

# DRAGONFLIGHT

1 NOVEMBER 2001

## ITS BEEN A WHILE

I've tried starting this newsletter several time in the past few months, but always never got past blocking in the heading. I guess I was waiting for a great influx of information from you folks out there that never came.

Instead of getting ready for the next reunion, which I only just now started planning. I've been moping around thinking there was not much to do so why, do anything at all.

This was just sheer laziness on my part. A lot has happened in the past several months. Gerry has the morning report and sick call section up and running on the battalion home page. The home page seems to be connected to every one who has a computer and is connected to the net.

The 189th had a large and very sucessfull reunion in Colorado Springs and we of course laid back and did a little fishing and relaxing at the Lake of the Ozarks. More about that later. The pilots have had their get together in Denver and the crewmembers will have had their own, with great success and I'm sure the 57th and 155th and 219th have had sucessful gatherings also.

So now its my turn again. I've rolled up my sleeves and gotten the ball rolling. We have a hotel lined up. The dates are set. Its been 30 years since the last members of the battalion left Camp Holloway and RVN. It is time for us to get together once again. Its time to sit down and talk, raise a little ruckus, toss down a few. Talk about old times, old friends, and places. Share what and how we feel about 9/11/01.

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## 52D SECURITY

As most of you know I belonged to that obscure unit located at Camp Holloway the Security Detachment. Its been a while since I blew a little smoke about my favoite group of mischief makers, I feel it's alright to do so now. I finally found out by e-mail from one of you what finally became of that great group of individuals. The 52D Sec. was folded into D Co, 7/17, I hope to learn more on this as we go along.

As you all know the Security Detachment was a rather large Infantry detachment created in 1965 with a Modified TDA to protect the 52d CAB when the Battalion was sitting on the ground. The unit was broken into 2 and some time three separate sections. One was located at Bam Me Thout, one at Camp Holloway and the third was at different times located at Kontum.. The folks not actually located at Cp Holloway came under the control of the units they were attached to.

The main part of the unit located at Cp Holloway consisted of three sections and several sections and attachments. These were the Rifle Squads, the Mortar Section, the Gate Guards (after the MP's abandoned us), the group that ran the Battalion COC and probably the largest attachment was the 60th Ground Surveillance Radar, Inf. Then there were the assorted cooks, drivers, supply, and headquarters folks needed to run what was basically a Leg Infantry Company. Set up for independant duty.

For a little unit, its stories could be made into a good book. A ambush patrol where the patrol members were armed with bayonets and bourbon. The patrol whos members were sent printed invatations to attend. A six man ambush patrol that assaulted a VC sapper Unit , killed 10 (including 1 chinese), captured a mortar, without a receiving a scratch. The ambush patrol that ran into a NVA Battallion coming to attack Holloway. It was ten against several hundred and only the 361st coming in at night, at grasstop level saved their collective butts

(continued page three)

## FISHING TRIP

Just a quick up date for those of you who decided to stay at home and toil in the yard or whatever during the first week in September, you blew it folks. We had a great time. The weather was great, the lake was peaceful, over 40 keeper croppie were caught. Joe Arrison supplied use with a great steak and chicken dinner. The hot tub was up and functioning again. So when you get your next invatation to attend think twice about staying at home and cutting the grass or raking the leaves or what ever. We are reserving a whole building for the next one and tell your wives , that if they don't like to fish there is a one of the largest outlet malls around about 15 minutes from the resort. More on this in the next news letter.

## Computers

I don't want anyone telling me how great computers are. Viruses, power spikes, defective software, wornout hardware, and lightning strikes. You name it and I have had a problem with it in the last year. For a time this past year it would have been faster to use a quill and ink pot.

So to keep this organization up and running I am going to ask you to do a few simple things for me. Please keep e-mail to me short and sweet. [REDACTED] no attachments, jokes long drawn out tales , pictures etc. If you need to send me documents use the fax. The easiest way to send me a fax is from 6:30am to 4:00 pm at [REDACTED] monday thru friday, otherwise call me and let me know you are sending a fax and I will set the machine up. For everything else please use the us mail.



