

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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Address Correction Requested

NL 14



145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association

"OLD WARRIORS"  
Newsletter

JULY 1990, VOL. 14

3719 FOREST HILL AVE, FORT WAYNE, IN 46805  
1-219-483-5149

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For most of you it is time to renew your membership or join the Association. 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 expired on 1 July, so check your membership card and please renew if it expires in July 1990.

Its newsletter time again and and (as usual) this is a little late, it should have been in the mail in July. A couple of weeks ago I got the 1990-91 Directory of everyone we have located in the mail, you should have it by now. But 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, 197th, 120AHC, and 121AHC T-shirts we will also have a T-shirt for the 135th AHC by the time you get this newsletter, but not pictured on page 20. For more details on the T-shirt designs see page 20. 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 section it will help. Let me know if you think there is too 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 continues in this newsletter on page 13, 14 & 15. The article deals with the early days of the 57th Trans Co. If you would like to see more details on your time with the 145th please send in any information you can. 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 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.

Here is some address for some other organization you might be interested in:  
Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Asso, 7 W Seventh St, Suite 1940, Cincinnati OH 45202  
Vietnam Heli Crew Members Asso, PO Box 237, Crowley, TX 76036 1-817-297-4993  
Armed Otter-Caribou Asso, PO Box 6091, Columbus, GA 31907 1-404-324-1596  
Vietnam Air Traffic Controller Asso, PO Box 692, Penn Grove, CA 94951

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 I 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 very interesting.

Dear Jim: Received newsletter today and as always it was a pleasure to take the time to stop and read it. You have done a great job in putting this bulletin together. Keep up the good work. Enclosed you will find my check to cover my dues, purchase a T-shirt and a Top Tiger patch. I was with the 68th from Jan 67 to Feb 68. I crewed a slick with tail #069. a Cpt Dillow was my pilot and my Gunners name was Stuart. If anyone knows what happened to "069" after I left I would really like to know. Once again keep up the good work and I am looking forward to the next newsletter and locator list. "A fellow Top Tiger" Walter Warren Jr

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you very much for your kind remarks. CPT T. Roger Dillow lives in Enterprise, AL (see directory) and volunteered to help with our 91 Reunion at Fort Rucker. On our Help Find file I list a Norman C Stuart, 509-48-4815 EM from Kansas who was serving with the 68th in 1969. this could be your gunner. If anyone out there knows what happened to "069" or can locate doorunner Stuart please let me and Walter Warren, 19 Tabb Pl. S.I. N.Y. 10302. know what you found out.

Dear Jim. I am writing you to let you know that I won the primary election for the U.S. House of Representatives by 59% to 41%, a rather convincing victory. I was out spent by at least 6 to 1. Furthermore, I did not seek or accept contributions in the primary, it was all my funds. I will not be able to do this in the general election because it will be too expensive. The difference was that I went directly to the people of the district with face to face contact. I have been working full time on the campaign and will continue up until 6 Nov 1990 which is election day and also my birthday. It is high time that we put more veterans in the U.S. Congress. Their values are more in tune with the American way of life and have already proven that they are willing to fight for their country. I would be very interested in hearing from anyone that can help me in this endeavor. Please print this letter to let everyone know how I feel and how they can get in contact with me. Sincerely, Robert C. Anderson, [REDACTED], NC 28303-5101

P.S. I retired 40% disabled in Feb 1989. I will be at the reunion in 1991 if my schedule allows after I am elected.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I'm glad to print your letter, and thank you for your two year dues renewal. A couple of years ago I wrote an article for our newsletter about Positive Image, Positive Attitude, since that time back in Sept 1987, Vietnam Vets are gaining in the drive at a positive image. To turn that positive image into real power we need people in Congress, people who care about Vietnam Vets, people like Robert Anderson. I talked to Bob at our 1989 Reunion and a few times on the phone and I can tell you he cares about Veterans and their well being, he knows what going to war is and what being a veteran is all about. We have all heard about the playboys in Congress, lets change that meaning and send them (call sign) PLAYBOY 13, 334th AHC, 69-70. His district is in the southeast part of North Carolina. If you would like to help Bob please contact him at the address printed above. He needs all the help we can get him. He is one of us, he's our brother.

Dear Jim: I received the BN T-shirt. Enclosed you find my check for the BN T-shirt, and dues. Please send me the 190th Tape. Did you see the March 90 VFW magazine, on the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, see page 22, bottom left, the article names the 145th Combat Aviation Bn. I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. As I stated on the phone I'm really forward to the 91 Reunion. Well Jim, I really have to end here, I have three lesson plans to complete and etc. I just changed over to the 2091st USAF School. I really enjoy being an instructor. Your friend and always!!! Fred Eckelmann, Bandits Rule!

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Fred for your support and the extra \$15 donation. Fred Eckelmann is one of our Regional Director/Coordinators and also Unit Historian for the 118th AHC, and as you can tell he served with the Bandits Gunships. I missed the March 90 VFW Magazine, most likely because I forgot to renew my VFW membership until April, so if anyone has a copy of the article please send it to me. I have the A.F.E.M. listed on my DD214. I just noticed it a couple of years ago and I'm still trying to figure out why I got it and when. That's just like the 3 Army Commendation Medals I got, the Army never issued them and never told me I had them, much less



tell me when and why. The only medal I really feel proud of is the Air Medal I earned was for my first 4 days flying as a doorunner, but then again that was the last one I was put in for with over 10 months as a doorunner and crewchief. So when asked about it I just said "10 I guess" one for each month. When I left the 68th they were closing out and there wasn't time to go over the awards, but maybe they would have made good stories for my children to pass on, that's probably all they're good for anyway. Many of our members have told me their stories of awards never received.....

Dear Jim & Debby: I don't have a good excuse for not keeping in touch more frequently - so I'll just apologize for not doing it. I really appreciate the great job you and Debby are doing keeping the 145th CAB alive. Without you two great people doing all the work you do it wouldn't be such a wonderful opportunity for Vietnam Vets to relive old times (both good and bad), and enjoy old friendships. I hope you're both able to keep it up. Thanks for all your hard work (from me and probably from everyone else in the Association). I really look forward to the newsletter; it's always interesting reading. Sounds like the Denver reunion was a real good one. And the 1991 Rucker Rumble should be extra special. I'm sure Rucker is considered a very special place to many, many former "Old Warriors" I know it does for me - and your talking BIG numbers when you talk about aviation types who (at some time) called Rucker home - if only for a few months. You talk about memories - damn, the reunion will have to be at least a week for everyone to get theirs in. And the beer bill might be in the millions - at least the number of cans consumed will. I'm looking forward to it already.... The check should about bring me back up to date on my dues; no excuse there either. Also, note the change in address and zip code. Hope this finds your whole family in great health and looking forward to the summer. Best Regards. H. Bryan Lewis. [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bryan, I know what you mean about Mother Rucker, I was there for 4 months before my tour in Nam and for 2 and 1/2 years after Vietnam. I'll spare you the thousands of interesting stories from my time at Rucker and just say it was a time and place I'll never forget and never want to. If I had my choice of where to live, Rucker would be it, but then again that was another time and place. I see you at Rucker and I'll watch for you at Kokomo, IN the 3rd weekend of September. And thank you for remembering Debby in your letter, she does about 90% percent of the work for us, without her help I wouldn't get anything done....

Enclosed is a membership application and a check for \$38.00, \$10's for membership and \$28 is for the items I've ordered on the merchandise forms. A nearby neighbor, whose sister was a classmate of mine in high school, was a crew chief with the 118th back in the mid 60's. I saw him last night and told him about the association. He'd like some information sent to him at: John Ek [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Thanks. I'll look forward to meeting you and many others at Ft. Rucker in 91. Sincerely, H Kent Rudeen, [REDACTED] 8

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Kent for your support. I sent the info on our association to John.

Dear Jim: Dick Jarrett and I are delighted that Joe Jobe finally found out about the 145th CAB association and is now a member. I had long since given up on him and figured that he had been shot by a jealous husband/ boyfriend/ girlfriend/ etc.. Jobe and I grew up in the same area in Tennessee and north Georgia and participated / competed in sports together. I always wiped up on him in athletics, but old Joe always beat me out with the ladies. Jarrett's picture of Jobe and my picture of Jobe are as different as daylight and dark. Don't worry Joe, I promise not to tell on you if you promise not to tell on me. Now, if we could just get Marv Dorr to join up, we'd be a lot closer to getting all of "rowdies" into the fold. When is the next reunion and how are things going? Need some help? Bill Fraker Playboy 16/ Saber 3/ Raider 26/

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Hi Bill, it's always great hearing from you, it sounds like there is still some very interesting stories to be told. I'm sure the statute of limitations has ran out by now. And besides Col. Hughes already knows it was you guys that did it, he's got a great sense of humor. I see you at our next reunion at Fort Rucker, June 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1991, see "REUNION 91 UPDATE" in this newsletter. Everything is going great and I can always use some help, we need to locate a lot more people.

Attn: MR. James Bodkin, Please add the following name for a new membership in 145th CABVA. Brian [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I served with the 190th AHC from June '69 to September '70. Enclosed is \$50.00 for a five year Regular membership.



Please add my name to your membership list . You are doing a great job- for everyone - keep up the good work. Thank you. Brian P. McMahon

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you! Brian, for your membership and your confidence in us.

Dear James: Enclosed please find my check for my renewal dues for membership to this fantastic organization. I thoroughly enjoy the publication of your newsletter and want to extend my wishes for continued growth. It is so rewarding to see so many men seeking to find old friends. I also have requested a T-shirt of yours for the 121st Avn CO. I served with the "Tigers" in Soc Trang in 1969-1970. I would appreciate a rush on this order as I will be attending the V.H.P.A. reunion in New Orleans next month and would very much like to acquire this shirt to wear at that time. I would also mention that at this time I am currently the President of a chapter formed for a tri-state chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot's Association. The Chapter known as "The Ohio River LZ" includes pilots for the states of Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. We meet annually the second week of February every year. I would appreciate the space in your newsletter if you would possibly mention this organization and I will keep you informed as to our next meeting date and time. Anyone wanting information on this chapter please have them call [REDACTED]

Home, or [REDACTED] work or write me at: Gary Crossland, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Your efforts would be so appreciated. My special thanks for all your endeavors and struggling hard work. Where else but in organizations such as these can total strangers find and have so much in common. OTHERS; Ask not what life can give you, But seek to serve your Brother; The richest joys that Helicopter Pilots can know, Are those we share with others. Sincerely, Gary F. Crossland

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Gary for your support and I put your T-shirt in the mail right away. By the time this newsletter is sent out the VHPA reunion will be over with but I hope many of our people there will be wearing our T-shirts. The T-shirts are great advertising for us and I'm sure if there is anyone else there from the 121st they will talk with you, and maybe about the 145th CABVA. And since the style of the T-shirts are the same with just the unit number and patch being different other members of the 145th CABVA will be able to spot you. Maybe with them seeing the T-shirts in person and in color more of them will be ordering the T-shirts, they're better in color then the black and white picture in the newsletter can show. Please keep me informed about "The Ohio River LZ" annual meeting and I will make room for it in our newsletter. I think I would like to attend if I was invited, I was a crew chief/doorunner, my eyes were to bad for flight school. Good luck with your chapter, it takes a lot of work, but I'm sure it's appreciated.

