



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

The VHPA Newsletter

P.O. Box 9592

Wichita, KS 67277

Volume 5, No. 5

December 1988

VHPA COBRA

SYMBOLISM:

COBRA — Represents Southeast Asia.

COBRA — Represents the helicopter in Vietnam.

SHOT — Individual aviators in Vietnam
bound in the helicopter fraternity.

*Note — a few are missing.

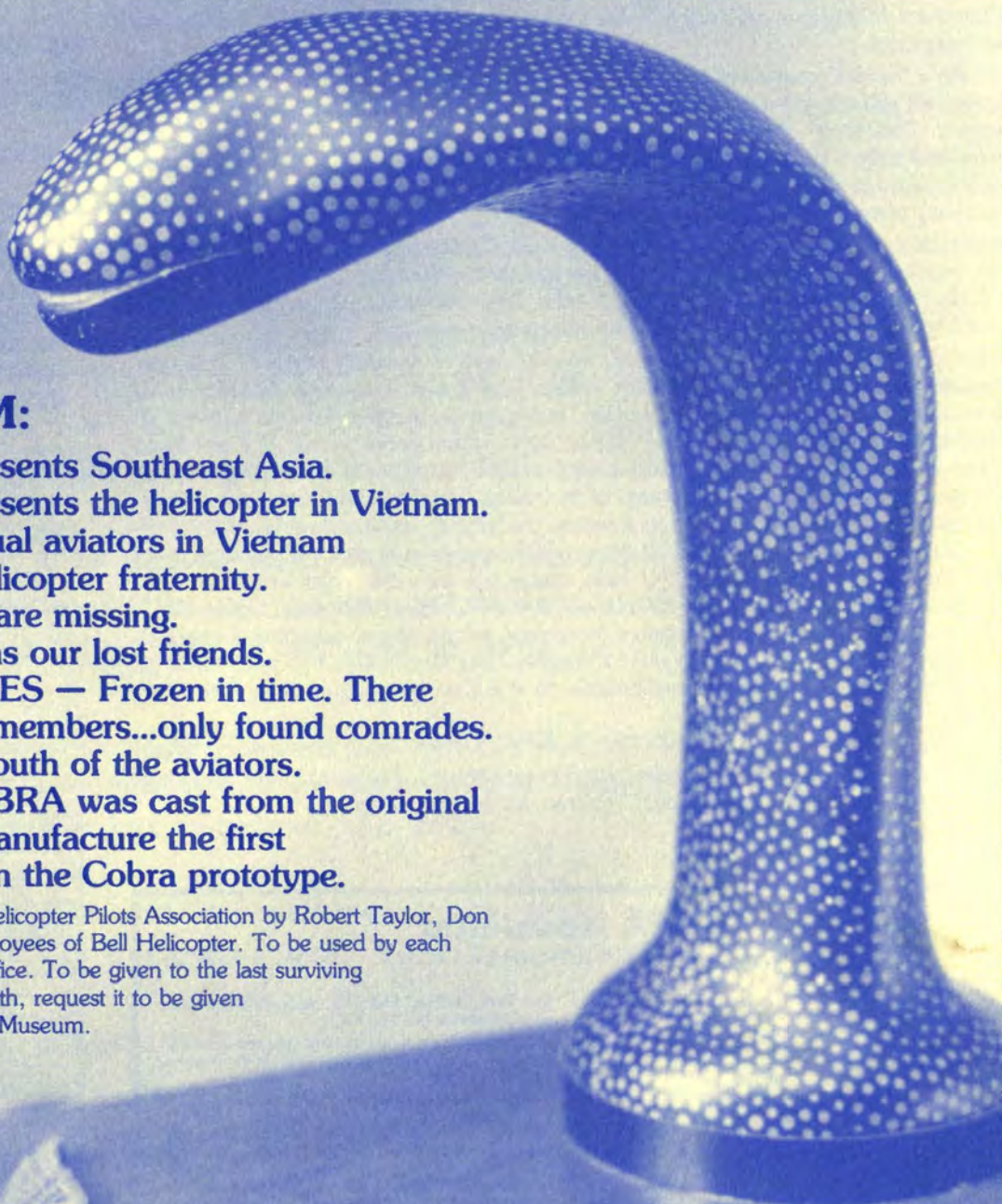
BLACK — Mourns our lost friends.

UNPAINTED EYES — Frozen in time. There
can be no new members...only found comrades.

WINGS — The youth of the aviators.

The VHPA COBRA was cast from the original
mold used to manufacture the first
collective grip on the Cobra prototype.

Donated to the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association by Robert Taylor, Don Swope and Jim Keel, employees of Bell Helicopter. To be used by each president as a symbol of office. To be given to the last surviving member and, upon his death, request it to be given to the U.S. Army Aviation Museum.



President's Roll Call

Nearly, 27 years ago, an old Southern Airways IP told me flying helicopters was an art. Maybe that isn't 100 percent true, but what's for sure is helicopter pilots are definitely like many artists; opinionated, strong willed, and tough to get along with at times. The same personality traits that made us good at what we did and kept us in one piece also occasionally create turbulence in our relations with each other.

If ALL organizations from time to time have people difficulties, then an organization of independent thinking helicopter pilots isn't going to escape the same kind of turmoil. So, every now and then the VHPA is going to have to work its way through a little strife. Recently, Jay Elliott resigned as President of your Association as a solution to just such an occasion. Nothing I could say would explain Jay's resignation more eloquently than the letter Jay sent to the Executive Council and Committee Chairmen. In this issue you will find Jay's letter as written, published with his consent and approval.

Like a "blown" maneuver on a check ride, it's in the "can" and "beating on a dead horse isn't going to get it to rise up again"; the only way is to learn from the lesson and keep on "trucking". So, we continue with our quest of reuniting those who shared what was truly a unique experience. Jay is still a Life Member of the VHPA and I look forward to sharing a drink with him at the next Reunion; we owe him our thanks for three years of hard work and service.

On the subject of the next reunion, Greg Ross, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, is going full speed planning a great get together in Chicago. Their goal is to have a fairly firm schedule of events ready for the 1989 Newsletter. If just some of their plans "bear fruit", Chicago will be very memorable indeed.

