAKE YOU FREE***

John 8:32 You shall know the truth and the truth, shall make you free. Multitudes have accepted the truth, the United States is the place of unparalleled freedom and have made their way, here. As Americans, we are blessed, to be born into freedom. In John 8:32, Jesus tells of a greater freedom, than we were born into and it comes by a right relationship, with our Creator.

Dennis Helms, Chaplain, National Rakkasan Association

# Rakkasan Legend Chops It Up With Astronaut Headed To The Moon During Hall of Fame Induction

By Major Justin Wright (3/187)



Maj Justin Wright and Col (Ret) Bob Harkins

I am 5 years removed from my assignment with the 187th Infantry Regiment, but no day passes without a thought, or nod to the lessons I learned from the Veterans who set a standard of excellence, or my active duty teammates that worked to reach it every day.

While I attended the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base (The academic hub for the Air Force), an opportunity presented itself. Each year, the student body selects inductees into an airpower hall of fame. The program is called, “Gathering of Eagles,” and those selected as “Eagles” join a hall of fame that include legendary astronauts, flying aces of WWII, and other Airpower pioneers. The initial class of Eagles

selected in 1982 were guys like Chuck Yeager, the first man to break the sound barrier, Neil A. Armstrong, the first human to step on the moon, and Robin Olds, the “Old Man” of MIG Killers who continued leading combat missions into North Vietnam well over the 100 mission limit.

The 2023 class added a familiar Rakkasan name to the legendary list. Brigadier General (Ret) Weldon “Tiger” Honeycutt, also known by his callsign, “BlackJack.” Brig. Gen. Honeycutt was inducted into the Airpower Hall of fame for the U.S. Air Force last week at Maxwell Air Force Base. If the only thing you know about Brig. Gen. Honeycutt, is that he commanded the legendary men of the Rakkasans during the Battle of Hamburger Hill, then you may not know why he was selected into the Air Power Hall of Fame by the Air Force. You may not know that this Rakkasan legend spearheaded helicopter tactics development during the Army’s transition from ground-based attack and transportation to “Air Mobile” doctrine which, would later evolve into current day “Air Assault” tactics. You may not know that he was a master aviator in both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. You may not know that he taught many notable general officers to fly, Generals like Westmoreland, Truman, and Harrell. You may not know that as the commander of the 68th Assault Helicopter Company “Top Tigers,” he flew the lead helicopter (the most vulnerable position) during every combat mission that his unit flew. You may not know that he turned back, leaving the relative safety of a formation of armed Hueys to pick up an American troop in Vietnam that was accidentally left, flying a single Huey, with no security, back into a hot landing zone to save that Soldier. You may not know that he was shot through the hull of his Huey on that mission, and while rapidly losing blood, flew the helicopter to the nearest hospital, returning himself and his crew to safety. To be honest, I did not know many of these pieces of American military history until I was given the opportunity to spend nearly eight days with Brig. Gen. Honeycutt, and his incomparable bride, Mrs. Marguerite Honeycutt, a legend in her own right.



This resume alone barely scratches the surface of what the Honeycutt's have accomplished during their time serving our country, but it is a small glimpse into why Brig. Gen. Honeycutt was selected as a 2023 Eagle. As part of Gen Honeycutt's induction, the Honeycutt's traveled to Maxwell Air Force Base, in Montgomery, Alabama, where we hosted them both and their 15 year old miniature pincher, "Missy."



Marguerite Honeycutt, BlackJack, Justin Wright & Victor Glover

Despite the heavy schedule for the week, Brig. Gen. Honeycutt found time to bond with one of his fellow eagles. Blackjack's relentless desire to seek, understand, attempt, and conquer hasn't diminished in retirement, so when he met Crew Dragon driver Captain (USN) Victor Glover of NASA's Crew-1, he felt a little closer to manning the one type of aircraft he's always wanted the chance to master.