Jim, Thanks for your newsletter it is the first that I have received from you, being an Australian I don't hear from many people in the U.S. except those from the 135th A.H.C. In your reply to J.L. Bartatz (Vol 12 Page 3) you asked about information on the Australians who served with the 135th A.H.C.(E.M. U.'s) Enclosed is a bit of useful reading. Perhaps you could pass it on to any old E.M.U. or anyone else who may be interested. All data is taken from book "Royal Australian Navy In Vietnam". The 135th is having a reunion in D.F.W. Airport Dallas Texas on 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th of August this year. Myself and I Believe two or three other Australians will be there. This has all come about by some very hard working men and there wives for this I thank them. Once again thanks for the newsletter and the time to find us. Enclosed is \$10 U.S for this year's membership. Brian J. Bowes EX R.A.N.H.F.V. 69-70 Print this letter if you want to, it may encourage more Australian input.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Brian. I hope the 135th Reunion has a good turn out. I'd like to be there but money and vacation time is to low. I've talked to a few of our people in the Dallas area that said they were going to stop by the 135th reunion and visit. I'm going to send a couple copies of information you sent me to James Baber and I'll send one to anyone who served with the 135th who wants one if they drop me a note. Hopefully I'll get to meet all the guys from the 135th at the 145th Bn reunion at Fort Rucker, AL in June 1991. I'd love to get more input from our people in Australia.

Dear Jim, The reason I have not joined the Association until now is because I have recently filed (11/17/89) for full disability with the company I worked with and for supplemental income with Social Security. All of which started December 22, 1966 the day I was shot down in Dau Tieng. I was flying a UH-1 Gunship out of Tay Ninh. Our call sign was "Fire Birds". We were gunships (Platoon) with the "Rattlers" A-501st, soon to be 71st AHC. We were TDY flying support



for the 196th Lt Inf Bgd from Tay Ninh. Our permanent duty station was Bien Hoa. This was a few months before the 71st was transferred up to Chu Lai where the 71st flew support for the Marines and the 23rd Inf Bgd (Americal). All of which leads up to my disability. I have a bad back that would have stayed dormant except for being shot down as I stated before. Now I have had two major surgeries on my back (one in 1973 the next 1987) each worked for a while. However, now I have to get around wearing a back brace with steel bars up my back and Canadian (wrist) crutches. I am in pain all the time. It is very difficult for me to walk. I have been in pain since 1971 and have not had any relief. I do remember my tour of duty and all the great men I flew with. Please correct your KIA UPDATE as follows:

(CHE sent info on the following members of the A/501st and 71st AHC) WO Robert Lee Banks, SSGT Randall Dumon Howell, CWO William Dewitt Perkins, SP4 Everett Porter Runnells, PFC Thomas Michael Nowack, WO William Jay Robbins, Cpt Rance A Kirby, 1LT Russell Lindsey Robbins, SP4 Kenneth Charles Hurse, SP5 Gary Lee Taylor.

Taylor was not with the 68 AHC. Taylor and Hurse were in my platoon "Fire Birds". There are many more missing from (KIA) the 71st AHC. I will try to find out the names and let you know. I am not able to travel yet but hope to soon. Best regards, Ned Flecke

P.S. Please acknowledge receipt of the \$20 - Thanks

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Please read next letter also from Ned Flecke.

Dear Jim, The enclosed pictures is for your files. The "Fire Birds" patch is 3 1/2" in diameter. "Fire Birds" were the gunship platoon for the 71st AHC. The Rattlers were the 71st AHC the patch is 3 1/4" wide by 3 5/8" long, the colors are true. The background is my couch which is light blue. On the top of the is a helicopter with a "71" in red with a light blue background, the helicopter is yellow with a black out line. Sorry I only have one each. If you need a larger print of the patches to make T-shirts please let me know. I will have an enlargement made of each one to actual size. Jim also is enclosed an article printed in the VHQA Newsletter that you may wish to print in your (our) newsletter. Also about the patches, they were made by Vietnamese by hand and I don't want to loose them. If you need, please call or write, [REDACTED], or temporary [REDACTED]. You and your wife are doing a great job. God Bless, Ned Flecke

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ned for your letters and support. And let me say at this time that if anyone out there hasn't join because of low money, don't worry about it, just write and say your interested by can't afford the dues, I'll keep you on the mailing list. I have updated and corrected the memorial list and hopefully the directory should be mailed before this newsletter. And the pictures will be a great help for the t-shirt design and will be placed in the Battalion Display. Your letter in the VHQA about the VHQA and the VHQA having a joint annual reunion, and I hope they can work it out, like they said "maybe in 1993". That's one thing about the 145th CABVA, we want pilots, crew members, maintenance personnel, cooks, clerk, medic, ATC, POL, etc., etc., no one more important than the other, it took all of us to get the job done, together. Everyone from all of our units.

Dear Jim, Here are some photos if you can use, you and Ass. are welcome and I am glad to contribute. They mean a lot to me but will mean even more if shared along with the memories of others. I have been told so many times in the past and present to forget, but I don't want to and some how I can't forget that which was such an impact on my life, especially teenage years. God bless and hope to see you at Kokomo in Sept. Gene Rummage

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Gene for your support and I hope you like the 120th T-shirt. I thank you for the photos, they will be displayed in our Battalion display, I'm sure they will bring back memories for all who were there. I know what you mean about people saying to forget, but would those people forget their teenage years, the dating, the dances, the cars, their friends. I think not. Our teenage years were different, we chose a different place to spend them. They had bad times and we had bad times, our bad times were so much more traumatic then most people's. But never let us forget the good times we had together, the times I wouldn't want to forget for anything. Through locating people I served with in Vietnam I can remember so many more of the good times that now the bad times that I can't forget are such a small part of my memories of my tour. They're still there just like it was today, but so are the good times. Brothers forever Gene. take care.

Jim, I was glad to receive the newsletter today. It's enjoyable to read up on a lot of the info. Note our address change and phone number on card. Hope to see you in Kokomo. Always, Tom Copper,



3614-42nd Place, Highland, IN 46322 219-922-8782, Snap-on tools dealer \$30 for dues enclosed.  
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Tom and I'll see you in Kokomo, IN the third week end of September. I hope anyone in your area that needs any SNAP-ON tools will contact you.

Dear Jim, Just a follow-up on my phone call to Bobby Thomas on the list. His data again: Bobby F. Thomas, 502 Northside Drive, Enterprise, AL 36330 Phone [REDACTED] Also, have been going to give a couple of names for the memorial list since I joined, saw that they was being unmentioned. Homer Hudson, Bob Davis, Ernie Rigrish. All were officers in the 118th in '66/'67. Can't give dates/causes etc. - don't really know them. All heart attacks I think. Doc Marchman (Atlanta) might have more info if you need it. See you in 91. C Haney

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I sent info to Bobby Thomas, 118AHC, HHC, 1966-67, thank you. I'll have to do some more checking on the names you sent for the memorial list. On the help find list I have a Homer E Hudson, 1LT, July 66-67, 118AHC and a Robert B Davis, Maj, August 66-67, 118AHC. I had no info on Ernie Rigrish. I'll try to contact Gary Roush who does the VHPA Memorial List before I print ours. Doc M. L. Marchman if you have any more info on this could you send it along to me.

Thanks for newsletter. Marie Thornton mother of Earl Gurnsey.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Inclosed was a \$25.00 Donation from Mrs Marie Thornton. Mrs Thornton is an Honorary Life Member in memory of her son Earl F Gurnsey, who served with the Bandit Gunships, a former POW, and died after being returned, from the after effects of his wounds and being a POW. There are no dues for the Honorary Life Members but each year Mrs Thornton sends a donation. I want to thank her for her fine support. Thank you Marie.

Just received the latest copy of the 145th ML and, as always enjoyed it very much. Keep up the good work. I do want to report a change in phone nos. [REDACTED] It [REDACTED] (work)

Thanks and look forward to the directory. Marvin Myers (197th Armed Hel Co 64-65)

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you, its always good to hear a few words of encouragement. How is the T-shirt holding up? Good I hope. If anyone is having a problem with their T-shirt not holding up please let me know.

Dear Jim: In response to your recent request, our Donations Committee has approved a contribution of \$100 to the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, and our check is enclosed. We are pleased that we can once again support such a worth while organization for our Vietnam veterans, and we wish you success with your many programs. Sincerely, Chuck Shaw, Vice President - Human Resources, Magnavox Government and Industrial Electronics Company

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I wrote to the Magnavox Donation Committee, (I work for Magnavox), which donates money to non-profit organizations and asked for a donation. This is the third year in a row they have donated to us. The first year they gave \$300, the second year \$250, and \$100 this year. And if they are still in business next year I'll ask for another donation. We're strictly defense contracts here in Fort Wayne and the peace dividend might just about wipe us out.

Hello Jim, I retired from General Motors and at the present my wife and I live at and manage Pinegrove Apt here in Elwood. You can keep my address as [REDACTED] on the directory though as we are giving up this job and going back home as soon as our contract expires 1st of Apr next year. My phone number over there is [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bill, hope to see you in Kokomo.

