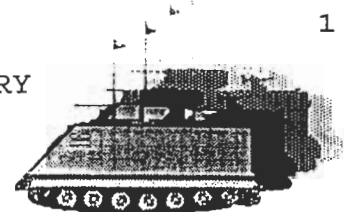


1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED) 50TH INFANTRY

" ON THE RIGHT TRACK "



Our mission is to publish a newsletter and to maintain an Internet Home Page. The Association will use these publications to inform its general membership about events within the Association and about current or proposed legislation that might affect veterans of all wars.

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 VOLUME NUMBER 3 -- DATED 05 AUGUST 1999 -- ISSUE NUMBER 06  
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FROM THE  
 COMMAND TRACK...



At long last, the Reunion is almost upon us! Some of us will be meeting for the first time in Kansas City. This past year has been a real enjoyable one for the Association. Since the beginning of the year, we received Incorporation and our EIN (Employee Identification Number) from the IRS. We undertook a fund-raising event, the Cow Pie Raffle. Details of this will be found in this newsletter. Good luck to those who purchased a ticket.

There are a few rooms available at the hotel for those who did not make final arrangements to attend the reunion. Whether the hotel will honor our group rate at this late date is entirely up to the hotel. We have a hospitality room available for our group. For anyone who wishes to help out and their name is not on the list on the next page, please let me know as soon as possible. Stop by during your visit to the hotel and check us out in the Hospitality Room.

A program of events will be available at the registration desk, along with badges and meal tickets. Please see one of the registration attendants for those. We have several door prizes available for the Friday Evening dinner, and if anyone wishes to donate anything, please bring it along on Friday Night. We will have 50-50 tickets for sale to help cover some of the costs involved. See the Registration attendees. Please make sure you are in that area by 1915, (7:15 for you civilians) on Friday evening. Program starts promptly at 1930 hours.

\* \* \* \* \*

FOR ANYONE THAT IS "ON-LINE", WE NOW HAVE A "HOME PAGE."

<http://web2.airmail.net/npoage/1st50th>

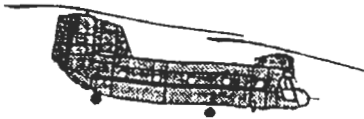
The address for the Home Page will be changing in the future. We have several members who volunteered to handle the Home Page and until we get our new page up and running, please bear with us, okay?

\* \* \* \* \*

EDITOR: Kenneth G Riley  
 200 Georgetown Court  
 Hanover PA 17331

Phone = (717) 632-7604      Work = (717) 428-2837  
 Fax = (717) 428-1093

E-mail KRiley2574@aol.com E-mail Ichaban@aol.com



\* \* \* \* \*  
REUNION 1999  
\* \* \* \* \*

Below is a list of members who shall serve on each committee. I have added these names since they showed an interest in helping out. If you have changed your mind or have other plans, please let me know. Anyone wishing to help out, please let me know prior to the reunion.

REUNION COMMITTEES

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. HOSPITALITY ROOM:<br>Kenneth Riley<br>Roger Burch<br>Gary Quint<br>Bill Grant<br>David / Billie Payne | 4. PICTURES<br>Tom Dubiel<br>Danny Missoff  |
| 2. RESTAURANT SET-UP:<br>Ken Riley<br>Herman Almendinger   | 5. REGISTRATION<br>Ken Riley<br>Fred Lohman<br>Toby Jordan<br>Roger Birch<br>Gary Quint<br>Bob Schaller<br>Matt Chapman |
| 3. DOOR PRIZES:<br>John Topper<br>Gary Quint<br>Ken Riley<br>Gary / Susan Parks                          |   |

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS

\* \* \* \* \*

The by-laws of the Association provide that the officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Membership at the General Membership Meeting conducted during the Reunion, that the Board may appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for offices and that other nominations may be made by any active member from the floor at the meeting. Candidates for office of the Association must be active, paid-up members of the Association.

The election will be held during the General Membership Meeting on Friday, 17 August, 1999 at the Kansas City Reunion. Nominations from the floor will be accepted, however the member being considered for nomination must be present or a letter of acceptance must be presented at that time to the Secretary.

