

The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association is a fraternal Veterans organization filed under IRS Code section 501(c)19. We are established for the purpose of holding reunions, writing unit and battalion history, and to re-establish the comradery of the Battalion, units and Detachments associated with the 145th CAB, (45th Trans BN in the early days). We are trying to locate everyone who served with the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion and 45th Trans Bn. in Vietnam, the units of HHC, 8th, 33rd, 57th, 81st, 93rd, 339th Trans CO's, the UTT, 18th, 25th, 68th, 71st, 74th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 135th, 147th, 184th, 190th, 197th, 213th, 242nd, 334th, 335th AVN Companies, CO A-82nd AVN BN, CO A-501st AVN BN, 57th MED, and all Detachments. Many of these units served with the 145th Battalion for just a short time in Vietnam. To truly re-establish the comradery of the units we welcome everyone assigned to these units to join in with us. To us a unit is a unit no matter what other battalions it may have been assigned to.

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**145TH COMBAT
AVIATION BATTALION
(Vietnam)
ASSOCIATION**



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NL 13

"OLD WARRIORS"
Newsletter

APRIL 1990, VOL. 13

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1-219-483-5149

Hello everyone its newsletter time again and it looks like I'll even get this one out on time. In about 3 or 4 weeks I will be printing the 1990 Directory of everyone we have located, so this is about the last chance to make corrections to your mailing address and or telephone number before printing of the directory, so please everyone make sure I have your current address and phone number. I'm still missing phone numbers for many of you.

The T-shirt sells have been going real well especially the Association design. Along with the Association, UTT, and 197th T-shirts we now have T-shirts for 121st AHC and the 120th AHC. For more details on the T-shirt designs see page 17. And I'm working on more of the unit T-shirt designs, let me know which design you want me to work on next. The design for the 190th AHC that I have is OD green and black, I need to know if this is the real colors for the patch or if it is just the subdued patch colors, please let me know.

You will notice that starting on page 2, is a section called Readers Response, I look forward to receiving your response from this newsletter and hope to find many more of the details of our history in your responses. So send in whatever info you can and of course we are always interest in any remarks you may have. The Readers Response section of the newsletter is your section, written by you, I will put in almost everything you send in, unless I feel that you didn't want it put in, space permitting, if you mark it for the R R section or not for the R R section it will help. Let me know if you think there is to many Editorial Notes, most are to explain why I do things certain ways or give credit where credit is due. Writing the Readers Response section gives me a chance to catch up on the mail, if you have written in your letter and answer is probably in that section.

I have gotten many positive comments about the articles about the Battalion History, so the article is continues in this newsletter on page 10, 11 & 12. The article deals with the early days of the 93rd. If you would like to see more details on your time with the 145th please send in any information you can. In the next newsletter will be a report on the 57TH Trans Co early days. Remember I was there in 69-70 and that's the only time period that I can remember, so please put in as many details as possible. And for those of you who served with a unit before or after it was assigned to the 145th please send me info on your unit so I can cover them better. My historical information file is very thin after Tet of 1968, so please send me any information you can, try to put as close a historical date on it as you can.

If you check the mailing label of this newsletter, you will see your membership status. The mailing label will say Member, or Please renew, or Please join. If it says Please renew or Please join then please send in your \$10 membership dues so we can keep locating new people. Some people have asked for a reminder of when their dues are due and the individual mailing label is the easiest way. The 89-90 membership year will expire on 1 July, so check your membership card and please renew if it expires in July 1990.

If any of you have any sets of orders that has any information about anyone who served with the units listed on the cover of the newsletter please send me a copy, if you haven't done so already. The information may help locate them. If you have any old address please send them. I need all the information you can send. If you have any current address or can get any current address, I will put them on the newsletter mailing list. I would appreciate it if you could copy the top of the cover page and post it anywhere some of our former members may be, VFWs, Am. Leg., Military Post, Guard Units, etc., etc.

Also with this newsletter is a brochure about the Veterans National Memorial Shrine where our museum display will be on temporary display (for proper storage) between reunions and other display events. I am currently their Vice-present and spend about 8 to 10 hour per week volunteering there. Also included with this newsletter is a flier about "LZ Bluegrass".

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, I tried to put in many interesting articles. Please let me know what you think, positive or negative. If you have anything you think would be of interest please send it in, I would appreciate it.

READERS RESPONSE

Here are some of the letters I have received since the last newsletter. I thank all who wrote in and invite everyone to write in. I think this is the best part of the newsletter. Please read the letters, I think you will find them interesting.

Dear Jim, In preparation for the New Year, I was going through some old papers and boxes and came across an old unit history, given to newly assigned personnel coming into the 121st Aviation Company. I also, found a unit crest that was worn by members on their baseball caps and unit officers wore them on the unofficial epaulets sown on their fatigues. These are the few items I've kept from the war, so will not part with them. I have made copies of both and you may want to run the unit history in some future newsletter to the members. The unit crest would look nice on a T-shirt. Since I arrived at the 121st in October 1963, I would guess that the figures cited on page 4 of the unit history are for the period ending late summer of '63. Maybe someone can provide an update for events after that date.

Enjoy our newsletter very much, it arrives alittle late overseas sometimes, but it is nice to hear about old friends and events. Best wishes in the New Year, keep up the good work! I am enclosing a small donation, please use it as you see fit. Sincerely, Lee Falk

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Lee for your support and the historical information, you will find the 93rd Trans. Co./ 121st Avn. Co. early unit history printed in the Bn History section of this newsletter. I added the three names, Cpt Donald B Toth, 1Lt Lewis L Stone, and 1Lt Charles M Fitts to our Memorial List. The report also says one other member was Killed In Action on 2 January 1963 but does not give a name. If anyone has the name please send it to me, I have Sgt William Leander Deal who served with the UTT that was Killed In Action on 2 January 1963. Along with the historical report was a picture and description of the unofficial unit crest for the 121st Avn Co. The crest was made of cheap metal with two back clips. Measuring 1 1/4" by 1 1/4" in size. Shield was black enamel, border was red & tiger was yellow with a red tongue. 121 Avn Co was always in red with the senior Army aviator wings & scroll in silver. The lightning bolt on tigers neck, depending on flight platoon this was colored Red, White, or Blue. This emblem appeared on the tail of each CH-21 and was found embroidered on the side of the ball caps worn by unit members. I think for making up the T-shirt design for the entire unit I'll make the lightning bolt all three colors, Red, White, and Blue, 1/3 each color.

November 2, 1989, Dear Jim: I have enjoyed receiving your newsletters and commend you and Debbie for making the effort to pull the association together. In the past I too have tried to kindle the embers of groups that should have associated and fully recognize the time and effort this requires. Congratulations and thank you for doing a great job.

I was attached to the 187th Assault Helicopter Company in Tay Ninh from 1969 until they were reassigned to Dian, near Saigon in 1971. I was NCOIC of the medical detachment (541st Med Det GA) which supported the entire Tay Ninh base camp after the MAST Hospital was closed following the rotation of the 25th Infantry Division and likewise at Dian where I believe the 118th and or 134th were located 1971-1972. Within the next few days I will be returning to Vietnam to survey the locations and set up for the filming in mid 1990 of a documentary entitled "The Reunion, Those Who Served". The concept for this project was born on the day of the big battle scene during the filming of The Iron Triangle on which I served as the technical advisor. Something happened to me that day as I was laying in the rice paddy in uniform directing the helicopters and some of the action. I realized there and then that I wanted to, needed to find and see again, those good friends of mine that I had somehow lost after coming home. The reunion is about all of us who served, and came home only to try and forget an unpopular segment of our life. I am proud to be an American who served in Vietnam, and while I would question it today, I did my duty and for that I am proud.

If I am entitled to join your association please sign me up and use the extra money I have sent for postage or whatever you deem appropriate. If I am not to be a member then use the full amount towards your continued good work. Respectfully, Ed Artis

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Welcome aboard Ed, I done a little research, and although the 187th Avn Co. was not assigned to the 145th in Vietnam, I'm sure that the 541st Med Det helped serve members of our units when you were there. When you arrived at the 541st the 242nd ASHC was also assigned to your Battalion, the 269th CAB, when the 187th was transferred to the 11th CAB in Apr 71, the 74th, 135th, and 213th Avn Companies were assigned to the 11th CAB when you were there. Because

of your service to the members of our units I'm proud to accept you as a member of our Association. Thank you for your membership dues and the donation. I have listed Ed in with the 135 AHC in the directory as a matter of convenience. Ed also sent some newspaper clips from just after he returned to the states, when I returned home from Vietnam I didn't want to know about what was happening over there, but not Ed, he went to work right away getting supplies for the civic actions project that he and other members of the 541st started in Vietnam, helping Cambodian refugees evacuated to Katum. Even though Ed was still on active duty when he returned he worked to gather supplies and got them sent to Vietnam where they were needed. I wish Ed the best in getting the documentary "The Reunion, Those Who Served" put together, and waiting to see it.

Dear Jim: Enclosed is a copy of orders & also a letter we all received in the 57th Trans. Nearly all the officers & EMs on these orders were career men, the draftees ser. no. were lettered US. We also had a maintenance detachment the 98th, I don't have any of there orders. Hoping this will help you in your search for new members. I remain, Michael Viscaino

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Michael. The letter given to the members of the 57th Trans outlines all their "First" and their history. I will add it to the over all Battalion History and print it in a future newsletter Battalion History section. I have added Sp5 Richard L K Ellis to our Killed In Action Memorial List and added SP6 LeRoy F Reed to our Died after leaving list. The other names I will add to the help find list.