Dear James and Debra, I received my T-shirt today and also the tape "thanks so much." I just want to let your people know how much I admire and respect you for what you are doing for our fellow Vietnam Vets. Like I told you I was just awarded, 22 years after leaving Vietnam, 50% service connected for PTSD. I've been wanting to join you guys for 2 years but I've been living on welfare after making 60-75 thousand dollars a year in the 70's to nothing after my divorce. I'm starting to make progress with my quilt and feelings about my tour with the 334th AHC as a door gunner. It was the most fulfilling and exciting year in my life and I'll always treasure my fellow comrades and the true bonds of friendship I made there. Again thanks for everything, you two people are great and I can't say how proud I am to be a small part of our organization the 145th and all the others companies (slicks included (Ha Ha). I'll close now by saying keep up the good work and you'll be hearing from me soon. One last thing: Is there any suggestions you



could give me on how to find my last crew chief a Frank Ponzio 68-69 with the 334th stationed at Bien Hoa. I know he lived in Florida. Your Friend For Life, John L. Macedo.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you John, encouragement is what keep it all together. And to keep my comments short I'll refer to my comments to Ned Flecke and Gene Rummage letters. I know what you mean about divorces. I went through two before I found out what PTSD is and how to live with it, not cure it, live with it. Sometimes my wife Deb, of twelve years, has to be real understanding, I've got to give her most of the credit. My PTSD and not getting emotionally involved in my first two marriages, I think had a lot to do with the divorces, or maybe my anger, I'm not sure. And about my only suggestion on locating Frank Ponzio is to see if your local library has phone books from the state of Florida and check each one for a listing for him. Hopefully our members in Florida will check their phone book for a listing for him and let us know that they found him soon.

Dear Jim, As much as I've been dreading to write this letter, the time has finally come. When I agreed to become Regional Director/Coordinator for the state of Florida, I had every intention of performing the job to the best of my ability. Around the same time, I was just getting my business going, and I had more time to devote to the association, but now, I find that free time is practically nil. With the extremely limited amount of time I have to devote to the association, I don't feel that the 145th is well served. Needless to say, I am proud to have been given the opportunity to serve as an officer of this fine organization, and will continue to be a member and to help out in any way I can. Please keep up the good work and try to find a Regional Director/Coordinator who has more time to devote to this fine organization. Regretfully, Frank Dancsecs

(EDITORIAL NOTE) After I received Frank's letter I called him. Frank is one of those people that when a decision needs to be made, he weighs the options and gives his best judgment. I first had contact with Frank in 1986 when our Association was first forming and what really brought Frank to my attention was the way he can say so much in his letters with so few words. I wish I had that special gift. I feel that Frank has and is serving us very well, but I also understand what he means, I have resigned positions in organization because in my own heart I didn't think could give the position the attention I thought I should. I agreed to start looking for a new Regional Director/Coordinator for the state of Florida and Frank agreed to stay on as the R D/C for Florida until a replacement can be found. Frank is a very dear trusted friend and I want to sincerely thank him for all he has done for us. I know that I can still count on Frank when needed. I will start looking for volunteers to take over as Regional Director/Coordinator for the state of Florida, if you can help please contact me. The job does not pay anything but your time and work will be appreciated. Thank you Frank

Dear Jim, Sign me up. I like the newsletter and all inside. I noticed in the New People Located List you have my name and address. That's all right but the date is wrong I was with the 121st 1966-1967 EM. When I was with the Soc Trang Tigers, we had two platoons The White Tigers and The Blue Tigers. I was with the Blue Tigers. Our living quarters were behind the Fire House and Control Tower of the Air Strip. I'm sitting here today dreaming about it all. Please let me know about Tee-Shirts or about anything else to do with the 121st Assault Helicopter Co. Thanks, Paul Fish

P.S. When I was there it was known as the 13th Aviation Battalion.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Paul and I have made the correction to the list. Just a little historical note on the 121st AHC: The 121st arrived in Vietnam as the 93rd Transportation Company (CH-21 Helicopters) on January 26, 1962 and was assigned to the 45th Trans BN which became the 145th CAB on 24 September 1963. On June 25, 1963 the 93rd Trans Co became the 121st AHC and in July 1963 was transferred to the Delta Avn Bn, on 30 Sept 1964 the Delta Avn Bn became the 13th Avn Bn where it stayed until leaving Vietnam in Dec 1970. Through out the name changes and Bn changes the 121st stayed the same unit with the same missions. Its the goal of the 145th CAEVA to reunite the entire unit from the day it arrived in Vietnam to the day it left Vietnam. And the same with all the units listed on the cover of the newsletter.

Dear Jim Attached is my check for \$32.00 for the following: (1) Extend my membership thru July 1992. (2) The enclosed T-shirt request Please forward to me at the above address and thanks for the truly outstanding work you have done. One day perhaps we can get together. Best Wishes, Paul Kant



(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Paul, may I suggest we get together at Fort Rucker, AL June 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1991.

Jim: Yes I'll join your (our) club. Check enclosed for dues, directory and tape. I could send several names/ addresses from my tour; But, if you have access to V.H.P.A (to witch I belong) I do not need to do this. Am I correct? Thanks for the 1st free copy. Sincerely Ken Freck

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ken, after checking the list, I could use any names not listed. I can't get a V.H.P.A. Directory because I can't be a member, I was an enlisted crewmember. I sometimes get older copies given to me but they are out dated when I get them.

Dear Jim, Just a note to thank you for the Historical Report and for including information about my book. I do appreciate your kind words and your comment about the book. I am pleased that you are enjoying it. I also learned something that I was not aware of. I did not know that the tiger was sent to the Toledo Zoo. I certainly would have incorporated that in my mention of the tiger in my book. It is always exciting to get follow up on such things in ones' past. I would also be very interested in knowing if there were any books that mentioned Soc Trang. Thanks for getting all this going. Sincerely Carl E. Bartecchi M.D.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Carl, I did enjoy the book and have placed it in our Historical collection. Its the only one that I have seen so far that talks much about Soc Trang.

Dear Sir, I just received your address from Bien Hoa Productions. I hope you can give me some info on what has happened to the 145th after all these years and maybe some of it's members. I was in Bien Hoa from May 1966 to April 1967 and worked at Spartan control. I was with 125 Air Traffic Control CO. But we (3 of us) were TDY assigned with 145th - we quartered with the 118th AVN CO. And I did some flying as door gunner with the Thunderbirds. I am interested in any info you can give me about any members that flew out of Bien Hoa during that time- as typical (I guess) I never maintained contact with these people and now I can't find them. I flew a lot with SP4 John Derfing. Thanks Wayne Swanson [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) There were three pictures inclosed and I have added them to our historical collection. So far I haven't located Sp4 John Derfing but hopefully there some others on the list that you may remember. Maybe someone will send in his home of record and we can find him.

Dear Jim, Finally got off my lazy you-know-what and sent in my annual dues. Here is three years worth to get me started. I got into the 145th in Sep 69 and was originally assigned to the 334th AHC. They were over strength at the time and I was assigned to the Playboy Platoon. Being fresh out of flight school, I wanted to get as much experience as possible. Therefore, on my days off, I would and fly CAs with the 190th AHC. After a month of that, I transferred to the 190th and became a Platoon Commander. During my tour, I was assigned as the Operations Officer and Executive Officer. I served under MAJ Pierce and CPT Martin and I closed the unit in the summer of '70. We were the first unit to transfer our aircraft and equipment to the VNAF. I was there when we flew Vice President Agnew. I was in one of the chase ships. A few months before I was assigned to the 190th, they had the honor of flying then President Nixon. Both ships came from the platoon I commanded therefore I can say that Army 1 and Army 2 (a take off of Air Force 1) were in my platoon. True, some license needs to be taken during the explanation, but it does make a nice story. I will go through my files for some orders. I guess that you are looking for names of people. I am certain that I will find some. By the way, I still have original 145th AVN Bn patch on my flight bag. I haven't had to use it for some years since I stopped flying in '74 when the Army grounded all of the aviators with over 1500 hours. It is weird, but just in writing the first paragraph, I remembered so many things and the faces of people. It certainly was a time I will always remember. I'll bet that with a little prodding, I could remember a lot more (or at least make up enough to be convincing). Good luck with the association. When I find the orders I will send you a set. Sincerely, Curtis A. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Curt, it does make a great story, and I remember it. I hope that looking through the directory brings back many more happy memories of friend not seen in years.

I haven't seen a member list in quite a while and my phone number used to be incorrect, so I wanted to make sure you had the right one. While I'm at it I'll just give you everything. Bill [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I would also like to tell



you about a great book I read that has just recently hit the book stores. It's CW2 by Layne Heath who was a classmate of mine in basic training at Ft. Polk through flight training at Ft. Rucker. It took me back over twenty years and it's the first book about Vietnam that I have read and felt good when I finished it. Layne Heath is by the way a two tour Veteran of Vietnam. If you could mention the book in your newsletter I'm sure there are a lot of guys that would like to read it. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Ft. Rucker in '91. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, Bill Harberson

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bill, and if anybody didn't get the message, it was "CW2" by Layne Heath. Bill recommends it as very good reading. See you at Rucker.

Dear Jim, Really enjoyed the Excerpt on the 93rd Trans/ 121st AHC Early History. I first became acquainted with the 121st as a pilot with the Huey platoon in the 45th AHB. On the 25th of April 1963, I was privileged to observe the 121st in action with their H-21's; putting 21st Div ARVN Troops into an assault against a VC BN on the southern edge of the U-Minh Forest. It truly took a lot of "Guts" & expertise to fly those old "Bananas" in the heat and high humidity. Later that year, I was again privileged to work with them as the Delta Bn's Huey Platoon leader. They were truly a great bunch of guys, dedicated Professional. Not to take anything away from the Bien Hoa & Ton-Son-Nhut H-21 gangs who were equally great in those old Birds! Thanks for your great work! Sincerely Bob LaMonte P.S. I particularly remember the hot grueling job the crew chiefs had-refueling from 55 gal barrels with hand pumps. Refueling was done after each short flight as weight was a big factor & the tanks were kept low to carry more cargo. Bob

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob, I hope you enjoy the Battalion History section in this newsletter also. It deals with the early days of the 57th Trans Co. / 120th AHC. About everything he said about the 93rd is also true about the crews of the 57th.

Dear Jim, Enclosed please find a check for my very late dues. I appreciate your continued sending of the organization's newsletter. Reading of the 145th's former members and their after "NAM" achievements is enjoyable. I'll try and keep my dues more current in the future. Hope to see you and your lovely wife at this weekend "Firebase Indy". Sincerely Patrick Gwaltney

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Pat. I made it to "Firebase Indy" on Saturday afternoon but must have missed you. I did see Billy J Smith and his wife, from Ohio, and Earl Ping from Indy. They seem to do real good for their first year and should really grow next year.

Dear Jim, Attached find a completed membership application, t-shirt order and a personal check for 23.00 to cover both. I am also attaching copies of two sets of orders that contain the names of other 120th AHC unit members. I hope these will be helpful to you. Good luck in your efforts. Sincerely Charles D. McCombs II

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Charles. I'll get all the names put in our Help Find file. Their social security number will tell what state they were from.

