



Geronimo!



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2014

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SEND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO
PhilipHandscomb@msn.com
AND WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER

509 PIA HAS A BIG YEAR AHEAD

As we say goodbye to the old year and welcome in the New Year, the 509 Paratroop Infantry Association is looking forward to a year full of memorable events on our Calendar. April 2-5, we will be honoring our **509th Man of the Year, Ernie Cochran**, at the 37th Annual Airborne Awards Festival in Atlanta, Georgia. (application & article on pages 6/7) **The 70th Anniversary of Operation DRAGOON/RUGBY** will be held in Southern France on August 9-16, 2014. (See Articles on 509 Event & WWII reenactment jump team pages 2/3). **The 509 PIA Reunion** site and date is not yet finalized, but will be in **Harrisburg or Gettysburg, PA**. The dates will coordinate with the 1st & 3rd Battalions rotation, and will be in the first two weeks of **September**. **Watch for details in April Newsletter.**

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **70TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATION DRAGOON/RUGBY**
- **1ST AND 3RD BATTALION UPDATES**
- **MEMBERSHIP APP**
- **509 MAN OF YEAR**
- **2014 REUNION NEWS**
- **IN MEMORIUM**
- **509TH WEBSITE LINK**

<http://509thgeronimo.org>

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Richard D. Fisco died peacefully on Friday, December 13, 2013 at HillHouse Assisted Living. He was born on April 7, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Joseph and Mary (Pagonini) Fisco. He joined the army in 1939 and eventually served as the lead scout with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion and the 5th Army. Richard met and married his beloved wife, Louise Cechetti on December 8, 1944, the day of the Immaculate Conception, in the Church of Notre Dame in Nice, France. Richard joined the New York City Fire Department in 1949. He served as a Lieutenant firefighter for 20 years and retired in 1969. He traveled to France often with his wife and son, Richard. He was made an honorary citizen of Saint Tropez, France. Richard is the author of his autobiography "Our Lives Will Be Beautiful" published in 2011. Dick Fisco now rests with his wife for eternity in France. The Mass and burial were very simple, only 25 people attended, most were from the family side of Louise, His wife.



We Have Our Orders

OPERATION ORDER 14-08

(Southern France 2014)

Situation. 15 AUG 2014 is the 70th Anniversary of Operation DRAGOON / RUGBY, the invasion and liberation of Southern France. America and France recognize the significance of this historic event in establishing a second front in France to rapidly bring about the destruction of the German war machine. As a result, France is conducting many celebrations and ceremonies to commemorate the historic event.

Areas of Interest: En Provence, Var, Alpes Maritimes, Nice, Cannes, St Tropez, LeMuy, LaMotte, LeMitan, Grasse, Draguignan, Trans en Provence, and Valbourges, France.

The 509th PIA conducts 70th Anniversary commemoration activities in Southern France on 08 – 17 AUG 2014 in conjunction with several allied organizations and the citizens of France to remember, honor, and serve the WWII Airborne Veterans, who participated in Operation DRAGOON / RUGBY.

Matt Anderson, our Webmaster and Board of Trustees member, is the Deputy Task Force Commander for this Operation, and is also an Instructor for the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team. He has been invaluable in working out the details of this event. 13 AUG 2014 (Wednesday) Airborne Operations. Airborne Command and WWII Airborne Demonstration Team conduct airborne operations on drop zone east of LeMuy. (Please see article and pictures on the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team next page)





WWII Airborne Demonstration Team

Remember, Honor, Serve

The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team Foundation was formed to honor and serve the memory of the men who fought and died to preserve America's freedom during WWII. The activities of the Foundation recognize and honor all those who served and survived that conflict.

The Foundation serves that honorable purpose through the participation of its members in active parachute jumping in the style of the WWII airborne soldier, utilizing an aircraft that actually participated in the invasion of Europe. These activities serve to further the memory of their unbending loyalty to the cause of freedom.