Dear Jim: We met at Marion VA Hospital last year while I was a patient there. I sincerely appreciate not only the time you spent with me there, but also your efforts in bringing this Battalion together. We discussed an individual there I didn't know which unit he was assigned to, as it didn't make any difference at the time. So many of us together doing the same thing. His name was Matsuura, Alan Yukio, Honolulu, HI, 1E 48 12 April 1964. I think he was a crew chief but could have been Gunner from 25th Inf. So long ago but his face & personality remains clear in my mind. That seems strange, all the memories feelings and even thoughts and conversations with people 26 years ago.

Anyway sending my dues, \$10 not much but maybe it will help. If anyone knows whereabouts of "Bill" Anderson from Iowa would love to get in touch with him. He was with us at Ton Son Nhut in 1964. Also I have old black & white Photo of "Ellis Compound" HQ HQ in 64 if interested let me know. Your VN Brother, [REDACTED]

P.S. Anything I can help with on this end let me know. I may be back at Marion in April.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I really enjoyed visiting with you at Marion VA, the group of us that visit there the third Tuesday of every month receive much more from our visits then we give. Thank you for your dues and I added Alan Matsuura to our memorial list. Just hearing about Alan from you changes him from just a name on a list to a person who is living in our memory. I know what you mean about remembering in detail things that happened many years ago in Vietnam when many times I can't remember what I was doing last week, maybe those things were much more meaningful to us. If you have a picture or a copy of a picture that you feel would be helpful for the Battalion Archives it would be greatly appreciated, but I couldn't ask anyone to send something that really means alot to them personally, use your own judgment. Hopefully the people we have located in Iowa will check their phone books and find "Bill" Anderson for us. And to everyone out there who lives within driving distance of one of the Combat Veterans Treatment Programs at the VA Hospitals and have two or three hours a month they would be willing to spend with other Vets, check on getting a couple of guys together and setting up a visiting schedule. The way we have set it up with Marion, IN VA Hospital is we visit the third Tuesday of each month from about 6PM to 9PM with the Vets in the treatment program. We have it set up with Pizza Hut to donate 2 or 3 large pizzas for each visit and we supply the soft drinks, for the guys in the program it is a real treat after eating in a VA mess hall and also lets them know that there are people out there that cares about their well being. And it's hard to explain the rewards you will receive from the visits but I think if you try it a few time you'll keep going back. And by the way, how many of you have asked your representatives in Congress to support HR 3037 that I wrote about in the newsletter before last (NL11), basicly HR 3037 sets up more of the treatment programs and provides for training of more personnel to run the programs. If you want more information let me know.

Dear Jim: I received your newsletter a couple of weeks ago and was happy to see that some one

has started an organization like this. I have often wondered where some of our comrades are and what they are doing today. I was with the 68th AHC from Sept of 69 until Dec 70. I have lots of memories from that time. I looked over your list of members and also the list of newly located people. I can add a couple of names to your list and hope that they can be of use to you. (1) R.J. Smith, [REDACTED], former WO with 68th. (2) Paul Nichols, 208 [REDACTED], former WO with 68th AHC. This maybe an old address. I am inclosing a check for my membership to the 145th C.A.B.V.A. and find a distinct honor in doing so. If you need assistance on any future endeavor for the organization, please do not hesitate to contact me. Sincerely, Marvin Durkee, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you for joining and your very positive statements in doing so. I have made sure that Mr Smith and Mr Nichols are on the mailing list, I remember all of you from my tour. I served with the 68th from 2 July 69 to 20 Dec 70, most of the time as a doorgunner and crew chief with the 2nd lift. I'm best remembered by my nick name "Crash" given to me by Charlie Bonham, crew chief. It was my luck to slide down the side of a mountain in March 1970, run out of gas with Mr Van Deest, landed upside down on the perimeter with Mr Stave, 27 July 70, and a few other little mishaps. A very exciting time in my life, hopefully never to be equaled again. I just received a note from R.J. Smith, thank you and please read on. I just found out that has moved, so we'll still need to look for him.

Dear Jim: Sorry I'm so slow in sending my dues. Thanks for your understanding. I have made some contacts through your directory. Hopefully I can get to Rucker and see the faces. Thanks for all the work you put into the 145th CAB Assoc. Sincerely, R.J. Smith

P.S. The address I had for Carlos Garza was [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you, R.J., for your dues and I have made the correction to Carlos Garza's address. You were very quick in joining. I'm glad to hear you made some contacts from the Directory, that's why it's printed and that's what keeps us going and growing. There has been many of our members who weren't real interested in our Assoc., until one of their friends from their tour called them, then they became very enthusiastic members. From what I am hearing we should really have a lot of people at the 91 Reunion at Ft. Rucker, and for the many of us that were stationed there or took training there it will be like going back 20 to 30 years in time. So make your plans to be there and let your friends know so they can start making plans.

Dear Jim: I received your computer printout of the current addresses of association members out of the 118th AHC. I also received your "help find these people" report and have the following names and addresses for you off that list: Warren (Pappy) Spencer, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and Robert G. (Bob) Shain [REDACTED]. I sincerely appreciate your 118th roster. Bill Wieland and I are going to try to locate some of the other folks out of the 118th, and if we do, we will keep you advised of their current address and telephone numbers. Keep up the good work! Sincerely, James R Thorne
(EDITORIAL NOTE) I talked with Jim Thorne at the 89 Reunion and he said he wanted to work on a chart to match up aircraft and crews for his time in the 118th, Sept 1967 thru Sept 1968. I told him I thought it was a great idea and I would send him all the info I could. Putting something together like that takes a lot of work and is a great service for those who served on those aircraft. I urge those of you who served on the aircraft of the 118th to please help as much as you can. I have found that projects like this are hard to have cut off dates for, before he's done we might have a chart for the 118th from the time it started till it left Vietnam. I sent Jim Thorne an updated list to work from and I will be sending Bill Wieland an updated list. I want to thank them for their effort and wish them continued success. Oh, if you receive a letter with a return address of Thorne, Peeler & Rayes, Attorneys at Law, don't worry its not a law suit, its most likely a letter about association business. Please read on for the next letter from Jim Thorne I received a few weeks later.

Dear Jim: Thanks for the updated roster on the 118th. I took some time to go over the roster today and found two individuals who I think you will find are the same as two of the people shown on your "help find" roster. Dewey "Jack" Shelton, [REDACTED], 76014 and Fred Hoffman, [REDACTED]. Although there is nothing that specifically indicates that these are the two people you are looking for, you might want to correspond with them and verify that information. Additionally, I was given the following name by Doc Marchman, Bill Benton (Major), [REDACTED]

I was very saddened to hear that one of our 118th members, George D Dorsey, of Metairie, Louisiana died in August of last year in a drowning accident. I was given that information by his wife today and thought that you might want to put a note in the newsletter to that effect. As I mentioned previously, we are going to make a serious attempt at getting a 118th gathering planned for later this year and hope to locate a number of the 118th folks listed on your "help find" roster. As we have names and addresses available, I will certainly forward them to you for the 145th directory. Thanks again for your help. Sincerely, James R. Thorne

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim for the new addresses and I have made sure they are on the mailing list. I have changed George D. Dorsey's mailing label to read Mrs. George Dorsey and I am listing her as an Honorary Member for life. I will write to her about our Funeral Fund / Memorial Fund ART. 15 of our By-Laws, and although we haven't set the amount in the by-laws, when George Ecker died in June 1988 we sent \$30 to his Memorial Fund, and I will do the same for George Dorsey depending upon Mrs Dorsey's wishes. It's not much and a little late but I hope it will convey our feeling of loss over George's passing. Let me know more about plans for the 118th gathering later this year, or if it is easier it can be scheduled into the 1991 Reunion at Rucker. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help with your efforts. Thank you.

Dear Jim: Hope you and the others members are well. Wrote before, received no answer. My memory has been destroyed by cortisone given to me for lung ailments caused by ingesting too much JP4 while topping off tanks as a crewman. I have also been force fed thorazine, mellaril, anti-depressants for mental problems in VA Hospitals. I also handled defoliants during my first tour in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne. I want to ask other members a question, who in the 68th, 334th, and the 118th and the other companies I gunned for remember me. I suffered a 6 month bout of amnesia, I blacked out in the 173rd and came to myself while in the 68th Assault Co. My nick name was "Airborne dog". I remember a few names like SFC Broome, "The Grim Sweeper", ship number I OJT'd on - Top Tiger 23A and that we either crashed or were shot down somewhere. Also remember Duc Hoa rescue mission. Whoever remembers me please write. I was awarded basic Air Medal but never received subsequent awards - was put in for Bronze medal for delivering ammo & rockets under fire while under enemy rocket and mortar attack Tet 1968, never received it. Please print this warning to members: Beware of blaming disabling ailments on Agent Orange etc, look into problems caused by ingesting helicopter fuel please, Tolvene isocyanates - same as in Bhopal, India. Also beware of taking leva-dopa anti-parkinsonian agent for depression - it can really finish screwing you up. M. Fisher, [REDACTED]

P.S. Membership dues inclosed.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Mel for your dues and letter. Your letter arrived after the last newsletter's Readers Response section was already printed but I was able to get part of your letter in a Help Remembering article. Hopefully some of our readers have been able to help you out with some information. I'm completely lost when it comes to the medical information and I hope some of our members who are doctors or know about these drugs and chemicals will be kind enough to shed some light on this. On the subject of Agent Orange, the main storage and mixing dump was just a few hundred feet north of the 68th hanger and many of the reventments were built with Agent Orange barrels. I hear that the big bar-B-Q grill was made from Agent Orange barrels. If anyone can help Mel Fisher out with any information please write to him. Thank you.