Dear Jim, Thank you, Debby and all, that have taken time to support and contribute their knowledge in building this association. I am sending my dues for 90-91 and ordering a T shirt with the 197th unit patch. I am also sending a copy of orders, with several names that might help you. The two tours of duty I spent in Vietnam were very hard and trying times. All personnel involved did a very difficult job, that was for the most part not appreciated. When I read the article on 93rd trans/121st AHC history, it brought back many thoughts of the brave and courageous personnel, that I worked with and came in contact with in Army aviation. I commend all who have served in this and all conflicts. Arthur T. Enss, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Art for your support and your kind remarks. I'll log the names on the orders into the Help Find list.

Dear Jim: I am attaching for your review the latest roster of all 118th pilots we have located to date. The current roster is much more complete, to include telephone numbers, than the previous one sent. Of special interest, you might note that one of the former 118th members is Lt. Gen. James E Thompson, who is currently the Commanding General of First U.S. Army at Ft. Meade, Maryland. On a sadder note, I regret to report that Warrant Officer Warren "Pappy" Spencer passed away on May 8, 1990, after a long bout with cancer. "Pappy" was a good friend, a good pilot and will be sorely missed. I would appreciate it very much if you would contact his



widow, Mary, and offer whatever services the 145th CAB can make available to her. I anticipate that we will have many more names for the 118th roster by the end of the summer and will keep you updated as the names become available. Sincerely, James R. Thorne

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim, your doing a great job, which anyone checking the new people located list in this newsletter will be able to tell. I have checked our list and updated where needed, and confirmed address where needed. I'll be sending you the most current name and address list soon.

Dear Jim, Enclosed is my check for another years dues. Sure have enjoyed the newsletters during the past year. Also, I have been able to find someone that will produce my old official unofficial pocket patch from 335th AHC "Cowboys". It is costing me \$110 to have the computer program made. If there is any interest and depending on the cost per patch, I will donate some to the association. Let me know what you think about the idea. Sincerely Jim Spanel 4308 Bel-Ridge Drive, Lincoln, NE 68521

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim and I think the idea of 335th PATCHES is great. At the current time we have about 80 people located that served with the 335th, and I hope they contact you about the patches. I have seen a few different 335th patch designs so you will want to let them know which design you are having done. I'll help you get the word out about the patches. Hopefully someday we'll have unit patches for all the units. Let me know how much you will need per patch to pay for them and mailing.

Jim: Thanks for the newsletter and locator file. I'm still having a hard time finding someone that knows the date that 212 went down. I talked to Terry Alberti but he couldn't put a date on it either. Here's the address I have for Ronald Brownell: RD #1 Marshal RD., Box 184a, Waterloo, N.Y. 13165 I'm sure it's out of data but I'll try to get an update for you. Also I found an old address for Don Kirchner: 3120 So. Glencoe, Denver, CO. (No Zip) Sorry I couldn't be of more help on those. I just went thru the P.T.S.D. program at Phoenix, one of the men in my group was Art Wagner. Art one of the night shift nurses was a medic with the 334th I think. I'll give them both one of your cards as soon as I see them. I'll be getting you some dues money as soon as Jan and I get caught up from my stay in Phoenix V.A.M.C. I'm very interested in the 145th ASSN. Thanks Again, Arnold "Andu" Andrews

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Andy and hopefully we'll be able to get a date that 212 went down soon. Your interest in our Association is the main thing to be a member, I'll keep you on the mailing list. We now have more than 135 Congressmen as cosponsors of HR3037, which if it passes through congress will greatly increase the number of P.T.S.D. treatment centers. I know it's a good Bill, I helped write 95% of it. It was written by Vietnam Veterans who understand P.T.S.D., its causes and effects, and care about other Vietnam Vets. We only need 220 votes to pass the House, if we had 85 more cosponsors it would be guaranteed to pass the House. We need for more of our people to write to their Congressmen and Senators asking them to cosponsor and support HR3037. Our brothers need HR3037.

Dear Mr Bodkin: Enclosed, find my personal check for 20.00 to cover dues both in Arrears and for the current year. I am currently relocating but please continue to use my current address until further notice. Thanks, Respectfully James E. Gray, Jr, Old soldier, retired, formerly of: 93d Trans Co (Lt Heptr) 1961-1962.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim, please let me know when you get moved.

Dear Jim: Received the recent newsletter from the association and I was glad to see the T-shirt for the 120th AHC. I was sure glad that the photo I sent in was a big help to you. Keep up the good work and I really enjoy the unit history that you put in the newsletter. Al Arbogast 120th AHC 1964 Send the following T-shirts to me please: #11-02 120 AHC size XL 13.00 #11-02 120 AHC L 13.00 #01-01 145th BN (First In Vietnam) ASSO. XL 13.00 =39.00 Please find check for full amount enclosed.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you AL, I hope you like the T-shirts. The color picture was a big help in making the T-shirt.

Dear James, My name is Richard Stankey and I was in 240th A.H.C. on the Greyhounds and Mad Dogs gun ship part of the Company. We were part of the 145th AVN Bat. Do you have any information on the 240th A.H.C. and what is this Asso. you have started? I went to the company from the 135th



AHC that was in Black Horse in Oct. of 1967. I went to Viet Nam with the 135th AHC and they came from Fort Hood, Texas. Thank you for your time and trouble. My address is Richard Stankey, P.O. Box 2282, Lakeside, Ariz. 85929 Yours truly, Richard Stankey

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Richard for your letter. The 240th wasn't part of the 145th but the 135th "EMUs" was, so membership is open to you. The information I have on the 240th is that it was stationed at Bear Cat from 25 May 1967 to 26 December 1971. From 25 May 1967 to March 1969 it was part of the 214th CAB and from March 1969 to 26 Dec 1971 it was assigned to the 222nd CAB. It was part of the 12 Avn GP until Sept 69 then assigned to the 164th Avn GP. Some of our other members served with the 240th in Vietnam, maybe they'll drop you a line.

Dear Jim. The other day the April newsletter arrived. Looking through it I came across names of two friends Terrance Morin and Dave Price. Dave, I haven't seen for a while but do keep in good touch with. Terrance was at my wedding in April. I've never spoken to you and don't know what all have transpired between you and he. We bounced around the idea of a movie /story whatever regarding the UTT and although I germinated the idea in Terrances' brain I'd have to say it's his baby. It's something I would like to work on cause I get so tired of seeing movies about Viet Nam with helicopters that don't look right, with markings that don't look right and with crew and pilots that don't look right or act right. Seems like Hollywood is in to spending big bucks to get the "grunt look" just right but can't seem to do much good getting the helicopters to look the way they did in Viet Nam. Little bitch anyway. But it leads into the reason for this letter. One of our early birds is alive and well here in Hawaii!! I work as a museum Technician for the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. We are located on the beach of Waikiki, an old coast artillery battery at Ft. DeRussy (remember the R & R center at Ft. DeRussy?). I know it's a tuff job but someone has to do it. Anyway about two years ago we were looking for a helicopter for our museum and got in touch with the Ft. Rucker Museum who had an extra "D" model when the paper work arrived it turned out we were getting an "A". Well you know there were not many of them built (182 to be exact). The UTT used a few of them in the early days and I thought how nice it would be to have a UTT bird here in Hawaii (The UTT started in the Pacific--and that's part of our story) I'd written a book (Army Gunships in Viet Nam) with a lot of focus on the UTT and so checked my picture file and wow! 59-1695 the first photo in the color section of my book, supplied to me ten years ago by a former UTT member Col. Roger Baker. It was the Number 1 aircraft first platoon. We had some history... one of the first 15 armed helicopters to come to Viet Nam. The photo is even earlier than that, taken on Okinawa in '61. Our "A" is now with the 214th AVN Regiment at Wheeler Field. I'm supervising it's restoration and we will put it back into it's original markings and condition as best as possible. I'd like to ask your help if I might Jim? Could you run this information in the newsletter so we could get in contact with anyone who may have crewed or piloted this bird. I have only this one picture of 58-1695 and would like more for our historical property file. I don't think Rucker knew what they had or they wouldn't have given this helicopter to us. At any rate it represents the pioneering achievements of our Battalion and early days of the armed helicopter and we will give it a good home. I'm sorry I can only give you a photo copy of the picture but if you'd like to run it in the newsletter let me know and I'll make a decent print. I also have a question about some field modifications that were done to certain UTT "A"'s involving a mounting bracket on the cabin roof and belly, on both sides of - 1695. It shows up in other UTT "A" model photos I have. I believe it had to do with an early armament fit. As I've detailed in Army Gunships in Viet Nam, the UTT fitted their "A"s with armament but the aircraft was not designed for external stores, but these particular fittings had nothing to do with the .30 cal guns and early 8 tube rocket system. I think you're doing a great job with the newsletter and I'm very sorry I'm living way the hell over here and not able to get to the reunions. They sound great and every time I read about yours and the VHCMA reunion I say I'm going to try to make the next one. Maybe in 91 I will, cause I may be working at the Army Aviation Museum if all goes well. In that case it would be my dream to get back to Rucker (was there in '66) and helped interpret our great Army Aviation history and tradition. I'm especially delighted to finally see a 120th T-shirt my order blank is enclosed-- how 'bout one with the "Razorback" pig for the gun platoon? Keep up the good work, hope to meet you and others in 91. Best wishes Bob Chenoweth

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob, and hopefully the crew of 59-1695, #1 in the 1st Platoon UTT 1962, will contact you. And anyone else that knows about these aircraft, write to Bob Chenoweth, 46-058 Aliikane Pl. #2113, Kaneohe, HI. 96744. I have corresponded with Terrance Morin a few times and sent him information on the history of the 145th and its units. Its my hopes that he



# HELP

Its renewal time again and out of 1802 people we have located only 812 receive our newsletter, out of those 812 people only 275 people have paid for the July 1990 thru June 30, 1991 dues year. That means that only 1 out of every 3 receiving this newsletter have paid this years dues. And I do thank that 34% of you that have paid. You are the ones that have the word MEMBER wrote in the lower left corner of the address lable of this newsletter. The other 66% receiving this newsletter have not sent in their dues for this year as of 1 Sept, and to that 66% I want to encourage you to please sent in your dues today, if you wait you might forget. That 66% can tell who they are by looking at the lower left corner of their address lable, if it says PLEASE RENEW MEMBERSHIP or PLEASE JOIN, than please do so. If for some reason you can not afford the \$10 a year dues and want to continue receiving the newsletter, just send me a note so stating, it will not be put in the Readers Response section of the newsletter.

If all 812 people receiving this newsletter pay their dues we would have \$8,120 to work with this next year. Which would be a double what it took to operate in 1989. We now have higher mailing cost and higher printing cost, but we should still be able to put some back for future needs.

