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Richard W. Stewart, Ph.D.
Command Historian
Headquarters, US Army Special Operations Command
[REDACTED]

Dear Dr. Stewart,

Your past assistance has been greatly appreciated as I unraveled our Family's involvement with the OSS and later the JFK Special Warfare Center, and the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

Recently, I became involved in helping some Vietnam Vets get their 'due' from the Veterans Administration. Apart from their exposures to Agent Orange and the hazards of their tours in Vietnam, some of their unit missions need a little firming up with historical fact. I am working with survivors of the 188th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) (part of the 269th Aviation Group ... a 'paper unit' I think). They were known as the "Black Widows."

B-34, 5th Special Forces (SF), carried out a mission in approx. September 1967 in the vicinity of Song Be. Can you provide any declassified details about this mission? The 188th AHC supported the mission.

From December '67 to '68, Operation Rapid Fire was conducted in Eastern Tay Ninh Province that was also supported by the 188th AHC. B-36, A-361 and A-362 had the mission lead. Same question, can you provide any declassified details?

Can you provide me the Name and Address of your Navy Counterpart for the purposes of defining some of the Seal Team Missions supported by the 188th?

Lastly, this has bothered me for 27 years ... can you give me the name of the LTC that was the Operations Officer of the 5th Group in the Spring of 1970. Tall man, chewed an unlit Cigar. Another Captain and I from the Training Directorate, MACV, were in 'lock-up' for 3 weeks or so with him at HQ, MACV. We were working out some details in training a 'Third Party Military.' My Training Programs ... Basic, AIT, Basic Unit, Company, Battalion Staff, Integrated Battalion were tailored to be conducted for them at Chi Lang Training Center, Chau Duc Province. They were, of course, advised by RVN Advisers. Sen. Fulbright's people didn't come into the picture until just after the first Battalion was 'graduated.'

Once again, thanks in advance for your help.

Respectfully yours,

Major, AUS, Retired

cc: Mr. Richard A. Detra
Unit Historian, 188th AHC "Black Widows"
[REDACTED]

*Dick —
you did good
for Kenny. And
help I can give
you if you wish,
let me know.
Peter*