

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 the 45th Transportation Battalion in Vietnam, the units listed below:

#### Aviation Companies

HHC	147th
18th	184th
25th	190th
68th	UTT 68th
71st	197th
74th	334th
117th	213th
118th	242nd
119th	335th
120th	CO.A 82nd
121st	CO.A 501st
135th	57th MED DET

#### Transportation Companies

8th	81st
33rd	93rd
57th	339th

And all detachments  
of these units

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, and hope for, 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 before or after serving with the 145th.



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



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NL 19

LARRY A LEONARD

MEMBER

**"OLD WARRIORS"**  
Newsletter

OCTOBER 1991, VOL. 19

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1-219-483-5149

I have gotten many possitive comments on the new printer, it is much easier to read. And it didn't seem to hurt the financial report to bad.

The T-shirt sells have been going real well, especially the Association design. Along with the Association, we also have unit T-shirts for the 68AHC, 71AHC, 117th AML, 117th AHC, 118AHC, 119th AHC, 120AHC, 121AHC, 135AHC, 190AHC, UTT, 197th, and 334AHC. For more details on the T-shirt designs see pages 19 and 20. And I'm working on more of the unit T-shirt designs. The T-shirt sells was a big part of the excellent financial report on page 21. Donations are also a big part of the funds we took in, thank you.

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

I have gotten many positive comments about the articles about the Battalion History, so the article continues in this newsletter on page 14, 15, & 16. 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 still 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. Also at the end of the Battalion History report I included a list of the detachments with the unit they served with, if you have any additions or corrections please let me know.

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 have been putting names on our Help Find List for the last six years and I tried something new with the last newsletter. I send a list of people we are trying to locate in your state hoping that you would take a few minutes and look up each of the names in your phone book and call and confirm that it is the person we're looking for. Many of our members did, and sent me the address and phone number for some of the people we were looking for. Some people didn't have any luck, and some are still checking out the list. If you haven't checked out your list yet please do, hopefully you will be able to find a good friend of one of our members, and someone will be able to find your friends for you.

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.

And I hate to report that on page 18 there is a "In Remembrance" article about two of our members that have passed away.

## 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. And this is about the only way that I get caught up on answering most of the mail. So please read on for the answers to the letters.

Enclosed is my personal check for: 1991-92 dues & a 145th CAB Asso "T" shirt, size large. Enjoy reading the newsletter (s). The former 93rd Trans Co (Lt Hel) (H-21) had the following attachments: 80th Trans Det (cargo Hel Fld Maint), 257th Signal Det (Radio Relay), Medical Det (cannot recall #) Team, Engr Water Pt Det. There were a couple of UH-1A's (we knew them as HU-1A's back in the 50's attached to support "I" Corps Advisors, plus several "Otters" co-located in Da Nang. SVN, from the original 'Otter' Company posted at Nha-Trang. In Sept of 1962 the USMC Helo SQDN then located in Soc Trang and the 93rd Trans Co (LH) (H-21) and attached supporting Dets (80,257 ? etc) were transferred to Soc Trang and the USMC unit (equipped with old CH-34s and an R4D (C-47)) moved to Da Nang. Most of the Army unit's gear was airlifted by USMC 130's (out of Okinawa - at that time) from Da Nang to Soc Trang. The heavy lift equipment and vehicles were transported by the RVN Navy via an old LST to an area in the Delta. That took about a month. Finally we bulldozed a landing ramp and convoyed to Soc Trang over some wild and wolly roads and bridges. Two Ch-21c's and a O-ID flew air cover with old .30 cal LMGS, door MTD in the CH-21s (M1909oz M1919A45 or such) we had to unload the equipment from the HV TRK to cross a bridge, move the equipment by muscle across the bridge and reload on the opposite side. Continuing to our destination in Soc Trang. Luckily no ambushes or mines encountered. The HCPTRs made the transfer/exchange in one day. But like most moves in those days, it did not take long (while awaiting our HV Maint equipment) for availability to fall to near zero. I recall that after reaching Soc Trang our supply team ordered good ole toilet tissue from US Army Spt GP in Saigon and hence to Okinawa. Back came a note that 'they' were sending us a "substitute". Writing back I requested in long hand what exactly was to be the substitute for toilet tissue? "leaves, newspaper, magazines?" Brige General Stillwater, then CG of U.S. Army Spt GP (remember this was 1962 about October). Really got a kick out of that letter, endorsed it forward to Okinawa, as written. He then flew to Soc Trang, brought us a case of toilet tissue (it was all that would fit into the airplane.) and said he too wondered just what the substitute would be! These small antidotes always occur during our tours of duty and somehow eased the tensions, trials, and tribulations. Another 'war story'. During the spring and summer of 1962 several Air Crews made after-sortie reports of sighting 'Pink colored elephants in the western areas of RVN I Corps'. Our air operations officer, then Captain Raymond Delanancy of Boston, Mass discussed these reports. We begin to wonder what some of the air crews may have 'eaten' or partakened. Later on that one bright, hot (remember that heat during the dry monsoon season??) day the entire company was in formation returning to Da Nang when one air crew member spoke over the UHF. Look to the left, down along the river at those wild elephants. Unbelievable! A herd of pink colored elephants, this we had to see. The whole unit formation turned, descended and flew by the site. Of course the elephants moved away. But it was easy to see that this wild herd had wallowed in some river mud that when dried appeared to be of a distinct pinkish hue. We all had a good laugh at the time and had another good 'war story' to recount when the next 'can you top this' bull session arose. Those old piston-engined CH-21s were slow, heavy and really slaves to density altitude. But then, in those early days, it was all there was available and we made do till better things came along. God Bless, Jim Gray Old Retired Soldier.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim for your support and the information, I added Cpt Raymond Delanancy, 93rd Trans, 1962 from Boston, MA to the help find file. I really like those "war stories", and they serve to remind us that not everything about Vietnam was serious, and there were very many light hearted moments.

Dear Jim & Debbie, Congratulations to you two and General Kenyon and those who assisted him at Fort Rucker. The reunion was a most enjoyable and memorable experience. Hope to see everyone again in '93. Joe Jobe, Playboy 16 / Spartan 6

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Joe, I really enjoyed the reunion and Ft Rucker and look forward to seeing you again in '93. The '91 Reunion Committee did a really great job putting the Reunion together.

To whom it may concern. As far as the dates I was on my second tour and no offense but I did not like the 25th so I transferred to the 240th AHC. I was wondering if you have patches on the 145th. If you don't remember my first letter let me give you a rundown, I served with 123rd Avn Bn, A Co dustoff 12/67-6/69, 25th Avn & 240 AHC Jan-Dec 70, & 48th AHC 7/71-5/72. I'm a life member in DAV vice commander (100%), Americal Asso, Viet Nam Hel Crew Members Asso., I just like to know what's happening. Albert E Scott PS. I remember when I joined the Crew Members Asso, George "Pops" Ecker sent me a few pictures of him and his wife, its to bad the good ones have to go, he was the first president to my knowledge. (EDITORIAL NOTE) I believe a few of our members also served with some of the units you mentioned. I only got to know "Pops" Ecker by telephone, he really put his heart and soul into starting the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Asso., he tried to make our 1987 Reunion but the trip was to much for him and he had to turn back. He will be remembered and missed by all those that had the privilege to know him. Read on for the next letter from Al.

Dear Jim, I joined not that long ago as you know. The tee shirt is has a beautiful design but my wife only washed it 3 times and the colors ran all over it like a little kid playing with finger paints. I think you would be better off forgetting the color even though it does look good and making it in a plain black design. I'm a member of the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Assoc and that is what their t-shirts is made like and I've had it for years please send me a XL. Thanking you in advance, Albert E. Scott, 9606 91st Road, Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Al and sorry about that. About 1% to 2% of the T-shirts we send out do that. If they're not heat set properly they will wash out, there is a fine line between properly heat setting the ink and burning the shirt, sorry about the inconvenience. I'm looking at using a different kind of ink that is easier to heat cure, but I really like the color design. If anyone has a problem with the color washing out please let me know and I'll send a replacement.

Dear Jim, Enclosed is my annual membership dues plus my order for a 118th AHC T-shirt. I have a picture of the Bandit platoon patch. Would you like me to send it to you so that those of us who were in the Bandits can get it silk screen on the back of the tee shirt? I'm sorry to be sending in PTSD survey late. I'm in the Naval Reserve and a lot of my spare time gets eaten up studying for promotion. Finally I made E-6. If you have any further questions please feel free to call me. Sincerely, Bruce Rubenstein

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bruce. Ralph Orlando donated an original 1964-65 Bandit patch for the Battalion display at the Ft Rucker Reunion. I plan on doing the gunship platoon patches as soon as I get the unit patch designs done, I'm getting a lot of request for the gunship platoon designs. Hopefully I can get a lot of the designs done this winter. I still need to finish the PTSD and Agent Orange survey and write up the overall results.

Dear Jim and Debby, Enclosed is my check for my 1992 dues and some extra to help keep the kitty right. Add my appreciation to that of others who've written, for the great job you both are doing for the organization. Thanks to your input I've traded a couple letters with the Sea Wolf association. I've learned that they were unaware that we were 'carrier qualified' and operational in their stead early on in 1966. I trust they are pondering over the short history narrative I sent them recently and will continue the correspondence. It just may come to pass, eventually, that the role of the Battalion's Task Force Sea Wolf will be a part of their history. I'll keep you apprised. I'm still trying to locate a good copy of the original tasking order, Headquarters 145th Aviation Battalion Letter Order Number 4-57, 1966 and to get in touch with the 19 original crew members. I ran an ad in the locator file of the Army, Navy, and Air Force Times and other veteran periodicals with nada response. I was delighted with all the calls I received from old friends who saw the ad and wondered where the hell I had gone, but no Sea Wolves. I'll keep trying. Warmest regards, Duane R. Brofer 197th Aviation Company

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Duane, hopefully any member of Task Force Sea Wolf reading this will contact you. If anyone has a copy of the orders Duane referred to please send him a copy at: Duane R Brofer, 5410 Apache Ave, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635. If you get an address for anyone that we haven't located yet please send it in.

