



# Geronimo!



## 509 REUNION 2013

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2013

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The 509 PIA reunion in Fayetteville, NC, was a huge success. Housman and Assoc. did a spectacular job. The Holiday Inn I95 was our host, and there was a day at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, near Ft. Bragg. Pictured above at the Saturday 509 Dinner are: John Devanie, Charlie Audet, Bud Siegel, Brigade CSM Drew Pumarejo, Michael Yarborough, Lee Yarborough (son of Gen. Yarborough) and our President, Hal Persun. (See articles and pictures on pages 4/5)

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**AND WE WILL  
SEND YOU A  
COPY OF THE  
NEWSLETTER**

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:


- **NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**
- **1ST AND 3RD BATTALION UPDATES**
- **MEMBERSHIP APP**
- **UPDATES ON MEMBERS AND 509ERS**
- **REUNION NEWS**
- **IN MEMORIAM**
- **509TH WEBSITE LINK**

**<http://509thgeronimo.org/>**

## 509 MOURNS FALLEN COMRADES

**SEE ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY ON PAGES 2  
AND 3 OF THIS EDITION!!!**

Barry Simpson, the 509 PIA Treasurer, did Master of Ceremonies duties at the 2013 509 PIA reunion in Fayetteville, NC, which was held on August 28-31 at the Holiday Inn I95. The dinner began with the Posting of the Colors by the Color Guard from 1st 509, Ft. Polk, LA. The Grace before dinner was led by Cpt. Hargis, Chaplain at Ft. Polk. After dinner, Barry introduced some of the guests in attendance: Col. Darron Wright, Brigade CSM retired, Drew Pumarejo, Lt. Col. retired Lee Yarborough, son of General Yarborough, who brought his son Michael and some of his father's books. We had troopers from Ft. Bragg drop in on the festivities, and some videos of the training the 1st Battalion of the 509 does in its training capacity in Fort Polk. There was a large representation of the 509th from Mainz, Germany, better known as the "Animal Farm" who brought liquid as well as solid items for the raffle. We had several attendees who made contributions to the 509 Association. Barry also paid tribute to our fallen 509ers from the past year: Donald Ellis, William "Whitey" Davis, William Bowers, Dave Johnson (the Animal Farm), Elmo Knight. After the Drawings for cash and gifts, there was the Retiring of the Colors, and the festivities continued into the



**THE GERONIMO PRAYER**

ALMIGHTY GOD, THE AUTHOR OF LIBERTY AND THE CHAMPION OF THE OPPRESSED, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

WE, THE PARATROOPERS OF THE 1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 509TH INFANTRY, GERONIMO, ACKNOWLEDGE OUR RELIANCE UPON THEE AS WE STRIVE TO DEFEND OUR NATION WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR.

PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THIS "BAND OF BROTHERS" AS WE ENDEAVOR TO DO THY WILL.

WE TAKE OUR ASSIGNMENT FROM THEE; WE PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF OUR COUNTRY AND WE DEFEND FREEDOM FOR ALL. ENABLE US WITH THY WISDOM, THY COURAGE AND THY STRENGTH IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION.

YOU ARE THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, GUIDE US AS WE MANEUVER BETWEEN THE TWO.

ALL THE WAY WE SERVE THEE; ALL THE WAY TO VICTORY. GERONIMO! AMEN!

1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 509TH INFANTRY  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA

RIP BUD SIEGEL: WW2 COMBAT VET, 509<sup>TH</sup> AIRBORNE



Bud "Bugsy" Siegel, died quietly in his sleep on the morning of Oct. 4, 2013, a month after attending the 509 PIA reunion in Fayetteville, NC. For those of you who have ever attended a 509th reunion, you have probably heard "Bugsy" read "A Soldier's Saga," which he wrote, about the 509th in WWII. All of us, in attendance, at this reunion, were lucky to hear him recite "A Soldier's Saga" one last time. His brother, who he had not seen in a while, was there to enjoy the reunion with him. Bud was the 509's Man of the Year in 2007 and will be missed. There will be a memorial service for Bud next summer. We will post the date online and here. **ALL THE WAY—GERONIMO!**



## 509 PIA & ALL 509TH MOURN COLONEL WRIGHT

Col. Darron Wright was laid to rest Tuesday, October 1, at 1100 hours at the Family Cathedral of Praise in Mesquite, TX. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 509 PIR sent Cpt. Hargis, their Chaplain, to represent them at the funeral. He brought a 509 Beret with him, to be placed in the casket. Col. Wright had been the commanding officer of the 509 PIR in Ft. Polk, LA. The 509 Parachute Infantry Association was represented at the funeral and interment, at the National Cemetery, by the Association President, Hal Persun and his wife, who reside in Texas, and Mr. and Mrs. John Devanie, June Housman and John Eaves.

