

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 reunion, writing unit and battalion history, and to re-establish the comradery of the Battalion, units and detachment 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 45 Transportation Battalion in Vietnam, the units listed below:

**Aviation Companies**

HHC, 1st, 18th, 25th, 68th, 71st, 73rd, 74th, 114th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 135th, 147th, 184th, 190th,  
UTT-68th-197th-334th, 213th, 242nd, 335th, CoA/82nd, CoA/501st, 57th Med Det

**Transportation Companies**

8th, 33rd, 57th, 81st, 93rd, 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 with us. To us a unit is a unit no matter what other Battalion it may have been assigned to before or after serving with the 145th.

**CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP STATUS** ON THE MAILING LABEL  
the date on the label is the **expiration date**

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

**145th COMBAT AVIATION Bn VN ASSOC  
2534 N. BONITA AVE  
PANAMA CITY, FL  
32405-5226**

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

PANAMA CITY FL  
PERMIT NO. 143

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**PHONE # 1-850-747-4710  
jbodkin145@aol.com  
NL37 March 2002**

MEMBER JULY 1996

36830-7403



# 145th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (VIETNAM) ASSOCIATION

## "OLD WARRIORS"

### NEWSLETTER

March 2002, NL37

2534 N. Bonita Ave, Panama City, FL 32405

1-850-747-4710

[jbodkin145@aol.com](mailto:jbodkin145@aol.com)

Hello. It's been a while, again. Yes we are all still alive and kicking and **please note the new address on the top of this page and on the cover, again.** The last item sent out was the February 2001 newsletter. And I really will try to do better about getting the newsletter out sooner.

Our youngest son Bob had an accident just before graduating from high school last year, 10 May, 2001. One girl was in a coma for about 7 weeks. When we went to the Reunion last summer we thought everything was taken care of, but that fell through. Now we have law suites going on all over the place, very depressing and distracting. Because of the law suites I can't comment on the accident but if you have an internet connection the stories can be found at <http://www.newsherald.com> and where it says choose below click on archives, then news herald online archives, then type in 05/11/01 to 05/12/01. At this point it is just about money.

To help out with keeping the Directory accurate, if you move please let me know, and remember those phone numbers, if they change let me know, if the phone company changes your area code let me know. This last year the area code changes have been overwhelming and non-ending. I think I'll have to print the directory even with the out dated area codes. With a warning that many area codes are wrong. If you have an e-mail address please send that in also.

To make it easier to get the newsletter sent out the membership/ order form is printed in the newsletter. To send in your membership dues or to order any items please **detach the entire form** from the newsletter and sent it in.

This newsletter has the normal articles in it, Readers Response, E-mail, Battalion/Unit History, Financial Report, New People Located, 2001 Reunion Update, and Fund Raiser items on

the back. And as always, if any of you have any sets of orders that has any information about anyone who served with the unit listed on the cover of this newsletter, please send me a copy, if you haven't done so already.

The Readers Response and E-mail sections of the newsletter has been very popular with our readers so let me take a few minutes and explain a little about it. Many start off with "Dear Jim" but really are intended for all of our reader. Many of the letters I can't answer all the questions, many of the questions can only be answered by people that were there at the time, or by people with more Army or aviation experience than me. Some are letters relating a story of interest to the writer, and very often of interest to each of our readers.

We need to think about when and where to have future Reunions and I have been remiss in not asking everyone to write in their suggestions for future Reunion sites. We voted at the 1997 Reunion to have every second Reunion at Ft. Rucker, AL. Our next Reunion will be at Ft Rucker in June 2003. Please send in your suggestions, thoughts, and ideas. We need your input to put together a successful Reunion. Let us know what you would like to see and do, and any ideas for future Reunions. The 2005 Reunion is set for the Kansas City area with Joe Boggs chairman.

If you are on-line please take a few minutes and check out the 145th web sites: Brian Wizard does the 145<sup>th</sup> page for us, at no cost to our Association, it is really great, check it out. Follow the 145th link on this page and you will find links to other unit web sites too.

<http://www.brianwizard.com>

**James L Bodkin, Editor**



# 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 answer to the letters. After this section is the E-mail that has come in, please read it also.

JAN 2001

Dear Jim & Debby: I know Frank hasn't been in touch with you for some time but he has been quite ill. He has been in hospitals and nursing homes for the past three years. He passed away on Thanksgiving day Nov 23, 2000. His diabetes coupled with 7 heart attacks was just too much for him. He was buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix with full military honors. Age 71. He is survived by wife Mary of Apache Junction, AZ and daughter Vicki of Phoenix. Thanks so much for keeping in touch with him. **Mrs Mary Waple,** [REDACTED]

(ED NOTE) Thank you Mary for letting us know. Frank always seemed like such a character when I met him at the Reunions he attended. He was one of those people that you could give a case of C-rations to and he could bring back a CH-47 load of supplies, and ask if you needed more. Frank always brought my wife and kids an outfit or some jewelry that he had traded for to each Reunion. We will miss Frank and his very interesting stories. Frank served with the 339 Trans Co in 1962 EM.

**Bill Tankersley** sent in this obit; Samuel Owen McReynolds, 66, died Friday, June 18, 1999, from injuries sustained in an aircraft crash at Altus. He was a native of New Blaine. He retire from the US Army as a lieutenant colonel, was a pilot in the 101st Airborne Div having served two tours in Vietnam, and was the recipient of distinguish honors and medal throughout his career. He

was a graduate of Arkansas Tech University in University in Russellville and the Officer Command School at Leavenworth, KS, and also did graduate work at the University Of Tennessee. After retirement he ventured into private enterprises with the most recent being the designing and developing of an Airport Community at Altus. Survivors include his widow, Winnie; daughter, Peggy Sneegas; son, John McReynolds, two stepsons Roy and David Slocum; and eight grandchildren. The body was cremated.

(ED NOTE) Thank you Bill. I didn't know Sam but Bill said that Sam was very highly respected by those that had served with him.

Jim, Here's \$50, \$30 for 2 yr Membership and \$20 donation. Sorry I can't make the Reunion in D.C. but I'm already committed to another function that weekend. See you in Alabama in 2003. Thank you for everything.

**Ken Fujimoto**

(ED NOTE) Thank you Ken.

Jim, I just got a copy of the 145th Newsletter! Wow! I served in Vietnam in 69-70. After moving around a little, I ended up in Bien Hoa, as a crew chief - doorgunner in the 190th AHC (Gladiators). I'm sending a check for life membership plus a little extra for the memorial, & some goodies for myself. I'd like to thank Von Kenner for sending this copy to me. He has helped me in so many ways! He's also a 190th AHC Gladiator who together in the Nam we did fly and work. So thanks Von! I'm looking forward to the 2001 Reunion. Thanks for



listening, keep up the good work. Sincerely,  
**Dave Dawson (Rocky)** 190th AHC 69-70  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Rocky, good meeting  
you at the Reunion, and thank you for the  
\$50 donation for the memorials.

Jim, While Lee was cleaning out his wallet  
he noticed his dues had expired for this. Not  
happy he has asked me to write and forward  
\$40 for dues. If more is needed let me know.  
Some how I have misplaced the notice you  
had sent. All information is the same:  
**Clifton L Malm,** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Thank You, Candy  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Candy.

Feb 2001

Jim: This is Bob Kennedy, and I'm writing to  
you to find out the cost of the tours and sit  
down meals. Since I last saw you in 1995 I  
had an accident involving my simi tractor  
trailer. To make a long story short, it left me  
paralyzed from the waist down. Joan, my  
wife, had to get a job at age 53 and support  
the two of us. She to this day is supporting  
us. I have not received any compensation  
for the accident. Not even workmans  
compensation. Joan has taken it on the chin  
big time. Her first job paid \$5.80 an hour.  
Now she changed jobs and earns \$8.50 an  
hour. After fighting with the government of  
the U.S., for 3 yrs, those bastards now  
believe this old Vietnam Vet is disabled. Out  
of the goodness of their hearts I'll get Social  
Security in Jan, 2001. After 3 surgeries and  
3 years of physical therapy, I can walk with a  
cane for short distances. Bottom line Joan  
needs to know how much this is going to  
cost. The cost of the tours, meals, and the  
cost of lodging. Also the location of the  
hotel. Last but not least, how soon she has  
to have the money together to send to you  
to confirm our attendance. P.S. are you  
going to be selling the 145th unit patch.  
Sincerely, **Bob Kennedy**

(ED NOTE) Thank you Bob and it was nice  
seeing you at the Reunion and I'm hoping  
for a full recovery for you. And I haven't  
forgotten I owe the first few 145th patches  
we have made.