To celebrate the inductions, the student body of over 509 Majors from each Military branch to include officers from around the world, hosted, and honored these eagles. Gen. Honeycutt who has reached the age of 92, became good friends with Capt. Glover, the current NASA astronaut that will fly to the moon in 2024. Throughout the week they would go back and forth debating how the mission to the moon would go. An example of their debate is below. I must say I am paraphrasing to the best of my ability.

**Gen. Honeycutt:** *"God Damn it VIC, can I call you VIC?"*

**Capt Glover:** *"Absolutely Sir, please call me VIC."*

**Gen Honeycutt:** *"Let me tell you something. Your name is already in immortality. What a thrill it would be to pilot that damn thing up there. There would be no way to know if you could make it back or not. That sounds like the ultimate challenge, and I have a lot of respect for you, for doing that."*

**Capt Glover:** *"Yes Sir! I have been training for this mission for many years, and I am confident that we have mitigated all the risks. After all, I will only be away from my family for 10 days."*

**Gen. Honeycutt:** *"Listen to this VIC, when you go up, I'll come and back you up. I've always wanted to fly on of those machines."*

**Capt Glover:** *"Yes, Sir, It would be an honor for you to back me up."*

**Gen. Honeycutt:** *"No, No, No, VIC! You must have misheard me. I said, 'You can back me up!'"*

Until Brig. Gen. Honeycutt flies to the Moon with Captian Glover, and for many years after, his picture will hang on the walls of the Air Command and Staff College as a pioneer and major contributor to Airpower and Army Aviation.

Let Valor Not Fail!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

RAKKASAN!! to all! As we head into the holiday season I hope we can all pause and remember that the 187th Brigade Combat Team is deployed on another “Rendezvous with Destiny”. Our thoughts and prayers are always with our troops.

In even number years the National Association holds elections for the President, Treasurer (currently James Sullivan), and Board of director positions 3, 5 and 7 (offices currently held by Irv Weinsoff, Mike Smith, and Hunter Everett respectively). In odd numbered years (as we are in now) we elect the positions of Vice President and secretary (currently held by Frank Peterson and Erik Lind. We also hold elections for Board of Director positions 2 and 4 currently held by Beau Brumfield and Harv Watson). If you want to help out the Association, please contact one of the Board members. See our website at [rakkasanassociation.org](http://rakkasanassociation.org).

2023 was a good year for gathering. The 1967-68 vets formed for their annual reunion in Oklahoma last month, the 101st held their reunion in San Antonio in August and the Hamburger Hill chapter hosted the National Association in Clarksville in May. In 2024, the Hill vets will assemble in Clarksville in May again (14-16th), with the understanding that Regimental support will be limited because of the deployment. We have done it before when the 3rd BCT is deployed and we will work it out again this time. The National reunion will be in August when we join the 101st Airborne Division Association in Springfield Mo, 8-11th).

The Ohio Chapter is up and running again. If interested please contact Hunter Everett or Mike Smith through our website.

I hope 2024 will be a good year for all. Please remember your brother Rakkasans and reach out with a caring hand. Many Veterans and Active Duty soldiers are carrying a large burden. Please take care of each other.

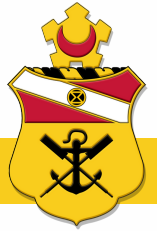
Let Valor Not Fail

Bob  
Alpha 6  
President, Hamburger Hill Chapter  
President, National Rakkasan Association





# A RAK SOLID 2023



LTC JOE BYRNES & CSM JUSTIN DUFF

The RAK SOLID Battalion remains as SOLID as ever as we prepare for a deployment to Europe following a year of tough training and strong cohesion building events. We started 2023 with the FORSCOM GREAT Inspection, which proved monumental in the Battalion's overall score of 95.2%. RAK SOLID Soldiers received coins for excellence from BG Curtis, and Enforcer Company was presented with the XVIII Airborne Corps AAME plaque for outstanding performance.

