



82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSN. INC.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

PARATROOPER

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Chartered by the
United States Congress

The
"All Airborne" Fraternity

November 2018

Chris Mirowski, Editor

Fort Bragg ceremony marks return of 68th Armor Regiment



A LAV-25 of the 4th Bn 68th Armor Bde, 82nd Abn Div conducts a live-fire training at Fort Bragg, NC.

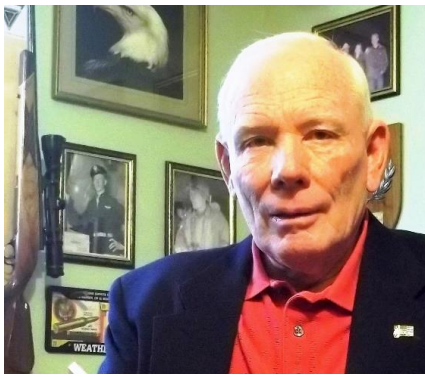
FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The 82nd Airborne Division has revived a bit of its history to help it better prepare for future fights.

A Company, 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment was activated within the 1st Brigade Combat Team on Friday. The unit is equipped with the LAV-25A2, a light-armored vehicle originally used by the Marine Corps that was introduced to the 82nd Airborne Division in 2016.

**Airborne Dinner and Annual Membership
Meeting (RMC Elections)
December 15th
See page 7 for information and a map**

See
"68th Armor"
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From the Chairman

It's here...in a few short days we'll "STAND IN THE DOOR" on Veterans Day-Sunday, November 11th at 11:11 in Loveland. You read it right; and we'll be presenting our C130 and award-winning float for this parade. We'll have a member in each jump door and others on board. You'll want to march or hitch a ride for this one! See details inside.

Bob Barnett, Chairman RMC

Get ready for our Christmas Chapter Dinner on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 3:00-5:00. We're doubling up on this one following the last-minute cancellation, by American Legion Post 161, of our September 29th, 2018 Dinner. A death of one of their long-time members (Arlene's husband) was the reason. Arlene has always done a great job for our dinners, and we were sorry to hear of her loss. This has been a great venue and good food. There will be a Door Prize, Drawings, a Quartermaster auction, election, and Planning for 2019. Mark your calendar for this general membership annual meeting. See more information inside.

Membership is growing (processing), and we need to always keep our Chapter in mind when we have the opportunity to invite someone into our "ALL AIRBORNE" FRATERNITY.

Dues are only \$35.00 per year, and the opportunity for comradeship service, and activities are whatever we collectively want them to be! Speaking of dues...please send your dues to our Treasurer, Alan Jenkins ASAP. It makes the job of serving as an officer of the Rocky Mountain Chapter a lot easier. We're in the 2019 year now, so while it's fresh on your mind, you know what they say...do it now!

Thank you: Harry King; Franklin db Jackson; Dennis Carey –for your newsletter donations! See "PARATROOPER" CHARTER MEMBERS inside.

We'll have the detail for our membership regarding 2019 opportunities at the dinner. In May..."ALL AMERICAN WEEK" at Ft. Bragg, and August... our Convent in Washington DC. For the 75 yr. anniversaries of NORMANDY, and HOLLAND! I'll be emailing it soon to those of you who have email on our roster. In addition we'll have our dinners, picnic, parades, and ... We've recently heard from some of our old timers: Ben Bustamonte; Franklin db Jackson, and Gil Carbajal. Good to hear from you all... the more the merrier.

Call me with questions, we can always get you an answer. If you're willing to serve as an officer, or just help on projects-let me know. 970-482-7364.

Remember, we're ALL AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!
Bob Barnett

Welcome New RMC Members



Edward Licudine, 82 AB Wheatridge, CO-Annual Member



Miles Larson, 2/319 AFAR, 82 AB- Wellington, CO- AA LIFE Member



Ron Mitchell, 82 AB - Wheatridge, CO- Annual Member

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Airborne Division between March 1968 and February 1984. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Joe Gainey, who was the first senior enlisted advisor to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, served as guest speaker.

Known as Airborne Thunder, the 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment was billed as the “free world’s only airborne tank battalion.”

