

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



JAMES L. BODKIN
National Director/Coordinator

3719 Forest Hill Ave.
Ft. Wayne, IN

46605-1301

(Home Phone)

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Fort Wayne, IN
PERMIT NO. 1387

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NL 21



"OLD WARRIORS"
Newsletter

MAY 1992, VOL. 21

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

Its newsletter time again and if it seems like your getting this a little late its because I'm even later this time then I was last time, sorry. I dated this one May instead of April because it is so late.

Financially we about broke even the first three months of this year. I say thank you to all of you that supported us and I think the next Financial Report will be better as more of our members renew their membership. A lot of our members ordered T-shirts and other items and most of the items were sent out right away, a few of the T-shirt orders we ran out of stock on. Our stock is back up again, all orders have been filled, and we're ready to take orders again as soon as you receive this. See pages 19, 20, and 23 for information on what items we have for sale.

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

I have gotten many positive comments about the articles about the Battalion History, so the article continues in this newsletter on page 14, 15, & 16. The Battalion History section this time has three articles, all taken from other publications and I think you will enjoy them. 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.

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'm going to try to send out state list of people we are trying to locate from your state when I send out the 92-93 Membership Directory. I'm still getting current address for the people that were on last years list, so we know that it works. We just need for you to try to look the people up in your phone book when you get the list.

In the last newsletter was a form for personal information on one side and reunion information on the other side. I'm still hoping that everyone will return this form to me to be kept in our files incase we ever lose contact with you. It would have been nice if we would have filled out this kind of form when we arrived in our units in Vietnam but we can atleast try to maintain these forms now for everyone we have located. On the back side of the form is a reunion information form which will be very helpful planning future reunions, please fill out and return these forms to me if at all possible.

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

READERS RESPONSE

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

Jim and Debby, Thinking of you both hoping all is well- I'm having some real fun lately with P.T.S.D. therapy, but am breaking through some of it. Thank God for music and folks like you. Went to the V.A. about the skin rash and they took pictures of it. Sure was ugly! Definitely my bad side! My oral surgeon, Dr. Ed Tirpack of Sparta, NJ was wondering if any of you guys have the roots of your teeth go dead (one right after the other) like me - mighty strange - maybe just old age, but I kinda doubt it. Going on vacation with Jerry Clayton in June - (both families) we've done it before and it was great spending a week with the guy I went through Nam with - interesting late night recollections you know, you've been there! Gotta go. Love ya both, George O. Skrba Top Tiger 546 69-70 P.S. I finally got all my medals- 20 years it took- glad it's an election year- it would have probably taken longer! Hey, better late than never. What unit citations are we allowed to wear/display? How about a list of all the units we supported American, Australian, Vietnamese? (There were so many- Green Berets, Seals, CIA, etc.)

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Good to hear from you George. About the teeth, I had all mine pulled in 1987, 37 years old at the time, when I ETSed out of the Army in Feb 1977 all my teeth were good. The problem I had with my teeth was what appeared to be good teeth would just crumb away, but never a toothache. When I went to Washington, DC in Nov 86 I was eating bacon when I found a lump, the lump was one of my front teeth. Seemed kind of strange to me, and about all my teeth were the same. Hopefully if some of our other members have had the strange problems with teeth they will let you know. George Skrba address is: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Here are the 68th Avn Co Unit Awards: Meritorious Unit Commendation for period 1 Jan 67 - 31 Jan 67, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm for period Jun 64 to Nov 65, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm (second award) for period 27 Mar 67 to 17 May 68. I think that our units supported just about every unit in Vietnam one time or another. Maybe our readers can name a few they remember.

Jim, Sorry I've been so reluctant to join the association. I guess I just wanted to forget the time I spent in Southeast Asia. Getting together with Pat McLarney, Ralph Orlando, and Frank Spanks rekindled my desire to see and talk to other members of my flight school days and the time I spent in the 118th. Last fall I had my first opportunity to visit "The Wall" in Washington and I was truly impressed. It is truly a fitting memorial to our comrades who gave their all in defense of what we all hold dear, our freedom! The passage of time became evident when I discovered that the names of people I flew with were halfway down the first panel. (1964) Hard to believe it's been almost 30 years. Thank you for your dedication to the 145th and I look forward to meeting you in person in Dallas in 1993. Richard D. Le Jeune 118th "Bandit"

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Richard for your support, its really great getting together with old friends. See you in Dallas.

Mr. James Bodkin: I am writing in regards to the In Touch Program. I have written out an Application to find some information on Greg Bradford Scott and there was no luck in finding any information on him. I was wondering if you might be able to put a letter in your newspaper so that people who knew Greg could contact me. Greg Bradford Scott was born March 5, 1948 and died on October 9, 1969. His hometown was Hammond, IN. Greg's home of record was Phoenix, Arizona. The branch of service was the Army. I would greatly appreciate any information you may have. My phone number is [REDACTED]. I can be contacted after 5pm on any day. Thank you, Diann Csoka

(EDITORIAL NOTE) SP5 Greg Bradford Scott served with the 118th, I believe he went down in the 118th aircraft that crashed in a river on 9 Oct 1969, along with 1Lt Robert S. Mason, CW2 Owen T. Hirano, and SP4 James H. Turner. Diann Csoka is working on a project for Gold Star Honor Roll at Lake Central High School. Her address is: Diann Csoka, [REDACTED],

[REDACTED] I called and talked to Diann and thanked her for her interest in making sure that those missing and killed in Vietnam are not forgotten. I give her James Turner's brother address, Ron Turner, who has been collecting information on the crash since his brother was declared Missing in Action. Anyone who remembers SP5 Greg Bradford Scott please contact Diann. Please read the next letter from Nancy Smoyer, Acting IN TOUCH Director.

Dear Jim: Thanks very much for your newsletter and listing. I was so excited to get it that I ran the names you had highlighted right away to see if we had any application for them. Unfortunately we don't-- most disappointing. But I am sending the information to the Aydletts so you should be hearing from them (we have applications from his wife and son). I'm enclosing a copy of the letter I sent to the wife for you. If you think it should be changed in any way for future letters, please let me know. When we have more time, we will go over the entire list to see if we can find any contacts. I will also send an IN TOUCH form to the men whom you indicated were looking for families so that we can get them in the system. I can't remember if I ever sent you a packet of information about us so if not, here it is. If I did, here's more! I'll take your newsletter home to read and see what else I can glean from it to find contacts, but I wanted to let you know right away that I had looked. I'm so glad to have found your organization. I'm sure we can coordinate our efforts to bring about more connections. Best Wishes, Nancy Smoyer, Acting IN TOUCH Director

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Nancy. I sent Nancy one of our Directory, a current newsletter, and pages from passed newsletter when people wrote about locating families. I talked with Nancy on the phone a few times and I hope we can help their organization as much as they can help us. You can contact Nancy Smoyer at: Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. As of this time I haven't heard from the Aydletts, but anyone who knew 1LT James Q Aydlett, KIA 11 July 1966, from Akron, OH who was serving with the 121st, please contact Nancy, and send a letter to the Aydletts through Nancy. Anyone wanting to find the family of anyone listed on the "Wall" please contact Nancy for an application. And all the family members we have located please contact Nancy incase a friend of your love one is trying to locate you.

Dear Jim, In your last two newsletters there were notes regarding former members of the 119th AHC. I served with that unit from Feb 70 till it was retired in Dec of 70- what a sad day. I enjoyed reading the note from Alan E Mixer and would like to finish his story. Being from Louisiana also, W.O. Roussell and I became close friends. Ralph was an excellent pilot and he taught me a great deal. I enjoyed flying with him and I always felt that regardless of the task, it was going to be accomplished when I flew with him. He was on a CA when his ship went down to enemy fire. Three of the crew men were lost. Ralph was not flying Gator 108 on that day. After I became an AC Gator 108 became my ship and I am proud to say she was the finest in the company. She was the last ship to leave the company when the company was deactivated. I also served with Howard Wilson and was saddened to learn of his death. After the 119th was deactivated Howard and I were reassigned to HQ Co 52nd Avn Bn. Neither of us cared for the desk job, because as the sign on the wall said "I would rather be flying". My deepest sympathy Mrs Wilson. Jim enclosed is my late renewal, an order for a T-shirt and some extra. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, George W McHugh, Cpt USA Ret, Alligator 11 "Jud", [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you George. I'm sure Mrs Wilson will appreciate you remembering Howard. The next letter is from Jack "Stick" Vansworth about WO1 Ralph Roussell and events that day.

Jim, Was especially interested in your last newsletter which mentioned WO1 Ralph Roussell of the 119th, KIA in June 1970. I was supposed to be chock one in the formation that Ralph got shot down in. His crew chief that day, Scotty Broadston, and I had flown together all week, while my ship (#362) was down for maint. After a heated discussion with Ralph, I decided it wasn't worth the effort and Ralph wanted to lead the assault (I was the senior A/C) so I blew it off. When I heard the MAYDAY from the rear of the formation (I was chock last) I didn't know who it was, when we found out Ralph went down in the river, I pushed

that huey to VNE +10 to see if anything could be done. I was to late, Ralph, WO1 Lundequum and Scotty all died in the post crash fire. I've wanted to get in touch with all three families for 20 years, if anyone can help, let me know. I'd like to give them the straight scoop on what happened that day in 1970. Thanks, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Also Looking for "Lurch", "Squid" and Tim Norton.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jack, hopefully some of our people will be able to locate the families of WO Ralph S. Russell Jr from Bogalusa, LA, WO Donald James Lundequum from St Paul, MN, and Sp4 Scotty Ray Broadston from Lake Hauasu City, AZ, all KIA 5 June 1970 serving with the 119th AHC. If anyone can locate any of these families let us know.

Dear Jim, I just received Vol 20 of the newsletter. Having read it and noting Bob Kilpatrick's letter. It reminded me to send you this Gator patch from the 119th AHC. As you can see it is quite different from the unit patch of the 119th AML. Bob and I were hoping you could use the 119th patch I enclosed to make up a 119th AHC color T-shirt, and possible "Gator" patch reproductions. As this is the only original of the 119th AHC Gator patch I have. I would appreciate its return after your use. If not able to return, or it must be sacrificed in the making of shirts and patches, no problem, I gladly donate it. My next letter today is going to Greg Offringa, regarding his letter about the meeting of New England Area VHCMA and VHPA members. I hope everyone will make the effort to attend this event. I would like to make the 145th Association Reunion, but can not, so I will try for this New England get together. Once again, my great appreciation to you for all the hard work you put so well into this organization. Sincerely, Al Mixer "Gator" 108, 1969

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Al, I will use the patch design to design the T-shirt. I will also see if I can get the patch reproduced, and I should be able to get the original back to you with no problem.

