

THE STEEL TIGERS - 77TH ARMOR ASSOCIATION



THE PERIMETER

The **PERIMETER** is a circle of soldiers. It is half a squad, platoon or company. One half is on guard, staying vigilant, watching for the enemy, while the other half rests, sleeps and carries on with life as it is.

They are more than just men and women, they are a brotherhood and sisterhood in uniform. They share their plans, dreams and hopes with each other. In hard times, they share their sadness, fears and pain. They face the enemy together, some like brothers and sisters, others like fathers, sons, mothers and daughters, and always as true friends.

They find a spirit in each other that binds them to one another in a bond that lasts forever. As time passes, they will leave the service and each other. They will travel many different paths in life, some will prosper well and others not so well.

Somewhere in life's travels, these men and women find themselves lost in the world, confused, dazed, scared and unhappy, searching for something; something they are not even sure exists. They are not soldiers anymore, they are called veterans.

Somehow, in their search, they once again find others like themselves. They find brothers and sisters of the past, brothers and sisters of the **PERIMETER**, that circle of safety, where someone else shares their pain, their confusion and their fear. That **PERIMETER** where fear is eased, where there is less confusion.

They share each other's pain in stories, in tears and in silence. Inside the **PERIMETER**, eye contact can say it all. This **PERIMETER** is a circle of life and death, it is a circle of wounded warriors, with wounds of both flesh and spirit. This **PERIMETER** is a circle of iron that has never broken. It is a circle of common duty that knows no color, no creed and no religious ground. The circle will last forever, through the best of times and the worst of times.

The **PERIMETER** is a place warriors will always seek-even for eternity. Just gaze out at our national cemeteries. For out there, on the outer edge, ever so vigilant, are those on the **PERIMETER**.