Jim, Its been 20 years since we've last  
spoken, its great to see you are still keeping  
the 145th alive and well. I recently have  
moved from my home town Seattle, to the  
Scottsdale AZ area, I see where you have  
also made a move. Like you I also have kids  
and such a move is never easy but seems to  
work things out. The reason I'm writing you  
is to get back with the Assoc. I'm sending  
you a check to get that done. I talked to  
Nam buddy Lee Kerfeld (68th AHC 68-69)  
we talked for about an hour. He told me  
about you and your work with the 145th and  
your upcoming Reunions. You've done a  
great job of keeping it all going. I served with  
the 68th AHC from 9-68 to 9-69 mostly as a  
gunner. Hopefully I will be making the  
Reunion August 2001 please send info to:  
**Bob Alia,** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Jim, take care hopefully we will be  
meeting each other this summer. Bob Alia  
408-502-8007

(ED NOTE) Thank you Bob. It only been 10  
- 15 since we last spoke, but 32 since  
serving together in the 68th, seems like  
yesterday, and a life time ago.

Apr 2001

Hi Jim, Thanks for your efforts in keeping up  
with the "Old Warriors". I have enclosed a  
check to bring me up to date on my dues.  
Sincerely **Charlie Edwards**, Saber 6, Sep  
68 - Mar 69 334th Aerial Weapons Co  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Charlie.

May 2001

Jim, here are a couple of years worth of  
dues and some for donations as indicated  
on the form. In the Feb newsletter Pat  
Delavan mentioned a 1964 television special  
called "Letters from Vietnam". If the  
Association is able to get it to sell copies, I  
would buy one. I saw that program when it  
first was shown. I had just arrived at the 11th  
Air Assault Div at Fort Benning. A few  
months later I was assigned to an Aviation  
Company which was formed from the 11th  
AAD to send to Vietnam. When we arrived in  
Saigon that Fall, the Company was broken  
up and the pilots sent to units throughout  
Vietnam. At the meeting where assignment



were announced, we were give the opportunity to volunteer for an "all volunteer" Armed Helicopter Company, the UTT (about that time it was re-designated the 68th, and later the 197th then the 334th). I recognized it from the television show and volunteered. So did 3 other pilots. Sadly, all 3 of the their names are on the Wall. So, the television program had a major influence on my life and that of many others. I'd love to have a copy to show to my grandson. Thank You.

**Jerry Childers.** [REDACTED]

(ED NOTE) Thank you Jerry. I still haven't gotten around to act on Pat Delavan suggestion yet and I would accept any volunteers who would contact them on behalf of our Association.

Thank you for the roster & newsletter. Enclosed find my check for dues. I served with the 93rd Trans from Oct 1962 to July 1963. I was operations officer till July 1963 & then was transferred to Bn HQ to help establish a Bn C.O.C. The 45th Trans Bn was inactivated 16 Sept 63 & the 145th was activated on 13 Sept 63. To establish the C.O.C. Bn Co pulled opn officers from 57th, 33rd, & 93rd Trans Co's to Bn HQ. **Leon Curry**

(ED NOTE) Thank you Leon.

June 2001

Jim, I just got the latest newsletter and it just keeps getting better! I would like to comment on the story on page 12 (NL36). I remember the accident involving the loss of the tail boom on one of our aircraft, and I know sp4 Mogistro. We had to do a special inspection of the four mounting bolts which held the tail boom to the body of the huey. There had been several incidents of huey crashing due to tail boom losses. We had to do dye penitent inspections of the bolts and the mounting pads; to be sure they were in good condition. We found many damaged mounting pads and cracked bolts. I remember that certain model year huey had these problems which were eventually fixed with the newer model huey. Our maintenance people were always finding many problems before they became a major

failure. I heard a story while I was there about LTC Honour, I don't know if this is true or not. I think he was killed in a helicopter crash while flying under a bridge! The VC would dangle steel cables down from the deck to snag the main rotor system. I also heard that LTC Honour had just given his men orders "not to fly under bridges". I guess he thought the grim reaper was looking the other way. We are just getting over a serious hail storm. We had our whole roof replaced because the hail stones were very large. My new Dodge van has a lot of dents in it but I have not gotten it fixed yet. Well that's all for now, hope all is well with you and yours. **Ted & Mitchie Hanrahan**

(ED NOTE) Hi Ted, good to hear from you. From my understanding it was power lines that got the aircraft that LTC Honour was flying, not VC. It's a long story that still upsets many members of our Assoc, a senseless loss of many lives.

Aug 2001

Jim, Just arrived from Washington reunion a few days ago. I really enjoyed the time with all the old guys from 3 units I was with. I commend Gen McNair for the effort he did for all, and to make it such a success. Time does change a lot of things, especially the looks, girths, and all other things. The only problem I seem to have was getting coffee in the morning. But that was settled the third day. I just called and ordered some extra filters and they brought them right up. Also, just realized that I was behind in my dues, so please credit this to my membership, and I will catch up on more later. Hope you and the wife and son made it home safely. I hope to get down to see you some time soon. Again, thanks for the real hospitality at the reunion. **Tillman Davis**

(ED NOTE) Thank you Top. You could tell by the reception you received that you are truly respected for the job you did as 1st Sgt for the 118th and 68th. We hope to see you at many more Reunions. You know the way to my house and please feel free to stop by anytime you get a chance.



## 145th Combat Aviation Battalion Web Site

I want everyone to know that we have a web site, its <http://www.brianwizard.com/>, and click the 145<sup>th</sup> button, in many cases it is the first contact we have with many of the people that served in our units. Brian Wizard, (door gunner on the 118<sup>th</sup> smoke ship), put together and maintains the web page for us and hasn't ask the Association to help defray any of his cost. I know it cost Brian a few thousand a year to do this for us. Brian also uses his web page to sell some of his books and other items. I would like to encourage everyone to check out and purchase any items you may want. This would greatly help Brian to defray the cost to maintain the web page. Brian also has some e-books you can download for just a few dollars, which would also help to defray the cost, so please help out if you can. I also talked to Brian about having a section for supporter or contributors, or maybe selling links from his page to other pages. If you have any ideas please contact Brian, we definitely need to keep the site up and running. And for those of you that only have internet access at work this is a clean web site that won't leave any porno site addresses on the computer. And while you are there please leave a short "Hi" message for all your friends, on the bottom of the page there is a sign in and view sign ins button, please use them. There is also a button for all the Battalion History Reports from the newsletters if you would like to do a little research. Brian's e-mail is **BrianWizardcom@aol.com**

## E-MAIL

The E-mail section of the newsletter is just like the Readers Response section except it is sent in through e-mail. Normally it is arranged by date received, but this time I have rearrange some into groups that relate to each other. There is 6 groups, they are 1: Miscellaneous, 2: New People, 3: Info & other web sites, 4: E-mail address changes, 5: Address changes, 6: 118<sup>th</sup> Wed Site. This grouping should help cut down on the amount of Editorial Notes (Ed Note). Since the late newsletter I have received hundreds of e-mails and can't publish them all but they are appreciated.

Subj: Major Pharies B Petty Date: 12/29/00  
From: DNMIPETTY To: JBodkin145  
Please contact me for information about Major Pharies B. Petty who was a member of the 145th Aviation Battalion. I would also be interested in contacting Col Jewel and Major Steve Chenault.  
Thanks, **Doris Petty**  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Doris, hopefully Jim Jewel will contact you.

Subj: Happy New Year Top Tigers and Mustangs  
Date: 12/30/00 From: GRWEBSTER  
Am spending the holidays in southern France with my new wife at her house and was very surprised to see on French TV a clip of our new president elect saluting the ground crew with a crisp correct military snap to it {i.e. an OCS or WOC one- not Gooch's}. I had forgotten that Bush was a National Guard pilot. I must say that each time I saw our current president's fake salute on TV it made my skin crawl - but I know that brings up politics between all of us and is, perhaps, as inappropriate now as it was 'back then'. Perhaps. So I wish all of you a very happy

New Year! By the way- note Stanley Christian's new email address,

[REDACTED] He swears he has bought a new computer and is now getting emails. We'll see, eh Butch! Clear right, **Geoffrey R. Webster**, AKA: Mustang 6 {for 2 months until I suckered Daniels into it}, Smokey {often, and always when Crain was AWOL}, Checkmate CC {frequently and especially when Roy Watson could be my gunner}, Top Tiger 3 {until I suckered Gooch into the job}, Top Tiger 6 {for the one peaceful week that Saatoff was on I&I}, and Top Tiger 5 {for the last 9 months until I DEROSed}

Subj: new email addresses Date: 12/30/00 From: **GRWEBSTER**

Just got a few of my last emails returned for invalid addresses i.e. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I know chat bob {Bob Crain} gets his also through [REDACTED] but don't have a clue who the others were and where they are now? Gooch has about three of them and I think the current



one is [REDACTED] Doug, is this the one to use? Bob, are you keeping a current list? Anyone have Sheehan's? NASA no? Clear left (ED NOTE) Thank you GW. sgthuey, that's Gary Allison @ [REDACTED]

Subj: RE: new email addresses Date: 1/1/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Doug Gooch)  
Hope everyone had a great New Year's--now if Oklahoma can win the national championship, the year will be perfect. My e-mail address is: [REDACTED] ---please disregard any others that you might have. Gooch  
(ED NOTE) Thank You Doug.