Dear Jim, Thanks for the continued subscription to the newsletter. Although I am only an honorary member due to my father's service in the 334th Avn Co, I feel quite a large debt to your organization. Since my father, now deceased, rarely spoke of his three trips to the exotic far east it is only through the histories that you present that I am able to finally find out what the "Playboys" did for a living. I would sincerely appreciate any member having knowledge of my dad, Ronald E Justice, Sr SFC '68-'69 334th Avn Co, to send me any stories, anecdote or lies about him. Good or bad, it doesn't matter. I would like to get to know him a little better. I am carrying on the family military tradition in a small way. I am a Captain of Infantry in the Army Reserve. My bride to be is soon to be commissioned a First Lieutenant in the Army Reserve's Judge Advocate General Corp. In civilian life, I'm a cop and she is a lawyer. Fortunately for both of us, she doesn't get many chances to put me on the witness stand and make me squirm. For all of my brothers behind the badge who served in the 145th Cbt An Bn I'm always willing to assist those who have cop-related burnout or PTSD. I know that talking can help. To those who served in the 145th and who have PTSD I will do anything I can to help. The experiences of flying a Snake or gunning on a slick are different than serving on a SWAT Team but the common factor of stress are the same. In closing, I owe the guys of this Battalion more than I can repay. You did what I would have done if I was a little older. You were the "best and the brightest". You guys did make a difference. I thank you for it. Sincerely, Ronald E Justice, Jr. CPT IN USAR, [REDACTED]

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ron, I'm glad we can help with the history. Most of us have told our families very little about our time in Vietnam, maybe we don't know where to start, don't want to bother anyone with it, or think our family isn't interested. The history section is a good place for our family to get information about what we did in Vietnam. Hopefully you'll get some responses from our readers.

Jim- I have located one of the N.M. person's on the list you sent me. I've been going through some medical problems since 1 March, am now recuperating at home finally. Hope to return to work end of April. Person contacted was Thomas A Baca, 68th AHC, 66-67 WO, 1311 Camino Ecaestre NW, Albuquerque, NM., 87107, 505-345-4647. We are still trying to get together in person, hopefully this week- Please send him a present roster, he sounds interested. Also has other names. Also an old class mate of mine I'd like you to send him

a present roster. He was in 93rd Trans/121st around Oct 62- Oct 63. Present address Henry Singer, [REDACTED]. Here's \$10 to help with postage and whatever. I'll keep trying on the other guys in NM. Keep up the good work. Richard Rex
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Richard, everyone who remembers Thomas Baca or Henry Singer will be grateful you found them for us. I hope you're completely recovered by the time you get this. I sent newsletters and directories to both and Henry Singer has already joined.

Jim, Been a while since I've written, I went to Court on March 6th... we did prove I have P.T.S.D. and 10 years was taken from my sentence. But...in order to get it modified more to where I can go to the V.A. theres a few things I need to do..1. I need to get copies of the "flight records" form my unit, can you tell me how to go about that? 2. I need a copy of the 135th Aslt. Hel. Co. History in which you sent me a long time ago, and I've lost that one. Do you think if I wrote the "U.S. Army Intelligence and Security" they would provide the "flight records I need"? On the CIA? Also... In the newsletter I seen "Robert Moody" could you send me his address, also is there a way you could send me a copy of the 135th AHC company book (70-71)? These are some important things I need to present to the Court when I file the modification. If you would like a copy of my psych. evaluation I will send you a copy, to verify my P.T.S.D. is genuine. Do you know of anything of how "incarcerated" Vets can file claim and collect any kind of disability for P.T.S.D.? Do you have "David Benge" address that can be of help also. The letter Julie Weaver sent to you...I have read it before in a different paper. I believe it was in V.V.A. Now how do I go about finding the date my cousin was killed in Nam. It was 1971 and I believe he was in Vinh Long at the time, my mind had put a "block" up for some reason, but I know he was shot down and killed while I was there. How do I get info on what I need? Also can you tell me why things aren't on a Vets DD214 that should be? Like in my 201 file theres Units I wasn't with that says I was, and things that should be that aren't? I, myself, am well aware that you could have a MOS but yet wherever they put and assigned you is what you did, but why wasn't Vets given these other jobs as secondary MOS etc.? I need a statement or some documentation on that too. I have a V.A. that seen my evaluation it will accept me immediately into a PTSD program... I just need the information I've asked you about to show the Court to get my sentence modified more. Its very hard for an "incarcerated Vet" to get anything done, so brother I'm reaching out for help and I hope and do appreciate all you can provide on my requests? Are you aware of a new ribbon called the "The Army Service Ribbon" its if you graduated from AIT? Jim, can you please get back with me on this request quickly, I'm on a time table to get all these things together. We must never forget the Vietnam Vet. Sincerely, Michael Craig [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

P.S. whatever the cost for postage is on what I've requested, I'll refund in stamps.
(EDITORIAL NOTE) I wrote back to Mike the next day and here is what I sent: At the current time I don't know where to find copies of flight records, in the last newsletter I ask for some input from our members about where they are kept. You might try writing to Commanding General/ Director of Army Safety, U.S. Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, AL 36362, and ask about flight records from Vietnam, where they might be found and if they are available. I know they have records of all non-combat aircraft accidents. Inclosed with this letter is a copy of the history you asked for. Robert Moody and Dave Benge addresses are enclosed. As for filing a VA claim, if there is a Vet Organization allowed to come in they can file a claim, American Legion, VFW, etc., or a VA representative, or maybe legal services. Basically I don't really know for sure. The biggest problem with DD 214s is that most were typed by a clerk that was in a hurry to get his job done and go home, and unless we told them about the mistakes at the time of Discharge thats the way they were issued. They can be corrected by filing a form with the Army. Most of us didn't want to stick around the Army a few more days to have our DD 214s retyped.

I don't know if I was much help to Mike, if anyone has anymore info on Mike questions please let me know.

Dear Jim, Just received the latest news-letter. Like always I enjoyed it. I figured I had better fill out and mail the personal info form right away or I might not get around to it later. Like most of us I have been known to put things off until later and then forget it altogether. That's what happened a few months ago when I received my 121st Aslt. Hel.

T-shirt. I either marked the wrong size or the wrong size was mailed by mistake. I received a size M. when I need an XL. The one I have has never been worn so if you will let me know I will send it back for an exchange. Sorry it's took so long for me to contact you about it, but its like I said, once I put it off it was like "out of sight, out of mind", if you know what I mean. Well I'll close for now, but I want you to know that I think you're doing a great job. One Vet to another "Thanks". Jim Preston Viking Surprise (EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim, I know what you mean. You should have received the XL T-shirt by now. Jim also said he would help with a Birmingham, AL or Atlanta, GA Reunion.

I was 1st Sgt. 73rd Avn. Co. Company was formed Mar. 1963, Ft. Rucker, AL. arrived Vietnam May 1963. Unit was Lt. Air Recon. Avn. Unit, consisting of, L-19's and for L-5's, 5 (dual controls). A/C were from Texas, LA., OK, AR, Nat. Grd. units. Flown to RAD MAC, in Sacramento, Cal., and shipped to VN. Every aircraft was given nose to tail overhaul. They were also fitted for wing and fuselage camera and spotter rockets. We landed via air at Vung Tau stayed two month and then moved to Na Trang. Under command MAAG Saigon -Ops. control later unit was broken into Ops unit and attached to area units, (3 officers, 9 EMs, 3 AC) for control and mess and supply. Units fieldwork was expanded from aerial photo to air resupply and MED EVAC. K-54 camera's were main cameras. 73rd Aviation Co. was one of the first Units to receive Pres Unit Citation. Company CO Major Kark, we had (3 off 9 EMs) station at Bien Hoa, Ops for 118th and 120th Avn. Co's. Command Control to 145th Avn. Bn. Aug. 63. I transferred to Saigon to be SGM 145th CAB, under Lt. Col. Mertel I DEROS states Apr 1964. Benjamin O. Knight

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ben and I added the 73rd Avn Co to our official list unit serving with the 145th Bn. Also I added the 1st Avn Co, I talked with Bill Hooks, fr Army Otter-Caribou Association, who served with the 1st Avn Co when they were assigned to the Bn, 1962. In 1965 the assets of the 1st was used to help form the 74th Avn Co. Read on for a letter from Bill McGee about the 73rd.

Dear Jim, Great job on the newsletter- lots of good reading! Enclosed is my check for dues renewal and other goodies. In response to Pat McLarney's request for info about the 73rd Aviation Co- I was assigned to the original 73rd as a bird dog driver in April 1963. We trained and prepared for transfer under Secret orders. We arrived in RVN in May 1963. Our 1-19s arrived by boat and were assembled at Vung Tau. The 73rd HQs was in Nha Trang with four platoons- one platoon per corps area (eight sections, one per ARVN Division). I was Section Cmdr at Bien Hoa until Nov 63 when I was transferred to the 117th Avn Co. At Bien Hoa, our section of 3 L-19s (O-1), 3 pilots, 5-6 EMs supported the ARVN 5th Division. The three 73rd pilots were quartered with U.S. MAAG Advisory Team #70 at Train Compound in Bien Hoa City. Our EM were billeted with the 118th Avn Co and 145th Bn at Bien Hoa Airfield. As far as I know, the 73rd was not attached to the 145th For that first year. In Dec 1964, the original 73rd was decommissioned. At least one pilot, Maj Harold R Williams, was later assigned to the 74th Avn. Best Regards, Bill McGee

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bill, after reading Bill's letter and Benjamin O Knight's letter, it my feeling that there is a strong enough connection between the personnel of the 73rd Avn Co, May 1963 thru Dec 1964, and the units of the 45th Trans / 145th CAB, that they should be allowed to be full members of our Assoc should they want to be. So weather they were assigned, attached, detached, or just shared billets with our units, I feel we should officially list the 73rd Avn Co on our list, and try to locate these people along with all the people we are trying to locate. How does everyone feel about it? Read on for another part of Bill McGee's letter.

