



An AH-1G Cobra from the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry. Late 1971. This photo belongs to VHCMA member Donivan Earhart. From 1970 to 1972, Donivan was at Phu Loi and during his spare time setup a camera in POL (the refuel point). The name "Bill" is on the helmet of the pilot in the backseat and we think CPT Billy Johnson is the front seater because of the distinctive helmet. The white stenciling near the rear canopy reads AC CPT P.E. LE?? and CE SP4 ?HITCTH???. The XM134 minigun, nearest the camera in the turret, could fire 2,000 or 4,000 rounds per minute. Up to 4,000 rounds for this gun could be stored in the ammo compartment marked by the crossed sabers. The XM28 40mm grenade launcher or "chunker", on the right in the turret, fired at 450 rounds per minute. Up to 300 rounds could be stored for this weapon. The M183 and M200 rocket launchers on the wing carried seven and 19 2.75" rockets. The exact date this picture was taken is not known. ACT/11th ACR was based at Phu Loi and pilots from that period believe "Widow Maker" stood down with the unit in early 1972.

**WIDOW MAKER**

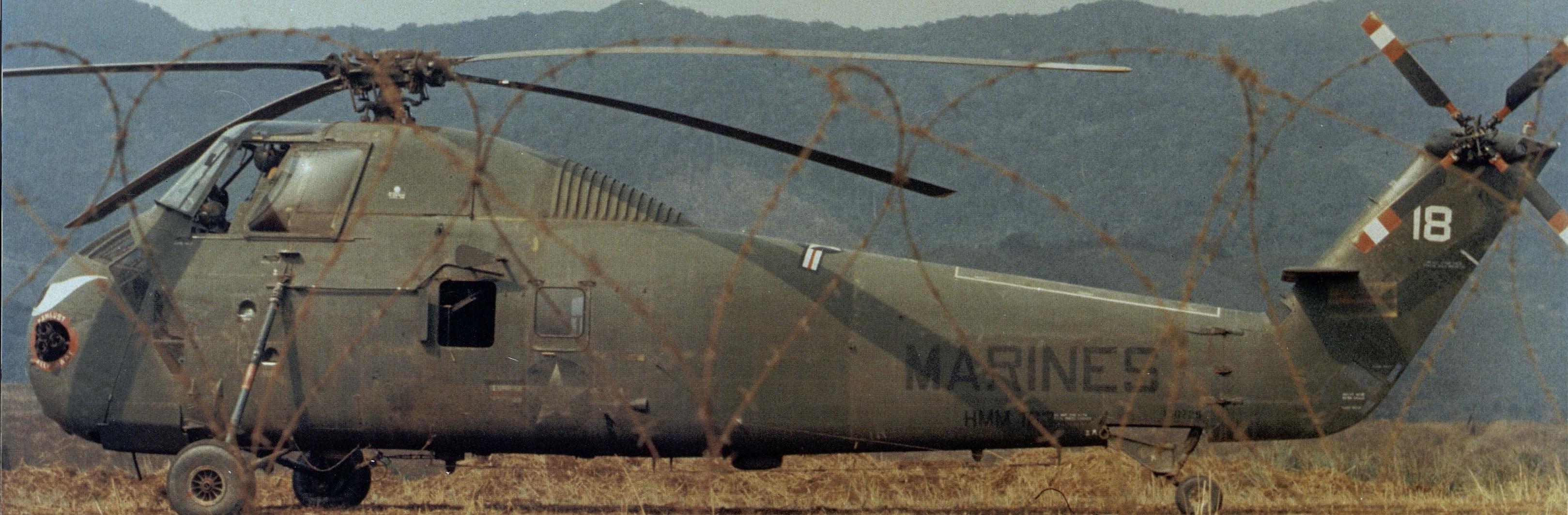
# A PINK TEAM TAKING A DAY OFF



# 1994 JANUARY

**An AH-1G and an OH-6A from the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. During 1971.** This photo belongs to VHCMA Member Donivan Earhart who was at Phu Loi from 1970 until 1972. From about 1968 on, Air Cavalry tactics were based on a team of one or more Scouts in OH-6As and one or more Guns in AH-1Gs. The Scouts were called 'Red Birds', '6s', 'LOHs', 'Little Birds', 'Low Birds', and even 'White Birds' by various troops. The Guns were called 'White Birds', 'Snakes', 'Cobras', 'High Birds', 'Bad Birds', and even 'Red Birds'. The term 'Pink Team' was very popular and meant some mix of Red and White Birds. A 'Heavy Pink' had at least one extra Cobra.