As our Association grows so does the interest in forming regional chapters. Recently, members in the Ohio River Valley, Gulf Coast Area, and Alabama have formed chapters. The previously formed, but currently inactive Arizona Chapter, is planning to regroup soon. As the interest in chapters grew, so did the questions about various issues, the major ones being: 1. Liability of the National Organization concerning a chapter. 2. Tax status of individual chapters and tax filing responsibilities. 3. Chapter boundaries. As a result, the VHPA has temporarily deferred officially recognizing newly formed chapters until an acceptable policy addressing these questions can be established. To help come up with the right answers, Gary Slaughter has been appointed Chairman of the "Chapter Advisory Committee", whose members are a representative from each of the above mentioned chapters and any other group wishing to form a chapter. The Committee has been asked to report its findings and recommendations to the Executive Council in December 1988.

Although I have assumed the Presidency of the VHPA much earlier than I would have preferred, I feel no less honored for the opportunity, I welcome your ideas, advice, "pink slips", and "At 'ta boys". Thanks for letting me serve.

Roger Gould

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Mike McDonald, Editor

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VIETNAM HELICOPTER
PILOTS ASSOCIATION

JAY L. ELLIOTT, PRESIDENT

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 6, 1988

TO: All members of the Executive Council and Chairmen of
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

RE: Letter of Resignation of the President.

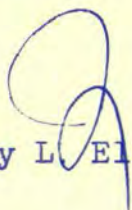
Effective with the receipt of this letter, I resign the office
of President of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.

I do not take this action with anger nor haste. However, the
time has come to put an end to the polarization which seems
to be centered on me and my actions as President.

I take this action without equivocation and without mental
reservation. I understand that this action cannot be withdrawn
after each person has received his copy.

To my many friends and supporters, I say thank you. To my
detractors, I say I forgive you. To all others, I say good-by.

With complete sincerity,


Jay L. Elliott



INCOMING MAIL

NO POLITICS PLEASE

I recently received the enclosed mailer. My address was secured from the directory of the VHPA, and was sent by a VHPA member. The use for the directory for obviously political purposes is not in keeping with the non-political nature of the organization. I personally find the mailer offensive but would send this same letter if it were a cause I support.

I appreciate some statement in the next Newsletter re-emphasizing the non-political nature of the VHPA.

R.H. "Hal" Duensing
[REDACTED]

Your letter should help remind others of our non-political nature as required in the by-laws. Please, guys, don't use your directory in a way that may offend others. Ed.

WHO DID RESCUE BOB ANDREWS

Attached please find a copy of the letter I wrote to Bob Andrews.

Since writing the letter I have not only spoken to Bob at length but also to "Skip" French (also from our unit — Bob gave him my name and #).

The conversation brought back memories lost long ago — some good and funny — some sad! **But**, none of this would have happened if it weren't for you guys and the incredible work that you have done in putting the VHPA together. Your're truly "above the best".

My blessings and grateful thanks.

Roy M. Ahalt, III
(Redskin 10)
[REDACTED]

*Roy, thanks for letting us know who the unit was, now if we can find **THE** guy and buy him a few beers. Ed.*

Dear Bob,

I literally got cold chills reading your article in the Sept. issue of the VHPA newsletter.

In response to your question: To the best of my memory, I believe you were picked up by a Scout Unit working out of Camp Eagle supported by A. R. A., also out of Eagle. I think the slicks were from the Avn. Unit of the 101st. at Eagle — but I can't be absolutely certain.

Do you remember going to Saigon to pick up the air conditioner for our Officer's Club that was being constructed at that time? How about the long hours of chess in between missions?

I have converted all of the pictures of the group at Evans (Maj. Gibson, Lt. Chen, Rodiger, Smitty, Rodgers, etc., etc.) onto a VHS tape, and there are many of you on it. I'd be more than happy to dub and send you a copy if you so desire. Please let me hear from you.

Sincerely yours,
Roy M. Ahalt, III
[REDACTED]

"Redskin 10"

ALABAMA CHAPTER FORMING

The Alabama Chapter, home of "Mother Rucker" and "The WOC Rock", took its' first wobbly steps to becoming the largest and most active chapter of the VHPA. Saturday, October 15, 1988, 20 NAMAU, Vietnam Air University Alumni, met at the Ft. Ruckers Officers Club and despite the temptations of telling "war stories", available booze and lovely ladies, we succeeded in electing officers and drafting our Local Constitution/By-Laws. Then we yielded to the temptations. The elected officers are:

President: George Baker
Vice-President: Larry Kelly
Sec/Treas: Jim Cully

It was a very enthusiastic and energetic meeting which was loaded with great ideas and many projects with national scope. For instance, Bart Picasso suggested that we task ourselves to present memorabilia or artifacts to the new Aviation Museum on behalf of VHPA. For a project of this magnitude we would solicit the support of all VHPA members nationwide.

Locally each chapter member has been challenged to bring 4-5 new members to our next meeting which will be held December 3, 1988, 1400 hours at the Ft. Rucker Officers Club. Many thanks for the assistance in getting started.

George W. Baker
[REDACTED]

As noted elsewhere in this Newsletter the Executive Council has put a hold on chapters until some sticky questions can be answered. Ed.



NAME UNKNOWN NOW KNOWN

I am CWO George W. Williams "Willy" late of F/8th Chu Lai 69-70; referred to as "Name, Unknown" on the back cover of the directory. Before that primary instructor pilot at Fort Wolters, at the main heliport, in flight C-8. From 67 — more like 69. And before that "Crocodile 8" in the 119th Avn., Co., at Pleiku 66-67!

I was in flight school class 66-11/66-13. I would like a correction if possible, as I am trying to locate former stick buddies and students, I ran into several at the reunion in Long Beach, but I am curious about the fate of the rest. Thanks for your time.

George W. Williams
[REDACTED]

George, my apologies for not remembering your name. I'll blame all the beer for this one, or could it be age. Ed.

Continued on next page

A DAUGHTER'S REQUEST

I'm writing this letter in the hopes that someone in your organization knew my father. His name is Warner L. Seibel also known as Cy. He was a chopper pilot in Vietnam from August of 1965 til the Spring of 1966, when he was shot down and sent home. He committed suicide in February of 1967.

Robert Mason (author of Chickenhawk), gave me your address hoping someone in the pilot's organization knew my Dad. I was 16 when he died and I never knew him as a man.

The memories I have of him are wonderful ones. But, I'd like to know more.

I've attached a picture of him while he was there. If anyone knew him could you please write me.