Sappers from Akuma Company trained 90 infantrymen from across all of the 3BCT maneuver Battalions during a 4-day Rakkasans Breacher's Academy in January; familiarizing them on the construction, emplacement, and initiation of Urban Breaching demolitions, wire obstacle breaches, minimum safe distance, and demolition calculation. Akuma and Breacher's Light Equipment (LE) Platoons improved the 1-187 IN and 3-187 IN Battalions' motorpools by resurfacing the gravel lots.



In March, 16 RAK SOLID Soldiers received their Expert Soldier Badges, 1 received an Expert Infantryman Badge, and 1 received an Expert Field Medic Badge. Out of the 16 ESBs, 6 were awarded True Blues.



In April, the Battalion placed first in two competitions: the Rakkasan Fuel Competition, and the 16th Annual Best Sapper Competition. Soldiers from Enforcer Company took home first place in the Rakkasan Fuel Competition while CPT Cushing and CPT Palazini brought home the 1st Place trophy from the 16th Annual US Army Best Sapper Competition. Enforcer Company was also the first company in the entire Division to successfully sling load a TRM fueler.

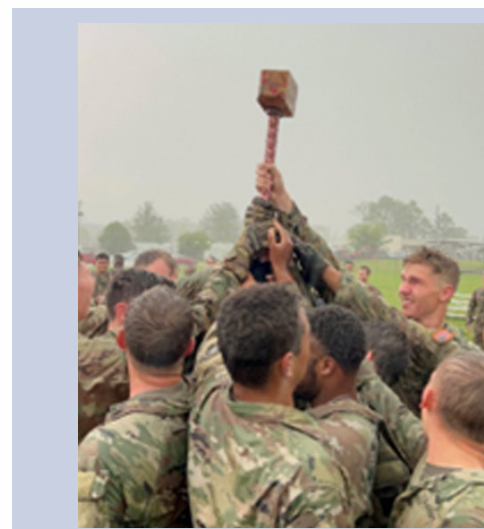


The Battalion held its first internal Squad Competition – SOLID Stakes. Twenty squads participated, and Akuma 2-2, led by SSG Falk, took first place. The competition included a physical fitness assessment based on Ranger and Sapper requirements, a 7-mile ruck, land navigation, a Round Robin event which included CBRN and Patrolling lanes, MOS specific tasks, and an X-mile event.

During Week of the Eagles, our RAK SOLID Soldiers took home first place in Tug of war, Eagle Fit (all female team), Best Intel, and two of the Boxing weight classes. Behind the scenes, our Engineers rebuilt the Brigade torii in time for the annual Rakkasan Reunion, and one of our LE platoons dug trenches for the Division’s Air Assault demonstration. During OLE III, the RAK SOLID Battalion focused heavily on preparing for a series of LFXs and sling load operations.

RAK 6 and RAK 7 observed Breacher Company firing a MICLIC, and awarded a few RAK SOLID Soldiers for their excellence during the final LFX iteration.

Soldiers worked relentlessly upon coming out of the field from OLE III to ensure the unit was prepared to deploy to Europe. After working for nearly 30 days straight, the Battalion met all deployment requirements and allowed for enough time to plan one final Hammer Event; a Platoon vs. Platoon competition at Fryar Stadium. Breacher Company won the Hammer for the third time in a row, and will transport it with them to Europe.



# ASSURGAM UPDATE



626 BSB COMMANDER, LTC ALLEN TAYLOR

2023 was quite the year for the 626th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB). In January, the Assurgam Battalion welcomed back our team from some well-deserved time-off for the holiday season before diving head-first into preparation for the FORSCOM GREAT Inspection scheduled for early February. In addition to these preparation efforts, 626 BSB also conducted an Intensive Maintenance Cycle, driver's training, range density, and continued integration of our new ITN communication platform capabilities.



