

DRAGONFLIGHT

20 MAY 2004

THE HOTEL

This is the second time we will have used the Crowne Plaza St Louis Airport as our LZ for the reunion. It is located right next to the Airport so if you fly in their courtesy car can have you there in 2 minutes. The hotel is right on Interstate 70 so if you are driving from anywhere in the country it is easy to find.

Our room rates are \$75.00 a night. All you have to do is let them know you have group rate with the 52D CAB. You can call

or go to our web site click on Crowne Plaza and use the Group Code (CAB) remember the dates, we arrive on the 10/07/2004 and depart on the 10/10/2004.

The hotel has a great Restaurant. It's a TGY FRIDAY and for breakfast we gather at the hotels own breakfast buffet. There is a huge Atrium, swimming pools, and exercise area, for those so inclined.

We have use of a nice sized Hospitality room 24 hrs a day and we keep it fully stocked.

HELLO

Two months ago I sent out over 500 copies of our newsletter with what I thought was some really great news, our agreement with Texas Tech University, and the fruition of a lot of work by Paul Wilson that allows a lot of you to get your award of the Presidential Unit Citation.

I did not get one e-mail, letter, or phone call on either subject. Which kind of leaves me wondering, maybe this kind of stuff is not important to you and if not what is?

Speaking of e-mails, I am asking you to use a word key if you send me a e-mail, because of these darn viruses going around. Please include (52d cab) in the subject line or I am liable not to open it. Even though I have the best of current software one still got to me last week again. It was using my address to send itself to others so I hope you did not get it from me.

The Cut off to get names in the Dragonfire Chronicles is 1 July so if you have roster updates get them to me now please.

CONTACT ME

Its time to let me know if you are coming to this years reunion. All the big stuff has been done. Now I need to start getting numbers together. Please don't get me wrong if you were to get up on the 7th of October and say to yourself I think I'll go to that reunion, you would be more than welcome, after all it is your reunion. But I'm just that ole Vern guy that does the work and I really do need you to help me out so I can plan for things. So pull the back sheet off this newsletter fill it out and send it to me I am especially worried about committing for these tours we have lined up, that's a lot of money up front we have to put out. So let me know now please.

GUEST OF HONOR

I talked to Minh Lap on Saturday and she is very excited to be coming as our guest of honor. I know a lot of you knew and worked with her over the years and she is looking forward to seeing you again after all this time. I will be arranging for her room and travel next week, but I still need a host/escort for her to insure her stay with us as enjoyable as possible.

I would truly like to have as many of the Battalion Commanders, and officers and NCO's who were assigned to HHC 52d CAB attend this gathering as is possible and I am looking for a volunteer to work on this project. Hint....Hint

I need someone to help on this one. I'll even provide all telephone numbers postage and address labels of all who worked in HHC. So give me a call.

Messages we have received

Name: Thomas Aubrey

Assigned 52Security Platoon/52 Aviation Bn
Dates in unit April 1967 - July 1967

Comments I am pleased, honored, and proud to have served with the men of the 52d Aviation BN

God bless you all and Welcome Home brother!!!!!!!!!!!!

Tom is good to hear from a fellow member from 52d Security Platoon Dragon 11

Name: DonMartin

Unit Assigned 119th AHC

Dates in unit Oct 1967 - Oct 1968

Comments Hello to all former Gators, Crocs, Dragons, fellow aviation flight crews and maintenance personnel, staff... all. A bit of sad news. Former Dragon 2 (S-2, 52 CAB, 10/67-10/68) and my best friend, LTC (ret) Leo F. (Lee) Welsh, died in October 2003 of pancreatic cancer. I delivered his eulogy in Copperas Cove, Texas at his memorial service. Another great soldier, paratrooper, aviator, infantryman has gone from our midst. I hope to have better news next time I log in. Best wishes to all. Don / Croc 6.

Thanks you for the sad information Don we will get it posted. Dragon-11

Name: Nikki Scruggs

this is the vietnam war!

Homepage URL:

Referred By: Search Engine Unit Assigned

Dates in unit. N/A

Thanks for the kind comment Nikki. Dragon11

Name: Jim Lohman

Referred By: Just Surfed In Unit Assigned 361st

Dates in unit: 11/68-11/69

Comments: I was in the hangar for awhile, then went into the TI office with SP6 Lee, SP6 Rolf and SSG Jones. Maj. Furney was the CO. WO Melvin worked the night shift—pretty good Hearts player. CPT Savage was the Maintenance Officer

Thanks for the information on the 361St, Jim.