Subj: Cobra Nett Team 68-69 Date: 1/5/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Paul A Rottmann) To: [REDACTED]  
James, I was a crew chief with the Cobra Nett team 68-69. Have you heard from any Nett members. I would be interested in communicating with them. Were you by chance ever in the Utah National Guard? I remember a Bodkin in the late 70's I think. I may be reached at [REDACTED]. God Bless, **Paul Rottmann**  
(ED NOTE) Hi Paul. Never in the Utah NG. There is a Bill Bodkin member of VHPA from Colorado that might have been. He might be a very distant cousin of mine.

Subj: FRANZ Date: 1/10/01  
From: [REDACTED] (John R. Gaither)  
To: [REDACTED] (Jim Bodkin)  
JIM, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?? I HAVE KEPT BUSY AND HAD A GOOD CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. I NEVER DID HEAR BACK FROM YOU ON MY DUES. I THOUGHT THEY EXPIRED IN 2000. YES, NO???? ALSO, DO YOU HAVE A CURRENT PHONE NUMBER FOR STEWERT FRANZ?? HE WAS A FLT SURGEON. THANKS, **JOHN R. GAITHER**  
"RAZORBACK 80"  
(ED NOTE) Sorry John, I don't have a current number for him now.

Date: 1/15/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Phil Stanley) To: [REDACTED]

Rick Bradshaw, who served in the 135th AHC in 1968, died last summer. This Friday (1/19), at Rick's request, his ashes will be spread in Vietnam. This is a difficult time for Rick's family. If you would like to send some words of condolence to Pat Bradshaw, Rick's widow, she can be reached at: [REDACTED]  
Thanks **Phil Stanley** 135th AHC Oct. 67/May 68  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Phil.

Subj: Information Date: 1/18/01  
From: [REDACTED] (William Tankersley) To: [REDACTED]  
Added your email to my addresses, need current phone number of Ray Vining. Have sent Obituary of Samuel O McReynolds by regular Mail. I am quite sure that a lot of our members knew Sam McReynolds, he was highly liked and respected by all of the Em's and Officers who served with him. **Bill Tankersley** P.S. How about including your email address in all of correspondence. I hope to hell that's spelled right-- from now on Bill Tankersley  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Bill.

Subj: Re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update Date: 2/18/01  
From: JLCantu To: JBodkin145  
Hello James, I certainly will send you an update on Fitz's address if he answers my mail. I hope my letter to him will not be returned to me saying "wrong address." If he did move, I hope he left a forwarding address. Later my friend. **Joe Cantu**  
(ED NOTE) Joe was trying to contact Tim Fitzgerald 68th AHC 1970, last address in Mill Valley, CA and was working at the VA hospital there. If anyone has contact with him please let us know.

Subj: Re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update Date: 2/18/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Ralph Orlando) To: [REDACTED]  
Hi Jim & Deb, Hope you are finally settled in. Sounds like you had some rough times. I am on you list but my area code changed a few days ago for Daytona Beach. It is now FUN or 386 **Ralph Orlando** 118th Bandits  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Ralph.



Subj: 324th ASD, Spartan Tower, Bien Hoa Date: 2/19/01 From: AceHaven To: JBodkin145  
I was ATC tower operator, Spartan tower, 9/68 to 9/69 with the 324th Aviation Support Det. (ATC). There were maybe 20 controllers, and we lived in the hooch with the Pathfinders. I once rode with Raider 755 in the front seat of a Cobra on a dearmament run on VC island in the Dong Nai river, one of my better memories. **Ivan**  
(ED NOTE) Thank you Ivan

Subj: Reunion 2001 Date: 2/24/01  
From: JRol820412 To: JBodkin145  
Hi Jim, Em I to late to sign up for the 2001 reunion? I was looking at the form, and they wanted it returned by last October. I could not commit myself at that time. So, let me know, if you would please. My son, Luke, lives, and works in DC, so we thought we would make a vacation out of it at that time. So, if you would, let me now. Thanks, and we will talk later, **John Rollins**  
(118th, '68)  
(ED NOTE) It was good seeing you in DC.

Subj: Fw: A Perspective Date: 2/26/01  
From: [REDACTED] (**Virgil Burns**)  
On 18 February 2001, while racing for fame and fortune, Dale Earnhardt died in the last lap of the Daytona 500. It was surely a tragedy for his family, friends and fans. He was 49 years old with grown children, one, which was in the race. I am new to the NASCAR culture so much of what I know has come from the newspaper and TV. He was a winner and earned everything he had. This included more than "\$41 million in winnings and ten times that from endorsements and souvenir sales". He had a beautiful home and a private jet. He drove the most sophisticated cars allowed and every part was inspected and replaced as soon as there was any evidence of wear. This is normally fully funded by the car and team sponsors. Today, there is no TV station that does not constantly remind us of his tragic end and the radio already has a song of tribute to this winning driver. Nothing should be taken away from this man, he was a professional and the best in his profession. He was in a very dangerous business but the rewards were great. Two weeks ago seven U.S. Army soldiers died in a training accident when two UH-60 Blackhawk

helicopters collided during night maneuvers in Hawaii. The soldiers were all in their twenties, pilots, crewchiefs and infantrymen. Most of them lived in sub-standard housing. If you add their actual duty hours (in the field, deployed) they probably earn something close to minimum wage. The aircraft they were in were between 15 and 20 years old. Many times parts were not available to keep them in good shape due to funding. They were involved in the extremely dangerous business of flying in the Kuhuku mountains at night. It only gets worse when the weather moves in as it did that night. Most times no one is there with a yellow or red flag to slow things down when it gets critical. Their children were mostly toddlers who will lose all memory of who "Daddy" was as they grow up. They died training to defend our freedom. I take nothing away from Dale Earnhardt but ask you to perform this simple test. Ask any of your friends if they know who was the NASCAR driver killed on 18 February 2001. Then ask them if they can name one of the seven soldiers who died in Hawaii two weeks ago. 18 February 2001, Dale Earnhardt died driving for fame and glory at the Daytona 500. The nation mourns. Seven soldiers died training to protect our freedom. No one can remember their names and most don't even remember the incident.

(ED NOTE) I see your point Virgil. Since Sept 11 I hope people have more respect for the military, and they did for a while.

Subj: (no subject Date: 3/2/01  
From: JimThorne1 To: JBodkin145  
Jim: I have had to replace my hard drive and am now in the process of rebuilding some of my data bases. Please send me the web site for the 145th CAB. Thanks, **Jim Thorne**  
(ED NOTE) <http://www.brianwizard.com> and follow the 145th links.

Subj: Pilot Roster Date: 3/4/01  
From: JimThorne1 To: JBodkin145  
Jim, We are going to have another 118th pilots get together next year like we did in Atlanta in 1990. Would you be good enough to print out a 118th pilots roster from the 145 CAB database? If we come up with any names you don't have, I



will send them to you for addition to your master list. Thanks, **Jim Thorne**  
(ED NOTE) OK, keep me updated.