Hi Jim, I am still helping the Anthropology Dept at Buffalo State College on their project, "Folk Songs of Americans in the Vietnam War". As a result of your listing my previous letter in the Oct '91 newsletter, I have received a song sheet with words to the 117th Avn's "Bawdy Ballads" from Carl Vogel. Also received a tape of songs written by Britt Knox (117th 1966-68). Although we have never met, Britt and I had a great phone conversation and look forward to meeting at a 145th reunion in the future. I have ordered a copy of the tape "Songs of the UTT" which will help the project. HELP! Former members of the 93rd Trans or 121st Avn Soc Trang Tigers; we need to know the tune of "your" song,

"The battle of Ap Bac". We have the words, but need to know what melody they were sung to. If anyone recalls songs their unit sang while in RVN, please let me know. Proper acknowledgements will be made as to unit, writer, or contributor. Write or call: Bill McGee, [REDACTED].

(EDITORIAL NOTE) If anyone can help Bill with this project please do. Much of our history and our feelings about serving in Vietnam are written in the words of these songs. I give my moral support to Bill in working on this project. I talked to Bill on the phone about this project and he told me that they have a tape ready to sell and if I get the info about it before this newsletter is printed I'll include the info on how you can order a copy. The proceeds from the tape will be used to fund the project.

Debby and Jim, Hope this finds everyone ok at your end. The attached PIF is for your information - I didn't remember if I ever sent one in before. If I have pitch one of them. Looks like this last big snow might be it for Chicago area for this winter - at least I hope so - although our winter has been quite mild. Sorry I didn't make it up to Wisconsin to Alwins in December. Best regards, Bryan Lewis

I was sent to RVN with 3/17th Air Cav. in Sept. 67. In Nov. 67 I was transferred to the 68th AHC. I flew with the slicks for about a month or so, then took command of the 391st in Dec. 67. I had the Det. till I rotated back to the land of the big PX in Sept. 68.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bryan, I didn't have a Personal Information Form on file for you. Everythings fine at this end, maybe we'll get some sunshine soon.

Dear Jim & Deb, Since I joined the battalion newsletter I've written 3 letters & after getting this one I thought I'd write again. I was a gunner in the Dragon Platoon 334th AHC Nov 67 - Nov 68 & 2 days ago I got a call from Lonnie Upshaw from Texas. Lonnie had his nose shot off & he stayed around to help us re-arm and all kinds of things. I also talked to Jim Aretz, 3 tours, shot 4 times & on the 5th time he lost his left eye when he shot a M-79 into a bunker & our pilots were so low a piece of shrapnel came back & took out his eye. He's 100% & also works for PVA. I'm now 100% & me & Jim hope to go to the next reunion. I just got done reading that girl Julie's letter and I just want to point out to her speaking from someone who flew daily "we didn't lose, we weren't allowed to win, to do the job right". I know you guys know what I mean. But Julie's heart is in the right place & I'm sure we all appreciate the sacrifices we all made for our country. Well Jim again I'll close by saying I don't know how you & your wife manage all this but I know I speak for thousands of men who relish this newsletter. With God's help & a little push from a friend from the 334th I hope to meet you at the reunion. I know I'm paid up in my dues Jim, so here's next years in advance & keep up your fantastic work. I know for me this is a highlight of my month. God Bless you & July & all our surviving Comrades. Sincerely, John L. Macedo P.S. You guys are the greatest, & you've helped me come out of my shell somewhat & I keep trying to deal what I did in Vietnam. Again thanks a million.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you John. I met Jim Aretz at the '91 Reunion and I hope to meet all the UTT-68th-197th-334th at the '93 Reunion. That will be the place to be. I hope to finally meet you at our next Reunion.

Dear Jim, Keep up the good work. Sorry I got behind in my dues. We got as far as Dallas on our way to the reunion and had to turn back because of problems at home, anyhow we have a seven year old grandson to raise because his mother is in an institute. The girl, eleven, is with my son. Hope to make Dallas. I went to HU-IA school at the plant 1959 (I am 70 years old now) started in Rotary Wing in 1956 H-13, 23, 19, 21, 54. I was in World War II fixed wing artillery, Korea 1950 to 1952 fixed wing engineers, then Nam. Lots of war stories but anyway I'll send you lot of stuff from the 145th when I get back to Wash. Hope to make it to Dallas. Sincerely, J D Baratz

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you and I hope everything works out all right with the grandchildren. Hope to see you in Dallas in 93'

Dear Jim, Enclosed find my membership renewal for 2 years, plus and extra \$20 for use as you need it, or for renewing memberships of others as you see fit. Also send one burgundy tie. Did you know experimentally two .50 Cal. machine guns were mounted in a UH-1 back in

early 1965; probably Jan. or Feb. I remember talking to the door gunner, and of course we all gathered around to see this marvel. If I remember correctly he said they had taken out a .50 position down south (of Tan Son Nhut) with it, however, the vibration was very severe. Maybe someone else might remember this. I can't remember any names of who flew the aircraft. I don't think it was very successful because I don't recall seeing it around after that. Looking forward to coming to the next reunion. Dick Hoover

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Dick, many of the units experimented with .50 Cal machine guns and they worked very good against bunkers. The biggest problem was the vibration, they would shake a Huey apart. Many of our members flew on these .50 cal aircraft, maybe we'll hear from them.

Dear Jim, Thanks for including me on the mailing list for the January newsletter. I really enjoyed reading the letters, especially those from Geoffrey Webster and Jim "E. Gore". Being a Top Tiger and Mustang, Geoffrey's letter touched me. Although I only flew with Scott for a short period before he left "country", it still came as quite a shock to read of his death. Jim, I'd appreciate it if you could send me a copy of the section, "Controversy", from the past newsletter. It will help bring me up to date on the Grim Reaper nose art issue. I am enclosing membership dues for three years and an order form for patches, t-shirts and cap. I also found, in a dusty file cabinet, some General Orders that may help in locating other potential members. Thanks for including me and for all your hard work. My wife and I are looking forward to the '93 Reunion. Sincerely, Pete Burns

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Pete, by now you should have gotten the back copies of the newsletter dealing with the "Grim Reaper" nose art. From looking at the names on the orders, you'll find the current address for most of the people listed on the orders in our directory. Hopefully there will be a very large number of Top Tigers at the '93 Reunion. And the "Grim Reaper" nose art should also be there. Hopefully the phone numbers in the directory put you in contact with most of the people you remember from the 68th. I'm hoping that everyone thinking about attending the reunion will let everyone they want to see at the Reunion know that they will be at the Reunion and want them there also.

Dear Jim, Been a while since I've written. Been in and out of hospital for PTSD in Louisville 2 times in last few months, just not doing well I reckon. Keep isolating myself and thats the worst thing possible I'm told. Finally got in a group at Evansville every 2 wks. Needs to be everyday. Jim is it possible to get a t-shirt with 120th on one side and 145th on the other? I have the 120th so if can't do both just send a M 145th. By the way I think you and Deb are great and doing an excellent job. Every newsletter that comes in I sit down and read cover to cover. If \$25 not enough let me know if too much apply to extend membership or someone who can't afford it. I understand what Arthur Woods is up against for I'm still having same problems. I think it's a matter of economies not validation of claim. They (VA) use every underhanded tactic they can to deny our claim even with their own VA Dr's diagnosing PTSD. Well I'll shut up for now. Thanks to you, Deb, and Bob out in Texas. Gene Rummage

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I talked to Gene and explained why it is not practical to stock T-shirts printed with more than one design. A few weeks later I needed to print more Assoc T-shirts, so I experimented with printing the Assoc design on the back of a 120th T-shirt, Gene says it turned out great. My wife Deb said its to much work and to great a chance of messing up a good shirt, so its still not practical to stock or make them available. Also Gene would like to locate; William Anderson and Ray Hanson from Iowa- maybe Graettinger, Ray Goodwin from Vermont, Michael P Alleva from Brooklin, NY., and Frank Andriths, all who served with the 120th in 1963-64.

Dear Jim, I was very pleased to hear from a former member of the 118th last week and would like to pass his name on to you, along with the names of two additional members of the 118th which he included in his letter. John D. Bradshaw [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; Charles A. [REDACTED]; Carl Miller [REDACTED]. I would appreciate your sending membership information to these men and as I hear of others, I will continue to forward their names to you. Once

again, thanks for keeping us all in touch. Regards, Jim Thorne
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim and I sent a newsletter and Directory to each of them.
Charles Rampey join up right away.

Dear Sirs, Please add me to the list of the 71st Assault Helicopter Co. (ASHC), Chu Lai, S. Vietnam 1968-1970. SSN: [REDACTED] SVC [REDACTED], address: [REDACTED] 7, Thomas O. Brown PS send me some Lit. and an application and I'll gladly send my \$10. Tom PS. By the way - my H.O.R. is Indianapolis, IN. Went to school with Jane Pauley - same school Jeff George (Colts) went to. Hoosier Roots!
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Welcome aboard Tom. Jane Pauley and Jeff George are really great in their field, the Colts, now thats another story.

Dear Jim and Debby, Sharon and I will be flying out to the V.H.C.M.A. reunion in Las Vegas in June. Do you have any plans to go? We will be out in California for a couple of days first. Killer (David Evans)

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Killer for the check from the proceeds of the Thunderbird patches. I won't be going to the V.H.C.M.A. reunion this year, shortage of money and time.

Question - Why don't you ask your Reader's who is still in active duty? I, for one, have been recalled for 4 years due to the Saudi-Iraqi War. Albert "Jim" Willett

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim, I think you just did. Anyone on active duty please let us know. You might also include info about if you were recalled, had stayed on active, etc.. Also anyone serving with the Reserves or National Guard please let us know.