Upon completion of the FORSCOM GREAT Inspection, the Battalion shifted its' efforts toward preparation for Expert Soldier Badge (ESB) and Expert Field Medic Badge (EFMB) evaluations scheduled to occur in March. Additionally, Alpha Company executed a Battalion Pathfinder Low- Cost Low-Altitude (LCLA) Exercise with 5th Special Forces Group as part of their continued mission to test air delivery methods to expedite resupplies in future operations.

Aside from conducting ESB and EFMB evaluations (in which 626 BSB gained 4 new ESB and 4 new EFMB badge holders), the Battalion spent the month of March planning and executing a Battalion Staff Ride, where the team traveled to Nashville and met with leaders from the National Football League Tennessee Titans operations and support staff at Nissan Stadium to discuss their sustainment and logistics practices.



In April, the Assurgam team conducted a Battalion Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP) Staff Exercise (STAFFEX), a Battalion Base Defense Competition, a Battalion Toughness Initiative team-building event, and ended the month celebrating at the first annual Assurgam Derby Bash. Another highlight this month was the Brigade Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) Competition that the BSB Support Operations (SPO) team coordinated, during which 626 BSB sling loaded a fuel Tank Rank module (TRM) for the first time ever on Fort Campbell.

May kicked off with Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) Change of Command and Charlie Company conducting a Company Field Training Exercise (FTX) to finetune their Role II establishment and operation procedures. Alpha Company's Supply Support Activity (SSA) conducted their first 100% wall-to-wall inventory of the year before the Battalion spent the latter half of the month participating in all of the RAK Reunion and Week of the Eagle festivities.



In June, LTC Casey Seckendorf relinquished command of 626 BSB to LTC Allen "Jerry" Taylor just prior to the Battalion departing on summer opportunity block leave that lasted through early July.

Upon everyone's return from leave, all efforts immediately shifted to preparation efforts for Operation Lethal Eagle III (OLE III), a Division-level training exercise where the Assurgam team spent 3 weeks in the field providing various sustainment support to the Brigade.



After completion of OLE III at the end of August, the Battalion immediately shifted gears to preparing to deploy to EUCOM beginning in October to replace 1BCT, 101st while simultaneously conducting expedited field recovery tasks.

The SSA conducted another 100% wall-to-wall inventory before the end of the fiscal year, Alpha Company conducted Change of Command and Charlie Company conducted Change of Responsibility in early October, and the Battalion enjoyed a final window of opportunity leave before the Assurgam team deploys.



## Follow the Brigade on social media:



@TheRakkasans



@TheRakkasans

# CURRAHEE in '23

2-506 WHITE CURRAHEE STAFF



This past year has been quite a busy and exciting year for 2-506 IN BN “White Currahee.” The year started with a rigorous training cycle focused on individual warrior skills culminating in over 60 White Currahee Soldiers earning their Expert Infantryman, Expert Soldier, and Expert Field Medical Badges.



In April, the Battalion deployed its leaders (Squad Leaders and above) to Fola, West Virginia, to participate in a highly innovative training exercise focused on fighting future wars. They trained in the employment of advanced communication and unmanned aerial systems, seamlessly integrating these new systems into realistic training operations.

In June, the majority of the Battalion deployed to White Sands Training Area, New Mexico.

There the Battalion conducted defensive operations and successfully completed multiple complex, long range, Air Assault missions. This included aerial resupply missions and rapid troop movements. After returning from New Mexico, the Battalion went on a well-deserved two weeks of block leave.

In August, the entire Battalion deployed to the Fort Campbell Training area as a part of Operation Lethal Rakkasan. This Battalion completed advanced collective training with the Rifle Companies and Weapons Company at the squad, section, and platoon level. The Battalion was recalled from Operation Lethal Rakkasan and rapidly transitioned into to preparation for a real-world deployment to Europe.

The remainder of the year has been focused on preparing Soldiers and equipment for the upcoming deployment. In Europe, White Currahee Soldiers will be training and preparing Ukranian Soldiers in support of the United States’ mission to assure and assist our allies in the region.