It would really be great if we could get most of the 1802 people we have located to decide to join our Association, so if you have any friends listed in the 1990-91 Directory, that most of you received, that does not have an \* beside their rank, please encourage them to join our Association. If we got 1800 of the people we have located to join we would have about \$18,000 a year to work with, with that we could get better equipement and find many more people that we all want to locate. So please, everyone, consider yourself as a very important part of our membership committee and encourage others to join.

On the other side of this page is a membership form and also the form to order other item you might be interested. On page 20 and 23 of the newsletter it tells about these items. Please consider if you would like to purchase any of these items, if so go ahead an order now before we get into the Christmas buying season. In this newsletter we have added the 135th AHC T-shirt design. I also think I'm going to start taking orders for the 118th, 68th, and 190th AHC designs now, althought delivery time will be a little longer, until the screens are made and stock is built up.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I'll be waiting to hear from you. We do need money to serve you better. It is my wish that we didn't <sup>need</sup> money, but it is a fact of life that everything takes money. So just a little bit from each of you will go a long way. Thank you.

Jim Bodkin



# 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. By ordering this tape I agree not to copy them and to protect the copyrights for further distribution. Signature required on bottom of form.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Battle of Bien Hoa / Gunship Action" Audio Cassette sells for \$15.

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, 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*\*\*\*

## 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	_____ #13-02 135th AHC
_____ #17-01 UTT (1962-1963)	_____ Ex-large
_____ #17-02 UTT (1964)	_____ XX-large
_____ #17-04 197AHC	_____ 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 20 and 23 for T-shirt description.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 NL14



SEE ARTICLE ON BOTTOM OF PAGE 15.

The Vietnam Veterans Restoration Project (VVRP) organizes teams made up primarily of Vietnam veterans who return to Vietnam to repair and reconstruct the country.

Team III is going to Yen Vien to construct a 4,000 square foot clinic.

**GENE RUMMAGE, SR. WILL BE WORKING ON THIS TEAM.  
BUT HE NEEDS YOUR HELP TO GET THERE!!**

**YOU CAN PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THESE PEACEFUL EFFORTS WITH YOUR  
\*DONATION. NO AMOUNT IS TOO SMALL, BUT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.  
TEAM III IS DUE TO LEAVE SEPTEMBER 3, 1990 WITH AN ORIENTATION  
AND PREPARATION MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 30, 1990 IN  
SEBASTAPOL, CA.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**YES, I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT GENE RUMMAGE'S  
EFFORTS TO WORK WITH THE VVRP.**

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ \$5 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\*You may claim a tax deduction by making your check out to "Veterans for Peace, Inc./VVRP."

MAIL TO: Although Gene has all ready left for Vietnam he still needs the funds.

**GENE RUMMAGE, SR.  
VVRP**



If you would like more information about the Veterans Vietnam Restoration Project and/or participation on a team, indicate this on the form.







will write the screen play for a movie about the first gunships (the UTT), and the movie will be a hit, and then go to a TV series using the rest of the 145th CAB history. All this with the Aviation part being correct, and with people rotating in and out, the story being our history and Vietnam Aviation history. I'll outline more about this later in the newsletter. And yes I want to do platoon and Detachment T-shirts but I have to get all the unit T-shirt designs done first. Hopefully see you at Rucker in 91.

Dear Sir, I have read with great interest your newsletter on two occasions but I am a little disappointed with the omission of one of the best Assault Helicopter Companies (AHC) in Viet Nam (in my opinion). I was assigned to the 114th Aviation Company from March 24, 1964 until March 29, 1965 in Vinh Long Vietnam. The unit was comprised of three separate platoons, two lift (red and white platoons respectively) and one attack (blue platoon) and a support element, the 344 Transportation Company. I was assigned to the attack platoon known as the Cobras. The unit displayed two different emblems on the aircraft noses. The gun platoon had a coiled cobra on its nose compartment door while the lift platoons showed a chess knight with outspread wings on their nose compartment doors. The unit designation was "The Knights of the Air". A copy of our unit patch is enclosed for your files. The patch was also displayed on each door of the aircraft. I also have a unit history for the period of my assignment to the unit if you are interested. The point I have missed in your newsletters that concerns not only the 114th but the 121st is that my unit the 114th, was responsible for bringing the 121st into the turbine age by transitioning the Shawnee drivers into the UH-1B. We worked with the gun platoon members (Vikings) and showed them what we knew. That's why they turned out to be so good. I was wounded twice and medevaced home later. My Platoon leaders included Captain Pete Kendrick, the grand father of gun platoon tactics and Captain (now Lieutenant General) Robert Molinelli or "Big Mo". We designed the current M158 rocket pod used today on the AH-1 Cobra. I spent another 17 years with the Army all in aviation. I am currently employed by the Army as a civilian helicopter technical inspector working for the Director of Logistics at Ft. Ord, California. I am quite certain that you have not neglected us intentionally but none the less I feel slighted by not being remember. Sometime later the 114th was changed to the 305th or 306th Aviation Company, sister unit to the Cowboys. Currently I understand that the 114th Aviation Company (Combat Support) is stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska as I spent six years with them and left in 1982. At last report they were still flying UH-1H's but are due for the newer UH-60A Black Hawks soon. Well Jim I'll close for now with a small request. Please let me know if I am eligible to join your fine organization as I would be very proud to do so. Additionally if I can forward the unit history to you you're welcome to a copy. Again thanks for the newsletter and the fine organization you have established. I remain: Respectfully Lane R. Ramsdell, 298 Whitney Place, Marina, CA. 93933

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thanks for the letter Lane, and I'd like a copy of the 114th unit history. Please don't feel slighted because the 114th was not listed as one of the units of the 145th, from what I have heard the 114th was a very fine aviation unit. The information I have on the 114th is: The 114th arrived in Vietnam on 10 May 1963 and was stationed with the Delta Avn Bn when it arrived 11 June 1963. I have no information about who or if the 114th may have been assigned to within that 30 day period before the Delta Avn Bn formed. The 121st was transferred from the 45th Trans Bn to the Delta Avn Bn in July 1963. The 114th and the 121st made up the Delta Avn Bn until 30 Sept 1964 when the Delta Avn Bn was redesignated the 13 Aviation Bn. The 114th was transferred to the 214th Avn Bn in August 1969 where it stayed until 29 February 1972 when they left Vietnam. We restrict our membership to former members of the units and detachments assigned to the 45th Trans Bn and 145th C.A.B. for two reasons: (1) so as to not hurt membership in organizations like the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Asso and the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Asso., and (2) I've got about all I can handle with the units listed on the cover of the newsletter. If I was wrong about the history of the 114th then it will be added into the Asso., I've been wrong before and I know I will be again. Two newsletters ago George J Young, [REDACTED] who commanded the 114th from Feb 64 to December 1964, said that he wanted to hear from others that served with the 114th.

Jim: This is 120th Roster on 27 September, 1963. Thought you might want to publish it. It is in my scrap book. As well the 57th is having a reunion at Fort Rucker this weekend which I shall attend. I'll give you a report. John B. Givhan

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you John, I'll log the names into the Help Find List.



## BATTALION HISTORY 57th TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

The 57th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter) (H-21) had for several years ably supported the training and efforts of the STRAC 4th Infantry Division, stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. In addition to this support which included every facet of military preparation both domestic and overseas, the 57th Transportation Company repeatedly assisted the local populace during times of strife or peril. Search and Rescue, flood relief, transporting fire fighters in the rugged hills and mountains of eastern Oregon, medical evacuation and a host of other duties that are common to a well trained, highly skilled helicopter organization. All of these tasks were performed with a minimum of fanfare and a maximum of professional competence.

In May of 1960, orders were received that were to change the entire perspective of the unit and eventually bring the designation of the unit before the eyes of the world and the scrutiny of the United States Army. These were the orders changing the status of the unit to a STRAF II Category. The following days, weeks and months were devoted to loading plans, alert plans, notification plans, basic loads and a host of other projects enough that could favorably and adversely effect the unit during the initial and critical moments of a movement. Never satisfied and never quite perfect enough, these plans were studied, tried, reworked, re-tried, and polished again and again. The fruits of this labor would someday be enjoyed when the moment came and there was not time left to correct mistakes.

April of 1961 found the world in a turmoil and South East Asia floundering in internal dispute. All eyes followed the news reports closely and speculation of assistance of the American public was a common topic.

April proved to be a triple barreled month for this unit. On 1 April 1961 the 57th Transportation Company was selected as a Superior STRAC unit and was awarded the streamer for the unit guidon and a coveted scroll. Several days later messages were received directing the unit to prepare for movement. Plans were pulled from the files, boxes taken out of storage, and packing and crating began on a twenty-four hour basis. Shot records received, wills, power of attorney, clothing inspection, double checks on aircraft and vehicle maintenance, replacement of short time component parts and the multitude of other items that must be checked and double checked when you are about ready to move. All loading was accomplished in the prescribed time frame and the waiting for additional orders began. One day, two days, a week and then the word to unload and prepare for immediate movement to Yakima Washington to support the STRAC 4th Infantry Division throughout their yearly division maneuver. Carefully each item was unpacked and stored. Massive notes taken to emphasize the lessons learned and assist us should the day arrive for another move.

During the tenure at Yakima Washington, the unit received a delayed Army Training Test. In order not to interfere or impose any restrictions on the maneuvering forces, the ATT was programmed over an eleven day period. Umpires seemed to be everywhere and anywhere testing the unit at every possible opportunity. Air raids infiltration, smoke, gas attacks, night movement, security, operational missions, nothing was excluded. The results were rewarding and justified the long hours and efforts which must be put into any stimulated combat mission to receive the maximum amount of training in a short period of time. A score of 97.8 was awarded the unit for the truly outstanding job they did during this exercise and test.

Immediately upon return to Fort Lewis an IG inspection was in order and once again the unit went into high gear to make a good showing. Operational missions were at no time slighted or delayed because of the additional work created by the normal preparation for a big inspection. Night flights, support missions and others continued on as normal. Once again the spirit and esprit-de-corp of the unit emerged and each soldier buckled down to the task at hand. Once again, these efforts were rewarded by a rating of Superior by the Inspector General.

Early November found the officers and men of the unit starting to think about Thanksgiving and Christmas leaves. Little did they realize that Thanksgiving would be spent on the Pacific Ocean and Christmas would be a sacred moment or two in South



Vietnam, crammed between maintenance and missions. When the flag went up and the order to move was received, the procedures were old hat. Inspections, checks, allotments etc., were more or less routine.