Dear Jim, Sorry that I hadn't joined sooner. But, honestly Freddy was the first person I had come in contact with from the 118th. I served as a W-2 pilot from March 18th till mid September 1965. I was transferred to 145th Bn. and became one of the members of the B.O.C. Battalion Operations Center from mid Sept 65 until my DEROS in 5 March 1966. I've been in contact with Jack Clark V.P. of VVA in D.C. recently and reminisced a bit over the phone. Sun City Center is what 20 miles south of Tampa. I'm sending a check for the 2 t-shirts and dues for '92 and '93. March, April, May, 92 and all of 1992-93 Whatever! If I need to send more let me know. I plan on going to the reunion in Melbourne, FL April 3, 4, and 5 and hope to have my t-shirts by end of March (Please) I'm going to the 10th anniversary of "The Wall" in November. Good luck to you and God Bless all of the 145th. Barry Shields

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Berry, and welcome aboard. Berry is planning on going to the "Wall" for the 10th anniversary. The Vet Center in Tampa is trying to put together a low cost package for the area Vets that want to go to the "Wall" Veterans day. All of our people in the Tampa area that want to go to the "Wall" for the 10th Anniversary please contact the Vet Center.

Dear Jim, My shirts are old and fading out so I'm ordering two more and also a cassette tape "Songs of the UTT". I wear my 145th CABVA t-shirt to all veteran functions that I participate in. I would like to tell all members these shirts are calling cards. I was in Clearwater, Florida for POW-MIA day September '91 when I met Barry Shields (he was one of my pilots) had I not been wearing my 145th t-shirt we would not have met and he would not know of the association. Jim, thanks for your hard work keeping us all together. Sincerely, SP4 Freddy Holder 118th AHC '64-'65 Blue Tail 1 P.S. Mr. Shields will verify this as he has just joined the Association.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Fred. The T-shirts definitely gets the attention of anyone who served in Army Aviation in Vietnam, and are a great way to find new people. And sometimes, like with you and Berry, reunites old friends and people they flew with in Vietnam. If your attending a Veterans Reunion, parade, or service for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, etc, please try to wear a unit T-shirt or Association T-shirt.

Hi Jim: Got your latest newsletter and wanted to send some financial support for the great job you are doing to keep the V.N. Vet "IN TOUCH". Though this type of network, I have found my door gunner and crew-chief and now want to include their names for membership: Crew-chief Jimmy Roberts [REDACTED]; Door Gunner Spencer Gardner

[REDACTED] We served together in the Crocodile (Gun) Platoon of the 119th AVN. Co. in Pleiku S.V.N. in 1965-66. These two guys were the "BEST" gunners, team players and professional soldiers the U.S. Army ever had. The memories of the battles are very "special": Operation White Wing and Masher at Bong Song, Battle of Plei Me, Battle at Chudron (Duc Co.) Dak Sut, Dak Pek, etc. My Warrant Officer Flight Class, 65-1W is having a second class re-union on October 9 - 12th, 1992 in Washington, D.C. We had a GREAT re-union at Ft. Rucker in 1989. We are looking for several "lost" classmates. Anyone knowing the where-a-bouts of the following, please call/write me: Missing Classmates WOC 65-1W: Richard D. Benjamin, Billy R. Carpenter, Robert H. Cowen, Larry L. Hicks, Bruce L. Johnson, Dwight G. Palmer, Brian D. Pardo, Johnnie D. Tucker, Raymond W. Welch, Al Schoefer. Thanks for your help. Ed Coombs [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] p.s. I see you have the 119th. Air Mobile Avn. Co. T-shirts in stock. I'll order 3 for each membership. See order form.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ed, I sent the membership cards to Jim Roberts and Spencer Gardner. I think that its great that you ordered the items for your crew. I know they appreciate the membership and the T-shirt, especially since their pilot sent them to them. If anyone know the whereabouts of any of these members of flight school class WOC 65-1W please let Ed know.

Dear Jim, I'm sorry for being forgetful with my dues! With the way I feel about my "past", there's no excuse! Here is \$38.00, 20.00 for the dues, 13.00 for my 117th Air Mobile Light Aviation Company, shirt and 5.00 for a hat. In your last newsletter booklet, NL-20, it made me feel "great", in regards to what you had said about the Volunteer, shot gunners, from the 25th Inf. Div. Hawaii. There is very little info on us guys who went to "Nam", to do what we were trained for! It seems that nobody wants to talk about us for some reason, almost like someone wants to, Bury us in the ground. Also in the last newsletter, concerning Carl Vogel Editorial note on the Wolf Hounds, I knew a lot of those guys, plus I have a picture of the white sign at the entrance of the camp with the 8th Trans insignia saying "Welcome". Other units was the 140th C.H.F.M. - 130th Med Det- 256 Signal Det. that picture was taken May, 28 1963. There was 50 of us from the 4th Cav. Hawaii. When the 8th Tran. changed to the 117th AVN - could have possibly been around June 19, 1963. I have a set of order confirming that. It was great when I found Dave Granger, at the Denver reunion and later on he found Doug Eki and Roland Watts all from the 8th Trans and 117th Avn. I slept in the same "Hooch", as they did. I'm still trying to find my crew chief, Jim Cain, from California. For the short time I flew with him, we went through a lot! I'll stay active with my dues from now on, also stay in touch with you. Thanks for everything Jim. See you at the Reunion in Tex. Robert C. Watts - B Trp. 3rd Recon. 4th Cav. 8th Trans - 117th Avn. Lt. Hel. May 63-Sept. 64 E-4

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob. I think the Battalion History section of this newsletter will have a little more info about the "Shot Gunners". Hopefully our members in California will check their phone books for Jim Cain. I just hope this isn't the same James Cain listed in our Memorial List.

Dear Jim; Enclosed is a check for a tie and dues to make me current in the organization or ahead a little. I must confess I don't know if I am paid up or not. However, I do want to tell you that I enjoy the newsletter you print and the information available. I want you to know that I appreciate the effort you have undertaken and want to give you my support for continuing the success in locating pilots, crews and renewing friendships as you have.

Sincerely, Gary Crossland

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Gary.

Dear James, Thank you for the last newsletter and for all of your hard work for the Association, it is much appreciated. I have enclosed a cheque for my dues and a little extra for the incidentals. Sorry it is so late. No excuse to offer I just seem to be able to keep finding reasons as to why I couldn't go and get the bank draft to send it to you. Thank you also for finding Don Riggle for me. I have written to him but as yet have not received any reply. As I have written to you in the past the Australian contingent of the 135th was made up of mainly personnel from the Naval Air Station at H.M.A.S. Albatross at

Nowra, New South Wales plus some general service people. From the 3rd of May to the 10th of May, 1992 we will be having a Fleet Air Arm reunion at Albatross. People will be coming from all over Australia and I hope to see a lot of my old mates from Vietnam. I will take some applications for the Association along and will see if I can get some to sign up. Thanks again for your concern. Regards Bill Barlow
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bill, hopefully we'll be hearing from a lot more of our VN Vet brothers from Australia soon.

Jim, Thanks to the Massachusetts Miracle and the then Presidential candidate Mike Dukakis, I am still unemployed. Knowing that the 145th newsletter, as well as the many others that I receive have at least kept my head in order! History is a crucial part of the newsletter, but I think that one key element is missing! After receiving orders to go to Vietnam, what happened next??? There has to be thousands of stories that can be told about different experiences at the Hell Hole called Oakland Army Terminal, and the events that followed before touching down "In Country". Speaking only for myself, it was Hell! Two weeks shy of 18 years old with an aircraft MOS being sent to a place that I had never even heard of, where I was told that a war was taking place. For me "early guys" the torture had to be something for the books. Jets I guess??? had been invented, but the then Military Air Transport Service were still using propeller driven C-118 cargo planes to ferry us across the Pacific. After 2 aborted takeoffs, and the subsequent trips back to OAT, we finally roared off the runway in a holdover relic from WW2. All seats in those days faced to the rear, for us that we had a flight time of about 9-12 hours to Hickham in Hawaii. We were not able to move about the cabin, for we were always being told about fuel consumption, and that we were placed where we were according to weight. In other words stay put until we land. Keeping in mind that this was a cargo plane, it lacked insulation- the noise from the 4 engines was deafening. The aircraft had no galley, so food consisted of box lunches, cold cuts, a hard boiled egg, and a carton of warm milk or juice thrown in. God, the food was awful!! We Island hopped across the Pacific- Hawaii, Wake, Guam, the Philippines, and finally, at last Saigon. (Map enclosed). The only good??? part of the experience was the fact that each time we landed somewhere, we had usually a minimum of 12 to 14, and sometimes 48 hours before the next leg of the journey. We also got to find out how the Air Force, and Navy EM's lived. Mind you that we were in transient billets- in my 3 years in the Army, I never had anything to compare with either Navy or Air Force food or sleeping quarters. Everyone probably had much the same experience at "Tent City" in Saigon, so I'll not go into that. My 1st trip home was on a MATS 707. My 2nd trip over was Via PAN AMERICAN (menu enclosed), and finally home again on a 707 charter called Airlift Jet Trader. To conclude, my 2 trips to Vietnam were far better than my 2 stays at Oakland Army Terminal. Carl Vogel 117th Aviation Co. Quinhon

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Carl. I made three round trips to Vietnam, going over, emergency leave, special leave, and DEROS. Each one is a story in it self. But first lets hear about the trip from our members.

Hello, my name is Amy Ferguson, I attend Twin Palms Church, our youth group will be going on an AIM trip to the island of Hawaii, this will be strictly to minister to the people on one of the smaller islands, we will be having street services, church services, etc. We are joining with another church in the area with approximately 60 to 70 people will be going this includes sponsors and youth. The purpose of this letter is basically to ask for business large or small for a tax deductible donation. Each student and adult are responsible for funding our own trip. The total cost of this once in a life time trip is \$650.00. This fare includes air fare and all lodging for a period of two weeks. Any way that your company or you personally could help with my trip will be greatly appreciated. I know that you will be blessed for your effort to help this cause. Please remember that any gift is totally tax deductible. When helping me please make checks payable to Twin Palms Assembly of God, 3535 Clayton Road, San Jose, CA 95127 408-258-1822. Also include a letter stating that your donation is for Amy Ferguson's AIM trip to the island of Hawaii, as this keeps church records simple as each student and each adult sponsor has our own account. All \$'s will go directly to my account and any money over the amount of the \$650.00 will be extra to my account. Thank you so much for your help on this matter. God bless you for

giving. In Christ's love, Amy Ferguson (Dan Ferguson's daughter)
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you for your letter Amy but unfortunately our by-laws are not set up to where we can make a donation, but maybe our reader can help out. Amy is the daughter of Dan Ferguson who served with the 68th AHC from Jan 69 to Jan 70. Dan has been a good supporter of our Association. Good luck with the fund raising, I know you parents are really proud of you.