# IRON REPORT

IRON COMMANDER, LTC ERIK NORMAN

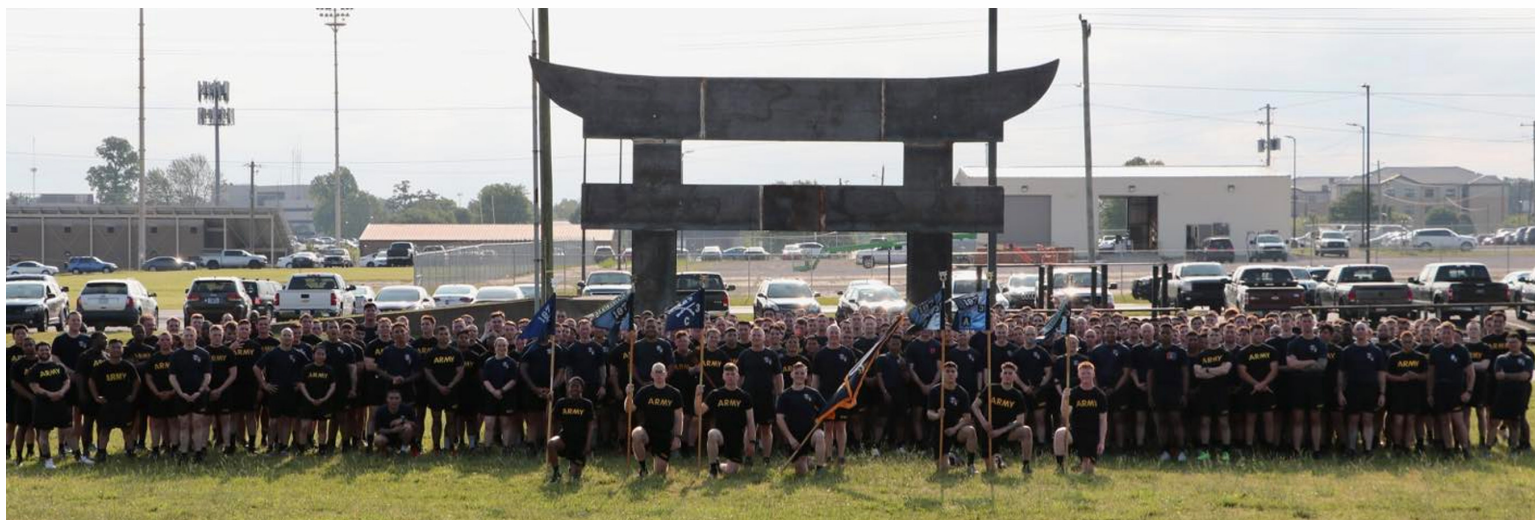


Greetings Fellow Rakkasans!

It's been another eventful year for the Iron Rakkasans. Iron has been busy building warriors and strengthening the Iron Family. We conducted tough Infantry training across our echelons and worked to modernize our equipment and tactics. To culminate our year, Iron will deploy to Eastern Europe in support of Operation European Assist, Deter, and Reinforce (OEADR)—our first operational deployment since Operation Southern Guardian at the Southwest Border (2019-2020). Though we have been busy, we wouldn't want it any other way.



In the fall of 2022, Iron focused on logistical and administrative exercises. We kicked off the year with the Forces Command (FORSCOM) Ground Readiness Evaluation and Assessment Team (GREAT) Inspection. The Iron Rakkasans tied for the highest score ever achieved by a Battalion. The Iron Rakkasans also fielded the Integrated Tactical Network (ITN) suite of radios, replacing our warfighter radio systems with modern technology. We closed out our administrative tasks by erecting a new Iron Torri on Kemple-Yates Field. Thanks in part to Rak Association support, this new Torri—made of Iron—will symbolize our strength for many Rakkasan generations to come.