June described the funeral in her own words,

*"The funeral today for Darron was wonderful. There were a lot of vets, soldiers, and high ranking officials. The 509<sup>th</sup> should be proud. What amazed me the most was the procession to the national cemetery. First of all there were at least 50 veteran motorcycles carrying the American Flag leading the procession. The school by the church had the children line the road with the American Flag waving as we drove by. Around the corner were others waving the flag. The police shut down I635 between Dallas and Fort Worth for the procession. Over passes, along the way were lined with fire trucks, ambulances, and men at attention. That was amazing in itself. Then we got*

*"They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, or the years con-demn. At the going down of the Sun, and in the morning, we will remember them." Brit509*

*on I20 and that had a police car at every ramp stopping traffic. Our Buddy Darron was totally honored today and all his family and friends got to be a part of it. At the cemetery the Geronimo Prayer was said aloud.*



*I am truly proud that in my life I have had the opportunity to be a part of the 509."* Col. Wright, a senior Army officer who led Stryker soldiers in Iraq and returned to Joint Base Lewis-McCord to help launch a new division headquarters, died on Monday, Sept. 23, in a parachute accident at Fort Bragg, N.C. Col. Darron Wright died while serving with Fort Bragg's XVIII Airborne Corps

. Soldiers who knew him openly grieved on public web sites.

"He was an inspirational officer with contagious enthusiasm, motivation and energy," Col. John Norris, former commander of Lewis-McCord's 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division wrote on Facebook. "Great soldier, leader, mentor, husband, father and very dear friend."

At Lewis-McCord, Wright served as Norris' deputy brigade commander on their tour in Iraq and later as the first operations officer for the reactivated 7th Infantry Division.

Darron had just published a book, "Iraq Full Circle" about his experiences in the Iraq conflict. He had just attended the 509 PIA reunion in Fayetteville, NC, near Ft. Bragg, where he signed copies of his book. Wright leaves behind a wife, Wendy, two sons and a daughter. They lived in DuPont before he relocated to Fort Bragg this year.

# Geronimo!



The Animal Farm is joined by Cpt. Hargis, John Devanie, The Color Guard, Bud Siegel, and his brother, Matt Andersen, Brandon Moody, and many others at the 509 dinner.

## Off Duty



Fort Polk 3/509 Color Guard: SSG Richard Mercer, SGT Bradley Worman, SGT Dan Peck, CPL Nicholas McDonald

## On Duty





# Geronimo!







Some Pictures from the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, which included a great lunch!





# A/3-509 CONDUCTS TRAINING

 <b>A/3-509 IN (ABN)</b>	<b>Week 1 Storyboard</b>	<b>30 SEP13</b> 
<p><b>Who:</b> A/3-509 IN (ABN)  <b>What:</b> Company NEO STX  <b>When:</b> 30 SEP 2013  <b>Where:</b> Combined Arms Collective Training Facility (CACTF) Donnelly Training Area (DTA)  <b>Why:</b> Provide the Company with realistic Non-Combatant Evacuation Training in an urban environment.  <b>Summary:</b> 28 September 2013 Company Leadership received the STX Lane OPORD from BN. The Company leadership then issued WARNO 1 to the PLT leadership. The PLTs issued all the information on WARNO 1 to their PLTs and began conducting RXLs. 29 SEP the Company leadership issued WARNO 2 and then the Company level OPORD. The Company then conducted a Rock drill via terrain model and allowed the PLTs some more RXL time. On the morning of 30 SEP, the company began load out on FSC LMTVs and began mvmt to the CACTF. The Company arrived at the CACTF and immediately began their PLT missions. 1<sup>st</sup> PLT conducted a TCP and link-up with LN Police. 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT conducted Area Security and 3<sup>rd</sup> PLT began the processing of all AMCITs and DOS PAX inside the embassy.  <b>CDR Notes:</b> The TLP process was well received by the Company. The majority of the company individuals understood their task and purpose and were able to rehearse the different tasks prior to mission. During the exercise, PLs exercised great skill in their force protection posture upon arrival and the continual reassessment of their posture. This allowed the AMCIT evacuation to run smoothly with the Ambassador and the DOS PAX very appreciative of the support from the Company. PLTs also practiced crowd control as well as MEDEVAC operations.</p>	 <p>Able Company Paratroopers securing the U.S. Embassy</p>  <p>Able Company Paratroopers responding to a civil disturbance</p>	