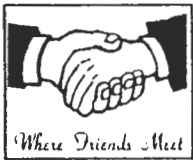
The following positions for officers will become vacant as of the end of the Reunion: President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Historian, and Chaplain. Any member who wishes to be considered for one of these positions should forward a letter to the Secretary or the President prior to the Meeting.

Anyone who wishes to be Editor of our newsletters, or wishes to help out in any way in the production of the Newsletter may also send a letter or make it known at the meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Sometimes we are so anxious to give our children what we didn't have, that we forget to give them what we did have.

Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going.



\* \* \* \* \*  
 THE BIO PAGE  
 \* \* \* \* \*

Morrison, Donald: was an original member of Bravo Company. He was also driver on Track 232. He was one of those who found money in some enemy cave. After the service, Don went to work with the postal service and was a mail carrier in his home town in Georgia. Donald passed away recently. Our condolences to his family.

Morrison, Matthew: Matt was with Charlie Company when we arrived in country. He was wounded in December of 1967. After recovering and leaving the service, Mat went home to Georgia where he now owns a novelty company. He likes to play golf and ride his Harley.

Myers, Stanley: He was with Bravo Company and now resides in Wisconsin with his wife and children. Stanley is an over-the-road driver so he is kind of hard to get in touch with.

Nabors, Jack lives in California. No further information available

Neely, Dan: Was with Delta Company when they arrived in Vietnam. He was assigned to Recon Platoon and was later transferred to the 1/7th Cav. He was wounded three times and returned home to Washington State where he now resides.

Newland, Robert: Bob came over to Alpha Company in September of 1968 as one of our replacements. He enjoyed the country so much that he didn't leave until the following year. Bob was with track 111 and now resides in Ohio.

Noble, John: Jack showed up one day in Alpha Company where he remained until the following July. Jack and his wife Lynn now reside in California. Jack and several other men from the battalion put together a reunion many years ago. He was at our first official reunion in 1997 in Alexandria Virginia.

Nordin, Nathan: Nate was an original Alpha Company member. After leaving country, he went to work as Construction Superintendent for an International Construction Company and spent some time in India setting up a Ford Motor Company Plant. In his spare time, he heads home to his wife, Nancy, and family in New York State.

Oliver, Col MM: Col Oliver was the battalion XO during the first half of 1968. His Army career began in 1955 when he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He retired from active duty in October of 1985. His wife, Josephine and he produced three wonderful children, two sons and one daughter. He likes to golf and fish. Both sons are in the Army.

Osborn, Homer C: Homer went over with Headquarters Company in the maintenance platoon. He can tell you all about the VTR and its many uses while in country. Homer now resides in Arkansas.

Pagett, Greg: was one of Charlie Company's original APC drivers. He was with 1st platoon when it went over on the boat. He now works as a painter in Ohio.

(NOTE: If your name is coming up soon, send me your bio. Thanks.)



\* \* \* \* \*  
THE BIO PAGE  
\* \* \* \* \*

Parker, David: Dave was in country from February 1970 until the end of the year. He was with Bravo Company, Second Platoon. He stayed with the 1/50th with MACV Stag Team until they left the country at the end of 1970. Dave is now working on his retirement home in Nevada.

Parks, Gary L: Gary came over with Bravo Company and rode in APC #211, with James Pierce as the driver. He left our outfit in January of 1968 with wounds he received. Gary lives with his wife Susan, in Pennsylvania.

Patterson, Timothy E: was also an original Charlie Company member. He was wounded in the Alpha Company rescue in May of 1968. Tim has been a busy person since coming home.. He and his wife, Rita and their nine children live in Pennsylvania. Tim, you only need two more to have a full squad, brother! He even has time to go fishing.

Payne, David: David was with Alpha Company, in APC #133, from September 1968 until October 1969. Leaving the service, David ended up in Tennessee where he married his beautiful wife, Billie. They still reside there. David drives for a living.

Pecorilli, Thomas: came from Fort Hood with Charlie Company and rode with Greg Pagett on track 312. Tom now lives in Michigan.

