VIETNAM
HELICOPTER
PILOTS
ASSOCIATION

The VHPA Newsletter

P.O. Box 35699 Phoenix, Arizona 85069 November 1985

Day's End — 1st Cav's LZ Hammond, Phu Cat, Vietnam, 1966. *photo by Roger Gould*

FROM THE EDITOR:

Wew! There were times when I wasn't sure we would make it, but here we are one year's worth of newsletters later. Starting with zero experience, it's been fun learning how to put one of these things together. Fortunately, I have had the right kind of assistance. A major source of previously unacknowledged help is the fine folks at HOGUE PRINTING in Mesa, Arizona. Sure, I know they are being paid, but the difference has been the numerous times they have delivered much more than was being bought. I am particularly grateful for the assistance, patience, and skill of STACEY VAN HORSEN, a very talented layout artist, and PATTY MARTIN, one super secretary/receptionist.

I am sure you have noticed how each newsletter has changed, as we gradually search for a style and format that will give ours a unique character. An additional goal is to set procedures that will provide future editors a firm foundation to build from. So, another change, beginning with this issue the front cover will feature a Vietnam era photo. Of course there will be exceptions, such as post reunion issues, etc. It would also be fun to continue to run a "What is it?" photo like the one on the back cover. If you like these changes, YOUR PHOTOS are needed to make them permanent.

While on the subject of newsletter change, a most welcome one is the addition of a new column, the "PRESIDENT'S ROLL CALL." Thanks BILL, for a precedent I am sure will be greatly appreciated in the future. OK, enough of this chit-chat, on to year number two.

Roger Gould
Editor

"We Shall Not Forget You!"

VHPA Officers and Committee Chairmen 1985-1986

President:	BILL RINGER
Vice President:	MIKE McDONALD
Executive Director:	LARRY CLARK
Executive Council Members at Large:	DAVE GREIGER MIKE LAW C. DAVE OWENS
Membership:	RON WRIGHT JOE SCHREIBER
Nominating:	BILL RHEAMS
Public Relations:	CHUCK NEUBERT
Reunion:	JAY ELLIOTT
Historical:	DAN HUTCHINSON
Records/Data Base:	MIKE LAW
Women's Auxiliary:	KATHY USTER
Newsletter Editor:	ROGER GOULD

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.

INCOMING MAIL

CRAZIES LIKE US

Ever since I unexpectedly left that wondrous land over the choppy seas, I have wondered about the friends I made and where they were, what they're doing, did they even survive? I had hoped to get together "the Guys" for a reunion of our unit, but now I don't have to, you guys have done it all for me! And not just my unit, but everybody!!

I just learned of the VHPA by chance this summer, right before Houston, so could not attend; but you best believe I'll be in Washington, D.C. with my family. I'm very impressed with what has been accomplished so far and am really looking forward to the future with the VHPA. Already I've started recruiting.

The neat thing about the organization for me is that after going through the directory, my wife recognized more names than I did! Now before anyone gets any funny ideas, my wife (Sharon Lytle Marshall) was a secretary at Ft. Wolters in O & I at School Brigade. After being assigned as a 10th WOC TAC, I swept her off her feet and the rest is history.

Fifteen years later she's as anxious as I am for the next reunion. Actually, I think she's hoping I'll show my slides to someone else besides her. That was our first date, my flight school buddy and I bored her and her girlfriend with our slides of Vietnam! Some people just don't appreciate a great time.

Thanks to the founders of the organization-I hope this group can grow and benefit each and every member. Only good things can come from a bunch of CRAZIES LIKE US!!

Phil Marshall

[redacted]

Figures, only a Dustoff pilot could be crazy enough to think of it as a "wondrous land". Phil, no wonder you swept your wife off her feet, she just couldn't handle all that optimism. Sure glad you joined and the bet is even money you can recruit the world. P.S. We could use any slides your wife doesn't want. Ed.

SAVE A PLACE INSIDE YOU

Upon reading "Thanks, Nurse" by Diane Carlson Evans in the August '85 Newsletter, I remembered a poem I clipped out of a local newspaper several years ago.

If you are able,
save for them a place
inside of you...
and save one backward glance
when you are leaving
for the places they can
no longer go...
Be not ashamed to say
you loved them,
though you may
or may not have always...
Take what they have left
and what they have taught you
with their dying
and keep it in your own...
And in that time
when men decide and feel safe
to call war insane,
take one moment to embrace
those gentle heroes
you left behind.