In four days, one hundred percent of all T&E aircraft were flyable and ready to depart. At 1000 hours, 6 November 1961, twenty H-21's departed Gray Field, Fort Lewis, Washington for Stockton, California. At 1900 hours, 8 November 1961, twenty Helicopters arrived at Stockton, California without incident. This included a night flight over the Sierra Mountains, reaching an altitude of 10,500 feet.

On 21 November 1961, the unit departed for "destination unknown" aboard the USNS Core. Twenty-one days later, crowds gathered to observe the Banana Helicopters docked at Saigon, Vietnam. Hundreds and hundreds of people gazed with admiration at the big helicopters with U.S. Army boldly written across the side. As rapidly as possible the cocoons were removed, engines pre-oiled and the crowds waited expectantly as the first helicopter prepared for flight. Smoke blew out of the exhaust as the engine roared into action. Slowly the blades started to turn. Faster and faster until the pilot made all of his flight checks. Then with a powerful lurch, the first United States Army Cargo Helicopter to fly in South Vietnam, lifted off the deck of the carrier USNS Core and sped down the Mekong River to the Saigon International Airport. Another first for the 57th Transportation Company. One by one the H-21's moved noisily off the carrier to their new home in a strange and unfamiliar land.

The 22nd of December 1961 will be long remembered by the men who served with this unit on that day. Operating jointly with members of the 8th Transportation Company (Light Helicopter) a training exercise was conducted north of the city of Saigon. Everyone knew that this was a rehearsal for the real thing that was to follow. Thirty H-21 helicopters loaded to maximum capacity with crack Vietnamese paratroopers raced across the docile countryside. Take-off, check points, release points and the landing area were hit with exact timing indicating the degree of professionalism and training that these two units possessed. The training exercise was completed successfully in every detail and we know that we were ready for the "big one".

At dawn on the morning of 23 December 1961, the pilots examined their aircraft with unusual thoroughness. Each item on the pre-flight check list was carefully scrutinized. Simultaneously the Vietnamese paratroopers quietly and orderly broke themselves into chalk loads and assembled around the helicopter that was to make history for them. Slowly the time passed. One hour, two, then three. The pilots laughed nervously as intelligence patiently tried to get a fix on the radio that we were after. Then the word came. Go! With the 57th Transportation Company leading into a small page in history, thirty helicopters formed in echelons right and left, gaining speed as they left the Saigon Airport behind. On time, and on target, the helicopters flared for a landing into and almost impossible zone. Perpendicular rows of pineapple fields deep in mud and water. If ever pilot training and technique paid dividends, this was the day. Small arms fire broke out immediately and several of the aircraft were under fire as they departed the area to return for additional troops and reinforcements. All the aircraft departed this area but one. As the pilots looked back they could see the cloud of black smoke and orange flames reaching for the sky and there was little doubt as to what had happened. Another, but undesirable first for the 57th Transportation Company. The first aircraft to be lost to insurgent activity while on an operational mission.

On the 24th of December 1961, Specialist Fourth Class George F. Fryett, was reported kidnaped by the insurgent Viet Cong. The 57th Transportation Company and the 8th Transportation Company were jointly alerted to prepare to mass a large number of troops as soon as the location of this American soldier was determined. Frantic preparations were made to continue making ready the H-21's for this most important mission. That word wouldn't come until June 1962.

On 2 January 1962, the word was received and for the first time, a large number of troops were delivered into an otherwise inaccessible area. One thousand and thirty six troops were flown into a hole in the jungle. This landing zone was no more than 300 yards by 150 yards. The ground was soft and the zone was further confined by isolated trees and brush growing at random. Tall, towering jungle trees ridged the area and the Viet Cong roamed at will throughout this dense foliated area. Without incident, this



mission was performed to the amazement of the Vietnamese staff and commanders who were now grasping the importance of helicopter in their operations and the complete freedom and flexibility it would give them in future actions.

A one time priority of training became our goal. Helicopters departed regularly to train the Infantryman on the minimum procedures he must grasp prior to being sent on an assault mission. In three months, the 57th Transportation Company adequately trained 26,364 men. We now had the flexibility to move anywhere in the Mekong Delta Area and displace trained troops. At first awed by the helicopters, the Vietnamese soldier soon came to look forward to an assault by the helicopter. Slowly, the local commanders began to employ the helicopters more and more in less stereotyped missions. New ideas were sought and in every case the pilots of the 57th Transportation Company carried them out to the letter. An entire new concept in thinking and maneuver against the insurgent forces made the helicopter the most desired tool in their inventory. The ratio of men employed, to Viet Cong destroyed, clearly demonstrated the soundness of helicopter vertical envelopment.

With the arrival of the United States Marine Squadron came and even greater lift capability. Instead of fifteen choppers, we could now employ thirty or more. The men of the 57th Transportation Company eagerly greeted the Marines and passed on to them the experience that we had gained during the many assault missions we had flown. On 22 April 1962, another first was recorded for the 57th Transportation Company. A massive mission of thirty helicopters, lifting 1,104 troops, flown jointly by United States Marines and United States Army Helicopter pilots descended upon a little known area in an effort to suppress those who wish to overthrow the government. With minimum planning and liaison, the mission was performed in training-film style. Each unit moving directly to the appointed place at the appointed time with split second timing.

Specialist Forth Class George F Fryett was released by the insurgent Viet Cong forces on June 23, 1962.

On the 19th of July 1962, a triple threat was passed against the Viet Cong. On this day, for the first time, forty helicopters deposited their troops in an area south west of Ben Cat. These choppers were flown by the 57th Transportation Company, United States Marines, and Vietnamese Air Force pilots. Four hundred and eighty soldiers were massed adjacent to a suspected Viet Cong strong point. Landed in flooded rice paddies with mud and water up to the waist and chests of the debarking men. A feat deemed impossible just a few short months ago.

As of the 24th of July 1962 this unit has flown 4,583 hours in support of the Vietnamese forces. A grand total of 133,464 ton miles of cargo have been flown to assist this nation in its struggle for independence and freedom from the Viet Cong. 51,358 troops have been transported by helicopter to insure the eventual defeat of the insurgents.

Flying as many as eight hundred and fifty hours a month they have clearly shown that helicopters have carved for themselves a notch in history and have added a new dimension to modern warfare.

The eyes of the world have carefully followed the progress of this unit. With true determination, outstanding Esprit-de-Corps and honest dedication they have lived in contempt to the dangers that surround us and performed each and every mission to the best of our ability.

The 57th Transportation Company became the 120th Aviation Company (AML) on 25 June 1963, and later the 120th Aviation Company (AHC).

The 57th Trans Co was assigned to the 45th Trans Bn when it arrived 1 July 1962 and stayed with the 145th C.A.B. until July 1966. The 120th AHC departed Vietnam in October 1972.

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## GENE RUMMAGE RETURNING TO VIETNAM

Gene Rummage who served with the 120AHC in 1963 and 64 will be returning to Vietnam and is due to leave September 3, 1990. This will be the third group of Vietnam Veterans returning to Vietnam to build Clinics and they will be constructing a Foot Clinic at Yen Vien. They are going there to help the people that we went there to help in the 1960's. Gene 8 week trip will cost him about \$2200. Inclosed in this newsletter is a donation paper so for any of you that can please help Gene with a donation.



## "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 72 rooms reserved for us and one of those will be set up as a Hospitality Room and the other 71 are reserved for our reunion. We wouldn't have the complete hotel as reported in the last newsletter, 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. In the January 1991 newsletter which you should get by Feb. 91 will be a complete reunion update package.

Now that we only have 72 rooms reserved I would suggest that you write to the hotel and reserve your room, please state that you are with the 145th Combat Avn Battalion Reunion on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June 1991: Holiday Inn, Ozark, 151 US HWY 231 N, Ozark, AL 36361 1-205-774-7300. And for your convenience the even numbered rooms are on the pool side of the motel and the odd numbered rooms are on the outside of the L-shape, for those that like to party ask for the even numbered rooms and those that want it a little quieter ask for the odd numbered rooms. To guarantee to hold send one night's money or credit card number.

General Richard Kenyon and the reunion committee will be looking at a back up motel to handle the over flow soon.

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My wife Deb and I visited Fort Rucker on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of July and stayed at the Holiday Inn. The rooms were real nice and the food was great. The breakfast buffet was \$3.95 and the dinner buffet was \$4.95. While we were there we visited with most of the reunion volunteers. We visited the new museum and I'm sure everyone will enjoy it, its so much nicer in the new air conditioned building. We went through the flight simulator center and Deb and I really enjoyed it. William Ruf who served with the 93rd Trans Co really gave us a great tour of building. After Deb tried to fly one of the simulator she said she didn't see how anyone could fly a helicopter, "Your hands and feet and eyes have to do to many things all at one time!". I think it was probably the first time a simulator went into outer space. It was the great teaching of Bill Ruf that got us back down safely. I'm sure everyone will really enjoy the tour of the Flight Simulator Center. We stopped at one of the airfields where they practiced emergency landing and explained to my wife what they were doing and why, she said it didn't look anything like they show on TV, which is what I have been telling her for years.

We really enjoyed our visit at Fort Rucker and I know everyone will have a great time at the reunion. See you there next year, 7th, 8th, and 9th of June 1991.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report covers 1 April 1990 to 30 June 1990. This report is intended to give you an over all look at what your dues and donation money is used for. If you have any questions or suggestions please let me know. I want you to know that your money is being used for the intended purpose.

Balance 31 March 1990.....\$1158.84  
 Total deposits 4/01/90 to 6/30/90 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)...\$1549.40

Total.....\$2708.24

### Expenditures

Postage.....\$294.82  
 Long Distance Phone.....\$187.13  
 Miscellaneous (see note).....\$460.79  
 Bank Fees.....\$14.22  
 Fund Raiser Supplies.....\$683.36  
 Memorial Fund.....\$30.00 Thomas "Larry" Sanders  
 Copy Machine Repair.....\$60.00

Total expenditures.....\$1730.32 . . . . .-\$1730.32

Balance 30 June 1990.....\$977.92

Miscellaneous includes computer supplies (paper, mailing labels, printer ribbons, etc.), newsletter supplies (paper, staples, etc.), envelopes, notes books, ink pens, copy machine supplies, 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. As of 1 August 90 we have 68 T-shirts printed and ready to go with value of \$884, and 131 unprinted T-shirts in stock and when printed will be worth \$1703. The printed and unprinted T-shirts in stock adds up to \$2587, minus about \$600 for ink, packaging and postage, leaves about \$1987 worth of T-shirts in stock waiting to be sold. So, although our balance at the end of June is lower then our balance at the begining of April, we are making some progress.