Subj: Givhan book signing at Ft. Rucker, 2 Mar 01 Date: 3/4/01

From: [REDACTED] (Jimbo)

From 1LT (ret.) **John B. Givhan**, WIA on 12 Apr 64, RVN: The U.S. Army Aviation Museum, Fort Rucker, Alabama - the date: March 2, 2001. Have you been there? I was on that date for a book signing. I delivered copies of my book **RICE AND COTTON: SOUTH VIETNAM AND SOUTH ALABAMA** to the gift shop for sale. Then, I stayed around for five hours to sign copies of my book as they were purchased, and I had many interesting conversations. Two helicopter classes graduated that day: a warrant officer candidate's class and a commissioned officer's class. Army Aviator wings were pinned on each graduate, male and female. I sat at a table in the lobby of the museum. An elderly gentleman approached me saying that he wanted a copy of my book. He had on a cap. The writing on it said: "World War II Veteran". I told him that the first two chapters of my book were dedicated to World War II veterans. He said that he was in The Battle of the Bulge. I saluted him. As I sat there, I could see the entrance to the Army Aviation Vietnam Memorial, a completely enclosed, dimly lit, solemn room with the names and dates of death of all U.S. Army Aviation men and women who died in the Vietnam War. My mind drifted. A number of the names on the walls of that Memorial Room graduated from helicopter flight school with me in 1963, or we served together in the Vietnam War. The young men and women with Army Aviator wings just pinned on were smiling as their proud parents, spouses, etc., looked on. I thought about what it must have been like during Rome's glory days when a young soldier was promoted in rank or otherwise honored. The Romans ruled the civilized world. They were a "superpower". Today, the U.S.A. is the only "superpower" on earth. The helicopters that these men and women will fly were not even dreamed of as late as say 1960. What will these very talented young men and women face? Will they have a "Memorial Room" someday? Now, they have in a Commander-In-Chief President

George W. Bush, a man they can be proud of. But, there will be unknown challenges just as there were for us in 1963. Practically every member of my flight school class got orders to go to Vietnam, a place we had never heard of and knew nothing about. And, there was a first for me on March 2, 2001. Two major generals were in attendance as guests: one, U.S. Army and one, U.S. Air Force. That was the first time I had ever been in the presence of two - two star - generals. A lot of brass. "Pray for these young men and women" The planet earth is still a very unstable place. There is the madman in Iraq to deal with. Communist China can become a "super power". Will America go the way of Rome? **John B. Givhan**, Rt 1 Box 21, Safford, AL 36773 (334) [REDACTED]

Subj: Neighbors Date: 3/5/01

From: [REDACTED] (Ron Manning) To: [REDACTED]

Hey Jim, I didn't realize you moved (or if I did I don't remember, I seem to have a really bad memory these days). Anyway, why don't you send a phone # and address and maybe we can get together for dinner some weekend? Still putting in my time at Ft Rucker and doing a lot of travelling in my job. I enjoy it and it keeps me in touch with lots of my Army buddies. Looking forward to hearing from you, **Ron Manning**  
(ED NOTE) Hi Ron, I'm Just a short ride down the road, drop by some time. Address and phone # on the cover.

Subj: **Deceased** Date: 4/7/01

From: Abbeyl22 To: JBodkin145

**Louis F. Litt**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] December 7, 1999

(ED NOTE) Louis served with the 114<sup>th</sup> in 1964-65 as a WO pilot.

Subj: Fw: 560th MP Co Date: 4/9/01

From: [REDACTED] (**John R. Gaither**)

Here is a list of MP's who flew as gunners. Do any of you recognize names on this list?? The below are the Air Medal recipients for the 560th. At least what is available via the scant records I have. An \* denotes Tan Son Nhut location that I am sure of, most of the others I have no idea of



their assignment/location while earning the flying hrs.

1966: PFC La Coco, SP/4 Rosenber, SP/4 Stewart (114 Avn. Co.), SP/4 Foster, 1st Sgt. Penvose, PFC Lacey, S/Sgt Luttrull, PFC Monre, SP4 Ryman, PFC Alpine, Lt Vaughan, Cpl. Gardner, Lt. Little (Bien Hoa), PFC Isom, PFC Woodall, Sgt Richards (114 Avn Co.), SP4 Hunter, SP4 Houchens (114 Avn Co), Lt Mitchell, SP4 Dankoff

1965: PFC Alpine, Capt Boland (nha trang), Sgt Cadleux, SP4 Clippenger, PFC Cole, SP4 Cool, SP4 Donaldson, SP4 Druer, SP4 Linsenberg, SSg Hager, 1/Sgt Hayes\*, SP4 Hughes, Cpl Kondra, SP4 Kovach, SP4 Legg, PFC Lysi, SP4 Farihugh, PFC Mooney, SP4 Oxendine, Capt Pike\*, Sgt Rainaldo, SP4 Sachin, Cpl Selix, SP Testa, Sgt Tucker, 1/Sgt Penvose, SP4 McGee, PFC Esselstyn

1964: PFC McCafferty, PFC Harrison, PFC Lensink, SP4 Houtz, Sgt Miller, SP4 Pease, SP4 Pursley, SP4 Desantis, SP4 Mooney, PFC Answorth, SP4 Diedrich, PFC Isbell, 1/Sgt Linkous\*, Cpl Lloyd, SP4 Taylor, PFC Donaldson, SP4 Pitts, PFC Walls, Sgt Carter, PFC Dooley, SP4 Dooley, SP4 Belford, PFC Gerner, PFC Sullivan, SP4 Kirkley, SP4 Hoffman, Cpl Hoffman, PFC Hood, PFC Leatherman, PFC Shea (KIA 114 Avn Co), PFC Holguin (KIA 114 Avn Co), Sgt Moore, Cpl Delrio, SP4 Reoms, SP4 Yarvote, PFC Barnett, PFC Myers (114 Avn Co), Pvt Riley, SP4 Daniels, Spr Gaines, PFC Cook, PFC Masters, PFC Mann, PFC Elmore, SPR Cochran, SP4 Hoffman, Cpl Roberts, SP4 Westmoreland, Capt Reed, Sgt May, Sgt Skkens, SP4 Kelley, SP4 Harrison, SP4 Rounsaville, SFC Smith, PFC Varner, Capt Haggard, PFC Ashworth

Sorry I don't have more detailed info than what is above. I did identify those that flew with the 114th Avn Co. in Vinh Long that flew with me or that I know flew with the 114th during a earlier tour. We had quite a few troops that pulled their 1st and 2nd tour with the Co. Most returned as NCOs on the 2nd tour. One other thing, I did find reference to the Co. location on Tan Son Nhut to be at Shea Compound. Did my description in the prior e-mail do any good for you? **Charles Klotz**

Subj: Fw: History Date: 4/11/01

From: [REDACTED] (John R. Gaither)  
Can anyone answer this question?? I can't.  
JOHN R. GAITHER "RAZORBACK 80"

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] Subject: History  
John, I have a copy of that history plus 63, 65, 66, and 70. I think there were two platoons but the other platoon could have been up north or in Vinh Long with the 114th and 175th Avn Co.s. Company personnel flew up to late 66 at various locations. Of course the HQ element moved south in mid-66 so the 120th was on its own by then. The helopad at Tan Son Nhut was directly behind the company compound, where was Ellis compound from there? **Charles Klotz**  
(ED NOTE) Does anyone have any info on this?

Subj: (no subject Date: 4/18/01

From: [REDACTED] To: JBodkin145  
Jim, just received your latest newsletter, good job. How do I obtain a roster of members? Tried the web site but no luck (I'm just learning), so probably messed it up. Would you have the phone number for Bill Tingler handy? He called and left a msg. but we couldn't make out the number. Thank you. **John Gower**  
(ED NOTE) Yes, I'll send it to you.

Subj: Names from 190th Date: 4/18/01

From: [REDACTED] (**Mike Peak**)  
To: [REDACTED] (James Bodkin)  
Jim, Is there any way to get a list of names from guys who served in the 190th? Does the Army keep or give out any kind of records? Or maybe a list of the guys who are members of the 145th Combat Aviation Bn Assoc. Thanks **Mike Peak**  
190th 68/69  
(ED NOTE) I'll send you a 145th list, getting anything from the gov is hard.

Subj: New 114th Historian Date: 4/19/01

From: Wasape  
Hello Guys, I sent out letters to each of your organization about the change in personnel, but guess it got there too late, because I got your latest newsletters. The new 114th Historian and recipient of your Association newsletters is

[REDACTED] His E address is [REDACTED]. He was a gunner during



1967-68 and I hope you all will give as much support to him as you did to me these past 4 1/2 years. Thanks, **Ed Briggs**, X-unit historian, 114th Avn Co Assn

(ED NOTE) Thank you ED, your effort are appreciated.