What gives the poem, dated January 1, 1970, added significance is the author, Major Michael Davis O'Donnell, was killed in action piloting a rescue helicopter.

Barry Geller

[redacted]

Besides staying in touch with old friends, a stated purpose of VHPA is to remember those who gave it all. Because you took the time Barry, we are able to do that and, in at least a small way, get to know another of our fallen comrades. Ed.

YOU'RE HISTORY!

I am collaborating with Professor Joe Guilmartin of Rice University on an historical survey of the use of helicopters in Southeast Asia, 1960-1975 (The Helicopter War). We would like to hear from pilots who might be willing to share with us some of their experiences. We are especially interested in obtaining copies of diaries, letters, and other personal documentation.

Could you bring our project to the attention of your members?

Bill Leary
Professor of History
The University of Georgia
LeConte Hall
Athens, Georgia 30602

[redacted]

No sweat Bill, you got the right war and the right bunch of heli-ca-peter drivers, but the question is can they be believed? The first liar doesn't stand a chance in this group. Small wonder documentation is preferred. Ed.

DOWN UNDER KNOWS ABOUT US!

I got your address from a newsletter put out by an outfit named "Little Saigon" in Hollywood, California.

I was in the Australian Air Force in Vietnam in 1971. I was stationed at Vung Tau Air Force Base, and was a Senior NCO crewchief, working with Caribou transports and Hueys.

I often went out on the slicks and gunships when my regular duties permitted and really miss those choppers, nowadays! I did my 20 and retired from the service in 1974. I'd like to subscribe to your association and learn more of its doings, if I may. Perhaps receive a regular newsletter, if you print one.

If you could find the time to let me know about this then I could forward you the necessary U.S. dollars to pay costs.

I am also interested in buying books, unit year books, in country unit newspapers, etc. from the Vietnam war period.

If any of the members have such items to sell, please let me know.

Geoff Tierney

[redacted]

Thanks for writing, Geoff. A complimentary copy of this newsletter is on the way. Sorry, but for the present we have no means of accepting subscriptions. We will let you know when we do. Ed.

OPEN TO ALL VETERANS

We recently received the VHPA Newsletter which states that your group is open to all helicopter pilots who flew in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam Era.

We are enclosing some information about our organization, which is open to all veterans, in the hope that some of your members may wish to join us.

Continued next page . . .

INCOMING MAIL, *Continued*

If you would like to discuss anything further, please call me at 1-800-VIETNAM or (717) 825-7215.

Michael Milne
Executive Director
Veterans of the Vietnam War
[redacted]

Thanks for the info, Mike. We will be glad to pass on your information to any VHPA members who request it. Ed.

On behalf of the "Stinger" Gunship Platoon Reunion Committee of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company, I would personally like to thank you and your staff for all of your assistance in locating many of our pilots.

The tradition of complete professionalism and courtesy that was so characteristic of helicopter pilots throughout the Vietnam War is exemplified today throughout your organization.

Our heartfelt thanks once again to you, your entire staff, and to the many pilots we met in Houston who helped us so much.

Thomas J. Callahan
"Stinger" Reunion Committee
[redacted]

Any time Tom, the VHPA would not be complete without "Stinger" representation. NOTE: This letter was sent to Larry Clark and we took the liberty of sharing it with you. Ed.

ATTENTION AIR AMERICA TYPES

Space permitting, could you run a notice for us in the next newsletter? Your newsletter will probably reach more people who might know of Air America's later helicopter pilots than any other publication.

ATTENTION ALL EX-AIR AMERICA, INC. PERSONNEL!! The McDermott Library of the University of Texas at Dallas is now collecting historical data for its CAT - Air America Collection. Many ex-employees of Air America have disappeared and we need to contact them. If anyone reading this letter knows any of these people and would pass the word along, it would be very much appreciated. Contact: The Air America Club, P.O. Box 398, Rt l, Marion, Texas 78124.

Several of our club members are also members of the VHPA. You have a fine idea with this association, we wish you luck with it. I have one complaint. Not enough Marines are signed up!!

Duane Keele
V.P.-Historic Data
Air America Club
[redacted]

OK MARINES!! Make Duane happy, get those applications in. Ed.

THREE TOURS!!!