Pechin, John C came to our battalion in May of 1968 as one of Headquarters Company's cooks. Prior to that he was with the 101st Airborne. Leaving in December of 1968, Tom returned to Pennsylvania where he resides with his lovely wife Joyce and two children.

Perkins, Gay D: Gary was with Charlie Company Third Platoon from October of 1969 until October of 1970. He resides in Louisiana with his wife, Jackie. Gary said they became foot soldiers within two month of his arrival with the battalion.

Pierce, James: went to Vietnam and entered Bravo Company where he was driver of "211." Jim now resides in Ohio.

Pierce, Parker B Jr: was one of Delta Company's original mortar platoon from September of 1967 until June of 1968. Parker resides in Florida with his wife Kimberly and two children. Parker works for a major oil products jobber in Florida.

Pike, Thurman Olan JR: Thurman was Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon Leader from the time we arrived in country until late 1968. He became a training officer at Fort Gordon. Since leaving the service, Thurman has worked as a Surveyor in Civil Engineering design.

Poage, Norman: Norman saw service with 1/50th and became Charlie Company's 1st platoon leader shortly after arrival. He wore "Cathy's Clown" on his helmet and was wounded in April of 1968 severely when one of the FNG's stepped on a Bouncing Betty mine. Norm lost an arm to the mine, but not his sense of humor. He went back to Texas and he and his wife had seven children. Norm now works for GAO in Texas, where they reside.



\* \* \* \* \*  
 REUNION NEWS  
 \* \* \* \* \*

## Reminder

First: This will be the last newsletter prior to the Reunion. I hope to have information provided in the following pages to allow everyone the opportunity to enjoy themselves at the Reunion to the fullest. As was stated earlier, an Itinerary of Events will be available at the reception desk on Friday night. For those early arrivals, see me in the Lounge area any night that week between 5:30 and 7:30 pm. I will be there from Monday the 13th, so stop by for a chat. Look for the guy with the greyest hair, if I still have any left by that time!

Second: I have arranged for the transportation and dinners based on the latest list of attendees. If you plan on coming but have not sent in your registration form and fee, please do so within the next several days - - so I may get those items settled, PLEASE!

Because of the list of speakers we have, Friday night will be busy. We also have several speakers for Saturday evening, along with the color guard to present the colors.

Both nights are casual dress. You do not have to bring your tux along, gentlemen; and the women can leave their gowns home. We want everyone to feel comfortable.

On Saturday around noon, we will walk about 1.5 blocks, (so I am told), to the Vietnam Memorial. Please bring along comfortable shoes and attire for Saturday afternoon. After the memorial services, buses will pick those up at that spot who wish to go to the Casino, and for those who do not wish to go there, a bus will take you on a tour of the city with several stops planned, so bring along your money, cause they have a great shopping plaza and market out there.

Saturday morning after breakfast, there will be a special presentation by Dick Guthrie and his followers, on their recent trip to Vietnam. I am hoping this will occur around 10:30 am, will probably last about 1.5 hours. Please see if you can attend this most informative presentation.

Also, we are anticipating the current battalion commander of the 1/50th Infantry, from Fort Benning GA, to be present to give an update on the battalion today. This will occur at the Saturday night meal if the time does not allow him to present his lecture prior to that. Updates on the actual time of all events will be in the Program you can pick up at the registration desk on Friday evening.

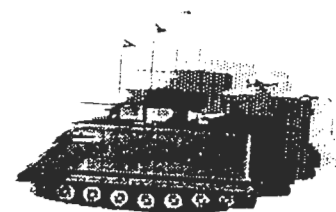
Directions to the hotel are included with this newsletter.

The room number of the Hospitality Suite will be posted and announced during the Friday Night meal. Hope to see all your smiling faces in that room sometime during the course of the weekend. Please help to support our reunion by purchasing 50-50 tickets from the registration desk and during the hospitality room opening hours.

For those of you not familiar with what a "POW/MIA" Table is, please read the paper at this special place we will have set up in our meeting room on Friday night. Copies of the description will be available at the Registration Desk.