Subj: Looking Date: 4/20/01

From: Pat boltinghouse

Jim, Is there a web site for the 71st AHC? I have Ron's #, but would rather get on line, if possible. I'll send my stats at another time. Thanks **Patrick Boltinghouse** Firebird 90

(ED NOTE) Hi Pat, it www.rattlers.org and Ron Seabolt e-mail is [REDACTED]

Subj: 120th AML Reunion Hats and shirts Date: 4/26/01 From: [REDACTED] (John R. Gaither)

I just mailed out the hats and shirts you guys ordered and most of you paid for at the Reunion 2000. Sorry about the long delay, but, better late than never. I still have a half dozen hats left for those of you who may want one. The cost is \$5 each including shipping. I would prefer that they go to people who didn't already order one, however, those of you who will be receiving yours in the mail soon should let me know if you do want one in case I have any left **JOHN R. GAITHER "RAZORBACK 80"**

## NEW PEOPLE

Subj: Roster Update Date: 1/2/01 From: [REDACTED]

To: jbodkin145@aol.com

Jim, 31 Dec 2000 Please add the following personnel to the roster of the 145th. Wilson, Kenneth W, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Moody, Marvin D, Shotgun (8th Trans), [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], EM Davis, Wesley, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] EM Samson, James R, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ID 83301, 63-64, EM Wendt, Pat, 130th Med, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], 63-64, EM Change of Address for Ed Resch: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Change phone # for myself: Bill Sulowski

[REDACTED] More soon. Sincerely, **Bill**

**Sulowski**

(ED NOTE) Thank you Bill, I have logged the info.

Subj: Joining 145th CAB Date: 1/4/01

From [REDACTED] To: [REDACTED]

My name is **Stephen D. Wilt** and I was Raider-21 from March 1969 to Feb 1970 serving with the 334th Aerial weapons Company in Bien Hoa South Vietnam. How do I join your organization? (ED NOTE) Welcome, there is a form in the back of the newsletter

Subj: 68th Assault Helicopter Company Bien Hoa Date: 1/4/01

From: [REDACTED] (Bonnie Randolph) To: [REDACTED]

I saw your name on an internet roll call and wondered if you were the same Bodkin that I knew in 1970. I ran the power train shop and took your picture the night before you went down in the woods because you said "Better take my picture. I'll probably go down tomorrow." As I recall you were from Portland. Same same. Sp4 **Bob Randolph**

(EDNOTE) From: [REDACTED] To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Sat, Jan 6, 2001, I could be. I arrive with the 68th in June 69 and worked on a PE team then went to the powertrain shop, then powertrain shop at night, then lift plt. In Dec 69 left for emergency leave and returned the last part of Jan 70 and went to second lift. My aircraft went down in about March, another one in April, June, and another one July 27 on the perimeter of Bien Hoa. And finally left 20 Dec 70 as 68th was changing over to VNAF. When I wasn't flying I hung out in the powertrain, engine, and machine shop. There was a guy named Horton (from TN) in the machine shop and a sp5 Fields (from OH) in the powertrain shop but I can't remember their first name so I can locate them. Send me your snail mail address and I'll send you a newsletter for the 145th CAB Assoc. I'm living in Panama City Beach, FL but originally from Indiana. Jim Bodkin

Subj: Re: 68th Assault Helicopter Company Bien Hoa Date: 1/6/01



To: [REDACTED]  
Jim: You've got to be the Bodkin I remember. It seems like a lifetime ago sometimes, and other times it's as if it were only thirty years. I got to Bien Hoa January 70 and after a couple of months on an inspection team went to work with Fields in powertrain. I can't remember his first name either, but I do remember how spooky he was always throwing that heavy toolbox across the room when he was stressed. I remember Horton but don't recall his first name either. I'm almost sure I remember him saying he was from Alabama. I lived with Harvey Clisby who worked in the sheetmetal shop. He was from Florida, St Petersburg I think. I got a letter from him after I was discharged, but never kept in touch. I remember a guy named Wink who worked in avionics and a guy named Kortbus, a big guy, with a German accent. After the 68th was turned over to the VNAF, I was sent to the 118th-AHC where I worked in powertrain until I was discharged 15 Feb 71. My address is **Bob Randolph** [REDACTED]

Subj: MAKING CONTACT Date: 1/21/01  
From: [REDACTED] (George T. Bagby State Park) To: [REDACTED]  
I was Flight Opns (Little Joe 40) for the 197th Playboys, Raiders and Dragons during our stay at Tansanut AB, Siagon. Anyone remember me or Capt Bill Fraker, let me know at [REDACTED]. I was a spec 5 at that time. The pilots helped me apply for and get accepted to OCS which I attended and graduated #7. Would like to hook-up with some of the old timers. Little Joe 40,,10-8

(ED NOTE) I have combined many of John Gaither's e-mails to only include the address info on the new person located.

Subj: Fw: Fw: 120th Group Date: 1/22/01  
From: [REDACTED] (John R. Gaither)  
WELCOME HOME TO A NEW "OLD" BUDDY.  
HE WAS IN THE 120TH JAN 63- JAN 64. JOHN R. GAITHER --Original Message---  
Hey John, My address is: **Don Darby**, 104 Bluegrass Rd. Elizabethtown, KY 42701-9116  
1/23/01 From: [REDACTED]  
Address is: **Sidney M. Thacker**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **PHIL**  
**HADARITS** 120TH 63-65 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] **PH#** [REDACTED]  
From [REDACTED] **Albert**  
**E. DeMello Jr.**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**LORENZO SMALL** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (that's a small L for Lorenzo)  
**MARVIN SORENSON** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**DONALD EHL** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Richard McMakin** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Subj: Re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update Date:2/17/01  
From: Mgegere To: JBodkin145  
**Michael A. GeGere** 1072 Bluegrass road Vista, [REDACTED]. I served with UTT in [REDACTED]. Glad to see so many are still around. I saw Doc Holloway at the Guns a-Go-Go reunion in April of 2000 at Huntsville, Al.  
(ED NOTE) Welcome Mike.

Subj: 145th reunion Date: 2/18/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Donald Detiveaux) To: [REDACTED]  
I have already planned too many trips for this year but would like for you to put me in your file.  
**Donald P Detiveaux**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I served with the 68th AHC in 65-66 as a captain in one of the lift platoons. I believe I know you but don't remember which assignment. Good luck with your realtor.  
(ED NOTE) Welcome Don.



Subj: RE: Newsletter and Reunion update

Date: 2/23/01

From: [REDACTED] (Philip Hadarits)

To: [REDACTED]

Greetings, Thanks for the information about the 2001 reunion. At this point, I have a problem. It is exactly the same dates that I have a high school class reunion in Florida. Bummer. Now I have to make a decision. Anyway, I am interested in the 45/145th association, and would like to be included. Here is my information that you asked for. **Philip Hadarits**, [REDACTED]

Fax same #, answers automatically after 5 rings  
e-mail [REDACTED] 120th Avn Co Dec  
63-Jan 65 1Lt, Pilot CH-21 and UH-1 For what  
it's worth, my name is spelled wrong in the  
address heading on the e-mail you sent. No  
problem, but thought you might want to know. Do  
you have a current list of group members that  
you can share? Any fairly recent newsletters? Do  
I need to send money for membership,  
membership list, or newsletters? Thanks again  
for the information. Hope your house situation  
gets better soon. Phil

(ED NOTE) Welcome Phil. I'll send info.

Subj: 145th CAB Date: 3/13/01

From: [REDACTED] (Reinauer,  
Ronald) To: [REDACTED]

Hi I was in the 25th Corps Aviation Co.(CAC)  
145th CAB at Plantation AAF supporting HQ II  
Field Force from Dec 1970 to Jan 1972. I was a  
93H20 Air Traffic Controller at Red Carpet  
Heliport. I'm looking for Retired MSGT Robert  
Buchanan who was with me in Vietnam and  
retired from the Army in 1989. I now work as a  
civilian for the US Navy in Diego Garcia check  
out [www.dg.navy.mil](http://www.dg.navy.mil) <<http://www.dg.navy.mil>>.  
<<RON-1971.jpg>> a picture of me as a SP/5 in  
front of a UH-1M Gun Ship at Red Carpet in  
1971 Ron **Ronald L. Reinauer**, [REDACTED]

(ED NOTE) Welcome Ron.

Subj: Re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update

Date: 4/16/01

From: [REDACTED] (Gary Drackett)

It doesn't take me long to answer e-mail (two months). I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the reunion but I would still be interested in future events. Here's the mail information you requested at the end of your message: **Gary Drackett**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] served with the 68th  
from 11/67 - 8/68 as WO-1 (Mustang 23). Thanks  
and have fun at the reunion.  
(ED NOTE) Welcome Ron.

Subj: Newsletter Date: 4/26/01

From: WWright526 To: JBodkin145

Please send me the latest newsletter: **Wayne W. Wright**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Thanks

(ED NOTE) Thank you Wayne.

