

The Long Roll

The Electronic Newsletter of the "Union Army Veterans"

June, 2003 Issue

Greetings

Another month has gone by and we are now in the summer doldrums. But, have no fear, for we will not go into hibernation until the fall reenactment season. We have some interesting events scheduled so be sure to check out the Upcoming Events Calendar. Special attention should be paid to our unit's first ever drill (practice) scheduled at Dallas' Old City Park on Saturday morning, June 14th. Special thanks go to those members (and I will not try to name them all here) for supporting the unit at the past events. I feel that the UAV is at a critical point right now. Other reenacting units have seen us at events for the past three months but have discounted us because we look like only two members. Nothing attracts like success, so believe me when I tell you that I need every member to attend as many events as they possibly can this fall. We now need "the numbers" at the reenactment events during October and November. Once we achieve a certain level of attendance, non-members will be attracted to us. I have worked hard to find a mix of interesting and unusual activities. I know of no other unit that offers so much for no dues. But, if there is something I am missing, please let me know. More than a few of you have called or written me that your work schedule prevents you from reenacting right now. That is understandable, but we miss you and need your support whenever you can give it. We now have eleven "official members", from whom membership applications have been received, and seven "unofficial members", from which I have not yet received an application. These seven have been mailed a reminder letter and a membership application in the hope that they will soon become "official".

Unfortunately, I have dropped three people from the roster, those who I felt had no intention of supporting the UAV in any meaningful way. We also have thirty-four prospective members, those who had given me their names and other pertinent information at past recruiting events in order to receive further membership information and our newsletter for three months.

Announcement

On Friday, May 30th, I received an e-message and a phone call from Don Kessler, the chief of staff of the Frontier Brigade. Our unit has been accepted into this umbrella organization for civil war reenacting units. At regional and national level events we (the UAV) will be part of the 2nd Battalion of the Brigade under Lt. Col. Stan Prater. I find it interesting that we were not assigned to the 1st Battalion, but due to the fact that most of our members are former (or current) members of another unit that is in the 1st Battalion, perhaps I should not be surprised. It is probably a blessing in disguise that we will not be under the command of the person there, especially after the less than honest treatment we received from him at the Beaumont Ranch event. I am confident that this acceptance into the Brigade, by itself, will gain us more UAV members, as soon as the present members of another unit find out that they can reenact as members of the UAV as effectively as they did while in their old unit....and not have to miss meals due to excessively long drill sessions at reenactments.

Valuable "New" Book Published !

Almost three years ago, a fellow reenactor from San Antonio tried to get enough orders together to have an historical work republished. Well, it didn't happen, so our deposits were returned within a year. The publishing house must have kept our names because in February, I received a letter from them telling me that they were finally going to reprint the work of Augustus Meyers: *Ten Years in the Ranks U.S. Army*. This work was originally published in 1914 by the Stirling Press of New York. The author's ten year career began, with permission from his widowed mother, by joining the Army as a musician (fifer) at the age of 12, in March 1854. His first enlistment took him to the frontier of the Nebraska Territory and finally to Kansas.

He decided to leave the service when his first five year enlistment expired in 1859 and regretted it, rejoining the Army in 1860 when he was eighteen years of age. He was sent, again, to the frontier, this time to the Minnesota and Dakota Territories.

When the civil war began, his unit of regulars (2nd U.S. Infantry) marched for a week in the scorching July prairie heat, across what is now Minnesota to St. Paul where they boarded, first, a steamboat and then, a train, to Chicago. From Chicago, they traveled the rest of the way by train to Washington City. His recounting of the serious threat to Union soldiers, when they marched through the city of Baltimore from one train station to the other with fixed bayonets, gives the reader chills thinking that soldiers felt so threatened in their own country. Mr. Meyers recounts his experiences as a member of the Army of the Potomac, later serving as a quartermaster sergeant, and his final duties before his second enlistment expired in March, 1865, just one month before the end of the war. This work is invaluable to the living historian who wishes to gain knowledge for his "impression". I also recommend this book to any serious scholar of civil war enlisted soldier life. *Ten Years in the Ranks U.S. Army* should be placed on the same shelf as Hinman's *Corporal Si Klegg and His Pard*, Wiley's *The Life of Billy Yank*, and Billings' immortal *Hardtack & Coffee*. For your copy of this 356 page hard cover work, call Ayer Company Publishers in North Stratford, NH at (603) 669-7032. The cost is \$26.95 freight included.