Hello Jim: I hope this finds all well at your home, as all is pretty good here, and all doing well. Sorry about being so long in dropping this line. We really enjoyed the 1989 Reunion and are really looking forward to 1991 at Ft Rucker for we have a daughter and grandson there if her husband doesn't leave Rucker before then we will be able to visit with them as well as the Reunion. I am #11 in picture, James R "Bob" Thomas. We left Denver and went to Angel Fire, New Mexico and that was also worth going to see, my wife and I really enjoyed it. However after we left there just before we got to the Hatch, NM turnoff where we were changing roads, a deer ran into our car coming from the center median on the interstate. But I guess we were lucky as we were able to drive on home in Tucson after spending a night in Lordsburg. It took about two or three hours to get away from Hatch as that is where we drove on to report the accident to the High Way Patrol. If I had set down when I got home to write this would have been longer. While at Angel Fire I looked through photo and a directory of KIAs and picked up some names of Vietnam Army Aviation personnel. I don't know if any of the names will be of any help or are even connected as there was no information of units, just names and some dates. Well I guess that is about it this setting. Your Friend in Tucson, James R Thomas. Bob

P.S. Really enjoyed Bulletin, Thank you for a job well done.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob for the letter. I could write a page bragging about how well my children are doing in school and their other activities, but I won't, I'll just say everything is going great. My family and I stopped by Angel Fire the day after the Reunion, I really liked the place, but most of all I admire the purpose for it being there, a father's memorial to his son killed in Vietnam, I hope D.A.V. doesn't lose that purpose under their management of it. My only mishap after leaving there was my first speeding ticket in over 15 years, and my kids still think it's funny. I checked the help find file of over 3500 names of people who served with the battalion that have been sent in and didn't find a name match for the list of KIAs you sent, but thank you for the thought, all these people should be remembered. I added the names and home of record of the people on the set of orders to the help find file, maybe we can locate them soon. As you read in the editorial note to Michael Viscaino's letter that Richard L K Ellis, KIA 5 Oct 1962, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is on our Memorial List that will be printed in this years Directory that I will be printing soon. They are remembered. Take care and I'll see you at Ft Rucker in 1991.

Keep up the great work, but if you don't start remembering the 74th RAC I'm going to be supremely disappointed. 74th RAC was part of original 1st in Vietnam. Callsign "ALOFT" in '67 and '68, and stayed a part of the 145th until the 210th Avn Bn was establishes at Bear Cat sometime in '68. Bob Clewell, ALOFT 1, 16, LTC (USA) Rtd

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob for joining and we won't forget about the 74th. The information I have is the 74th Avn Co, later redesignated 74th Reconnaissance Airplane Company was activated on 26 March 1965. The company was formed from the assets of the 1st, 13th, 14th, 52nd, and 145th Aviation Platoons (FW) (Prov). The 74th RAC had the 563rd Trans Det and 320th Signal Det assigned to it. During the course of any day, the ALOFT pilots covered the complete III Corps Tactical Area rendering invaluable reconnaissance, adjusting artillery, providing convoy cover, and radio relay for ground units engaged against the Viet Cong. In January 1968 the 74th was reassigned to the 210th CAB until July 1971, then assigned to the 11th CAB until they departed Vietnam on 20 March 1972. James E Sparenburg, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has volunteered to be the 74th RAC unit historian, you might want to contact him about helping to put together a 74th RAC history report for the newsletter.

Dear James: Thank you for the January issue of the Newsletter. As always, it seems to get better and better with each issue. As you recall from our previous correspondence, I am the first commander of the 145th and was privileged to command it for the first six months or so of its life, before passing it on. I am also the last commander of the 45th TC Bn, from whence the men, officers and equipment came, when the 145th was formed. I also was saddened to be present at the inactivation of the 145th at Ft Stewart, GA. 30 September 1982. If anyone has copies of the Army Aviation Magazine for 1963, there is quite a bit of information on the 145th and its associated units in my periodic VIETNAM REPORTS. Lots of units, names and places. In late 1963, I approved the first pocket patch for the 145th. It was a V design, red, with white borders. Superimposed were the numbers "145" with a wing, of blue and white, coming out of each side. I only have one left, but shall try to get a copy for you at the first opportunities. Some of the 1st shift members (1963) will remember. The 145th commanded all helicopter units in Vietnam including UTT, except for the 57th Med Air Ambulance. Later we broke out the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion in the Highlands and the Delta Combat Aviation Battalion in the Delta. More for your next issue. Keep up the good work.

Good luck. Hi to all the old gang that might remember me. We had a great outfit in 63 and I know the 145th held that reputation throughout its life time, short as it was. I was happy to learn in 1988, there is a 1st Aviation Battalion, 145th Combat Aviation, although I do not know where it is located. I am sure you are in touch. Good luck to all. Alligator 6, Col. Kenneth D Mertel

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Its so good to hear from you COL Mertel, its been a while. Hopefully someone out there can round up a photocopy of the VIETNAM REPORTS from the 1963 Army Aviation Magazine, anyone that can get me a copy please do so. I have seen black and white drawings of the pocket patch you refer to, but never seen one in color. If you could get me a color picture taken straight on I would appreciate it for our archives, I never knew the story behind it, thank you. There has been discussion before about pather or not the 57th Med came under the command of the 145th. Some said it did and some said it didn't, but all agreed there was a good working

relationship between the men of the 145th and the men of the 57th Med. They supported our guys when needed and our guys supported them when needed, especially the UTT. The way I understand it the 571st Trans Det that was assigned to the UTT, 68th, 197th, and 334th, also done the maintenance for the 57th Med Det. The 1st Bn, 145th AVN. is stationed at Ft. Rucker, AL, you can contact them by writing to: Battalion Commander, 1st Battalion, 145th AVN, Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5092. Gen. Richard Kenyon who is the chairman of our 1991 Reunion Committee at Fort Rucker is the Honorary Colonel for the 145th AVN Regiment. Hopefully I'll see you at the 1991 Reunion at Fort Rucker.

I got a note from Jay Elliott with the current mailing address for the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association, 7 West Seventh St., Suite 1940, Cincinnati, OH 45202, 1-513-721-VHPA. I mistakenly printed their old address on page 12 of the last newsletter. Thank you Jay.

135th AHC Letters

Dear Jim: I haven't seen much in our newsletter about the 135th AHC. This unit was unique in that it was an Experimental Military Unit comprised of both U.S. Army and Royal Australian Navy personnel. This should generate some membership from down under. I am guilty of not keeping up with many of my friends to include the Australians possibly somebody else has. I have enclosed a copy of our 1969 yearbook for you to keep on file if you have a place for it. It does have a little historical information in it that might be worth printing. There is also a listing of our KIAs through July 1969. Hope this will generate some more input from my fellow EMUs and Taipans. Respectfully, Mark Bryant

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Mark, the yearbook has already been very useful. In our last newsletter that you should have received right after sending the yearbook, there was a letter about the 135th AHC by J.L. Baratz. I have added the names of the KIAs to our Memorial List. And I will be printing the 135th AHC unit history in the Battalion History part of the newsletter within the next few newsletters. Please read on for some more letters about the 135th AHC.

Dear Jim: Thanks for sending me the information packet. I would like to join the Association. inclosed is a money order for \$10. I have current addresses for two enlisted friends which I served with, they are as follows: Michael D Hickman, [REDACTED] and Paul Petrie, R.D. [REDACTED]. The three of us served with the 68th Signal Detachment of the 135th AHC from April 68 to April 69. The 68th Signal Detachment Commander during most of this time was CW2 Charles R Sanders. Inclosed are copies of orders and miscellaneous information from my tour. I hope this may help to piece together some of the Battalion History. If you have any information pertaining to the period 1968 and 1969, specifically dealing with operations of the 135th AHC I would appreciate your passing it to me. Thanks for any effort you give my request. Thank you, William C Murphey, D Btry 6-3 ADA, APO New York, NY. 09142

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Also inclosed in the letter was copies of orders and a photocopy of his 135th pocket patch. The pocket patch was designed with pilot wings on an anchor, above the anchor are the letters U.S.A. R.A.N., below the anchor are the letters EMU, surrounding this is the olympic wreath, below that it said "GET THE BLOODY JOB DONE". I sent William Murphey a copy of the history from the yearbook referred to in Mark Bryant and sent Michael Hickman and Paul Petrie a copy of the last newsletter. Thank you Bill, please read on for another letter about the 135th.

