



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

The VHAP Newsletter

P.O. Box 35699 Phoenix, Arizona 85069

March 1985

VHAP ATTENDS HAI CONVENTION



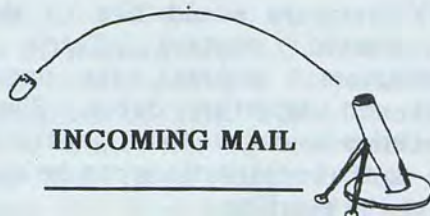
The VHAP Booth at the Helicopter Association International's annual convention in New Orleans, January 17-19.

Through the efforts of many, the VHAP acquired booth space at the Helicopter Association International's annual convention, held in New Orleans, January 17-19. The show was a great success, with over 5,000 people attending on the first day alone. VHAP members were easy to spot. Bright day-glow orange stickers had been placed on their name badges, which were printed in black with VHAP and a small Huey.

There was always a crowd around the VHAP booth, with folks meeting old friends and telling war stories. Over 60 new members completed applications and paid dues during the convention. Hundreds of application forms were also carried home, to pass along to others.

The VHAP was featured in an article in the HAI Convention News. An accompanying photo showed BILL AUTEN, a BH412/S-76 pilot for Petroleum Helicopters, BOB MacKINNON, President of Aerospatiale, and DAVE WESTPHAL, a pilot for WFRV-TV in Wisconsin, meeting for the first time since they flew together with the 2nd Brigade of the 1st Cav Division. This meeting was typical of many reunions that occurred during the convention.

VHAP participated at minimal expense, thanks to the efforts of volunteers LARRY and TERRIE CLARK, RON and CAROLYN WRIGHT, MIKE McDONALD, BILL RINGER, BILL RHEAMS, and DAVE GRIEGER.



INCOMING MAIL

Missed Events

Our organization is similar to yours, and we face some common problems in the area of publicity. The DUSTOFF Association is an organization of veterans who have flown aeromedical evacuation missions in the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, or in peacetime. In addition to the pilots, we have included crewmembers, flight surgeons, and "all supporters of the aeromedical evacuation mission" in our list of eligibles.

The DUSTOFF Association will hold its 6th Annual Reunion in San Antonio, Texas, February 22-24, 1985. Association membership is open to pilots, crewmembers, flight surgeons, and supporters or aeromedical evacuation. For additional information, write to the DUSTOFF Association at P.O.Box 8091, Wainwright Station, San Antonio, TX, 78208.

Please pass the word to any members you have who might be former DUSTOFF or MEDEVAC pilots.

Allen E. Rhodes
Secretary, DUSTOFF, Assoc.

I am publicity chairman for the Lawyer-Pilots Bar Association, an international professional organization of lawyers who are all pilots and many are exclusively engaged in representing aircraft manufacturers, pilots, fixed base operators, air carriers, and commuter airlines.

We meet semi-annually at various locations about the United States and Canada during which meetings we attempt to share our legal experience, hear experts in the field of aviation and improve our skills to better represent the aviation community.

Our members are readers of your publication. We would appreciate your including the following information in your calendar of events:

February 6-10, Lawyer-Pilots Bar Assoc. Meeting
Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana
Contact David E. Prewitt.

If there is any other information I can furnish or if you care to know more about LPBA, please do not hesitate to call.

David E. Prewitt
Publicity Chairman
Lawyers-Pilots Bar Assoc.

Allen and David, we apologize for not having this issue out in time to announce the meetings of both your fine organizations. Hopefully, as we become more proficient at this newsletter business our schedule will become reliable enough to accommodate announcing all such meetings.

Editor

Thunder What?

I've got a couple of questions:

Is that a misprint in your article on "Permission To Kill"? I flew Pollution IV for the 118th AHC Thunderbirds. Your article says Thunderhawks. I can't tell whether the book is about my unit or not.

I'm trying to locate an old friend named, Ken Lindstrom. He flew for B, 1st/9th, 1st Air Cav at Quan Loi in 1969-1970. Last I heard he lived in Denver, Colorado.

Larry B. Smith

So Sorry! Thunderbirds is the correct call sign.

Editor

No Pilot Doors

Someone asked in your last newsletter about the 57th AHC flying with doors off.

There was a time on certain missions that we took the doors off during missions for the Special Forces being flown across the border, and for some missions flown for the 22nd ARVN Battalion in to the Tumarong Valley Northeast of Dak To. The justification for the removal of the doors was: because of the high rate of the A/C being shot down it was felt by the pilots that our chances of getting out of the aircraft would be greatly enhanced because we many times had to autorotate into triple canopy jungle and often the aircraft would not make it all the way to the ground. No doors made it less difficult to get out and climb on down to the ground.