Attention: Vietnam Helicopter Pilots, On 22 November 1991 the Midwest Helicopter Association was incorporated in Illinois. The purpose of the non-profit organization is to form a professional, commercial trade association to foster communications between helicopter pilots, operators and organizations interested in helicopter operations. Midwest Helicopter Association will be actively working toward the establishment of public use helicopter operating areas. The organization will also act as a liaison between the helicopter community and the general public in promoting safety and positive public image. Membership is open to any civilian or military helicopter pilot, flight surgeon, A&P license holder or air traffic controller. Anyone interested in joining should contact: CW4 [REDACTED] : (708) 432-3892 or Midwest Helicopter Association P.O. Box 456 Wheeling, IL 60090 (It will be appreciated if you could include this in your next newsletter.) Sincerely, R.J. Ringer
(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you R.J., and yes it is included. His address is included so anyone wanting to contact him can.

Dear Jim, I need your help in placing a notice in the next newsletter, hopefully before the July 1992 VHPA convention in Atlanta. A mini reunion for the 121st Assault Helicopter Company, "Soc Trang Tigers and Vikings" will be held during the National Convention in Atlanta, 1 July - 5 July 1992, at the Atlanta Hilton and Towers on Courtland Street. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-445-8667. The 121st reunion will be in the VHPA suite on Friday morning 3 July and Saturday morning 4 July. Notices will be posted in the registration area. Anyone attending will have to register for the convention, \$25.00 per person. If the 121st person is not a member of the VHPA, he will have to have a guest sponsor. If anyone falls into this category, i.e.; crew members or non VHPA aviator members, please have them contact me, [REDACTED], or by FAX at [REDACTED], for further information. Thanks, Tony Robinson, "Tiger 6" May - Nov '69

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Tony, I hope the 121st has a great reunion at the VHPA Convention. And the 121st will be having a reunion next year at our Association Reunion. I've been thinking about attending the V.H.P.A Convention but at this time I can't afford hotel and convention cost. But in case I hit it rich between now and then, I'll call you and see if I can be one of your guest, I haven't been officially invited to the VHPA Convention yet. I do plan on attending the Army Otter-Caribou Association Reunion August 5-9 in Hampton, VA, their E.V.P. Bill Hooks, invited be again this year. Anyone wanting to attend their Reunion, especially you who flew on Otter or Caribou aircraft, can contact Bill Hooks at 1-800-626-8194.

Dear Jim, As I said on the phone, I had procrastinated long enough and was embarrassed. I felt compelled to telephone and apologize for not letting you hear from me sooner. I have truly enjoyed reading your mailings, want to be a part of your organization, and continue receiving your mailings. Please accept my apologies. It was good to hear you mention that Maj Robinson, Tiger "6" would be at the VHPA reunion in Atlanta. I served with the 121st AHC, (Soc Trang Tigers), from May 68 to May 69. I'm looking forward to seeing many former Tigers and 203d Wild Cats over the Fourth of July. It was also good to read a note from Ron Wecas, (Ft Sill, OK) in one of your newsletters. Hello to Ron and his family. Also congratulations to Col Dennis Cline, CDR 75th FA BDE. I have excellent memories of my days at Ft Sill and my association with Ron and Dennis. Enclosed a check to cover my pass dues, purchase a couple T-shirts, and help with your expenses. I will try to stop in on one of my visits through my home town Indianapolis. I spent a lot of time as a teenager going through Ft Wayne on my way to Bledsoe's Beach at Lake James. I drank a lot of Ole Crown Ale, once brewed in Ft Wayne, and enjoyed my younger years. Best wishes to you and your

family. Keep up the good work. Yours truly, Bill Schmidt

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bill and hopefully you will see many other 121st T-shirts at the VHPA reunion. I work the normal 1st shift hours and I'm normally home when not at work, so if your in the area give me a call and drop by. I live about a mile from exit 112A on I-69, so just head into town and give me a call from a gas station or restaurant and I'll be right there. And thank you very much for the extra \$64 donation to our Association. By the way, all the breweries are now gone from Ft Wayne and the city's only claim to fame is the invention of the parking lot, and thats what all the truckers call our By-pass.

Jim, How goes it? I recently got remarried to my high school sweetheart who lives in Goshen, IN. I'll be there the month of July and will look you up then. Thought this list of Hueys and Loaches might ring a bell with somebody in your group? Take care, see ya at Vacua in Vegas??? Larry Ford

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Larry, hope to see you in July. I don't think I'll be able to make it to the VHCMA Reunion in Los Vegas, no money, but I'll be there in sprite. I'm home just about all the time so give me a call when your in the area.

Dear Jim, I am enclosing a copy of the article that was in the "TULSA WORLD" this morning. I received many phone calls but only three were in the 145th. Floyd Ellis, [redacted] Unit: Unknown. This is not one of the three. But he could have been a member. James Rider, [redacted] Unit: Unknown. Bill Meeks, [redacted] Unit: 68th (71-72). James Brackin, [redacted] Unit: 339th Trans. I am sure at least two of these will join and I told all of them that they would hear from you. I may get more calls tomorrow, but wanted to get these in the mail to you. Another just called: Claude Caddo [redacted] (Top Tiger 68th Co. 1968-69, 1-918-341-1689), and another one, Don McIntosh, [redacted] 1-918-455-3325, Regards to Debby. Sincerely, Bob Deets

Dear Jim; Ed Knighten called me and said that he is the responsible party to the ad in the paper. When I took him the application for membership I was not aware that he worked for the Tulsa World. He is a wheel there according to one of the secretaries I talked to. Here is one for sure: [redacted] 118th, 68-69. Not sure on this one, he was at Can Tho [redacted], 164th Avn Gp, 68-70. There may be more yet. Take care. Your Friend, Bob Deets

(EDITORIAL NOTE) When I got a call from the TULSA WORLD newspaper confirming info about our Association and Reunion plans I called Bob Deets to see if he would be a local contact for the calls. Bob volunteered with hesitation, thank you Bob, its great knowing there are people I can count on when needed. Many of you remember Bob as LTC Robert M Deets, Battalion Commander Dec 1967 to July 1968, and just before that with 12th Group. Bob has also taken on the job reuniting his WWII Frogman, UDT, Seal unit. I asked Bob to send me a copy of an ad that our members could try to have published in their city newspapers. Here it is: "The United States Navy Underwater Demolition Team #6 (WWII) is having it's first reunion since 1945 at their old Frogman Training Base, Ft Pierce, Florida, November 12-15, 1992. Contact Robert M Deets, [redacted] Phone [redacted] for further details". I want to thank Ed Knighten for getting our ad put in the TUSLA WORLD, because of the ad we have located 8 people and at least 6 possible new members. Thanks Ed.

In a recent phone call I learned that Col Charles B Wells, Sr, father of CW Charles Wells, 119th AML 1964-65, had passed away from cancer. Col Wells served in WWII with the 8th Air Force/ Army Air Corp until 1972, serving in Vietnam as VNAF Liaison and finally serving in China with President Nixon group to normalize relations. Col Wells earned many awards including the Bronze Star. Memorials are to the American Cancer Society. I send my condolences to Charles B Wells, Jr, [redacted]

HELP

Its renewal time again and out of 2067 people we have located, and have current address for, only 979 receive our newsletter, out of those 979 people only 596 people have paid for the July 1990 thru June 30, 1991 or July 1991 thru June 1992 dues year. That means that less than 2 out of every 3 receiving this newsletter have paid this or next years dues. And I do thank that 60.9% 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 39.1% receiving this newsletter have not sent in their dues, and to that 39.1% I want to encourage you to please sent in your dues today, if you wait you might forget. That 39.1% 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 979 people receiving this newsletter pay their dues we would have \$9,790 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. Out of the 596 that are now paid up, 307 of them will need to renew their dues this July, for these people I'll put a note on the mailing lable, MEMBER, RENEW JULY 91.

It would really be great if we could get most of the 2067 people we have located to decide to join our Association, so if you have any friends listed in the 1990-91 Directory, that most of you received, that does not have an * beside their rank, please encourage them to join our Association. If we got 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 equipment and find many more people that we all want to locate. So please, everyone, consider yourself as a very important part of our membership committee and encourage others to join.

On the other side of this page is a membership form and also the form to order other item you might be interested. On page 25, 26 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.

You will notice that a few of the pages in this newsletter have the wrong page number on them, I apologize, some of it was miscommunication with my wife Deb, and on page 27, back page, numbered 23, I think my mind was just on vacation.

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NL 17

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

CASSETTE TAPE NL 17

Send me the cassette tape. By ordering this tape I agree not to copy them and to protect the copyrights for further distribution.

_____ "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

Send me _____ TOP TIGER PATCHES or COWBOY PATCHES
Send me _____ Top Tiger patches, or Send me _____ Cowboy Patches, at \$4 each.

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____

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

COLOR T-SHIRTS NL 17

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	_____ #09-02 118th AHC	_____ Large
_____ #11-02 120th AHC	_____ #12-02 121st AHC	_____ Ex-large
_____ #13-02 135th AHC	_____ #16-01 190th AHC	_____ XX-large
_____ #17-01 UTT (1962-1963)	_____ #17-02 UTT (1964)	_____ XXX-large
_____ #17-04 197AHC	_____ #17-05 334th AHC (1966-68)	

Send order to: 145th C.A.B.V.A., 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805
1-219-483-5149 Allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery, if not in stock. See page 25, 26
and 27 for T-shirt description.

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send me _____ THUNDERBIRD PATCHES NL 17
Send me _____ Thunderbird Patches at \$4 each

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____

Send order to: David Evans, _____

BATTALION HISTORY

LOW - SLOW - RELIABLE

18TH AVIATION COMPANY (OTTER)

The 18th and 135th Fixed Wing Avn Co stories are copied from the Army Otter-Caribou Assoc newsletter "Logbook".