Dear Jim and Deb, Enclosed are my subscription (membership dues) and some orders. As you can see the quality of the orders is not real good. I also have a Pictorial History Annual (Vol. 2, June 1967 to May 1968) you could see if you're interested. Keep up the good work. Sincerely Rick Wientjes, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Rick, I entered the information from orders into the Help Find File. I had use of LTC Robert Deets copy of Vol #2 a couple of years ago. We have a copy of Vol #1 in our Battalion archives donated by Col D.E. Van Pietersom. I wished they would have made a Vol #3 but I haven't heard about one. Read on for the next letter from Rick.

Dear Jim & Deb, Enclosed are the names of people I located from SD off the list you sent me. Lawrence (Larry) S Lockert, [REDACTED], John A Boland, [REDACTED], David Hengen, [REDACTED]

He told me his brother Orville was in same unit in VN and is still active duty in Germany. Didn't give me Orville's address. Richard (Dick) A Skaaden, [REDACTED] (I went to high school with Dick, didn't know he was in our unit. He's a CWO-4 active duty flying planes). Duane L Speirs, (mother's address inclosed), Duane is in Dhu Abai, Saudi Arabia. That's it so far, has taken a while to run these down, but will keep list available for future use. As Ever, Rick Wientjes, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Rick, great job, I appreciate your hard work and I know many others will to. Here is a little more info on the people Rick located for us: Larry Lockert served with the 190th AHC in 1968-69 as a WO, John Boland served with HHC in 1968-69 as a E5, David Hengen served with HHC April to Oct 1968 as a OF, Dick Skaaden served with the 190th AHC in 1967-68 as a WO, Duane Speirs served with the 118th AHC from Dec 69 to Dec 70 as a WO, and Orville J Hengen served as a CPT with the 74th Avn Co in 1967 to 68, hopefully David Hengen, Orville's brother, will send in his address soon. And again, thank you Rick, great job, you were able to locate 5 out of the 15 from SD and 6 including Orville that we didn't have a state for.

26 July, 91 Received NL 17 this date. Was it just mailed or maybe the victim of APO efficiency. A Heads up all APO's are under revision and as you can see on mine, APO San Francisco has disappeared for AP (I E Area Pacific). There are supposed to be much improvements by optical scan zoning at least 2 days for first class. It remains to be seen. This is all supposed to be smoothed out in the next year. Anyway it should be the source of complaints and confusion for sure. Warm regard, Marcellus Karrigan

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thanks for the APO AP info. All the newsletters were mailed at the same time, about the last week of May, most people got them by the end of June. So far the new system doesn't seem to be working. This newsletter should be finished by the middle of Oct and in the mail before the end of Oct, just about everyone should have it by the middle of Nov., it takes from 2 to 4 weeks for bulk rate mail to be delivered. One of your old friends wrote in, see the next letter.

Quick note to say good to see that Karrigan is still around. Worked for him twice, once at Carson, another time on the Corpus Christi Bay. Joseph Wooton Put whatever is left over in the pot.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Joe and please see a letter from Karrigan printed just above, his new address is: Marcellus Karrigan, [REDACTED]

Dear Jim, Please find enclosed two years of membership fees and additional money for two tee shirts for 121st AHC. Sorry to have missed the 1991 reunion but maybe next year. Mike Bennett, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Mike, hope to see you in 1993 in the Dallas/ Fort Worth Area. More reunion info printed in the Reunion Update in each newsletter.

Hi Jim, Please renew my membership for one year. Send me two t-shirts, and keep the change, to help you with the expense! Ivah Chesterfield Keep up the good work it's a pleasure reading the Association newsletter.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ivah, the \$100 check you sent is greatly appreciated and the extra \$64 donation will really help with expenses.

Dear Jim, Just a quick note to say thank you for all the work you and your wife do. I know it must take up an awful lot of your time and energy to be dedicated to doing this all the time, again thanks. I was in Nam in Bien Hoa during 1969 and 1970 and it hasn't been until recently I realized how much an important part of my life took place there. A group of guys I was stationed with have gotten together twice, once in Kansas City and once in Nashville and it sure was a lot of fun since we hadn't seen each other in 20 years. Our families got to know each other a little and we got to reminisce a little. I hope the reunion was a lot of fun, I wasn't able to come due to gall bladder surgery on June 4th, but maybe next time. Enclosed is money for 2 years dues, one cassette, and one t-shirt and a couple extra bucks for whatever, sorry I can't send more now but hope to be able to at a later date. Again keep up the good work and here's a name of a guy who was in our group at HHC motor pool in 1969-70 if you or anyone has any info on him I'd like to know, his name is Ken Gade last known address is Detroit, Mich. Sincerely, Michael Simmons

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Mike and I'm glad you were able to enjoy the reunions with old friends. Hopefully everything will work out for you to be at the '93 Reunion in the Dallas / Fort Worth area. I last address I have for Ken is: Ken Gade, [REDACTED], that address should be current.

Dear Jim, Enclosed is my renewal, a little late, and \$15 for gunship tape, also an extra ten dollars to help out a little. I'd ordered two T-shirts before, and I wear them a lot. I get a few comments from people about them and always feel proud when I'm asked. One thing I have noticed, there are a lot more Vets around here than I realized. The shirts seem to be an opening for "common ground" for talk. I hope the next reunion is in the fall because the last one was when my oldest daughter graduated. If you have one in two years and it is in the spring my youngest graduates. Hope I can make it next time. Marv Durkee

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Marv, the T-shirts are great advertising and well received by all Vets. Wearing one always brings out a little extra pride in myself too, to me they say "I'm proud I served with the best". What is really great is when your out somewhere and bump into someone from the same unit and didn't know our organization existed, they really get excited about seeing their old unit patch. Our next reunion will be a little later in the year, were aiming at a date after 17 June 93 and before 16 August 93, to avoid high school and college graduations.

Dear Jim, Enclosed find check for my dues, Sorry I am a month late - Also find an obit. for Wayne Mabe. He was the Aviation Maintenance Officer for the 74th AVN Co (SAL) at Bien Hoa AFB in 1965 - Wayne retired in Newport News, VA. Sorry I didn't make the reunion, will try harder the next time. Tom Connell, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Tom, I added Wayne Mabe to our Memorial List. The info I had was that Wayne also served with the 68th AHC. If you could send me Wayne's wife, Jeanne, address I put her on our honorary membership list.

Dear Jim, Received your latest newsletter and the 91-92 membership directory. I was looking for 119th AHC Crew and under KIA update was sadden too find the name of my last in country AC WO Ralph Roussell. I left Nam in Feb. of 1970, after a total of 22 months and 1450 air hours. I had only 50 days left when WO Roussell approached me, having just checked out for AC, too fly my ship, Gator 108. Needless to say, being that short, and having survived 5 downings, I was not enjoyed about flying my remaining time with Cherry AC! But as things being, WO Roussell became my AC. Things were tense between us for the first couple of weeks, until we ended up in a "hoverhole" in the Central Highlands, near Kontum one late afternoon. With darkness closing in we had to remain in a 75ft hover between massive trees for over a half hour to extract 5 MIAs and 2 KIAs. It was by far the best hovering performance I have ever seen, and having worked many "hoverholes", hot and cold, I thought

I had seen the best. After that day I was proud to have WO Roussell as my AC on good old Gator #108. Jim, I wanted to pass this story on to honor Ralph Roussell. I am sorry he did not make it, he was a nice one. Here are my dues and some extra, maybe someone who needs dues money can use to join. You are doing a great job. Sincerely, Alan E. Mixer CE 119th AHC "Gator 108"

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Alan and I'm sure Ralph will be remembered by all those who knew him. Its never easy to learn of the death of a friend, even 21 years later. If and when we locate Ralph's family they will be glad to know that he is remembered fondly. Ralph S Roussell, Jr was from Bogalusa, LA and was Killed in Action on 5 June 1970, if any of our people in that area can locate the family it would really be appreciated.

Hi Jim, Just got the yearly packet. Here's my dues and extra \$5 for stamps, etc. Enclosed is name of John W. Clapp, classmate and later served in RVN and Ft. Walters together. He may join. Also, a couple of members killed in civilian accidents. 1. Barry Robinson, WO, class of 64-67, or somewhere in there - served A/501st in 1965 was killed in a civilian helicopter crash in Alaska around winter of 1967. 2. Jim Prenderville, WO class of 64-68 served A/501st 1965 -heard he was killed in Europe in the late 60's -was a helicopter instructor and was run over by a jet in a traffic pattern? Alfred J. Brown, CW4, USAR

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Al, I added Barry Robinson and Jim Prenderville to our memorial list. I added John Clapp, A/501st Sept 64 to Sept 65, WO to our mailing list and his address is listed in the back of this newsletter in the New People Located section, thank you.

Dear Jim, Sorry to be late with the dues. Here is a check for one years dues. Keep the other ten dollars to help with your expenses. I would have liked to have made it to the reunion, but it was just too far away and I couldn't spare the time. I have a couple of names of the former 145th you could contact. CW3 William J. Whitten 2613 Coffelt, [REDACTED]. He served as First Sgt. of the 120th from about Feb. to Mar. of 1965. The other one is Dr. Franz Stewart, Jr, [REDACTED]. He was the flight surgeon for the 120th from 1964-1965. I would also like to nominate two deceased members of the 120th. The first is Major Randolph H. Kahl-Winter. He was the XO of the 120th from May 1964 to about Jan. 1965. He retired from the Army and went to work for the Army as a civilian pilot. He was killed in attempting an instrument approach to an airfield in Wash., D.C. area. I don't remember the year, but it was around '72. He has four sons but I don't know any of their names or addresses. The other one is Walter Eagle. He was a crew chief with the 120th in 1964-1965. He died about three years ago. He parents and a brother live in [REDACTED] 23080. I don't know his parents names but his brother's name is Herbert Eagle, same address. I would appreciate it very much if you would let them know that Walt is being remembered in this way. Thanks a lot. Earl O. McConaha

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Earl, I added William Whitten and Franz Stewart to our mailing list and added Randolph Kahl-Winter and Walter Eagle to our memorial list. I talked with Walter Eagle's mother, Venie, and put her and Walt's daughter, Connie Romaine, on our Honorary Member mailing list. Walt's brother name is Harry. The mailing address is General Delivery, James Store, VA 23080.