\* \* \* \* \*  
COW-PIE RAFFLE UPDATE  
\* \* \* \* \*

"LAST CALL"



As of 5 August, 1999:

Tickets sold and stubs returned: 2,657

Ticket stubs not yet returned: 343

Tickets left to sell: 00

Below are listed the seven (7) people who sold the most tickets. The person selling the most tickets will receive a check for \$150.00 from the Association for their efforts.

Kenneth G Riley, member	695	\$150.00 most tickets sold.
Herman Allmendinger, member	320	Free meal Friday night for two.
Louis Frisbee, member	261	Free meal Friday night for one.
Lawanda Riley, non-member	161	
James Redding, non-member	129	
Rod Klinedinst, non-member	72	
Matt Morrison, member	72	

If there are unclaimed tickets returned to me: on the 30th of August, I will buy those tickets with the \$150.00 that would be given for most tickets sold and I will donate those to the "Make a Wish Foundation". If their number wins, the prize money will be given to "Make a Wish Foundation" in our name, the 1/50th!

GENTLEMEN: Please! If you have not returned the stubs to the Cow Pie Raffle, do so now. I need the stub to add to the chart for the event, which is coming up in a few days. Send the stubs back now. Without the stub, I cannot award any prize that you may win. I am sorry, but no prize can be awarded unless I have your ticket stubs.

\* \* \* \* \*  
EDITOR'S NOTE  
\* \* \* \* \*

I received this letter the other day.

"Sir, my father served with 1/50th INF during the Vietnam War. He was a 1LT (FA) assigned to D CO as a FO and I know for a while he served as the Company Commander for Delta CO. He was with the unit when it was attached to the 1st Cav Div. Any information that you can provide me about how he was as a commander or soldier would be helpful."

"I am currently stationed at Fort Benning GA where the 1/50 is a basic training BN, minting new infantry soldiers. The BN CMDR LTC Michael Barron was my first company commander in Fort Lewis back in 1984."

"My father's name is George Bensema. You can contact me at..."

(I left his mailing address out for a reason. If anyone would like to contact him, please let me know and I will supply all details. He also has an e-mail address which I can supply if you knew his father.)

\* \* \* \* \*  
TIDBITS TO PASS ON  
\* \* \* \* \*

Indian tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount the horse.

However, in government and business, we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

1. Buy a stronger whip.
2. Change riders.
3. Saying things like, "We have always done it this way in the past."
4. Appoint a committee to study the horse.
5. Arrange to visit other companies to see how they ride dead horses.
6. Appoint a team to revive the dead horse.
7. Create a training session to increase riding ability of dead horses.
8. Change requirements as to what constitutes a dead horse.
9. Hire sub-contractors to ride the dead horse.
10. Harness several dead horses together to increase speed.
11. Declare that, "No horse is too dead to beat."
12. Provide additional funding to increase the horse's performance.
13. Purchase a product to make dead horses faster.
14. Declare it is cheaper, faster and better to ride dead horses.
15. Form a group to find uses for dead horses.
16. Promote the dead horse to management.

\* \* \* \* \*

This information was passed on to me through several sources. The accuracy of it is unknown. I have deleted non-essential information from the context of the letter:

"My name is Steven Mandel and I reside in Torrance CA. I served with the 92nd Assault Helicopter Co as a crew chief/door gunner from 68-69."  
"Now to why I am writing. The past week someone left a message on our answering machine stating that they found a lighter. I figured it was a Zippo Lighter but when I called the guy who found it, he didn't know. Anyway, the lighter belongs to a Lt Harper."

"This is what is engraved on the lighter. Remember, I received this info over the telephone and sometimes info gets lost in the transmit. I'm not sure how it is engraved per line. I have not seen the lighter but have had contact with the finder."

<p>"Side one of the lighter is this: SRAP LT HARPER 173rd ABN BDE C Co. SRAP HOLLOWAY RAIDERS Road Control OL 19</p>	<p>Side two of the lighter is this: CWU VIETNAM 68-69 1st Battalion Mechanized 50th Infantry</p>
--	--

If anyone out there among the membership knows of this man or the unit, please contact me ASAP and I will relay the information to the finder of the lighter. LT Harper does not show up on any roster I have of the battalion, but I do not have every company's roster for the duration of the war, so he could be a real person. If you know of this man or the unit he served in, contact me now with that information.