# LETTERS

## LETTERS

I Was a member of the 81st Transportation Company. Came to Pleiku in Sep 62. Mr. Holloway was one of our pilots. Pleiku was mud city at that time. And cold!!! Can vaguely remember when the 52d was activated in Pleiku by BG Stilwell. Would like to contact any of the members of the 81st out there if there is any roster of such.

I have one of the few "classified" unit rosters of the 81st and 545th Trans Det that was published for our sea journey from Hawaii to "an unknown, classified destination," somewhere in SE Asia.

I have also written some thoughts about that time frame including our trip from Quinhon to Pleiku via the "highway" with the heavy shop vans and trucks of the 545th. I was the driver of our "tank," a 3/4 ton with a fifty caliber mounted in the back.

On the web site, I did not note the 81st Transportation Company (LH) or 545th Maintenance Detachment (DS) as being on the roster of the 52th during the early part of 1963. Was this information not known?

Will enjoy joining the association. How do I do it?

Jim Morgan, MSG (Ret) US Army

I am seeking Joseph R. Campbell, then Captain, 59-60, Hiesheim, Germany, to furnish Reunion information to him. If you know him, as a former CO, 119th AHC, and how I may contact him, please E-mail. MajGen John E Major, "Jack", former Bn Surg, 2ndMTB, 68thARM, and others of that Unit are anxious to contact Joe and wife, Monica (?). Thanks and May God Bless You. Rex L. Searson, Maj, USA Rtd.

Hi my name is Tasha I am the actual one that is looking for Phillip. It has been told to me that he was in the air force and the company commander of 604. Also told to me he was there between 1970-71 @ camp Holloway. During the time he was there he had a relationship with a woman named Lua Thi Hoang. And from this relationship came a child and from the child 2 beautiful children with no grandfather. I was searching because I want to know if he wants to know them or his son. I bet he couldnt believe or even think that he has these 2 angels as grandsons. If you find out anything that could help me find this man please respond to me. Thank you for your time

Hi its me again! I was just thinking My exhusband was born on 2-2-72. So I am sure he was there in and around May of 71. Thank you'

Can anyone out there help this lady. the way I hear this story someone with the first name of Philip and claiming he was the CO. of the 604th at CP Holloway, in late 70 and early 71. Tasha the lady who wrote this letter would be his ex-daughter-in-law. She wants to find out if he wants to have any kind of relationship with his son or grandchildren Dragon 11

Message Is: to whom it may concern.I was in viet nam in 1969-1970.with the 7/17 air cavalry d-troop.I have a list of those people in my squad in my diary.with their signed signatures and s.s no.# I want to know how to go about using that information to seek their whereabouts!!!

Please contact: Ed Broneske  
Mailing address: [redacted]  
City, State, Zip: Minneapolis Minnesota

Ed try contacting Jose Martinez, [redacted] t  
[redacted]  
DRAGON-11

Message is: I am looking for Capt. Howard H Wilson who was the comanding officer of the 52nd Aviation Battalion Flying Dragons at Camp Holloway, who served in Vietnam at the same time I was there, between October 1970 to March 1971. He was in Vietnam before I was there and he was sent home for a knee operation in Feb of 1971. I was his driver. The last address I have for for Capt Wilson is [redacted] phone # UN44533. If anyone has any information e-mail me or call me collect at [redacted] Please contact: Michael G West Mailing address: [redacted]

willy t [redacted]

Was a Pathfinder the 52d we did a lot insertions and extractions with the 189th.We lost Bivens and Montana on a hot LZ around Kontum, (April,1970) does anybody have any info on that mission?Does anybody remember LZ Kangaroo? A hot little hover hole,glad to see the last bird come to get us out of that one.Great flying that day guys,and many thanks to the pilots that came back to get us (Willy T & Tiny).With great respect, Pathfinder 18

Does anyone recall which unit in the Btn was flying helicopters with the Spraying Booms that use to clear the jungle and brush at Lane in 1965-66. [redacted]

Comments I just discovered this site and its great. Thirty-two years ago I was filling sandbags, doing bunker, patrol and OP duty and like everyone else drinking lots and lots of beer. I would like to hear from anyone else assigned to the security detachment during the same time. I have the 1970 yearbook and lots of photos.