Dragon 11

Vern

Thanks for the message. I have received your newsletter in the past. I moved a couple of years ago ...So I guess I have been lost. I'll complete the form on this message and see if my wife will give me the \$20.00

Thanks for what you do, i know many guys look forward to this kind of contact.

I'm in the NG and still flying.
Bikini 18
Phil

Thanks for the up date Phil.

Speaking of still flying, Ty Simmons like so many others was extended for at least another 3 months so he is still in Iraqu and in harms way. That means it will be close to reunion time when he arrives back here. I hope he can make it, I am sure he will have some tales to tell. Please keep him and all the rest of our brothers-in-arms in you prayers may they be kept safe and returned home to us.

Dragon-11

I received a note from Gerry Sandlin that George Meeker and Sherrill were involved in a head on colission, they had multible injuries, broken bones etc and spent quite a bit of time in the Intensive Care Unit. They are in the slow mend period and it will take monthes of rehab for the both of them. Please keep them in you thoughts and prayers also.

HISTORY PROJECT

Please start gathering your materials for the 52d CAB/CP Holloway history project. Either send the materials you would like to have included to me, or even better bring them to the reunion and deliver them yourself. Photos, stories, anything that had in any way to do with you, your unit, our mission and/or Cp Holloway both on and off duty will be greatly appreciated.

Sunday 04/18/2004 3:15:28pm

Name: John D Mustard

Unit Assigned Hq. 52nd Aviation

Dates in unit March 1964-Sep 1965

Comments I was a Captain, and I Assistant S-3, and you have the mortar attack caption on one of the photos as Dec 1964. Actual date ,vas Feb 7,1965. I was in the COC directing the counter attack, and Col. John Hughes was the unit Commander.

My primary duties during the last six months was to operate the COC, and assign missions, and I flew the Battalion Med-Evac as necessary sometimes as much as 14 hours a day. Most of the time, W-2 Bruce Mauldin, Cartoonist Bill Mauldin's son, was my co-pilot. He was the Assistant S-1. Bill was present during the attack, and borrowed a carbine, and a 12 ga. from me, which he lost. I then loaned him my personal .45, which I still have. Bruce was in Hong Kong on R&R, and a mortar round came through the roof of his hooch, and landed on his bunk!

I have a copy of the Operations Report I personally made during this attack. and the one that I used during the news reporter briefing. Some of the material I wrote I found to be erroneous, as we had thought that only mortar's had destroyed the helicopters, but in actuality, some had been destroyed by satchel charges. They had simply walked up the runway from the East past our sleeping RVN guards.

The defensive bunkers that you have pictured, I personally designed, and supervised their construction. If you would like a copy of the action report, I can e-mail it to you.

John we would greatly appreciate you sending us a copy of that operations report and anyother materials you may have in your possession. we are working with Texas Tech on a unit history project. All donations are appreciated. Dragon 11



**REMEMBER OUR FALLEN FRIENDS
MEMORIAL DAY 2004**

From: Burt Mixter

To: Vern Gano

Subject: 52 CAB and Camp Holloway, Pleiku, RVN

Vern,

I tried to call but your phone was busy. Thanks for the letter. I'm Burt Mixter (Wilbur), it's what only my mother and another close friend calls me, Seriously, it's good to hear from you,

I was in the 189th AHC as the Service Platoon leader. As a Capt. then under Dick Caldwell a Major then the CO of the 604th Trans Det. Our initial CO was another TC Officer. Tim or John Webster. The XO. Was a Major, temporarily forgotten his name. The Bn CO was a Lt. Col. Smithy, Dick Caldwell, not sure when, had served under him in Korea. Some of the other officers where Dick Coulter as the operations officer, Jesse Stewart had an OPS. role Dick became tile Bn S3, Jesse became the S4. When in Sept of 67 Jess took over tile 170th I assumed the command of tile 405th detachment. We held those positions until May of 68 when I DEROS'ed home. Phil Ashlev was initially with me then went to the 545th Det, the backup for 119th AHC. I'd been assigned. to the 81st when it was at Ft Riley as my first assignment out of flight school in 59. It then went to RVN as the 119th or became that when the combat arms people realized what good use they could make of the airmobile concept.

Bud Kraft came to the 170th or the 189th then went to the 17th Avn Group in Nha Trang as an Ops or Adjutant guy. I have some pictures of me in front of a Bikini Huey. Pickney Cochran was the Gunship leader, of the 189th which had formed at Ft Carson in the fall of 66. Jimmy Moore was the Ops Officer of the 170th, a Capt. Patterson I think had the Buccaneers, the gunship platoon. I do not remember tile other platoon leader names.