## Info & other web sites

Subj: Death of MG, Ret, Wm. "Bill" Maddox Date:  
1/7/01 From: [REDACTED]

In a message from LTG R R Williams, to another  
net; "Bill" Maddox died Friday 5 Jan 2001, from a  
head injury, after a fall at his home. MG Maddox  
was CO, 1st Avn Bde in Vietnam, Ft Rucker CG  
and Army Aviation Officer at the Pentagon. Burial  
details at Arlington are pending. **Don Joyce**

Subj: CH-37 Mojave Vietnam Photos Date:  
1/10/01

From: [REDACTED] (Don Joyce)  
If anyone has photos or slides of CH-37's "in  
action" in Vietnam or Southeast Asia, color or  
B&W, the VHPA needs them for publishing on  
the cover of the Newsletter, or to illustrate  
articles. Please send photos to the Newsletter  
editor, Jack Swickard, at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. **Don Joyce**

Subj: VHPA 2001 Calendar Date: 1/22/01

From: [REDACTED] (Don Joyce)  
This year's Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association  
Calendar is Great! It has 27 photos of  
helicopters, operating in SouthEast Asia, most  
are 11x17 inches. Along with unit logos, the  
calendar has an updated roster of pilot KIA,  
commemorated on the day each died. Cost: \$17  
each, including S&H. Call Turner Publishing  
Company at [REDACTED] or write to: PO Box  
[REDACTED]. **Don Joyce** VHPA



#75, Please visit "The Aerie" below;  
<http://community.webtv.net/GoldEagle4/GoldEagle4sAerie>

Subj: Air Commando Association Home Page  
Date: 3/1/01 From: [REDACTED] (Don Joyce)

This Great Web-Page is always worth another visit. Enjoy.... **Don Joyce**

Subj: RAAF Door Gunner Anthony W. Pahl  
Date: 3/4/01

From: [REDACTED] (Don Joyce)  
A very well-done web-page by a UH-1H RAAF Door Gunner with 9 Squadron, Vung Tau, '69-'70. Great photos, also, even of RAAF Caribou. **Don Joyce**

Subj: AVweb, The Internet's Aviation Magazine and News Serv Date: 1/24/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Jim Ralph)  
This is an excellent web site for aviation matters. - Jimbo the Combat Doc (retired military Flight surgeon) <http://www.avweb.com>

## E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES

Subj: email address change Date: 1/11/01  
From: Bpkell74 To: JBodkin145  
Jim, It is now 2001, and the time for this year's reunion is approaching, so I thought I should send you my new e-mail address which I have had for some time now. The new one is [REDACTED] and replaces [REDACTED]. Please update me on the plans as you may have them. The wife and I are still planning to be in Washington. **Bob Kell**

Subj: E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE Date: 1/15/01  
From: (John R. Gaither)  
MY SERVER HAS CHANGED THEIR NAME AND MY ADDRESS. I AM NOW

**JOHN R. GAITHER "RAZORBACK 80"**

Subj: E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES AND ADDITIONS Date: 1/15/01  
From: [REDACTED] (John Gaither)  
I HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL UPDATED AND NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS SINCE THE NEWSLETTER. PLEASE MAKE THE CHANGES.

LARRY BLACK [REDACTED]  
RUSS GOLDEN [REDACTED]  
JOHN HORVATH [REDACTED]

HARRY KERNAN [REDACTED]  
MEL POLLOCK [REDACTED]  
DAVE PREWITT [REDACTED]  
PREWITT'S new mailing address [REDACTED]  
Bryn Mawr, [REDACTED] DAVE  
SULLIVAN [REDACTED]  
**JOHN R. GAITHER "RAZORBACK 80"**

Subj: Re: 120th photos Date: 1/24/01 From: [REDACTED] (John Givhan)  
Hey Gang, Bob Crissman's new email is [REDACTED]. Does anybody know what happened to Dick Seaman? He and I were best friends in flight school and in Nam. I can't find a trace of him. Haven't heard from Ed Goldberg since Christmas, 1964. He wrote my ER and sent me a copy of it. Lt Pegleg

----- Original Message -----

From: Jimbo To: Philip Hadarits Cc: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2001 8:17 AM  
Subject: Re: 120th photos... Yeah. Ed Goldberg's kosher ham sandwiches.  
Q: Where do they get kosher ham?  
A: From circumcised pigs!  
Keep those photos rolling in. I'm sure the entire 120th e-mail list would like to see them. I don't have that list, but PegLeg Givhan or Jungle Bob Crissman might. Also, you might want to contact Jim Bodkin, Prez of the 145th Combat Avn Bn Assn at: [REDACTED] - Jimbo -Original Message-From: Philip Hadarits  
<[REDACTED]> Subject: RE: 120th photos...The guy on the left in the white shirt is my own self. I believe the follow in the right is Seaman. Do you remember Ed and his Kosher ham sandwiches in our "club". Bob is in this group. Do you know where Ed is now? I'll stick another couple of pictures onto this. Phil

Subj: New Email Addy Date: 2/22/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Gary Allison)  
Sorry Folks ... another email address change; Gary Allison [REDACTED] no make that [REDACTED] Thanks Gary



Subj: Fw: New e-mail address Date: 3/8/01  
From: [REDACTED] t (John R. Gaither)  
From: [REDACTED]  
Jewell Sanders has a new e-mail address.  
[REDACTED] TONY

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]  
Hey Pete do you have a current email address  
for Bill Fraker and Jack Saint?  
RE From: [REDACTED] (Pete Booth)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Jim, [REDACTED] Have nothing on  
Jack Saint. **Pete Booth**

Subj: New email address Date: 4/10/01  
From: Wnhibbs To: JBodkin145  
Dear Jim: Thanks for the latest newsletter. I will  
forward my delinquent dues soonest, sorry. Is  
there a member directory? If so, I will gladly pay  
whatever the cost may be. I will include my snail  
mail, phone, etc. William N. Hibbs, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
wnhibbs@aol.com I was a member of the 184th  
Aviation Company (Bird Dog) at Phu Loi July  
1966 to July 1967. Thank you for your obvious  
dedicated effort to keeping the spirit and  
memories of our service dignified. I hope your  
settling in FL goes smoothly. Oh, I am a rookie  
on this computer communication business. I  
trust this finds you. Respectfully, **Billy Hibbs**

Subj: Re: new address 145th Date: 4/29/01  
From: Njlrobertson  
Jim I have anew email. [REDACTED]  
we have cox cable dsl now. **Jessie Robertson**

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Subj: Membership Date: 1/18/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Glenn Smith)  
Jim, I used to be a member of your 145 Aviation  
Battalion Association. Somewhere along the line,  
I must have let my dues lapse. I'd like to get back  
in good standing. Please let me know what I  
should pay and where I should send it. My  
mailing address is: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. My work email address  
is: [REDACTED]. My home email  
address is: [REDACTED]. Please use

both of my email addresses because I move  
back and forth. Thanks, Glenn

Jim, Where do I send my dues? How much do I  
owe you? I need a 145th directory even an old  
one. **Doug Wilson**, 1750 Whittier #34, Costa  
Mesa CA. 92627-4571 502 Avn. 114AHC 335  
AHC & Eagle Dust-Off

Subj: Request for information Date: 1/31/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Perce Harvey)  
I dropped out a few years ago!!! How do I get  
reinstated? Sincerely

Subj: Re: Request for information Date: 1/31/01  
From: [REDACTED] t (Perce Harvey)  
**Perce P. Harvey**, 272 Exeter Rd., [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Thanks a lot  
[REDACTED] wrote:

Hi, to be reinstated just send me your current  
mailing address and phone number and I'll send  
you a copy of our last newsletter and there will  
be a renewal form in there. Our next reunion is  
planned for August 9-12, 2001 in Washington  
DC. Jim Bodkin, 145th C.A.B.V.A.