Between 1968 and 1984, the unit used the M551 Sheridan tank and was on stand-by as part of the 82nd Airborne Division’s Ready Force, tasked to deploy on short notice anywhere in the world.

In 1984, the unit was inactivated and its personnel and equipment became the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment. In 1997, the Army phased the M551 Sheridan out of its arsenal and inactivated the unit.

The paratroopers of A Company, 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment will wear the familiar yellow and green flash of the original battalion on its berets, officials said. The company is led by Capt. Aram Hatfield and 1st Sgt. James J. Grimes.

The unit will be a separate company within another unit that traces its history to “Airborne Thunder” – the 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment is the historical successor to the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment.

The 82nd Airborne Division adopted the LAV-25A2, armed with a 25 mm cannon, in recent years as a means to add firepower to the drop zone in case of a fight against a near-peer competitor.

The armored vehicles are considered a major upgrade in firepower for the light infantry of the Global Response Force, which includes paratroopers who train to jump behind enemy lines, if necessary, to seize airfields and other important targets ahead of a larger invasion force.

Soldiers with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division were the first to adopt the vehicles and began efforts to integrate them into the larger force.

Earlier this year, paratroopers with the 3rd Brigade and the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate conducted tests of the LAV-25A2 that included repeated air drops, recoveries and live fire exercises to ensure the system was fully operational.

Officials continue to test the capabilities of the vehicle. A spokesman for the 1st Brigade Combat Team said the activation of the new unit was the next step in those tests.

The unit’s LAV-25A2 are still marked with the “USMC” of the Marine Corps. Officials chose the vehicles over the heavier Stryker used by many Army brigades because of their lighter weight and the ability to load more of the vehicles onto an Air Force C-17.

The eight-wheeled LAV is manned by a three-person crew and can carry six other troops. It is manufactured by General Dynamics Land Systems. While still relatively new to the 82nd Airborne Division, officials actually suggested using the LAV-25A2 as early as 2014.

A report published by the Rand Corp. titled “Enhanced Army Airborne Forces: A New Joint Operational Capability” included a chapter on a proposed airborne light armored infantry force that would use the LAV-



Maj. Rich Foote/US Army

Soldiers of A Company, 4th Bn, 68th Armor Regiment stand at attention as the unit is activated at Fort Bragg.

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25A2 or similar vehicles to close a capability gap between American paratroopers and the forces they could face by providing added protection and firepower. The Rand Corp. report notes that the LAV-25 was tested for parachute drop and low altitude

parachute extraction in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The 82nd Airborne Division also experimented with 14 LAV-25s provided by the Marine Corps during Operation Desert Storm, deploying the vehicles to Saudi Arabia and later using them in combat in Iraq.



The return of part of the 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment has been praised by veterans of the unit.

Alumni of Airborne Thunder remain active, gathering on or around Fort Bragg each year as part of the 82nd Airborne Division's All American Week.

In May 2016, veterans of 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment dedicated a monument outside the Airborne & Special Operations Museum in downtown Fayetteville to the legacy of the nation's only airborne armor battalion.

During the ceremony, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald D. Regan prophetically said the monument did not close the book on airborne armor.

“It's not the final chapter,” he said. “It's just another chapter.”

A history of the unit notes that several senior Army officers were veterans of the 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment. They include a former NASA astronaut, retired Col. William S. McArthur Jr.; the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq in 2003, retired Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez; and the Army chief of staff, Gen. Mark A. Milley.

Milley began his career with A Company, 4th Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, serving as an assistant battalion maintenance officer and a platoon leader.

Military editor Drew Brooks can be reached at dbrooks@fayobserver.com or 910-486-3567.

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Vern Walls

2018 RMC Events Calendar

Event	Day, Date Time	Location
Veterans Day Parade	Sunday November 11th 8:30AM	Loveland, Colorado
Annual Membership Meeting, Elections, Dinner	Sat. Dec. 15 th 3-5:00PM	Am. Legion Post 161 6230 W.60 th Av. Arvada

2018 Veterans Day Parade Info

On Sunday, November 11, 2018, the Rocky Mountain Chapter will march in the Loveland, Colorado Veterans Day Parade. We will stage at East 3rd St. and Railroad Ave. Please arrive at 0830 hrs to assist with assembling the float.