Thomas W. Hestand
Pilot, 57th AHC
Kontum, RVN 68-69

FROM THE EDITOR

With each future edition of this newsletter, we hope to create a progressively interesting publication, something you will look forward to receiving. To do that we need help!! So, here comes the pitch! First, a newsletter NAME. As requested in the first newsletter, the following kind souls have suggested names. Unknown (Bashful?), "Thrust Vector"; D.W. Fox, "Flat Pitch"; Larry Smith, "Cyclic Action"; Benny Booth, "Rotor Wings"; both F.A. Esposito and R. Shelly Berryman, separately, the same name, "Rotor Wash"; and Yours Truly, "Straight-Up". Also, it was suggested we could continue with just "VHPA Newsletter". Let's have your vote. If you don't care for any of the above, or have a favorite of your own, please propose it. You never know, great minds think alike and your proposal may be submitted by many others.

Second, any self-respecting newsletter has to have a "Letters to the Editor" column. So, beginning with this issue, "Incoming Mail" will become a regular feature. Thanks to Larry Clark for the name, complete with illustration. Surely some of you will want to lob a few rounds this way.

Third, one of the prime reasons for the VHPA is to provide a vehicle for keeping in touch with each other and sharing life's experiences since "Nam". Some of you folks are involved in some awful interesting pursuits or have climbed high on the ladder of success. We would like to hear all about it. The "Member News" column on Page 4 is dedicated to this purpose. Let's have more! Now I can't wait till the postman, oops, I mean postperson arrives.

Last, but not least, the last pages of this issue are concerning membership, administrative procedures, and the use of our VHPA logo. We have reprinted the VHPA application (see Page 7) for your use in helping our ranks grow. Please take the time to review these items. The Executive Council welcomes any comments you may have.

Roger Gould
Editor

BALLOT VHPA NEWSLETTER NAME

(Submit by April 15, 1985)

"THRUST VECTOR" -----	☐
"FLAT PITCH" -----	☐
"CYCLIC ACTION" -----	☐
"ROTOR WINGS" -----	☐
"ROTOR WASH" -----	☐
"VHPA NEWSLETTER" -----	☐
"STRAIGHT-UP" -----	☐
" _____ " -----	☐

Mail to: VHPA NEWSLETTER Editor
P.O. Box 35699
Phoenix, Arizona 85069

The VHPA NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

It is distributed free of charge to all members of the VHPA.

VHPA membership is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era (1961 to 1975). Annual dues are \$20.00 or Life Membership for \$300.00.

The VHPA is a non-profit war veterans organization filed under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service.

Material published in the VHPA NEWSLETTER is contributed by members and other interested persons. The VHPA does not guarantee or endorse any product, organization or person mentioned in this publication.

The VHPA NEWSLETTER welcomes letters to the editor. As space permits, we will publish as many as possible. Letters are subject to editing for brevity and accuracy. Mail to Newsletter Editor, VHPA, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

VHPA REUNION

July 4, 5, 6, 1985

Astro Village Hotel, Houston, Texas

Tentative Schedule

Thursday - July 4

Bar-B-Que/Free Beer

Fireworks Display - Viewing from MiniDome located on top floor of the hotel

Cash Bar

Friday - July 5

NASA Tour or other activities

Free time to see the sites of Houston or just relax and reminisce with "ole" acquaintances

Evening Dance - Live Band

Saturday - July 6

Business Meeting

Lunch

Static Display

Special Event (to be outlined at a later date)

Banquet - Hawaiian Theme

Hotel Rates - \$50.00 per day with no occupancy limit. Rooms include two (2) beds. Rollaway beds are available for \$10.00 extra. Kids are encouraged to bring sleeping bags. The first night's deposit must be paid direct to Astro Village Hotel, at least two (2) weeks prior to arrival date.

If any members would like to **share a room**, they should contact Terrie at VHPA Headquarters. Include your name, expected arrival and departure dates. She will match up roomies and get them in touch with each other, so that reservations can be made together, prior to the deadline.

The next newsletter will contain the reunion registration form which is to be mailed to VHPA Headquarters. VHPA must know in advance if you plan to attend, so that the hotel can plan for dinner and the meeting room. A few late comers can always be accommodated; however, don't be one of the 200 last minute "drop ins".