# GIVE ME A HUSS!



# 1994 FEBRUARY

A UH-34D from HMM-163. Early 1964. This photo was donated by VHPA member Dan Ross who flew with HMM-361 during the SHUFLY Era. SHUFLY was the code name of the USMC helicopter support operations in Vietnam that began in April, 1962 when HMM-362 moved into Soc Trang. The exact date and location this picture was taken is not known and neither is the owner. This photo has been a favorite with Marine helicopter pilots for years and appeared on the cover of the 1991 VHPA Directory. The Sikorsky-built HUS was first delivered to the Marines in 1957 as a utility version of the Navy HSS developed for anti-submarine duties. In 1962 the Department of Defense changed the name to UH-34, but to Marines all over the world the slang word HUSS stood for the reliability, simplicity, and capability of this legend. Before the last one was delivered in 1964 the Marine Corps had received over 540 of this type. In the height of the Vietnam War when its more sophisticated cousins were grounded periodically for technical problems or when a ground unit absolutely needed assistance, the radio would say: "Give me a HUSS!"

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>JANUARY</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>MARCH</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>1</b> • Groundhog Day  '64 HMM-364 first tour begins	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> • Lincoln's Birthday	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>  '68 A/82d Avn begins second tour	<b>14</b>  '72 101st Abn Div with 2nd Bde departs '72 135th Avn Co departs (1596) '72 187th Avn Co departs (1798)	<b>15</b>  • Valentine's Day	<b>16</b>  • Ash Wednesday	<b>17</b>  '69 165th CAG arrives '73 146th ASA departs (2450)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>  '67 176th Avn Co arrives '72 175th Avn Co departs (2625*)	<b>21</b>  • Washington's Birthday (President's Day)	<b>22</b>  '67 Junction City begins	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>					<b>DURING THE MONTH</b> '65 HMM-163 second tour begins '65 HMM-365 first tour ends (117) '68 25th Avn Co arrives '73 5th Avn Det departs (3107)  <b>FEBRUARY 29</b> '72 114th Avn Co departs (3218) '72 273d HHC departs (1531)

# CHEAP THRILLS



# 1994 MARCH

An OH-6A from the 11th Armored Cavalry. During 1971. This photo belongs to VHCMA member Donivan Earhart who was at Phu Loi from 1970 until 1972. "The Blackhorse Regiment" came to Vietnam in September, 1966 with 51 tanks, 296 armored personnel carriers, 18 self-propelled 155mm howitzers, 9 flamethrowers, and 48 helicopters. There was an aviation platoon in the headquarters with ten aircraft and each of the three cavalry squadrons had four more (two OH-6As and two Hueys). With the passenger seat installed in the aft compartment "Cheap Thrills" most likely belonged to one of these units versus the Air Cavalry Troop. The OH-6As were used for courier, C & C (command and control), and scout missions. The passenger is not wearing a flight helmet in this picture so this might be a courier mission. The names stenciled in white read AC Cpt H...tt and CE Sp 5 Fa.... In all the US Army lost 954 OH-6As during the War.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
FEBRUARY		APRIL		1		2		3		4		5	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5			1	2					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
'66 178th ASHC arrives		'66 162d Avn Co arrives		'73 129th Avn Co departs (2696)		'73 224th ASA Bn departs (2472)		LAST DATE FOR INPUT FOR APRIL VHPA NEWSLETTER		'72 178th ASHC departs (2192)			
6		7		8		9		10		11		12	
'73 57th Avn Co departs (1968)		'73 11th CAG departs (2783)		'66 173d Avn Co arrives		'67 187th Avn Co arrives		'66 174th Avn Co arrives		'63 52d CAB arrives			
'73 201st Avn Co departs (1966)		'73 164th CAG departs (1912)		'73 155th Avn Co departs (1986)		'73 12th CAG departs (2761)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
• Spring Begins		20		21		22		23		24		25	
'69 238th AWC arrives		'72 3d Avn Co departs (2728)		'72 61st Avn Co departs (1582)		'72 68th Avn Co third tour ends (294)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'71 HMM-364 third tour ends (1221)			
• Palm Sunday		27		28		29		30		31			
• First Day of Passover		'73 1st Avn Bde departs (2500)		'73 361st ES arrives		'72 173d Avn Co departs (2214)		'72 213th ASHC departs (1905)		'73 18th Avn Co departs (579)			
'73 Command Avn Co departs (2463*)		'73 180th ASHC departs (2332)		'71 HMM-162 fourth tour begins		'66 HMM-164 arrives		'71 25th Avn Co departs (1491)		'73 59th Avn Co second tour ends (182)			
'73 238th AWC departs (2756*)		'73 138th ASA Co departs (2466)		'73 334th AWC departs (2756*)		'72 62d Avn Co second tour begins		'73 62d Avn Co second tour ends (1462)		'73 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			
'73 11th CAB departs (2311)		'73 12th CAG departs (2649)		'73 187th Avn Co departs (1986)		'72 147th ASHC departs (2302)		'71 189th Avn Co departs (1409)		'72 117th Avn Co departs (3759*)			