Lynne Seibel-Ketchum
P.O. Box 693
Indian Lake, NY 12842

Let's demonstrate how good we are at remembering. If you knew Warner Seibel please write. Ed.



A FATHER'S REQUEST

We hope that you will consider running the enclosed picture and request for Mr. Louis D. Procopio, P.O. Box 425, Hawley, PA 18428, who is trying to locate someone who may have served with his son.

He is specifically looking for information from anyone who served with Peter Louis Procopio, 189th Aviation Co.,

17th AVN, 6P 1st AVN BDE, Avengers-189 Guns-Helicopters in Vietnam from 1969 to the day of his death March 11, 1970.

Your help with this request will be greatly appreciated.

Michael Milne
National Commander
Veterans of the Vietnam War
National Headquarters
[Redacted]

Search those memories one more time for Mr. Procopio. Ed.



IT TAKES TIME

Last year when I sent in my dues, I enclosed an article for you to publish as I thought it to be newsworthy for the VHPA readers. Since you are constantly looking for articles on our fellow aviators and for news to share, I certainly thought one of our gun pilots receiving such a prestigious award posthumously from a major world known university at a football game halftime on national television would meet the criteria. It must not have been because it never ran in spite of an inquiry later.

It is old news by journalism standards, but considering it took nearly twenty years to get the award, maybe not. A lot of people out there knew Jim and what

of folks certainly know of Notre Dame. I think of letting the audience know one of our guys got that kind of recognition is worth telling. That is why I'm trying again.

Great publication. Keep up the good work. I enjoy reading about the folks who went through the same things we experienced.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Skinner
(Gambler 6)
[Redacted]

My apologies for taking so long to publish this fine tribute to one of our own. We have limited space and sometimes it takes a while. Ed.

A GAMBLER WELL REMEMBERED

Almost twenty years to the day after he was shot down by hostile ground fire in Vietnam, Army First Lieutenant Jim Pawlick (Gambler 6) was posthumously awarded the Father Corby Award for Military Achievement at the University of Notre Dame. Father Corby was the chaplain at Gettysburg, ministered to both sides during the Civil War and subsequently President of the University of Notre Dame; therefore, the Corby, Notre Dame, military connection.

This is an annual award for a Notre Dame Alumni presented during half-time at a home game versus one of the military academies. This year Navy was the only military home game (31 Oct 87). The fans stayed for the 50 yard line presentation and when the award was presented with the posthumous citation, a touchdown cheer went up. Since I had known Jim, witnessed the incident, and put him in for the award, his father asked me to escort him and make the acceptance remarks. Again, the fans gave Jim a proper remembrance. Friends told me later the cheering was disguising tears and muffles.

Jim Pallick was a gun platoon commander of B company, 4th Aviation Battalion, 4th Infantry Division. He went over with the division and was approaching DEROS when killed on 3 Nov 67. He was definitely an outstanding officer and professional aviator.

HEY CHARLIE! THIS BUD'S FOR YOU

I guess the old saying that "it's a small world" is true. I received my first VHPA Newsletter a couple of weeks ago and guess what? The first two columns in the Incoming Mail brought back some memories. It was flying along with Horace (Gator) Green aircraft 113 when it had the pitch change links shot out and crashed 20 miles west of Phan Rang II Corps. RVN. The famous Bud Cans last flight ended September 6, 1969 at 11:00.

Luckily no one was seriously injured in the crash but the entire 92 AHC (Sidekicks and Stallions) felt the loss. Believe me a helicopter *will not* fly without pitch change links! Both of the pilots were rated as Aircraft Commanders and with both of us on the controls it absolutely would not fly. I learned in flight school that any landing you could walk away from was a *good* landing. If I'm not mistaken the painting of the pods was done by the aircrafts Crew Chief Sp. 5 Pete Peterson from Chicago. He was quite an artist as well as a great Crew Chief.

Enclosed is a before and after picture of aircraft 113, a hog-frog with the large pods on each side and a 40 MM cannon on the nose. As you will notice in the

after picture the A.C. was determined to be totaled and bombed by the Air Force soon after we were picked up. (Notice the bomb craters all around with no direct hits).

Thanks to your organization.

Terry S. McLelland
(Sidekick 10)

A sad finish for a good, good beer. Ed.



THANKS FROM CROC 6

Thank you for the reminder to renew my membership for another year. The check is enclosed. I have been a member for less than a year, but in that time have truly enjoyed the newsletters and have become quite proud of my membership in a growing organization made up of great people.

If you publish this letter or any part of it, besides the praise I am offering the organization (and its superb leadership), perhaps you will also allow me to use the next (or some future issue) Newsletter to offer a salute, a hello, and special thanks to the guys in my old VN outfit who trained me (properly) and kept me alive, as well as reasonably effective in the Central Highlands at the height of the war... so to all of the Dragons (52 CAB), Aligators (119 AHC), and especially the guys of the Crocodiles (119 Gun Platoon)... you were and are still the greatest, and thank you...

"BOUF" Brown (who trained me in VN)

Bob Payne (who trained me in VN)

"Snopes" Steve Petit (Croc 2)

"Elmer Fudd" Les Lee (Croc 4)

Dave Wansley

Paul Vasseur (We shared a NVA bullet!)

also, Rademaker, Smith, Dolbejeff & Waller

Lee Welsch (Dragon 2)

Don Martin, Dean, CTC-PFEC
(Crocodile Six)

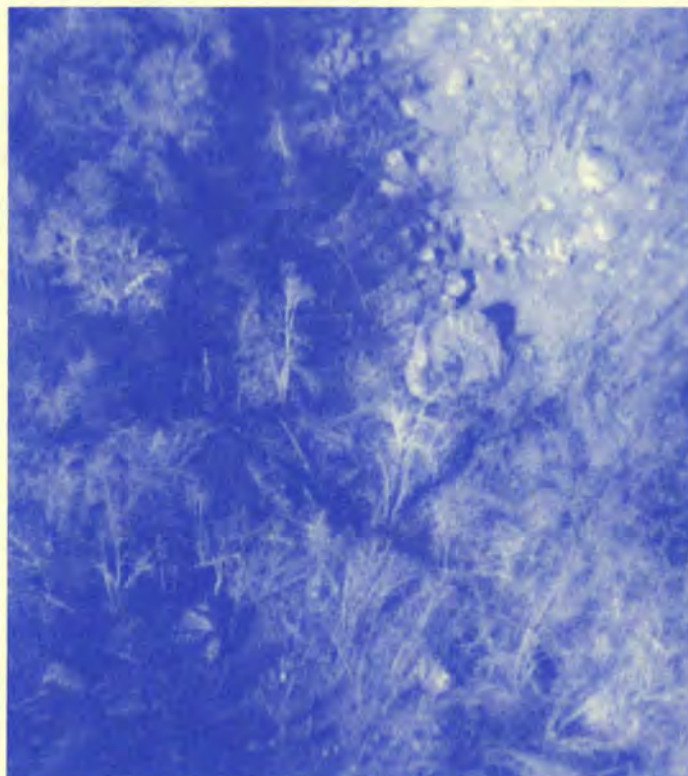
U.S. Army Retired

*Even the thanks from our peers takes a while, but are very much appreciated.
Ed.*



This is #113 Before.