Tarrant County Civil War Museum Planned

As reported in the May 10th edition of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, a Texas oil man from Fort Worth, Ray Richey, plans on building, with the partnership of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), a 16,000 sq. ft. museum on two acres in White Settlement. The ground breaking ceremony was held May 10th for the \$1.5 million building at the corner of NW. Loop 820 and Silver Creek Road. It was reported that Mr. Richey holds one of the most valuable private collections of civil war artifacts west of the Mississippi, rivaling many Eastern museums. While his collection and the UDC's encompass mostly Confederate artifacts, including many rare Texas pieces, Mr. Richey also has an extensive collection of Union soldier items, too. Interestingly, in another article by Star-Telegram staffer, Bud Kennedy, tells of the possible political consequences of opening a Civil War museum in a town by the name of White Settlement. He wrote that this is synonymous to opening a vegan restaurant in the Stockyards. Of course, Kennedy points out later in his piece that the term "white" settlement never had anything to do with slavery but was the name given to the area after the white man displaced the native indians in the 1850's. You can be sure that I will be watching the museum closely and offering our unit for living history presentations there, in the future.

Trade Publications

Since we now have a few members who are new to this hobby of reenacting, it might

be beneficial to them to know of some resources in the form of hobbyist magazines.

There are a just a few, but I recommend "Camp Chase Gazette" for military reenactors and "The Citizens Companion" for civilian reenactors. These two magazines have a wealth of information in them including a complete list of all the civil war reenactments in the country, informative articles, ads from sellers of period uniforms, clothing, and equipment, and classified ads. A one year subscription to "Camp Chase Gazette" (\$28) and "The Citizen Companion" (\$24) may be ordered with a credit card by calling 1 (800) 449-1865.

Percussion Cap Warning

The latest issue of "The Civil War Journal" had a warning about the use of certain brands of percussion caps. There seems to be some caps on the market that are considered "magnums" and have a greater amount of explosive in them. The problem with using these caps on our rifles' "open" nipple/cones is that these caps tend to shed metal when fired, striking the face, including the eyes of the shooter and his neighbors. This "shedding" does not take place when they are used in the type of firearms where the cap is inserted into the firearm, completely covering the cap. These guns, called "in-lines" do not have an exposed nipple/cone area and since these target shooters usually use the synthetic gunpowder, "Pyrodex" or equivalent that requires a hotter flame to ignite, these magnum caps were developed. The caps in question may or may not be labeled as "Magnums" or "only for use with in-line firearms". What to beware of is their bright copper color (NOT the usual brass) and having more than four "wings". The article made clear that if a rifle's nipple/cone has been "hammered" by repeated dry firings, causing the cone to flatten, this situation becomes more prone to happen. First, in reenacting, never use magnum percussion caps and secondly, never dry fire (pulling the trigger when there is no cap on the cone). The gunsmith that I use, Ted Cross, of Arlington, told me that he and a friend have fired hundreds of live rounds using these magnums once, and did not suffer one shattering of the metal. But, at last year's Cross Timbers reenactment, I witnessed the results of this "shedding" on fellow UAV member, Robert Cowgill, who suffered two bloody cuts near his right eye from the use of these bright copper caps "shedding". He also suffered from having spent caps stick to his cone, requiring the use of a pocket knife to remove the caps between firings. I do not know whether he has dry fired his rifle, but a potentially dangerous combination had occurred, in my opinion. The article concluded by stating that while no percussion cap is truly safe, use good judgment when firing reproduction civil war rifles.

Chancellorsville Battlefield Update

Good news was received in a recent Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) mailing.

The tremendous uproar from reenactors and battlefield preservationists to the Spotsylvania County (VA) Board of Supervisors vote on rezoning the Chancellorsville battlefield now in private hands, caused the proposal of Dogwood Development's project to be defeated. Score one for reenactor unity. Now, to truly save the land, preservationists are working hard to secure funds to buy the land. If public and private funds can be found, one day, perhaps, you will be able to visit an enlarged National Battlefield Park (NBP) as a result of this work. The alternative was to have homes and businesses built on the land, destroying the natural beauty forever, not to mention soiling the sacred ground.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6-8 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

The 17th Annual Texas Scottish Festival held at Maverick Stadium in central Arlington (UTA campus). We will be setting up a living history area (encampment with table displays, similar to the Texas Frontier Forts Muster). Set up will be Friday afternoon at 3:00pm. The festival hours are: Friday 5:00pm to 12:00 Midnight.