Here is a few things  
the 3/509 has been doing

in our intensive  
training cycle at DTA

## MORTEP DTA HHC/3-509th (23 SEP 2013)



Unit: MTRs HHC/3-509<sup>th</sup>  
 DTA  
 DTG of Training: 23 SEP



**Summary of Training:**  
 3/509<sup>th</sup> Mortar Platoon conducted MORTEP while at DTA on 23 September 2013.  
 The Mortar Platoon had just received their Operations Order to occupied a MFP at OP 7a. While en route to this location they received communication that a friendly platoon was under contact and needed immediate indirect fire support... they had received a "Fire mission". Immediately Thunder Platoon went into a well rehearsed battle drill to fire a "hip shoot" fire mission. The FDC began to compute the fire mission and sync the sections. The first vehicles squad leader identified an area large enough to get the entire platoons mortar systems into action. From this point every mortar man executed the battle drill sending notional rounds on target. This began the MORTEP evaluation.

**Training Conducted:**

1. Deliberate Occupation
2. Hasty Occupation
3. Recon of a MFP
4. Set in gun line with Aiming Circle
5. FDC Computes Fire missions using LHMBC and Plotting Board.
6. Fire Mission's: Fire Center Sector, Grid, Polar, Shift, Adjust Fire, Fire For Effect, Final Protective Fires.





C/3-509 IN (ABN) DTA PLT LFX: 30SEPT2013		DTA PLT LFX	30 SEPT 13	
<b>Mission:</b> C Co, 3rd Battalion, 509th IN (ABN) conducts PLT LFX IVO Collective Training Area on 30 SEP 13 IOT validate PLT for collective training of Platoon Attack.		<b>Tasks Trained:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct Troop Leading</li><li>• Movement to Contact</li><li>• Attack</li><li>• Knock out a Bunker</li></ul> <p>Integrate Indirect Fires -Call for Fire -Adjust Fire</p>		
<b>What Happened?</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All three Rifle Platoons conducted blank Force on Force as well as blank LFX prep to train the targetry. 1st Platoon was able to conduct a maneuver LFX. All Platoons also conducted a night Force on Force with blanks.</li></ul>				
<b>CDRs Comments</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All Platoons showed considerable improvement. All major movements are solid, however, fine tuning is required in respect to actions in the ORP and organized processing of SSE.</li><li>• 1st PLT conducted their LFX successfully while also integrating IDF to cover the emplacement of the SBF.</li><li>• Weather was wet and near or below freezing. Additional detail was paid to ensure we mitigated cold weather injuries successfully. Troopers also stayed motivated and were aggressive in seizing their objectives.</li><li>• Despite only one PLT being LFX Certified, all platoons demonstrated proper techniques for conducting a React to</li></ul>				
<b>Lessons Learned</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducting the FSCX prior to the LFX paid dividends in IDF integration. Platoon Leaders successfully echeloned fires to support their movements.</li><li>• Additional focus needs to be applied to actions in the ORP, ASLT Position, and actions on.</li><li>• Including the analysis of 45 min to reinforcement of the objective forced Platoon Leaders to more effectively delegate tasks during the attack.</li></ul>				

# NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD 2013 - 2014

## 509<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Association:

Dave Bush tendered his resignation as president of the Association and nominated Hal Persun as his replacement. Hal Persun was elected to the position of President by acclaim. Dave Bush was nominated as a Trustee of the 509<sup>th</sup> Association Foundation, and was elected to the position by acclaim. All other Board members and Trustees were re-elected by acclaim. All other members of the Executive Board remained the same, and Patrick Murphy was added as a Trustee.

Executive Board for 2013-2014 is:

Hal Persun, President

Trygvi Larum, Vice President

Barry Simpson, Treasurer

Matt Holzmann, Secretary

## Trustees:

Mark Jernigan

Philip Handscomb

John Devanie

Matt Andersen

Patrick Murphy

Dave Bush

CSM (Ret) Drew Pumarejo was nominated as the Honorary CSM, while BG (Ret) Ward LeHardy was nominated as the honorary COL of the Regiment. These nominations will be forwarded for approval per the 509 PIA Bylaws



**Organization Dues Statement**

January 1-December 31

**Annual 509<sup>th</sup> PIA Membership**

<b>CHARTER</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>WORLD WAR II VETERAN</b>	\$20.00 per year
<b>LEGACY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF VETERAN</b>	\$20.00 per year
<b>REGULAR</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>POST WORLD WAR II 509<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN</b>	\$25.00 per year
<b>ASSOCIATE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NON 509<sup>TH</sup> VETERAN</b>	\$25.00 per year

*Please make check payable to:***509<sup>th</sup> PIA***and send to:*

**509<sup>th</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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