Dear Jim, Just wanted you to know that we have moved to New Mexico from Calif. We are enjoying a slower pace, less traffic and no smog. The above address, I think, is all you need. I wanted to thank you and Debby for the job you did at the reunion. Thanks Richard and Peg Hinton P.S. [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Richard and Peg. Richard and Peg Hinton new address is [REDACTED]. Richard served with the 68th AHC from Nov 68 to Nov 69. Sending change of address sure helps with mailing and saves a lot of work and postage money, thank you, its appreciated.

Dear Jim, Just received the membership directory and newsletter and saw an article from Steve Bass. I haven't seen nor heard of his whereabouts for twenty-five years. So I called him right away and had a great time "catching up". He was always a great guy and a first rate soldier. I was really sorry to hear of his Agent Orange related cancers and we were

all in the bush together for so many months. What's the chance of including a section in the newsletter on Agent Orange, like symptoms etc., and how to deal with the VA. I've included money for two cowboy patches. I have a Falcon patch from the Co A 82nd days and a Falcon patch from the 335th when the switch was made. I would like to remake the patches if you could recommend someone who does that sort of thing. Great newsletter keep up the good work. If any of the old Cowboys have a little time give ol' Steve a call for he would like to hear from you. Sincerely yours, Lyle T. Travis [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Lyle. About having the patches remade, I've found it best to work with a patch maker in your area because of the possibility of the patch being lost in the mail. Most patch makers make a computer tape of the patch design and send it off to be made, and that way the original patch never has to leave your possession. We can sell the reproduced patches through the newsletter and hopefully those interested in them will contact you so you could get an idea of how many to order, the bigger the order the lower the cost each. To put together a section on Agent Orange would take a lot of research and won't be as good as info already out there available. The best info I've found is put out by the VA, its called Agent Orange Review, to get a copy write to: Donald J Rosenblum, Writer/Editor, Agent Orange Review, Environmental Agents Service (116), VA Central Office, 810 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Ask for one copy, and ask for the August 1991 Vol 8, No 3, I was really impressed with the good quality facts they published in that issue. I do have a file with info about how to deal with VA and do want to help all our members as much as I can but on most of these issues there are other much bigger organizations that can deal with these issues much better. One thing that our organization can do better than any one else is to help find backup info to support your claim, with statements from others you served with at the time. Being a fraternal organization we really don't have the means to get deeply involved in veterans issues, I feel our organization should stick to what we do best, locate new members, hold reunions, and compile our history. And for all you Cowboys that might want to contact Steve there is his address: Steve Bass, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Read on for a letter from Steve.

Dear Jim, Enclosed is my 5 dollars for a 145th ballcap. I hope you have enough in stock. I hope you follow through in your design for we "Cowboys". And thank you for your consideration in making me an all cotton T XL, because of my Agent Orange illnesses. By the way, I received a surprise phone call from Lyle Travis, a member of the Falcon Platoon two hooches down from mine when we were in A Co 82nd later 335 Avn Co AML 173rd Airborne Bde. Lyle was a crew chief involved in many battles during his 3 tours in Nam. We talked about the company, guys we lost, and happier time in 65-66. He heard I had cancer from the letter you published of mine, and called to cheer me up. I was ecstatic. Lyle was the first vet from "Cowboys" that I was able to speak to all these years. God Bless your work putting out the newsletter. It really makes a difference to know we are not forgotten. Sincerely Steve Bass A Co 82nd and 335th Avn. Co. 65-66

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Steve. Steve address is printed just above his letter, in the editorial note to Lyle Travis's letter.

Dear Sir, I am trying to locate information on the 213th ASH Co. The unit served in Vietnam from Jan. 67 to Mar. 72 with the 12th Aviation Group and the 11th Aviation Battalion. The unit was known as the Black Cat of Phu Loi. the 329th Tc Det. was attached to the 213th ASH Co. The unit was a CH-47 Helicopter Company. I was with the 329th TC Det. for a while then, I was put on Flight Status then I was assigned to the 213th ASH Co. I am looking for information on the two units (213th Ashc/ 329th TC det.) I am writing a unit history and need information on the Major Operations the unit was involved in. Also any information that you can provide would be appreciated. Or any information as how to get the information. Enclosed is my membership payment to the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. I am willing to share information with the 145th on what ever I have or get. Also have you ever thought of putting together a yearbook of the members? Also if I can be of any service as unit historian for the 213th/329th I will give it my best. I have written to the 12th Aviation Group, 11th Aviation Battalion, and 11th Aviation for information. I am using

# HELP

NL 19

Its past renewal time and out of 2137 people we have located, and have current address for, only 1089 receive our newsletter, out of those 1089 people only 518 people have paid for the July 1991 thru June 30, 1992 dues year. That means that less than 1 out of every 2 receiving this newsletter have paid this years dues. And I do thank that 47.5% 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 52.5% receiving this newsletter have not sent in their dues, and to that 52.5% I want to encourage you to please sent in your dues today, if you wait you might forget. That 52.5% 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 1089 people receiving this newsletter pay their dues we would have \$10,890 to work with this next year. Which would be a couple thousand more than we spent in 1990. We now have higher mailing cost and higher printing cost, but we should still be able to put some back for future needs. We still have 152 of last years members who need to renew their dues so we don't lose any members, for these people I put a note on the mailing lable, MEMBER, RENEW JULY 91.

It would really be great if we could get most of the 2137 people we have located to decide to join our Association, so if you have any friends listed in the 1991-92 Directory, that most of you received, that does not have an \* beside their rank, please encourage them to join our Association. If we got 2000 of the people we have located to join we would have about \$20,000 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 in. On page 19, 20 and back page 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.

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 need 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

MEMBERSHIP FORM ON TOP OF OTHER SIDE, ORDER FORMS ALSO

In a couple of weeks a few hundred of our non-members who have been recieving newsletters but haven't join or renewed will receive a letter stating that they are being taken off the mailing list until I receive something from them.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 1991 to 30 June 199 \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Associate (family) member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ NL19

Send to: 145th C.A.B.V.A., 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Ft. Wayne, IN. 46805

### CASSETTE TAPE

Send me the cassette tape, "Battle of Bien Hoa/Gunship Action" Audio Cassette sells for \$15.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send order to: 145th CABVA, 3719 FOREST HILL AVE, FT WAYNE, IN 46805

### TOP TIGER or COWBOY PATCHES or HAT

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ Top Tiger patches, or Send me \_\_\_\_\_ Cowboy Patches, at \$4 each.

Or send me \_\_\_\_\_ 145th baseball cap at \$5 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 Asso.	_____ #05-02 68th AHC	_____ Medium
_____ #06-02 71st AHC	_____ #08-03 117th AML	_____ Large
_____ #08-04 117th AHC	_____ #09-02 118th AHC	_____ Ex-Large
_____ #10-02 119th AML	_____ #11-02 120th AHC	_____ XX-large
_____ #12-02 121st AHC	_____ #13-02 135th AHC	_____ XXX-large
_____ #16-01 190th AHC	_____ #17-01 UTT (1963-1963)	
_____ #17-02 UTT (1964)	_____ #17-04 197AHC	_____ #17-05 334th AHC (1966-68)

Send order to: 145th CABVA, 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 19, & 20 for description.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ **THUNDERBIRD PATCHES**  
Thunderbird Patches at \$4 each

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send order to: David Evans, \_\_\_\_\_

Shelby L Stanton Vietnam Order of Battle for some of the information. Also can you provide a list of name of members of the 213th/329th? I am looking forward to hearing from you and exchange information. Your truly, Larry R. Wheeler, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Larry, we needed a unit historian for the 213th and all the detachments that served with the 213th. I'll send you as much info as I can and hopefully our readers will send both of us any info they can on the 213th. I'm going to try to get info on all our units from Suitland Reference Branch (NNRR), National Archives, Washington, DC 20409

Dear Jim, Please find enclosed membership info & money for two years. This has been sitting here since the beginning of June waiting for Doug to get around to writing a letter. I'm sending it off today (31 August)! Our thanks to Dusty Baber who gave Doug's address to you. We both enjoyed reading the newsletters, I miss it when it didn't come. Our daughter, Naomi, is currently in the U.S. on exchange with AFS, & you wouldn't believe it but a neighbor of the family she's with is a Vet who's taken a real shine to her, & has told her to tell Doug that "a Vietnam brother is watchin out for his baby", which was nice to hear. I've given her your address, so she may drop you a line, & if your ever up that way (Ohio) I know she'd love to meet you. She's settling in OK but obviously its a long way from home & all that's familiar. We think you do a good job with the newsletter so keep it up. Doug's involved here with the Vietnam Vet's Job Link Program. Hopefully he'll write you a note that can be included in the newsletter one day. Just don't hold your breath waiting, though! Bye for now, Ada Rasmussen

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ada and I also like to hear from wives and families. Maybe your letter will encourage more of the wives to write in. The Ohio State line is about 20 miles east of Fort Wayne and we have many members living in Ohio so if you let us know which city maybe one or two of our members can make contact with her. Maybe some of our members children go to school with her.

Dear Jim, Enclosed find a check in the amount of \$56.00. Please disperse as follows: \$20 for two years renewal of my membership, \$26 for two t-shirts and \$10 to cover a one year membership for some vet that can't afford the dues. Also find enclosed copies of some of my orders that I have from my tour in Viet Nam, Jan 66-Jan 67, with the 93rd Medical Detachment of the 118th AHC. There aren't many that list the address of the men but hopefully their service numbers might be of help. At a later date I hope to compile a list of names of men that I served with that I can only remember by name and maybe the state they were from. That was a couple of years ago so it will tax my memory a bit but I'll give it a shot. I too would like to take this opportunity to compliment and thank you for the great job you are doing for the Association. I hope that you realize how much your work is appreciated by all the comments that you receive in letters such as this. Sincerely, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you and the info from the orders will be put into the Help Find File and maybe very helpful in finding more people. The one set of orders contains 7 old address and should be very helpful. Anything you can remember about your tour and the people will be very interesting and helpful.

