

July 14, 1998

Greg,
Jack Johnson, Dick Cadogan and I would like to express our heart felt "THANKS" for the warm response extended to us by the aviators of "A" 9/1st during our visit to Fort Campbell. The interest shown by you and the other Black Widow aviators for their historical heritage was outstanding. We were given a "Welcome Home" that was non-existent in 1968, when we returned home from Vietnam. For the first time in 30 years we had the chance to fly our unit colors in a parade. There were no parades for us when we arrived home, only anti war demonstrations. At the barbeque, your aviators, crew chief, wives, girlfriends and families showed a relaxed air of closeness. This relaxed atmosphere among pilots and crew chiefs was outstanding! We experienced very little of this during our tour in Vietnam, although there were exceptions. When you put your life on the line every day, being close can make the difference between life and death, especially because you are watching each others back. Let's face it, it's hard to respect rank when you can't respect the person holding that rank. It's knowing where to draw that line that's important and you have that gift Greg! We commend you and all of the present day "BLACK WIDOWS" for that positive change. We salute you and the sixty four present day "BLACK WIDOWS", who made the three of us proud to be part of our aviation heritage. Good luck on your new assignment to the NATO Command in Belgium. Let the guys know that a copy of the completed history will be sent as soon as it's completed for your unit database on lineage. I request your help on the following:

- ① BLACK WIDOW HATS and T-Shirts (sent to me)
- ② The name and phone # of that Sgt Thayer who served with the BLACK WIDOWS in NVN.
- ③ A list of the regiment aviator units and their personal moniker, i.e. Kingman, Combs, Anchors

AIR ASSAULT SIR!!

Your friend,
Dick Detra