Saturday 9:00am to 12:00 Midnight. Sunday 9:00am to 6:00pm. Coming out in uniform to help with recruiting/living history gets you in free (a \$10-\$15 value). For the festival's entertainment schedule, access www.texasscottishfestival.com. I need at least one member each day, Saturday and Sunday, rain or shine. This is a recruiting event, and as such is low-key and enjoyable.

June 14 (Saturday morning)

Our first DRILL (practice) at "Old City Park" historic area near downtown Dallas.

10:00am to 12:00 Noon. A one hour (I promise!) marching session will include the manual of arms according to Casey's Manual, facings, flank marching, wheels, stacking of arms, inspection arms, and the always favorite blank firing of muskets.

This will get new members ready for the 4th of July Parade. Then, a short membership meeting, followed by lunch together at Dallas' West End Marketplace.

General Dolive may attend since he has been invited to "review the troops". My wife, Patty, will attend the drill to answer questions of those prospective members who are interested in becoming a civilian reenactor. Those in period clothing will be admitted to the park free of charge. Also, any prospective member who will be drilling in modern clothing who contacts me beforehand to set up a pass. Check out

www.oldcitypark.org

July 4th (Friday morning)

The 39th Annual Fourth of July Parade in Arlington. Estimated 40,000-50,000 spectators lining the route through downtown Arlington and the UTA area. More information will be in the July issue of "The Long Roll". At press time, it is still unknown whether there will be enough interest from members to attend this parade.

Check out www.arlington4th.com

September 19-21 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

The Kaufman County Living History Weekend and Civil War Ghost Walk to be held on the grounds of the Old Kaufman County Poor Farm. There will be no battle reenactment but heavy living history presentations. This will be a living history encampment/recruiting event. Interested reenactors are needed to portray Union soldiers at the fund raising "Ghost Walk" to be held by candlelight on Saturday night.

Watch for more information in the July issue of "The Long Roll". Check out the website of the historic "Poor Farm" at:

www.poorhousestory.com/TX_kaufman_county

September 26-28 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

The Battle Reenactment of Middle Boggy, near Atoka, Oklahoma. This will be our unit's first Frontier Brigade event. Watch for more information in the July issue of "The Long Roll". The event website:

www.civilwaralbum.com/atoka/reenact.htm

October 3-5 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

Granbury Civil War Reenactment to be held on the original (old) site SW of Granbury, Texas (approximately 1/2 hour drive from Fort Worth). Battle reenactment/Living History Encampment/Recruiting Event. This is the next LOCAL

reenactment we will attend. More information will be in upcoming issues of "The Long Roll".

October 24-26 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

Heritage Days Festival in Crockett, Texas. Reenactment/Living History Encampment/Recruiting Event. More information in upcoming issues of "The Long Roll".

November 14-16 (Friday evening, Saturday, & Sunday)

Plantation Liendo Civil War Weekend to be held on the beautiful, historic grounds surrounding the old civil war era Texas cotton plantation house. Near Hempstead, Texas (southwest of Bryan/College Station). Reenactment/Living History Encampment/Recruiting Event. More information in the September issue of "The Long Roll".

Salt Bacon Source

At past "immersion events" I have taken salt bacon with me to eat. There are a few places advertising on the internet for period correct salt cured hams and bacon but I have one source that I recommend. The company is "Scott Hams" in Greenville, KY. They specialize in selling whole hams but since the Union soldier was issued salt bacon as the most common meat ration, look at their bacon, instead. To order your own salt bacon, call Les or June Scott at (270) 338-3402. They list a whole bacon slab of 9-13# for \$2.60/#. However, if you request it, they will cut a slab in half and sell that to you, a much more manageable amount for our purposes. The 4-7 pound bacon half slab will last you for a whole season of reenacting since you will take only a pound or so for each weekend event. Since it needs no refrigeration, it is safe to place in your haversack for the weekend. Just wrap it in cloth or paper as did the veterans back then. Be sure to "freshen" it, however, before cooking. The veterans would tie a string around the bacon and secure one end on the bank of a stream, throwing the salt pork into the water overnight, retrieving it the next morning to cook it for breakfast. Since I do not recommend this procedure for the modern reenactor, please do what I do, soak it in your tin cup full of water overnight. The next morning, discard the water (it will be too salty to drink...besides, yuck!) If you soaked beans in the same cup, overnight, I would just boil the whole shebang as is. Bon appetit! If you would like to see this demonstrated, see what I do with my salt pork at the next reenactment. I will give you a bite!

