



Dear Sir,

As the First Sergeant of the Tigers during the tumultuous days prior to turning over the unit to the VNAF in November 1970, our unit force had been disseminated and reassigned to other Delta units. As I recall, my enlisted strength when we furled the unit colors for the last time and went into inactive duty as a unit, consisted of 21 EM on board in addition to maybe 10 or less officers and WO's combined.

With the USAF there to help us transition (God help us) there was mass confusion. This stand-down happened very quickly.

Then, in the course of clearing out the orderly room I happened upon the Unit History book. Not knowing what to do with this wonderful piece of archived information, I secured it and hand carried it back to CONUS.

Later, being assigned at Mother Rucker I happened upon a retired O-6 (name long forgotten) that was a member of St. Marks Episcopal Church that my family and I attended. In the course of conversation we discovered that at one time he too had been a Tiger commander. In the course of our continuing talks I mentioned the Unit History book to the Colonel.

Having been a history major I realized the import of this document, also, I had no idea of what or who to give it to. In time, I gave it over to the former CO who said he would see it placed within the Army Historical Archives. Now, if this happened or not, I have no clue. This maybe a place to begin research in locating this document. Also, I think I'd also contact the curator of the Army Aviation Museum at Fortress Rucker to see if it may have ended up in their archives.

That may indeed be a start for a search. I'm sorry that I can't be more definitive, as time passes my brain cells die much more rapidly than I like, however, this is the best I can do.

Also, I have, arguably, the very last picture taken of Tuffy at the Dayton Zoo. It was given to me by the First Sergeant of the re-instituted 121st AVN Co at Ft. Benning on 1 June 1981, the day I retired and paid a courtesy call on the unit.

As I recognize my own mortality now, this picture of a mascot, rare indeed in the annals of Army Air, needs to find a final resting place. I also have a 121st Unit Yearbook (see top first page pic) that too needs a final home. Indeed, from the UTT till we folded the colors, the unit was bathed in glory over years by many dedicated aviation soldiers, many of which never came home.

When I fall into the Final Battalion with the Supreme Commander my children and wife will have no clue as to what these two, seemingly insignificant documents mean...Tuffy and a tattered Unit Year book.

So...these too need a final repository so perhaps in time a historian may find them useful in research...any suggestions you may have will be considered and appreciated.

I know this was more then a simplistic answer, but facts that someone else needed to know.

Sincerely,

John