I'd assumed command of the 405th from Vern Woodward who was in the Newport News, Va. area last I knew. He was in real estate. A Bill Hines came in with a Crane Company in 68 after TET as I recall. Vern, Bill Hines and I were in the TC Career Course together, then the AMOC course. We reunited along with Phil Ashley, we met then again in Germany. Phil, Bill and I were in Finthen, Germany outside of Mainz. I was with the 8th Inf. Div. Bill had the 708th DS Co, Phil was in the GS Company of another support group out of Mannheim as I recall. Jess Stewart was in the Avn. Bn HQ as the Adjutant. The DS Company at the lower end of the runway at Pleiku, was the 604th TC Company of the 34 GS Group. My second tour I went back there from Saigon when assigned to the 34th Group in 71. The place had changed some.

In the 170th one of my men, Jake Shakula an E6 tech inspector I met again at Ft Eustis. Some of the other names have been lost memory but the faces remain.

I am considering attending the reunion in October. Please send me via e-mail the details. What sort of advanced reservations are required etc.

Burt thank you for sending us this very informative letter. It adds a lot to our history. I hope things work out and you can attend this years reunion. Dragon-11

From: Kalea Mock

I am working with an NSO Hans Lykins, Senator Lugar, Congressman Dan Burton, and different Federal departments.

I am trying to get military records concerning my late husband Vernon Mock. He was in Vietnam in 67 & 68, 82nd Airborne, Ranger, 5th Special Forces, MACVSOG. I have the names for 5 of the six men: Dick Meadows, CL Chapman, Mike Buckley, Clarence Dodge, and Vernon Mock. Vernon is the very handsome squatting person, with his thumb in the air. CL Chapman is the man standing up behind Vernon. Vernon was Hawaiian from Honolulu.

Vern's records (DD-214) are messed up, but Signal Company is still listed on them. I think Vernon was with the the Spike Team Maine. He was with James Glover when the elephants stampeded and broke Glover's foot I also think Vern had signal training in Georgia.

Hans says that I need to find people who knew Vern in Vietnam and obtain a letter stating that they were with Vern in Vietnam. If you know the names of any of the other people in this picture could you give me a call or e-mail please. If you knew Vern (or CL Chapman), could you please call me also. If you have any information at all that could help, please give me a call or e-mail.

Your help is very much appreciated and needed.

Thanks,

Chris Kalea Mock

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 5/11/2004 11:00:05 PM Subject: Call signs

Progress on the Plei Me book is good despite many interruptions. I am in need of names of personnel and call signs for various units. Here are the units and call signs needed. All call signs and frequencies were changed about 25 Oct when a copy of the 801/881 was lost during the night battle along the road to Plei Me. I think our call signs from 1965 are no longer classified.

5th Special Forces Group (Savoy?)

SF Detachment C-2

SF Detachment A-217

II Corps Hqs

24th Special Tactical Zone

3rd Armored Cavalry Squadron

21 st Ranger Bn

22nd Ranger Bn

42nd Inf

Pleiku Sector was Fire Tree then All Together

FACs were Baron.

52nd Avn Bn were Dragons

119th Aslt Helicopter Co slicks were Alligators and Guns were Crocodiles

219th Aviation (Bird Dogs) were Headhunters

209th Air Commando Squadron

Dale Potter's Husky

1 st Air Commando Squadron

1st Brigade, 1st Cav Div

If you recall an individuals call sign and number, please pass it along.

Thanks

Sol

S. Vaughn Binzer The Plei Me Society

Sol I am sure that a lot of our folks cand send you some of the information you are looking for. They can either contact you directly or I will forward the information to you. We sure would like a copy of your book when you finish it for inclusion in the battalion history project.

Please let us know when it is available so we can aquire a copy or two.

Dragon 11

WHO IS COMING TO THE REUNION

Its early yet I know, but quite a few folks have notified me the are coming to the reunion already. Get me your name for the June Newsletter so your friends know you are coming and can join you here.

Name	Unit
Minh Lap Nguyen	HHC 52d CAB
Larry Fuhr	Pathfinders
Danny Houk	HHC 52d CAB
Robert Ohmes	170th AHC
Gerry Sandlin	189th AHC
George Crawford	170th AHC
Larry Kennah	189th AHC
Ralph (Bill) Doyle	HHC 52d CAB
Skip McAtee	189th AHC
Frank Ambrose	604th
Thomas Miller	119th/170th AHC's
Andy Shakula	405th TC/ 170th AHC
Vernon Gano JR	52d Security
Al Witt	170th AHC
Felix Guerra	73d AV Plt (L19) Bird Dogs
Joe Parsons	Pathfinders/219th

As you can see thats a nice little list for only May but it needs to grow and it will I am sure. We need you to do several things to help us with our planning of this event. Make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Check out our tour list, if you want to go on any of them we need to know now, I have to reserve and pay for the busses etc. up front so you can't wait to arrive to sign up. Send me a filled out reservation form along with a check and we will see you in October.