Photo by Terry McLelland



And After!!!

Photo by Terry McLelland

Continued on next page

A SATISFIED CUSTOMER

Geez, guys, my first year's membership in VHPA has paid great and unexpected dividends.

Found ol' James P. Fazekas after all these years (it was 20 of 'em ago, Jim, and it wasn't that you "spoke sharply", but all those damned push-ups that I remember).

Have heard from several classmates and a guy I flew home from Vietnam with (Dan Toothman). Received a letter from an FNG who secured my seat when I left (FNG is a term of endearment, Steve (Henley) — thanx).

And, how many friends do we have that would get the urge to fly coast-to-coast just to see old faces and tell some lies... then do it? The last time Pat and I saw Woody Leonard was 18 years ago. So, he and Jim Coleman drank some beers at the convention and conspired to surprise me. Believe me, I was surprised!

Good stuff, huh? And, that ain't all! Remember your first IP at Wolters? I'll never forget mine — tried to kill him every time I got the controls. Well, Dwayne Williams remembers me, too. He's written a couple of times and we chatted on the phone for a bit. This is no bull — the dude still sounds the same: sooo laid back — the perfect make-up for an IP. Dwayne's still doin' what he did best, with more prestige: Senior Experimental Test Pilot for Bell. Flown anything lately that can take a Huey's place, Dwayne?

God, I love all you guys!

Now, what can we do about all those derelicts out here in the Oregon National Guard who qualify and haven't joined VHPA, yet? They have a lot to offer, but guess they haven't realized the benefit. Guys like Rupprecht, Babcock, Marco (his first name), Pospisil, Cobb (Marine type), Archer (67-1), Trotter, and Richards probably need persuasion from someone in their past. And I know how you can reach 'em. So, if you recognize a name, let's get 'em signed up!

Till next time — thanx!

Bruce Wyrwitzke

Them Guard guys are Army trained, you just need to get their attention, use a bigger stick. Ed.

STILL WONDERING "WHAT IS IT?"

The "What is it?" on the back of the March issue still has me wondering "What is it?"

I arrived at Phouc Vinh in early January of 1968 and was a "Vulture" until January of 1969. The only Vulture was the original vulture sitting on the tree branch. Being part of the 11th Aviation Battalion, the 162nd AHC, sported a red vertical stripe between two white stripes on the tail boom. We kept the tail boom insignia after we moved to Don Tam in October of 1968, but were in the process of changing to another battalion insignia before I left country.



What is it? March, 1988.

First & Second Platoons had the more sedate patch — we told everybody "STS" stood for "Superior Tactical Support" rather than "Slicker Than Shit." First Platoon had white tails, Second had yellow tails.

Third Platoon had the flasher patch and no accumulators. Most of us preferred the blue. A REMF from MACV told the gunnies that their motto wasn't in keeping with the "Win Hearts And Minds" philosophy, so they changed it to "Let Me Win Your..." etc. (You know the rest). The REMF saw the new patch and told them to go back to the old motto.



I'm willing to bet we were the only unit to wear detachable, enameled metal pocket patches... and that's a neat story for another time, boys and girls.

Continued on next page

FROM YOUR FRIENDLY RECRUITER

Just a quick note and a couple of pictures from the past — the newsletter is the best. I have found some old friends and heard about a lot more. I just read the reunion newsletter, and I am sorry I didn't make it. Even if I had, I probably would have ended up on bus #8.

Enclosed are a couple of shots from the past. If anyone knows where Pat Rooney — Tigersharks 69-70, was last seen, I sure would like to find the little guy. I have found the two ugly guys in the Razorback picture.

Thanks for the memories.

Richard M. Colbert (Hoss)
LTC, MP
Commanding
Department of the Army
US Army Recruiting Battalion
Oklahoma City

Thanks for the pictures, I need them.
Maybe Pat Rooney himself will see his picture. Ed.



Left is Mike "Hoss" Colbert, right is Rooney "Toons", 1969 — Phan Thiet — TIGERSHARKS 192 AHC.
Photo by Richard M. Colbert (Hoss).

Your Letters, Comments and Suggestions Are Always Welcome

IT IS

These are "Shamrock" gunships. Photo taken sometime in 1971, 1LT Neil was a "Shamrock" Slick-Jock at the time. The old French Mission in the background was built in 1865 and was used as HQ for the 100th Mobile Unit, French Foreign Legion. This unit was annihilated, nearby, in the Mang Yang Pass, as they were evacuating AN KHC for Pleiku. This happened in 1954.

Tradition, at the time, was that the control tower installed on the roof of the mansion was installed by the 1st CAV in 1965.

Don Pender
(Shamrock One-Seven)

One hundred years of survival, then the 1st CAV arrived and improved it? Ed.



What is it, June, 1988.



VHPA LICENSE PLATES

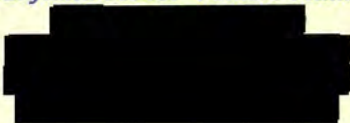
Suggest that the VHPA approach the state of Maryland with regards to obtaining Organizational license plates for Maryland members of our association.

Maryland recognizes individual groups and organizations by allowing that group's name to appear on vehicle license tags. Organizations such as the Reserve Officers Assoc. (ROA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion (AL), ETAL all have their license plates. Why not the VHPA? Well, there are certain requirements: 1) The organization must be non-profitable and 2) at least 100 license plates is the initial minimum requirement.

The organization can be identified by two (2) major letters and five (5) numbers OR three (3) major letters with four (4) numbers. At the bottom of the plate the organization is identified in writing by the use of up to 25 letters. No symbols are allowed in either location. I've enclosed a crude drawing to clarify the above explanation.

The Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration handles such tasks and specifically:

Maryland Motor Vehicle Admin.



Should the committees be busy with more important "stuff", I'll be glad to contact the Maryland resident members if someone would send me names and addresses AND provided the association has no objection(s) to such an idea.

Bill Grauling



I hope you get the 100 minimum so VHPA can get It's name on the bumper without the sticker. Ed.

ORIGIN OF THE ROCK

I thought I'd write to add my congratulations and thanks for a great reunion to what I'm sure must be an avalanche of praise. Please convey my appreciation to all those that put in what must have been a Herculean effort accomplish so much.

This was my first reunion (it won't be my last) and I was really impressed by the organization and the tremendous effort that resulted in every minute being better than the last.

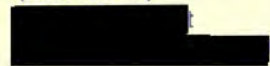
The day at Ft. Wolters brought back many memories (I had almost forgotten how hot it gets in the summer) and being able to share them with good friends made them that much more enjoyable. Strolling around the "campus" swapping stories with classmates, my TAC officer and their families was worth the trip by itself, but the fantastic reception and barbecue thrown by the City of Mineral Wells (my deep appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce) made the day a once in a lifetime experience.

While I was wandering around the old WOC area, I heard a few questions raised that I might be able to shed some light on. They pertain to the WOC

Rock, its "ownership" and how it got to the location it was in at the reunion. Although I can't attest to its beginnings, I have been able to ascertain that as far back as 1967 it was the "property" of First WOC and, although it may have been painted other colors (much the same as stealing a mascot) it was red in June of 1970 when class 71-1 began and did not change color through our graduation in October of 1970. During the class the rock was moved from the top of the hill to the location it was at the time of the reunion (the old Second WOC billets) when Second WOC was moved to one of the new "H" shaped buildings further down the hill and First WOC was moved into the vacated Second WOC building (the building on top of the hill was turned into an administration building). Moving was bad enough and we weren't about to leave "our" rock behind, so we took it with us!

Once again, thanks for a great reunion! See you in Chicago!

Carl W. Kimmich
(Polecat 47)



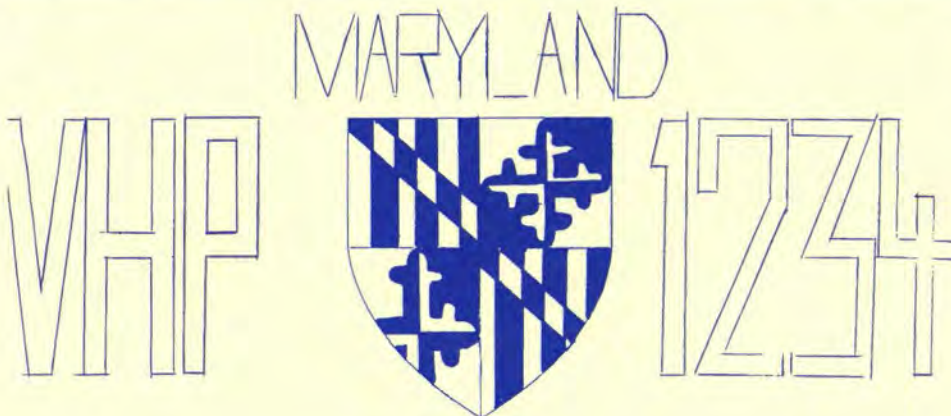
I can't imagine the rock one color for a full class. It changed colors three times at the Reunion. Ed.



APOLOGY TO BOB MASON

I would like to apologize to Bob Mason and to the membership for omitting the author's name of THE RACE, the short story published in the September Newsletter. In my quest for perfection, I overlooked this obvious mistake. We are indeed fortunate to have among us one with Bob's talent and I hope we can continue to count on him to provide us with short stories and articles for the newsletter. Again, my apologies to all.

Editor



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOT ASSOC.



FROM THE EDITOR:

Putting the Newsletter together last time was a snap with all the pictures from the Ft. Worth Reunion. This one has taken more work. The files of unused letters and pictures are exhausted and I need your help to keep this Newsletter interesting. Please, send me more pictures especially those for the What Is It feature. If you have an interesting story to tell, it, also, will be considered for the Newsletter.

We often put off those things that don't have the urgency of every day chores. I always intended to try and locate one of my fellow Classmates, always wondered what life held in store for him. I will always remember the name he gave me in flight school, "Duck". That name is what many of the Blue Ghost class of 69 still call me. I called him "Billy the Funk" because of the funky way he talked and the California slang that this country boy from Texas had never been exposed to. We went to flight school together, rode the same plane to Vietnam, lived in the same hooch, shared the same room in Chu Lai, flew slicks together on many occasions, had a few Chivas on the rocks, and rode the same Freedom Bird home. He visited me at Ft. Rucker on his way to Germany. That was the last I saw of him though he spent some time with my family in Texas after going to work flying offshore. The last time I heard from him was in 1976 or 77 the exact date escapes me. What I do know is he is gone. William S. "Bill" Mann, Class 68-31, Blue Ghost 06A, 747 Captain, husband and father and all around good guy died of surgical complications October 31, 1985. Bill always talked of flying cargo planes. He would say "Cargo, Duck, cargo cause them boxes don't complain." Bill died young but he got his life's wish, to fly cargo and to fly the "Big Ones". What I wish is that I could have shared Bill's success with him as I am with you. But what bothers me more is that I didn't get to say "Goodbye".

Goodbye Bill, I miss you. "Duck"

Ok guys, pick up that pen and paper or phone your old buddy before it's too late!!!

