

JOHN R. O'CONNOR BAO 34 89 USN ADJ-2
FORMERLY OF CINCINNATI CH.

SEAWOLF QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1969-1970
- 1 What dates were you in Vietnam? From 4/69 to 3-70
 - 2 What Dets were you in? NONE dates _____
Where was the Det located then? _____
Were you at the main base? YES, BINH THUY
 - 3 Principal job, work, rating? POWER PLANTS SMO, QA LAST 6 MO, (ADJ-2)
 - 4 Who was the Det OIC? _____
 - 5 Squadron CO & XO? CO BECKWITH XO ?
 - 6 What medals and awards did you earn while in Vietnam?
2 VIETNAM METALS, SAME AS MOST GI'S GOT WHILE
IN COUNTRY.
 - 7 Name, rank and serial number, location, date and circumstances and other pertinent information concerning any deaths or injuries of HAL-3 personnel? _____
 - 8 Special or unusual Ops that you were involved in while in Vietnam

 - 9 With what units other than HAL-3 did you work?

 - 10 What did you think of the ARVN's? I HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT W/ THEM.
 - 11 What did you feel about the war when you returned home? SEE ATTACHED.
 - 12 What did you feel about the war in 1975 when Saigon fell? "
 - 13 What do you feel about the war today? SEE ATTACHED "
 - 14 Describe any close calls? _____
 - 15 Describe your fondest memories in Vietnam? "
 - 16 What is your birthdate? _____ Social security NO? _____
Former enlisted or officer number? B40-34-89
 - 17 Did you stay in the Navy after your tour in Vietnam? NO
For how many years? _____
If you stayed in, did your HAL-3 experience help you or hurt you, why?

 - 18 How do you feel about HAL-3? BEST GROUP OF PILOTS, OFFICERS,
ETC'S I WAS EVER EXPOSED TO IN 4 YRS. WE HAD
A JOB TO DO & WE DID A DAMN GOOD ONE.
 - 19 Who were the most unforgettable characters in Nam, why?
A FELLOW NAMED CELONE FROM NEW ENGLAND,
& A BIG BLOND KID WHOSE NAME I CAN'T REMEMBER
DID A GREAT JACKIE GLEASON & ART CARNEY SKIT.
BRIAN WENTWORTH FROM MAINE - COULD ENTERTAIN US ANYTIME
 - 20 Describe any physical and mental troubles you have had since Vietnam that could be related to your duty there.
BASICALLY NONE. I RETURNED TO THE "WORLD"
& READJUSTED TO CIVILIAN LIFE OK.

- 21 What did you enjoy the most about Vietnam? NOT A WHOLE LOT EXCEPT THE GUYS I WAS INVOLVED WITH.
- 22 What was the most unpleasant aspect about Vietnam? CONSTANT REALIZATION THAT A WAR WAS GOING ON & PEOPLE DIE IN WARS. COULD I GET THRU ONE YEAR & GET HOME?
- 24 What units impressed you in Vietnam? ALL THE DETS - THEY WERE WHERE THE ACTION WAS.
- 25 Do you have any records, photos, maps, wolfgams, forms, ect of Hal-3 that you would be willing to donate? YES (Copy?) Or allow us to copy? Describe them SEVERAL SUPER 8MM MOVIES (ONE TAKEN DURING LANDING & T.O. FROM LST IN GULF) MANY MANY SLIDES, MOST OF WHICH I HAVE LABELED & DATED
- 26 The most secret item to which you were privy? NONE
- 27 Have you been to the Vietnam Veterans Wall? NO If so, what were your impressions?
- 28 Did you see any old soldiers during your tour? NONE
- 29 Would you be interested in visiting Vietnam as a tourist with other Hal-3 vets? Yes (20)
- 30 How long were you in Hal-3? 11 MO., The Navy? 4 YRS, Total military service? 4 YRS
- 31 The most unforgettable memory? LIFT OFF FROM TANH SON NHUT ON WAY HOME.
- 32 What were the best and the worst things ever to happen to HAL-3? WORST THINGS TO HAPPEN - LOSS OF 40 KIA'S
BEST THING WAS OUR GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE A VERY BRIGHT EXAMPLE FOR NAVAL AVIATION DURING A MESSED UP WAR.
- 33 List the songs you remember from Vietnam? ?
- 35 List the books you remember from Vietnam?
- 36 List the movies you remember from Vietnam? (while you were there)
- 37 What would you want remembered about Vietnam and HAL-3 and/or your service there?
- 38 What did you lack the most while in Vietnam? "ROUND-EYES", FAMILY, FRIENDS, SECURITY, OTHER CREATURE COMFORTS
- 39 What did you have to much of while in Vietnam? RICE, MOSQUITOS, HEAT RASH, WET CLOTHES, WARM BEER
- 40 What civic or charitable organizations were you involved in?
- 41 The food was? A LOT BETTER THAN I IMAGINED
- 42 Who were your best friends while in HAL-3? Do you know where they are now? If not, would you like to know? JIM BRINKS - TULSA OK. BRIAN GENTWORTH? GARY WHEELER - SPARTA KY, FRED WELLHOUSER - SPOKANE WA - NOW LIVES IN OREGON, DAVE COLLINS, CHARLOTTE N.C.
- 43 Funniest event while in HAL-3? WELLHOUSER EATING LIVE LIZARD OFF A
- 44 With all of today's knowledge, would you do it again? Yes No