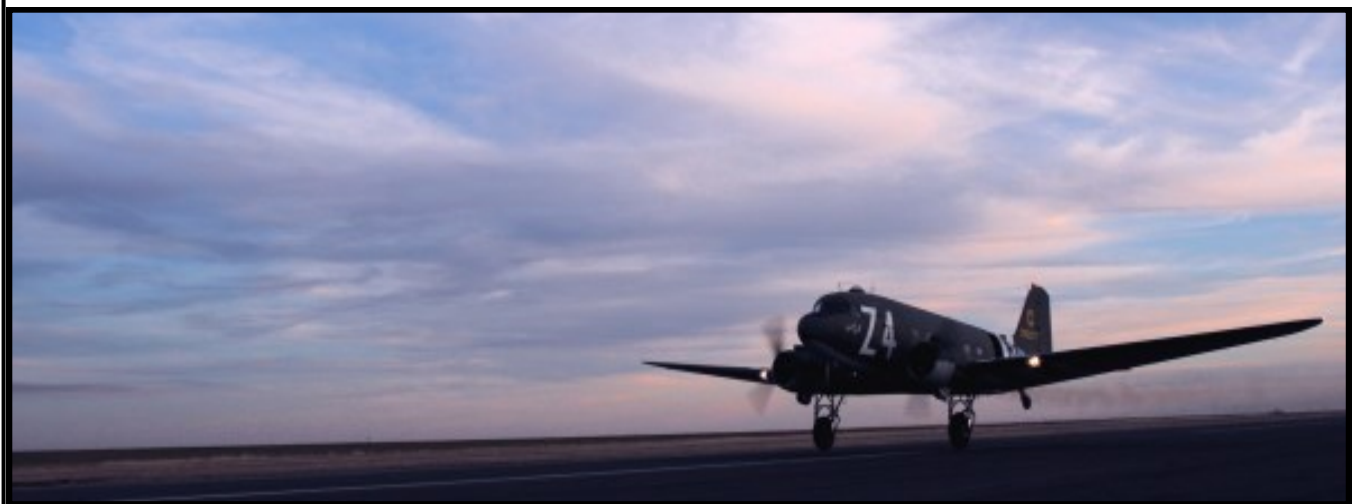
Further, it is the goal of the Foundation to foster, promote and engage in research of WWII airborne operations and military history and to inform and educate the public through airborne operations and demonstrations throughout the United States and Europe.

From the pilots, who fly the WWII planes, to the instructors, cooks, carpenters, maintenance, etc., everyone volunteers their time to this endeavor. They hold jump schools twice a year, in the summer and winter. They are located in Frederick, OK, and their website address is: wwiadt.org/

If anyone is interested in learning more about this amazing organization, they can go to their website or get in touch with Matt Anderson, or view the following links for some great video: [http://www.kswo.com/story/24512324/airborne-students-to-make-first-jump-in-frederick=](http://www.kswo.com/story/24512324/airborne-students-to-make-first-jump-in-frederick) and <http://kfor.com/2014/01/27/great-state-airborne-dreams-in-frederick-ok/>

At the time of this newsletter there are approximately 35 509ers who may be attending, counting family members, guests, etc. The 509 PIA will be well represented in that number, which does not include any 1/509 or 3/509 that might attend, and does not include the members of the WWII Demonstration Team, who are jumping in.

This should be a memorable experience for us all, and a real tribute to the Original 509ers, who jumped in Operation DRAGOON/RUGBY in 1944.





1-509th IN (ABN) Airborne Assault December 2013



Who: 1-509th IN (ABN)
What: Conduct Nighttime Tactical Airfield Seizure
When: 11 December 2013
Where: Geronimo DZ, Fort Polk, LA
Why: To train individual Paratrooper tasks and exercise Geronimo mission command systems

Summary of Training:

