



Geronimo! Vo



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MAY 2013

509 Man of the Year

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Philip M. Handscomb, affectionately known as 'The Brit,' receives his award as the 509th Man of the Year, at the 82nd Airborne All Airborne Awards Festival, in Atlanta, GA, on April 3-6 2013. (See articles and pictures on pages 4/5) Phil accepted his award in remembrance of all past, present, and future 509ers, especially Charlie Doyle and Robert Grover.

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

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *509th PIA STORE NOW UP AND RUNNING*
- *1ST AND 3RD BATTALION UPDATES*
- *MEMBERSHIP APP*
- *UPDATES ON MEMBERS AND 509ERS*
- *ADVERTIZING*
- *UPCOMING EVENTS*
- *509TH WEBSITE LINK*

<http://509thgeronimo.org/>

2013 REUNION IN FAYETTVILLE, SC

AUGUST 28-AUGUST 31

SEE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FOR REUNION ON PAGES 6/7 OF NEWSLETTER!!!

Former 509er in leadership role

IMCOM Atlantic Region - Leadership



Command Sergeant Major Kevin D. Sharkey enlisted in the United States Army in April 1982. He received his Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga. During his 30 years of service, CSM Sharkey has held numerous leadership positions including Team Leader; Squad Leader; Long Range Surveillance Team Leader, Ranger Instructor; Platoon Sergeant; First Sergeant; Battalion Operations Sergeant Major; Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Garrison Command Sergeant Major, and NCOA Commandant.

His previous assignments include the United States Army Garrison Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, Fort Polk, La; 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Fort Polk, La.; 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade, Vicenza, Italy; JRTC Operation Group, Fort Polk, La; 3rd and 1st Battalions 187th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, KY; Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course, 4th Ranger Training Battalion, Ranger Training Brigade, Fort Benning Ga.; 3rd Battalion 6th Infantry, and Long Range Surveillance Detachment, 105th Military Intelligence Battalion, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Fort Polk, Louisiana; and 1st Battalion 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg N.C.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne School, Ranger School, Jumpmaster School, Air Assault School, Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course, International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Close Quarter Battle and Close Quarter Battle Instructor Course, Instructor Training Course, Machinegun Leaders Course, and the Jungle Warfare School. He is also a graduate of all NCOES schools and the First Sergeant Course.

CSM Sharkey's awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal (with V device); Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Commendation Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters); Army Achievement Medal; Good Conduct Medal (9th Award); National Defense Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal (with 1 Bronze Star); Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal (with Arrow Head); Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with Numerical 4); Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Ribbon; Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait); Air Force Commendation Medal; Master Parachutist Badge with Bronze Star; Air Assault Badge; Ranger Tab; Combat Infantryman Badge, and Expert Infantryman Badge.

509th helm changes, still ‘airborne all the way’

May 31, 2013

FORT POLK, La. — The day was filled with pomp and circumstance as the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment change of command was held May 31 at Fort Polk’s 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade field.

Lt. Col. Scott Himes, outgoing commander, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Matthew Tackett, as this legendary band of brothers — who have time and again shown their mettle from the dawn of World War II to the present — looked on. Soldiers of the 509th serve as the opposing force at Joint Readiness Training Center rotations.

Col. Willard M. Burleson, commander, JRTC Operations Group, told the attendees that the “Geronimo” Family and paratroopers in front of them represent the only separate airborne battalion in the United States Army.

“I can tell you that they are representative of those paratroopers who jumped behind enemy lines in WWII, fought bravely in small groups and wrought havoc in the European theater, as well as North Africa.



Col. Willard M. Burleson, commander, Joint Readiness Training Center Operations Group, passes the colors to incoming commander Lt. Col. Matthew Tackett at the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment change of command ceremony held May 31 at Fort Polk’s 1st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade field.

“The men and women gathered before you are some of the finest Soldiers in the Army at small unit tactics, field craft and small unit leadership,” said Burleson.

He congratulated the outgoing commander for the many accomplishments of his tenure and told Himes that his leadership had made a difference

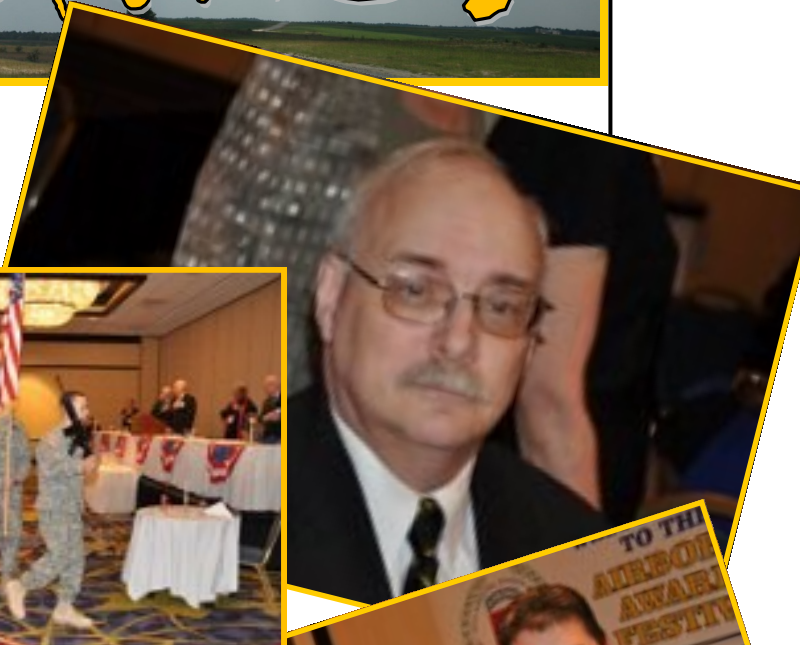
“In the time that Lieutenant Colonel Himes has led the 509th, 20 brigade combat teams have come through Fort Polk for training, 19 of which were on their way to combat. That equates to 120 battalions or squadrons and 600 company batteries and

