

DRAGONFLIGHT

6 JUN 2003

REUNIONS OLD AND NEW

First of all I want to thank all of you who attended the last reunion. The list of who attended and what units were represented are located on the last page. Next I want to announce the that not one but two reunions were decided upon and announced last October. The 189th will hold their next company reunion in: Atlanta, GA.

October 2d to the 5th 2003

Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport

The 52d CAB and CP Holloway Association will have our next reunion in St Louis, MO

October 7th to 10th 2004

Crowne Plaza St Louis, Airport. Please put these dates on your calenders and be looking for more information as we get closer to the dates mentioned.

As we gather information on these and the other unit reunions to be held over the next two year period we will place them in the newsletter.

LONGEST SERVING

BATTALION MEMBER

The person who served in the battalion longer than any other person has finally agreed to attend a reunion. Minh Lap Nguyen, who worked, in the Battalion Hqtrs. all the time it was in Pleiku, has tentitively agreed to attend the next reunion as our guest of honor. So start planning now to attend so we can give her the rousing round of thanks she deserves. If you want to find out what happened after we left, she will be the one to ask.

so start planning now fore 2004

VERN, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ???

I don't think you want a long story so let me just say that after 10 years of doing this, I needed a little break, to clear my head. I guess you guys did to, except for some really close friends I only received 7 letters in almost that many months. I did not stop working on this stuff, I made the arrangements both for the Fishing trip and next years Reunion. I updated all our software and acquired a norebook computer for use at the reunions, so I don't have to walk around with pockets full of notes any more. I've been going through the note books and scrap books trying to make order out of mayhem. I got our e-mail mess straightened out, I hope. Gerry Sandlin has our web site working well. I guess it's time for me to get back to work.....

So where do we stand and what has happened since the reunion. Well we went to war and actually some of our members are back in uniform and doing that same ole' thing again. It looks like we kind of won that war. But the numbers, loosing a soldier every day and a aircraft every now and then sure do remind a lot of us of the years 64 thru 66. Watching the TV and seeing those guys driving around in thin skinned vehicles, wearing flack jackets brings back a lot of memories. We may not know the new weapons systems that well, but I think we learned a lot of things about identifying friend from foe. Maybe calling up some of us old farts was not a bad idea.

I think these kids could have used a little mature guidance when this thing first started, not telling them how to fight, lord knows they do that well, but a steadying hand to keep them acting professionally. The final outcome of this war could hinge on how professional these young soldiers of ours have become over the past several months.

MORE REUNIONS

The 57th AHC

25 to 28 Sept 2003

League City, Tx

South Shore Harbor Resort

contact Joe Pagan [REDACTED]

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc

2 to 6 July 2003

Orlando, Fl

Rosen Centre Hotel

www.vhcnha.org

1-800-505-8472

52d CAB

7 to 14 Sep 2003

Battalon Fishing Trip

Lake Ozark, MO

The Alhona Resort

[REDACTED] for reservations

[REDACTED] Vern for information

check web site for what goes on

its a fun time

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

I know, I know we never had them before. But at the last reunion I gave them out to all who attended and if you did not get one and want one all you have to do is write (hint, hint) not e-mail for one. If you have not paid your dues for this year yet (yearly members) you can do that at the same time.

Patches

Dear Vern

I have suddenly realized I would like to purchase a 119th patch and 2- 52D CAB patches, if you still have any. Also, would there be anywhere I could come up with the HHC (52d) patch of the Dragonfly

Thanks

Bill Doran

Bill I have the 52d CAB they cost \$4.50 each and that includes postage. I use to get my 119th patches from a guy in california. He changed his address and did not forward it to me. I've always dreamed of having copies of all the unit patches, but the cost have always been to high, for us to do, with the set up fee and having 3 or 4 hundred copies of each made up of all the different patches would be extremely expensive. Say between \$500 to \$700 per patch depending on size and color

Along the same lines about every two weeks folks send me a note asking about our beautiful t-shirts. I probably could have sold 18 of them since the beginning of the year. In order to get any price break at all with the printing on front and back in the full 4 color shirt. We need to order 10 to 12 dozen. Thats a lot of shirts and the money, and the shirts have to be paid for up front, plus the cost of the screens. So we will order shirts again soon but I am going to want to see a lot of confirmed orders be fore I send it in.

