



DRAGONFLIGHT

5 JAN 2001

SO IT'S OVER

Who came ? What happened? What was decided about next time? First of all you should have been there yourself to get the answers to these questions. I know this is impossible for some though so lets get you up dated.

Depending on the night between 50 and 64 members of the Battalion attended the Oct 2000 reunion. The most in attendance from any one unit was the 189th with 23 plus wives and friends. We had 77 folks in for the Dinner Dance and it seems that all had a good time. The biggest problem we had was the hotel we stayed at. Although we had used it several times in the past, it was getting ready to close due to airport expansion and it did not live up to the promises it had made when we signed the original contract a year ago. The most fun was of course the chance to sit down and talk with so many of you great folks who helped make the battalion what it was.

We made several decisions that will effect all of us in the years to come. We decided to stick to the every other year format for major battallion reunions. We are doing this for one reason. It has become obvious that many of the company sized units want to do their own thing and have their seperate reunions. Since the entire purpose of this organization is to bring us "together again", this is a trend we are going to support.

The schedule as it now stands looks like this:
6 to 9 SEP 2001 Battalion Fishing Trip, Lake Ozark, [REDACTED] for reservations.

4-7 Oct 2001 189th AHC "Ghostriders"
Wyndham Hotel, Colorado Springs, Co.
Oct 2002 the 30th Anniversary of the Battallion leaving RVN, Battallion Reunion, with a central USA location, to be announced.

To have your unit's reunions listed both in the newsletter and the Battalion Bulletin Board contact Vern by snail mail or phone (*See Back Page*). The arrangements worked out at the reunion are like this. It costs time and money. Most of us don't have to support and attend two or more major reunions every year. So we agreed to throw our support to unit reunions one year and the next to battallion gatherings. We mutually support each gathering and "The Manifest" gets larger and larger. The 170th and the 189th have aged to this and we are reaching out to the 155th and 57th hoping to get them to go along also. As the 119th, 179th and other unit organizations are formed we hope to get them on board too. We are a finite group and the closer we work together the more we can accomplish.

So in 2001 you have several choices. The pilots association and the crew members associations as usual are having their seperate yearly reunions. The 170th will be having a Company reunion in conjunction with the pilots association. The Battalion will be sponsoring its bi-annual fishing and relaxing at the Lake of Ozarks, Mo in 6 to 9 Sep 01 and the 189th will meet in Colorado Springs in Oct 01. I will publish more on these gatherings as we learn more.

DRAGONFIRE CHRONICLES

The new books are ready. Everyone who got one at the reunion found them to be very handy. Much better than the original. "The Manifest" now has over 1800 names in it and is as current as we could make it.

The cost is \$17.00 per book plus \$5.50 shipping charges. I've waited this long to start mailing them because we needed to get a special box to protect the binders. Remember you only pay this cost first year. Next year it will be a lot cheaper because we will just provide replacement pages. The books are have unit dividers and because we used a three ring binder format, you can even find photo album pages that fit and personalize it into something really unique to tell your own personal history.

THE MORNING REPORT

Effective as I write this, our morning report is now active. If any of you know of any battalion member who is ill, or in the hospital, or who has recently passed away please contact either Gerry Sandlin at [REDACTED] or me at [REDACTED]. We will get the information entered in the morning report ASAP. This will enable us to let everyone get current on the folks in the battalion and we hope it will generate letters, cards and prayers for our brothers who, after all this time may still need our support and aid. If you don't have access to e-mail just call me any night after 6:00pm Central Time .

To check the morning report out go to www.geocities.com/52dragon.geo/morningreport.html. You can also reach the morning report through the battalion web site. If you are the one who is ill don't be afraid to have a family member contact us. We were brothers once and you have not been forgotten.

If you see a friend from long ago listed, a get well card or letter to the family and including them in your prayers would be appreciated by them I sure.

POATAGE RATES, EXPENSES DUES

Because everthing keeps on going up and our one time yearly mailing keeps on getting larger. the yearly dues are going up to \$20.00, effective 31 January 2001. Life time remains at \$160. and

can be paid in 4 payments of \$40.00 each.

T-SHIRTS

We still have plenty of the battalion t-shirts and hat pins left. See the order form for more information.

DO I OWE YOU??

If you ordered anything and paid for it but did not receive it please contact me and we will make it up to you. Some times I just get behind, this is a one person office here, and sometimes things get lost in the mails. So let me know.

REUNION PHOTOS

If you took photos at the last reunion or at any of our reunions, and have copies of them, please forward them to:

Bill Trimble
[REDACTED]

Bill is the keeper of our reunion scrap books, which of course are available for all to see at the next reunion. So if you have something to contribute please contact Bill.

THANK YOU

We need to thank those who have helped make us the organization we are today. To my wife and all your wives also for putting up with us as we built this organization and then attending the reunions too. To Ron Lewis who convinced me that the world did not end with the Security Detachment and that a battalion reunion might be a better way to go. To Larry Fuhr who used to send me hundreds of stamps at a time before we started collecting dues and for many years insured that although they were one of the smallest detachments (Pathfinders), they led the units in attendance at the reunions. To George Crawford, and Paul Wilson from the 170th and Gerry Sandlin from the 189th who have created strong company organizations that are the backbone of support for the battalion. To Gerry for also being our webmaster and creating our Web page. To Al Hotchkiss, Art McKinney

Kim & Jean Oglesby, Thomas Miller, Jack Doyle, Skip McAtee, Elam Faus, Ralph Williams, Bill Trimble and all the rest of you who have been such great supporters over the years.

