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Hello Vietnam Veteran of A/3/22:

**Charlie Company** has done exceptionally well in locating its former members with most of the originals found and over 80% of the 67/68 year group located. This last year, **Bravo Company** has done very well, too. They now boast over 130 on their mailing list, mainly because of one man who took it upon himself to do it! That man is **John Otte**. **Mark Rowan** is also working vigorously to help reunite the Company. (See article by Mark and picture of his van.)

**Ken Gosline** got **A Company** off to a good start a while back. Most of the "Alphagators" that we know of came through him. Now we're looking for someone to pick up where he left off. I will help any of you to get started and guide you in your efforts. More than anything else, more than equipment even, is the importance of your desire to do this. If you have the love for the guys, it will happen!

The same offer of help applies to **Delta Company**. **Jerry White** attends our reunions regularly with a small group from **Delta**. They are really "Regulars!" I'd hope someone from that group will take on the task of finding more of our brothers from **Delta Company**. Again, if any of you are interested, give me a call: [redacted] in Portland, OR... **Bill**

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**Mark Rowan Writes...**

Dear Members Of Company C,

This past July, **Tom Schenk** and myself stopped at your reunion in St. Louis. We were enroute to our B Company reunion in New Iberia, LA. We arrived Saturday afternoon and were invited guests at your evening dinner. We'd like to express our thanks to all! We had a great time! We met many of you that had shared the experiences of Ft. Lewis, the rice paddies and the jungles of Vietnam. Thanks for sharing those few beers, war stories and your friendship.

*We were very impressed with the leadership, dedication and hard work of so many of your people to put together such a great organization.* A special salute to those that have worked so hard to find old friends. Through your efforts we have found some of the men of Company B. It was a wonderful time and I hope I can join you in D.C. in 1977.

May I request some additional assistance from you? I've been doing research on the battle of Soui Tre. (LZ Gold): The events of before during and after the battle. Some of your members were involved. Any materials such as photos, slides, news articles, military records that you care to share would be helpful and much appreciated. Your personal input would be most interesting to me. Please contact me by mail or phone: 608-965-3713 After 7PM Central Time is best. Thanks!

From myself and speaking for all your friends from Bravo Company, Have a safe, happy, and Holy Holiday season. ...**Mark Rowan**, B/3/22 (Mark's address is on your new roster)

**Late Find: Donnie G. England**

[redacted], AZ 72472

*December 71 Welcome Him Home!*

Since we are still in the locator section of this newsletter, generally speaking, here is another excerpted letter from a heroic soldier that helped us in Vietnam... **Ed**

**Fire Support Base Burt from the air-by Dick Detra**

Hello Charlie Company,

*"I remember making gun runs along the perimeter that night and seeing all those NVA. Needless to say, I was pretty scared..."*

My name is **Dick Detra** and I joined your association recently. I heard about you through **Robert O'Neal** and **Eric Bergerud**. I contacted Eric after reading his two books. We both live in the Bay area so I went to visit him. We made copies of the 25th Division's "Lessons Learned", The II Field Force lessons, some information on Tet '68, and other after action reports. Since 1991 I've been researching my unit, The 188th Assault Helicopter Company, "Black Widows". Our gun platoon was the "Spiders". We have names and addresses of about 85 pilots and crew members. I watch the locator section of Vietnam magazine for people of the 25th and of course my own unit.

We flew support for the 3rd Brigade out of Dau Tieng. I flew with a gun platoon for about 6 months after learning the door gunners job on "slicks". We flew "ash & trash", support missions for your battalion and plenty of "armed" support. I am working on my second manuscript of our unit history and I'm trying to include as much information from the ground units as I can.

Fire Support Base Burt always comes up in my research and you guys sure know plenty about it. Here's my impressions from the door of one of those gunships circling up above you that night (Jan 1-2, 1968).

We were scrambled that first night out of Dau Tieng; a light fire team of gunships. Along the way we picked up gun teams from Tay Ninh and probably Cui Chi. I can recall making gun runs along the perimeter that night and seeing all those NVA and VC. Needless to say, I was pretty scared!

I've heard that one of our gunships hit one of your patrols still outside the perimeter. I pray to God that it wasn't our gun team. We had clearance to fire by those in command. I didn't hear anything about this incident until 27 years later. It's a part of the war one can never forget and that's why I want to incorporate it into our unit history. If any of you guys will help me out any information and/or pictures, I'd be greatly honored.