Dear Jim, I am sending membership renewal fees. I am trying to get the following questions answered. (1) Is the hostage Terry Anderson our Terry Anderson who was my crew chief in the 68th AHC? (see attached orders) (2) Why were we gunners and crew chiefs only given our basic Air Medals?, what happened to all our subsequent awards, shouldn't we have received the DFC after 20 awards of the B.A.M.? (3) In 67-68 a Mustang fire team recaptured their guns off of a downed gunship. The gunner made the front page of his hometown newspaper, Detroit I think. I came from the 173rd in 67 I think suffering from memory loss & blackouts. If I could hear the names of the crew I might remember some things I need to remember. Also, where are the Top Tiger 23A Crewmen that were shot down with me? Thank you, M Fisher Aka "Airborne Dog Fisher" PS names might be Frazzo? King? Taylor? Silvertooth? Brava?

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Mel, I'll try to answer some of the questions. (1) I don't know

if it is the same Terry Anderson, but if it was I wouldn't want to put out any info about a possible military background that his captors might not know about, that might be harmful to him. (2) The gunners and crew chiefs should have received their subsequent awards. The Awards and Decoration Officer should have put in for them, but the time limits is up by now. The DFC is in no way connected with the number of Air Medals, you would have to look up the criteria in the Awards and Decoration Manual find out what they are given for. (3) I will have to ask our readers to answer, hopefully in the next newsletter.

Sorry my dues are late. I sure do enjoy all the information and appreciate the work you've done! Enclosed \$30- 1 years dues, 1 cassette, 1 hat. I might get a little late but don't ever stop my membership please, I'm going to try and make the 93 reunion. Joe Horlacher  
(ED. NOTE) Thank you Joe and I'll keep the newsletter coming. See you at the 93' Reunion.

Dear Sir: Enclosed is \$40 contribution to assist the organization. Please sent me a Cassette Tape Re: Battle of Bien Hoa. Somehow I lived thru that week- as Cmdr 117th AHC. Thanks,  
David Jayne

(ED. NOTE) Thank you David, your support is appreciated. And 117th T-shirts should be available soon.

Dear Jim, I received your newsletter and membership directory today and noticed that you wanted more information on those that have died since leaving Vietnam. One of those people, Jerry D Rowland, was my husband. Jerry died of cancer which his Doctor felt like was caused by Agent Orange. He was retired from the Reserves as a LTC. The time spent in the Army was the happiest time of this life and he made a real effort to attend the reunion on the Queen Mary in July before he died the following April. At the time of his death, he was employed by the FAA as an Air Traffic Control Specialist as a Supervisor at the Riverside Flight Service Station so he still was connected with flying. There were two children, a son Greg that lives in Garden City, KS and a daughter, Tina Swaney, that lives in Van Nuys, CA. Jerry was very much interested in education and received a Masters Degree. His brother is a school teacher in Tipton, MO so I established a Memorial Scholarship at that school in Jerry's memory. Each year someone receives a \$200 scholarship and some years we are able to give two of them if the interest rates are high. I hope this is the kind of information that you wanted. Sincerely, Anita Rowland

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Anita. I know that the people that served with Jerry Rowland in the 121st in 1968 do and will remember him. And they will appreciate reading your letter. I don't sent out the addresses of the families of those on the Memorial List, for the family's privacy. But anyone wanting to contact Anita Rowland can send a letter here and I will forward it or can write in to the Readers Response and she will get it.

New person, Robert Brightwell, 3008 Coral Ct, San Jose, CA 95121, 1LT, 118th AHC, 68-69. Would like to find Rodney Snider, WO 68-69 118th, Don Eller, WO 67-68 118th, Pat Campbell, E4 118th 67-68 from Houston, TX, & Sam Fifer, E4 67-68 118th. George Colbert

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you George, I put Robert Brightwell on our mailing list. WO Rodney Snider was from CA, and WO Henry "Don" Eller was from TN, we were in contact with Pat Campbell until he went back to Vietnam in 1989 so he knows were around. And I hate having to report that Sam Fifer was killed in an auto accident 10 March 1988 in Mississippi. Hopefully the people in the states where the two pilots were from will be able to locate them before its to late to talk with them.

Dear Sir, Enjoyed reading about the 71st AHC on page 16, 17, Vol 18 just received. Would it be possible to get a copy of the 71st AHC Newsletters for March & April 1969? Sure would appreciate it. Up to now (22 years) I've only seen the "Rattlers" mentioned in one book, "Death Valley" by Keith William Nolon and that was only 1 paragraph. Thanks for everything,  
Ken Hughes,

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ken, and I wished I had a copy to send you. Maybe one of our reader has a copy they can send to us. If anyone has a copy of any reports or newsletters could you send in a copy, its very important information for our unit and battalion history.

our credit is what we hope will be a life long friendship with two of the greatest people you'll ever find - Jim & Deb! They have given 500% of themselves not only to the 145th, but to Veterans Affairs in many other areas. Too those of you who are new; take it from some "oldies but goodies" - you're in a great organization. We wish we could get to know each and everyone of you! As for Jim & Debby - Keep up the great work and never change 'cause you're just great the way you are. Mei & Paula Metzger, [REDACTED]

PS, We'd love to hear from some one from the 98th Trans Det on Tan Son Nhut during any time frame.

(ED. NOTE) Thank you Mei & Paula, 1986 seems like yesterday.

Dear Jim, Enclosed is my check for membership (1991-92) and for a T-shirt (121st AHC). I was with the 121st from Jun 68-Jan 69, also my 2nd tour was with the Cobra NETT or (5th Avn Det) from Nov 70 to Nov 71. The NETT Team was renamed the 5th Avn Det in early 71. I really enjoyed the membership directory and the newsletter. I would really like to locate a guy that was in the 121st from late 67 to 68 named Vic Noe, he was a WO, he was also in Vietnam in 70 to 71 as an officer but I don't know which unit. Your doing a great job. Keep up the good work. If you need anything from down my way let me know and I'll do what I can to help. My new address is: James C Preston MW-4 (Ret), [REDACTED]

(ED. NOTE) Thank you Jim, anyone having info on Vic Noe please let us know.

Dear Jim, Just a short note to check into the net and say hello. I'm not sure if I sent you a copy of the Campaigns and decorations that the 117th AHC received in Vietnam, so enclosed is a copy. Also came across some orders that list a few troopers from the 117th, 118th, and 119th AHC. I'll get them copied and on to you. Received the new membership directory, great job. Well that all for now my friend take care. Always Tom Halliwell #041901, U.C.I., I-60, [REDACTED]

(ED. NOTE) Thank you Tom, this is a great addition to the 117th AHC history file. I remember seeing this when I was assigned to the 117th in Korea in 1973-74, but didn't have a copy.

Dear Jim & Deb, I am sorry I could not make it to the reunion in June, and hope everything went well. I have been getting information about my brother in Washington, DC and other places. I would like to receive a copy of the last newsletter and any information you have of the Reunion. Hope everything is well with your family. I am staying in Ohio for the winter, hope to return to Texas next year. Thanks for everything, Ron Turner

(ED. NOTE) Thank you Ron, the most current reunion info will be in each newsletter. Ron's brother, James Henry Turner has been Missing In Action in Vietnam since Oct 9, 1969, he was declared Killed In Action 10 Oct 1969. James H Turner, SP4, was declared missing when his 118th helicopter crashed in a river. Anyone that can remember anything about this or remembers his brother please write to Ron Turner, [REDACTED]

Dear Jim, I have no idea who you are, but you're doing one hell of a job. I've really been out of touch with my Viet Nam experience (except for the requisite "shrink" sessions several times a year). I'm ashamed that I remember so few of the fellas' names I flew with in Nam (I will never, however, forget their faces) - but I do miss them. Seems most of us came home and started raising families, simply trying our best to forget about the war. I have learned a very difficult and painful lesson, however: ignoring Viet Nam, especially if you were a combat helicopter pilot, cannot be accomplished with any degree of success; it's taken me twenty-five years to learn this. In any case, you've obviously put a great deal of effort into the association and I for one, deeply appreciate your efforts. Thanks very much, Leslie T Hansen, II

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you and welcome aboard. I was a crew chief / door gunner serving with the 68th Top Tigers from 2 July 1969 to 20 Dec 1970. And like you, I missed the people I served with and the times we had. I could remember the faces and personalities of the guys, but the names were all mixed up. When I heard the voice and the name everything else came back, as if it was only yesterday.

(NOTE) Readers Response deadline date for next newsletter- 5 January 1992

Dear Jim, I've procrastinated long enough! You've been kind enough to send bulletins to me, so I'm sending you my dues thru 12/31/92. Use the rest as a donation to help defray expenses. I intend to help you on the patch of the 119th Air Mobile Light, as we were called then. I'll call you in a week or so to make sure you got the sketch. Hey, all you Alligators & Crocodiles, let's support this thing. Let's hear from you "party animals" from 1965 & 66 at Camp Holloway. Sure would like to see you guys again! Jim. Keep up the good work- and Thanks. Jerry Riches, [REDACTED] (Alligator)  
Pleiku (Holloway) 1965-66

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jerry. Your dues are paid up til June 30, 1993, which still left some extra as a donation. It's easier to keep membership on the July to June basis. The photo copies of the patch and very detailed description will be very helpful in the T-shirt design. Hopefully all the former members of the 119th and all its detachments will attend the 1993 Reunion.

Dear Jim: Where do I start? Enclosed is a check to cover my dues for two years, a unit T-shirt and a little extra toward the operating expenses. The 1991-92 Membership Directory and current Newsletter arrived... Outstanding!!! Bravo!!! I have been remiss over the past year or so by not taking time out to read the newsletter from cover to cover, so naturally I missed a great deal. I have saved all copies that I received, so now I'm going back to catch up on all your efforts and those of fellow members who took the time to pass along additional names, Battalion History or just wrote a letter. Since becoming a member of the 145th CABVA, I didn't even notice or realize that I am listed as having served with the 118th AHC from 14 Sept '65 to 13 Jan '66. Actually, I was Det Cmdr of the 573rd Trans Maint Det attached to the 118th AHC. Then, from Jan 66 to 30 Aug 66 I served as the 145th C.A.Bn's Maint officer under LTC Charles Honour and then LTC Horst Joost. Sorry about the delay in getting my dues in on time. Keep up the great work.... and good luck in getting more of the other people you have located to join our Association. Mal Schryer

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Mal. The in-coming mail is what makes our newsletter and our Association. I have changed all future directories to reflect the 573rd Maint Det for you instead of 118AHC. Thank you for checking the listing, that's how I get it corrected, and I also want to encourage everyone to read page B, Table of Contents, in the directory. It really does explain a lot about how the Directory is arranged.