I served three tours in 'Nam as a Navy chopper pilot, flying the "Jolly Green's".

At this time, I own and operate my own business, and I'm also a free-lance writer. I'm currently working on a draft for a book about Vietnam pilots called, "Right Seat Vietnam". I have many of my own photos to use in this book, but I would like to give the other pilots a chance to get in on this too.

If any of you out there have any photos you feel could be used in this book, I would like a chance to see them. Any, and all photos I receive will be returned to the sender after publication. I will be purchasing "one time use rights" for the photos I use. This rate will be $10 per photo used, plus a copy of the book upon its publication at the end of the year.

Come on! Let's get those photos and letters coming.

Ronald L. Elrod
[redacted]

Three tours!! How'd you get so lucky, Ron? Sure hope you have a different kind of luck with the book. By the way folks, Ron is President of a nationwide refrigerated transport company. Ed.

President's Roll Call

Well I've gone and done it. Started a tradition whereby future VHPA Presidents will be obligated to write a column for our newsletter. I have elected to title the column PRESIDENT'S ROLL CALL for two reasons. One, a roll call was practically the only thing I fully understood about military life and two, it is a title that allows the President to ramble on about anything he choses. I do this fully aware that some future VHPA President will retitle this column with something a little more imaginative.

Let me begin by catching you up to date on some of the committee activities. JAY ELLIOTT and the REUNION COMMITTEE have been unbelievably successful. They have our 1986 reunion set for Washington D.C., then in 1987 we will go to the west coast (Long Beach, California) and have our reunion aboard the Queen Mary. In 1988 we have a tentative plans for Fort Worth/Dallas and a Camp Walters tour. Jay and his people are working very hard and welcome your questions or other comments. On a personal note let me add that I had the opportunity to visit "The Wall" in 1985. No amount of inconvenience or other excuse should inhibit your attendance at our 1986 reunion in Washington and a visit to "The Wall." If you went to Vietnam then you had better experience the Vietnam War Memorial. It is just that...an experience you will never forget.

Our HISTORICAL COMMITTE under DAN HUTCHINSON's guidance has established three tasks to accomplish prior to our 1986 business meeting. First determine what efforts have been undertaken to document and preserve historic information on the Vietnam helicopter pilot's experience. Second investigate the preservation of Vietnam era helicopters (military or private) and the possibility of maintaining some of these aircraft in flyable condition. The third task is to identify all options related to tasks one and two and develop a set of issues to be voted on at the next business meeting. The outcome of this vote will dictate our future course of action. This is a big job and Dan needs your ideas and help.

I just attended the National Business Aircraft Association convention in New Orleans where I ran into DAVID OWEN, BILL RHEAMS and DENNY TUCKER. A good time was had by all! Please be aware that we are working with the Helicopter Association International for a booth at their convention in Anaheim, California, January 26-28, 1986. LARRY CLARK is arranging a get together for one evening during the convention, so plan to attend.