We your "comrades in arms" from the battalion salute you for all you have done. Thank You

LETTERS

I was a Marine crew chief on a UH-34D flying out of DaNang in 1964. We had a detachment from the 52d that flew cover for us during our missions in the I Corps area. In fact they were about the only ones we could count on when conditions got hot. The S. Vietnamese air force ran a 8-5 operation. I remember one large operation we flew with your group out of Cp Holloway in the Spring of 64. We were treated as real guests by your group for the few days we worked with you. I wrote about that mission on our squadron web site "<http://www.hmm-364.org>" Our squadron is trying to complete some unfinished business relative to one of your officers and could use some of the 52d's help.

On April 27, 1964 the commanding officer of the 52d detachment at DaNang saved a number of Marine lives at an action at Do Xa, 15 miles west northwest of Quang Ngai. This officer was Cpt Jack "Woody" Woodmansee who ended up retiring as a LTG and now lives in Plano, TX. He knocked out a number of enemy machine gun that had ambushed our 34's as they were dropping S. Vietnamese troops into a hot zone. We put him in for a Navy Cross which was never approved. No Marine or Sailor had yet been awarded the Navy Cross in Vietnam and we think no one in Washington was going to give the first to a Army Pilot. We are resubmitting this request 36 years later and are looking for witnesses to this action that might have been there with the 52d. This would reinforce what has already been written by our own squadron. Please contact me at this e-mail address

██████████ if any of you were there or you know someone who was there. You were our "Guardian Angels" always ready

to keep there heads down while we got in and out. Our one M-60 in the door and a AR-15 in the side window were no match for what your gunships had to offer and we always knew you would be there.

Alright folks this is one for you early 119th, 117th folks etc. . You must have really impressed these Marines and they want to honor one of our own. It will be nice to see Jack Woodmansee get the recognition he deserves from those who really want to honor him. So contact Warren Smith if you have any knowledge at all on the subject. Dragon 11

I was with the 52dHQ Company, Air Lift Platoon in 65 until May of 1966, then I was transferred to the 282D. At the time I was with the 52d I hung out with a person named Davis, he worked in the dental office. I found a picture of him and myself taken in town, and have decided to try and find him. He was a good friend, we would sit around shoot the breeze, play cards and just hang out. The last time I saw him was when he, myself and some other guys in the company went into town with the S. Vietnamese soldiers and Davis got separated from us. we looked around for him but could not find him. we found out the next morning that he had gotten mixed up in the uprising and had received some eye damaged. If anyone knows him or his location I would appreciate you contacting me Ron Moyer at

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*Can someone help Ron
Thanks Dragon 11*

Dear Vern
I am trying to find out more about what happened to my unit from Nam. It was the 662d TC Detach.. attached to the 355th Avn Co., we were with the 1st Avn Bde.
I was on the internet several months ago and wrote down your address but I guess I misplaced it cause I just found it again. I don't have a e-mail address. I am currently living in a hospital in Middletown, Ct, but I'll be out soon.

MULITI PURPOSE FORM

NAME _____ WIFES NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

FAX _____ OR LEAVE MESSAGE AT _____

MEMBERSHIPS LIFE \$160.00 (Can be paid in payments \$40.00 each) _____

GENERAL \$20.00 _____

52D CAB HAT PINS \$5.50 (This includes postage) _____

T-SHIRTS S L XL \$12.00 EA _____

XXL XXXL \$14.00 _____

Shipping \$5.00 for 1 shirt and add \$1.00 for each additional shirt _____

DRAGONFIRE CHRONICLES in new format over 1800 names plus unit histories

\$17.00 plus \$5.50 postage and handling. number needed _____

TOTAL _____

I remember your Web site said some thing about a reunion coming up. Maybe you can tell me who went to it. Do you have information on these people? I know we were with the the 52d Aviation Battalion, then transferred to the 268th Av.. Bn. in Oct. 68, further transferring to the 214th Av. Bn in Oct. 69. I believe that when they came home they were assigned to the 117th Av.. Gp

The problem I am having is locating patches and info on this unit, as nobody seems to know anything . Our patch, which was a horse on a crest, with " workhorse in the sky" in the banner across the bottom of the crest. I've been looking for some years now and no catalog has ever shown it. Maybe you could help me I would really like to look up some old friends.

Alan Salzman



Alan, he is in need of a friend who can help him find his history. Dragon 11

Well that's all for this time, I know you all know this but I want to remind you anyway. We can't publish this newsletter with out you sending us letters and e-mails to put in here. So please don't forget to write. I save everything we receive and it gets placed in this paper, into your company log, and sometimes into the Dragonfire. But if you don't write we don't have that much to say. So get with the program please folks. Remember if you don't tell your story of what you did or saw in the war , who will? With all the respect and friendship this old soldier can offer, you guys take care and we will talk again.

VERN

VERNS ADDRESS VERNON G GANO JR



PHONE

E-MAIL



Well how about it out there can one of you help