In the spring of 2023, Iron began conducting our Infantry training progression with Squad Live Fires and Situational Training Exercises (STX). This training prepared us to assume the Contingency Response Force (CRF) mission in June of 2023 and continue our progression in August of 2023. Iron was prepared to deploy to fulfill whatever mission assigned by our nation.

Iron then participated in Operation Lethal Rakkasan (OLR)—3 BCT's mission during the August Division Training Density. Iron joined the rest of 3BCT in a two-day Joint Forcible Entry (JFE) Air Assault. Following insertion, all Platoon qualified in Platoon Live Fire Exercises and conducted Platoon and Company STX.

In early summer, Lieutenant Colonel Derrick Draper changed command of Iron Battalion with Lieutenant Colonel Erik Norman. Lieutenant Colonel Draper transitioned to service in The Old Guard. He certainly left a positive mark on the Battalion and will be missed, but Iron continues to excel.

To close out the year, Iron Battalion will deploy for the first time in over three years. Iron was selected for an incredibly challenging and important mission in Eastern Europe. It is to the credit of every Iron Rakkasan, past and present, that Iron was selected for this mission. The continued support of Rakkasans past, combined with the professionalism and determination of Rakkasans present will ensure our tradition of success. Iron is ecstatic to showcase this rich legacy in a deployed theater.

## IRON SHARPENS IRON!

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**Do you want to contribute to the Shimbun?**

**Email the editor at [info@rakkasanassociation.org](mailto:info@rakkasanassociation.org)**

**The Mailbox** 



# VIETNAM LEGACY



*By Theresa Scheets*

The 3/187th and 3rd Brigade arrived in the Republic of Vietnam in November and December of 1967 during Operation Eagle Thrust, with the bulk of the 3/187 th arriving the first few days of December. The majority of 1968 was spent fighting throughout the III Corps Tactical Zone, in areas such as Warzone D, the rocket belt around the Bien Hoa-Long Binh military complex, Hobo Woods, Boi Loi Woods and the Iron Triangle, to name but a few locations.

After almost a full year in Vietnam, the Rakkasans move to the I Corps Tactical Zone, officially reporting to MG Melvin Zais on the tarmac at Phu Bai on October 18, 1968 – Ready to Move, Ready to Fight. The next three years were spent primarily in the mountains west of Hue, the A Shau Valley and the Coastal Plains area in and around Phong Dien District, with a three month stint in Quang Tri Province supporting Dewey Canyon II/Lam Son 719.

During their four years in the Republic of Vietnam, the 3/187 th received the following unit awards:



### Presidential Unit Citation:

June 13 to September 23, 1968

May 10 to May 21, 1969

### Valorous Unit Award:

March 16 to March 22, 1968

April 17 to May 7, 1969

### Meritorious Unit Commendation:

March 14 to October 3, 1968

### Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit

#### Citation:

July 19, 1968 to May 14, 1969

March 1, 1971 to October 9, 1971

April 19, 1971 to August 31, 1971

September 6 to September 19, 1971

### Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class

#### Unit Citation:

October 3, 1968 to May 2, 1970

**Check out the Steel Thread Project at  
<https://www.tstprakkasans.com/>**



**THE W.O.W. DISPATCH**  
Widows or Widowers

## How I met my Rakkasan

By Kenda Tucker

I joined the Army on my birthday in 1986, on the delayed entry program. Once I completed high school in June, I was off to Basic Training at Ft. Jackson SC. I later trained at Ft. Gordon GA. My first duty station was Ft. Clayton Panama - there I met my future husband and began the wild life of a Rakkasan wife.

My Rakkasan, Trent Tucker, operated under constant calmness and an air of confidence that I never saw (and still don't see) in other men. He was assigned to the 87th infantry division in Panama. Which I understood to be a sister unit to the 3/187th infantry unit at Ft. Campbell.