Even though we are making progress you will see some large expences in the next quarterly financial report, so we still need your support very much. We had to buy a small air conditioner to cool the copy machine and computer to keep them from shutting down and breaking down. And soon we will need to replace the drum in the copy machine, that cost about \$350, it has a few nicks in it now and put a few blips on each page. We are trying to make do with it now but it will need to be replaced when it gets worse.

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 expences 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 recieve 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 lable 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 lable on this newsletter for your membership status.

Now is the best time to renew your membership, we just started a new membership year the 1st of July. And multiple year membership are always appreciated. Check your membership card to see if it ran out the first of July 1990.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



VISUAL DREAMS  
MOVIE  
DOOR GUNNER

Terrance Dillon Morin, Writer-Director for Visual Dreams Broadcast Production is working on a feature film, working title "Door Gunner". The idea was first brought to him by Bob Chenoweth, author "Army Gunships in Viet Nam", Bob served with the 120th AHC in 1967, and is one of our members.

Terrance Dillon Morin served as a Huey loadmaster in Borneo and has beaucoup right seat time. He also made the first sport parachute jump in Borne that was from a Huey with pontoons. He spent three years in Vietnam and stayed in S.E. Asia and Europe for another seven years.

After T.D. Morin found out about the Harley Davidson motorcycles that the guys 571st Trans. Det. had, that the French had left behind, he decided to use that as the "hook" he needed to get Hollywood's attention.

When I found out about the project I wrote to T.D. Morin with the idea of doing the movie about the first year of the UTT in Vietnam, and if the movie is successful, doing a weekly TV series using the rest of the battalions history and stories from the 1800 people we have located so far. I've seen the TV series "China Beach" and "Tour of Duty", and my feeling is that after a few weeks they lost their story line and are in no way historically accurate. It seems like all their main characters have been in Vietnam atleast 5 years. I won't even comment on their misuse of helicopters in their TV shows, I'm sure you have enough comment of your own. I would like to see the TV series be built around the use of our aircraft and their mission, not the characters.

In a recent letter from T.D. Morin he said there are three stories here that build simultaneously: 1. The very beginning of our involvement in Vietnam as advisors. 2. The invention and evolution of the Armed Helicopter, the best fighting machine ever made. 3. The "off duty" exploits of the door gunners and crew members as they explore Saigon and the countryside on their Harleys. One of the original "A" model Hueys is in Hawaii being rebuilt for the Army museum by Bob Chenoweth who is also the technical consultant for "Door Gunner", see Bob Chenoweth letter on page 11.

Some of the original members of the UTT have already contacted T.D. Morin and are helping with their story. For this project to be successful and to truly tell the story the way it really was, I encourage all the former members of the UTT to write to T.D. Morin and assist with historical information and what you remember about that time. And those of you that served in Vietnam between 1961 to 1964 please write to T.D. with information about your unit, missions, and what you remember about working with the UTT. And please send me a copy for our historical files. From what I hear some of the former members of the UTT are in the process of making audio tapes of their experiences.

I'm really excited about this project, the movie "Door Gunner", and maybe, the follow on projects. A few of you might ask what these projects might do for us as an Association, and I would hope this project would help us locate more of the former members of the 145th CAB, it's units and Detachments. With the advertizing for a feature film and all the Vietnam Helicopter Vets that would go see the film, just getting listed in the credits with an address or phone number might bring in many new former members of the battalion. If it brings in just one special friend of one of our members it would be worth the effort. But if it did nothing more than show how the gunship came to be what kind of people it took to get the job done, it would be worth the effort.

I hope that you will be as excited about this project as I am. Please take a few minutes of your time and see if there is anything that you might be able to add to this project. With all of us working together we should be able to put together a movie where none of our people are forgotten. Not only just the pilots and crew chiefs, but also the 25th Inf. Door Gunners, the mechanics, POL, ATC, Medics, Cooks, etc., etc., everything that added to the mission and the life of the people that served with the UTT and the units they supported. Lets see if we can paint the picture so as many of the details are correct as possible. In so many of the movies the details are all wrong, like in Tour of Duty, the mountains around Tan Son Nhut, they really bug me.

So please help out with this project and send what information you can to: Visual Dreams, Terrance Dillon Morin, [REDACTED]



The following article is in answer to the many question about if the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion still exist, where it's located, and what it's doing. The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion is now called the 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, with the United States Army Regimental System, and serves under the 1st Aviation Brigade (Air Assault). The 1st Bn, 145th Avn Regiment is stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama and has taken over what the 6th Training Brigade had done. The mailing address is: Commander or Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker, AL 36362-5092. One thing you will notice when entering any of the three main gates at Fort Rucker is the 1st Aviation Brigade emblem on the nose of the display helicopter. When I visited the new museum at Fort Rucker some of the aircraft had our unit and flight platoon marking on them.

The 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment carries with it the history of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. The Chieng or Great Bronze Gong is displayed in the 1st Bn, 145th Avn Reg conference room along with some other artifacts.

### 1st Battalion 145th Aviation Regiment

The 145th Aviation Battalion was constituted on 28 August 1963 and activated in the Republic of Vietnam on 24 September 1963 from the assets of the 45th Transportation Battalion (Transport Aircraft). The 145th Avn Bn remained in Vietnam until 2 April 1972 and was stationed at Tan Son Nhut, then Bien Hoa, then Long Binh. The 145th Avn Bn was stationed stateside until it was inactivated on 30 September 1982. Redesignated on 2 October 1988 as the 145th Aviation Regiment, a parent regiment under the United States Army Regimental System, the 1st Battalion, 145th Aviation Regiment, was headquartered at Fort Rucker, Alabama, with its current mission under the Training and Doctrine Command.

MISSION: The 1-145th Aviation provides command and control for the administration, training, and operational support of U.S. students attending the Aviation Officer Basic Course, the Warrant Officer Candidate School and the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course as well as supporting all international students at Fort Rucker. The battalion has six lettered companies.

A Company: administers the Army's six week Warrant Officer Candidate School. After graduation from this rigorous school, the Warrant Officer Candidates (WOCs) attend the technical training for their respective specialties prior to appointment as warrant officers. WOCs entering aviation will progress to B Company.

B Company: The WOCs Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) Course at B Company begins with the primary phase in the UH-1 and continues through instrument qualification. In addition to the flight training, the WOCs continue to receive professional development training from the company cadre. This phase of training last for 20 weeks.

C Company: WOCs progress to C Company for the Multitrack phase of instruction. The C Company cadre provides the final professional development and counseling to prepare the WOCs for appointment as Army Aviation Warrant Officers. During this phase of flight training, the students are tracked into one of four aircraft: UH-1, OH-58, UH-60, or AH-1. Training is from 16 to 20 weeks depending on the type of aircraft in which the student is trained.

D Company: administers the nine week Aviation Officers Basic Course (AVOBC) which consists of two phases. The first phase is four weeks and concentrates on combined arms tactical operations. After the completion of the first phase, the students are transferred to E Company for attendance of IERW. After IERW, the students return to D Company to complete the 5 1/2 week long second phase. In this phase, the lieutenants receive training to prethem to meet the technical requirements of a junior leader in an aviation unit. Only after completing this second phase will a lieutenant be awarded aviator wings.

E Company: provides the command and control for all officers attending the Initial Entry Rotary Wing (IERW) course. IERW is 36 to 40 weeks depending upon the type of aircraft in which the student is trained.

F Company: is the International Military Student Officer company and is responsible for administration of all international students on Fort Rucker.



## 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  
COMBAT AVIATION  
BATTALION**



**120TH  
ASSAULT**

#11-02



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**121ST  
ASSAULT**

#12-02



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**UTILITY  
TACTICAL TRANSPORT**