WALL IN THE AIR FORCE LM CLUB JUST PRIOR TO USC SHAW!

LOUISVILLE KY

1-21-88

11. I WAS HOPING THAT WE'D FINALLY BE GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO FIGHT THE WAR AGGRESSIVELY, AND THOUGHT THINGS WERE LOOKING UP BY MAY 1970 WHEN WE WENT INTO CAMBODIA. AFTER THAT I WAS VERY DISAPPOINTED THAT OUR ENTIRE EFFORT WAS GOING TO GO IN VAIN.
12. AFTER RETURNING HOME I WENT BACK TO COLLEGE. WHILE THERE I MET A DOUBLE AMPUTEE ARMY VET. MY REACTION TO THE FALL OF SAIGON WAS "I WONDER HOW RICK FEELS?"
13. I FEEL WE DID THE BEST JOB WE WERE ALLOWED TO DO. HOW DO YOU LOOSE A WAR, WHEN WE WON EVERY BATTLE? WE ALLOWED PUBLIC & POLITICAL OPINION TO CONTROL THE CONDUCT OF A WAR THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONTROLLED BY THE PENTAGON.
14. ① LCDR INNIS & MY SELF ~~DID~~ DID A TEST HOP ON #328 ON OR ABOUT 30 JAN '70. @ 800 TO 1000' WE HAD A FLAME OUT & MR. INNIS SET THE BIRD DOWN IN A RICE PADDY ABOUT 1/2 MILE FROM BASE. MAYDAY'S WERE PUT OUT. SEVERAL AIRBORNE SEAWOLVES HAD SINCE SET DOWN & MISSED OUR MAYDAY. OUR ENGINE CAME BACK TO LIFE, SOMEHOW. WE RETURNED TO BASE VERY LOW, UNDER OUR OWN POWER, ~~EARLIER~~ EARLIER THAN

MORNING WE HAD REPORTS OF SUSPECTED HOSTILE
FIRE FROM ADJACENT TREE LINES!

MR. INNES HAD 32 DTG & I HAD 35 DTG.

THAT BECAME MY LAST FLIGHT IN A HELICOPTER
TO THIS DATE.

#328 WENT INTO MAINTENANCE IMMEDIATELY
& WE COULD FIND NOTHING WRONG W/ THE
ENGINE. I HAD TO REFUSE TO SIGN IT OFF.

- ② A WEEKEND SPENT IN TAY NINH, SEPT '69 COULD
BE CONSIDERED A CLOSE CALL. INCOMING,
ROCKETS, MORTARS, & ARTILLERY OUT GOING
TO A BINH THOI MAINTENANCE TYPE, AT
BEST, WAS A LITTLE UNNERVING!

15. FONDEST MEMORIES ARE: ^②THE MANY EVENINGS @
THE SHACK'S DEN & ESPECIALLY SHORT TIMER &
FAREWELL PARTIES.

③ R & R TO AUSTRALIA

④ THE DAY I CHECKED OUT & LEFT.