In Panama we spent a lot of time together and would hang out with other people from Texas and Oklahoma... in other words, Cowboy types that were ride or die personalities. After about a year or so we found ourselves talking more and a lot of it one on one. He was full of crazy stories of his childhood. Like every entertaining Texan, I thought he was embellishing but as we shared our life together I would learn that the stories were all true.

In Panama, he recalled an unlikely incident about a church camp trip to New Mexico that had me in tears laughing. He claimed to have been chased down a ski slope by a bear! He was so matter of fact in his delivery that the image of him telling the story is burned into my brain.



On his decent, 12 year old Trent spotted the bear and an immediate skier vs beast chase ensued. He swore he could feel Yogi's breath on his neck. He claimed the bear grabbed at his coat but Trent shimmied out of it as a defensive tactic and continued to barrel down the the mountain.

When he got to the bottom he explained the story to his family who just laughed off the wild tale. His dad dismissed the bear story told him to go back up the hill and retrieve his jacket. Young Trent, keeping an eye out for the beast, located the coat that had bought him the precious time needed to escape the attack and found it shredded! His family was regretful for their earlier response and he became a legend who outskied a Bear!

The more I laughed at the story, the more trouble I was in... I was falling in love with this bear evading Rakkasan.

*After serving in the Army for 3 years, Kenda Tucker worked as a Pediatric ICU nurse for 30 years and proudly helped deliver over 2,000 babies in her community. She married her unforgettable Rakkasan in 1989 and they loved and laughed until his tragic passing in 2021.*

# In Memoriam

Bobbi Kramer

Company K 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team - Korea

Jan 30, 2023

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Mark Turner

187th RCT G Co. 1953-56

Mar 28, 2023

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Wylbor Eugene Molen

127 Engineers

Jul 21, 2023

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# RAKKASAN LEGACY FUND

## "Ensuring the future of the National Association"


A planned gift is a wonderful way to provide for the future of Rakkasan 187th ARCT Association. You will have the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will continue to help our Rakkasan brethren for generations to come.

The Board of Directors has entrusted the treasurer to accept gifts given as legacy bequests to be directed to the Rakkasan Legacy Fund and to accept specific donations. The money donated to this fund will be specifically earmarked and restricted for use by the Association to promulgate projects and causes that will specifically ensure that the legacy of the Rakkasans will be preserved and ensure the continuity of the National Association. Any expenditures from this fund will be reserved for lasting projects and will be for the direct benefit of the Rakkasans both in the past and the future.

### INCLUSION IN THE LEGACY MEMBERSHIP ROLL CALL

All donations to this fund will be made in the honor of a Rakkasan past or present and that Rakkasan will be recognized by the Association in the publications and at events whenever the association forms or a roll call is made. The legacy Rakkasan names and service dates will be preserved in the records of the association and will always hold a place of honor and recognition. Please remember the Rakkasan National Association in your estate planning and charitable giving. Tax treatment of donations: Donations to war veterans' organizations are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return. At least 90% of the organization's membership must consist of war veterans.

### Codicil

	<p>Please ensure that you sign this form in the presence of two independent witnesses. The following people cannot witness your Codicil:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Your executor</li><li>■ Your executor's spouse</li><li>■ A beneficiary</li><li>■ A beneficiary's spouse</li></ul> <p><i>*Please keep this document in a safe place with your will.</i></p>
<p>I, (full name) _____ Of, (full address) _____ _____ (Zip code) _____</p> <p>Declare this to be the (1st/2nd/3rd/other) _____ codicil to my will dated and made (date) _____ I give the sum of \$ _____ to the 187th ARCT Association - National Rakkasan Association, whose address is 875 S. Main St. Plymouth, MI, 48170 absolutely for its general, charitable purposes and I declare that a receipt from the treasurer or other proper officer, shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors.</p> <p>In all other respects, I confirm my said will. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of, _____ 20 _____</p>	<p>This is my (1st/2nd/3rd/other) _____ codicil to my will: Testator's signature: _____</p> <p>Signed in the presence of:</p> <p><b>First witness</b> Signature _____ Full Name _____ Address _____</p> <p><b>Second witness</b> Signature _____ Full Name _____ Address _____</p>

The term war veterans means persons, whether or not present members of the United States Armed Forces, who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war (including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, the Persian Gulf war, Iraq and Afghanistan and later declared wars).