Dear Jim and Deb: In your Jan. newsletter I received the Pink Slip. Thanks for reminding me that I'm a little late on my dues. So I'm sending you last years and this years dues and I appreciate that it didn't hurt. I also took interest in your letter from J.L. Baratz. He was the First Shirt for the 135th at that time. (Hello Sarge) We departed as a unit from Grey Army Airfield at Fort Hood, Texas, Sept 67. From what I can remember our call sign was the Texas Rangers. We entered and were TEMP station at Vung Tau then relocated to Black Horse, the 11th CAV Compound at Xuan Loc. The Australians we merged with was an element of the Royal Australian Navy. I'm sorry I can't remember which unit. The EMU was the revised call sign and it was that bird we were nick named after. But until your newsletter I didn't know that E.M.U. was derived from Experimental Military Unit. I was the youngest man in the company up until my tour was over. I turned 18 about 2 or 3 weeks before we departed to Vietnam. I was a Mach., door gunner, then Crew Chief. I'm very proud of being part of that history. Because of America's dissatisfaction of it all, and the memories of the fallen or missing, I tend to want to separate myself from it.

I want to thank you, and Deb, and everyone involved with the 145th. Thank all of you for putting together a very possitive mission for the 145th. I'm looking forward in growing with the Association, and learning more about Our Heritage. Little Man, Theodore A Nazaroff

P.S. Jim, I looked thru what I still have and I ran copies of them. I hope you can benifit from them. The photo was taken of the logo on the nose of the company Command ship. Most of the slicks had a side profile of an orange colored silhouette of the Emu. The patch is a second print (Vietnamese version) made in Vung Tau 1967, 1st company issue after the merge with the Aussie. Orginally we had some made in Texas and with a Texas & American flag. I would love to have or see a copy of that patch (never issued). About the museum, go for it.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Along with the letter was a color photocopy of the patch described above and a color photocopy of the picture of the C&C nose cover. I would love to be able to make color photocopies of the quality he sent. I will enter the info from the orders he sent into the Help Find file. It is my guess that the copy of the pocket patch he sent was of the first one used in Vietnam and the pocket patch described earlier was the second design used by the 135th, would some of the other members of the 135th help me out with info. I would like to make unit T-shirts with these designs. The pink slip he referred to at the beginning of his letter was suppost to be a red paper, but Deb picked up the wrong color when she got paper. The idea behind it is to get people's attention that their dues are do. I wouldn't send out pink slips, I use to be a flight simulator instructor at Rucker and people always disliked it when I gave out pink slips. The pilots will know what I mean. And I would like to say that when I went to Vietnam, I did what I thought was right, that's all that counts, I'm a Vietnam Veteran, and very proud of it.

The next 135th AHC letter was from James Baber. Some of the guys in the 135th are planning a 135th reunion for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th of August, 1990, in the Dallas, Fort Worth area. On the 3rd they are planning a tour of Bell Helicopter, and on the 4th they are planning a Bar-B-Que. He says several of the Australians are planning to attend. He sent current addresses for 9 of the Australian members of the 135th. I sent Jim Baber a current print out of the people we have located from the 135th and hope they have a great reunion, and hopefully we will see them at the 1991 Reunion at Fort Rucker. For more information on the 135th AHC reunion contact: James Baber, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Jim, Sorry that I haven't renewed my membership before this. I don't have an excuse. Just been too lazy to throw it in the mail. I should have renewed at the reunion. I enjoyed getting together in Denver. I'm number 42 in the reunion photo. I am looking forward to the next one at Ft. Rucker. I think most of us appreciate the job you have taken on even though we don't get to tell you. If you need anything from the Minneapolis area just ask. Thanks, S. Lee Hallquist

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Lee, I know I can count on you. It was really nice in Denver and our Reunion at Ft Rucker should really be great. I have gotten many more of the details, so make sure to see the Reunion 91 Update in this newsletter. I'm still looking for names for numbers 18, 19, 20, 27, 28, 29, 39, 49, 51, and 54 in the reunion photo.

And in another letter I got a membership form and T-shirt order from Bob Tallgren. What really made this so special for me was, I wanted to locate Bob Tallgren for John Riggle every since John and I talked back about Dec 1985. In the Sept 1989 newsletter there was a letter from John Riggle about finding Bob. It really made my day knowing that in a small way I was able to help these two good friends get together. I know this happens just about every time the new people located list comes out, but this one was really special for me because of the conversations with John and my promise to him to try to locate Bob. Success, that's what makes it all worthwhile.

Dear Sirs: I'm writing this note to you in hope of finding my last crew chief. His name was Frank Ponzio from Florida & he also served in the 334th (Dragons) Armed Helicopter Co 68-69 at Bien Hoa. This is a picture of Frank Ponzio, maybe one of our brothers will recognize him & furnish some info on him. If you can please get this published & anyone can write or call me at: John L Macedo, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] collect. Thanks for everything.

P.S. I haven't joined sooner because I've been stone broke. I was just awarded 50% service connected retroactive 1 year for PTSD & now plus my SSI I'll be a regular paying member. God bless you all.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you John, hopefully we will be able to locate Frank Ponzio from Florida

soon. If all the people we have in Florida will check their local phone book maybe we can find him soon. I had no information on him in our help find file so if anyone can find any info on him in their old sets of orders I would like a copy.

Dear Jim: Enclosed you will find my check and order for 2 more Old UTT T-shirts. If you ever consider making a sew on patch with this design I would be interested. About the "91" reunion. Some may be interested in camping again. My RV park directory lists only one site near Ozark. It lists having 40 sites at \$9. Ozark Camper Park. 3 miles north on US 231, at mile marker 47. Dothan lists 2 sites but both are small. Can you find out if Ft. Rucker has camping sites? Here's another member of the old UTT. I can't remember if I already sent you his name. If I did, here it is again: STEINE, Joel R. Lt Col. (Was Capt in '63) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Retired now.

I received an answer from Dave Price who I wrote to in Hawaii asking information about "Visual Dreams Productions." He says it's on the up and up. He mentioned he got a T shirt from you and liked it. I also received an answer from Terrance Morin with 6 pages of "who he is!" I'll send you a copy of his letter. In it he asks "Who is Jim Bodkin?" Your welcome to let him know if you'd like! He is praised highly as a screenwriter. He was even mixed up with Eugene Hasenfus at one time. Remember him? He was shot down over Nicaragua while flying arms and supplies to the Contras. He said he was working for the CIA! Isn't everybody? Sure glad to read that your not sending out membership directories to any and everyone! I'm on enough junk mailing lists as it is. The museum display sounds like a good idea. You know best if we can afford it. It should be designed to be expandable so that items could added from time to time as they are received. A loan to another museum would be good relations for all involved and would solved the problem of having to keep it stored someplace. Perhaps it could even be loaned out to other museums across the country from time to time or on special occasions. Are there any 145th CAB Association patches? Guess I'll say so long for now. Our warm summer like weather has changed overnight with a vengeance! Could be getting some snow. We were lucky with "Hugo". Passed us by to the west and we made out OK. Hope this finds you and your family well. Your friend Al Compton

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Al for your support. I checked an old Military Campground Guide and it list that Ft Rucker has a campground on post at the Lake Tholocco Engineer Beach Camp Area. It list reservations required, open to active duty, retired military, DOD civilians, no pets, 18 spaces with hook ups, tent camping, restrooms, showers, picnic area, playground, marina, boat rental, etc. There are 2 phone numbers listed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to see if this info is still current. I have added Joel Steine to our mailing list.

I will write to Terrance Morin, but the question "Who is Jim Bodkin?" is a tough one. I guess I'll have to say I'm just another Vet, proud to have served in Vietnam, and wanting to get everyone who served with our Battalion together again. I want to make sure that everyone who served in Vietnam and didn't return quite the same, be remembered. I also want to make sure that what we did, how we served, and why we served, is not forgotten. I have seen Nam Vets in general, if there is such a thing as a Nam Vet in general, being portrayed in such an unrealistic way that it would nice to see something done on screen right. I know he would need an interesting story line, with a good hook, to get the money to make the movie, but I couldn't think of anything more interesting then a group of men taking some helicopters designed to be air ambulances, stapping on some guns and rockets, and making the best fighting machine ever invented. If he just covered the first year I'm sure TV could pick it up as a weekly continuing program. With characters rotating in and out and some doing two or three different tours. In China Beach and Tour of Duty the character get so old and unbelievable and story line get lost.

The museum display, if it will work the way its suppost to, will be fairly easy to change and up date. The four wings of pictures will be hinged so it will fold together for transport and unfold and lock into place for display, like a very large four page photo album. As the display grows more of the displays will be added, each would be free standing and can be placed on open floor space. The cost will depend most on the quality of the wood frame, pine is cheaper than oak, etc. It could be loaned out, but that would depend upon the shipping, we wouldn't want it to be lost in shipping, just like with the "Moving Wall" someone trustworthy would have to transport it in person. About Association patches, I will be checking in on them soon, we could use the standard "First In Vietnam" patch with the ASSOCIATION ribbon attached. Sounds like a good idea. Take care, Friend, JIM

145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association Membership Form

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____ check one EM _____ WO _____ OF _____

I served with the 145th CAB with (UNIT) _____ from (DATE) _____ to _____

I have enclosed \$10 for each membership year. Total _____ for 1 July 1990 to 30 June 19__

Regular _____ Associate (family) member _____ Renewal _____
 Send to: 145th C.A.B.V.A., 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Ft. Wayne, IN. 46805

CASSETTE TAPE

Send me the cassette tape/s. By ordering these tapes I agree not to copy them and to protect the copyrights for further distribution. Signature required on bottom of form.