Mike

(Blue Ghost 42)



D & G DAVE GRIEGER P.O. BOX 12105 COLUMBUS GA 31907 (404-563-7646 7-11 daily)

52. Golf Shirt (Wh.-tan-lt. blue) M, L, XL - 14.00	57. VHPA Cap w/patch w/eggs (White, Navy, Black, Royal) - 9.00
53. 1st Reunion ("Call Signs") T-Shirts-M, L, XL - 8.50	58. Car License Plate - 5.00
Sweatshirts-L, XL - 13.50	59. VHPA Patch - 3.00
54. VHPA "Logo" T-Shirts-M, L, XL - 8.50	60. Tie Tack - 3.00
Sweats-L, XL - 13.50	61. Stickers (60) - 3.50
55. 3rd Reunion ("D.C.") T-Shirts only M, L, XL - 8.50	62. Window Sticker - 1.50
56. 2nd Reunion ("Houston") T-Shirts only M, L, XL - 8.50	

\$4.00 Pins Gun Ships flight of 4 "Chinook" "Cobra" "Huey" "LOH" OH-6 "OH-58" "CH-34" "CH-46" "CH-54"

\$3.00 Pins

Send SASE for brochure

1989 Reunion Officer Elections

If you would like to run for either Vice President or Member At Large, please drop me a line. As nominating Committee Chairman, I think it's very important the VHPA Membership is aware, well in advance of Reunions, who's running for what office; what each candidates point of views are and why they want to represent you on the Executive Council.

To date the following have notified me of their desire to run for office:

Ron Wright — Member At Large

Greg Ross — Vice President

Mike Clark — Vice President

Our By-Laws state members have until 1800 hours, the day prior to our Annual Business Meeting to notify me if they wish to run for office, but allowing your peers the opportunity of relating to you, as early as possible will give the voting membership a better understanding of your intentions, goals & desires of the office you seek.

Gary Slaughter

Chicago '89

Preparations are continuing for the 1989 VHPA Annual Reunion to be held in the "Big Windy" (Chicago), June 29 to July 2, 1989.

We will be staying in the Hyatt Regency Chicago which for those of you who may not be familiar with Chicago is right downtown in the heart of the business district.

The Chicago Hyatt is a very large facility. There are five restaurants and four bars located in the Hyatt as well as many small gift shops. There are also many shops and restaurants located within easy walking distance of the hotel.

Hotel transportation to and from both Chicago O'Hare and Midway airports will be available in the form of shuttle busses that run every half hour. For those of you that will be driving, valet parking is available for automobiles and vans, but height restrictions will now allow for motor home parking.

Just north of the hotel is a stretch of exclusive women's apparel shops known as the "Magnificent Mile".

Continued on next page

(Continued from previous page)

Bloomington is only one of the department stores located in this "high rent district". It should be renamed the "Miracle Mile" because it will truly be a miracle if you have any money left after the ladies shop there!!!

In addition to shopping, the Field Museum of Natural History, the Adler Planetarium, the Shedd Aquarium and the Oak Street Public Beach on Lake Michigan are just a short cab ride away. The Chicago Hyatt does not have a swimming pool or a sunning area, but the beautiful public beaches on Lake Michigan more than make up for the lack of a pool. Horse drawn buggy rides, open bus sightseeing tours, and Chicago River Boat excursions are all available and within walking distance.

American Airlines will again be offering a discount fare to VHPA members and family who will be attending the Chicago Reunion.

There will be a static display of Vietnam era helicopters plus a couple of other surprises. The static display will be held at Glennview Naval Air Station and will require a bus trip. Knowing what happened on the Mineral Wells to Fort Worth bus run, all I can say is "I sure hope Chicago is ready"!!

There will be more forthcoming on the Chicago Reunion in future newsletters. Please begin making plans now to attend. The 1989 reunion will be here before you know it!

Gregg Ross
'89 Reunion Chairman

Looking For...

GHOSTRIDERS

I'm looking for any former 189th AHC Ghostriders and avengers from 1968-the end. Let's get together. Write, Ward Dunning, [redacted].

MRS. A. WESSELMAN

Is looking for anyone who served with her son Gary Leroy Wesselman in the 175 AVN, Outlaws, from December of 1966 to April of 1967. Please contact her at [redacted].

LOUISIANA N.G.

I need assistance arranging Helicopter Static Display; 1990 at New Orleans Reunion. Contact Gary Slaughter [redacted].

From The Executive Director

By now everyone eligible to receive the 1989 edition of the VHPA Directory should have received one. This was basically everyone who was current with their Association dues as of August 15. If you did not receive your copy, please feel free to contact VHPA.

I feel that some members, especially those that attended the Business Meeting at the Ft. Worth Reunion, who may be worried about the Association... especially with the resignation announcement included in this Newsletter. To these and indeed to the entire membership I would like to say that we "weathered the storm" and I believe we learned a lot and are healthier for it.

Let me explain. Possible looking at the recent Executive Council actions and the accomplishments VHPA has made in the three plus months since the Ft. Worth Reunion will help illustrate what I mean.

(1) A very graphic example is the 1989 Directory. As mentioned in this letter from the Editor, it is bigger, better looking and contains almost 1,000 more Vietnam helicopter pilots than last year at virtually the same cost to the Association.

(2) Another graphic example is the Newsletter. Mike McDonald, who has done so many good things for the Association, has produced the second edition as Newsletter Editor. Yes, Roger Gould was around to help if needed... but the bottom line is that VHPA successfully changed Newsletter Editors. We all know that any changes has the potential for disappointment... but we did not have one; we were successful!

(3) The Executive Council had been working to have a CPA audit the Association's financial records for some time and the membership requested such an audit at the Ft. Worth Reunion. This Newsletter contains the summary statement from the auditor. All our Federal Income Tax statements have been filed. We have a "clean bill of health" with council on how to make im-

provements for further filings and audits.

(4) The '89 Reunion in Chicago and the '90 Reunion in New Orleans will be great fun. I wish everyone could have listened to the fine progress reports Greg Ross and Gary Slaughter presented at the October 9th Executive Council meeting. Greg gave high marks to Walt Henderson and other local members of the Chicago Reunion Committee. VHPA received the blessings of some bad luck that happened to Gary. He was "rather under-employed" for a few weeks, so he and the local New Orleans members put together some plans and contracts for a party (I'm sorry Reunion) that VHPA will long remember!!

(5) The VHPA Constitution and Bylaws and a good man named Roger Gould proved that the "system works". As Vice President Roger was to have a year to prepare for the Presidency... instead it came to him after only two months!! We have had two Executive Council meetings since the resignation and I, for one, can not say enough words of praise and sustaining votes for Roger. His courage and leadership skills are serving VHPA in the very best way. Roger is a good business man and a good management team member and leader. There is no doubt in my mind but that VHPA is in good hands with Roger as our President.

(6) On October 17th VHPA signed a new contract with AAM to continue providing administrative services for the Association. Negotiations for this contract spanned several months and three Presidents; but it was successfully concluded even with changes in players.

There are other examples but the message is clear. VHPA is healthy and moving forward.

