

The Combat Infantrymen's Association 2017 Convention/Registration Information

There are changes you must be aware of. Please read the entire packet carefully!

The 2017 Combat Infantrymen's Association annual convention will be held Wednesday October 18 – Sunday October 22. The host hotel will be the DoubleTree Hotel Columbus located at 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd, Columbus, GA 31909. Normal check-in time is 3:00 PM, with check-out time at 12:00 noon. DoubleTree has assured us every effort will be made to have rooms ready before that time but in case you arrive before your room is available, just stow your gear and relax in the hospitality room until the room is ready. The DoubleTree is a first-class property with all the amenities you expect from a fine hotel. Complimentary airport shuttle to/from the Columbus Airport is provided. You can obtain the shuttle service by calling the hotel at **706-327-6868**. Reunion rates for extra days before or after the reunion are not guaranteed and will be on a space available basis. Self-parking at the DoubleTree is complimentary for guests staying at or attending events at the hotel. Valet Parking is not available.



If staying in a local campground, RV/Camper reunion attendees are responsible for finding your own park and for providing your own transportation to and from the DoubleTree. The DoubleTree does have limited RV/Campers parking but you cannot live in one on hotel property.

Please Read and Heed Information: Several things have changed since the Albuquerque reunion that will impact this year's registration. First things first. At the end of last year (2016) the owners of Premier Reunion Services, the convention management company used by the association since 1998 retired and closed the business. Larry Eckard, Blue Badge Editor will handle the 2017 convention (and beyond) on a personal basis until you fire him and look elsewhere. That can be an item of discussion at the General Membership meeting in Columbus. Please note the changes that have resulted from their retirement.

- 1) **Credit card usage:** Since the convention is no longer managed by a business credit cards cannot be accepted. Payments will need to be made by personal or cashier check or money order.
- 2) **Two options are being offered:** This year two options – Wednesday arrival and Thursday arrival - will be offered. Due to hotel room, food and beverage, and tour minimums you ***may not*** opt out of activities included in the options.
- 3) **Payment Schedule:** The deposit and payment schedule and amounts have been changed. Your initial deposit is due by Sept 1, 2017, and your balance must be paid by October 1, 2017.
- 4) **The Association** is paying the transportation cost for Thursday and Friday's tour for members and guests, EXCEPT if we exceed the number of passengers the bus(es) will hold (55). In that case members get the priority and guests will be accommodated on a first to register basis. It is to your advantage to register early. The association is also paying the admission fee to the National Infantry Museum ***for members only***. Thursday's admission to the museum for guests is included in the convention cost. In the event a guest is "bumped" by a member the admission fee will be refunded. Also, everyone is responsible for their own lunch at the museum on Thursday. Friday's lunch at one of the Ft Benning mess halls is included in the reunion cost.
- 5) **Cancellations:** Rooms may be cancelled up to 24 hours before your scheduled arrival without penalty; within 24 hours of your scheduled arrival you will be charged one night's lodging. For hotel provided functions (food and beverages) cancellations will be honored until October 13, except if guaranteed numbers have been provided to the vendor or payment already made. Cancellations must be made through the Combat Infantrymen's Association Reunion Manager where you will receive a cancellation number. Calling the hotel and cancelling your room is not sufficient for food and beverage cancellations. There will be **NO REFUNDS – for any reason** - for hotel food and beverage function cancellation requests received after **October 13, 2017**. ***Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. See your local insurance agent***
- 6) **Adding an Extra Day** was necessary to insure we get to fully participate in the activities that are available at the Infantry Museum and Ft Benning and have sufficient time for our very important business meeting. That is the major reason the convention cost is somewhat more expensive than in the past ~ plus the hotel rates and food prices in Columbus are higher than in Albuquerque. The price you are paying for each activity is exactly what we are being charged; there are no "hidden" administrative or other costs!

Combat Infantrymen's association 2017 Reunion Itinerary

Tuesday October 17

Early bird arrivals, no planned activities, no hospitality room

Wednesday October 18

12:00 Noon: Registration Begins and Hospitality Room Opens, stocked with coffee, soft drinks, fruit, and other munchies. Due to DoubleTree policy and GA state law, private alcohol is not permitted in the hospitality room.

3:00 PM: Executive Board Meeting (location to be announced on site)

5:00 – 6:30 PM: Welcome Reception. President's welcome remarks, announcements, and introductions. After his remarks the cash bar will open and the hot-dog buffet line will open. Dinner, if you want it after the hot dogs, is on your own tonight. *Cost of the reception is included in All-Inclusive only.*

Thursday October 19

6:30-7:30 AM: Breakfast is in the hotel restaurant with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure keeping in mind when the tour departs. *Cost of breakfast is included in your room rate.*

7:00 AM: CIA Information/Registration Desk opens.

