

# DRAGONFLIGHT



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219th Av Co

355th

361st Av Co (Escort)

This Newsletter is dedicated to those who served in the 52d combat Av. Bn. and/or at that piece of red mud and dust we called home Camp Holloway, RVN

VOLUME 1/99  
20 JAN 99

I want to apologize to you for getting the last newsletter out so late. We kind of turned the month around at my house because of my work schedule and I was late getting everything done.

For our history section we are looking for a copy of the "Saturday Evening Post" from the spring of 1965, it has the story of the attack of Camp Holloway in it. This is the story written by Bill Mauldin the famous WWII cartoonist, of "Willie and Joe". He was visiting his son, a pilot in the 119th, at the time of the attack and wrote a really great story, along with art work of that bloody night. If the magazine is something you want to keep, just get good copies made at Kinko's and we will pay for them.

## Fall Get-Together

This is the last info on the fall gathering, at the Alhonna Resort, Lake of the Ozarks, MO. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and depart on Sunday. 23 to 26 Sep 99. Call [redacted] right now to make reservations if you truly are going to go. Mention the Battalion to make sure you have the right weekend. This is fall fishing season and they do fill up so if you are coming call now. We are not charging any reunion fees at this time, unless we decide to have a dinner. But if you are coming please please please let me know ASAP.

## REUNION 98

I did not report on the reunion in the last newsletter, because it was still a sweet memory. If you were there, I again want to thank you for coming. For those of you

not able to attend, you missed a great time.

Some of the highlights were the attendance by John C Hughes, one of our earliest Bn Commanders. Two nights of great music by what seemed like our own personal band "Arion". Both the pool side gathering and the dinner were nights to remember. Who can forget being serenaded by the 189th's glee club. Those evening get togethers that went on to 3 & 4 AM brought back many memories. Then there was the visit by Joe Arrison, he can't leave well enough alone and still wears the uniform and heads off to do battle with the bad guys. Joe just came back from Bosnia and gave us the true story, of that operation.

Everyone enjoyed the visit to the Boats and Old St Charles was a big hit with all. They had Octoberfest celebrations going on at the time, and many took the time to go back for a second visit.

For those of you who attended our celebration, I hated to see you leave, getting to know you over the last 6 years, has been a great pleasure for me and my wife. Some of you Ralph, Larry, George, Bill, Kim, Gerry, Paul to name but a few of you who have become true friends. My home is your home. I cannot forget to mention the wives either, your attendance and support has been wonderful and Samroy, wives are most welcome on the fishing trip this fall. Dorothy always catches

more than me. So try to join us this fall Larry says he will bring the beer if I bring him a extra pole.

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#### C-119

During the reunion several of us were standing by the Bn sign outside the Hospitality Suite and a older man came walking by and said Camp Holloway, I know where that is I landed a C-119 there one night, in 1965. It seems, he was coming into Saigon getting ready to land when they diverted him to CP Holloway to pick up some wounded. He said Holloway where in the heck is that, and he was given directions that took him 35 miles west of Holloway and then told to turn east and look for the flames. He said there was a burning chopper on the runway and he had to hop over it in order to land. They loaded 9 or 10 seriously wounded and took them to Saigon. Just one more little piece of our history, and if we had not been in that hallway, it would have been forgotten. So as I have said so many times before, please write what you remember and get it turned in.

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#### DRAGONFIRE CHRONICLES

The copies of the 98 issue are all gone and I really don't want to try to print anymore, because we have started to work on the

(99) issue already. This will be a entirely new version of the Book, I hope. The cover will be a 3 ring note book. In the front will be the Bn historical information. Then each unit will have its own section separated by printed tabs. "The Manifest will be in the back. We will provide 6 photo display sheets, which you can use to personalize the book with your own art work, and of course you can add more as needed.

The first edition of this new format will be a little expensive but from then on we will just replace pages, and it will bring the cost way down, probably only \$5 or \$6 a year, instead of the \$15.00 plus we now pay. I really need your help on this, take your old version of the Dragonfire, and spend a little time rewriting and working over your unit's history. Get it to me ASAP, so we can combine, edit, rework, etc. to get as much into each unit section as is possible. I can't believe no one has contacted me on the last one, I,I've found several errors already and have just begun to look.

I hope you will all participate in this undertaking, and I am looking forward to your comments on the new format and also to your additions to our history. After all it is your history, you lived it and you are its writers. We all have to insure that what we did is not forgotten. We were one of the largest, longest serving and most highly decorated combat units, in the Vietnam War.

## LETTERS

I received this last summer and am just getting around to it. I put it in the wrong stack.

Dear Vern

A few weeks ago the 155th AHC had a reunion in Ft Worth, TX. It was a great time and nice to see old friends after 30 yrs.

I believe your efforts and the computer age enabled the 155 Assn. to be formed. You started the whole Flying Dragons reunion stuff many years ago. Your effort helped spring everything. I'm sure other units within the 52d CAB are meeting or will be meeting someday. Thanks for giving everyone the kick start!!

I also wanted to let you know I've enjoyed the "Dragonfire Chronicles.". Great reading, interesting detail, the works. If you ever plan on updating let me know I have the "97".