If I can add to your histories, don't hesitate to ask...  
**Dick Detra**, 188th A.H.C. Black Widows



# Reunion News, Old and New - ed

**Ruben Barkley** has been hard at work developing our plans for the **June, 1997, reunion in Washington D.C.** His comments appear below. The last reunion in St. Louis, however, lingers on as a cherished memory for all of us who attended. A few excerpts from letters and phone calls received since that time are published here. They reveal the warmth and love for one another that emanates from that gathering. They lend meaning and authenticity to our existence as an association. Perhaps these comments will provoke some of you to *decide now, that you will be there, then.*

**From Roger Martin...** "I have thought about each of you so many times over the years as I reflected on my pictures... wondering what everyone was doing now and if I would ever see any of you. *All I have been able to say to Cindy is— it was great!*"

**From David and June Sexton...** "Now about the reunion, *was that great or what!* I never expected to see so many of you from the 4th platoon all at once, or even at all. It felt so good standing around talking to all of you. We both look forward to the '97 reunion in Washington, D.C. We'll push real hard to get more people from the 4th platoon to show up. I know for a fact, *Nick will.* It was so wonderful to see and talk to everyone and *June and I love you all and miss you very much.*"

**From John Eickhorn...** "A number of us were honored at the St. Louis banquet and introduced as the survivors of FSB Burt. This is somewhat misleading. Many survived Burt, but there were only a dozen or so of us at the reunion... a clarification is warranted in the next newsletter...."

**From Bill Schwindt...** "Today in church the choir sang Amazing Grace. I took that time to remember as many of the guys that attended [the reunion] as I could think of. All off my thoughts were of the banquet, our celebration and remembering ceremony; **Santos** coming forward to read, **Jim Dice**, **Patrick Shine**, **Dennis Rushing**, **William Spence**, **John Erby** introducing the "Burt" drawings. **Roger Martin**, **Shorty Menendez** bringing me two spent M-16 cartridges (boy, they are small). **Susan Hansard** having a little trouble reading her father's name this year. **Patti Schwindt** and **Gary Neal** leading us in song, **Butch Godlewski** retiring (he was a "good soldier" too). And the dancing, thank God for the dancing!

**From Greg Hall...** "I enjoyed the reunion more than I can put into words..."



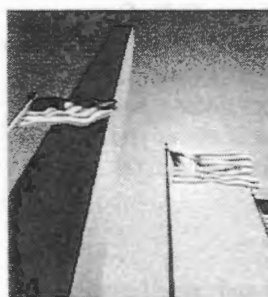
**From Jim Dice...** "I will treasure the memories of St. Louis in my mind forever. *It was a perfect weekend for me...*"

## Reunion 1997, Update - by Ruben Barkley

As your coordinator for the 1977 reunion, I am pleased to announce that plans are well underway. I have visited three potential reunion sites in Arlington, Virginia. They are the **Sheraton National**, **Days Inn in Crystal City**, and the **Marriott Crystal City**. Room rates range from \$70 to \$88 per night. I plan to contact at least 3 more hotels in the area. You will be advised of other details in future newsletters. If you have any questions or recommendations, I can be reached at:

[REDACTED]. I am eager to serve as your reunion coordinator and will do my very best for the men and women of Charlie Company... **Ruben**

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## The Million Man March...

At the urging of our editor and others, the following article is offered as my perspective into the meaning of the recent and well publicized "Million Man March", in Washington, D.C. *I commented to Bill that I found a connection between our reunion solidarity and the sense of brotherhood*

*found at the march.*

On October 16, 1995, I traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Million Man March. I had no preconceived ideas about what to expect. Our bus arrived in DC at 3:00 AM and departed after 6:00 PM. Short, but an experience I will never forget. *There was a wonderful spirit of peace and brotherly love among those in attendance.* I met and talked with five persons I had not known previously. It was as if we were long time friends. While it is difficult to sum up the significance of this experience in just a few words, I would say that I and most of the others came away from it with a renewed sense of brotherhood and a greater determination to get involved in our communities where we can effect positive change. *I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have taken part in this most significant and historic event...* **Ruben**

L-R John Erby, Co A, & Ruben Barkley