(52d Security Continued)

These were the guys that traded 100 cases of c-rations for two M-41 Walker Bulldog Tanks complete with 76mm guns and 50 cal MG. There was only one slight problem they had no motors, so they towed them into position and used them as iron pill boxes on the two security detachment positions, located 1500 meters outside CP Holloways northern perimeter. They also had a M-113 with a A-Cav. kit that, it was used like a tank but truly its armor plate would not have stopped a 7.62 armor piercing bullet.

I can not forget my Mortar Platoon, those hard working 11B's, who after that terrible accident in 67, came back with a roar during TET 68 kicking some sapper but and making Holloway a much safer place to live on, and they did it with obsolete equipment, bad ammo, and once with just good ole TP practice ammo. Like I've bragged many times, they were good very good.

There was 1SG Rodney Dern, who would serve, 7 course candle lit dinners to his NCO's, with fresh seafood and steak brought up from the coast. Only he new how he acquired those feasts. SGT Paul Noggle who ran the COC and the movie theater for two years, but I don't think he patched the holes in the tin with green tape after mortar attacks.

There was the Pvt. who came to RVN young and dumb, went down town, fell in love, learned fluent vietnamese, deserted his unit and hid in the back ally ways of Pleiku. He was later ambushed by a Special Forces led unit, returned to US Forces control, where he dissappeared again out of LBJ. And there was SP-4 Berman Gano, a good soldier assigned to the Security Detachment working with the 170th in Kontum. He went flying as a door gunner one day and we could not bring him home until last year.

Now I've told you a little about my unit how about setting to pen and paper a little about your unit and what you did. Send it to me and we will let the place it on paper so who we were and what we did will not be forgotten.



## Sorry about delay.

VHCMA reunion was held June 20-24, Olin Louisville, Ky. (However you say it). Joe "Kid" Harrilla and wife, Command Sargent Major Larry MacQuown, and my wife and I attended. VHCMA director Rick D Stevenson (Sept 70-Sept 71) was unable to attend.

We were able to tour static display of Apache C~ Ft Knox from 229th (former Viet Nam unit) and treated to "check" flight (all AC were grounded). This was one of the units that CSM Larry, "Shepherds".

Short of Business meeting is, the A-H that embarrassed Assoc. in Charlotte last year wasn't even a member and rumor was that members of Viet Nam Veteran Motor Cycle Assoc. may have made him, their guest of Honor at another "party".

Our Australian Members have invited us to attend their reunion in Australia next April (Their Fall). With current rate of exchange (almost two to one) \$1,000.00 (one Thousand U.S.) will get you 7 days all expenses paid, Train tour west side to east side of Australia. This excludes round trip Air Fare from U.S. They are working on putting package together based on our interest. When information becomes available I will advise everyone.

Next years reunion will be in Salt Lake, UT. Good time was had by all.

Everyone should have received the paper work to file for our second "Presidential Unit Citation" (PUG) to be added to your DD214 (which will be 0D215) If you didn't ask me for it.

I also received copy orders of our first PUC. For those who were not there, of course "we" were there "sun bathing" and with nothing much else to do but watch the mortar's fall, the POL blow up, Ammo dump disappear and the AF's C130's bum down. My letters home, state I lost two sets of rotor blades in 5 days and still logged 31 hours ( God bless the 405th TC). The citation is for the whole 52nd Battalion.

E-Mail:

Comments Looking for anyone who served with brother-in-law. SP5 Rosendo Montana, 52nd AVN Bn Pathfinders, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Brigade, support for 17OAHG, stationed in Pleiku. KIA on 15APR70 (serial#68-16203).

**Comments** I am searching on behalf of my Uncle Earl Bennett. I had posted a message here a few months ago but since then he received help from our Senator in getting a few of his Military Records and so I have some information to update. In April, 1970 he entered the Army and did his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Then in October 4, 1970 in was sent to Vietnam, Camp Halloway. He was in the 52nd Aviation Battalion 1st Aviation Brigade and he was attached to the 52nd Security Detachment. He left Vietnam October, 1971. He went home for a few months, then in January 18, 1972 he went to finish his Military Career at Fort Hood, Texas. So if you remember him please let me know he would love to hear from you. I almost forgot he will be receiving the awards he got after he came home. The ones he got the first time were lost in a fire at his home. Thanks so much