In putting all this together you must have gathered some extreme amount of documentation. Would it be possible to make copies of unit rosters from 67 & 68 of the AHC's and forward them to me. Your copies of the 155,57,170, 119, & 189. Sometimes individuals transferred from these units to Ban Me Thuot. Any copies of orders, promotions, awards, after action, anything I'd be interested in.

At the 155th reunion we had a room with pictures, video's slides, tapes, along with several large binders of documents. I was there 5 days and found this reading very interesting. When I wasn't talking I just read orders, awards, transfer orders, pay stubs, R & R requests. You name it, it was in Texas, great reading.

Name Withheld

I was asked not to print this letter but it was such a great letter and brings out so much that I just had to put it in. First I don't take any credit for this organization It's your organization, with out you it would not exist. I do wish the Company organizations would work with us a little bit more than they do. We get excellent support from the 170th, 189th and our Pathfinder detachment. All the others will exchange information with no problem, for which I am most grateful, but we can't seem to get together on having joint reunions. We would probably solve a lot of problems, if we worked on this, and say had a different company sponsor the Battalion reunion each year. Well we will continue to preach and hopefully one day someone will listen.

Dragon 11

PS I do have a lot of information and documents, but if at all possible I wish you would attend the reunions to make copies yourself. There are only so many hours in a day, but I will if necessary.

Dear Sir

Your letter brought back memories of working on the flight line and seeing the flares go off and hearing the mortar fire all night, and in the early morning hours seeing the montagnard village all lite up. So that was you huh??? Great Job!!!

Great to know someone is keeping up with us. Me I've had some ups and downs. I am in a Texas prison now, but I'll survive, I'm tuff.

Its good to hear from you and to know you are still out there.

Earl Rhodes

Earl We will keep in touch. We may not like what you did to get there, but we do appreciate what you did for us so

long ago. We all worked together and we were hero's at least to each other. You take care. Dragon-11

Dear Sir

I retired in 1972 after having served 22 years in the Navy and 6 years in the army. One short tour with the Navy at Saigon and Nha Trang outfitting the 2nd Arvin Air Force with T-28's. My second and third tours were with the 170th AHC. I flew slicks Bikini 22/21 in the AO of Pleiku, Kontum, Dak To, Ban Me Thout., my 2nd tour and was designated as Maintenance "Drydock" in late 1969 to 70 with my final and third tour.

Khomer Beaty

Khomer, you sound like a man with a story or two to tell. I hope we meet some day and I get to hear them. Dragon 11

From the Net

After I retired from the Army, I flew corporate for 17 years. While on a trip to Oskaloosa, Iowa a year or so back, I heard some locals talking about their US Congressman "Leonard Boswell" I told them I new a Leonard Boswell while I was in the Army, we had both served in 65-66 as Captains in the 52 Aviation Battalion at Holloway Airfield in Pleiku. Turned out it was the same guy. I called him that night and we talked for a hour or more about old times. He retired as a O-5 and returned to Iowa and in time entered state politics. Was recently elected for his second term as a Democrat from Iowa. I feel certain he is as good of a Congressman as he had been as a officer /Aviator. He was cool under fire, he earned two "Distinguished Flying Crosses" and other awards. I had often thought

about him, and what had become of him. I did not recall him being from Iowa. In any case, thought you might like to know about one of our crowd, who was and still is serving his country.

Bob Spencer

I borrowed this note from another source, its good to see one of our own getting ahead. I've tried to contact the Congressman, if anyone knows him it might be nice to get him in "The Manifest" and invite him to the reunion. Dragon-11

Sir

I've been looking for information on the unit my father was in while he was in Vietnam. I'm really glad to find your site.

My fathers name is Eddie Condo and he flew with your unit in 1968. I would really like to get in touch with someone who new him. If you have any information that might be of assistance for me or if you new him. Please e-mail me back.

Thank you.

Fantasy Condo AMN, USAF

We reach a lot of people out there I hope one of you can be of help.

Dragon-11

### T-SHIRT

Should we order 52D CAB t-shirts, they would be like the reunion shirts, in full color with the BN logo on the front and all the units, call signs, etc. on the back. What would be missing would be any mention of a reunion. These are great shirts, in full color and they last for years ask anyone who has one. Show the colors at the reunions this summer. Their cost would be between \$10 and \$13 plus \$4 postage. But before I order I have to know if there is a interest and get some sizes. SEE BELOW

NAME _____		WIFES NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____			
CITY _____		STATE _____	ZIP _____
HOME PHONE _____ - _____		WORK PHONE _____ - _____	
E-MAIL _____		FAX _____ - _____	
UNIT _____		DATES _____	
UNIT _____		DATES _____	
CALL SIGNS _____			
MEMBERSHIPS	LIFE \$160.00	GENERAL \$15.00	\$ _____
52d CAB Hatpin/pin (\$5.50) pins will be mailed when we receive them.			\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____
MAKE CHECKS OUT TO "52D CAB REUNION"			
Verns fax number <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">XXXXXXXXXX</span>			
Please note that the membership fees have gone up. The old fees \$100.00 or \$10.00 are good until 15 Jan 99. After that date the new fees are in effect. Life membership fees can be paid in equal increments of \$40.00 per month.			
Interested in T-shirts	YES	NO	Sizes you would need _____ Number _____
Fax or mail this to me . Let me know if I should order???			