Transportation is available from the two major airports to the Astro Village Hotel. Taxi transportation is estimated to cost \$22.00 from IAH, and \$17.00 from Hobby. Also available is a bus which runs from the airports to the downtown satellite terminal, where the hotel courtesy bus will pick up. The cost is: \$5.00 from IAH (per person), and \$4.00 from Hobby, (per person).

Child care will be available for Friday evening and Saturday, at a nominal charge. Also available will be discounts for area attractions and events.

MEMBER NEWS

WAYNE BURK has been named Vice President of ARIS Helicopters, Ltd., San Jose, California. ARIS is the largest helicopter firm in Northern California and handles a variety of operations, including executive transportation, emergency response, express cargo/mail delivery, and industrial heavy lift. Wayne has been assigned the important task of working with other helicopter operators in the development of a public heliport serving the San Francisco Financial District.

BERT RHINE, a Test Pilot and "ERV" NELSON, a Flight Test Engineer, recently completed a four month "around the world" marketing tour for Hughes Helicopters. They were demonstrating Hughes' new 530 MG gunship. No doubt this trip has enhanced their "War Story" list and they will be well equipped for the next VHPA reunion.

JOHN M. SLATTERY is also a member of an organization that may be of particular interest to VHPA members who soloed helicopters prior to 1965 "Slats" is Historian/Secretary for the

"Twirly Birds", an exclusive and elite International organization of pioneering pilots of helicopters and other vertical take-off aircraft, founded in 1949.

Membership is limited to those who have accomplished the following:

FOUNDER MEMBER: Those who have soloed a helicopter or other vertical take-off aircraft in sustained complete flight, including a take-off and landing prior to V-J Day (August 14, 1945).

GENERAL MEMBER: Those who have soloed a helicopter or other vertical take-off aircraft in sustained complete flight, including take-off and landing over 20 years ago.

For more details and/or a membership application, please contact:

JOHN M. SLATTERY

SALUTE II - DEDICATION

Veterans' Day in Washington, D.C. is a spiritual experience - especially during a National Salute. The 1982 dedication of THE WALL was called National Salute, while the 1984 dedication of the statue of the three soldiers was called National Salute II. You feel glad and proud to be a Vietnam Veteran and you can feel the "camaraderie" again. To see veterans holding a banner over THE WALL saying "Together Then///Together Again" is very moving. You almost feel like you are in church or on holy ground the closer you get to THE WALL. People are reverent, pensive - yet open to your own emotions - a lot of hugging, a lot of tears, a lot of understanding is evident there.

Washington, D.C. is more than a place of monuments. Veterans' Day is more than a date. Veterans' organizations come from all the major units and from all across the country. So it is truly an event!! Something for everyone!!

- 'open houses': by each major organization (such as 1st Cav, Americal, 101 ABN, 3rd Marine Divisions and even smaller units like the 199th Light Infantry BDE and the 11th Armored Cav. Unfortunately the 1st Aviation BDE is not organized yet.)
- chances to meet: old friends and/or make new ones from your old unit.
- memorials: such as a candlelight service for the POW/MIAs Saturday night at THE WALL.
- entertainment: Such as a Chris Noel concert.
- social: lots of beer drinking and war stories until early hours in the morning.
- exercise: you can (and will) walk forever!
- education: lots of book vendors as well as literature on everything.
- souvenirs: lots of T-shirts, buttons, hats, etc. for sale.
- people watching: on the scale of 100,000 people.
- getting involved: a chance to join various POW/MIA organizations or Veterans' Groups or unit organizations.
- see important people: like President Reagan and others as they pay tribute to Vietnam Veterans.

The only missing item this year was a parade. The 1982 parade was super!!

There is something special about riding a Metro train and listening to two guys talk about a town in Vietnam whose name you haven't remembered for 15 years.

There is something special about seeing five guys walking with their heads held high and wearing parts of old jungle fatigues.

There is something special about seeing a man wearing a t-shirt which says 'Vietnam - you had to be there!' and a woman next to him wearing a t-shirt which says 'I wasn't there - but I care.'

There is something special about seeing your old combat patch on a few dozen guys during an afternoon.

There is something special about a guy with a smile on his face, his hand extended, wearing a flight suit coming up to you and saying: "Were you a helicopter pilot too? What unit? When were you there?"

There is something special about holding your wife's hand and sharing your Vietnam memories and emotions.

There is something special about showing your son (born after the war) the name of your wingman on THE WALL and when he asks why you are crying...you say "Because if that was my name on that wall in his place, neither you nor I would be here today - and I thank God we are able to be here today!"