# EXTRACTING THE APACHE BLUES



# 1994 APRIL

Hueys from A Troop 1st Squadron 9th Cavalry landing in a Pickup Zone near Tay Ninh. April 1970. This photo was taken by Art Dockter from the fourth ship in the Aero Rifle Platoon and was donated by Kregg P.J. Jorgenson, author of *Acceptable Loss* published by Ivy Books. Each of the 28 Air Cavalry Troops that served in Vietnam was a miniature self-contained, combined arms team. Besides a maintenance platoon and the headquarters section, each troop had ten Scout and nine Gunship plus five Lift helicopters for the 22 men in the Rifle platoon. Most Air Cav Troops called their Rifle platoon "The Blues" because that is the color of the Infantry Branch. Kregg served with the Blues and Art was a doorgunner in A/1/9th CAV which called themselves the Apaches. Inserting and extracting Infantry units was job one for many helicopter crews in Vietnam but there are surprisingly few good pictures of these operations.

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>MARCH</b>		<b>MAY</b>							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	
'72 162d Avn Co departs (2585)		'65 A/101 Avn Co arrives '68 MAG-39 arrives '68 Command Avn Co arrives '70 1st Inf Div departs '71 11th Avn Co departs (2070)		'71 Lam Song 719 ends		'75 CPTs Clark and Osterman died, last Air America KIAs in SEA		'72 145th CAB departs (3564*)	
• Easter • Daylight Saving Time Begins		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
'72 162d Avn Co departs (2585)									
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			
'62 HMM-362 arrives, First USMC helicopter unit '62 HMM-261 supports HMM-362 '71 269th CAB departs (1539) '71 205th ASHC departs (1417)		'71 1st MAW departs (3293)		'72 156th ASA departs (2151)		'70 Cambodian Incursion begins '71 1st CAV with 1st Bde departs (2056) '75 CPT Nystul and 1LT Shea died, last USMC KIAs in SEA		'71 25th Inf Div with 2nd Bde departs '71 170th Avn Co departs (1955) '72 203d ASHC departs (2424*) '72 1st Avn Co departs (1764)	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			
'67 214th CAB arrives		'66 132d Avn Co departs (268) '66 A/5 Avn departs (227)		LAST DATE FOR INPUT FOR JUNE VHPA NEWSLETTER		'72 52d CAB departs (3327)		'71 25th Inf Div with 2nd Bde departs '71 170th Avn Co departs (1955) '72 203d ASHC departs (2424*) '72 1st Avn Co departs (1764)	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			

# ONE RED DOG



# 1994 MAY

An OH-58 from the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion. During 1971. This photo belongs to VHCMA member Donivan Earhart. From 1970 to 1972, he was at Phu Loi and during his spare time setup a camera at the refuel point. The aviation detachments within the Signal, Engineer, and Field Artillery units were the first to receive the 58 during 1970. It replaced their OH-6As which were needed by Air Cavalry units. Because the 58 required only a one man crew and comfortably carried four passengers, it soon became the aerial equivalent to the jeep. The 58 also replaced the Huey in the aviation sections of aviation battalions. This picture clearly shows the 1st Aviation Brigade shoulder patch on the pilot wearing a flight helmet and a passenger is not wearing a helmet. The 11th CAB came to Vietnam in 1965 and supported the 1st Infantry Division plus other II FFV units. 'Red Dog' was their radio callsign. Obviously someone within the 11th CAB had a sense of humor and could paint cartoon characters!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  <small>'65 A/82d Avn arrives</small>	2	3  <small>'67 268th CAB arrives '67 188th Avn Co arrives</small>	4	5	6  <small>'67 189th Avn Co arrives</small>	7
8  <small>Mother's Day</small>	9	10  <small>'63 114th Avn Co arrives</small>	11	12  <small>'73 60th Avn Co departs (622)</small>	13  <small>'67 Junction City ends</small>	14
15  <small>'66 223d CAB arrives '75 USAF 2LT Vande died, last American KIA in SEA</small>	16	17  <small>'62 HMM-261 arrives Thailand</small>	18	19	20  <small>'68 272d MH arrives</small>	21
22  <small>'68 132d Avn Co second tour begins</small>	23	24  <small>'66 1st Avn Bde arrives '66 222d CSAB arrives '67 191st &amp; 240th Avn Cos arrive</small>	25	26	27	28
29  <small>Memorial Day</small>	30  <small>'67 205th ASHC arrives</small>	31  <small>APRIL</small>		<small>JUNE</small>		
		S M T W T F S		S M T W T F S		
		1 2		1 2 3 4		
		3 4 5 6 7 8 9		5 6 7 8 9 10 11		
		10 11 12 13 14 15 16		12 13 14 15 16 17 18		
		17 18 19 20 21 22 23		19 20 21 22 23 24 25		
		24 25 26 27 28 29 30		26 27 28 29 30		