troops. “The battalion before you has played an instrumental role in replicating Afghan nationals and security forces, as well as a very dangerous, lethal and adaptable enemy threat,” said Burleson.

Tackett thanked those in attendance, but his main focus was the Geronimo battalion. “I’m honored to be serving with such an historically distinguished battalion that has one of the most unique missions in the Army.

“I look forward to continuing the incredibly high standards you and all the honored veterans that have come before have established,” said Tackett.

Geronimo!



Static Line 'All Airborne Awards' Atlanta, Georgia and the 509 'Man of the Year' Philip Hnadscomb . Here are lots of pictures.



The Rambling Wrecks from Georgia Tech Glee Club provided lots of Good tunes!

Geronimo!



**Change of Command at Fort Polk,
May 31, 2013—Thanks Hal for coming
through with the Pics, as always.**

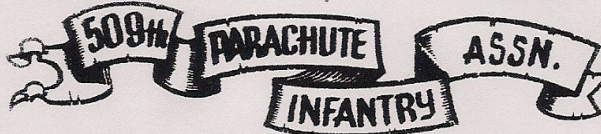


Questions ???? Call 512-259-5554 OR Fax 512-259-5571

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Troops**



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Most
Decorated
Paratroop
Battalion**



***509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion
August 28-31, 2013 – Holiday Inn I95 – Fayetteville, North Carolina***



The registration fee includes CP room Wednesday August 28-Saturday August 31, 2013. In the CP room we will have drinks, sodas, coffee, decaf, hot water for tea and snacks. Your registration fee also includes a Dinner banquet on Saturday. Fee is \$110



The Association is also working on touring the Airborne Special Forces Museum on Friday August 30, 2013. There will be an additional charge for this activity for those that want to attend the tour. The additional fee will cover transportation to and from the tour, lunch and a \$10 donation to the museum. Cost is \$60 a person.



If you have not paid your Association dues and would like to take care of that now there is a place on the registration form to include your dues with your registration payment. Please make checks payable to Housman and Associates. There is also a 509th PIA membership application enclosed for your convenience if you would rather send your application and payment directly to Barry. Make those checks out to 509 PIA. Dues payments can also be made on site in Fayetteville.

Hotel Registration

**Holiday Inn I95
1944 Cedar Creek Rd
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28312**

For Reservations please call: **1-910-323-1800 ----- BLOCK DEADLINE July 15, 2013 ---**

When calling to make reservations please indicate you want to make a reservation in the
509 Paratroopers Reunion Block

Sleeping Rooms are \$98 for standard and \$119 for suites. Breakfast each morning is included in your sleeping room rate. City and state tax is 13%. If you are bringing a pet, pet fees are \$39.55 non refundable. If you have a service dog and have a service dog paper you will not be charged for your pet.

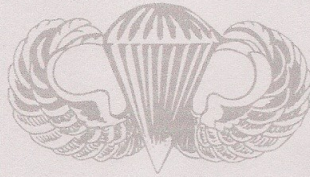
The hotel is also offering complimentary wireless internet in the sleeping rooms.

TRANSPORTATION

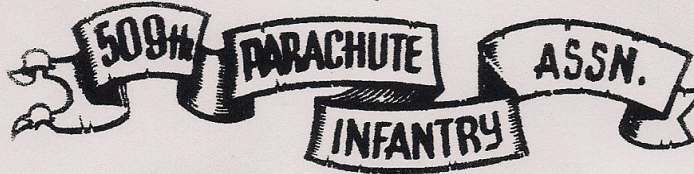
- The Holiday Inn provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport every half hour.
- There are several restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.



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509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion
August 28-31, 2013 – Holiday Inn I95 Fayetteville – North Carolina

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Names of those attending with you: _____

Meeting Registration:

- Number attending (including soldiers) _____ X \$110 = \$ _____
- Number less than 21 yrs old attending _____ X \$60 = \$ _____
- Association Dues for WWII Vets and Family Members _____ X \$20 = \$ _____
- Association Dues for Post WWII Vets and Non Vets _____ X \$25 = \$ _____
- Airborne Special Forces Museum & Interactive Experience off-site Event _____ X \$60 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Housman and Associates – 509 Reunion**

Mail registration, checks and/or Credit Card Payment to:

Housman and Associates

1309 Pasa Tiempo

Leander, Tx. 78641

Or FAX Credit Card Payment to **512-259-5571**.

Credit Card Payment – All Information Requested Below is Required to Process Your Payment

Name exactly as it appears on your credit card: _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Provide the Address Your Credit Card Bill is mailed to: _____

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