The Association has included a simple codicil form for you to include in your estate or giving plan.



18th ARCT ASSOCIATION - National Rakkasan Association  
Notice of Planned Giving

YES I/We have made a commitment to preserve the future of the Rakkasan Association.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment is made in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Name as it will appear in the Legacy Roll Call)*

Dates of service: \_\_\_\_\_

**The bequest will be funded by:**

Will or living trust

Retirement plan beneficiary designation

Life insurance Beneficiary Designation

Charitable Remainder Trust

Other (please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**These funds are designated to the following:**

Legacy Fund     General Fund     Shimbun Operations

Quartermaster fund     Other \_\_\_\_\_

The gift to the National Rakkasan Association is estimated to be: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
*(optional, used for recognition purposes)*

Please sign, date and send this form, as well as all other necessary forms to the treasurers office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature    Date    Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature    Date    Print name

Please print and mail your filled out forms to the Association Treasurer:

James Sullivan  
National Rakkasan Association  
875 S Main Street  
Plymouth, MI 48170

The same forms are available for download on our website: [www.rakkasanassociation.org](http://www.rakkasanassociation.org)  
Click on the Shimbun link and scroll down to "printable forms".

For questions on the legacy fund or form application email [info@rakkasanassociation.org](mailto:info@rakkasanassociation.org)



# Donate Anytime

Did you know that people can donate anytime, for any reason to the National Association?

Funds donated to the National Rakkasan Association can be used for assisting active Rakkasans in need, memorials or a host of other worthy causes.

visit: [www.rakkasanassociation.org/donate](http://www.rakkasanassociation.org/donate)

# BOARD ELECTION INFO

## *Get involved with the National Rakkasan Association*

**Eligibility:** Any Annual (with current dues paid up), Life or Charter life member in good standing may nominate another member (who is also an Annual, Life or Charter life member in good standing) to become a candidate. Prior to this year, all elections were done with mail in ballots but this year we will also utilize the website to collect nominations, declarations and votes. You can still use the mail - just be mindful that the deadline is September 20, 2021.

*\*If you are not a current member of the Association, you can sign up at [rakkasanassociation.org/membership](http://rakkasanassociation.org/membership). If you need your member number to fill out forms email [info@rakkasanassociation.org](mailto:info@rakkasanassociation.org).*

### **Step one: Nomination** (two ways to do this)

1. Print out the nomination form (see below), fill in information and mail it to the association.
2. Submit the form online. [rakkasanassociation.org/leadership](http://rakkasanassociation.org/leadership)

(You must have the prospective candidates member number so you need to make sure they are willing to serve on the board).

### **Step two: Declaration** (This step is filled out by the potential candidate - also two ways to do it)

1. Print out the declaration form (see below), fill in the information and mail it to the association. OR
2. Submit the form online. [rakkasanassociation.org/leadership](http://rakkasanassociation.org/leadership)

**Both steps require you to submit valid member numbers** - if you don't have yours handy or are unsure if you are a member (it happens), email [info@rakkasanassociation.org](mailto:info@rakkasanassociation.org)

Without both steps completed, the attempt to either nominate or declare become void.

If you have any questions, ASK! We are eager for involvement and welcome any questions you might have.

## STAY CURRENT

Subscribe for email updates from our website or follow on social media.

[www.rakkasanassociation.org](http://www.rakkasanassociation.org)



[facebook.com/NationalRakkasan](https://facebook.com/NationalRakkasan)

<https://twitter.com/NationalRakk>