Fort Riley, Kansas was the home of the BIG RED ONE (1st Infantry Division) when I was assigned there from Germany in late 1959. The first year in Riley as a ground duty assignment with an Infantry training company, which was a career necessity, and one which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Hungry to get back into a flying assignment, my request for transfer to the 18th Otter Company was approved. Upon reporting, the Commanding Officer advised of my pending assignment as a Flight Platoon Leader. A few weeks later a summons to his office revealed a change in plans. I was to replace his departing, school trained maintenance officer, ie, Service Platoon Commander. Protesting that I was not maintenance qualified was to no avail.

While settling in and getting acquainted with the platoon members, and in discussions with unit pilots and crews, a serious problem was brought to my attention for resolution. In the previous 18 months a total of 12 unit Otters had either been involved in emergency forced landings, or precautionary landings due to total or partial loss of engine power.

Our platoon team, consisting of Platoon Sergeant Snyder, Flight Line Chief Holly, Technical Inspector Helbing, and myself, were determined to solve the problem. We began with in-depth reviews of aircraft maintenance histories, precautionary and forced landing reports and more discussions with crew members involved in the mishaps. Each incident was thoroughly examined based on available documentation and recollections by crews.

Incidentally, our Otter unit was blessed with a great group of remarkably experienced aviators, many with Korea and WWII service. Those at the controls at the time of the 12 potential disasters had saved all 12 without damage, destruction, injury or loss of life. Some help was provided by the lay of the terrain in the general area we flew, the relatively flat parts of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Our guys had been setting planes down in corn or wheat fields and off the end of runways, when engine power was reduced or completely lost.

As a result of our extensive, intensive priority research, our team developed evidence of three potentially dangerous problems. First, in some power losses, records revealed cracks between the spark plug holes in the engine cylinders. Second, push-pull rods were bending beyond tolerances or ball ends were failing. And third, cylinders were not factory stamped with the numbered of hours they had accumulated at their previous overhauls. Consequently, total cylinders hours could not be determined and cylinders aged beyond their design limits, were failing.

It was decided between our unit's staff and the staff of our third echelon support company, the 339th, with the concurrence of the battalion commander and staff, that we would tear down three Otter engines, those with the most hours since rebuild. The 339th crews, supported by the Otter crew chiefs, began day and night crew shifts to expedite the process of determining the existing condition of our fleet of nineteen engines.

Within several weeks we had indisputable evidence that our research findings were supported by the engine tear-down findings learned in the 339th shop. An average of 33% of cylinders and/or push-pull rods failed to meet the criteria spelled out in the tech manual. This average remained constant for all engines upon tear-down inspection.

During this time of inspection and searching, a new Commanding Officer took over the 18th. He and I had a most memorable meeting when he walked into my office wearing a very unpleasant expression. He let loose with a powerful gnashing and lashing and wanted to know "what was wrong with our maintenance." Fortunately, the information was opened up, spread sheet fashion, on my desk. He calmed down when we advised him of our findings to date and our efforts to correct the problems, and immediately became supportive and remained so throughout our association.

It was then that I learned he had just come from the scene of "mishap number 13" in which he was the primary participant. While doing some solo touch-and-go flying as part of his local checkout, he had experienced engine failure and had to make a deadstick landing.

As a result of our findings I recommended that all our Otters be grounded. This was approved by the company and battalion CO's with the knowledge of the 1st Infantry Division CG. A recommendation for world-wide grounding of all Otters in the Army inventory was also approved and sent to appropriate commands. Remember, you ole Otter crew members -- the year was 1961!

However, this world-wide grounding recommendation fueled a feud between our command and the powers that be in the Aviation Material Command, the DeHavilland people and the Pratt and Whitney experts. They didn't believe us initially. But we were proved right in our assessment after many heated meetings when our substantiated evidence was presented.

In short order, between the initiative of the 339th crews and the backup support from the Army Depot at Eagle Mountain Lake, Texas, all of our engines were rebuilt within a few months. In effect, we had the equivalent of new Otter engines.

Our unit CO approved another recommendation to perform night maintenance, once our aircraft were returned from engine overhaul. By performing the majority of maintenance at night, our aircraft availability and daytime flying hours, we believed, should be significantly increased. That's exactly what happened.

We were a Strategic Army Command (STRAC) unit, ready to be deployed anywhere in the world on short notice. When the Pentagon staff saw our aircraft availability rate had increased well above that of all other existing Otter units, we had a visit from Major Ken Mertel. He was apparently convinced with what he saw. We were not fudging. Shortly after he returned to the Pentagon we were ordered to Southeast Asia, country unspecified. It was 23 December 1961.

In early January 1962, we loaded with our aircraft at the Navy docks at Oakland, Cal. on the USNS Core, a WWII vintage "jeep" carrier, accompanied by our 339th support maintenance element.

All 18th Otter crew-members were thankful for the discoveries which led to our rebuilt engines, especially when they saw the extensive mountainous and jungle covered terrain we would be flying over, and the monsoon rains we would be flying in throughout South Viet Nam. Our units, having experienced 13 forced or precautionary landings in the precious 18 months, had exactly ZERO for our 12 month tour, (except for one from another cause, but that's another story).

ECHOS FROM THE PAST

On July 1, 1965 at Fort Benning, Georgia, the 516th Transport Airplane Company was re-designated as the 135th Aviation Company. Reorganization was completed by the end of September. Major Marvin E. Childers assumed Command of the 135th on 25 September 1965. The unit was selected to deploy to Viet Nam and spent October, November and December in preparation.

The main body deployed by sea on the 8th of December with the advanced party by air on the 15th. Both parties joined at Qui Nhon on 31 December 1965. The flight crews departed Fort Benning with 18 Caribou aircraft on the 3rd of January 1966 for the west coast and trans-Pacific flight to Viet Nam. The aircraft arrived at Qui Nhon on the 23rd of January 1966 setting a record for the longest flight by the largest number of army aircraft.

Five days later, on the 28th of January, the 135th flew its first combat mission, a medevac, for the 1st Cav. from Bong Son. The 135th was assigned to the 14th Aviation Bn. 12th Avn. Group in February 1966. On March 3rd the 135th moved from Qui Nhon to Dong Ba Tin and was assigned to the 10th Aviation Bn., 17th Avn. Group. They had their first major accident on 16 March 1966 while executing a LOLEX at Tuy Hoa (no particulars given).

On April 19, 1966 the 135th received word that the Caribou were to be transferred to the U.S. Air Force. They continued normal combat operations awaiting the transfer. The first two Air Force Officers, LTC Albert P. Mercogliano and Major Jacobs, signed in at the 135th on 15 August. LTC Mercogliano would later assume command. The unit was transferred to the 223rd Aviation Bn on the 4th of September. Numerous Air Force personnel were now arriving and being integrated into the unit.

The unit suffered a fatal accident 12 miles south east of Tuy Hoa on November 20, 1966. Captains John W. Clayton and Anthony P. Korpics, Sp5 Arnold C. Pearson, and TSGT Glendale D. Yates were killed.

On 31 December 1966, the Air Force officially assumed control of the 135th and the unit was designated the 458th TCS. All Army personnel were transferred with the exception of Major Childers, Martin and Ferguson, Captain Crowder, Johnston and Smith, CW2 James S. Dravis, and SFC James W. Jordan. These personnel remained until January 5, 1966 to close out the records and complete transfer of property.

The flight from Fort Benning, Georgia, to Qui Nhon, Viet Nam took 20 days covering 9,750 NM and was accomplished in 70 hours and 54 minutes flying time. The 135th flew 13,888 combat hours in 20,031 sorties carrying 133,170 passengers and 11.74 tons of cargo while under Army control in Viet Nam.

The 135th Avn Co was reformed at Ft Hood, TX and sent back to Vietnam as an Assault Hel Co. When assigned back to Vietnam it became an Experimental Military Unit, callsign EMU, half American and half Australian.

RIDING SHOTGUN IN VIETNAM

Reprinted from August 1987 V.H.C.M.A. Newsletter, which was reprinted from Army Information Digest, September 1965. And additional historical information added at the end.

Like the men who guarded the stagecoaches of the Old West, these men in the Far East fight off Vietnam Cong invaders while "Riding Shotgun In Vietnam".

To kill a tiger, learn the way of a tiger. That's the theme of the program for training "Shotgunners"- or officially Aerial Door Gunners- those tough, skilled soldiers who, in the tradition of their counterparts on the stagecoaches of the old West, are protecting their UH-1 "Sky-coaches" while flying over South Vietnam.

The Shotgun training program began early in 1963 when the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, requested combat-trained men to take over from the helicopter crews and mechanics the job of manning automatic weapons that protect the "Hueys" on operational missions.

The 25th Infantry ("Tropic Lighting") Division in Hawaii responded swiftly. Thus far, more than 2,000 officers and men from the division have completed this training and have seen action across the sight of their machinegun. Thirteen of them have given their lives. More than 100 have been wounded.

From its inception the Shotgun program has been entirely volunteer. Shotgun 1 was organized into five platoons, each with 20 men commanded by a lieutenant. These platoons were attached to the Aviation Companies requesting assistance.

Spiced with the imagination and initiative of the assigned officers and non-commissioned officers, the training has become centralized and sophisticated. Reports filed by teams returning from combat enable the 25th Aviation Battalion, which is charged with the Shotgun training program, to update its instruction continuously.

Because demands on the men serving as shotgunners are severe, each candidate must pass a class III flight physical examination in which vision, color blindness, hearing and other physical conditions are closely checked. If the individual displays any inability to operate under the many pressures that will face him, he is thanked for his interest but cut from the program. There are always plenty of volunteers to fill vacancies.

Training is primarily with the M60 machinegun, but the soldier also must be an expert with the .50 caliber machinegun, M79 grenade launcher, .45 caliber pistol, M3 machinegun, the .30 caliber M2 carbine and the new M16 rifle. Always present is the basic infantry weapon- the M14 complete with bayonet.

The four hour course in the function, care and maintenance of the M60 is an important part of the schedule. To test reaction of men in a tense situation, platoon leaders frequently pull rounds from ammunition belts to cause weapons stoppages. At other times a weapon may be incorrectly reassembled to force the next man to spot the error.