Dear Jim, Sorry I lost touch with the 145th since you sent me a letter to my Florida address some years ago. I received a phone call from Chuck Haney, 118th ('66) last week telling me about the good time everybody had at the Rucker Reunion. Even ole Bill Tingler (HHC '66) called to check up on me. I've been "grounded" for the past year or so recovering from cancer surgery. I always wondered what those "long-fingered" flight surgeons were for when they asked us to bend over and grab our ankles. I hope they're happy since they found what they were looking for. Oh, well there's no free box lunch out there, uh? I really enjoy the letters submitted for inclusion in the newsletter. I flew with the 118th & 71st while assigned to the HHC staff. I wouldn't trade my experiences there for anything - those CA's to Duc Hoa and ash & trash to Nui Ba Den were super! The Lord willing, I'll see ya in Ft Worth '93'. Let me in on all the "hot skinny" when your finalized. Keep up the good work, Hal Oakley, [REDACTED] PS, I'm enclosing my check for \$30 - 2 yrs membership and the rest for expenses.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Hal, the '91 Reunion was really great, and the '93 Reunion will be even bigger. I really hate to hear about the cancer and I wish you a speedy and full recovery. Chuck Haney called and asked me to send newsletters to you again and I'm glad you enjoyed them. The most effective membership drive we have is when friends from many years ago call and let others know that we are for real. Many times in our busy lives we don't have the time to look over all our mail unless a certain item is pointed out by a friend.

Dear Members of the 145th- A few year ago, we were wandering the grounds at the Kokomo, IN Veterans Reunion held yearly by the Veterans group there. We came upon a tent marked 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. My husband, literally, beat a path to the door! That was our 1st encounter with Jim and Debby Bodkin and the 145th. Since then we have tried hard to locate others, but have only a couple of names we've been able to add. One thing that we do have to

## CONTROVERSY

The next series of letters is in regard to a letter in NLI8, page 11 & 12, by Craig Clapper telling about some artifacts he had from the 68th Top Tigers and Mustangs, and asking what he should do with them. In the newsletter I put in a short editorial note and I should have responded with more detail. With every controversy comes questions and answers, and hopefully growth and understanding. Hopefully with this one we will have a new policy and better guidelines on how each item like these should be handled. I want to apologize to those I upset or offended and thank Geoffrey Webster for pointing it out to me. So please read all the following letters and comments.

Dear Jim, and Craig, I was amazed, surprised and then shocked to hear of the existence of the Top Tiger mast and the nose art from the Grim Reaper as outlined in the last issue of the 145th CAB Newsletter. I strongly object to these important artifacts from our years there being put into private hands. As you said in your letter, Craig, these artifacts belong to "all of us". Scott Alwin was one of my pilots and a friend; and while I admire his long dedication to the war effort in Vietnam, I think it is totally inappropriate that any of these artifacts go to his family or any other family for that matter. They belong in the U.S. Army Aviation Museum in Fort Rucker, Alabama or another appropriate public place. Quite personally, I flew as Aircraft Commander in the Grim Reaper on many missions as Mustang VI. In fact, I was wounded on the aircraft along with my pilot and gunner in August of 1968. We lost many pilots in action in Vietnam, and these memorabilia belong to all of us and those we lost. I wish you had contacted me or other members of the 68th before contacting the Alwin family. I can cite four members (CWO Glen Haukeness, Specialist Dick Baca, CWO Bob Williams, Specialist Alan Rouchon) of the 68th who flew with us (and with a high degree of probability on the Grim Reaper) that were killed in action, and it would seem to me that their families would have more of a right to this than Scott Alwin's. I am sure that if Glen Haukeness's family knew of the existence of part of an actual aircraft in which their son once flew, they and all the other Mustang's and Top Tigers would be shocked to learn of it passing into private hands. At any rate, these artifacts belong in a museum, not in a family's hands where they will be eventually passed on to a collector and lost to public view forever. I request that you rethink your action and, if possible, withdraw the gesture to the Alwin family. I personally would be more than proud to contribute to covering whatever costs are necessary to having these artifacts restored, transported and properly displayed in memory of those who flew this Charlie model; and I would hope that the other Mustangs and Top Tigers to whom I have copied this letter would feel the same way. Please do not let this important piece of history pass into the private sector. It's wrong, inappropriate, uncalled for and ill-advised. Mustang VI Geoffrey R. Webster Copies sent to; Col William Sims, Lee Daniels, Douglas Decker, John A Lasch, John Post, Robert Cunningham, Gary Sheehan, Walt Fricke, Douglas Gooch, Lee Kerfelt, Robert Crain, John Knoch, James Bockstahler, William Hamblin, Robert Higinbottom, Louis Whisonant, William Bock, Robert Palmer, Harold Belcher, James Cowart.

Dear Geoffrey, Thank you for your letter dated September 12, 1991. I understand your sentiment with respect to the artifacts I faithfully preserved for you and others for the past twenty years. It is obvious the process of getting them to where they belong has begun in earnest. I appreciate this. The artifacts were offered to the Aviation Museum in Fort Rucker in 1974 and declined. Shortly thereafter they were placed in storage while I worked overseas for many years. This prevented them from falling into the wrong private sector hands. The Association Jim Bodkin has so courageously started offered me an avenue to get them back to yourselves. Jim's sacrifice, and that of his family, for our sake, must be kept in view as we deal with such issues. Following my initial letter seeking advice concerning these artifacts to Jim, and his reply, I waited some two months, as Jim will attest, prior to shipping the mast to Jim and the Grim Reaper to Wally Alwin as per Jim's clearance. I lay no claim to knowledge as to how the 145th CAB Association makes decisions but felt it correct to abide by them. However seemingly correct or ill advised. I have no overriding sentiment for either of the articles but certainly do for the feeling of yourself and others that may feel slighted by what has occurred. I am glad you have brought up your concern. The mast is with Jim and the Grim Reaper with the Alwin's. Both in very good hands. However,

I don't feel Jim or Wally Alwin are without the capacity to understand your point concerning where they should finally come to rest. I suggest Jim get in touch with Wally Alwin and discuss the matter. My impression is that Wally and family would be proud to abide by the decision of the majority as to where this article of our extended family (if you will) should be displayed. If there has been a mistake in the disposition of the artifacts it has not been one of the heart in my preservation and offering nor in Jim doing what he saw best ( I believe it was discussed with such as Walter Fricke and others). I think your concern is correct and should be pursued albeit not with me at this point as I am no longer the custodian of the articles. If there is anything I can do to assist I welcome the opportunity. Thank you. Best regards, Craig M. Clapper P.S. Sept. 18 The word from Ft Rucker is that they display only @ 30% of items received. According to Jim Bodkin the Grim Reaper is on display in a public memorial with the proviso that should the display be dismantled the article will be returned to the Alwin's for further disposition. Craig Clapper.

Dear Jim, Good to talk with you the other night. I've received a copy of Capt. Webster's letter regarding the Artifact's which were given to the Alwin family. While I agree with much of his thinking, I think it would be appropriate to address any future receipt of artifacts in the manner he suggests. In the absence of a policy about such events, I think that what was done with the nose art from the Grim Reaper (an aircraft I flew as well) was absolutely appropriate. I would not give a second thought to the decision that has been made. I would have done the same. I'm sure that the Alwin's would consent to lending the items out for reunion gatherings etc. (I doubt the museum would display nost art from one of 10,000 helicopters used in one of 3 wars, or that more than a dozen people would have a special feeling about that particular piece anyway) Keep the faith, Walt Fricke.

Dear Craig, Thank you for your prompt reply in the Grim Reaper matter. I'd love to know where the Grim Reaper is displayed. Perhaps you could have Jim list its whereabouts in the next magazine issue. Many thanks, Mustang VI Geoffrey R. Webster

Jim, Seems the "great Artifacts debate" has come to a close. Regards! Craig Clapper

And now that the "great Artifacts debate" has come to a close I'll make a few comments to help clear up how the decision was made. I first considered the Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker, and because of the reasons stated in the letters, and a few others, ruled it out. Choice number two was having both items sent here. I next concidered Craig's suggestion of the Alwin family. I considered that the only reason that we have these items are because two former Top Tiger officers had the foresight to get them and they trusted Craig's judgement about what to do with them. And Wally Alwin, and Scott's sister, and Scott's son attended our 1989 Reunion in Denver and from talking with them I knew the Grim Reaper nose art would be safe with them long after most of us pass away. When talking with Wally Alwin on the phone he told me about a display being put together in memory of Scott at Concordia University in Milwalkee, WI were Scott had attended their Seminary. The VFW in Hamburg, WI, Scott's hometown, right outside of Wausau, WI, is putting together a display in honor of Scott Alwin who received the most Air Medal of any Army Aviator. The plans are to dedicate the display on 7 Dec 91 at the Townhall, next to the cemetery where Scott is buried, in Hamburg, WI. The Wisconsin Air Nat Guard will supply the Hueys and Chaplin. If you are interested in attending the decication please contact me for update on time.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ **LAST MINUTE LETTER** ~ ~ ~ ~ ~  
MEMBERS AND CONCERNED PARTIES; In 1963 Walter Reed Army Medical Research Institute and the Chief Medical Officer of the U.S. Army began a three year study and research program; this included blood and urine samples from Special Forces men, Counter Insurgency men and Helicopter crews. The results for the first time in history of war were documented. Extreme blood and chemical imbalances were found and a complete explanation of Trauma. The entire results were made a part of the Congressional record in 1970. The material is printed in form in a book called, MEN, STRESS, and VIETNAM; by Dr Peter G Bourne. The information was suppressed; after all they had a war going on. I urge every member get this work from their local library; or a friend or from a VA medical library. The results should be self explanatory. Because of pending litigation Walter Reed will not respond to any one about this matter. I talked with the Director of that Research Team; his name is S. Paul Klien. His co-hort is an active duty LTC at Ft Dietrick named Parry. They both wrote me. Almost relieved at finally their works are being made known and should have been long ago; so many lives and damages and deaths could have been prevented. Sincerely, Charles B. Wells III