Mike Law
(Undertaker Lead '69)
Phan Thiet

Help The VHPA.
Get A Friend
To Join Today



GALEN L. GOSE

Certified Public Accountant

1912 CENTURY PLAZA
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 262-0435MEMBER OF
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTSBoard of Directors
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc.
Wichita, Kansas

I have examined the balance sheet of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc. as of December 31, 1987 and the related statement of revenues and expenses and changes in Association equity for the year ended December 31, 1987. Except as explained in the following paragraph, my examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

The statement of revenue and expense is shown on a cash basis. Since this is the first year for an audit, I was unable to satisfy myself as to the beginning accrual figures by means of other auditing procedures.

In my opinion, except for the cash basis statement of revenue and expense the financial statements referred to above present fairly the financial position of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc. as of December 31, 1987 and the results of its operations for the year ended December 31, 1987, except for the statement of revenues and expenses were in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.



October 28, 1988

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
BALANCE SHEET
December 31, 1987

ASSETS

Current funds - unrestricted

Cash	\$ 9,568.41
Cash - savings	16,498.83
Cash - certificate of deposits	<u>25,095.42</u>
	\$ 51,162.66

Current funds - restricted

Cash - certificate of deposits	\$ 2,220.22
--------------------------------	-------------

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

Current funds - unrestricted

Deferred dues	\$ 17,728.36
Accounts payable	2,392.33
	<u>20,120.69</u>
Fund balance	<u>31,041.97</u>
	\$ 51,162.66

Current funds - restricted

Fund balance	\$ 2,220.22
--------------	-------------

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
CASH BASIS STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES AND EXPENSES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
Year ended December 31, 1987

	Current Unrestricted	Funds Restricted
Public support and revenues:		
Public support:		
Membership dues	\$ 50,606.40	\$ -
Lifetime members dues	15,600.00	-
Donations - scholarship	-	2,160.00
Arizona chapter dues	21.00	-
	<u>66,227.40</u>	<u>2,160.00</u>
Revenues:		
Reunion - Long Beach, CA	22,991.00	-
Merchandise sale	2,300.10	-
Interest income	2,054.89	60.22
Subscriptions and back newsletters	282.00	-
Advertising	160.00	-
Directory sales	124.00	-
Miscellaneous income	483.24	-
	<u>28,395.23</u>	<u>60.22</u>
Total public support and revenues	94,622.63	2,220.22
Functional expenses:		
Reunion expense - Long Beach, CA	29,972.04	-
Management fee	23,333.30	-
Printing	9,195.00	-
Promotional expense	1,538.41	-
Merchandise	1,508.76	-
Meetings	1,090.52	-
Postage	673.76	-
Office expense	385.35	-
Telephone	267.91	-
Computer expense	130.25	-
Miscellaneous	479.00	-
Total functional expenses	<u>67,574.30</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of public support and revenue over expenses	27,048.33	2,220.22
Fund balance, beginning of year	24,114.33	-
Cash to accrual adjustments	<u>(20,120.69)</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance, end of year	<u>\$ 31,041.97</u>	<u>\$ 2,220.22</u>

GALEN L. GOSE

Certified Public Accountant

1912 CENTURY PLAZA
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202
(316) 262-0435MEMBER OF
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

GALEN L. GOSE, CPA

November 1, 1988

Board of Directors
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc.
Wichita, Kansas

We have reviewed your filings with the IRS. Other than some minor recommendations for changes in future filings, we feel your organization is in compliance with Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (19).

Sincerely,



Galen L. Gose

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J.T. BARNICLE

██████████ 5
IRELAND
67-5
67 129 AHC
68 9 CAB 9 INF
Helicopter Pilot

J. ANDREW BELMONT

██████████
68-501
68 A/159 101 ABN
69 B/228 1 CAV
Corrosion Engineer

PETER J. DUNEV

c/o Prudential Bache
██████████ 31
6/67 U.S.M.C.
68-69 HMM-364
Commodities Broker

CHARLES L. FRAZIER

██████████
69-43
70-71 C/1/9 CAV
Self Employed

CLIFFORD J. HEAVERNE

██████████
68-36
69 A/7/1 CAV
67-70 D/1/1 CAV
Owner/High Desert Helicopter

JOHN T. HERCHERT

██████████
68-3
68-69 D/1/4 CAV 1 INF
Reg. Sales Mgr.

E.C. "BUZZ" JOHNSON, III

██████████
68
68-69 335 AHC
71-72 A/2/17 CAV
72 D/1/9 CAV 1 CAV
72 F/9 CAV
U.S.C.G., C130 Pilot

ROBERT KUSTERMAN

██████████
67-15
67-68 101 ABN
Helicopter Pilot

GARY E. LINEBERRY

██████████
65-3
67-68 C/228 1 CAV
Pilot, LA Fire Dept.

MICHAEL A. McDONALD

██████████
68-31
68-69 F/8 CAV AMERICAL
Pilot

WILLIAM JUSTIN MILLER

██████████
68-516
68-69 25 CAB
Cert. Public Accountant

RICHARD W. NORLOFF

██████████
66-19
67 188 AHC
67-68 128 AHC
DC-8 Pilot

JOHN W. QUINN

██████████
67-9
67 155 AHC
67-68 57 AHC
Retired

CARL M. REES

██████████
69-47 70-1
70-71 B/7/17 CAV
Toolpusher-Offshore Drilling

JERRY R. SEAGO

██████████
67-15
68-69 189 AHC
Architect Rep.

JOHN SILBERMAN

██████████
69-28
69-70 282 AHC
Private Investor

WILLIAM F. SULLIVAN

██████████
56-3 57-8
66-67 282 AVN AHC

JAMES C. WASSON

██████████
69-8
69-70 1 CAB 1 INF
71 D/101 101/ABN
Retired

It's VHPA Time!

Here it is, folks! A classy symbol of your VHPA membership that will look great even in a business suit. A quartz movement with gold tone case, leather band, and VHPA logo face for only \$31.95 including tax and shipping. How can you beat that? This elegant watch is also available in a women's model for the same price. Why not buy one for the entire family?

VHPA WATCH OFFER

____ Men's @ \$31.95 = \$ _____
____ Women's @ \$31.95 . . . = \$ _____
CA Residents Add 6.5% . . . = \$ _____
Total = \$ _____

Checks & Orders to: **VHPA Time**
P.O. Box 9592
Wichita, KS 67277

NOTE: Expect your watch in 5-7 weeks. Orders will be consolidated by the VHPA and submitted to the supplier monthly.