## MORNING REPORT

If you remember over a year ago we started a new service. We called it the (Morning Report) its purpose is to list those of us who are ill, injured or passed away as soon as possible, to give you a chance to send a get well card and or to remember them in our prayers. Please let your loved ones know to let us know, so we can get the information posted. Just contact Gerry or Vern  
LOOK UP THE MORNING REPORT  
AT :  
<http://www.geocities.com/52dragon.geomorningreport.html>

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ WIFES NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATES \_\_\_\_\_

CALLSIGNS \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU WISH TO BE A DUES PAYING MEMBER? IF SO LIFE MEMBERSHIPS CAN BE PAID IN FOUR EQUAL INSTALMENTS OF \$40. 00 OR YOU CAN SUPPORT US YEARLY FOR \$20.00 A YEAR. PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OUT TO "52D CAB REUNION".

PAYMENT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

#### JUST A BUNCH OF QUICK NOTES

I think the mailing we will do for the entire battalion this year will be like a post card. It will end up costing us less and with a nice picture on the front, some folks may pay closer attention to it.

Dues will have to go up if they raise the postage rate to \$.50's the way they say they may have to.

You can register at the hotel starting now for the reunion, and the next newsletter will allow you to register for the Reunion it self. All prices should be almost the same as last time. Please think about registering early so we can plan ahead for the tours , entertainment etc.

We still have some stock left., t-shirts all sizes except for small and med. Large and extra large are \$12.00 and XX-large and xxx- large are \$14.00; plus \$5.00 shipping and handling and add \$1.00 for each shirt over 1.

We also have some Dragonfire Chronicles left. they are \$22.50 and this includes shipping. Remember the next edition will not be available until ( REUNITED in 2002)

Speaking of the "Dragonfire Chronicles" we need your input , so sit down this winter and write something and send it to me. It does not have to be great writing , just truthful writing. we need your histories and stories to make the book better than it already is and that takes your help. So please sit down and let us know how it really was.

I want to reccomend a book to you, if you get a chance pick up (A BETTER WAR) by Lewis Sorley, its puts a different slant on what we did. I found it a very nice book to read and it made me feel a lot better about what we did and how we did it.

Because of the virus, I lost the information on over 20 contacts and everyones e-mail address, I am using paper files to rebuild the names but I need you all to send me your e-mail addresses. Til next month take care Dragon 11

"Tedd Williams"

Re: 52d CAB

I was with the 52d CAB HHC from Mid Feb. to Nov. 68. So I was there while you were. I was in the Communication group. I remember the Bear that was there until it got to big to keep in a cage. I was there when they dug the big hole to put in a command bunker. You guys had a lookout on top of it. I was first assigned to work on radio repair and later generator repair. For several months I worked from 7:PM to 7:AM in the communication shack. I had to make test calls to Na Trang on the HF radio. They were Dragon Dragon and we were Dragon Zero. While I was working that shift a WO would come up and talk to me, because he could not sleep. He kept asking me to go out with him on a mission in the daytime. He said that Charlie could not hit anything. That was until the day we lost 2 hueys in a row at a LZ. His was the third one to go in. Charlie jumped out and fired at his ship, but missed and the door-gunner got him. Then his story changed. I can't remember his name or what company he waswith, I sure wish I could.

I hung around with the Chaplin's assistant by the name of Dave Johnson from Utah. I remember the night you all killed the Charlie's that were mortaring us. It was quite for a while until they started sending in rockets. My hooch was second form the end next to the main road and behind the G3 and G2 houches. I remember when they disbursed the generators around the post. When they cut on the one for the comm hooch it put out 220Volts instead of 110 volts. Boy the fans ran fast!. When in Virginia I met Cpt John Hood. He was there also and a pilot. He has gone to several of the reunions.

Tedd Williams

*Ted we probably passed on the side walk, ate together in the mess hall and pissed in the same powder tubes. I hope you can make it to one of the reunions. Take care Dragon 11*

Hello Vern

Thanks for sending the newsletter I always enjoy reading them.. It appears that I will be extended over here and will miss the festivities with the 189th in Oct 03.

Please let them know that I will be thinking of them all and hope they have a great turnout. They are some of the best folks I have ever known. The army today is quite different from what it was in Nam. Modern technology is always a blessing and there are several instances when it appears that things come to a halt when power is lost and computers and printers don't work. High tech takes away the human element and consequently the personal touch is lost. I am doing well and flying a lot, it appears like I will not be home until after Christmas and maybe not until April. I some times wonder what a old fart like me is doing here. But, as the operations officer I stay busy and don't have much time to ponder why I am here. May god shower his blessings on you.