Bill Ringer
Bikini Blue
170 AHC, Pleiku

2000/86

1986 Reunion

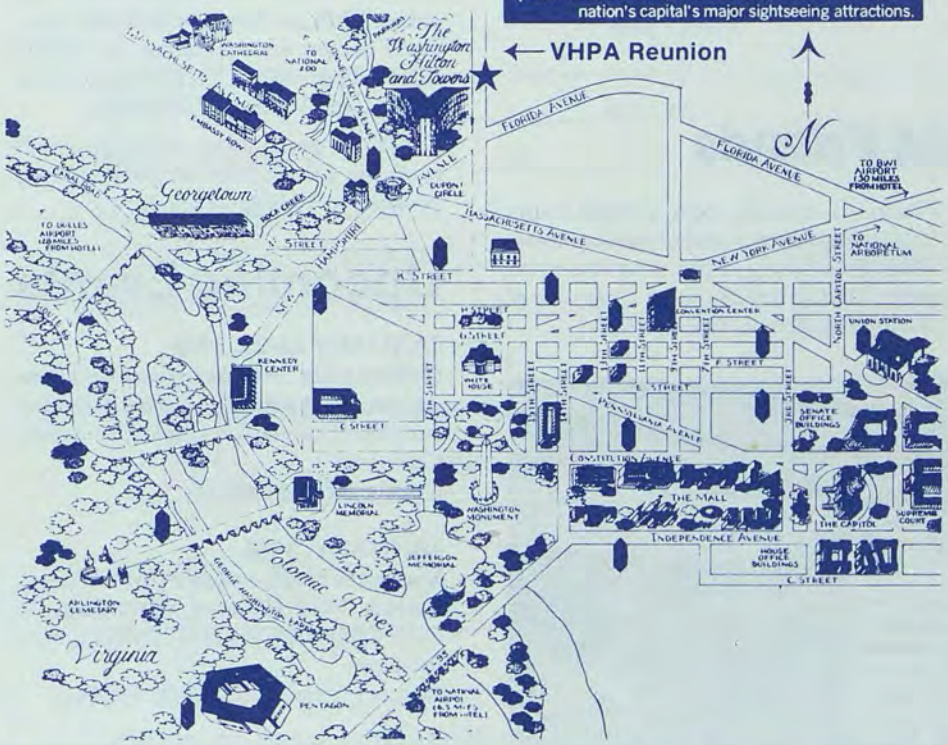
Washington, D.C. look out here we come!! As is fast becoming a tradition, our next reunion will occur over the July 4th holiday weekend. Naturally, the big reason the nation's capital was picked was to allow a visit to "The Wall", as many members have not had the opportunity and the VHPA, as an organization, has not had the chance to pay its respect. Also, celebration of 4th in Washington, D.C. offers many other attractions, for example, the fireworks display is spectacular, almost worth the trip alone. Another important reason for an east coast reunion was to spread the joy around, having had our last two get togethers in the western half of the country.

JAY ELLIOTT and his "Barn Burning" REUNION COMMITTEE have already worked up a tenative schedule and selected a hotel. What a hotel!! The WASHINGTON HILTON, located in the heart of Washington, just a stone's throw from all the goodies. No parking worries, you can get to all the major attractions on one of the nicest subways in the world. Sure is going to be GREAT!!

OK, stop frowning! And loosen the death grip on your wallet! Sure Washington hotelry is dear, and the Hilton yet! But show no fear, JAY has come through!! Only $65 a night, for a pad in the middle of D.C., now that's making it happen!

In this very newsletter you will find registation forms to put it all in cement, because I am sure you don't want to miss this one. Please make your plans known early.

As you can see, we're located in the heart of Washington, just a walk, bike ride, metro ride or short drive to all the nation's capital's major sightseeing attractions.



General Westmoreland to Attend 1986 Reunion Banquet

JAY ELLIOT invited GENERAL WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND to be our guest and keynote speaker at the 1986 Reunion in Washington, D.C. The General confirmed his attendance in the following letter to Jay.

Dear Jay:

Your letter of July 26 has just been received. Barring unforeseen circumstances, you can count on me to be at your banquet in Washington, D.C. on the evening of July 5, 1986.

I am pleased to learn that you Helicopter pilots have formed an association. It will help us all to stay "young at heart."

Regards and best wishes,

W.C. Westmoreland
General, United States Army, Retired

Member News

CHARLEY MOREHOUSE, a new member from Santa Maria, California, was a former USAF fighter pilot (P-38' s in WWII and F-51's in the Korean War) before attending Army flight school in 1966 (66-6) and serving a tour with the 71st ARC, RATTLERS, in Vietnam from June '66 to June '67.

JAMES D. CRONLEY is the VHPA's newest LIFE MEMBER. Jim attended Class 66-19 and served with the B/2/20 Arty. 1st CAV., 1966-67.

PAUL ERWAY, the computer wiz who helped organize the computers at the last reunion, is now working for the FAA in Houston.

ROSCOE C. ARMSTRONG has moved to Carrollton, Texas, where he is the Western U.S. Marketing Manager for Sikorsky Aircraft.

VICTOR RONALD BEAVER is working on a book about helicopters and pilots who flew in the Mekong Delta. You will find Vic at 302 Pondella Drive, Enterprise, Alabama 36330.

JOSEPH R. LICINA, of 104 Harrand Creek, Enterprise, Alabama 36330 is writing a book about the Army Aviation pocket insignia.

STEVE HANVEY, Manager of Engineering Flight Test, McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Company, has set new records for time to climb to 3000 meters and 6000 meters, for 1000 kg and under Class Helicopters. Flying a Hughes 530F, Steve climbed to 3000 meters in 3 minutes, 15 seconds and to 6000 meters in 6 minutes, 31 seconds. These record ascents occurred over Thermal, California on August 30, 1985 and were certified by The National Aeronautic Association, representing the F.A.I. The previous records for these altitudes had been held by Jack Zimmerman, who set them in the early 1960's in a OH6A.

