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Mr. Don C. Thompson

Re: HAL-3 "Seawolves" reunion

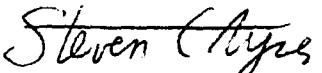
Dear Mr. Thompson:

I saw your notice regarding the Seawolf reunion in Kansas City, MO, 12-14 June 1987 in the Naval Reserve News last month.

As the former NILO, CHAU DOC and NILO, TAN CHAU, RVN, I had the privilege to fly "backseat" with HAL-3 DET 5 from Navy Ops Base Chau Doc, OCT 71-MAR 72. Even this young blackshoe LT knew that he was flying with the best, and would always be making a round trip. LCDR Kim HULL, LT Mike STASICA, LT MULLEN, LTJG Jerry CAMPBELL and LTJG Phil JAMISON are more than just names in my log book--they were real pros whom I will not forget. I will also not forget the mess we ended in, after the Squadron was pulled out in MAR 72, when the NVA started operating in the Delta in divisional force. Could we have used the light helicopter attack fire teams then! As it was, I did use my aviation experience, and my great respect for naval aviation, a few years ago, when I was Commanding Officer of the Naval Reserve unit attached to the USS SAIPAN (LHA-2). Having H-1s on her deck was a fine, familiar feeling, even if they were not painted black.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to make the reunion--even assuming that you'd let a surface type with only one air medal in. I will pass the data on the reunion along to another former NILO CHAU DOC who might be interested, however.

Sincerely,



Steven E. Ayres
CAPT (Sel), USNR-R

cc: CDR John Nugent, USNR-R