8:00 AM: Time is flexible, so be prepared to leave a few minutes earlier or later, exact time will be announced on site. Load up for an exciting day at the Infantry Museum. Before the museum visit you will be transported to Brave Rifles Field adjacent to the Infantry Museum for the graduation ceremony of the 194th Armored Brigade OSUT (one station unit training). The CIA will have reserved seating and after the "boot" graduation you should have time to meet some of the recent graduates (provided you can pry them away from family). If you are a photo enthusiast bring your camera. Immediately after the ceremony you will be transported to the National Infantry Museum (below photo). This is one of the nation's premier military history museums with thousands of artifacts, monuments, interactive exhibits and video presentations on display. There are too many displays to mention here but some of the most significant are the Vietnam Memorial Plaza, the Last 100 yards' ramp, Armor, Cav, Ranger and OCS exhibits. You will have a guided tour first, then free time to explore on your own. The Combat Infantrymen's Association has a monument on the grounds where our memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM. Lunch is on your own at the Museum. *The Association is paying for the bus transportation for CIA members and guests EXCEPT* if we exceed the number of passengers the bus(es) will



hold (55 people). In that case members get the priority and guests will be



accommodated on a first to register basis. It is to your advantage to register early. You will depart the Museum at approximately 4:00 PM and return to the hotel. *The Association is also paying the entrance fee to the museum for Association members. Admission fee for spouses/guests is part of the reunion cost. If the*

spouse/guest of a member gets "bumped" the admission fee will not be charged to you. VERY IMPORTANT: Ft Benning and the Infantry Museum have requested that because of the extremely crowded conditions expected at the graduation and museum that you do not drive your POV. Please help us honor that request by going with the group on the bus. The Association will not pay the museum admission fee for anyone choosing not to cooperate (handicapped excepted).

5:00 PM: Hospitality Room opens (earlier if there are Friday arrivals)

For most, remainder of the evening is free for you to relax in your room, the hospitality room, the hotel lounge, or explore Columbus. Dinner is on your own tonight.

7:00 PM: Ballot Count committee meets to count ballots electing the new National Commander. Location of meeting announced on site.

Friday October 20

6:30-8:30 AM: Breakfast is in the hotel restaurant with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure keeping in mind when the tour departs. *Cost of breakfast is included in your room rate.*

8:00 AM: CIA Information/Registration Desk opens.

9:00 AM: Load up for the visit to Ft Benning. The agenda at Ft Benning is dictated by the Commanding General, based on mission requirements, funding and availability of escort and briefing personnel. At this printing, we are scheduled to observe Rangers in Action, lunch in the mess hall, the Simulator Training Facility, and a riding tour of Ft Benning. You will depart Ft Benning approximately 4:00 PM and return to the hotel. *The Association is paying for the bus transportation for CIA members and guests EXCEPT* if we exceed the number of passengers the bus will hold (55 people). If we exceed 55 persons, members get the priority and guests will be accommodated on a first to register basis. It is to your advantage to register early. You will depart the Museum at approximately 4:00 PM and return to the hotel. *If the spouse/guest of a member gets “bumped” the Mess Hall lunch fee will not be charged to you.*

5:00 PM: Hospitality Room opens (earlier if there are Friday arrivals)

6:00 PM: Social hour with cash bar.

7:00 PM: Enjoy a true southern three entrée dinner buffet featuring southern fried chicken, Carolina Style pulled pork BBQ and meat loaf with the trimmings. Following dinner there will be an open mike for anyone who wants to make comments, share experiences – anything but complain. Save that for the business meeting. *Cost of tonight’s dinner is included in both options.*

Saturday October 21

6:30-8:30 AM: Breakfast is in the hotel restaurant with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure. *Cost of breakfast is included in your room rate.*

8:00 AM: CIA Officer’s meeting in the Somerset room.

9:00 AM: General Membership meeting in the Somerset room. All paid-to-date members are encouraged to attend this meeting. Membership card must be presented to gain entrance. There is no cost.

9:00 AM: Ladies Only tour of Columbus departs (contingent upon having a minimum of 20 ladies - the tour company minimum, not ours). If you are interested indicate on the registration form and if there is sufficient interest you will be contacted individually.

6:00 PM: Pre-dinner Cocktail hour with cash bar

7:00 PM: Call to Order, Posting of the Colors and dinner is served. Retirees are encouraged to wear your uniform; coat and tie recommended for other gentlemen with corresponding dress for the ladies. We hope to have a Color Guard from Ft Benning as our guests as well as the DCG’s and CSM’s of the Infantry and Armor Centers. The guests are contingent upon their schedule and mission requirements. *Cost of the banquet is included in both options.*

Sunday October 22

6:30-8:30 AM: Breakfast is in the hotel restaurant with coupons provided. Eat at your leisure keeping in mind when the tour departs. *Cost of breakfast is included in your room rate.*

Check out

Office Use Only: Dep Rec'd _____ / Payment Method _____ / Date Rec'd _____

Combat Infantrymen's Association Reunion

Please complete both sides of this form and return it with your initial deposit (or full payment) on or before Sept 1, 2017

Make your check out to "Combat Infantrymen's Association"

Mail to: **Combat Infantrymen's Association: PO Box 11044 Hickory, NC 28603**

Phone: 828-490-9303-Ext 0 (Leave a voice mail and your call will be returned)

Attendee Info

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Spouse or guest name: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code: _____

Primary Phone (home or cell): (_____) _____ Email: _____

Check here if you want your confirmation letter sent via e-mail instead of USPS (be sure we have your e-mail address)

Emergency Contact Info

If there should be an emergency during the reunion and we need to contact a member of your family, who should it be?