Take Care TY

*Make he also watchover and keep you safe until you return to us. Dragon-11*

Vernon--you have the right guy--now living at 9 Back Creek Court in Hertford NC--I was at Holloway during the period mid 68 to early 69. But, I was with the 604th Transportation Company, Aircraft Maintenance and Supply, OS, and our parent organization was the 14th Trans Bn in Nhatrang. I was the XO of the company and also the production control officer. We supported the 52nd the 410th among others. We did a lot of work for the 52nd, including recovery of downed aircraft, and were located at the east end of the runway. There was also a 604th TC detachment, a KD team, that belonged to one of the 52nd aviation companies. This was a small group of about 40 folks, where I had about 300 folks including a lot of civilian contractors. So there were two 604th outfits there and our call sign was Highlander--regards, Colonel (RET) Rich Naughton.

*Thank you for the refresher course. Things we forget over the years Dragon-11*

I'm looking for Reber and Eberhart. We were together at Pleiku and AnhKhe. I had sent a e-mail to reber in 02. I had a heart attack and had to have some surgery. I lost all the information I had gathered to that point. So I am starting over anyone who can help me contact anyone from the 119th in 69 or 70 will be greatly appreciated. My e-mail is [REDACTED]

Thanks

Larry Bowling

*I sent Larry information on the Battalion organization, and I am hoping one of you 119th folks out there can help him out.*

Dragon-11

Vernon, yea I know its been a long time, I'm still alive and am a little bit more proud to be a Vietnam Vet. I'll tell you more about that another time. Do you have any shirts t or golf if so I would like prices and if you have any coins, I have a 119th coin and they are really nice. Let me know please.

I went to a book signing by Hal Moore. He is from here, Alburv, AL, which is like one town with Opelika. Anyway I wore my golf shirt and he knew right away who it was. You know the unit got a Presidential Unit Citation for the Ia Drang. Just a point of interest.

Harry

Class of 66-67

*If I get enough interest shown I will order shirts or golf shirts once again. Just don't like to tie up lots of money in something that just sits in the garage for years. Now coins I am working on and they will be ready for Reunion 2004 as gifts for all members who attend and extras will be available for sale then also.*

Take care

Dragon 11

A REAL HAPPY NOTE

David, Republic of Panama, Zoe Beauregard Canizalez and Thomas James Bleming were married April 25th, 2003, in David.

*Thomas was a member of our Pathfinder Detachment and is USA (RET).. He and his bride are now living in Lusk, WY. We all wish them a long and happy marriage. Maybe we can convince the two of them to visit us in St Louis one of these Octobers.*

Dragon-11

Dear Vernon

I guess I was there before you, I had the original 81mm mortar right after Holloway was overrun in 65. I was a door gunner from the Wolfhounds out of Hawaii, Sep to Dec, TDY Danang Gunship Platoon and Feb to Jun 65, Slicks at Holloway. I also went out with Sneaky Petes and Yards a few times on ambush patrols. We had one track (APC). Don't really have any other information to submit.

James L June

*Every little bit helps. The history on the 113 and mortars is off interest to me*

Thanks

Dragon -11

REUNION /GENERAL PURPOSE 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 \$35.00 per person. *All tours must be paid for 60 days in advance to for us to* \_\_\_\_\_

GRANTS FARM TOUR Saturday 9 Oct \$22.00 per person *procure transportation and guarantee that the tour goes.* \_\_\_\_\_

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 have not yet received a Membership card please check here. \_\_\_\_\_

As you noticed prices are up a bit. But we've changed things. 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.

Starting 1 January 2004 the dues are going up to more truly reflect costs. Yearly dues will stay the same \$20.00, but 2 years will be \$35.00 and Life is going up to \$180.00. Those who joined and paid life memberships tens year ago when we started have received quite a bargain. Postage for 1 newsletter now costs us \$120.00 and that does not include printing or envelopes so we have to do this. I want to thank all those who sent their dues in early and I would appreciate it if all those who have not yet done so would do so now. the old pricing is good till the end of this year.