**DURING THE MONTH**  
 '65 HMM-161 arrives  
 '65 VMO-2 arrives  
 '65 HMM-162 fourth tour ends (62)  
 '65 HMM-365 second tour begins  
 '66 HMM-261 second tour ends (335)  
 '66 HMM-265 arrives  
 '71 HMM-262 departs (1613)  
 '71 HMM-263 second tour ends (851)  
 '71 HMM-463 departs (1594)

# THIS IS DMZ DUSTOFF



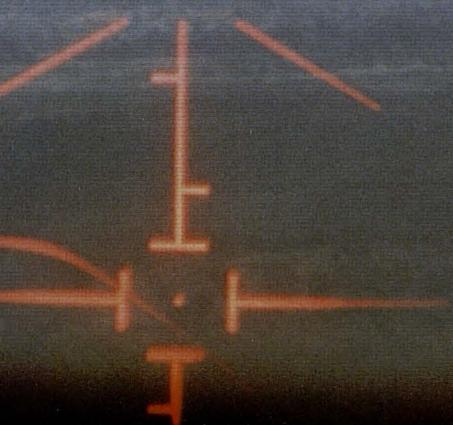
The 237th Med Det's pocket patch was made from a dark blue piece of cloth. The two crosses (on the cargo door and behind the rotor head) were made from red thread as were the letters of the word DUSTOFF. Everything else was made from black thread.

# 1994 JUNE

**A UH-1H from the 237th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance). About June 1969.** This photo was donated by VHPA member Phil Marshall who was flying in this very aircraft, #66-17626, for the 237th Med the night he was wounded. This photo appeared in the 1993 VHPA Directory. The exact date and location this picture was taken is known and the name of the professional photographer who took it is not unknown. MAJ Don Hull, the CO of the 237th, was the Aircraft Commander and the Crewchief was John D. Tyler. The copilot and medic are not known. The 237th used the radio callsign "DMZ Dustoff" because they were the northern most Army medevac unit. Note the bomb just exploding on the left in the tree line and the blur of the "fast mover" (jet aircraft) climbing out of the valley. Note the medic has left the ship and is helping the grunts with their wounded friends. Note the Huey does not have even one skid on the ground - just hanging there rock solid for minute after tense minute. Not long after the picture was taken a machine gun opened up from the tree line but was silenced by some gunships. On 27 April 1970 this aircraft crashed into the sea near Da Nang and only the co-pilot survived. This photo is "classic DUSTOFF".

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		
<b>MAY</b>		<b>JULY</b>					<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
29	30	31					31						
<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>10</b>			
<b>12</b>		<b>13</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>17</b>			
<b>19</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>24</b>			
<b>26</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>28</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>					
<small>*62 HMM-261 departs Thailand (41)</small>		<small>*72 179th ASHC arrives</small>		<small>*64 HMM-364 first tour ends (151)</small>		<small>*66 281st Avn Co arrives</small>		<small>*70 Cambodian Incursion ends</small>		<small>*71 362d ASHC arrives</small>			
<small>* Father's Day</small>		<small>* Summer Begins</small>		<small>*71 HML-167 departs (1171)</small>		<small>*64 HMM-162 second tour begins</small>		<small>*62 HMM-162 arrives Thailand</small>		<small>*63 8th TC Co (562) becomes 117th Avn Co</small>			
								<small>*63 33d TC Co (282) becomes 118th Avn Co</small>		<small>*63 81st TC Co (282) becomes 119th Avn Co</small>			
								<small>*63 57th TC Co (562) becomes 120th Avn Co</small>		<small>*63 93d TC Co (516) becomes 121st Avn Co</small>			
								<small>*69 101st CAG arrives</small>		<small>*69 160th CAG departs (360)</small>			
<small>DURING THE MONTH</small>		<small>*65 HMM-261 second tour begins</small>		<small>*71 68th Avn Co third tour begins</small>									

COMIN' HOT!