Hospitality Suite

We have really gotten some nice support from the brewery that made St Louis famous, as you will see when we open the hospitality suite. I know that many of you have never attended a reunion and are wondering about what goes on and if you will fit in.

When we strted 10 years ago we decided to make our reunions as schedule and meeting free as possible. We do offer tours and have a dinner dance at the end, but thats all we schedule. You come and go as you want. The highlight of our reunions is the Hospitality Suite, we keep it well stocked with beverages (coffee, soda, beer, booze, and wine) and snacks and it is open 24 hours a day. You will find that it is where everthing happens. You will always find someone to talk to and because of our common experiece through both through the units and Cp Holloway you will always run into folks thta were either with you in your unit or at Cp Holloway or were there before or after you so you can always find things in common to talk about. Who can forget those cold wet winters , with low hanging clouds and then the opposite side with the heat and red dust everywhere.

Holloways PSP runway and ramps, the WETSU INN, The Swamp, the px being bought out by truck loads of koreans from the coast. So many joint experieces, when some one else mentions a subject it always brings back memories for everyon at the table

[Kalea Mock continued]

Subject: FW: Vietnam Records Search

This guy was in some mighty special company on Spike Team Kansas. Dick Meadows had a fishing cabin about a half a mile from here and he was a life-long friend with my neighbor Chuck Fry. How long the team was with Prairie Fire I do not know. If Pappy LaMar and Roxey Hart are alive, I'm sure they would answer the questions. The inquiry covers 1967-1968. If any of you can remember anything about this guy/team please pass it to me.

William Fraker



ORDER/REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ WIFES NAME _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____ e-mail _____
UNIT _____ DATES _____
UNIT _____ DATES _____
CALL SIGNS _____

DUES [\$20.00 1 yr] [\$35.00 2 yrs] [\$180.00 life] or four payments of \$45.00 _____
REUNION REGISTRATION \$40.00 for member -\$45.00 for member and guest. _____
WINE TASTING TOUR Friday 8 Oct \$53.00 per person. _____
GRANTS FARM TOUR Saturday 9 Oct \$19.00 per person _____

DINNER /FUN & GAMES/DANCING \$35.00 per person _____
BATTALION COIN
Available for purchase 7 Oct 2004 \$5.00ea. at reunion or \$10.00ea. if mailed _____
BATTALION PATCHES \$4.50ea. postage included _____

TOTALS _____

IF YOU WANT ME TO ORDER T-SHIRTS PLEASE CIRCLE THE SIZES YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER AND PLACE QUANTITIES TO THE RIGHT OF THE SIZE. I am ordering t-shirts [20 Jun 04]
SMALL _____ MEDIUM _____ LARGE _____ X-LARGE _____ 2X LARGE _____
3X LARGE _____ 4X LARGE _____

There are no charges for the hospitality suite and all beverages, coffee and snacks are complimentary.
Registration includes a complimentary coin for each member. Because of our experience last time with so many late registrations, after 1 Sep 2004 and at the door registration will be \$50.00 for the member and \$55 for member and wife. We appreciate all who can to send the money when they register because meals and tours must be paid for in advance, if this is a problem send half when you register and the rest when you arrive.

I have changed the cost of the wine tour this is something really special.
October 8, 2004 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Spend the day discovering some of Missouri's loveliest spots as you travel over sections of old pioneer trails. The past beckons round each bend and over each hill.

Tucked away in the Femme Osage valley in a wooded hillside setting is the home that Daniel Boone helped build and where he spent his last years. You'll tour the house that rises four stories and is filled with period pieces, some of which were owned by the Boone family, Costumed interpreters will make Boonesville Village come alive as they describe the other 19th century buildings now reconstructed on the site.

Just a short trip away you'll enjoy a boxed lunch at Mount Pleasant Winery. The oldest in the area, it was founded in 1881 by Georg Munch and was revived by the Dressel family in 1966. A tour of the limestone cellars and some wine tasting is on the afternoon's agenda.
The cost of \$53.00 per person is based on a minimum of 35 people per motorcoach and includes an experienced guide, a 54-passenger motorcoach, admission at the Daniel Boone Home. boxed lunch, winery tour, amngements and all reservation