Report on the Spring Tactical :

The only UAV member who attended the Spring Tactical, held at the LBJ National Grasslands near Decatur, Texas, was thirty year veteran of the hobby, Glen Hargis, of Dallas. I asked him to write an event report of this strenuous "immersion" event and he kindly responded as only he can. The tactical was a test of modern civil war men, using civil war tactics, fairly judged by impartial observers. The event premise was "What If...". There were never any civil war battles fought in north Texas so this was just an interesting exercise. The Confederates were tasked with preventing the resupply of enemy frontier forts either by capture, delay, or destruction. The Federals were tasked with resupplying the forts and preventing the capture, delay, or destruction of the wagons. As you will discover in Glen's report, in "letter to home" style, the Confederates were again foiled. I have taken Glen's words and changed his "font" to a handwriting style in keeping with the tone of the piece.

After Inaction Report or Speaking o' Spokes

By Glen "Deacon" Hargis

I hope that someday, a full account will be writt o' th' goings-on at th' Grasslands. 'T'would make interessin' readin', thet's fer danged sure. As fer me, I kin onlyst tell whut I seed, th' whut ain't all thet much, but it sure kep me occupied at th' time. Thet's fer true. They tol' us we'd be a guardin' lines o' comuonykshun twixt th' stores depot an' three uv our forts out on th' prairie. They wuz powerful strong posts thet kud laff off any sesech attack, but withouten reglar deliveries o' provender, they'd haffta pull up stakes. It wuz up t' us t' do th' deliverin'. T' guard this wealth o' beans an' fatback, they'd cobbled t'gether scraps o' various commands. There wuz Reglars like me, mosly from Co.s A & D o' th' First U.S. Inf. an' a hodgepodge o' cavaliers who wuz sans cheval (or as we say, "without a hos, a man's afoot in this country"). Th' mornin started off like it nearly al'uz duz. We clum up frum th' ground, shook th' leaves off'n our blue suits, an' commenced t'rollin' up our blankets, when th' supply train kum up. First kum a passel o' well-mounted scouts, troopers, an' outriders. Next wuz th' teamsters an' thar loads. Now thet wuz a sight, lemmie tell ya. Thar wuz these two wagons, see. Now one'z bein' pulled by a matched pair o' strappin', big ol' white mules. They looked like they could go to it fer a month without'n a speck o' rest along th' way. T'other wuz hitched t' th' gawldurndest, broke-down, sway-backed, old nags thet you iver did see. Whut I know 'bout hosses wud fill a thimble, a small one anyways, but countin' th' ribs strechin' its dull, shaggy hide, I figgured he wouldn't last but a few staggerin' steps. Them whut know, cyphered thet this ol' moke wuz 'bout 86 in equine years. "Hoss meat fer lunch," th' boys crowed. I figgured they wuz overly optimistic 'bout his longev'ty. By m'lights, thur might be enough scrawny meat on his bones fur most uv us t'have a bite. Some favored roastin' 'im over a roarin' wagon box fire, but others opined thet he wuz pretty much jerky already, sos jest a bit o' skinnin' an' he'd be all set t' be et. Well, after our requisite 'spections we all uv us piked it. Th' saddled an' harnessed stock an' critter sojers went one way an' we ground pounders went t'other. D'spite th' fact thet I ain't changed breath fer years, I soon wuz staggerin' like a spiflicate, sos when we next met up wid our train I wuz chucked into th' first wagon wid a load o' hos fodder, water, an' sundry equipages. (I bein' more sundry than most.) My career as freight larnt me a sum o' might sharp lessons 'bout draft critters in gen'ral an' teamsterin' in partic'lar. First off thet moke uv a hos I took t'be teeterin' on th' brink o' mortality proved t'be th' fieriest, oak-hearted oat-burner thet I iver seed cum up th' pike. He wuz utterly fearless an' seemingly tireless, and contributed mightily to th' vict'ry "when our cause hung in th' balance" (as they say in dispatches). Useta be I figgured drivers wuz a pack o' plodders fer th' most part. But I lernt thet th' dashin' hussar an' th' bold sabeur ain't got nothin' over th' brave an' wily freighter. Ours statigized us acrosst th'