**1994 JULY**

**The Weapons System Sight Reticle as seen by the pilot in the back seat of an AH-1G. Late 1968.** This photo belongs to VHPA member Jack Dale Jordan and was taken in 1968 near Happy Valley in northeastern II Corps. Jack flew with the 361st Aviation (Escort) Company from Pleiku. This gun sight was used to fire the weapon systems mounted on the stubby wings on each side of the Cobra. After pulling the trigger on the cyclic, the next thing you heard was FROSH as the rockets left the tubes or GRRRRR from the mini-guns. Almost instantaneously you saw the white exhaust trails from the rocket motors or what seemed like a red-golden rod formed by the tracers streaking towards the target. The hundreds of guys who flew and fought from the back seat of a Snake should remember this picture all too well!! Generally "Comin' Hot!" was a nice way to tell others on the radio that you were firing.

# A NEW BLACK CAT SUPER HOOK



# 1994 AUGUST

A CH-47 "Super C" Chinook from the 213th Aviation (Assault Support Helicopter) Company. About 1971. This photo belongs to VHCMA member Donivan Earhart. From 1970 to 1972, Donivan was a Crewchief for the Black Cats at Phu Loi and was asked by the company leadership to take this picture of a nearly new "Super C" they had just received. SGT Gerido, of the maintenance section, is clearly visible wearing a head set at the front window. All C models had the distinctive square shape to the aft part of the rear pylon plus bigger and longer blades than the earlier models. The "Super C" had more powerful engines than the "Small C". Naturally, the pilots preferred the more powerful model because they could really get the work done but had to be careful not to overstress the drive train with these engines. For awhile the #2 engine had a harmonic problem that caused the turbine blades to come apart which severed hydraulics lines and caused a fire. There must have been great peace of mind for these crews — knowing that not only were the bad guys against you but you could actually catch fire and die all by yourself!! Still, most everyone enjoyed flying the "Super C" because they were low time machines.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
DURING THE MONTH '64 5th Avn Det arrives '65 H&MS-16 arrives '65 HMM-361 second tour begins '65 11th Avn Co arrives '65 132d Avn Co arrives '66 282d Avn Co arrives '71 18th Avn Co arrives						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					LAST DATE FOR INPUT TO VHPA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY '65 H&MS-36 arrives	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						'66 171st and 172d Avn Cos depart (300) '69 HMM-362 second tour ends (1481) '72 361st AWC departs (1604) '72 362d ASHC departs (418)
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
				AUGUST 31 '66 A/82d Avn (488) becomes 335th Avn '66 A/101 Avn (518) becomes 336th Avn '66 A/501st Avn (626) becomes 71st AML '66 A/502d Avn (626) becomes 175th AML '71 59th Avn Co arrives '71 60th Avn Co arrives '71 118th Avn Co departs (3271*) '71 A/228 ASHB (2181) becomes 203d ASHC '71 D/227 AWC (2181) becomes 244th AWC '71 235th AWC departs (1400)	JULY	SEPTEMBER
				S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	
				1 2	1 2 3	
				3 4 5 6 7 8 9	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
				10 11 12 13 14 15 16	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	
				17 18 19 20 21 22 23	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	
				24 25 26 27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30	
				31		

# REFUELING A TAIPAN 'HOG'



R.U.N.

1961 - 1975



# 1994 SEPTEMBER

A UH-1C from the 135th Aviation (Assault Helicopter) Company. About September 1970. This photo belongs to VHCMA member Donivan Earhart. From 1970 to 1972, Donivan was at Phu Loi and during his spare time setup a camera at the refuel point. Traditionally the 3d platoon contained armed helicopters in an AHC and used a different radio callsign from the transport helicopters in the 1st and 2d platoons. The 135th's guns were Taipans and their slicks were Emus. The Charlie Model was an extremely popular gunship because of its power, speed, and its doorgunners. The distinctive features of the UH-1C are the cambered shape of the tail rotor pylon and the "540" rotor head with a wider blade. Taipan 31 is armed with the XM200 launcher full of 2.75" rockets with 17 lb. high explosive warheads. To put this warhead in perspective, it had more destructive capability than a 105mm howitzer round! The rocket pod was big and heavy; hence the name 'Hog'. The helicopter once had a "thumper" (a M-5 40mm grenade launcher) mounted in the nose. The small rectangular covers on the battery compartment door mark where that weapon system was. The names on the pilot doors read AC Smith and CE Jackson. It might be possible to date this picture because the 135th lived at Bear Cat (not far from Phu Loi) until about October, 1970 when they moved to Dong Tam. The 135th was unique among all Army AHCs because about one third of its personnel were Australian. The Australian's hard-working, fun-loving attitude was always appreciated by the Americans.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>AUGUST</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>OCTOBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				<b>1</b> DURING THE MONTH '64 62d Avn Co arrives '65 HMM-362 second tour begins '65 HMM-363 arrives '65 HMM-364 second tour begins '72 59th Avn Co second tour begins  '66 197th Avn Co departs (748*)  '65 MAG-36 arrives	
<b>4</b> • Labor Day	<b>5</b> • Rosh Hashanah	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
					LAST DATE FOR INPUT FOR OCTOBER VHPA NEWSLETTER	
'65 1st Cav Div arrives '65 A/5 Avn arrives	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> • Yom Kippur  '62 UTT Avn Co arrives '65 478th HHC arrives	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  '62 33d & 81st TC Cos arrive
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> • Autumn Begins	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  '63 45th TC Bn becomes 145th CAB 71 243d ASHC departs (1426)
'66 4th Inf Div arrives '67 American Div organized '67 17th Avn Co arrives '69 USARV Fit Det (1183) becomes Command Avn Co	<b>26</b>  '71 271st ASHC departs (1309)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	
						'64 13th CAB arrives