Subj: New Address Date: 2/17/01 From:  
JimThorne1 To: JBodkin145  
If I haven't provided you with my new address  
previously, it is: **Jim Thorne**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] See you at the reunion. Jim

Subj: Re: Newsletter and Reunion update Date:  
2/17/01 From: ImCNorton  
Jim, Thanks for the info on the 145th reunion. I  
wasn't able to attend the 120th reunion in  
Arkansas last year but would like to try to attend  
the 145th's in Washington DC. To up date your  
records please include the following information:  
**Carl A Norton**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In Country  
time: May 1964 to May 1965 Unit: According to  
John Gaither's (Razor Back 80) research I was  
assigned to the 120th Aviation Company, at least  
on paper, but I distinctly remember being  
physically assigned to the 98th Trans Det. In fact  
I have a plaque from the 98th recognizing my  
service. (By the way, I didn't see the 98th listed



on your email) Rank: Arrived as an E3 and left as an SP4. Duties: Helicopter repairman. Originally trained on the H-21s at Ft Eustis, VA but retrained on the UH-1 by Bell Tech Reps during a 2-week course in the mess hall during July 1964. I look forward to hearing from you. Carl

Subj: re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update  
Date: 2/18/01

From: [REDACTED]  
hello, **John N Bagosy** (BUGS) tail no. 852  
68th ahc gunner 69-70 crew chief was sp/5.  
Dwayne Mortel was my crew chief I talked to him  
a year ago my address is [REDACTED]

Subj: Re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update  
Date: 2/18/01

From: JimOlafson To: JBodkin145  
Jim: You indicated in your note that you needed  
mailing information. I think you should already  
have this information from my forms when I  
joined but I will provide it again as I know you  
have moved since then. **James Olafson**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I  
served with the 118th AHC from Mar 69 to Mar  
70. I was a commissioned officer (Cpt) at the  
time. I'll be looking forward to the newsletters and  
reunion information. At this time my wife and I  
are planning to attend. Will fill out the paperwork,  
make the reservations and get it turned in. I was  
glad to see where my unit was having a mini  
reunion also. I'm looking forward to seeing some  
old friends. Thanks for the information. Jim  
(Thunderbird-3)

Subj: Re: 145th Newsletter and Reunion update  
Date: 2/18/01

From: [REDACTED] (**Lew Drewry**)  
To: [REDACTED]

Jim, Thanks for the E-mail information. I'm going  
to try to work my schedule so I can attend.  
Regretfully, I only get 2 weeks of vacation and  
one is reserved for a plant shutdown between  
Christmas and New Years. Great to hear you are  
in Panama City. I am now located in Rome, GA.  
I went to PC beach last summer for the first time  
in many, many years. Sure is expensive when  
you don't know where to stay, but it is a great

beach and plan on getting back there this  
summer. I will definitely drop you a line and try to  
hook up with you when I am there.

Subj: Thanks - Change of address Date: 2/19/01  
From: [REDACTED] (**John Kelley**)  
Hello, Sorry to hear about all the problems on  
new house! I know that must be very frustrating!  
Anyway good luck. Thanks for update on  
reunion, unfortunately I am afraid I want be able  
to make it, we are going to Germany to live for a  
couple of years. I will send you a updated  
address as soon as we get one, it will be an APO  
address. Keep up the good work. **John Kelley**

Subj: Newsletter & Reunion update Date: 2/19/01

From: [REDACTED]  
(Gandy, Chester L) To: [REDACTED]  
Thanx for the update. Here are my vitals: Chet  
Gandy, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 120th Jan 65 -  
Jan 66 Razorback (40) SP/5 Crewchief If there is  
anything else, please let me know. Thanx again.  
**Chet Gandy**

Subj: Information Date: 2/20/01

From: [REDACTED] (**Perce Harvey**) To:  
[REDACTED]  
**Perce P. Harvey**, 272 Exeter Rd, Newport News,  
VA 23602 [REDACTED] UTT 1962-1963 EM  
Thanks

Subj: Address Date: 3/11/01

From: rcmaps@ltlink.com (**Ron & Clara Madsen**)  
To: jbodkin145@aol.com (145th CABVA)  
Dear Jim, We have sold the old home and moved  
to a townhouse. No more lawn to mow! Our new  
address is: **Ron & Clara Madsen**, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], ID 83301-3008 [REDACTED]  
Thanks Jim, Ron

Subj: eMail address Date: 4/8/01

From: [REDACTED] (**R & C Madsen**)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Hi Jim, Just a note to let all know that I have a  
new email address as well as a home address.  
You have my address correct on my newsletter



that I just received. Please let others know my home also. **Ron Madsen**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I'm enjoying my retirement. Clara & I just celebrated our 45th anniversary, she had a sense of humor and said she would keep me a while longer. I turned 69 a while ago and in spite of supporting a few doctors I'm feeling good. The town house I have has no more lawn to mow so I'm glad of that. Larry Lombard and I have got together to reminisce a few times. He lives in Boise, ID. Best to you and Debbie, **Ron Madsen** 118th 65/66

Subj: Change of Address Date: 4/18/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Michael Perrott)

**Michael A Perrott**, [REDACTED]

Hi! There. Would you please amend your records for my new address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 61 2 95501135

Regards, Michael

Subj: top tiger page Date: 4/20/01

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Hey Jim, Been long time...found you on top tigers web site. Drop me a line! Later, **Ron Blanken**,

[REDACTED] Friends email. [REDACTED]

Subj: Re: new address 145th Date: 4/26/01

From: [REDACTED] (Perce Harvey)

From your past correspondence I know that you have been very busy! I E-mailed you asking what I need to be reinstated in the organization and you wrote back asking me for my address so you could send me a news letter and the information to rejoin. I didn't hear from you.

Please let me give you my address again. **Perce Harvey**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] UTT 62-63 Thanks

Subj: Re: new address 145th - Date: 4/27/01

From: [REDACTED] (John Kelley)

Hi Jim, Congratulations on your new house! Hope you guys enjoy it for many years. We still have our house in Derby Woods and might move back there in a couple of years. As for now we

are in Hohenfels Germany working with Logicon on the Warfighter Program. Our address here is: [REDACTED]

Thanks and have a great day. **John Kelley**

Subj: Re: new address 145th Date: 4/27/01

From: Tstaadt To: JBodkin145

Hi Jim, I didn't receive the newsletter. My address is: **Tom Staadt**, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Thanks for keeping us informed. Tom

Subj: RE: new address 145th Date: 4/27/01

From: [REDACTED]

(Gandy, Chester L) To: [REDACTED]

Jim, the following is my current mailing address:

[REDACTED] PS Please send me a copy of NL36 along with the dues requirement and I will send you a check. Thanx for the e-mail and keep in touch. Regards, **Chet Gandy**

Subj: Re: new address 145th Date: 4/27/01

From: TOPTIGER11 To: JBodkin145

Jim, I was really glad to get your note. I have moved to Geneva Switzerland and I lost contact with you and the organization in the shuffle. Please tell me how much I owe in dues, including previous dues I may have missed. I have a US address where mail can be sent to me with normal postage and it gets bundled and forwarded to me here. That is [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Please send the latest copy of the newsletter. I don't think it will be possible for me to get to the reunion this year although I really would want to go. Maybe I can get to the next one. Thanks again for all you do for the association. **Ed Burns** Toptiger11

Subj: newsletter- 145th Date: 4/27/01

From: GRWEBSTER To: JBodkin145

Jim haven't received any newsletters for some time. could you check it out for me? I thought I sent an address change last year - I bumped into Howard smith who said he read something you put in the newsletter about me. also said there was to be a Florida reunion?/ I am now back in France so will miss the reunion, in any case will need all back issues for 2000. new address as of April 2000: **Geoffrey Webster**, [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Subj: RE: new address 145th Date: 5/1/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Dick Okerlund)  
Hi Jim, I thought I sent this before, but can't find any evidence of it so here it is. Home: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I was one of the medics assigned to HHD from May 66 to Nov 66. Dick Okerlund

## 118<sup>th</sup> WEB SITE

I received 4 or 5 pages of info about addition and changes to the 118th Web Site, pictures, history, stories, awards, etc., if you have access to the internet, please take some time and check out their page. Even if you were not in the 118th.  
<http://www.gorilla.net/~118ahc>

Subj: Small subtle signs of respect. finally Date: 2/20/01 From: [REDACTED]  
Thought you would appreciate this: Picked up on something very different this morning. CNN showed President W. leaving HM-1. The marine at the front step saluted, W returned it, and as he walked away, the marine executed a right face to stand facing GW's back...something that was missing in eight years of the Clinton presidency. The traditional Marine Corps mark of respect was rendered to the new president. That one goes back too the days in the rigging, when the marine orderly to the ship's captain always faced him, no matter his direction of movement, to be ready to receive an order. Who says that enlisted men can't hold back when they don't respect someone? ..And for eight years, they did. Tom Payne

Subj: Need help Date: 4/8/01  
From: [REDACTED] (Thomas H Payne)  
This note is for the earliest Thunderbird when the 118th was the 33rd Trans. Co. From the email below you can see that Bob Brandt, first CO of 573rd Trans Det of 33rd, needs help with some info. Bob is authoring a book about the first year or so of the 33rd in Vietnam and would like you to dig back in your memory and/or old scrapbooks and orders to fill in so details for him. If you can help him out, contact him direct. He

would appreciate it as he is coming to a conclusion with his book. I can't wait and certainly want to have one when it is published. Thanks for the help. Tom Payne PS, I started to send this note to only the "old timers" but when I tried to figure out which ones in the list were, I was not sure, so I am sending it all 80 former Thunderbirds on the list. thanks

----- Original Message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Need help My book telling the story of the 33rd/118th during its first year in Vietnam is progressing well and I hope to finish my writing by the end of June, finalize the story in July and August and then hopefully get it published during the fall. However, there are several facts I need clarification on:

1. What was Doc Mears full name?
2. Who were the platoon leaders?
3. After Major Seymour left for the 93rd did Captain Hannon take his place?
4. Was it New Years that we were told we could stand down, had a party and then late at night we told we had to fly a combat assault the next morning?
5. Was it Ben luck that divided up the crews based on who was still able to fly safely?
6. What was the date of the promotion party for Seymour, Harris, Dick and Don Olsen and Pop Edwards?

