



A VETERAN'S ALBUM

A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY BOOK

OF THE

VIETNAM WAR

VIETNAM
1966-1969

ARMY



(Dau Tieng) 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows," December 1967. This photo was taken in flight during operation "Yellowstone" along the Cambodian border. It was the biggest operation of it's kind up to that date. The photo shows a formation of "Black Widows" with Nhu Ba Den (The Black Virgin Mountain) in the background. On Memorial Day 1992 I left a framed duplicate of this at the VVM in honor of the men in our unit who never returned home...God bless them. (contributed by D. Detra)

Insignia of the 188th "Black Widows" (contributed by D. Detra)



(Dau Tieng) 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows," 1967-68. The #179, "SATISFACTION" with L-R: Sp/5 Greg Allen and Sp/4 Dick Detra. XN-21 Mini Gun system with 14-2.75 & 3.5 rockets...Awesome stuff! (contributed by D. Detra)



(Dau Tieng) 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows," This is a photo of my gun ship, #179 the SATISFACTION, 3rd flight platoon at LZ Sally. We flew direct combat support for the 25th Inf. Div. Ship #179 was shot down twice while in-country...something I'll never forget. (contributed by D. Detra)



(Dau Tieng) 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows," Sept. 1967. Standing in front of the 2nd flight platoons Hootch. Gunners & Crew Chiefs. Front row kneeling: Ron Merlock. 1st row standing L-R: Ed Pettinato, Alan Gaston, Unknown, Unknown. 2nd row L-R: Ron Carpenter, Dick Detra and in the background is Crew Chief Jim Trueblood...morale was very high at that time. (contributed by D. Detra)



(Dau Tieng) 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows," 1967-68. This is a photo of myself, Dick Detra, on my slick while stationed at Dau Tieng as a door gunner with 188th, 2nd flight platoon. We were one of the first company's in Vietnam to receive the new VH-1H Hueys. We were the only company size units to operate in I, II, III & IV Corps. Our missions took place during a time of Search & Destroy. (contributed by D. Detra)



(Long Binh) 25th Aviation Co., 1st Aviation Br., 1967-68. L-R: Crew Chief Gene Schubert, Crew Chief Keith Cavender, Crew Chief Dick Persing and Gunner Bob Beard. This was taken at our operations building in Long Binh. (contributed by D. Persing)



(Long Binh) 25th Aviation Co., 1st Aviation Br., 1967-68. This picture was taken on "Top Pad" in April of 1968. It looks like I was changing some filters...and had a long day of it. Most of the time I didn't even know what day it was. I think I had two or three days off the whole year. I really can't say it bothered me, I just did my job and I'm damn proud of it. (contributed by D. Persing)



(Tay Ninh) 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows," December 1967. 5th Special Forces Group, Team B-36 during operation "Rapid Fire." (contributed by D. Detra)



(Long Binh) 25th Aviation Co., 1st Aviation Br., 1967-68. This is a picture of the crew that I spent the most time with. We gave an 8x10 of this shot to Gen. Weyand when he left country. The picture was taken on what we called "Top Pad" in July 1968. L-R: Cpl. Dale Stadt, WO Tipton, Major Gould, Lt. Randy McDonough and myself, Sp/5 Dick Persing. I really liked this crew, especially Lt. McDonough. He was a damn good pilot and I felt very safe with him up front...wonder where he is now? (contributed by D. Persing)



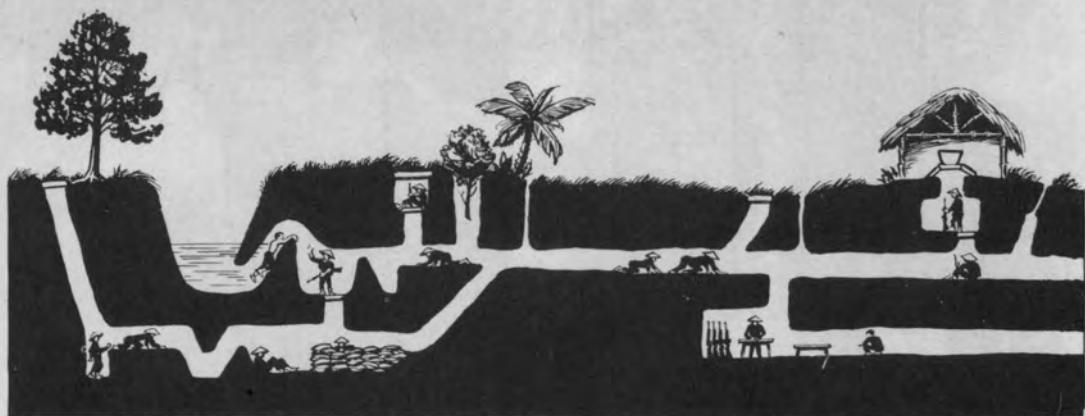
Admiral U. S. Grant Sharp (left), Commander in Chief, Pacific, and Major General Lewis W. Walt, commander of the III Marine Amphibious Force, with the author in Vietnam in early 1966. (*Marine Corps Photo*)



Lieutenant General Joseph H. Moore (left) greets his successor as commander of the 7th Air Force, Lieutenant General William M. Momyer in June 1966.



The author with Lieutenant Colonel Mary Donovan of the 85th Evacuation Hospital, 1966. (*Look Collection, The Library of Congress. Copyright © Cowles Communications, Inc. 1966.*)



Typical VC tunnel system.



A "tunnel rat" at work in the sector of the 25th Infantry Division near Cu Chi, in the III Corps Zone, August 1966. (U. S. Army Photograph)