_____ "Battle of Bien Hoa and Gunship Action" Audio Cassette @ \$15 each.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Signature _____

Complete amount inclosed \$ _____ Send order to: 145th CABVA, 3719 FOREST HILL AVE, FT WAYNE, IN 46805

THUNDERBIRD PATCHES

Send me _____ Thunderbird Patches at \$4 each

Name _____
 Street _____

City, State, Zip _____
 Send order to: David Evans, 29609 Bock Street, Garden City, MI 48135

TOP TIGER PATCHES

Send me _____ Top Tiger patches at \$4 each

Name _____
 Street _____

City, State, Zip _____
 Send order to: 145th C.A.B.V.A. 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

COLOR T-SHIRTS

Send me _____ Unit T-Shirts at \$13 each including postage. (Mark Unit and Size)

_____ #01-01 145th BN (FIRST IN VIETNAM) Asso.	_____ Medium
_____ #11-02 120AHC	_____ Large
_____ #12-02 121AHC	_____ Ex-large
_____ #17-01 UTT (1962-1963)	_____ #17-02 UTT (1964)
_____ #17-04 197AHC	_____ XX-large
	_____ XXX-large

Send order to: 145th C.A.B.V.A., 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
 1-219-483-5149
 Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery, if not in stock. See page 17 for T-shirt description.

Name _____
 Street _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 NL13



34th ANNUAL INDIANA VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 1996

Located on the grounds of

Howard Johnsons and Ramada Inn

KOKOMO, INDIANA

ENTERTAINMENT and GUEST SPEAKERS

Brett Small & Festival

Vettz

Spike and the Goodguys

Bo Gritz

Col. Dave Per

Top Holland

Walt Liles

Sammy L. Davis

Rev. John Steer

Freedom Flight

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
1-800-445-1340

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JAMES L. BODKIN
National Director/Coordinator

3719 Forest Hill Ave.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46805

[REDACTED]
(Home Phone)

Address Correction Requested



NL 13

MAILED
FAPER

8TH ANNUAL INDIANA VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION

SEPTEMBER 14-16, 1990

Located on the grounds

Howard Johnsons and Ramada Inn

KOKOMO, INDIANA

ENTERTAINMENT and GUEST SPEAKERS

Brétt Small & Festival

Vettz

Spike and the Bulldogs

Bo Gritz

Col. Hopper

Top Holland

Walt Eckes

Sammy L. Davis

Rev. John Steer

Freedom Flight



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
1-800-445-1840 OR (317) 453-3305**

* For further information, call or write:

C. Dumas

Jonathon Hubbert



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Nation
Will Be Flying at the Reunion.

List of Events

☆☆☆

Friday 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Entertainment:

VETZ

Martin and Holiday

Saturday 12 noon - 10 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies

Entertainment:

Martin and Holiday

VETZ

LMNOP

Strange Brew

Speaker - "Locating Fellow Vets"

Drill Team

POW/MIA Ceremony

Helicopter Display

Children's Activities

Closing Ceremonies

★ Free Admission ★ Live Entertainment ★ Reduced Hotel Rates ★
★ Food and Drinks ★ Nearby Camping Facilities ★ Vendors ★

2nd Annual

L. Z. BLUEGRASS

KENTUCKY VIETNAM VETERANS REUNION JULY 20 & 21, 1990

Water Tower ☆ I-71 at Zorn Avenue

Friday: July 20, 6:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Saturday: July 21, 12 Noon - 10:00 P.M.

Louisville, Kentucky

BATTALION HISTORY

93rd Trans / 121st AHC Early History

On 15 December 1961, the 93rd Transportation Company departed from Quonset Point, Rhode Island, aboard the U.S.S Carr for their long voyage from their deep rooted homes at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, to a new challenge in the Republic of South Viet Nam. After arriving at Subic Bay, Philippines Islands, the company transferred their men and equipment aboard the U.S.S Princeton and continued to Da Nang, Viet Nam, arriving on 25 January 1962. On 1 February 1962, only six days later, the 93rd Transportation Company was operational and began their dangerous flying mission in Viet Nam.

The 93rd Transportation Company readily accepted their new challenging tactical mission of providing air transportation for combat troops of the Republic of South Viet Nam to expedite the tactical operations and logistical support in the forward areas of the combat zones. This also includes transportation of troops, equipment and supplies into inaccessible areas and evacuation of combat casualties.

The CH-21 Army helicopters rapidly became "the pack horses of the Viet Nameese mountains and jungles" flying dangerous supply routes that a few months earlier took land parties week to negotiate. Soon the helicopters crews were much at home shuffling equipment across the mountains. Loads varied from howitzers attached to slings riding below the ships to disassembled parts of two bull dozers which were flown to a U.S. Army Special Forces outpost to build an airstrip.

On 27 June 1962, General Hightower selected the 93rd Transportation Company and attached units as the most outstanding company visited in the Republic of South Viet Nam. General Hightower visited a majority of the organizations in Viet Nam but chose an aviation unit, the 93rd Transportation Company as the most outstanding.

On 2 August 1962, the 93rd Transportation Company conducted the first large scale heliborne operation ever conducted in the I Corps Tactical Zone which consisted of a two company raid on the Viet Cong 5th Region Headquarters in th Do XA area. The participation of the 93rd Transportation Company permitted the rapid capture of the Viet Cong radio station and caused heavy casualties to be inflicted upon the enemy.

On 30 August 1962, the 93rd Transportation Company participated in Operation "Lam Son II" another air-mobile combat assault against a hard-core Viet Cong Battalion deep in the jungles of Quang Ngai Province, complimented by 10 CH-34 helicopters of the 1st Helicopter Squadron VNAF, a heavy ground fog covered the landing zone preventing the first lift until two hours after the pre-strike, instead of immediately after the strike as planned. Despite encountering heavy fire from the alerted and prepared Viet Cong the loss of two CH-21 helicopters to enemy ground fire and the wounding of four crew members, the 93rd Transportation Company successfully completed two air lifts into the heavily enemy infested landing zone. Of the twelve helicopters from the 93rd Transportation Company, nine were hit and damaged by enemy fire and two shot down. Six persons were killed and five wounded in helicopters during "Lam Son II". All objectives were taken, 40 Viet Cong guerrillas were killed, six prisoners were taken, many enemy supplies including an ammunition dump were destroyed and valuable intelligence documents were seized. The psychological effect of this successful raid deep within enemy held territory was immeasurable.

On 12 September 1962, the advance party departed Da Nang on a classified mission to relocate the 93rd Transportation Company. On 19 September 1962 the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing of Soc Trang and the 93rd Transportation Company of Da Nang exchanged locations, the 93rd saying farewell to the mountains and jungle thus moving to their present location at Soc Trang Airfield in the flat Mekong River Delta. Air lifting the company to Soc Trang required transporting 47 loads; 855,299 pounds of cargo; 196,142.2 cargo-ton miles; 53,068 passenger miles and 96 hours of flight time. On 23 September 1962, the first operational mission in the Delta area was flown.

On 17 December 1962, orders were received assigning the 18th Aviation Operating Detachment from Okinawa to Soc Trang per General Order 45, USASG, effective 5 December 1962. The 18th A.O.D. has the mission of facilitating all Army flight operations by providing flight information planning data, coordination of day, night and instrument flights, navigational aids, and Air traffic control for the aviation unit to whom it is attached. The 18th A.O.D. is

established with 39 Enlisted Men and 5 officers to provide it services for handling a daily air traffic count of 50. At Soc Trang, the 18th A.O.D. normally handles as aircraft count of 103 daily.

In December the 93rd Transportation Company established another mile-stone and record by flying 1,017.2 hours in a single month in the Republic of South Viet Nam.

AP BAC - 2 January 1963, on 2 January 1963 the 93rd Transportation Company started the new year on a tragic note. While supporting the 7th Infantry ARVN Division from a staging area located at a small dirt strip at Tan Hiep, the entire flight of the CH-21, U.S. Army helicopters from the 93rd Transportation Company was ambushed by an entrenched hard-core Viet Cong reinforced Battalion on the fourth assault rifle lift committing the reserve forces. In the final stage of the approach from contour level, heavy machine gun and automatic rifle fire was received. Without regard for personal safety, the ten helicopters proceeded past the armored personnel carriers and the main advancing body to land their troops in the designated landing zone. Not one helicopter aborted or failed to complete its mission of getting the troops into the landing zone.

Although hit by ground fire the first four aircraft were able to make successful take-offs from the area. The fifth aircraft, however, was shot down due to heavy ground fire. The crew of the sixth helicopter unhesitatingly diverted their take-off and attempted to pick up the crew of the downed aircraft and were immediately shot down also. The landing zone was untenable due to enemy fire which prevented further rescue attempts. The remainder of the flight departed for the staging area although the second aircraft had to make a force landing due to damage from the ground fire received. The downed crews were left to fend for themselves in the rice paddies ahead of the main attacking force, where they remained under enemy fire for the next eight hours. One man was dead and five had been wounded by enemy fire.

Upon return to the staging area, assessment of damage to the seven remaining helicopters revealed only two were flyable. Approximately one hour later information was received from ground troops in the area that firing had subsided and evacuation of the downed crews could be made. The rescue aircraft was landed despite sporadic ground fire and damage to the aircraft. When the loading of the wounded and crews was attempted, the tempo of enemy fire increased and a heavy volume of fire entered the cockpit wounding the pilot. This forced the aircraft to make an immediate take-off leaving the wounded and crews behind. The aircraft was flown out of the landing zone, but 1/2 mile away a forced landing had to be made due to damage from enemy fire. Meanwhile, at the staging area, two other helicopters had been rapidly repaired from parts of other downed aircraft. For the remaining hours of the afternoon, ammunition and medical evacuations were flown by these ships into the first three landing zones.