Recently it was decided that because of an increased number of night missions being reported from Vietnam, added emphasis would be placed on night weapons firing training. Additional emphasis would be placed on familiarization with the various gun mounts and also in free firing with the "Bungie cord", a resilient strap slung in the door of the craft to support the weapon.

As training progresses the men learn techniques of aerial observation and firing at various altitudes and how to respond with instantaneous but planned reactions. Accuracy is constantly emphasized especially in the 'descent to a landing zone' phase. While supplying suppressive fire, the shotgunners must keep an eye on accompanying support helicopters as they continue to assist troops from the craft- all in split seconds.

Constant re-evaluation, up-dating and evolution of the program is stressed. Reports from men returning from Vietnam provide experience in formation flying and gunnery. Artfully camouflaged, human-sized dummies recently replaced the old 50 gallon drum targets to provide greater accuracy in gunnery practice.

In addition to training in weaponry and tactics, the already jungle trained 25th Division men receive a thorough re-orientation in jungle survival. They also are taught to swim fully clothed and to maneuver in treacherous waters against the chance of being forced into such a treacherous waters against the chance of being forced into such a situation. Refresher training also is given in the Code of Conduct at the 25th Division's field training station. Intensive training also is given by the Division surgeon's office to prepare men to meet and overcome the health hazards of disease-infested jungle regions.

Today, the Shotgun X platoons in Vietnam are all trained by their parent Lightning Division to strike from the sky. Each is composed of three eight-man squads and a platoon sergeant, under command of a company grade officer.

As did their counterparts of old who fought off robbers and Indians in the wild and woolly west, they have learned the ways of a tiger in order to kill a tiger; and they prove every day that they can meet the guerrilla forces of what has become a wild and woolly East. They prove every day that men of the 25th Division are "Ready to Fight, Anywhere! Any Time!" Cpt Shepard, 25th Inf Div, Sept 1965.

Beginning in the spring of 1963, provisional Army infantry units - known variously as machine gun, aerial gunner, automatic rifle and door gunner platoons - were formed in Hawaii from among 25th Infantry Division personnel. They served 90 days temporary duty. Some 79 such platoons saw service incountry before U.S. combat troops "officially" arrived. In a letter from Robert C Watts, he said that there was about 50 aerial gunners from the 4th Cav. from Hawaii assigned to the 8th Trans Co about the time they changed over to the 117th AML Avn Co, around June 1963. So even though we have info about the shotgunners from the 25th Inf Div, many others also volunteered and served with our units for these mission. Thank them all, they did a very good and important job, and many died doing so.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~
BANDIT 3, 1969
INFO NEEDED

Fred Eckelmann who crewed Bandit 3, Miss Mini, until he left Vietnam in 1969, needs info on aircraft that replaced his when it crashed a few weeks after he left. Fred is still active with the Reserves and the second Bandit 3, serial number 015193, is now in the museum on his base. They asked Fred to help them with the history of the aircraft. We currently know that this aircraft arrived in the 118th in 1969 and crashed in 1970, was rebuilt incountry and assigned to the 120th AHC in 1971. We think the aircraft was originally a B model, converted to a C model in Vietnam, and has been converted back to a B model now. Anyone having any information about this aircraft please let me and Fred Eckelmann know as soon as possible. Fred Eckelmann, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS LIST

This is a list of the Association's officers elected at the 1991 Reunion at Ft Rucker, Alabama. These are the people who have volunteered their time to help manage the Association and make it grow. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered to be Regional Director/Coordinators, Unit Historians, and Reunion Chairman, they don't get much recognition but are a great help.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR

JAMES L BODKIN, [REDACTED]

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

DEBRA BODKIN, [REDACTED]

REGIONAL DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR

MI. - - - - GARY ALLISON, [REDACTED] 5

NC. - - - - ROBERT C ANDERSON, [REDACTED]

CA, NV, OR, WA- BILL BASNETT, [REDACTED]

IN. - - - - TOM COOPER, [REDACTED]

PA, NJ, DE- FRED ECKELMAN, [REDACTED]

CA. - - - - JOE FISHER, [REDACTED]

FL. - - - - WILLIAM FRAKER, [REDACTED]

AL, MS - - KENNETH GANN, [REDACTED]

PA, NJ, DE- ELVIN HELSEL, [REDACTED]

IL., WI.- - MIKE HOKE, [REDACTED]

PA.- - - - RICHARD HOOVER, RDI [REDACTED]

MN, IA - - LEE KERFELD, [REDACTED]

NY. - - - - JERRY KOZAK, [REDACTED]

IL, WI - - H. BRYAN LEWIS, [REDACTED]

NE. - - - - STEVEN LUXA, [REDACTED]

MA. - - - - GEORGE W OWENS, [REDACTED]

ND, SD - - QUENTIN PITRA, [REDACTED]

GA, SC - - GEORGE RAGAN, [REDACTED]

TX. - - - - JOHN SYNOWSKY, [REDACTED]

MO. - - - - DONALD WOODSON, [REDACTED]

MD. - - - - RUSSELL ZIEGLER, [REDACTED]

UNIT HISTORIANS

57 TRANS - EMMETT F KNIGHT, [REDACTED]

71 AHC - DOUGLAS WOMACK, [REDACTED]

74 AVN - JAMES E SPARENBERG, [REDACTED]

118AHC - FRED ECKELMAN, [REDACTED]

120AHC - JOSEPH NEALON, [REDACTED]

190AHC - VON KENNER, [REDACTED]

UTT, 68, 197, 334 JOHN SYNOWSKY, [REDACTED]

213AVN - LARRY R WHELLER, [REDACTED]

1993 REUNION CHAIRMAN

JAMES R THORNE, [REDACTED]

FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report covers 1 January 1992 to 31 March 1992. This report is intended to give you an over all look at what your dues and donation money is used for. If you have any questions or suggestions please let me know. I want you to know that your money is being used for the intended purpose.

Balance 31 December 1991.....\$1878.05

Total deposits 1/01/92 to 3/31/92 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)..\$1684.00

Total.....\$3562.05

Expenditures

Postage.....\$362.14

Long Distance Phone.....\$316.73

Miscellaneous (see note).....\$616.34

Fund Raiser Supplies.....\$176.32

Copy Machine Repair & Supplies.....\$307.10

Bank Fees.....\$ 31.96

Total expenditures.....\$1810.59 -\$1810.59

Balance 31 March 1992.....\$1751.46

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.

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 expenences down by only sending newsletters to those who have joined the association or just been located. NOTICE if you have not joined please do so, if not you probably will not recieve any more newsletters. A while back I sent out about 300 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 91-92, 92-93, 93-94 if the code is not on your file the printer will not print a mailing lable for you. Membership years are from 1 July to 30 June, now is the time to join or renew your membership. Our Association will continue for all those who join. Check the mailing lable on this newsletter for your membership status 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 will start 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.

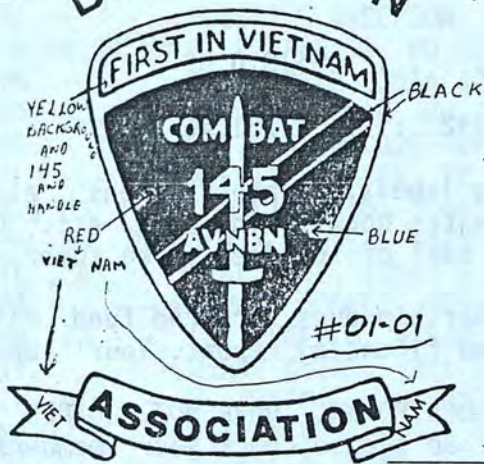
PLEASE JOIN TODAY, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

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 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

**118TH
ASSAULT**
BLUE BACKGROUND



**HELICOPTER
COMPANY**

13" HIGH
7 1/2" WIDE

**71ST
ASSAULT**



**HELICOPTER
COMPANY**

#08-03

117TH

**AIR MOBILE
LIGHT**
BLUE OUTLINE
GLOVE STRIPES
GRAY HAND
YELLOW LIGHTNING BOLTS



**AVIATION
COMPANY**

Page 19

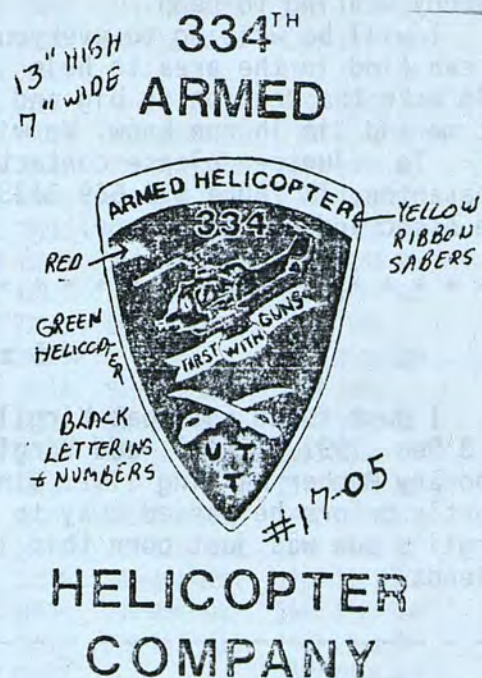
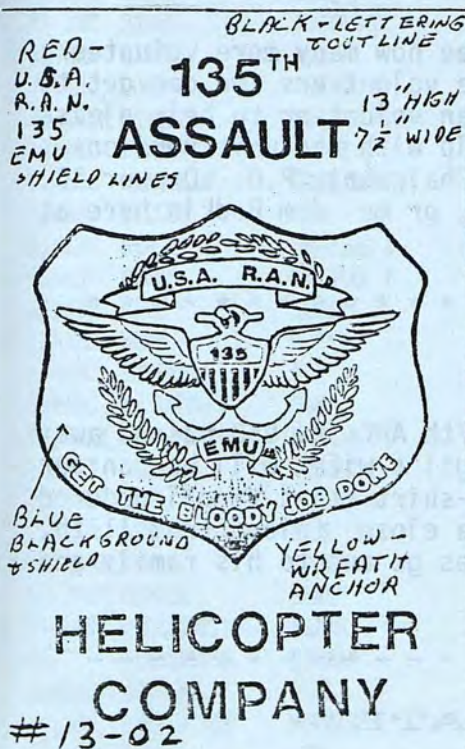
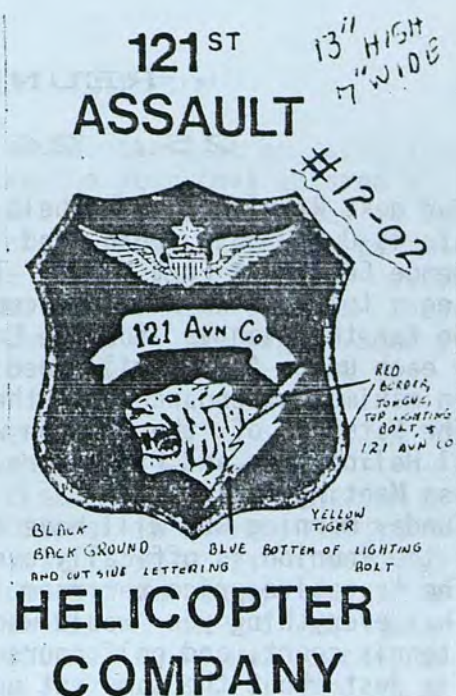
#08-04

117TH

ASSAULT
BLUE HAND & OUTLINE
RED 117 AHC
YELLOW LIGHTNING BOLTS



**HELICOPTER
COMPANY**



Both UTT patch designs & 197th AHC T-shirts available also

T-SHIRTS \$13 EACH, FULL COLOR

3, 4 or 5 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.

