

THE PACER

An American story



CHAPTER TWO

By DAVID PARAMORE

Not long after Marvin arrived, another 19-year-old FNG named Rick Sneden was assigned to the 1st squad. FNG was GI English for "effing new guy."

We were all referred to as FNGs when we were first assigned to our respective units, but some of us seemed

to hold on to that title longer than others.

Rick was another Texan, hailing from the Gulf Coast southeast of Houston.

Rick's nickname came from jumping out of the wrong side of a helicopter during a hot LZ insertion up near the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

We were in very hilly terrain, so when the helicopter entered a hover as close to the ground as possible for us to unload, my side was uphill -- only about eight feet from the ground.

I dropped through the elephant grass and landed ok, even though I was carrying about 90 pounds of rifle, ammunition and gear.

However, Rick jumped from the downhill side and fell about 15-18 feet, landing on a rock, severely spraining his ankle and fracturing two bones in his foot.

He was sent to the rear for a few weeks and when he returned to the field he was still limping, so he became "Limpy."

Within a few weeks after Limpy returned to the field, Steve Pemberton showed up, fresh from the States. Steve was another 19-year-old kid, hailing from Evansville, Indiana.

Being a bunch of horny young GI's, Pemberton just sounded too much like "pimp" for us to pass up the opportunity. Steven became known as "Pimp" for the rest of his time with us.

Pimp would be the last of us to leave the field as we rotated home or were injured and sent to rear duty.

Although Pimp came to Vietnam from Indiana, he was a southern boy through and through. His family had spent considerable time in Central and North Florida when he was growing up.

Pimp was a little guy, standing about five-foot-seven and weighing about 135 pounds soaking wet. But the guy humped a 90-pound pack every day, fully loaded with gear, ammo, grenades, food and water without complaint.

He always carried an acoustic guitar strapped to the back of his pack wrapped in plastic sheeting to protect it from the constant rain.

Pimp was also our designated tunnel rat.

Our unit's daily mission was what the U.S. Army called "Recon by Force." Basically, we would wander through the jungle in a roughly planned direction in areas that were suspected NVA or VC haunts.

If we found the enemy, we would normally engage them if we saw them first.

If they saw us first, they would engage us. Sometimes, we would never see the enemy at all, but would stumble across an unguarded

weapons cache or food storage site out in the jungle.

When we did find such a depot or bunker, we had to be extremely careful while conducting inventory of the complex, as the VC and NVA were fond of booby traps.

Sometimes we would see smoke coming out of a small hole in the ground and know that we had found a tunnel complex.

Pimp would strip down to just his pants and boots and take his 1911 Colt pistol and a flashlight down to see what all we had found.

He had to look for booby traps, as well as the enemy, and decide how best to handle destroying the tunnels -- all without backup and in the dark.

For a little guy he had a big set of balls!

We would always try to blow the entrances shut with C4, then determine the exact location of the complex on our maps and move out.

When far enough away from the area, we would call for an artillery barrage on the complex.

Sometimes, we would call the Air Force to drop a few "Bunker Busters," which were large bombs set to penetrate into the ground before exploding.

One such search led us to an extensive small arms storage depot with many, many fully automatic AK-47's and several T-53 Chinese-

manufactured bolt action rifles.

The site also contained millions of rounds of ammunition for both rifles.

Since our 1st Squad had made the find, we were each permitted to keep one of the T-53 rifles. It was then -- and still is now -- illegal to possess a fully automatic rifle, so the AK's were out of the question.

After this mission, we were each granted a three-day pass to Da Nang, which was situated on the South China Sea and used for in-country R&R.

(To be continued)

Editor's Note: The Pacer, An American Story was written by local author David Paramore as a fundraiser for Point of Grace (POG) Christian School. The Pacer is available for purchase on Amazon as a paperback or Kindle e-book download, with all proceeds going to support the expansion of POG. Kindle Unlimited members can download the book for free and support the POG expansion by way of Amazon paying a "royalty" on each download. Visit www.thepacerstory.com for more information.



David Paramore is a Taylor County resident and a Vietnam veteran. Paramore was drafted into the U.S. Army on March 3, 1968, as a rifleman.

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LEGALS

(continued from page 10)

AGENDA
LAFAYETTE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP, MAY 11, 2021
 TO: Lafayette County School Board
 FROM: Robert Edwards, Superintendent of Schools
 SUBJECT: School Board Workshop, May 11, 2021 in the School Board Administration Building beginning at 5:00 p.m.
 School Board Workshop to discuss the following:
 (1) ESSER/CARES Act
 (2) Grounds Maintenance
 (3) Athletics

NOTICE OF HEARING
 The District School Board of Lafayette County will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Board Administration Building, 363 NE Crawford Street, Mayo, Florida 32066 for the purpose of amending School Board Policies. (The School Board approved for advertisement of a Public Hearing at their regular meeting on April 20, 2021).

Authority for amending and adopting policies and forms is found in Article IX, Section 4(b), Constitution of the State of Florida and in Florida Statutes 1001.41.
 The following policy will be considered for revision/updates:
 1. 8.27 School Construction Bid Process
 A. Name of person presenting the proposed policies: Mr. Robert Edwards Superintendent of Lafayette County Schools. Date of Approval by Board for Advertisement: April 20, 2021.
 B. Explanation of the purpose and effect of school board policies: Provide policies required by Florida Statutes (F.S.) State Board of Education Administrative Rules (S.B.E.R.) and other controlling regulations; and to provide policies for matters for which it appears prudent for the orderly operation of the school system.
 C. A summary of the proposed policy revisions is as follows: Policies necessary for the effective operation and general improvement of the school system for the District School Board of Lafayette County, Florida.
 D. Economic impact of the proposed policies: None

School Board Policies may be examined at the District School Board Office at 363 N.E. Crawford Street, Mayo, Florida between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.
 Signed: Robert Edwards Superintendent of Schools
IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BOARD, WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING OR HEARING, HE/SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND, FOR SUCH PURPOSE, HE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to SARAH CHRISTINA ROCHAU. Unless payment is made on 2014 NISSAN SENTRA VIN: 3N1AB7AP0EY276486 for tow & storage charges on 04-22-2021. Vehicle will be auctioned on The 31st day of MAY 2021 @ 10 am at Thomas Chevrolet 2128 S. Byron Butler Pkwy, Perry, FL (850)584-6221 per F.S. 713.78.

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