Approximately eight hours from the time they were shot down, the crews and their wounded were finally picked up by ARVN armored personnel carriers. Then they had to ride for approximately two hours through attacks with the armored personnel carriers until an area was reached where they could be evacuated by helicopter.

At the days end, nine Americans had been wounded and one killed in action. Of the ten helicopters committed on the mission, all ten had been hit by enemy fire, four had been shot down and only three helicopters were flyable to return to the airfield.

On 3 and 4 January maintenance personnel from the 93rd Transportation Company flew to the downed aircraft and with disregard for their personal safety and only concern for their equipment and the ultimate recovery of the downed aircraft, they went into the areas for two days under hostile fire, remaining there to effect repairs.

The heroism, esprit-de-corps and comradish displayed throughout the entire action upholds the common knowledge of the spirit the officers and men to the 93rd Transportation Company have as being perhaps among the best if not the best in the Army.

On 10 January 1963, the 93rd Transportation Company suffered another air tragedy when a CH-21 helicopter from the 57th Transportation Company enroute from Soc Trang to Saigon crashed with Three 93rd officers riding as passengers. All seven persons aboard the aircraft were killed. The three officers from the 93rd Transportation Company were Captain Donald B. Toth, 1st Lt Lewis L. Stone and 1st Lt Charles M. Fitts.

On the brighter side in January the unit received a playful 9 month Bengal tiger mascot named "Tuffy" from MAAG Laos. After his arrival, Tuffy was showered with attention and affection

from Privates to Generals, Tuffy was good natured, playful and usually harmless. For many in the company a scratch or scar from Tuffy was a treasured memory never to be forgotten. Tuffy's diet was not that of a normal tiger. His favorite dishes included weiners, steaks, meat balls, and spaghetti. In the cool of the evening, Tuffy always took his daily swim in his own private swimming pool. Thus with a playful Bengal tiger as company mascot, the members of the 93rd Transportation Company soon became widely known as the Soc Trang Flying Tigers.

On 4 March 1963, Major Edward C. Seymour, the present commander, assumed command of the 93rd Transportation Company relieving Major Paul E. Ewing who was reassigned to the 45th Transportation Battalion at Ton Son Nhut.

On 27 March 1963, the first Machine Gun Platoon, of 1 officer and 20 Enlisted men, arrived for 90 days TDY from the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii for duty as gunners on the CH-21 helicopters of the 93rd Transportation Company.

On 25 June 1963, the 93rd Transportation Company was redesignated as the 121st Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) retaining their men, equipment, location and history.

Also in June, Tuffy, the Soc Trang tiger mascot weighing over 250 pounds and 15 months old, departed the 121st Aviation Company for the Toledo Ohio Zoo. Tuffy no longer will have his own private pool but will also suffer a reduction in rank from Number 1 Top Tiger of the 121st Aviation Company to Number 6 Bengal Tiger of the Toledo Zoo.

In July, the 121st Aviation Company topped their previous record flying time by having a busy flying month totaling 1,064 hours.

On 23 August 1963, the 121st Aviation Company again established another record by having the largest Decorations and Awards Presentations Ceremony in the history of Viet Nam by decorating forty-four (44) individuals (almost 1/4 of the company). Lieutenant Colonel Wayne N. Phillips, Commanding Officer of the Delta Aviation Battalion and Major Edward C. Seymour, Commander of the 121st Aviation Company presented on the date, three (3) Distinguished Flying Cross, one (1) Bronze Star with Valor, thirty-seven (37) Air medals and fifty-four (54) Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air medal, and 14 Purple hearts.

In August the 121st Aviation Company again topped the 1000 hour a month mark by flying 1,019.1 hours.

"In appreciation of the outstanding service and support rendered the 2nd Infantry Division (ARVN) during the conduct of combat operations", reads the inscription on one of the more important unit citations of the many awarded this company during the period they have been in Viet Nam "for outstanding continuous service and support in combat".

During the short period of time the 121st Aviation Company has been in Viet Nam, it has established many milestones and records to include having flown 14,243.8 hours, completed 20,201 sorties, hauled 14,968,952 pounds of cargo, transported 66,781 passengers and evacuated 1,439 medical casualties.

As evidence throughout the history stated above, the accomplishments, milestones and records in addition to being the MOST decorated unit in Viet Nam, one can readily see why the men claim with honor, prompt and pride, the 121st Aviation Company, Home of the Soc Trang Tigers.

SOC TRANG by Carl E Bartecchi, M.D.

Right after writing this Historical Report about the 93rd Trans Co / 121st AHC, I received a letter, book, and membership dues from Carl E Bartecchi who served with the 41st Med Det of the 121st AHC in 1965 and 66. He said his book "SOC TRANG" is no longer available in book stores but he has about 150 copies left. If you would like one he would be happy to send a copy to you for \$4.95 + \$1.50 shipping. Send order to: Carl E Bartecchi, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

I've read the first three chapters since receiving the book this afternoon and I highly recommend the book. The book gives a different perspective of the time and place then I have read before. It's very well written and will be very interesting to those who served at Soc Trang. The book is written from the doctors experiences at Soc Trang but still easily understandable. I'm sure all of our members who served in our Med Det will want to get a copy.

Balance 31 December 1989.....	\$929.49
Total deposits 1/01/90 to 3/31/90 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)...	\$1529.75

Balance 31 December 1989.....	\$929.49
Total deposits 1/01/90 to 3/31/90 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)...	\$1529.75

Expenditures

Postage.....	\$560.55
Long Distance Phone.....	\$105.87
Miscellaneous (see note).....	\$382.86
Bank Fees.....	\$19.93
Fund Raiser Supplies.....	\$201.19
Memorial Fund.....	\$30.00

Total expenditures.....	\$1300.40	-\$1300.40
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Balance 31 March 1990.....	\$1158.84
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Miscellaneous includes computer supplies (paper, mailing labels, printer ribbons, etc.), newsletter supplies (paper, staples, etc.), envelopes, notes books, ink pens, etc. The Fund Raiser supplies are listed separately in this report because the amount was so large with getting the supplies to make the silk screens, buying ink, and T-shirts. Our stock is slowly building up and sells are going rather well.

WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS FOR EVERYONE WE HAVE LOCATED WHO HAVE NOT JOINED THE ASSOCIATION TO JOIN. WE NEED THE MONEY TO KEEP GROWING. So please check your membership card, if the card is expired or if you don't have one please join our association, we need your support.

We have cut our expenses down by only sending newsletters to those who have joined the association or just been located. NOTICE if you have not joined please do so, if not you probably will not receive any more newsletters. When I receive membership dues I code the individual's file with the membership year/s they joined, example 89-90, 90-91, 91-92, if the code is not on your file the printer will not print a mailing label for you. Membership years are from 1 July to 30 June, now is the time to join or renew your membership. Our Association will continue for all those who join. Check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership status.

Any dues received after this newsletter is sent out will be credited to the 90-91 membership year dues as a special offer. And multiple year membership are always appreciated. Now is also a good time to renew your membership if it runs out in July 1990.

\sim

In memory of George D Dorsey who served with the 118th AHC in 1963 and 64 as an officer and again from June 1967 to June 1968 with the 118AHC, 334AHC, and HHC, I sent Mrs Dorsey a thirty dollar check and a Honorary Life Membership. Here is the letter she sent in return.

Dear Mr Bodkin, I would like to thank you and all members of the 145th CABA for your thoughtful letter and the check in George's memory.

The Honorary Life Membership is a very touching gesture which I accept with gratitude. Sincerely, Mrs George Dorsey

Thank you Mrs Dorsey for your letter and we will be remembering George.

"REUNION 91" UPDATE

The 1991 Reunion will be held at Fort Rucker, Alabama, on 7th, 8th, and 9th of June 1991, that's the same week-end as the W-4 Convention at Fort Rucker.

I recently talked with Gen. Kenyon about approximate related reunion cost. The hotel rooms will be \$35 per single or \$40 per multiple occupancy per night. The Holiday Inn in Ozark, AL has 101 rooms and one of those will be set up as a Hospitality Room and the other hundred are reserved for our reunion. We will have the complete hotel and as usual each person will make their own room reservations, to reserve a room you must tell them that you are with the 145th Reunion and one night's money or credit card number to guarantee to hold. Anyone attending by themselves and wanting to share a room the Reunion Committee and hotel are willing to help set it up. The normal meal cost in that area is way less than \$10 per meal, and the reunion fee has not been discussed yet. And as always, I will be getting the hotel reservation forms and send them to everyone and let each person make their own reservations.

When I talked with Gen. Kenyon right after the 89 Reunion he had many exciting ideas about activities for the reunion, tours of the new museum, flight simulator center, and airfields. Those plans are still going forward. Friday June 7th and Sunday June 9th we will have our reception and activities at the hotel at pool side. On Saturday June 8, 1991 we will be at the Officer's Club at Lake Tholocco and the NCO Club will cater the Business Meeting / Dinner meal, buffet style. Dress will be casual and you may want to have swim gear with you. Everyone I have talked to about the reunion have been very excited about the location, and the people who served with Gen. Kenyon are very excited about him being the Chairman, they say that everything he does turns out great.