landscape on a dizzin' 'sortment o' roads, trails, tracks, an' jest plain open country crossin' that left our friends th' enemy utterly in th' dark as t' whar we wuz (I, m'sef wuz utterly in th' dark as t' whar we wuz an' I WUZ whar we wuz all th' time). Our drivers traversed obstacles that goats would find dauntin'. Oncest I noticed that I an' th' rest o' th' load wuz floatin' free in th' air as team an' wagon dropped prit' near straight down one side uv a deep ravine. Then iverthin smacked down hard an' shot up t' other side like a rocket. We bounced over or drove through things that I jest knew would check our advance. I watched teamsters hangin' offn their boxes make repairs wile still on th' roll, an' I seed um get their critters t' perform in amazing ways. An' I seed um go off t' war with nutthin' but a trace cuttin' knife. It took us no more 'n five hours t' 'complish whut we'd 'lowd a day an' a half fur. In th' end I wuz awe struck by th' whole thing. As fer th' rest o' my eddication, I learnt that supports don't haffta be right with ya t' protect ya, as th' odd shots far off told us. I also wuz schooled in th' art o' mule ear watchin'. Each o' th' big ol ears o' th' pair I spent a lot o' time facin' twisted 'round on its own course? listenin' posts on th' hoof, as it were. But when they all sudden-like pointed in th' same direction, I knowed they'd found sumpin' o' interest to th' hull lot uv us. That's how I came t' cotch those four butternut troopers that sought t' sneak up on us in th' wilderness. True, some uv our boys did fire off th' 'ccasional angry shot or two (not I). But we started out wid th' notion that we'd come t' win, not t' fight. An' that's whut we did.

Glen continues in "modern" language: The LBJ Grassland Tactical dealt rather cleverly with the ever-present problem of asymmetrical combat that faces reenacting armies of the "today" recreating the mid-1860s. (It is a problem facing 21st century armies in the real world, but that's another matter.) Come to think of it, one of Dante's rings of Hell was a place where armies clashed by night in unequal combat.

The two sides brought to the seat of Mars two distinct mind sets. The much larger force, our friends in Gray, aimed to triumph through overwhelming firepower (brought 300 rounds per man, or so I heard) and strength of numbers. We, being the weaker force, took another tack. Gen. Robert E. Lee, believed that the weaker force, if it is to triumph, must be the more aggressive side. It must strike harder, faster, and oftener than its larger, more powerful foe. But, this was not our plan of action. We moved more quickly, but only in our running away. We marched harder, taking routes that seemed impassible, hence unguarded. We dodged oftener, making our detection, interception, and effective engagement difficult and ultimately impossible. I have heard that when the Reb cavalry spotted our troopers, they reported "Main Body sighted" and lit out after them, never to be heard from again, rather like Stuart's ride around the Army of the Potomac. We never, by the way, had a main body except for when we were all together at a "post" as required by the rules of engagement to "re-supply" it. Our cavalry, in sharp contrast, continually kept us informed of what they knew of the enemy's movements and dispositions so we knew where NOT to be. I count the Grassland victory as a win for the Dodgers. Our poor pards, the Rebs, strove manfully to catch smoke in a net, but they were ill-fated from the start. -Glen

A Letter from the Commanding General of the 1st Federal Division. Mark Dolive

Gentlemen, Clark asked me to write an article for the "Long Roll." Unfortunately he didn't give me a topic or direction, but gave me the charge to write about whatever I thought was important. When it comes to reenacting I think just about everything we do is important. Recruiting is important, having good drills, and the best possible events is important. Finding new friends and building relationships is important.

Black powder shooting and flexing those historical muscles for the benefit of education is important. And, while my writing style is no Glen, pard, Hargis, I'll give it a go.