As an Airborne battalion, Geronimo maintains the capability to conduct contingency operations Worldwide through Joint Forced Entry. Upon receipt of mission, Geronimo staff went into action and began planning using the Military Decision Making Process. This planning method incorporates the Commander's intent, intelligence assessments of enemy activity, course of action development, and war gaming strategies. At the conclusion of planning, the staff published an operations order. After receipt of this order, Geronimo Companies began executing the Troop Leading Procedures and readying the individual Paratroopers through pre combat checks and inspections. After a detailed Combined Arms Rehearsal and sustained airborne training, the Geronimo Battalion moved to the departure airfield in Alexandria, LA. Once at the departure airfield, Geronimo drew and donned parachutes. Jumpmasters performed JMPTI to inspect individual parachutes and combat loads. After commanders and leaders performed radio checks and finalized the plan, the first lift of Paratroopers boarded two C-130 Hercules aircraft. The first jumpers exited the aircraft at 2000 on December 11, 2013. Once on the ground, Paratroopers immediately put their weapons into operation, secured their air items, gathered their parachutes, and moved out to Company assembly areas. Leaders, meanwhile, conducted radio checks with subordinate elements and higher headquarters in preparation for follow on operations. The Geronimo Battalion completed this exercise once all three lifts of Paratroopers had linked up in Company assembly areas, and all Companies were postured to conduct subsequent missions.



2/509th PIR conducts jumpmaster inspections in final preparation for Operation VILLIAN (TORCH).



Continuing the long tradition of Airborne proficiency, this Geronimo keeps his feet and knees together prior to landing on Geronimo DZ



1-509th IN (ABN) Yarborough Mile January 2014

Who: 1-509th IN (ABN)
What: Complete Yarborough Mile Competition
When: 6 January 2014
Where: Yarborough Mile Course
Why: To test individual Paratrooper physical fitness and build esprit de corps within platoon teams.

Summary of Training:

Paratroopers are asked to conduct some of the most arduous and difficult missions assigned to our conventional land forces. Their only resources are what they can jump into combat, hump on their backs, or scrounge in enemy territory. They must be extremely physically fit, willing to push themselves to their limits, and be able to rely on the Paratrooper next to them. In accordance with this philosophy, Geronimo Soldiers compete in the Yarborough Mile biannually. Named in honor of LTG William Yarborough, the third Battalion Commander of 1-509th, the competition requires Geronimo teams to move several items of combat equipment through rugged and swampy terrain. In this years competition, Geronimo teams lugged a 55 gallon drum, six 5 gallon water cans, six replicated mortar rounds, two replicated AT4s, and one wooden ammo crate over the three mile course. The Battalion Commander, LTC Matthew Tackett, recognized the winning team in front of the Battalion at the completion of the event. For their demonstration of physical endurance and teamwork, the members of HHC/1-509th Team One were awarded the Battalion coin.

Commander's Notes:

The Yarborough Mile is a tradition within Geronimo that exemplifies the qualities of a Paratrooper. This event is another way that the Geronimo Soldiers continue to demonstrate they deserve recognition as elite members of the Airborne community.



A Geronimo Soldier exhibits best practices for carrying the 55 gallon drum throughout the 3 mile course



The Geronimo teams began the Yarborough Mile by passing all Soldiers and items of equipment through a watery culvert



Exhausted, but not defeated, these Geronimo catch their breath after the successful completion of the Yarborough Mile



3-509 IN (ABN) Squad PT Competition



Mission:

Companies provide 3 squads per company and an Ahkio group complete to participate in the BN Squad PT Competition

Key Points:

- Operating as a Squad in an Arctic environment completing 5 tasks comprised of 509 push-ups, 50 Ahkio squats, complete Ahkio set-up and tear down, 50 overhead Ahkio presses, and a 75m Ahkio carry.
- Learning about the effects of cold weather on operations and equipment
- Proficiency in setting up an Ahkio group to the NWTC and USARAK standard
- To increase Esprit DeCorps through a competitive event