Richard Kenyon served with the 68th Armed Hel. Co. and the 197th Armed Hel. Co. in 1965 as a Captain and served as the Battalion Commander of the 145th C.A.B. from 1 Dec 70 to 19 July 71. Since his retirement from active duty on 30 June 1987, he is now the Honorary Colonel of the 145th Avn. Regiment and head of a major corporation in the Fort Rucker area.

Watch for "Reunion 91" updates in future newsletters as the plans come together.

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OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

I would like for you to join our Association first, but I also want to let you know about some other organization that have helped us in our efforts to locate people. If you should decide to join any of these organizations tell them that you heard about them in our newsletter.

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association

The VHPA is an association just for helicopter pilots who flew in S.E. Asia during the Vietnam Era (1961-1975). For more information contact:

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association
7 West Seventh St, Suite 1940
Cincinnati, OH 45202 1-513-721-VHPA

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association

The VHOMA is an organization for enlisted helicopter crew members who served in S.E. Asia during the Vietnam Era (1961-1975). For more information contact:

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association
PO Box 237
Crowley, Texas 76036 1-817-297-4993

Army Otter and Caribou Association

The Army Otter and Caribou Association is for anyone who served with a Otter or Caribou Unit. They will be holding their 5th Annual Reunion in Dallas, TX 16-19 August 1990. For more information contact:

Army Otter/Caribou Association
P.O. Box 6091
Columbus, GA 31907-0073
1-404-324-1596

WATCHFIRE 1990

I would like to announce to all those living within easy driving distance of Fort Wayne, IN, the plans for the 1990 Watchfire here in Fort Wayne. And I invite you to join us.

I first heard of Watchfire from the mother of Karl William Titus, Killed In Action 2 Oct 1970 with the 68th AHC, my room mate. I decided that I would make sure that there would be a Watchfire here every Memorial Day Weekend. This will be the 3rd Annual Watchfire here in Fort Wayne. The Watchfire that Mrs Virginia Titus sent me newspaper clipping about told how a group of Vietnam Veterans in New York State spent their Memorial Day Weekend, remembering those killed in Vietnam with a 24 hour memorial service. Many of us here in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan have used their idea and use Watchfire as a 24 hour memorial service to remember Veterans from all the American Wars. The idea of Watchfire was taken from the old military custom (dating back to the days the Bible was written) to light a fire to guide ones comrades back safely from battle. The Watchfire burns for 24 hrs.

The first year there was about 100 people attending. Last year we had about 450 people come out to participate. This year we expect many more Veterans and other patriotic people willing to take the time to honor and remember our departed and missing Veterans. The Watchfire here is held at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine, 2122 O'Day Rd, Ft Wayne, IN. Its located 3 miles west of I-69, 2 miles south of US 30. Here is the schedule:

May 25, 1990 Friday night

- 6 PM.....Watchfire grounds open
- 7:30 PM.....Posting of Colors
- 9:30 PM.....Light fire and reading of names
- 10:30 PM.....Conversation and camping

May 26, 1990 Saturday

- 8 AM.....Coffee and donuts, music
- 10 AM.....Re-dedicate Museum
- 12 NOON.....WWI Tribute
- 12:30 PM.....Bishop Luers High School Jazz Band
- 1 PM.....Tribute to all Female Veterans
- 2 PM.....WWII memorial service
- 2:30 PM.....Concordia High School Drill Team
- 4 PM.....Korean War memorial service
- 5 PM.....Concordia High School Drill Team
- 6 PM.....Vietnam War memorial service
- 6:45 PM.....General items of entertainment
- 9 PM.....Prepare for closing
- 9:30 PM.....Closing, extinguish fire

May 27, 1990 Sunday

"Sunday Battlefield Church Service"

Come on and join us here for a special way to spend Memorial Day Weekend. If your close enough to drive here its a great way to put the meaning back into Memorial Day.

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MEMBER NEEDS ASSISTANCE

Dear Jim: Would you please run in the newsletter a help ad for me. I need info from anyone who can remember Sp/4 Gene Rummage with the 120th taking chow out in a Piper Cub and feeding on the LZ. I don't remember where or exact date, only last of April - 1st of May 1964. I know it was a long time ago. I can remember only parts of things. I do not leaving LZ & only parts of return trip.

Any help would be appreciated. W. Gene Rummage, RR#2, Box 196, Hartford, KY 42347 Ph#502-298-9970

P.S. Maj Pat Delovan was CO & present on mission.

BACK PAY

Oct 72 - Jan 73

When reading the Army Otter-Caribou Crew Association newsletter and came across this article I thought might be of interest to some of you:

VETERANS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, DUE BACK PAY The federal government has been ordered by a United States Court to pay a salary differential of approximately 6.14 percent to all military personnel and veterans who served on active duty between 1 Oct 1972 and 1 Jan 1973.

Military personnel still on active duty will receive the differential automatically, while veterans whose active duty ended some time after 1 Oct 1972 will have to apply for the pay. To make a back pay claim, veterans need to write a short letter to their branch of service. They should include their: Social Security number, military service number if assigned, rank, current mailing address, date of separation from the service, and duty station between 1 Oct 1972 and 1 Jan 1973.

Army personnel should send this information to: Commanding General, U.S. Army Finance Support Agency, ATTN: FINCS-A, Indianapolis, IN. 46249
(Source: DLA Memphis Bulletin No. 3, 18 Jan 1990).

After reading the article in the Army Otter-Caribou Crew Association newsletter, I got out my old military records and found my pay records. I computed my pay differential and it came out to \$75.90, that's for a E5 just under 4 years in service figuring base pay only. So for that amount I think I will send them a letter with the required information, I think I will also include a copy of my Leave and Earnings Statements for those months. Maybe I will even receive the money, I'm always suspicious when I hear that the government has a gift for me. But for a 25 cent stamp I am going to give it a try. If you were on active duty at that time go ahead and send in for your pay differential.

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## H.R. 3037 UPDATE

United States Congress, House Resolution 3037, budget authority approved for \$7 million for fiscal year 1991, Passage of Bill is next. So far we have got the money now we need to get H.R. 3037 passed. Congressman Jim Jontz and Congresswoman Jill Long (both serve on the Veterans Affairs Committee and are from NE Indiana) worked with a group us Vietnam Veterans from NE Ind and wrote H.R. 3037 for us. Now I need for you to write your Congressman and Senators and ask if they will support H.R. 3037, The Veterans PTSD Treatment and Psychological Readjustment Act. In summary H.R. 3037 would:

- \*expand inpatient treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) by adding 30 additional PTSD units within V.A. medical facilities over the next 5 years;
- \*expand outpatient treatment for PTSD by adding 40 additional Vet Centers over the next 5 years;
- \*establish a stable funding base for the contract PTSD counseling program, which serves veterans in rural communities;
- \*encourage the recruitment of qualified PTSD specialists by including them in the Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program, which provides scholarships for graduate study in return for service in the V.A. medical system;
- \*provide statutory authorization for the V.A.'s Advisory Committee on Readjustment of Veterans;
- \*create a PTSD treatment research program;
- \*establish a pilot halfway house program for veterans with PTSD.

I hope that you will find the time to support H.R. 3037. At one time I didn't believe in PTSD, there was just a few things wrong in my life, and even a couple of divorces didn't fix it. Well back in 1984 a Vet Center here in Fort Wayne helped some of it, I was lucky. I would say that there is no cure for PTSD but with some training and insight PTSD can be used to make life much more productive. Some would say that only a crazy Vet would try to put our Association together and I believe that my PTSD gives me the strength and energy to do what I do for our Association. I ask that you try to find it in your heart to be able to support H.R. 3037, the life we save may have been our best friend in Vietnam. Lets give them a chance, write in favor of H.R. 3037, today.



## COLOR T-SHIRTS

The T-shirts sell for \$13 each. They are in the original unit patch designs and colors as close as I can. They are printed on ringer type T-shirts, that's white T-shirts with dark blue around the neck and sleeves. These T-shirts are printed with Association money and all money from the T-shirts go to the Association to help with expenses. So if you can, please order one, they are also great advertising for locating new members for our Association. The lettering outside the Association and Unit designs are printed in black ink. The pictures at the bottom of this page are black and white because this copy machine doesn't print color but please try to imagine them in color. I have assigned stock numbers to the designs for easier ordering and filling of orders. Please try to use the stock numbers. I will try to stock them in Medium, Large, XL, XXL, XXXL. The Association T-shirt design is the unofficial 145th C.A.B. "First In Vietnam" design. It is intended for use by everyone eligible to be a member or associate member of our Association. I would like to see everyone have an Association T-shirt and a unit T-shirt for their unit.

To order see order form inserted in newsletter. Thank you, and please send your order today.