## BATTALION HISTORY

### OPERATION ATTLEBORO

The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion Forward Command Post at Tay Ninh (West) Airfield became operational at 111330 November 1966. The mission of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion was to provide command and control, troop carriers, armed helicopters, pathfinders and rapid refueling support to the 25th Infantry Division during "OPERATION ATTLEBORO II" from 11 to 24 November 1966. On 21 November the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion conducted two combat assaults, two extractions and one repositioning, all of battalion size. All of the operations utilized A Company, 25th Aviation Battalion and the 118th and 175th Assault Helicopter Companies. The first operation was a combat assault from Fire Support Base #1 (XT 275785) To XT 2757962. This lift of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry was completed by 0840 with 26 UH/ID's transporting 176 troops and flying 35 hours and 110 sorties. The second operation of the day was a combat assault of the 1st Battalion of the 27th Infantry from Fire Support Base #2 (XT 272861) to XT 272938. A total of 342 troops were carried in 20 UH/ID which flew 15 hours and 162 sorties. The third operation was an extraction of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry from XT 272962 to Fire Support Base #2 (XT 272861). A total of 276 troops were transported in 110 sorties and 35 hours by 25 UH/ID's. One helicopter from the 175th Assault Helicopter Company received one hit at XT 225685 however there were no casualties. The fourth operation of the day was the extraction of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry from XT 272940 to Fire Support Base #2 (XT 272861). This lift saw a total of 342 troops transported in 15 hours and 162 stories by 20 UH/ID's. The final operation of the day involved repositioning the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry from Fire Support Base #2 (XT 272861) to Tay Ninh (West) 20 UH/ID's moved 276 troops in 108 sorties and 54 flying hours. The 145 Combat Aviation Battalion conducted two operations on 22 November utilizing A Company, 25th Aviation Battalion and the 71st Assault Helicopter Company. The first operation was a combat assault for the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry from XT 270863 to XT 373854. 19 UH/ID's carried 330 troops in 158 sorties and 25 flying hours. In the afternoon the unit was extracted from XT 375857 to XT 272865. 19 UH/ID's carried 330 troops in 160 sorties and 25 hours. On 23 November the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion conducted five tactical operations to include two combat assaults, two extractions and one repositioning. The following units were utilized on all operations: A and B Companies, 25th Aviation Battalion and the 71st and 116th Assault Helicopter Companies. The first operation was a repositioning of one company of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry from Tay Ninh (West) to Fire Support Base #2 (XT 272861), with 26 UH/ID's transporting 120 troops in 20 sorties and 10 flying hours. The second operation of the day, a combat assault for the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry from XT 285869 into three LZ's located at XT 198870, XT 193869 and XT 189869. A total of 360 troops were transported by 26 UH/ID's flying 28 hours 132 sorties. Fire was recieved at XT 195870 however no aircraft were hit. The thrid mission was a combat assault conducted for the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry from Fire Support Base #2 (XT 272861) to XT 198806. 26 UH/ID's carried 264 troops in 100 sorties and 20 flying hours. The forth mission of the day was an extraction of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry from PZ's (XT 198870, XT 193869 and XT 189969) to Fire Support Base #2. A total of 26 UH/ID's carried 300 troops and flew 132 sorties and 28 hours. The day's fifth operation was the extraction of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry from XT 198806 to Fire Support Base #1 (XT 275785) and from there to Tay Ninh (West). 26 helicopters carried 400 troops in 150 sorties and flew 40 hours.

On the 24th of November the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion conducted two tactical operations utilizing the 71st and 118th Assault Helicopter Companies and A and B Companies, 25th Aviation Battalion. 26 UH/ID's were utilized on both operations. The first mission was the repositioning of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry from Fire Support Base #2 to Tay Ninh (West). A total of 408 troops were carried in 208 sorties and 100 flying hours. The second operations of the day was the extractions of the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry from Fire Support Base #2 to Fire Support Base #1 and from there to Cu Chi. A total of 924 troops were transported in 1998 sorties and 128 hours flown. In Support of "OPERATION ATTLEBORO" elements controlled by the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion flew 1334 hours and 5857 combat sorties with 9105 troops being lifted. 13 aircraft took hits, however none had to be recovered.

## THE BATTLE OF SOUI TRE

On 19 March 1967, the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion distinguished itself by exceptionally valorous actions in the prelude of what was to become known as the battle of Soui Tre- the most significant one/day battle to date in the III Corps Tactical Area. The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion was operating in direct support of 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, with the mission to conduct a combat assault into a landing zone located approximately five miles north of Suoi Da, Republic of Vietnam. The initial operational plans were made for the assault to take place on 18 March 1967, several miles further north of the actual landing zone: however obstacles prevented the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry (Mech) and the 22nd Battalion, 34th Armor from securing the landing zone as planned. On the evening of 17 March, the assault was rescheduled for 19 March with the landing zone changed to the new location. The armored and mechanized elements were unable to meet this new schedule. It was then decided that the assault would be conducted into an unsecured landing zone with the armored and mechanized elements scheduled to reinforce the infantry at a later time. The hazards of this unsecured landing zone were known to be many as there were relatively few clearings in the dense jungle which were adequate for airmobile operations. Past experience indicated that when there were few clearings in the area, the Viet Cong either mine or establish ambushes on or near the potential landing zones. Professionalism and esprit de corps prevailed as the aviators of the 68th and 118th Assault Helicopter Companies eagerly awaited the termination of the twenty minute artillery preparation which would mark the beginning of the first lift. The assault was under the control of the Commanding Officer, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion. The lift units were supported by gunships of both assault helicopter companies and those of the 334th Armed Helicopter Company. The first lift encountered little resistance upon entering the landing zone, but received automatic weapons fire upon departure. At the moment the aircraft of the second lift touched down, a command detonated 155mm artillery round was exploded. Two helicopters were completely destroyed and five others seriously damaged from shrapnel. More mines were detonated and the landing zone became a holocaust of fire and flying steel. The Viet Cong were in well established bunkers and had numeric superiority- it was later learned that major portions of two Viet Cong regiments were engaged in the battle. Heroism became the norm rather than the exception. Realizing the necessity for reinforcing the ground units already in the landing zone, the decision was made to land additional troops into a landing zone immediately adjacent to the initial landing zone. The 118th Assault Helicopter Company "Thunderbirds" and the 68th Assault Helicopter Company "Top Tigers" wasted no time getting another load of troops aboard and into the air. The tremendous urgency of the situation was realized by all. The lift approached through sporadic ground fire which culminated in the detonation of another mine which damaged the lead aircraft. The next element approached through a withering hail of automatic weapons fire and was met with another mine upon landing. Initially suppressive fire from escort gunships was impossible due to friendly elements scattered throughout the area. Showing the utmost in determination and a remarkable tactical grasp of the situation the armed helicopters located the enemy emplacements and supported the troop carrying aircraft by delivering accurate and deadly fire on the enemy. The armed helicopters were only able to accomplish the needed accuracy by flying directly into the barrage of fire. Their actions were instrumental in preventing the loss of additional lives and aircraft. Under the calm, inspirational leadership of the battalion commander, the companies preformed in a manner that was in the highest traditions of Army Aviation. The courageous air crews flew eight lifts into the landing zone after the initial holocaust with individual acts of heroism being numerous as indicated by five individuals being awarded the Silver Star, 19 the Distinguished Flying Cross, 14 the Bronze Star for valor and 96 the Air Medal for valor. Four enlisted crew members of the first helicopter downed in the landing zone immediately began stripping the helicopters of radios, weapons, and other valuable equipment. Realizing that the landing zone was in imminent danger of being engulfed in flames, they secured fire extinguishers and flack vests to fight the blaze. Failing to thwart the fire, they ran through the inferno looking for the wounded. As the blaze advanced, it set off hand grenades that had been dropped during the confusion of the initial mine explosions. These men began giving medical aid to wounded infantry soldiers and loading them onto helicopters which came back on successive lifts. They voluntarily remained in the

landing zone under heavy fire throughout the morning and afternoon. Another enlisted crew member braved the exploding mines and rescued his critically injured pilot and mortally wounded door gunner from their burning helicopter. Then he carried the pilot under intense automatic weapon fire to an evacuation helicopter across the landing zone. He returned and removed the radios and weapons from the helicopter prior to returning to the evacuation helicopter where he preformed life saving first aid to the wounded. A warrant officer's aircraft recieved extensive damage during the initial blast; however he determined that the urgency of the situation warranted the helicopter being flown and he made three successive lifts in his damaged ship to deliver additional reinforcements to the beleagured ground troops. These are only but a few examples of the many acts of bravery which occured during this action. There were cases of downed aviators taking machineguns and providing supressive fire in the landing zone for sucessive lifts instead of being immedediaely evacuated. In several instances, aircraft which were severely damaged were flown out of the landing zone to more secure areas so that they could be air lifted without incurring additional damage.

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## ORAL HISTORY

Hi Jim, I am currently helping the Anthropology Dept at Buffalo State College with an oral history project, "Folk songs of Americans in the Vietnam War". I found some old copies of songs we used to sign in the 117th Avn. Was lucky enough to get an audio tape from Abe Stice of these "Bawdy Ballads" recorded in Qui Nhon back in 1964! I was also able to locate Bob Kirkham, our lead guitarist, but am still searching for two other song writer-pilots, Jack Choat and Bob Andree. Does anyone know where these guys are? If so, please let me know. This oral history project has already produced one audio tape, "IN COUNTRY", Flying Fish label #FF 90552. If anyone recalls songs their unit made up or sang while in RVN, please let me know. Proper acknowledgments will be made as to unit, writers, or contributors. Here is another member of the 117th Avn Co- Kirkham, Robert T., CWO 117th 1963-64, [REDACTED]. Keep up the good work, Jim!