The most beautiful discovery that true friends can make: is that they can grow separately without growing apart!

\* \* \* \* \*  
 PRE-REGISTRATION  
 \* \* \* \* \*

The following persons have signed up for the Reunion. If your name is not listed, that means I have no record of you returning the form. The names with \*\* in front of them are listed by the hotel as reserving a room, however I did not receive a registration form from you.

1. John Carlson	26. Louis Frisbee	51. Nate Nordin
2. Kenneth Riley	27. Fred Lohman	52. Bob Schaller
3. James Segars	28. William Grant	**53. Michael Deal
4. Don Rainwater	29. Lloyd Walker	**54. Gary Parks
5. Neil Miller	30. Cal Avery	**55. Tim Hurley
6. David Garland	31. Richard Guthrie	56. Jim Sheppard
7. Roger Burch	32. Bill Kamphouse	**57. Brian Thomas
8. Joe Ewing	33. Kevin Begley	**58. Larry Sams
9. Jon Thelan	34. Billy Hayes	**59. David Baker
10. Toby Hamon	35. Gary Quint	60. Parker Pierce Jr
11. Walter Tracey	36. John Topper	61.
12. Thomas Dubiel	37. Russ Roth	62.
13. Lawrence Jordan	38. Harry Wilson	63.
14. Leon Gallant	39. Herb Randall	64.
15. Walter Billups	40. Matt Morrison	65.
16. Robert Gold	41. Richard Kerr	66.
17. Danny Missoff	42. Arthur Arzate	67.
18. Randy Smith	43. Gladys Grubb	68.
19. Herman Allmendinger	44. John Golz	69.
20. Tom Zamzow	45. Darrel Sourwine	70.
21. Howard Flippen	46. Gary Epperson	71.
22. Tom Sarsfield	47. Stephen Escott	72.
23. Donald Lovell	48. Harry Bloomquist	73.
24. Miles Hatch	49. James L Wonsick	74.
25. Tom Knepp	50. Matthew Chapman	75.

Those marked with an \* have reserved a room, but have not sent back the registration form as of yet. Please see to that now. A copy is included with this newsletter. I need this form so I can reserve buses and meals both nights. Please!!!

Also, there are several names on the list whom I have no record of belonging to the Association. If you know those people, please let me know. They are:

Tim Hurley  
 David Baker

I was just informed by the hotel on 14 July 1999, they will hold the current rate open until the 16th of August. At that time they will cut it off. If you contact the hotel after that date, the rooms are only available on a first call, first served basis. They may hold the current rate available, but that you would have to negotiate with the hotel itself. If you plan on coming, please send in your registration form now, and call the hotel prior to the 16th.

\* \* \* \* \*

You don't stop playing because you are old. You grow old because you stop playing!



This call goes out to everyone in the Association. I am trying to track down a fellow by the name of Angelo S Strano, last known address is New Hampshire.

For those of you not familiar with history: On 23 January 1968; the USS Pueblo was seized by the North Koreans. Angelo S Strano was a sailor on board that ship that very same day. The sailors on board were held captive for almost seven months, without their families knowing their fate.

To a lot of you who served with Alpha Company, 1/50th; you may remember another fellow from the unit, a James Strano. Yes, they were brothers. James Strano was Killed in Action on 23 January 1968, the same day his other brother was captured by the North Koreans. What a cruel event to happen to the same family.

I wish to contact Angelo Strano and invite him into the Association as an honorary member on behalf of his brother. If anyone has the ability to contact him in any way, please pass that info on to me as soon as possible.