LARRY CLARK recently completed an around the world trip for Sperry Flight Systems. Poor Larry, the last half of the trip was very unpleasant, seems the Cholera latched its deadly claws into him somewhere in Indonesia, and we came close to losing the Founder of this great association. Thanks to the Good Lord and an inherent meanness that exists in all helicopter pilots the bad bugs were defeated. Larry says he's beginning to feel 100% again and has been back on the job for several weeks.

A Note from the Executive Director

First, I want to thank all of the members that have taken the time to climb up into the attic or dig around in all those old boxes in the basement to find copies of old class orders and/or graduation booklets. They are a great help to the VHPA in trying to fill in the empty blanks. Someday, only the VHPA will know how many classes graduated and the number in each class. The U.S. Army doesn't seem to be able to tell us.

Also appreciated is information that you have sent in about friends that were KIA or that have become deceased since returning from Vietnam. All of this additional information will make the next membership directory bigger and better. If you haven't done so yet, go dig in that old box and see what interesting things you can find to share with the rest of us.

Finally, a gentle reminder that general memberships are due for renewal soon. Except for new members who join in the last quarter of each year, annual dues are payable on or before l January of the new year. Those who joined in the last quarter will begin paying renewal dues on or before l January of the second year after initial membership. This procedure is identical to that being used by many other organizations our size. We realize that those of you who joined during the first three quarters of the year get less than a full year's membership for your money, but with a very limited volunteer staff it is impossible for the VHPA to account for dues renewal on a monthly basis. Someday, when we are large enough to support a full time administrative staff we can make the system entirely fair. In the meantime, thanks for your understanding.

Larry Clark

Looking for Old Friends

VICTOR R. BEAVER, [redacted] is looking for Victor Noe, ex Soc Trang Tiger and John Samp, ex C Troop Sandpiper.

KENT G. ELLIS, [redacted] requests information about Jerry Hicks, who was in his unit; 11th General Support Company of the 1st Cav Div in 1966 to 1967.

Jane Who? VHPA member BOB STAFFORD presenting the late Henry Fonda a token of appreciation for his 1967 visit to Phu Loi. Standing in the doorway of Black Cat Operations is a young CPT JOEL HINSON (now COL Hinson, Chief of the Warrant Officer Division, MILPERCEN, U.S. Army).

VHPA Videos

GREAT NEWS! All the hurdles have been overcome and the special video presentation BOB BEAUDREAULT made at the 1985 Reunion is now available for your purchase. Bob is offering two options; (1) You furnish a blank VHS or Beta tape and a self-addressed/stamped shipping container and the cost is $35. (2) Bob furnishes everything, including postage, and the cost is $50. If ordering under option two, please indicate format (VHS or Beta) and number of tapes desired. Make checks payable to BOB BEAUDREAULT and mail orders to 3310 Bissonet, Houston, Texas 77005.

GREAT NEWS II! This is almost like Christmas, MIKE McDONALD has put together a video of the 1985 Reunion, Fort Rucker, Fort Wolters Today, Winning Reunion Warstories, and TV NEWS coverage of the Houston reunion. About two hours worth on either VHS or Beta for $35 per tape. Send orders with payment to VIDEO EDITING & PRODUCTIONS, P.O. Box 55, Pasadena, Texas 77501-0055.

NOTE: A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of both of these tapes is donated to VHPA.

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 26-28, 1986
Helicopter Association International Annual Convention. Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California
Details: (202) 466-2420

JANUARY, 1986
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Mid-Winter Meeting. In conjunction with the HAI Convention, in Anaheim.
Contact: Larry Clark (602) 942-7863

JULY 3-6, 1986
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association 3rd Annual Reunion. The Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
Information: Jay Elliot (817) 735-8810

2000/86

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 35699 — Phoenix, Arizona 85069

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
OR
CHANGE OF ADDRESS

OFFICE USE

MN _____

DP _____

APPLICATION: ☐
ADDRESS CHANGE: ☐

ANNUAL DUES: $20.
LIFE MEMBERSHIP: $300.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: ( ) _____ WORK PHONE: ( ) _____