# ONE PURPLE FOX



# 1994 OCTOBER

A CH-46D Sea Knight from HMM-364 at Duc Pho. November 1970. This photo is owned by VHPA member Fred Thompson who took a lot of good pictures while flying for the Army in I Corps. This picture was taken at the refuel point at Duc Pho. The Marine Corps acquired the Boeing Vertol-built CH-46 as the turbine powered replacement for the venerable UH-34. The A model was first delivered to operational squadrons in June, 1964. HMM-164 brought 27 CH-46As to Marble Mountain, Vietnam on 8 March 1966. On 28 October 1967, HMM-364 arrived as the first CH-46D squadron in Vietnam. The Marines generously supply nicknames to everyone and everything. HMM-364, officially known as the PURPLE FOXes, was denoted by the white circle around the fox's head on the rear pylon. This aircraft has the same emblem painted on the front pylon immediately over the windshields. The PURPLE FOXes stayed in Vietnam until March 1971.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>NOVEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			<b>DURING THE MONTH</b> '64 14th CAB arrives '64 3d Avn Co arrives '68 58th Avn Det arrives '72 120th Avn Co departs (3746*)		'63 HMM-261 first tour ends (117) and HMM-361 first tour begins '71 71st Avn Co departs (1856) '71 191st Avn Co departs (1591) '71 242d ASHC departs (1512)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
'65 1st Inf Div arrives	'67 135th Avn Co arrives	'66 4th Inf Div arrives			'65 155th Avn Co arrives	'64 HMM-162 second tour ends (114)
9	• Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
						LAST DATE FOR INPUT FOR 1995 VHPA CALENDAR
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				'65 128th Avn Co arrives	'65 129th Avn Co arrives	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	'67 57th Avn Co arrives					
• Daylight Saving Time Ends	• Halloween					
30						
'67 192d AHC & 243d ASHC arrive		'65 171st & 172d Avn Cos arrive	'67 201st Avn Co arrives	'71 14th CAB departs (2583) LAST DATE FOR INPUT FOR DECEMBER VHPA NEWSLETTER	'65 68th Avn Co second tour begins '67 HMM-364 third tour begins, First CH-46Ds in Vietnam	'65 10th CAG arrives

# ANOTHER SEAWOLF LIFT OFF



# 1994 NOVEMBER

A Navy UH-1B Seawolf from Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron Three. November 1967. This is official U.S. Navy photo number 1129035 and was donated by Philip Chinnery, a British aviation author and friend of the VHPA. This photo appeared in his book *Vietnam: The Helicopter War* published by the Naval Institute Press and in the 1993 VHPA Directory. HA(L)-3 was born during the summer of 1966 to provide armed helicopter support for the River Patrol Boats. The UH-1B Hueys came from the Army which also provided some initial crew training and logistical support. Ultimately nine detachments based on ships and air fields covered III and IV Corps. On a nice day without much ammo and fuel, flying off a ship in a B Model would be easy. Think about doing it at night or in some rotten weather when you are armed to the teeth to go help someone in real trouble?