#17-01

**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**UTILITY  
TACTICAL  
TRANSPORT**



#17-02

**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**197TH  
ARMED**



#17-04

**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**



# NEW PEOPLE LOCATED LIST

16 August 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      | STREET | CITY              | ST ZIP   | PHONE | DATE | DATE | RANK |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|-------------------|----------|-------|------|------|------|
| HHC     | LANIER          | HAROLD S        |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1962 | 1963 | WO   |
| HHC     | TRAVIS          | IRVIN L         |        | DALEVILLE         | AL 36322 |       | 1963 | 1964 | OF*  |
| HHC     | HOOKE           | MICHAEL W       |        | CHICAGO           | IL 60633 |       | 1963 | 1964 | EM*  |
| HHC     | THOMAS          | BOBBY F         |        | ENTERPRIZE        | AL 36330 |       | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| 125ATC  | SWANSON         | WAYNE           |        | SANDY             | OR 97055 |       | 1966 | 1967 | EM   |
| 25 AUN  | D'ENBEAU        | JOSEPH H (JODY) |        | HONOLULU          | HI 96815 |       | 1971 | 1971 | OF*  |
| 57 MED  | TRUSCOTT        | JAMES J         |        | SAN ANTONIO       | TX 78230 |       | 1965 | 1965 | OF*  |
| 68 AHC  | GOODCH          | DOUGLAS O       |        | CORDOVA           | TH 38018 |       | 1968 | 1969 | OF*  |
| 68 AHC  | COWART          | JAMES D         |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1969 | 1969 | OF   |
| 68 AHC  | MORGAN          | ROBERT K        |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | THACKER         | ORIN            |        | OZARK             | AL 36360 |       | 1970 | 1970 | EM   |
| 74 AUN  | HARRIS          | LTC GEORGE W    |        | OZARK             | AL 36360 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF   |
| 74 AUN  | MAGONIGAL       | MICHAEL         |        | OZARK             | AL 36360 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO   |
| 8 TRANS | COLLINS         | RICHARD F       |        | DALEVILLE         | AL 36322 |       | 1962 | 1963 | WO   |
| 117AHC  | FULLER          | JOHN RAY        |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1964 | 1965 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | PAYNE           | CHAD            |        | DUNCAN            | OK 73533 |       | 1963 | 1964 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | CITRANO         | MICHAEL         |        | FARMWOOD          | NJ 07023 |       | 1964 | 1965 |      |
| 118AHC  | FULLER          | JOHN RAY        |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1964 | 1965 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | LINVILLE        | KEN             |        | TEXARKANA         | TX 75503 |       | 1964 | 1965 |      |
| 118AHC  | SHUTZ           | CHARLES L       |        | RINGWOOD          | NJ 07456 |       | 1964 | 1965 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | THOMPSON        | LTC JAMES E     |        | FORT MEADE        | MD 20755 |       | 1964 | 1965 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | YORK            | VAL             |        | BOZMAN            | MT 59715 |       | 1964 | 1965 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | HAIR            | SAM             |        | JOHNSTON          | SC 29832 |       | 1965 | 1966 |      |
| 118AHC  | Mc KELVEY       | JERRY           |        | FREDERICK         | MD 21701 |       | 1965 | 1965 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | MILLS           | JAMES J         |        | FORT BELVOIR      | VA 22060 |       | 1965 | 1966 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | PHILLIPS, C/O A | JOHNNY          |        | COLUMBUS          | GA 31906 |       | 1965 | 1966 |      |
| 118AHC  | RUDY            | WARREN          |        | HIGH RIDGE        | MO 63049 |       | 1965 | 1966 |      |
| 118AHC  | BIAS            | JAMES E         |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1966 | 1967 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | CAMPBELL        | JAMES A         |        | FT WORTH          | TX 76137 |       | 1966 | 1967 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | KELLY           | ROBERT          |        | SPRINGFIELD       | VA 22152 |       | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | THOMAS          | BOBBY F         |        | ENTERPRIZE        | AL 36330 |       | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| 125ATC  | SWANSON         | WAYNE           |        | SANDY             | OR 97055 |       | 1966 | 1967 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | BECK            | WILLIAM R       |        | FAIRFAX STATION   | VA 22039 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | CASPER          | RICHARD         |        | GARDENDALE        | AL 35071 |       | 1967 | 1968 |      |
| 118AHC  | EASTON          | THOMAS          |        | FAIRFAX STATION   | VA 22039 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | HOSTLER         | HOWARD          |        | ORLANDO           | FL 32810 |       | 1967 | 1967 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | MEADE           | RANDY           |        | APO SF            | 96301    |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | RHODES          | COL GEORGE      |        | APO NY            | 09128    |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | VANDEN EYKLE    | MAURICE A       |        | BARRINGTON        | IL 60010 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | WARD            | LANCE           |        | SAVANNAH          | GA 31419 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | WATTS           | VERN            |        | ANCHORAGE         | AK 99515 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | BILBREY         | THURMAN         |        | OKLAHOMA CITY     | OK 73162 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | JACKSON         | STEVE           |        | STEAMBOAT SPRINGS | CO 80477 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | COVENEY         | ROBERT P        |        | UNIVERSAL CITY    | TX 78148 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | GUIDROZ         | EVANS           |        | SIERRA VISTA      | AZ 85636 |       | 1967 | 1968 | OF*  |
| 118AHC  | MULLIGAN        | JACK            |        | SAVANNAH          | GA 31410 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | GARNER          | WALTER M        |        | OZARK             | AL 36360 |       | 1968 | 1969 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | BARTLEY         | STEPHEN LEE     |        | HENDERSON         | MO 64614 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | SHAUF           | GARY L          |        | TEMPLE TERRACE    | FL 33617 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | TRUITT          | GALE C          |        | FRANKLIN          | PA 16323 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | CRAWFORD        | RICHARD B       |        | ROUND LAKE BEACH  | IL 60073 |       | 1970 | 1970 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | Mc GEEHAN       | JIM             |        | DARLINGTON        | PA 16115 |       | 1970 | 1971 | EM*  |
| 119AHC  | O'BRIEN         | CW4 WILLIAM G   |        | OZARK             | AL 36360 |       | 1964 | 1965 | WO   |
| 119AHC  | McHUGH          | GEORGE W        |        | ST MARTINVILLE    | LA 70582 |       | 1970 | 1971 | OF*  |
| 57 TRAN | MAGIE           | ROD             |        | PENSACOLA         | FL 32504 |       | 1961 | 1962 | OF*  |
| 57 TRAN | ADAMS           | ROY C           |        | OZARK             | AL 36360 |       | 1962 | 1963 | WO   |
| 57 TRAN | TRAVIS          | IRVIN L         |        | DALEVILLE         | AL 36322 |       | 1963 | 1963 | OF*  |
| 120AUN  | Mc CABE         | DONALD C        |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1963 | 1964 | OF   |
| 120AUN  | PAYNE           | CHAD            |        | DUNCAN            | OK 73533 |       | 1963 | 1964 | WO   |
| 120AUN  | CRISMAN         | ROBERT S        |        | PFLUGERVILLE      | TX 78660 |       | 1963 | 1964 | OF*  |
| 120AUN  | VARDEL          | CHARLES F       |        | ENTERPRISE        | AL 36330 |       | 1971 | 1972 | WO   |
| 120AUN  | McCOMBS         | CHARLES D       |        | WILMINGTON        | DE 19808 |       | 1971 | 1972 | OF*  |
| 121AHC  | LEVINSON        | COL JOE         |        | CINCINNATI        | OH 45244 |       | 1963 | 1964 | OF*  |



|         |             |           |                |          |           |     |
|---------|-------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-----------|-----|
| 121AHC  | SAMUELS     | THOMAS A  | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1964 1965 | WO  |
| 121AHC  | MESSA       | PAUL L    | SLIDELL        | LA 70460 | 1964 1965 | WO* |
| 121AHC  | WILTWORTH   | WILLIAM E | JEFFERSON CITY | TN 37760 | 1965 1966 | OF* |
| 121AHC  | ADAMS       | HUGH W    | RICHMOND       | VA 23229 | 1968 1969 | OF* |
| 121AHC  | CUSICK      | MICHAEL F | TUCSON         | AZ 85741 | 1969 1970 | EM* |
| 135AHC  | STARKEY     | RICHARD C | LAKESTIDE      | AZ 85929 | 1967 1968 |     |
| 135AHC  | SWITZER     | DON R     | OZARK          | AL 36360 | 1967 1968 | WO  |
| 147AVN  | CAMPBELL    | RICHARD L | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1970 1970 | OF  |
| 190AHC  | PIKE        | STEPHEN   | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1967 1968 | WO  |
| 190AHC  | COVENEY     | ROBERT P  | UNIVERSAL CITY | TX 78148 | 1967 1968 | WO  |
| 190AHC  | WYNKOOP     | ROBERT    | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1967 1968 | WO  |
| 190AHC  | YANDA       | MELVIN L  | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1967 1968 | WO  |
| 190AHC  | D'ARTEWAY   | JAMES F   | LA JOLLA       | CA 92037 | 1968 1969 | WO* |
| 190AHC  | LOGAN       | JONATHAN  | So. LAKE TAHOE | CA 95706 | 1969 1970 | WO  |
| UTT     | WRIGHT      | RICHARD H | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1962 1963 | WO  |
| UTT     | FARMER      | JAMES A   | OZARK          | AL 36360 | 1963 1964 | EM  |
| UTT     | NICHAL      | L.H. MIKE | ENTERPRISE     | AL 36330 | 1963 1964 | WO  |
| UTT     | HUFFSTUTLER | BERNARD E | OZARK          | AL 36360 | 1964 1965 | EM  |
| UTT     | WEEKS       | JIM D     | DALEVILLE      | AL 36322 | 1964 1965 | OF  |
| UTT     | KING        | MARK      | ANDALUSIA      | AL 36420 | 1964 1965 | WO* |
| UTT-197 | QUAINTANCE  | RONALD W  | WACO           | TX 76710 | 1965 1966 | WO  |
| 197AHC  | DUFF        | JOHN      | ANDANDALE      | VA 22003 | 1965 1966 | OF* |
| 197AHC  | MOKRZYCKI   | THOMAS J  | OZARK          | AL 36360 | 1966 1967 | WO  |
| 334AHC  | CUTLIP      | THOMAS B  | BATON ROUGE    | LA 70817 | 1966 1967 | OF* |
| 334AHC  | HOSTLER     | HOWARD    | ORLANDO        | FL 32810 | 1967 1967 | OF  |
| 334AHC  | JORDAN      | JOHN D    | ORANGE         | CA 92669 | 1967 1968 |     |
| 334AHC  | QUAINTANCE  | RONALD W  | WACO           | TX 76710 | 1968 1969 | WO  |
| 213AHC  | ALLEN       | ROBERT T  | FORT WORTH     | TX       | 1969 1971 | EM  |

## LAST MINUTE NOTES "OLD WARRIOR"

A few people have asked why the newsletter is called "Old Warrior". The newsletter is called Old Warrior because that was the battalion call sign that I remember. I checked the VHPA list of call signs and they list that the 145th used, Iraquois in 64-65, Red Bird in 66, and Old Warrior in 70-72. In the pictures that LTC Deets sent in, Old Warrior is written on the nose cover of his Aircraft in 1967-68. So the name of the newsletter "Old Warrior" referres to the Battalion callsign and not our ages.

## TOP TIGER #069

The first letter in the Readers Response part of the newsletter, page 2, sent in by Walter Warren ask what ever happened to his aircraft. When I visited Fort Rucker in July, I had dinner with Cpt (then) Roger Dillow. I showed him what I had put together for the Readers Response section. He said he remembered Walter Warren very well and made sure he had his current address and phone number. Roger said that #069 was at Fort Rucker in 1969. Roger Dillow is now a civilian flight instructor and about to retire as a LTC from the Army Reserves. And has volunteered for our 1991 Reunion Committee.

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Some of our members have asked about Life Memberships and at our next Reunion, June 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1991 at Ozark, AL., hopefully we will set up our Life Membership. One suggestion was \$150 for the Life Membership, but that will have to be decided at the next reunion. I have been telling those that ask, that what ever they pay in membership dues before that time will be put toward their Life Membership. Let me know what you think about this.

## PHONE BOOKS

You may notice that many of the new people located above are from the Fort Rucker, Alabama area. When I was at Fort Rucker in July I happen to get a phone book from that area. I was able to locate 25 more people by checking the phone book againts the 3900 names on the help find list. As more names come in from old copies of orders I will check for them also. At the current time I have phone books for about 30 cities, I would like to have a phone book from most of the cities in the U.S. The idea being to check the phone books from military base towns for all the people on the help find list and check the non-military base cities for all the names on the list that we know were from that state. If you have an extra phone book, even a year or two old, that you can get to me it would be helpful. to save mailing cost just bring it to me at our next reunion. I'm also looking for volunteers to look up phone numbers in their local phone books, if you would be willing to do that I will send you the names to look for.

## JAMES R THORNE

You will also notice many more people from the 118th AHC have been located and I want to thank James R Thorne and Bill Wieland from the 118th for giving of their time to locate these people. Its not easy and their doing a great job. Many of the pilots of the 118th will be getting together the 7th, 8th, and 9th of September 1990 in Atlanta, GA. Hopefully we will get a lot of information on who served on which aircraft and where more of the 118th people can be found.



## 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, 29609 Bock St, Garden City, MI 48135. 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 20 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.

I am now also taking orders for the 135th AHC unit T-shirt design.