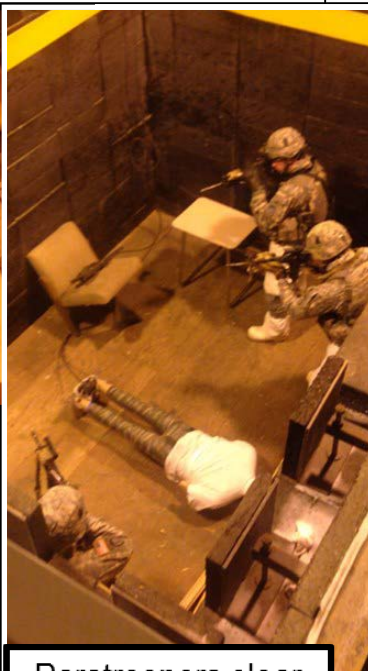
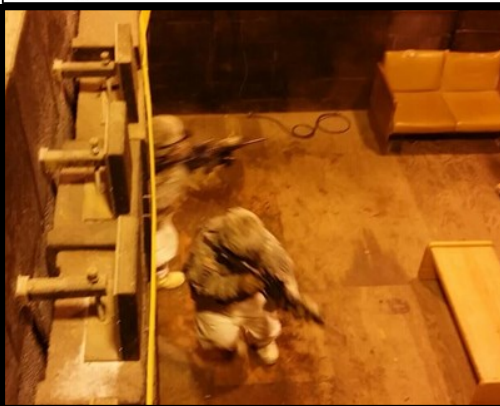
Task: Conduct Squad Level/ Size competition to promote teamwork and Esprit DeCorps within the 3-509th BN

Conditions: Given a Squad sized element and complete Ahkio system to complete the 5 events on the designated course

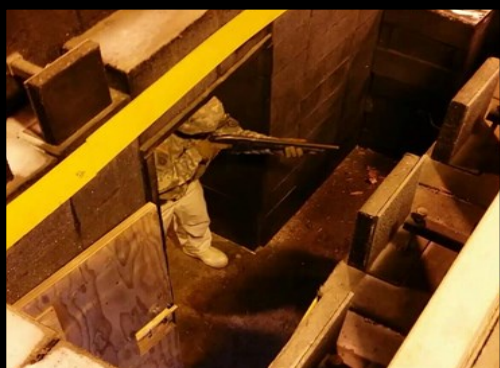
Standards: Complete 5 events within the course in the shortest time possible

Lessons Learned:

- Leaders need to ensure that Soldiers are adhering to the standards for training in an Arctic environment



Paratroopers integrated both ballistic and mechanical breaches as well as working dogs.



Paratroopers clear a room during a live fire iteration.



Ernie Cochran is the 509 PIA Man of the Year!

Ernie Cochran has been chosen as the 509th PIA's Man of the Year. He is very deserving of this honor, as he has spent his own time and effort year after year to help Housman and Associates organize the excellent reunions all of us have come to look forward to and enjoy. On top of everything else he does, he sets up and serves as our bartender and host in the hospitality room, and spends long hours literally lifting all our spirits. Ernie is amazing, not just for remembering the names of those that have attended reunions in the past but also for never forgetting your favorite drink. The field of nominees this year was a strong one, and I know we are all proud to wish congratulations to Ernie. His Grandparents John and Jean Devanie, and his mom, June are proud as well. If you wish to support Ernie at the Atlanta Awards, where he will be honored, please see the flyer on the next page. See you in Atlanta.



Pictured at left are: LTC Patrick Altenburg, and CSM Scott Beeson, of 3/509; and LTC Tackett, and CSM Young, of 1/509 with the 509 Guidon, which will be jumped at Fort Polk in April, during joint 1st and 3rd operations, and will be jumped in Thailand on February 14, in support of Cobra Gold. I wonder if it will be jumped in France for Operation DRAGON/RUGBY?

Below: Members of one of the 3/509 sniper teams firing the new XM 2010 sniper rifle, putting it through its paces. Good shooting guys.

