



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 14
OCTOBER, 1997

1997 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY





VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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Past President.....	Charlie Rayl
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Midterm Member At Large (term expires 1999).....	Bob Johnson
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JUL 95-JUL 96.....	Ken Fritz
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JUL 97-PRESENT.....	Mike Hurley

THE VHPA DIRECTORY

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) Directory is distributed to members of the VHPA. The VHPA Directory is published annually by the VHPA and mailed in October to the members that are dues current as of September. Fourth-class postage paid at Sacramento, CA.

VHPA membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era (1976-1975). Annual Membership is \$30.00 or Life Membership for \$450.00. A Life Membership can be purchased on an installment plan; contact the VHPA for details.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dear VHPA Member:

We sincerely hope you enjoy the 1997 Directory - the 14th edition produced by the VHPA. With the six Newsletter issues and our major Reunion in July, this Directory completes the line-up of "products" you receive for your VHPA dues.

As is our tradition, the theme of the front and rear cover photos "dedicate" the 1997 Directory to those who flew helicopters in IV Corps. The good news - because the Directory Committee started working on its "executive summary version" of the Helicopter History of IV Corps about nine months ago and because of repeated Newsletter articles asking for member input; we received a lot of input and members were able to review drafts for additional input. The bad news - we could have used more time and more member input! We want to thank those who helped this effort.

Looking back at the VHPA since the last Directory proves to be very satisfying.

Please consider the following:

- The VHPA Newsletter has successfully demonstrated it can support a 28 page edition six times a year. Only two years ago there were those who doubted this could be done.
- Several fine people have manned VHPA booths at public (e.g. the Sun & Fun Fly-in and Oshkosh) and industry (e.g. AAAA and HAI) events with great success in terms of new and renewing members and just making quality friends.
- We have already heaped praises on the Florida LZ Chapter for their outstanding efforts concerning this summer's reunion; but they clearly established a new standard for VHPA Reunions! It was nice to see the Ft Worth Chapter guys taking notes for the 1998 Reunion!
- The VHPA has at least three internet "offerings" that are contributing new members to the association and making some new friends.
- The VHPA continues to see growth and success for individual unit associations and other fraternal associations such as the VHCMA and the Warrant Officer Reunion. Clearly when Max Hall landed his restored CH-21C near the Officers Club at Ft. Rucker this summer, he delighted many a Shawnee driver!
- From a VHPA membership point of view, the beat goes on - just after this year's Directory cutoff date, we signed up our 9,000th member. We continue to enroll just over one new member every day. Our membership retention in terms of percentage of dues current members continues to decline and we ask your help to reverse this trend.
- Several VHPA Committees have new leaders and/or new ideas for growth that really look encouraging. These, coupled with several "hard core" (really hard working or dedicated are better words) members in several focused areas, are a joy to behold!

It is important for the membership to know that the various VHPA committees who have the stewardship for collecting data and historical records are ALIVE AND WELL. The Database Committee is still collecting Flight Class, KIA and Died After Tour information. The Historical Committee is still collecting historic documents. The VHPA Pocket Patch Project can still use a color machine copy of your patches. The Directory Committee is still working 1968 data for the next Historical Reference Directory.

In closing, please remember that the VHPA is only as good as you help make it! We need your comments, suggestions, additions, corrections, address changes, information on other Vietnam Era pilots (living or dead), unit histories, copies of Vietnam Era orders, flight class rosters, color copies of pocket patches, articles for the Newsletter, and photos for the VHPA Calendar. Your input is needed and it is welcomed.

Invite your buddies to our 15th Reunion in Ft. Worth in July!

Your Executive Council

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