Words (especially mine) can't do justice to Veterans' Day in Washington, D.C. Just like a vacation to Hawaii or going to the Superbowl - you HAVE TO BE THERE!! I encourage every Vietnam Veteran and his family to go - it is well worth the effort.

Mike Law

7/17 Cav '68-'69 Vietnam

MEMBER NEWS (Con't from page 4)

LOREN DOW, presently an Army CW4 aviator in Mannheim, Germany, qualified for VHPA membership backwards from most VHPA members. Instead of flying helicopters in "Nam" as a military type, he was a civilian. Loren was Chief Pilot of Operations for Evergreen Helicopters and served as Captain aboard an All Nippon Airways S-61N Mark V in support offshore oil operations from October 1974 until April 1975. In fact, Loren commanded the last civilian helicopter to depart Ton Son Nhut before Saigon fell to the Communists in April, 1975. He intends to write a book about his experiences and will undoubtedly share more of these with us in the future.

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES

VHPA four color membership certificates are being mailed as this goes to press. If your dues have been paid, you should receive yours within the next month. Enclosed with the certificate is a four color patch which can be applied with heat, to such things as a baseball hat. Also enclosed is a decal for the inside of your auto window. Extra patches and decals can be ordered from Dave Grieger, (see ad this page). Please check your certificate. If your name has been misspelled, return the certificate and a new one will be sent to you. Duplicate certificates, with or without nicknames, an extra for the office, etc., are available for \$5.00 each.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS

Nominations are being accepted for the offices of Vice-President and one Executive Council Member-at-Large for the upcoming year. If you have an interest in serving your organization in either of these positions, contact the Nominating Committee Chairman, Bill Rheams, at 6304 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA 70118. Please refer to the VHPA Bylaws Chapter 3. Those running for office and those voting must be present at the annual business meeting held in conjunction with the reunion.

DUES REMINDER

Due to a limited budget and an all volunteer staff, only a single dues reminder postcard will be mailed annually. Additional reminders will be printed in selected Newsletters. As you may have noticed, last year's first notice was printed in the October Newsletter. This notice was followed up by the one and only postcard reminder mailed in November. You can help the cause by paying your dues before the January 1st deadline each year. If your address label is marked with a "Z" in the upper righthand corner, the "pony express" has not come through with your annual dues.

Watch for the next Newsletter!

It will be published in May and will contain registration forms for the upcoming reunion in Houston. Only individuals who have paid 1985 dues will receive this newsletter.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN HOUSTON!



**VIETNAM
HELICOPTER
PILOTS
ASSOCIATION**

VHPA LOGO

The Executive Council, by unanimous vote, decided that the "Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA)" logo and name will be protected from misrepresentation and misuse. Prior approval must be obtained in writing from the Executive Council for the use of the logo and/or VHPA name.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The VHPA NEWSLETTER welcomes notices of future events that may be of interest to our members.

March 28-31, 1985

Army Aviation Association of America 27th Annual Convention and Exhibits, Cervantes Convention Center, St. Louis. Contact AAAA (203) 226-8184.

May 11-12, 1985

6th Annual Helicopter Operations & Safety Seminar, Ohio State University Airport, Worthington, Ohio. Contact Bruce Wise (614) 889-2533.

May 15-17, 1985

American Helicopter Society 41st Annual Forum and Technology Display, Ft. Worth, Texas. Contact AHS (703) 684-6777.

July 4-6, 1985

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Reunion, Astro Village Hotel, Houston, Texas. Contact VHPA, P.O. Box 35699, Phoenix, Arizona 85069.

July 26-Aug. 2, 1985

EAA International Fly-in Convention and Sport Aviation Exhibition, Wittman Airfield, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Information: (414) 426-4800.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

T-SHIRT (M, L, XL)
7.50

SWEATSHIRT (L, XL)
12.00

"PATCH"
3.50

Hat w/Patch w/"eggs"
8.50

"Stickers"
1.50



(4-colors!)



("Call Signs")

T-SHIRT (M, L, XL)
7.50

SWEATSHIRT (L, XL)
12.00

12.00

D & G P.O. Box 12105 Columbus, GA 31907

Item (Description)	Size	Unit Price	Amount



VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 35699
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85069

Annual Dues \$ 20.00
Life 300.00

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

OFFICE USE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ FLIGHT SCHOOL CLASS _____

List below information about EACH Vietnam helicopter tour:

<u>DATE</u>		<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CALL SIGN</u>
From	To			

Total Combat Hours _____ Would you like to attend the next reunion? _____

Present Occupation _____

Remarks: (Models of helicopters flown, hobbies, talents of value to VHPA, telephone, medals & awards, etc.)



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