REUNION 93 UPDATE

25, 26, 27, JUNE 1993

Our next Reunion will be held in the Dallas / Ft Worth, TX area in the summer of 1993. The date is June 25th, 26th, and 27th, 1993 and the place will be the Greenoaks Inn and Conference Center in Fort Worth, Texas. The '93 Reunion will be a three day event. We are planning a tour of the Bell Helicopter plant and maybe a tour of Ft Walters.

So far the plan is for the Friday to be a Unit Reunion Day 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.

The tentative price per room is \$52.00 per night and the hotel is state of the art. The hotel has everything you would want in a hotel and more, restaurant, bar, pool, work out room, tennis court, and golf course. For those that were at the 1989 Reunion in Denver this hotel is just about the same set up.

Mark your calendars and make your plans to attend. This one will really be good and big also. Our Reunion committee will be working on setting up some discount air fares and one of our members Don Morris, from Don's RV Service will be checking the campgrounds for us for anybody wanting to camp.

I will be writing to everyone we have located in Texas to see how many more 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 Thorne know. We will especially need volunteers help with the unit reunions.

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

Virgil Whitaker

I just found out that Virgil Whitaker who served with the 117th AHC in 1968 passed away on 3 Dec 1991. I will add Virgil to our memorial list and Virgil's wife will be on our Honorary Member mailing list. Virgil's wife sent the 117th AHC T-shirt that Virgil ordered shortly before he passed away to another of our members who was a close friend from 117th. Virgil's son was just born this last April 10, 1992. My condolences go out to his family and friends.

~~~~~

### BACK-UP ADDRESS UPDATE

Since forming our Association 5 & 1/2 years ago we have lost contact with about 100 of the people we had located. Just recently one of our members called me to see if I had a current address for another former member we had lost contact with, fortunately I had a back-up address for his mother. When we first started locating people I sent them a form for personal information asking for a back-up address incase they moved, and info about the units they served with in Vietnam. The caller asked why I didn't send out and maintain those forms anymore, and I didn't have a good answer. So inclosed in the last newsletter was a Personal Information Form, just incase we ever lose contact with you. So if you haven't done so, please fill out the form and sent it back to me. On the back of the form is another form about volunteering to help with the 93' Reunion and suggestions for future Reunions. We especially need your input and ideas for future Reunion after the 93 Reunion.



## NEW PEOPLE LOCATED LIST

28 MAY 1992

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 |
|---------|------------|----------------|--------|----------------|----------|-------|------|------|------|
| HHD     | SHAHBAZIAN | RON            |        | SANTA BARBARA  | CA 93101 |       | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| HHC     | LOCATELLI  | STEPHEN R.     |        | CONIFER        | CO 80433 |       | 1969 | 1970 | OF*  |
| 68 AHC  | BACA       | THOMAS A       |        | ALBUQUERQUE    | NM 87107 |       | 1966 | 1967 | WO   |
| 68 AHC  | CADDO      | CLAUDE         |        | CLAREMORE      | OK 74017 |       | 1968 | 1969 | EM*  |
| 68 AHC  | KROMBIEN   | GRAY           |        | PORTLAND       | OR 97212 |       | 1967 | 1968 | EM*  |
| 68 AHC  | MARTIN     | MICHAEL        |        | VERO BEACH     | FL 32960 |       | 1968 | 1970 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | COLLINSON  | RICHARD        |        | MILWAUKIE      | OR 97267 |       | 1970 | 1970 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | RAFFERTY   | STEVE          |        | SAN LORENZO    | CA 94580 |       | 1970 | 1971 | EM*  |
| 68 AHC  | BURNS      | PETER G        |        | TEMPE          | AZ 85282 |       | 1970 | 1971 | OF*  |
| 68 AHC  | MEEKS      | BILL           |        | TULSA          | OK 74129 |       | 1971 | 1972 |      |
| 71 AHC  | BROWN      | THOMAS O       |        | ROCKWALL       | TX 75087 |       | 1968 | 1970 | EM   |
| 117AHC  | HAZEN      | ROB            |        | RENO           | NV 89506 |       | 1969 | 1970 | EM*  |
| 117AHC  | LORD       | ELBERT M       |        | MEMPHIS        | TN 38128 |       | 1972 | 1972 | EM   |
| 33 TRAN | MAXWELL    | EUGENE "TERRY" |        | DAYTONA BEACH  | FL 32127 |       | 1962 | 1963 |      |
| 118AHC  | KNIGHTEN   | EDDIE          |        | BROKEN ARROW   | OK 74011 |       | 1965 | 1966 | EM*  |
| 118AHC  | BRADSHAW   | JOHN D         |        | LEWISVILLE     | TX 75067 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | MILLER     | CARL           |        | FINDLAY        | OH 45840 |       | 1969 | 1970 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | RAMPEY     | CHARLES A      |        | COLUMBIA       | SC 29210 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO*  |
| 118AHC  | BURKE      | MICHAEL F      |        | FORT WAYNE     | IN 46835 |       | 1968 | 1969 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | RICH       | ROBERT A       |        | NOVI           | MI 48275 |       | 1968 | 1969 | WO   |
| 118AHC  | WEBB       | JERRY          |        | CANEHILL       | AR 72717 |       | 1968 | 1969 |      |
| 119AHC  | ROBERTS    | JIM            |        | ELIZABETH      | WV 26143 |       | 1965 | 1966 | EM*  |
| 119AHC  | Mc INTOSH  | DON            |        | TULSA          | OK 74014 |       | 1967 | 1968 |      |
| 57 TRAN | HARRINGTON | NORMAN         |        | FAYETTEVILLE   | NC 28314 |       | 1962 | 1962 | EM   |
| 120AVN  | CACKLEY    | DONALD P       |        | KEOKUK         | IA 52632 |       | 1963 | 1964 | EM   |
| 120AVN  | LORD       | ELBERT M       |        | MEMPHIS        | TN 38128 |       | 1972 | 1973 | EM   |
| 120AHC  | BEARD      | NEAL G         |        | BELLEVUE       | WA 98007 |       | 1972 | 1972 | WO   |
| 93 TRAN | ROSIER     | JAMES E        |        | MOBILE         | AL 36695 |       | 1961 | 1962 | EM   |
| 93 TRAN | SINGER     | HENRY          |        | SHALIMAR       | FL 32579 |       | 1962 | 1963 | WO*  |
| 147AVN  | BIERSDORF  | FRANK          |        | MONTGOMERY     | IL 60538 |       | 1965 | 1966 | EM*  |
| UTT     | HARRINGTON | NORMAN         |        | FAYETTEVILLE   | NC 28314 |       | 1963 | 1963 | EM   |
| 334AHC  | MANGINI    | PAUL           |        | MIDDLETOWN     | CT 06457 |       | 1967 | 1968 | WO*  |
| 335AHC  | HARRINGTON | NORMAN         |        | FAYETTEVILLE   | NC 28314 |       | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| 335AHC  | BISSON     | DON            |        | HARKER HEIGHTS | TX 76543 |       | 1969 | 1970 | WO   |
| 339TRAN | BRACKIN    | JAMES          |        | SAND SPRINGS   | OK 74063 |       | 1963 | 1964 |      |

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

We would like for you to join our Association first,- 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, Pennngrove, CA 94951

International Liaison Pilot & Aircraft Assn, (ILPA), 16518 Ledgestone, TX 78232 512-490-ILPA



## 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 & COWBOY PATCHES

We have a few reproduction Top Tiger patches left, they sell for \$4 each. We also have a few reproduction 335th AHC, 1971 COWBOY patches to sell to raise funds. The Cowboy patch is the 3 & 1/2" round one of the Cowboy riding a huey and lassoing a VC. The patches sell for \$4 each. See order form inserted in newsletter.

### VIETNAM VETERANS TIES

Frank Kemp who served with the UTT in 1963-64 sent in 10 ties, 5 navy blue and 5 burgundy, with Vietnam Campaign Ribbons woven in. Frank has been selling these ties for \$22 each to help raise funds for a Vietnam Vets Outreach program. Frank donated these ties to raise funds to have the UTT pocket patch reproduced. When these ties are sold I can get more, so order yours today. See Frank's letter on page 5. See order form inserted in newsletter.

### CASSETTE TAPES

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". The next tape is called Combat Assault, on this tape Robert Moody takes you along with the EMUs and Tiapans, 135th AHC, on a Combat Assault mission when they catch the NVA. The next tape is Songs of the UTT, this tape tells of the life and missions of Vietnam Helicopter crews, recorded in Vietnam in 1965, with a country flavor. These tapes 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

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

The 1991 Reunion Committee had hats made for the Reunion and I have about 70 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 91 Reunion Committee has already raised for us. Order one today, they should go fast at that price.

### 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.