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>OCTOBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	<b>DECEMBER</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 <small>'67 195th &amp; 235th Avn Cos arrive</small>	2 <small>'65 11th CAB arrives</small>	3	4	5 <small>'65 125th ATC arrives</small>
<small>'62 MAG-16 arrives '65 48th Avn Co arrives</small>	<small>'71 132d Avn Co second tour ends (1265) '71 174th Avn Co departs (2063)</small>	6 7 <small>'71 16th CAG departs (1425)</small>	8 <small>'64 HMM-162 third tour begins</small>	9 <small>'66 180th ASHC arrives '66 197th AML (550) becomes 334th AML '71 176th Avn Co departs (1725)</small>	10 <small>• Veteran's Day</small>	11 <small>'71 335th AHC departs (2393*)</small>
<small>'71 16th CAG departs (1425)</small>	<small>'71 132d Avn Co second tour ends (1265) '71 174th Avn Co departs (2063)</small>	13 14 <small>'67 61st Avn Co arrives</small>	15 16 <small>'64 HMM-162 third tour ends (7)</small>	17 <small>'71 335th AHC departs (2393*)</small>	18 <small>'67 101st Abn Div arrives</small>	19 <small>'67 101st Abn Div arrives</small>
<small>'67 92d Avn Co arrives</small>	<small>'67 61st Avn Co arrives</small>	20 21 <small>'67 134 Avn Co arrives</small>	22 <small>'64 HMM-162 third tour ends (7)</small>	23 <small>• Thanksgiving Day</small>	24 <small>'71 335th AHC departs (2393*)</small>	25 <small>'67 101st Abn Div arrives</small>
<small>'67 92d Avn Co arrives</small>	<small>• First Day of Hanukkah '65 147th Avn Co arrives</small>	27 28 <small>'71 59th Avn Co departs (91) '71 Americal Div departs</small>	29 <small>'71 59th Avn Co departs (91) '71 Americal Div departs</small>	30	<small>DURING THE MONTH '66 HMM-364 second tour ends (427)</small>	

# CHALK 2'S VIEW GOING TO WORK!



# 1994 DECEMBER

**A UH-1H from B Troop 7th Squadron 17th Cavalry. About December 1969.** This photo belongs to VHPA member Doug Stenberg and was taken from the second ship during a morning flight from Ban Me Thuot to Bu Prang in southwestern II Corps. The traditional names for the positions within a formation flight of troop transport helicopters were "lead" for the first ship, "Chalk 2" for the second, "Chalk 3" for the third, and so on. Even though the war and sometimes the weather was ugly, you did not have to fly in Vietnam very long to see something beautiful. Listening to Armed Forces Vietnam on the AM radio, joking with the guys in your crew, flying with some great friends, sipping a little warm coffee, seeing the sun just coming up, looking at some pretty white clouds, marveling at the endless shades of green below, watching the seemingly peaceful country side go by – remember the good times? Luckily Doug has a picture of one of his!

Two CH-46D Sea Knights from HMM-364 at LZ 401 Recon pad. 1971. This photo is owned by VHPA member Doug Orahood who flew for HMM-364. LZ 401 was the recon pad at Da Nang. Those who flew from Da Nang will certainly remember the hills in the immediate area, especially on bad weather days. The Sea Knights had 50 cal doorguns and their chewchiefs spent a lot of their time leaning out of the window. HMM-364 had three tours in Vietnam: with UH-34s from 1 Feb until 30 Jun 64 and from Sep 65 until Dec 66 for 578 days and with CH-46s from 28 Oct 67 until Mar 71 for 1221 days.



TWO PURPLE FOXES



1993

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30	31			

JANUARY						
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29	30	31				

FEBRUARY						
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1			
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24



## The 1994 VHPA Calendar

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## About This Calendar

The idea of producing a calendar using Vietnam era helicopter photos is not new. Many who flew or crewed helicopters in Vietnam have talked about and dreamed of this idea. Usually each had one or two photos he was rather proud of - hardly enough for a complete calendar. Over the years, the VHPA Directory Committee collected half a dozen - again not enough. Just prior to the VHPA 10th Reunion held in July, 1993 in Phoenix, Donavin Earhart sent a letter and a copy of his "Widow Maker" to the VHPA asking if it and others could be displayed in the Vendor Area during the Reunion. During subsequent conversations, he mentioned his dream of using his photos in a calendar and his frustration at not being able to find a partner.

The VHPA Executive Council approved this project based on production cost estimates and project plans submitted by the Directory Editor. The goal of the VHPA Calendar is to "put smiles on people's faces" and to cover costs. This is not a fund raising project nor is the calendar included as one of the VHPA products (which are Newsletters, Membership Directory, Reunion) provided to members who pay their dues. The VHPA Calendar is just another vehicle that helps

record, preserve, and display events and activities that were an important part to those who served in Southeast Asia during the war.

## Photo Owners

Donavin is a commercial photographer and provided six photos used in this calendar. He allowed the VHPA to use his photos but retains exclusive rights to all other uses of them. Anyone desiring information or copies of his photos is encouraged to contact him at 11 Charlemange Blvd., Clarksville, TN 37042 or 615-648-1489. The fact that many of the photos used in this calendar relate to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is directly related to the photos Donavin made available.