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Name Tag Info

The all-Inclusive Option contains a Columbus, GA city tag. If this is your first CIA Convention, or if your nametag walked away during the years you are encouraged to order a new one. The name tag is sturdy white plastic engraved with a CIB, your name, rank and years served. Spouse or guest name tag will have the guest's name only. Name tags are \$7.75 each. To insure name tag accuracy, please provide the following: **IF YOU COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW – YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR AND RECEIVE A NAME TAG.**

Name for your nametag: _____ Name for guest nametag: _____

Highest rank while on active duty : _____ Years served: From: _____ To: _____

Cancellation Policy

By submitting this registration form, I understand and agree that my room may be cancelled up to 24 hours before my scheduled arrival without penalty; within 24 hours of my scheduled arrival I will be charged one night's lodging. For hotel provided functions (food and beverages) cancellations will be honored until October 13, except if guaranteed numbers have been provided to the vendor or payment already made. Cancellations must be made through the Combat Infantrymen's Association Reunion Manager where you will receive a cancellation number. Calling the hotel and cancelling your room is not sufficient for food and beverage cancellations. There will be **NO REFUNDS – for any reason** - for hotel food and beverage function cancellation requests received after **October 13, 2017. Trip Cancellation Insurance is highly recommended. See your local insurance agent.**

Signature Required: _____

Combat Infantrymen's Association 2017 Convention Worksheet

This is different than the past, so please read carefully. There are two Options. Opt-outs are not available.

All-Inclusive Option, Arrive Wednesday, depart Sunday.

Includes the following activities for each individual

- a) Four nights lodging (Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat)
- b) Four breakfasts (two per room, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun)
- c) Wednesday evening welcome reception
- d) Thursday OSUT Graduation and Infantry Museum visit
- e) Friday visit to Ft Benning with lunch in Mess Hall
- f) Friday night dinner
- g) Saturday night banquet
- h) Columbus, GA city tag
- i) Pro-rated cost of postage, printing, hospitality room items, gratuities, and miscellaneous admin expenses. Everyone has been assessed a pro-rated amount for these costs which cannot be deducted. This is not new, this has always been done in the past – so you are not seeing a “new” charge; these costs have always been built in the option costs just like now.

Cost for the entire All-Inclusive Option is only \$694.00 per person for single occupancy; \$439.00 per person for double occupancy.

Option B, Arrive Thursday, depart Sunday.

Includes the following activities for each individual

- a) Three nights lodging (Thur, Fri, Sat)
- b) Three breakfasts (two per room, (Fri, Sat, Sun)
- c) Friday visit to Ft Benning with lunch in Mess Hall
- d) Friday night dinner
- e) Saturday night banquet
- f) Columbus, GA city tag
- g) Pro-rated cost of postage, printing, hospitality room items, gratuities, and miscellaneous admin expenses. Everyone has been assessed a pro-rated amount for these costs which cannot be deducted. This is not new, this has always been done in the past – so you are not seeing a “new” charge; these costs have always been built in the option costs just like now.

Cost for the entire Option B is only \$525.00 per person for single-occupancy; \$324.00 per person for double occupancy.

The initial deposit (or full payment) is due on or before **Sept 1, 2017**. Any remaining balance is due by Oct 1, 2017. **If you live locally or are staying in your RV/Camper you of course do not need to pay for a hotel room. In this case you may subtract the cost of the room & tax (\$128.76 per night single occupancy; \$64.38 per person double occupancy) from the option. Make that notation on the registration form.**

My selection is: (check one)

All Inclusive Option @ \$694.00 per person single occupancy _____

OR

All-Inclusive Option @ \$439.00 per person double occupancy _____ (typical cost is \$439.00 x 2 = \$878.00)

Option B @ \$525.00 per person single occupancy _____

OR

Option B @ \$324.00 per person double occupancy _____ (typical cost is \$324.00 x 2 = \$648.00)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Balance due: \$ _____

If you are interested in a ladies tour of Columbus or perhaps to FDR's Warm Springs Place and Calloway Gardens, about 35 miles from Columbus or just a “cultural” tour of Columbus, check here. _____. We need a minimum of 20 persons. If there is enough interest, you will be contacted individually.