FTX-8th-ID reunion July 17-21 Custer, SD, 2014

Generation FTX - 8th ID Reunion Registration Form	2014 1
<small>PERSONAL DATA Please print clearly. If you AND your spouse are 8th ID veterans, please submit a separate 8IDform101-R (Personal Data only). A separate deposit will NOT be required.</small>	
Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____	
Address: _____	
Please list all 8 th ID units you served with (Co, Bn, Regt, Rank, Dates of Service):	
1) _____	
2) _____	
3) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if you served with more than THREE 8 th ID units and list them on back of form.	
<small>DEPENDENTS IN ATTENDANCE</small>	
How many will be attending including yourself? <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse registering separately. Name: _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Children - Number _____ Names/Ages _____	
<small>TRANSPORTATION</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> By Commercial Airline (RPD) Flight # _____ (if known) <input type="checkbox"/> By Private/Charter Plane	
<input type="checkbox"/> By POV <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
If you are driving or will be renting a vehicle when you arrive, would you be willing take others with you for any small tours or events that might be planned? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If YES, what is your vehicle seating capacity? <input type="checkbox"/>	
<small>BILLETING</small>	
Will you be staying at: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel/Motel <input type="checkbox"/> Campground <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> DIVISION HQ Guest Quarters (Bavarian Inn - see General Information on pg 2)	
<small>PLEASE INDICATE WHICH EVENTS YOU INTEND TO GO AND HOW MANY WILL BE GOING:</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> BLACK HILLS TOUR (Sat. 19 JUL.) 8 hr bus tour of Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park & more. \$85/person. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> LARIAT ADVANCE BBQ (Fri. 18 JUL @ 1715) \$22/adult. \$11/child. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> PATHFINDER GOLF TOURNEY (Sun. 20 JUL.) \$77/person. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> GOLDEN ARROW CLOSING CEREMONY BANQUET (Sun. 20 JUL @ 1700) \$40/person. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> OLD FORT MEADE MUSEUM (Daily 0900 - 1700) \$5/person. _____ (Groups of 9 or more: \$3/person)	
<input type="checkbox"/> MINUTEMAN MISSILE HISTORICAL SITE (Daily 0900 - 1630) No Fee, 1 st come, 1 st served for tickets. _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> PRAIRIE WIND CASINO. _____	
<small>Underlined events are part of the program and require RESERVATIONS and DEPOSIT. (\$150.00 NON-REFUNDABLE)</small>	
<small>All other activities listed are suggested as possible additions between program events. They do not require reservations. We may get groups together to convoy if enough are interested. Otherwise, these will be individual trips.</small>	
FORM 06 JUN 13	PREVIOUS FORMS ARE OBSOLETE. 812E Printing USA



Support 509 Man of the Year At the Atlanta Awards

Airborne Awards Registration

April 2, 3, 4, 5 2014 – Atlanta, Georgia

The early bird party begins at 12 noon on Wednesday, April 2. If you arrive early, our Hospitality Room will provide you a place to wait until your room is available. Eats and drinks are provided there, free for all paid attendees.

Fill out the form below and return it, along with your check to address listed at bottom of form.

Register early to ensure you get the accommodations you request. Remember, full refund in case of withdrawal, up to March 15th.

Registration Fee:

You must pay this even if you do not attend any events.

\$40 per person _____

I will attend:

Thursday, April 3 - Memorial Luncheon - 12 Noon

\$40 per person _____

Friday, April 4 Circle Trip #1 or #2 (includes lunch)

#1 - Bus Trip to Ft. Benning

#2 - Bus Trip to Camp Merrill/Camp Toccoa

\$40 per person _____

Saturday, April 5

Ladies Brunch

\$20 per person _____

Awards Banquet & Hop

\$40 per person _____

Total for Registration and All Events: _____
Payment must accompany Registration Form _____

DATE SERVED _____ UNIT(S) _____

CAMPAIGNS _____

NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

I will arrive _____ I will depart _____

Email address for confirmation: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

Atlanta All Airborne Chapter
1087 Carson Lane
Hampton, GA 30228-1694

You Can download this form and get Hotel info and deadlines at the following website:

www.82nd.atl.com

Organization Dues Statement

January 1-December 31

Annual 509th PIA Membership

- CHARTER** **WORLD WAR II VETERAN** \$20.00 per year
- LEGACY** **IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF VETERAN** \$20.00 per year
- REGULAR** **POST WORLD WAR II 509TH VETERAN** \$25.00 per year
- ASSOCIATE** **NON 509TH VETERAN** \$25.00 per year

Please make check payable to:

509th PIA

and send to:

509th Parachute Infantry Association
P.O. Box 860
Huntsville, AL 35804

We Need Your Support

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Unit: _____ Time Period: _____

Occupation: _____

Comments: _____

Check the box if you Do Not want your name and information listed in the Membership Directory