The owner or source for each photo is included in the narrative description. Anyone desiring to contact the source can do so by sending a self addressed stamped envelope with their cover letter to the VHPA which will forward them accordingly.

## Commemorations

The 1994 Calendar commemorates the following historical activities:

Several "first" and "last" events, such as the dates when individuals from various branches of service died.

The start and end dates for several (but not all) major operations; e.g. Lam Son 719

The arrival and departure dates for the major Army aviation companies, battalions, groups, and divisions; for the Marine helicopter squadrons and their higher commands; for the Navy Helicopter Attack (Light) Three squadron.

## Concerning Historical Data

Please consult the 18 page Southeast Asian Helicopter Units section in the 1993 Membership Directory for a complete list of all arrival and departure dates. For Army aviation units; it is important to note that this calendar edition only includes the major aviation units; most aviation detachments are not included. Additionally divisional aviation, artillery, cavalry, engineer,

maintenance, medical, new equipment training teams, signal, many transportation corps, are not included. For Marine helicopter units, the dates in the 1993 Membership Directory are hardly complete. Additional research is needed to complete the Marine dates. Finally, all U.S. Air Force and many U.S. Navy helicopters units are not included in this calendar edition. There are just too many unit date combinations to commemorate in a single calendar. Future calendars will commemorate these units.

## Service Dates

Where possible the departure date also includes the number of days this unit served in Southeast Asia during a tour. For example, Donavin's unit was the 213th Aviation (Assault Support Helicopter) Company. The 213th arrived in Vietnam on 13 January 1967 and departed on 31 March 1972 having served 1905 days. For example, Marine squadron HMM-162 had five tours in Southeast Asia: 25 June 1962 to 1 July 1962 in Udorn, three tours as a SHUFLY squadron (4 January 1963 to 7 June 1963 for 155 days, 17 June 1964 to 8 October 1964 for 114 days, and 17 November 1964 to 23 November 1964 for 7 days) and finally a 62 day tour from March to May of 1965. For example, the 57th TC Co arrived in Vietnam on 11 December 1961, served 562 days until 25 June 1963 when it was reorganized as the 120th Aviation Company. The 120th departed Vietnam in October 1972 having served a total of 3,746 days as both the 120th and the 57th. The notation (3746\*) denotes composite days served by this unit and its predecessors.

## VHPA Highlights

The 1994 Calendar highlights dates important to the VHPA such as cutoff dates for input to the Newsletter and Membership Directory and dates for the annual reunion.

## Future VHPA Calendars

The VHPA is very interested in producing a 1995 Calendar. Several members and friends have already donated photos and suggestions for the 1995 Calendar; however, we will need more.

We have two good color photos with helicopters silhouetted by a beautiful sunrise or sunset; others with that theme would be nice. We have an Air Force Jolly Green and a Marine CH-53D Sea Stallion but the Marine photo was taken after Vietnam. Good detailed, color photos of an Army CH-21, an Army UH-1A and B, a Marine H2Rs "Deuce", an Air America ship, an Air Force UH-1G, a white Dustoff, a Mohave, a Navy Sea Lord, or a Marine Cobra would be very nice. Also unusual configurations - a Smoke ship, an Infant, a Nighthawk, a Super Gaggle, Guns A-Go-Go for example. Generally everyone that was "over there" has one or two they are especially proud of - please consider seeing if the VHPA Calendar (or the VHPA Newsletter) can use them.

## Organizations and Associations

The following organizations and associations have pledged their support to the VHPA Calendar effort:

If you flew helicopters in Southeast Asia from 1962 through 1975, please consider joining the VHPA, 7 West Seventh Street, Suite 1990, Cincinnati, OH 45202 also 513-721-VHPA.

If you were a crewchief, mechanic or doorgunner on a helicopter in Southeast Asia from 1962 through 1975, please consider joining the VHCMA (Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association), 3260 Fox Hollow, Memphis, TN 38115 also 901-362-2158.

If you served with any of the following US Army units (HHC 45 TC Bn, HHC 145 CAB, 1st, 18th, 25th, 68th, 71st, 73rd, 74th, 117th, 188th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 135th, 147th, 184th, 190th, 197th, 213th, 242nd, 334th, 335th, A/82nd, or A/501st aviation companies, the UTT, the 57th Med Det, or the 8th, 33rd, 57th, 81st, 93rd, 339th TC companies), please consider joining the 145th CABVA (Combat Aviation Battalion Vietnam Association), 3719 Forrest Hill Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1301 also 219-483-1301.

**Comments Concerning The VHPA Calendar** can be directed to Mike Law, VHPA Directory Committee Chairman, 7 West Seventh Street, Suite 1990, Cincinnati, OH 45202 also 513-721-VHPA.