OCCUPATION: _____

FLIGHT SCHOOL CLASS: _____ SERVICE BRANCH: _____

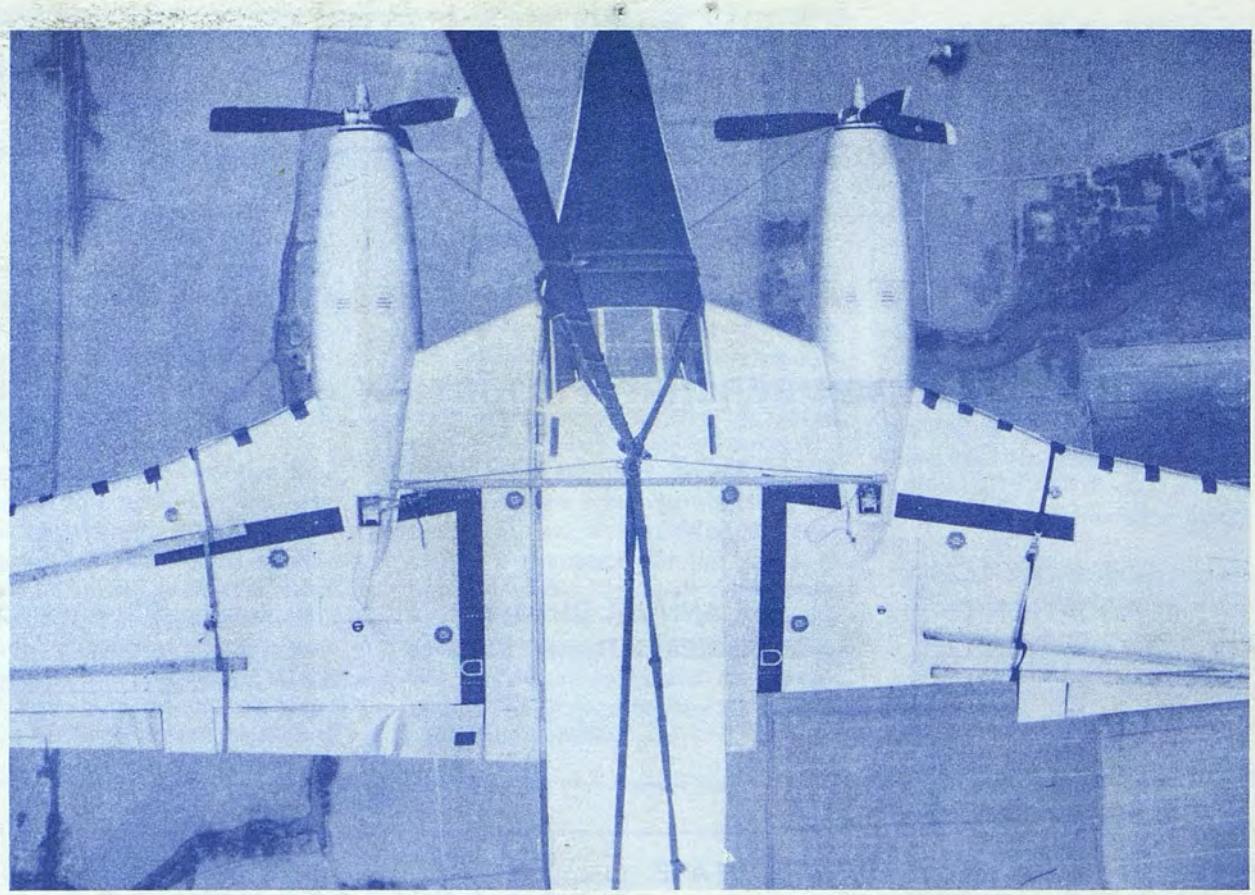
COMBAT FLIGHT HOURS: _____ SSN: _____

Information about EACH Vietnam Tour:

DATE From	DATE To	UNIT	LOCATION	CALL SIGN

Information about YOU: Helicopters flown, medals/awards, talents, hobbies, and anything else.

NOTE: This form may be used for DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS



WHAT IS IT? An autographed copy of *Chicken Hawk* to the first member correctly identifying this aircraft and its flight configuration.

VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 35699 Phoenix, Arizona 85069

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 54

ADDRESS CORRECTION
REQUESTED

[redacted]