Best Regards, Bill McGee, [REDACTED]

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## Units and their Detachments

HHC - 125th ATC, 145th Sec Plt, Path Finded Det, 87th QM Det, 391st QM Det (Petr1)  
18th AVN Co - 163rd Med Det (OA), 256th Trans Det (KC)  
25th AVN Co - ?  
57th Med Det (HEL AMB)  
68th AVN Co - 282nd Sig Det (RL), 391st Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD), 430th Med Det (OA)  
A/501st-71st AVN Co - 94th Sig Det (RL), 151st Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD)  
74th AVN Co - 563rd Trans Det (KC),  
8th Trans Co-117th AVN Co - 140th Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD), 256th Sig Det (RL)  
33rd Trans-118th Avn Co -198th Sig Det (RL), 573rd Trans Det (Hel Maint), 93rd Med Det (OA)  
81st Trans-119th Avn Co -70th Sig Det (RL), 94th Med Det (OA), 545th Trans Det (Hel Maint)  
57th Trans-120th Avn Co -98th Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD), 622nd Sig Det (RL), 129th Med Det  
93rd Trans-121st AVN Co -41st Med Det (OA), 80th Trans Det (Hel Maint), 257th Sig Det (RL)  
135th AVN Co - 68th Sig Det (RL), 614th Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD)  
147th AVN Co - 171st Trans Det (AB)  
184th AVN Co - 243rd Sig Det (RL)  
190th AVN Co - 520th Med Det (OA), 605th Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD)  
UTT-68th-197th-334th AVN Co -320th Sig Det (RL), 571st Trans Det (Hel Maint), 774th Med Det  
213th AVN Co - 329th Trans Det (AB)  
242nd Avn Co - 621st Trans Det (AB)  
A/82-335th AVN Co -25th Med Det (OA), 166th Trans Det (Hel Maint) (KD), 234th Sig Det (RL)  
339th Trans Co - ?  
Cobra NETT

Please let me know if you have any addisions or corrections to this list.

## PTSD LEGISLATION

About 2 years ago I and four other Vietnam Veterans from this area met with Congressman Jim Jontz about the problems with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) treatment programs, or lack of them. We had put together a package, a wish list, for PTSD treatment. We outlined the need for more treatment centers, and the need for them to be centrally funded, so PTSD funds could only be used for PTSD programs. We outlined the need to have qualified personnel to direct the programs, and the need for money to train and educate these people. We also included the need for half-way houses for those that need a place to get started on their new more productive life after leaving the program. And the need for out-patient follow-up treatments. Jim Jontz got back with us in just a few weeks with a final draft of the Bill he was sponsoring for us, for our final review and approval. Everything we asked for was there. He work to get the Bill passed but ran out of time. He reintroduced the Bill this year (H.R. 841) and needs our support. In the coming weeks and months Congress will take final action on both H.R. 841 and H.R. 2280, we need support for both Bills for the program and the funding. Right now we need for people to ask their Congressman and Senators to support H.R. 841 and H.R. 2280, and to support PTSD Treatment Programs in general.

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## VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

During this last summer I was contacted by VHPA about the possibility of getting historical info about 45th Trans Bn and 145th C.A.B. units, 1965 and before. They needed info for the history section of their Annual Membership Directory, and I was glad to be able to help out. And in turn Mike Law of VHPA gave us a really great write up in the History Section (page 203) of the VHPA Directory, VHPA members can check it out in their Directory. I was also contact by John Becker, VHPA - Assoc Liaison, about exchanging complimentary copies of our newsletters to maintain closer contact between our organizations. This I am glad to do. The way I see it our organizations are not in competition with each other, but actually complement each other, like all the organization listed on page 22 of this newsletter. Their address is: Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assoc., 7 West Seventh Street, Suite 1990, Cincinnati, OH 45202 1-513-721-VHPA

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## ARMY OTTER - CARIBOU ASSOC

I want to thank the Army Otter - Caribou Assoc for their kind invitation to be their guest are their annual reunion they held in Reno, NV. Due to a lack of vacation time and travel money, I was not able to attend. Hopefully I will be able to make it next year when their reunion will be in the Newport News, VA area. Their address is: Army Otter-Caribou Assoc, PO Box 6091, Columbus, GA 31907 1-800-626-8194

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## 57th MED DET T-shirt design

Bill Hughes who served with the 57th Med Det from March 1964 to Nov 1965 and designed the 57th Med Det unit patch and the Dr Dustoff patch sent me a T-shirt design for the 57th Med that includes both the patch and pin design. A photo copy printed here on the side. The design really looks great when in color. He told me that the rest of the 57th Med people that he is in contact with really like it, so I will start working on this design in a few weeks. Bill also sent me a bunch of new address for 57th Med people, see page 22 for the list of new 57th Med People. Thank you Bill, I wish I had a talent like yours.



## REUNION 93 UPDATE

Our next Reunion will be held in the Dallas / Ft Worth, TX area in the summer of 1993. We are looking at a date between 18 June 1993 and before 15 August 1993. The '93 Reunion should be a three day event. We are planning a tour of the Bell Helicopter plant and a tour of Ft Walters.

So far the plan is for the Friday to be a Unit Reunion Day possibly with hospitality rooms set up for each unit. And we will need volunteers to organize each unit reunion, activities, and work on maximum attendance from the unit.

The Saturday of the Reunion will be a complete Battalion Reunion, including the tours of Bell Helicopter and Ft Walters. Saturday evening will be when we will have the Assoc Business Meeting / Dinner.

Sunday morning we will have a Memorial Service, and time for everyone to say farewell before the Reunion is officially over at noon.

I will be writing to everyone we have located in Texas to see how many volunteers we can find in the area to help with the Reunion. We need all the volunteers we can get to help make the Reunion as big and successful as possible. If you can volunteer to help please let me and Jim Thorn know. We will especially need volunteers help with the unit reunions.

To volunteer please contact Jim Thorn (Reunion Committee Chairman), [REDACTED], or me Jim Bodkin here at the Assoc address and phone.

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## IN REMEMBRANCE

### BILLY J SMITH

Billy J Smith, age 52, who served with the 197th Armed Helicopter Company from September 1965 to August 1966 as the Motor Sgt, chief scrounge, and part time door gunner, past away 13 October 1991. Bill went quickly as a result of a heart attack while shopping for a new light switch. Bill had been suffering from the long term effect of Agent Orange, lung problems, joint problems, Diabetes, and enlarged heart. My first contact with Billy J Smith was in the fall of 1988 and I quickly learned that Bill was someone I could always count on. I could count on Bill to call at least each second Friday night and to be at every Veterans Reunion within driving range. Whenever I go to LZ Indy, LZ Bluegrass, Kokomo, Crew Members Asso, and our Battalion Reunions, I will think of Bill. We won't be able to see Bill but I'm sure his spirit will be there with us. I went to see Bill one last time October 16 as we laid his body to rest, and paid our final respects to a true "Old Warrior".

All Memorials to Billy J Smith should go to his wife of over thirty years, Mrs Betty Smith, [REDACTED], to help her get by until she figures out how to pay the bills without Bill. Bill had filed a claim with VA last year to increase his VA disability but was still awaiting an answer at the time of his death. I sent Betty a thirty dollar memorial fund check and a Honorary Life Membership in Memory of Bill, but that's not much.

### JAMES F CAIN

I just learned that James F Cain who served with the 8th and 57th Transportation Company in 1961 and 62 passed away 17 Feb 1989 of the effects of Agent Orange. My first contact with James Cain was in the summer of 1988, he joined our Association right away with a two year membership. I sent Mrs Cain a thirty dollar Memorial Fund check and a Honorary Life Membership in Memory of James Cain. He will be miss by all those who served with him and knew him.

## I AM NOT THERE

Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there. I do not sleep. I am a thousand winds that blow, I am the diamond glints on snow, I am the sunlight on ripened grain, I am the gentle rain. When you awaken in the morning's hush, I am the swift uplifting rush, Of quiet birds in circled flight. I am the soft stars that shine at night. Do not stand at my grave and cry, I am not there. I did not die. (Taken from Billy J Smith's Funeral Memorial Folder)

## FULL COLOR UNIT T-SHIRTS

The T-shirts sell for \$13 each. They are in the original unit patch design 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 goes 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 below are black & white because the copymachine doesn't print color, but please try to imagine them in color. I have assigned stock numbers numbers to the designs for easier ordering and filling of orders. Please try to use the stock number and size. We stock them in Med, Large, XL, XXL, XXXL. The Association T-shirt design is the unofficial 145th C.A.B. "First In Vietnam" design. I would like to see everyone have an Association T-shirt and a unit T-shirt.