**145TH  
OMBAT AVIATION  
BATTALION**



**120<sup>TH</sup>  
ASSAULT**

#11-02



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**121<sup>ST</sup>  
ASSAULT**

#12-02



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**UTILITY  
TACTICAL TRANSPORT**



#17-01

**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**UTILITY  
TACTICAL  
TRANSPORT**



#17-02

**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**197<sup>TH</sup>  
ARMED**



#17-04

**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**



# NEW PEOPLE LOCATED LIST

15 April 1990

The list is arranged chronologically by unit. I arranged the list as accurately as possible with the information I have, some people I only have the year they entered Vietnam, others I have the complete date. I would like to have at least the month and year in and out of the unit, if possible. I tried to list people's rank in one of three categories, OF=Officer, WO=Warrant Officer, or EM=Enlisted Men. Please check the list for accuracy, please notify me of any mistakes or blank spaces. The \* beside the rank denotes those who have sent in their annual dues already. Note the date on the top of the page. Some of the people listed have a new address so use this as an update to the Directory. Thank You

| UNIT    | LAST NAME       | FIRST NAME     | CITY                                            | STA ZIP  | PHONE | DATE | DATE | RANK |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------|-------|------|------|------|
| 118HC   | RUDEEN          | KENT           | OAKDALE                                         | MI 55128 |       | 1965 | 1966 | OF*  |
| 68 AHC  | PALMER          | ROBERT         | ALBUQUERQUE                                     | MI 87122 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO*  |
| 68 AHC  | ANDREWS         | ARNOLD         | PRESCOTT VALLEY                                 | AZ 86314 |       | 1970 | 1970 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | HURLEY          | MICHAEL W      | CASTLETON ON HUDSON                             | NY 12033 |       | 1964 | 1965 | OF*  |
| 118AHC  | BENNETT         | MICHAEL        | OXFORD                                          | AL 36203 |       | 1965 | 1966 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | EK              | JOHN           | OAKDALE                                         | MI 55128 |       | 1965 | 1967 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | HOFFMAN         | ROBERT E       | ENUMCLAW                                        | WA 98022 |       | 1966 | 1967 | OF*  |
| 118AHC  | SCHMIDT         | MARVIN W       | HILL VALLEY                                     | CA 94941 |       | 1966 | 1967 | WO*  |
| 118AHC  | HOFFMAN         | FRED           | GENEVA                                          | IL 60134 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | SHELTON         | DEWEY (JACK)   | ARLINGTON                                       | TX 76014 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | SPENCER         | WARREN (PAPPY) | DALEVILLE                                       | AL 36322 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | CASEY           | DAVID L        | PHOENIX                                         | AZ 85040 |       | 1968 | 1968 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | SHAIN (LTC RET) | ROBERT G       | WARRINGTON                                      | PA 18976 |       | 1968 | 1968 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | GELETKA         | GEORGE G       | WESTLAKE                                        | OH 44145 |       | 1968 | 1970 | EM*  |
| 120AVN  | STEVENS         | JACKSON C      | DeLAND                                          | FL 32720 |       | 1964 | 1965 | OF*  |
| 120AVN  | MALDONADO       | FRANK R        | AUSTIN                                          | TX 78745 |       | 1968 | 1969 | OF*  |
| 120AVN  | FLEWELLING      | MAURICE "FLEM" | NORTH KINGSTOWN                                 | RI 02852 |       | 1970 | 1971 | EM   |
| 93 TRAM | RUDEEN          | KENT           | OAKDALE                                         | MI 55128 |       | 1963 | 1964 | OF*  |
| 121AHC  | LAUMEYER        | NORMAN G       | DALEVILLE                                       | AL 36322 |       | 1963 | 1964 | OF*  |
| 121AHC  | RAFFAELLO       | ROBERT M       | CLEMSFORD                                       | MA 01824 |       | 1969 | 1970 | EM*  |
| 121AHC  | FRECK           | KEN            | FULLERTON                                       | CA 92632 |       | 1969 | 1969 | WO*  |
| 135AHC  | WILLIAMSON      | ROBERT W       | LAKE MARY                                       | FL 32746 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO*  |
| 68S16 D | HICKMAN         | MICHAEL        | GROVE CITY                                      | OH 13142 |       | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| 68S16 D | PETRIE          | PAUL           | PULASKI                                         | NY 13142 |       | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| 135AHC  | CASEY           | DAVID L        | PHOENIX                                         | AZ 85040 |       | 1968 | 1968 | EM   |
| 135AHC  | BALLARD         | LLOYD          | SEAGOVILLE                                      | TX 75159 |       | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |
| 135AHC  | BARLOW          | BILL           | WANNIASSA A.C.T. AUSTRALIA, 2903                |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | BENGE           | DAVE           | MEREWETHER NEW CASTLE NSW AUSTRALIA, 2291       |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | BOWES           | BRIAN          | ALTON, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA, 3018                |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | COLE            | RON            | MANDURAN, WEST AUSTRALIA, 6210                  |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | FRENCH          | KEVIN          | BERRY N.S.W. AUSTRALIA, 2535                    |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | HAYES           | RON            | YOKINE, WEST AUSTRALIA, 6060                    |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | KOSCHEL         | KEVIN A        | ALLERBUDGERA VALLEY, QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA, 4228 |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | RAGSMUSSEN      | DOUG           | CONNOLLY, PERTH, WEST AUSTRALIA, 6027           |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 135AHC  | RUHL            | PETER          | NOJRA, N.S.W, AUSTRALIA, 2541                   |          |       | 1969 | 1970 |      |
| 147AVN  | RALEY           | ROYCE D        | DAWSON                                          | TX 76639 |       | 1968 | 1969 | WO*  |
| 190AHC  | CASEY           | DAVID L        | PHOENIX                                         | AZ 85040 |       | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | MULLEN          | PAT            | CANTON                                          | MI 48187 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO*  |
| 190AHC  | Mc MAHON        | BRIAN P        | PLYMOUTH                                        | MI 48170 |       | 1969 | 1970 | EM*  |
| 190AHC  | KENNEDY         | ELZE H "KEN"   | GUYTON                                          | GA 31312 |       | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | LOOP            | CURTIS A       | BEAVERTON                                       | OR 97005 |       | 1969 | 1970 | OF   |
| UTT     | HARVEY          | PERCE P        | NEWPORT NEWS                                    | VA 23602 |       | 1962 | 1963 | EM*  |
| 197AHC  | RUDEEN          | KENT           | OAKDALE                                         | MI 55128 |       | 1966 | 1966 | OF*  |
| 197AHC  | BAKER           | GEORGE W       | ENTERPRISE                                      | AL 36330 |       | 1966 | 1967 | WO*  |
| 334AHC  | TALLGREN        | BOB            | ORLANDO                                         | FL 32819 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF*  |
| 334AHC  | LOOP            | CURTIS A       | BEAVERTON                                       | OR 97005 |       | 1969 | 1969 | OF   |
| 335AHC  | KELSO #103631   | STEVEN L       | ANGOLA                                          | LA 70712 |       | 1967 | 1967 | EM   |
| 335AHC  | OSTERLI         | PHIL           | MODESTO                                         | CA 95355 |       | 1967 | 1967 | OF*  |

## Top Tiger 212

In a note from Arnold "Andy" Andrews, 68th AHC, 1970, he said, "I'm still having a hard time finding someone that knows the date that 212 (tail number) went down. I talked with Terry Alberti but he couldn't put a date on it either." If any one can help Andy with the date that A/C 212 went down please write or call him at: Arnold Andrews, 3130 N. Greg Dr, Prescott, AZ. 86314 (602)-772-0328

## 145th C.A.B.V.A Museum Display

More pictures and other items are still needed for our display. If you have any pictures or copies of your pictures that you would like to send in please do so, they will be appreciated. Other items of memorabilia that you may want to donate will also be appreciated, they will be displayed as best I can. Hopefully I will be able to set up the complete display at each reunion.



## FUND RAISERS

We have a few on going fund raisers, the purpose of these is to raise operating funds for the association and to provide you with items you might like. We need the money and hate to beg for it. Membership forms for those who need to join or renew their membership is on the top of the order form inserted in the newsletter. Please help us grow.

## TOP TIGER PATCHES

Gary Allison had 200 Top Tiger patches made up, they sell for \$4 each. He donated the last 70 to the association. He funded this project with his own money. After this project is completed we hope to be able to have patches made for the other units. Hopefully the association will be able to fund these projects, the demand and the availability of a patch will determine which patch we have done next. See order form inserted in newsletter.

## THUNDERBIRD PATCHES

David Evans had 200 Thunderbird, "It Shall Be Done" patches made up, they sell for \$4 each. Any profits he is donating to the Association. The patches look great. You can order them by writing to: David Evans, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Or send order form inserted in newsletter. Include your name and mailing address with the \$4 each.

## CASSETTE TAPE

The tapes "Bien Hoa Attack, Tet Jan. 31, 1968" and "Combat Assault 190th Avn. Co. (Gunship)" I put on one tape. Bien Hoa Attack on one side and 190th Gunships on the other, and calling it "Battle of Bien Hoa and Gunship Action". At the 87 Reunion we were selling these for \$10 each, they have been put on one tape that we are selling for \$15 as a fund raiser. This combined tape has been very popular with all who have heard it and I recommend it to everyone who served at Bien Hoa or anyone who served with a helicopter unit. Order one, I think you will like it. See order form inserted in newsletter.

## Color T-Shirts

I now have the color T-shirt made of the original UTT design, the one with the helicopter on it and the UTT T-shirt with Pegasus (the flying horse) on it and the 197th design (Pegasus with the 68 and 197 added), we also now have full color T-shirts for the 120th AHC and 121st AHC, these designs are ready to be mailed out when I receive your order. These designs are printed on the front of a white T-shirt about 12" high including the lettering and are in color as close as can be matched to the original color. The cost is \$13 each and all profits go to the Association. See page 17 of this newsletter for more details and pictures. Use order form inserted in newsletter. Send order to: 145th CABVA, 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

The Association T-shirts are ready to be mailed as soon as I receive your order, I think they will go real fast. When the current stock runs out I'll print more, so delivery time should be short. They have the 145th "First in Vietnam" patch design with Association written below, and in color.