VHPA Stationery Policy From Executive Council

The Executive Council approved the following policy at a recent meeting:

All correspondence connected with the Association should be on VHPA stationery. This stationery contains the official logo and Wichita address and is printed in blue ink on a buff paper stock. All Council members and committee chairmen are encouraged to request a supply of this stationery from VHPA headquarters. Others who feel they have a need to use the stationery should request permission to use it through the Executive Director. Unauthorized uses or known misuses of VHPA stationery should be reported to any Executive Council member.

Mike Law
Executive Director.



Upcoming Events...

January 15th, 1989
**VHPA Gathering,
HAI CONVENTION**
New Orleans, LA

February 3-5, 1989
**2ND VIRGINIA VIETNAM
VETERANS REUNION**
Contact: TET '68, Inc., P.O. Box
31885, Richmond, Virginia.

March 3-5, 1989
**10TH ANNUAL REUNION OF
THE DUSTOFF ASSOCIATION**
For further information contact:
DUSTOFF Association, P.O. Box
[REDACTED]

March 8-12, 1989
**LAWYER-PILOTS BAR
ASSOCIATION MEETING**
The Indian River Plantation, Hutchin-
son Island, Stuart, Florida. Contact:
David E. Prewitt, [REDACTED]

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION RECORDS/DATABASE COMMITTEE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

Please send me a listing drawn from the Members/Friends Database of those who were in class _____, and/or who were in the following unit _____. Also, _____ during the period _____. Also, send me a list of members/friends who live in the:

State _____ City _____ Zip _____

How do you want the list sorted?

_____ alphabetically by last name? ____Yes ____No

_____ by zip code? ____Yes ____No

My address is:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____, State _____ Zip _____

Any additional information you wish:

Send the complete form along with \$2.00 (check) to:

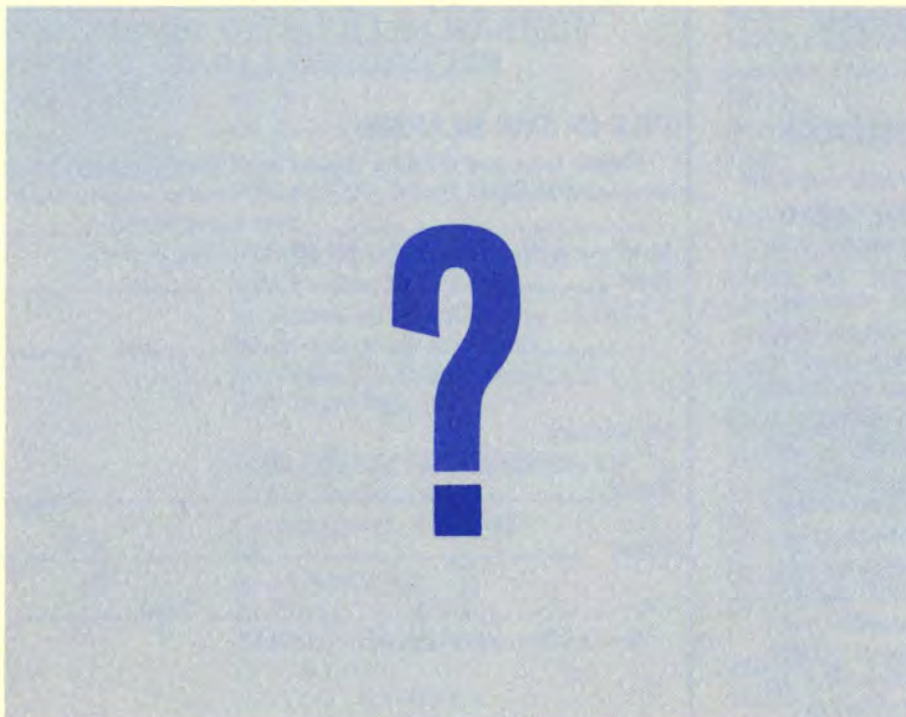
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association
P.O. Box 9592
Attn: Records/Database Committee
Wichita, KS 67277

Do you have any info to add to any of the existing database? Like call signs that don't appear in the directory or corrections/additions to the KIA/MIA Database? If you have any information you think might be of use to the VHPA please make a copy and send it in. We'll take class rosters, class orders, class pictures, assignment orders, etc. Make copies for us and send them in. Thanks.

Paul S. Erway
Chairman, Records/Database Committee

VHPA Class Rosters Available

64-3W	67-15	67-4	68-511	69-40
65-10	67-17	67-5	68-512	69-43
65-15	67-17	67-7	68-515	69-44
66-10	67-17	67-7	68-516	69-44B3
66-13	67-18	67-8	69-10	69-07
66-14	67-19	67-9	69-13	69-08
66-15	67-19	67-12	69-14	69-09
66-16	67-19	68-11	69-15	70-10
66-17	67-20	68-11	69-16	70-13
66-18	67-20	68-13	69-16	70-14
66-18A4	67-21	68-21	69-19	70-15
66-7WF & 8A(B)	67-21	68-22	69-20	70-03
66-8A (A)	67-23	68-23	69-21	70-48
67-07	67-24	68-25	69-22	70-09
67-11	67-25	68-43	69-03	
67-12	67-26	68-44	69-39	
67-13	67-3	68-503	69-39 B-2	
67-14	67-3	68-507	69-04	



What is it? — **Nothing!**
(VHPA needs your photos, NOW!!!)
Ed.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 9592 — Wichita, Kansas 67277 — (316) 946-4047



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

APPLICATION: ☐
ADDRESS CHANGE: ☐

ANNUAL DUES: \$20.
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$300.
SUBSCRIPTION ONLY: 12*
(*included in annual dues)

OFFICE USE

MN _____
DP _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: () _____ WORK PHONE: () _____

OCCUPATION: _____

_____ Please charge my MasterCard/VISA

_____ Enclosed is a check/money order payable to VHPA

Account No. _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

FLIGHT SCHOOL CLASS: _____ SERVICE BRANCH: _____

COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS: _____ SSN: _____

Information about EACH Vietnam Tour:

DATE		UNIT	LOCATION	CALL SIGN
From	To			

Information about YOU: Helicopters flown, medals/awards, talents, hobbies, and anything else.