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

**145TH  
COMBAT AVIATION  
BATTALION**



BLACK  
LETTERING  
& OUTLINE  
YELLOW  
PART  
OF  
TIGER

**68TH  
ASSAULT**



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

#05-02

#09-02

13" HIGH  
7" WIDE

**118TH  
ASSAULT**  
BLUE BACKGROUND



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

**121ST  
ASSAULT**

13" HIGH  
7" WIDE



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

13" HIGH  
7 1/2" WIDE

**71ST  
ASSAULT**



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

#11-02

**120TH  
ASSAULT**

13" HIGH  
7" WIDE



**HELICOPTER  
COMPANY**

RED -  
U.S.A.  
R.A.N.  
135  
EMU  
SHIELD LINES

135<sup>TH</sup>  
ASSAULT

13" HIGH  
7 1/2" WIDE

BLACK  
LETTERING  
HEAD  
TO LINE

190<sup>TH</sup>  
ASSAULT

13  
HIGH  
7" WIDE



BLUE  
BACKGROUND  
& SHIELD

YELLOW -  
WREATH  
ANCHOR

HELICOPTER  
COMPANY

#13-02

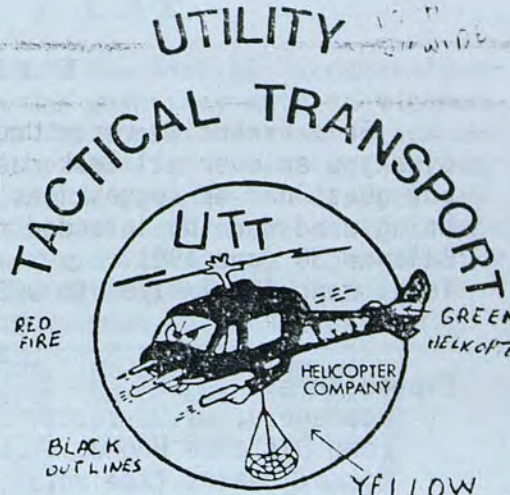


RED ->  
BACKGROUND  
& 190

YELLOW -  
HELMET  
LINES

HELICOPTER  
COMPANY

#16-01



RED  
FIRE

BLACK  
OUTLINES

GREEN  
HELICOPTER

YELLOW

#17-01

HELICOPTER  
COMPANY

UTILITY  
TACTICAL  
TRANSPORT



YELLOW

RED

13" HIGH  
7" WIDE

#17-02

HELICOPTER  
COMPANY

197<sup>TH</sup>  
ARMED



YELLOW

RED

12" HIGH  
7" WIDE

#17-04

HELICOPTER  
COMPANY

13" HIGH  
7" WIDE  
334<sup>TH</sup>  
ARMED



RED

GREEN  
HELICOPTER

BLACK  
LETTERING  
& NUMBERS

YELLOW  
RIBBON  
SABERS

#17-05

HELICOPTER  
COMPANY

117TH AML, 117th AHC, 119th AML,  
T-shirts available also

T-SHIRTS \$13 EACH, FULL COLOR

3 or 4 colors on each design. See order form inserted in newsletter. This is the only place you will find these T-shirt Available for your unit. Next T-shirts designs to be coming out will be for the 118th AML, and 57th Trans Co.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report covers 1 July 1991 to 30 Sept 1991. 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 30 June 1991.....\$3075.16

Total deposits 7/01/91 to 9/30/91 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers).....\$3428.51

Following attachments: 80th Trans Det (cargo Hel Rld (Saint); 257th (Relay), Medical Det (cannot recall) Total.....\$6503.67

### Expenditures

Postage.....\$501.44

Long Distance Phone.....\$325.58

Miscellaneous (see note).....\$939.39

Fund Raiser Supplies.....\$172.90

Copy Machine Repair & Supplies.....\$688.19

Bank Fee (Apr-Sept).....\$ 52.21

New Printer & cord.....\$808.00

Total expenditures.....\$3487.71

Balance 30 Sept 1991.....\$3015.96

Miscellaneous includes computer supplies (paper, mailing labels, printer ribbons, etc.), newsletter supplies (paper, staples, etc.), envelopes, notes books, ink pens, etc. Copy Machine Repair & Supplies is the cost of repairs and cost of supplies like toner and dispersant.

As you can see by this report we sent \$59.20 more this third quarter of this year then we brought in. Which is pretty good considering the purchase of the new printer and the cost of printing the Directory and sending them out. I want to thank all of you who have sent in membership dues, ordered fund raiser items, or made donations, thanks to you we have this good financial report. Your support is what keeps our Association going.

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

We have cut our expenses down by only sending newsletters to those who have joined the association or just been located. NOTICE if you have not joined please do so, if not you probably will not receive any more newsletters. A while back I sent out about 230 letter to people that were being taken off the mailing list if I didn't hear from them. Some sent their dues in, the others I took off the mailing list. I really hate to send those letters and they cost money to send. When I receive membership dues I code the individual's file with the membership year/s they joined, example 90-91, 91-92, 92-93, if the code is not on your file the printer will not print a mailing label for you. Membership years are from 1 July to 30 June, now is the time to join or renew your membership. Our Association will continue for all those who join. Check the mailing label on this newsletter for your membership status and please renew or join, which ever is asked. I will be sending out more letters soon.

Now is a good time to renew your membership, we started a new membership year the 1st of July, so check your card and please renew if it expired this July 1st. And multiple year membership are always appreciated.

The membership form can be found on the top on the order form page, that's on the back of the Help page.

**PLEASE JOIN TODAY, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

# NEW PEOPLE LOCATED LIST

31 October 1991

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	BOLAND	JOHN A		RAPID CITY	SD 57701		1968	1969	EM
125ATC	ISABELLE	MIKE		ASHLAND	MA 01721		1968	1968	EM
HHC	HENGEN	DAVID		RAPID CITY	SD 57702		1968	1968	OF
57 MED	SCHEXNAYDER	CHUCK		PANAMA CITY	FL 32405		1963	1964	WO
57 MED	TEMPERILLI	JOHN		SAN ANTONIO	TX 78217		1963		OF
57 MED	BRADY	PAT		FORT BELVOIR	VA 22060		1964	1965	OF
57 MED	HARRIS	WALTER		LALTAINA, MAUI	HI 96767		1964	1965	OF
57 MED	McGOWAN	JOHN J		RED BANK	NJ 07701		1964	1965	OF
57 MED	TRADER	MIKE		GROSSE ISLE	MI 48138		1964	1965	OF
57 MED	ALLEN	CHARLES		POLK CITY	FL 33868		1965	1965	EM
57 MED	CAMPBELL	WILLIAM		SAN ANTONIO	TX 78260		1965		OF
57 MED	DEAN	JOHN		CORPUS CHRISTIE	TX 78418		1965		OF
57 MED	HUNTSMAN	HOWARD		FORT WORTH	TX 76109		1965		OF
57 MED	MITCHELL	BILLY D		MONTGOMERY	AL 36117		1965		EM
57 MED	THOMAS	THOMAS C		MINN	MN 55408		1965	1966	OF
68 AHC	HANSEN	LESLIE T		GARLAND	TX 75043		1967	1968	WO*
68 AHC	SITZER	EDWARD L		DENVER	CO 80205		1967	1968	WO*
68 AHC	GORE	JAMES		JACKSON	MS 39212		1969	1970	OF
68 AHC	SMITH	BILL		BAINBRIDGE	NY 13733		1969	1970	EM
68 AHC	AINSWORTH	CHARLES		GALWAY	NY 12074		1969	1970	EM
68 AHC	RYAN	DENNIS		HONOLULU	HI 96818		1969	1970	OF
A/501	CLAPP	JOHN W		KATY	TX 77494		1964	1965	WO
71 AHC	JONES	ANTHONY		TUCSON	AZ 85737		1969	1970	EM
117AHC	KIRKHAM	ROBERT T		ST PETERS	MO 63376		1963	1964	WO
117AHC	SIMON	LARRY D		SHERIDAN	WY 82801		1968	1968	EM
118AHC	BLAGG	GARY D		GREENFIELD	IN 46140		1968	1969	EM
118AHC	BRIGHTWELL	ROBERT J		SAN JOSE	CA 95121		1968	1969	OF
118AHC	SPEIRS	DUANE L		MULWONEGO	WI 53149		1969	1970	WO
118AHC	BADGLEY	J D		PORTAGE	IN 46368		1970	1970	EM
81 TRAN	SHAPE	BILLY "JOE"		GREESBURG	IN 47240		1963	1963	EM*
119AHC	BROCK	DAVID		TECUMSEH	MI 49286		1966	1967	EM
57 TRAN	NELSON	HUEY R		APO AE	09053		1961	1962	WO*
120AVN	STEWART	FRANZ		MIAMI	FL 33143		1964	1965	OF
120AVN	WHITTEN	WILLIAM J		JACKSONVILLE	AR 72076		1965	1965	1SG
121AHC	WILLIAMS	RICHARD W		FARMINGTON	NH 03835		1969	1970	EM
135AHC	SAXTON	ELMER D		NEWARK	DE 19713		1967	1968	WO
190AHC	SKAADEN	DICK		KILLEEN	TX 76543		1967	1968	WO
190AHC	LOCKERT	LARRY S		ARVADA	CO 80002		1968	1969	WO
190AHC	HANSEN	WAYNE T		SPARKS	NV 89431		1969	1970	EM
197AHC	FRAKER	WILLIAM W.		FREESPORT	FL 32439		1965	1966	OF*
197AHC	HASKETT	EARL C		MIDDLETOWN	IN 47356		1966	1967	EM
334AHC	FRAKER	WILLIAM W.		FREESPORT	FL 32439		1966	1967	OF*
334AHC	CROW	PHILLIP "MIKE"		SALINA	KS 67401		1968	1969	WO
242ASHC	MIKESELL	ROBERT W		SALEM	OR 97302		1967	1970	EM
335AHC	SEGLA	RAY		APPLE VALLEY	MN 55124		1968	1970	EM
335AHC	GRUBER	MILAND		MONACA	PA 15061		1969	1970	EM
339TRAN	BROYLES	JOHN C		DANVILLE	IN 46122		1966	1967	EM

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

We would like for you to join our Association first, and here are some other organizations you might be interested in.

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assn, 7 W 7th St, Suite 1990, Cincinnati, OH 45202 1-513-721-VHPA

Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Assn, PO Box 237, Crowley, TX 76036 1-817-297-4493

Army Otter-Caribou Assn, PO Box 6091, Columbus, GA 31907 1-800-626-8194

International Bird Dog Assn, 3939 C-8 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110 1-505-884-4822

Dustoff Assn, PO Box 8091, Wainwright Station, San Antonio, TX 78208

Vietnam Air Traffic Controller Assoc, PO Box 692, Penn Grove, CA 94951

## FUND RAISERS

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

### TOP TIGER PATCHES

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

### THUNDERBIRD PATCHES

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

### 335th COWBOY PATCHES

Jim Spanel who served with the 335th AHC in 1971 has sent me 25 of the COWBOY patches to sell to raise funds and also to give you the opportunity to have one. The patch is the 3 & 1/2" round one of the Cowboy riding a huey and lassoing a VC. The patches sell for \$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

We now have color T-shirts made with the original unit patch design for many of the units, 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" to 13" 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 19 & 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

I am also taking orders for the 117th AML, 117th AHC, and 119th AML, I am hoping to have these shirts in stock by the first week in December. They are not pictured yet but are listed on the order form.

### 145th C.A.B. REUNION HATS

The 1991 Reunion Committee had hats made for the Reunion and I have about 100 left. The hat is a red baseball cap style with a white front. Printed on the front in blue letters is; 145th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION around large lettering VIETNAM. We are selling the hats for \$5 each, and that will add to the \$500 the Reunion Committee has already raised for us. Order one today, they should go fast at that price.