Today, I am choosing to write about the First Federal Division. To many, the First Federal Division remains an abstract concept populated by those too old to sling a musket, or too inbred to recognize those who really do the work. Let me assure each of you that is far from the case. The First Federal Division is an organization whose sole intent is to make reenacting better for Union Reenactors representing the Western Soldier of the American Civil War. At this time the Division consists of 5 Brigades. Those brigades, in order, are:

1st Brigade: Army of the Pacific (mostly Californians)

2nd Brigade: Western Brigade

3rd Brigade: Frontier Brigade (mostly from the plains states, including Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas)

4th Brigade: Great Lakes Brigade

5th Brigade: all cavalry (the "Cavalry Brigade" usually used as scouts and messengers for the infantry command)

The Division also has an artillery contingent of over 30 cannons. And finally, there is the Division's administrative and field staff. At reenactments, the staff represents and leads over 1,300 reenactors. And, each brigade and/or branch has its own unique personality and requirements which must be recognized.

The First Federal Division was created in 1998 from the Western Federal Council, which then consisted of the Western Brigade, Frontier Brigade, and Army of the Pacific. Command was rotated between the three brigade commanders. While this structure worked, it was felt that a more permanent organization should be put in place. This organization would focus on planning and provide an exemplary staff. It all came together at Raymond in 1998 under Ed Pettit and later, Chuck Warnick, of the Western Brigade.

Since the Division's major mission is to plan and carry out quality national scale events, then, a set permanent staff is of paramount importance. Planning for events such as Raymond, Wilson's Creek, Nashville, and Chickamauga start 15 to 18 months in advance. There is a Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) for both the Division and the North South Alliance (NSA) that actively seeks and plans large-scale western events. All elements of the Division's needs for the infantry, but also the artillery, engineers, provost, cavalry, and staff requirements for a successful reenactment, go into this mix.

Planning started last February for the 140th anniversary battles of Franklin/Nashville to be held late 2004. Sponsors must be found, sites located, inspected, and selected, money for reenactor amenities made available, publicity planned, battle scenarios built, infrastructure formed (like enough parking for the modern reenactor's cars, preparing roads into and out of the event site, clearing of woods for campsites, etc.). Much wailing and gnashing of teeth must be done for a long time in order to bring such a quality event to fruition. And, even then, they can have major problems that can ruin the experience such as the weather (135th Shiloh where the deluge canceled the event), or amenities (Raymond "II" where water was in short supply), or safety (Raymond "II", where a reenactor was shot), or even communications (Raymond "II", again, when it took too long for the ambulance to arrive). When the process takes everything into account and corrections are made based on past experiences, memorable events such as the 140th Perryville (2002) result.

The question I use to ask, and now respond to, is "who are these folks that plan our reenacting destiny?"

They are other reenactors such as you and me. Some have over 25 years of reenacting experience and have led large units; others, perhaps, less than 3 years experience and have only led a Corporal's Guard.

The Division Commander appoints all members of both the Division staff and the LRPC. A call goes out each December for new appointee candidates. The Division staff then makes things happen in the field at events, are responsible for safety, and even "scenario follow-through". The LRPC, with the staff's help, makes things happen off the field, tackling issues usually of supply; of water, firewood, fodder, etc. for the reenactors who have sometimes paid for these amenities.

The other question each and every one of you should ask is do I have a voice. The answer is yes. If you wear a blue coat, portray a "Western Theater" soldier, and able to communicate in a fairly coherent and rational manner, your input is both needed and welcome. This soldier has heard years of complaints both up and down the infamous chain of command. And, those complaints do get addressed, albeit not always

to the satisfaction of the complainant. But if there are ideas how to make an event better, safer, more historical, then those ideas need to be communicated directly either to Division staff or to the Commanding General himself. Who knows, this may be the opportunity for a member of the UAV to put his two cents in and make this a better hobby for all.

I hope that I have communicated the importance of some of the activity that takes place on the Division level. However, the Division is only as strong as the Brigades that constitute it, the Brigades are only as strong as the companies (i.e.. the UAV) that make up these regional "umbrella" organizations, and those companies are only as strong as the individuals in the ranks. Do you have a voice in the hobby? Yes, and don't be afraid to use it. While talking to your company commander, or in a letter to the editor of "Camp Chase", or crying on your better half's shoulder, remember you have a voice and an ear in the guise of the 1st Federal Division Commander.

My thanks and compliments to Clark and to the men of the U.A.V. And, for further information may I suggest the organization's website: **Firstfederaldivision.com** Or, you can email Division staff at: scdraper@aol.com (Steve Draper, Div. Chief of Staff) or 1FedDiv@ev1.net (Mark Dolive, Div. CO)

My thanks go to all those who serve, in any capacity, past and present, no matter where.
Clark A. Kirby