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 21 May 2003 14:26:46 EDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: 1st 2 cobra's that the 361st received

Here is a bit of history for you that you might want about the 1st 2 cobra's that the 361st received.? My old CO Bill Fraker and a CPT. Blankenship both from 189th went down and brought them back.? Here Fraker's story

In July, 1968, the "Pink Pussycats" finally were notified that their Cobras had arrived at Vung Tau and could be picked up.? Their problem (among many others) was that NONE of their pilots were current in the aircraft.? Since I was the first Army SIP in a Cobra, 1st Avn. Bde selected me to accompany the 361st pilots and give them a currency ride before we left Vung Tau. They ferried us to Vung Tau on July 6, We stayed at the R&R hotel.? Went to Cyrano's Restaurant. Had clams, com and crab soup, mushrooms, steak and mushrooms, asparagus in vinegar sauce, French bread and Chablis. It was almost as good as the mess at Camp Holloway. Next day we went to Vung Tau airport, performed an acceptance inspection. Both birds flunked!! Just like every time I picked up Cobras at Greater Southwest or whatever A/P BHI was using to issue new ones to me at Hunter in 1967. Got the birds fixed, I gave currency ride to 361st pilots, and we departed for Bien Hoa where Cobra NETT was located. ?My generator failed. I needed people who new what they were doing to check and repair our birds? The NETT welcomed me with open arms and a steak & lobster dinner. ? I had trained/qualified all of them at Hunter in August, 1967.

Next day we took off for Nha Trang, had generator failure on both ships. Refueled and fixed generators. Departed for Pleiku and about ten miles East of Camp Enari, the 361st pilots announced an engine failure and struck it on the ground in a marvelous display of luck. I landed, Blankenship and I gave our weapons and signal flares and water to them.? I had transmitted a Mayday and received a response from Camp Enari tower. I took off again and told Enari to recover the crew and the aircraft and to contact field maint. at Holloway. When I saw 4th Div aircraft come on scene to secure site, I proceeded to Holloway.? This is the good part!!! The 361st had a huge PR setup for the first AH-1 G to arrive at Holloway. When I landed and hovered over to the designated spot, I set down, shut down and started filling out the book. I popped the canopy and CPT Hood, 361st leaped on the cross tube and stuck his hand out to congratulate me. Cameras were popping. Hood looked at me and freaked.? I have a glossy 8X10 of the event.. They were not too swift as a gun company.??

William Fraker

I've received a lot of interesting history information and will start to include pieces of it in the Dragonflight from now on. I know you are supposed to get 4 issues per year so you will be receiving three more between now and Christmas. For those of you who ordered the up dates on the Dragonfire's, I have not forgotten you. The first time I tried to run the up date program it got all screwed up. Hopefully it will work correctly now and will get them to you right after the 4th of JULY.

Some notes on reunions , Reunions are a lot of work. Those of us who make the arrangements, send the invitations, collect and process the paperwork, welcome the guests, act as hosts for the event and then say good bye to you. We do all this work for one reason. So we can enjoy your company. I've never met most of you but I feel like I know each and every one of you through your letters, membership forms, e-mails , fax's and phone calls. When you don't come and see us when we hold our reunion/get-togethers, it bothers all of us. We wonder what we can do to induce you to attend. We keep the cost as low as possible. Having it in St Louis on a Bi-annual basis keeps costs down and allows you to attend other functions in the off years. We beg you for your input all the time. Yet for some reason, the numbers are nearly as good as they should or could be. Once again I am asking for you to speak up, let us hear from you over the next several months.

Write ME

Vern Gano JR

[REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 25 Jun 2003 19:27:12 -0500

Subject: Fw: 119th Coin Design

Okay, Chuck, the coin design is done, images below, and I green-lighted production this morning. The die, in this case, really is cast. Delivery 6 to 8 weeks. Too bad I couldn't make it in time for VHPA, didn't think of it in time. 200 are going to net out at less than \$4.00, and once this first setup fee is out of the way, future orders will be less than that. I'm adding a buck to the cost of each one to cover the cost of coins presented to the right people, in honor of the right people, so \$5 is the number. As I said, if everybody pays the extra buck, we can legitimately say that the presentation coins are from all of us. 115 are already spoken for

Actual size is just over an inch-and-a-half. Joe was gracious enough to permit use of the "Lunatics" line; he gets all he wants for nothing from all of us.

priority Mail anywhere in the USA is only \$3.85 for any reasonable quantity.