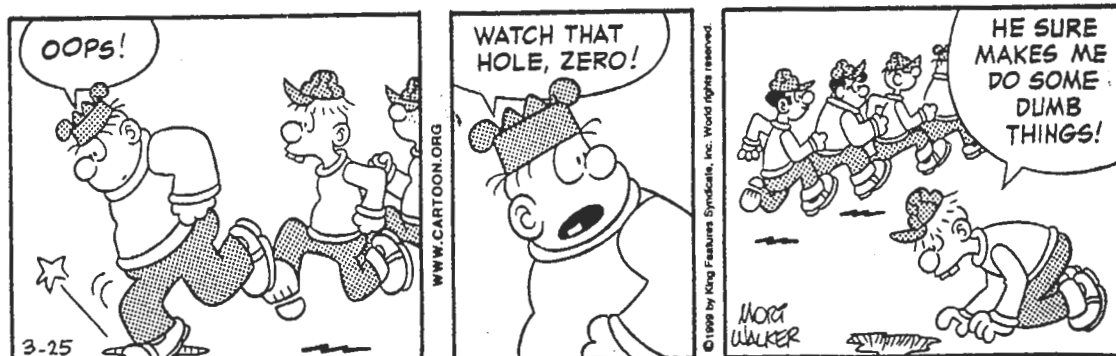
UPDATE TO ABOVE:

On Tuesday, 27 July 1999, I received an e-mail from Jeff Felder of Texas who says he has contacted Mr Strano. I will follow up on that message and see if Mr Strano would be willing to come to our reunion. All you guys out there who knew of his brother, James, please let me know as soon as possible, please! If enough guys show an interest of letting his brother know anything about James, I will contact Angelo and see if I can get him to our reunion.

\* \* \* \* \*

I feel I owe some an apology for my article in the last newsletter concerning membership. I had one fellow write me to let me know he did not particularly care for what I said and I totally understand where he is coming from when he explained it to me in his letter. To him I offer my apologies.

I will not dwell on this subject anymore. Some way I will see that the newsletters are sent out to all members found, whether they wish to join with us or not, for whatever reasons they have. I just ask those who feel we are headed in the right direction, to please make sure your dues are paid when they become due. To those of you who do that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support.





The following information is needed prior to arrival at the hotel, so we can schedule meals and trips a bit more accurately. Please send this form with your registration fee at this time. Remember: If you do not send your form and fee to me prior to the reunion, the cost "At the Door" is \$25.00. Indicate your choice of items and dates requested.

## PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DATES STAYING AT HOTEL: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE (\$20.00) PAID \_\_\_\_\_ INCLUDED WITH FORM \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fee must be paid prior to 12 SEPTEMBER)

HOTEL ROOM BOOKED YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NOT STAYING AT HOTEL \_\_\_\_\_

THE FRIDAY TOUR OF THE VFW HAS BEEN DELETED DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST AND ALSO THE HIGH COST OF THE BUS SERVICE TO GO THE SEVERAL BLOCKS. THERE ARE TROLLYS AVAILABLE AND IF WE GET ENOUGH INTEREST, I WILL SET UP A TOUR VIA THE TROLLEY.

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER (\$25.00) YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ HOW MANY \_\_\_\_\_  
(Payable by Friday, Sept. 17th, 1999)

SATURDAY TRIP TO CASINO (FREE) \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY TOUR OF CITY, CITY MARKET, AND WESTPORT (SHOPPING PLAZA) \_\_\_\_\_

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER (\$7.50) YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ HOW MANY \_\_\_\_\_  
(Payable by Friday, Sept. 17th, 1999)

Registration Desk will be set up outside dining room/meeting room on Friday, 17 September, 1999 at 3 PM. Registration will be open until meeting starts at 7:30 PM Friday. Late arrivals may register during the meal or on Saturday morning between 10:00 AM and noon.

COMMENTS AND / OR SUGGESTIONS:

We will need several large coolers for the Hospitality Room. If anyone is driving there and has room in their vehicle for those, please let me know that you can bring coolers along before the reunion. I will also need someone with transportation to pick up some beer and soda for the room sometime before Thursday night. Can anyone volunteer this service to the reunion? It will be greatly appreciated. I will have a check for you once I get the receipt and know what the costs are. Give me a call or send a note to me, please, on these few items, ok?