Parade uniform is beret, navy blue blazer, light blue shirt, official airborne or maroon tie, gray slacks, and black shoes or jump boots.

Members with specific assignments (e.g. carrying banner or standing in the door) will wear period uniforms.

American Legion Post 15, 305 N. Cleveland Ave, invites us to join them for breakfast starting at 0600 hrs and continuing until departure staging area.

Please contact Bob Barnet at 970-482-7364 or Abn64@hotmail.com if you are going to attend.



The RMC parade float in the 2017 Loveland Veterans Day parade.

“PARATROOPER” CHARTER MEMBERS



Charter Member: MASTER 001

Mike Marsh



Charter Member: Senior 002

Jack Phillips



Charter Member: Senior 003

John Erickson



Charter Member: Senior 004

Verne Walls



Charter Member: Senior 005

John Sinnickson



Charter Member: Senior 006

Bill Sommers



Charter Member: Senior 010

Tony Lopez



Charter Member: Senior 011

Kent Strapko



Charter Member: Senior 012

Tom Byrnes



Charter Member: Senior 013

Harry King



Charter Member: Senior 014

Franklin db Jackson



Charter Member: Senior 015

Dennis Carey



Charter Member: Basic 007

David Rea



Charter Member: Basic 008

Chris Mirowski



Charter Member: Basic 009

Morgan Smith

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BASIC \$ 50.00 SENIOR \$100.00 MASTER \$250.00 CENTURIAN \$500.00

You can become a Charter Member send your donation to: Alan Jenkins, 82nd Abn. Div. Assn.,
RMC, 550 James St., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-3007



STAND IN THE DOOR...
GO TO A GREAT DINNER WITH THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER "ALL AIRBORNE"
DINNER: December 15, 2018
3:00 – 5:00pm

American Legion Post 161
6230 W. 60TH Av. Arvada
(between Wadsworth and Sheridan)

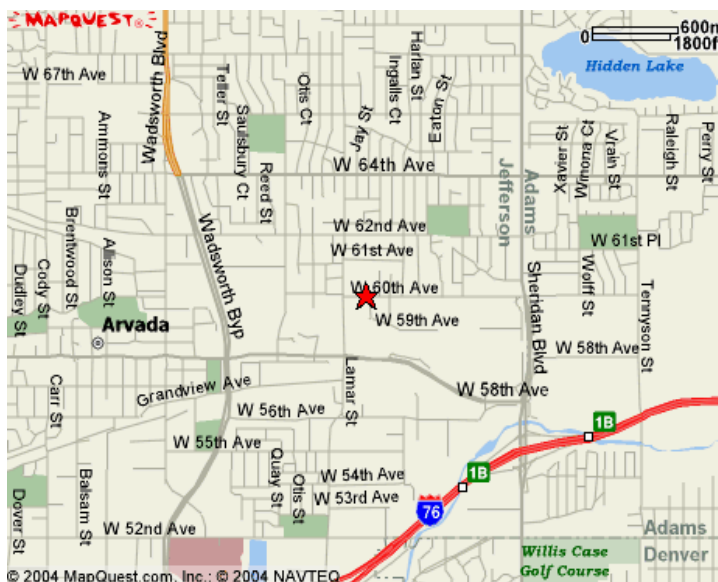
MENU: Ham, mashed potatoes, vegetables, desert, coffee, and tea.

PRICE: \$15.00 all inclusive ...per meal

The price is right and the company is good. Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with your fellow paratroopers.

Raffle and a door prize. Please bring a Raffle item and join in. CHAPTER TEES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

HURRY and make reservations: Bob Barnet 970-482-7364 by Wednesday, the 26th
Your call helps us not lose money on bad head counts... see you, Thanks!



Map to American Legion Post
6230 West 60th Avenue

Directions

1. From I-25, merge onto I-76 heading west toward Grand Junction
2. Take exit #1B towards Sheridan Blvd/CO-95
3. Turn right on Sheridan Blvd.
4. Turn left on W. 60th Ave.
5. Continue to 6230 West 60th Ave



***82nd Airborne Division Assn. Inc.
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