Neat, huh?

Bob Kilpatrick



Bob the coins are really nice looking and if anyone is interested they should contact you for information at Bob Kilpatrick

So if you croc's and gator's are looking for an nice memento of your service contact Bob

DRAGON-11

VERN

I was there until the unit was decomissioned. A new unit took over operations, at the time the unit shut down. We had a meal of burried pig like in Hawaii and a F-4 flew overhead.

Joseph Bouffard
52d CAB

We would have liked to hear somemore from Josepf but unfortunatley he gave us no return e-mail of other address to contact him by.

Dragon 11

Don' forget these two dates

25 to 28 Sep 2003
57th AHC Reunion
League City, TX
Contact: Joe Pagan

2 to 5 Oct 2003
189th Reunion
Atlanta, GA

Contact: Gerry Sandlin

From: Tim Moon [redacted]

To: [redacted] Subject: Hi Vern!!!

Just wanted to pass on that my flag is flying high in the front yard. Old Glory first then our POW/MIA flag right under her. My son at 32 has become a Marine and will be going to sniper school. Lisa and I are proud American Soldiers and parents.

Life has been good. Lisa has traveled to Germany for work on several occasions and will be going there again 14 March for a five week stay. I've been flying a great deal, and it includes checks with HMX-1, the Presidential Flight Detachment. See what moving to the northwest has done.

I'm Tim Moon, your friend and 119th Aligator #834.
MOON

Tim it sure is good to hear from you. For those of you who don't know him Tim help set up this organization many years ago, he then ran away to the Northwest and faided to to keep in touch until just now. So we welcome him back to the fold.

Tedd Williams [redacted]
To: [redacted] Subject:

Dragonflight

Dear Vern
Thanks for the copy of Dragon Flight. I am glad you took a break.
Are you looking for stories about Camp Holloway? If so I have a couple I will send you.
Please don't be bothered by us not coming to the reunions. Many of us are to busy, to broke or forget. I know you and the others do all you can to make them easy to attend, by keeping the cost down and having them in the middle of the country.

As for Minh Lap Hguyen you shorted us. We would like to know where she worked and how she came to the USA. I will do my best to make this reunion because she will be there. I hope she will cause a lot more to show up this time. I hope to find out what happened to the man who cleaned the chapel and the two w-omen who worked in my hooch. Also there was a woman who worked for the men in personell who worked for twice the normal number of men and had to work on Sunday to keep up. She was pregnant. I can't remember if she had it before I left in Nov 68.

Thank you for all your hard work
Tedd Williams

Tedd I Have been trying to get Minh Lap Hguyen to tell us her story in writing for a while now since it is a part of the Battalions history. I guess you will have to come to St Louis and find out for your self just like the rest of us.
Dragon 11

MULTIPURPOSE FORM

please print

last Name _____ First _____ MI _____ Wife's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Unit _____ Dates in Country _____

Unit _____ Dates in Country _____

Unit _____ Dates In Country _____

Use this as a membership form, change of address or information form, order form dues form. Send to
Vernon G Gano Jr

e-mail _____

Membership dues are \$20.00 per year or \$160.00 lifetime.

Dues enclosed _____

Bn Patches \$4.50 including postage

enclosed _____

If you have not yet received your 52d CAB ID Card and you are a life member just contact me and I will send you one. If you pay your dues annually and are paid up send me a note and I will send you one. If you forgot to pay your dues this year send in your dues and I will send you one. Remember these are cards for life so they

 <p>52d Combat Aviation Battalion</p> <p>Camp Holloway, RVN 1963 - 1972</p>	<p>Because of your service it is with great pleasure that we announce that <u>Vernon G. Gano Jr.</u> is a member in good standing of the 52d CAB & CF Holloway ASS signed <i>[Signature]</i></p>
--	--

are only replaced if you loose it. So laminate it and keep it safe. Speaking of dues quite a few folks have not kept up with their annual dues this year for some reason.. So I am making everyone a offer, this is a one shot deal, and I am doing it to save me time as we get ready for next years reunion.. [\$30.00 for 2 years] Every one who send in \$30.00 for dues between now and the 30 of Sep 03. gets credit for 2 years. This means if your up todate your paid for 04 and 05 if your behind your paying for 03 and 04. This is a nice saving for you and I don't have to worry about processing dues next spring .

Well thats all for now and I'm getting ready togo fishing. Bye Bye