I would really appreciate all the help you might be able to provide. The book should have about 250 pages plus some good photos that have been provided to me by John Ness, Dick Loynachan, Ken Stanton, RC Guinn and others. It will include a list of those who served during that first year. The book will be primarily dedicated to Tim Lang, but will also recognize Dale Crull, Wenzel and Lynn Rothenbueller. Thanks, Bob Brandt

## 2001 REUNION COMMITTEE

There was 4 or 5 pages of e-mails as the Reunion Committee took care of all the details, and those are saved for the future Reunion Committee to use. I have deleted them from the newsletter since the Reunion is already passed. You will find their Reunion Report in the newsletter.



# Battalion History

**SUBJECT: Commander's Combat Note # 15      9 April 1966**  
**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 1 APRIL THROUGH 7 APRIL 1966**

The 145th Aviation Battalion made great strides this week in demonstrating that Army Aviation is a significant and vital part of combat operations in defeating the Viet Cong in Vietnam.

Evidence of damage to the Viet Cong from this Battalion's effort is obvious from this weeks score board: Nineteen V.C. killed, thirty-nine estimated killed, three wounded prisoners, thirty-three V.C. structures destroyed and twenty damaged, eighteen sampans sunk and fourteen damaged, and one truck destroyed.

One of the major efforts this week was the aviation support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 25th (US) Division during operation "CIRCLE PINES" from 30 March to 4 April. All units of the Battalion provided support, however, 118<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company was assigned mission responsibility. The area of operations was to the north of a line running from Cu Chi to Trung Lap and to the Saigon River. This operation was a classic example of how aviation should and should not be employed. Some significant lessons were learned. The most significant being that Army Aviation can't be dispatched as taxi cabs to perform a mission. Close coordination and understanding must be established between the aviation unit commander and the support ground commander, and the individual pilot must know the current situation. It was discovered that, during the initial days of the operation, aircraft that were being assigned to support the Brigade on a single mission basic were being subjected to enemy fire when lifting resupply to forward elements. This fire ranged from single shot snipping to medium and heavy automatic weapons fire. In an attempt to bring order to this situation, Major Underwood, Commanding Officer of the 118th Aviation Company was assigned the mission to support the operation until termination. Troop carrier aircraft and gunship of all other companies of the Battalion reinforced the 118th Aviation Company during the remainder of the operation as required. By close association with the command and staff elements of the supported Brigade, the aviation commander was able to advise how and where to best use airlift and aerial fire support. He was able to study the enemy fire techniques and take appropriate counter measures to protect the aircraft and incur maximum damage to the enemy. At one stage of the operation the Brigade was supported by eleven troop carrier aircraft and fourteen armed aircraft. By the employment of appropriate tactics with gunships against enemy ground fire, hits on troop carrier aircraft were considerably reduced and the score of V.C. kills mounted. After the aviation leadership, advice and management was established, the supported Brigade enjoyed the type of support that aviation is designed to produce. Also, no aircraft stood idle- this critical resource was fully used. Within these few days, aviation was employed as follows: Lift supplies from support base to forward employed elements; command, control and liaison for commanders and staff; radio relay; armed escort of ground columns, reconnaissance by fire in advance of ground columns; armed escorts for troop carrier aircraft; preparation by fire of a landing zone; reconnaissance and marking of a landing zone; airlift of troops in an airmobile assault; armed reconnaissance of a river and aerial fire against V.C. river traffic; armed aircraft strikes on target designated by forward ground elements which were too close to friendly troops for tactical air engagement (some strikes were 100 meters in front of friendly troops); and medical evacuation of wounded. What started out to be an operation where aviation was piecemealed to support the Brigade for occasional mission, turned out to be a well coordinated operation in which aviation was effectively and economically used and contributed significantly to success of the operation. This reversal is due to the fact that an aviation unit commander was assigned a mission and he felt the responsibility toward that supported unit. That personal responsibility in fact kept his company maintenance working overtime to come up with several more aircraft available for missions than programmed.

A summary of the result achieved and resources employed for this operation is shown below:

|                                   | 118th | A/501st | 68th | 197th | total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|------|-------|-------|
| Total Flying Hours                | 253   | 77      | 45   | 33    | 408   |
| Total Sorties Flown               | 913   | 26      | 132  | 26    | 1097  |
| Total Tons Cargo                  | 90    | 19      | 7    | --    | 116   |
| Passengers Lifted                 | 879   | 273     | 40   | --    | 1192  |
| Medevacs                          | 17    | 3       | 2    | 1     | 23    |
| V.C. Structures destroyed/damaged | 10/5  | 2/2     | 7/5  | 4/6   | 23/18 |
| V.C. Sampans destroyed/damaged    | 3/10  | 0/0     | 6/7  | 0/0   | 9/10  |
| Total task performed              | 1197  | 341     | 90   | 32    | 1660  |

Rounds expended

7.62mm 55,000 10,000 16,000 24,000 105,050



|                    |     |    |    |    |     |
|--------------------|-----|----|----|----|-----|
| 40mm               | 500 | 0  | 80 | 50 | 630 |
| Rockets            | 234 | 28 | 52 | 98 | 412 |
| V.C. KIA Confirmed | 5   | 0  | 0  | 4  | 9   |
| Estimated          | 10  | 3  | 3  | 15 | 31  |

During the week (1 April - 7 April 1966) the 197th Aviation Company, operating on independent missions (excluding the support rendered in the operation described above) claimed eight sampans sunk, four sampans damaged, ten V.C. structures destroyed, one truck destroyed and three V.C. killed.

The combined effort of the 145th Aviation Battalion conducted an operation in support of Operation GREENE EAGLE in the Tay Ninh area on 5 April. This operation consisted of conducting an air assault of 200 CIDG troops into an area to establish security for an artillery support base. 105mm howitzer artillery was then airlifted by Chinooks into the secured base and artillery registered. The next air assault consisted of lifting 710 CIDG troops into two landing zones for the conduct of a search destroy operation. This air assault was highlighted by the employment of tear gas dispensed by helicopters to create a barrier to an avenue of approach into the landing zone. After the tear gas was dispensed, offensive fire was conducted over the tear gassed area by dropping sixty 81mm mortar rounds from a helicopter, and by firing armed helicopters and machine guns from troop carrying aircraft. The fire power accounted for four enemy confirmed killed, three wounded prisoners, and a possible four other V.C. killed. Later in the day the assaulting force was extracted and reemployed in another airmobile assault against a suspected V.C. location. During this operation the 197th Aviation Company was also credited with three V.C. killed and estimated four V.C. killed from the result of strikes placed against enemy ground fire.

On 7 April, the 68th Aviation Company conducted an airmobile assault with 190 RF/PF troops in an area 15 kilometers south of Hon Quan.

The 74th Aviation Company performed the following tasks during the period:

| Tasks                 |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Visual reconnaissance | 100 |
| Escort Missions       | 40  |
| Psychological warfare | 3   |

The armed aircraft task force of this Battalion, operating with the Navy, has been designated Task Force Sea Wolf. At present the task force is operating aboard the U.S.S. Belle Grove in the Rung Sat Special Zone. During the week these gunships provided forward air control support for the navy tactical air strikes, escorted friendly patrol boats and LST's and LOM's during the U.S. Marine Corps extraction from the Rung Sat Special Zone, conducted night and day reconnaissance, which located a V.C. bunker and tunnel complex, and conducted strikes on enemy positions and sampans. With a result of one sampan destroyed and two structures damaged. A gunship also evacuated a wounded Vietnamese Marine.

Training in Artillery adjustment from an aerial platform has been initiated by the Battalion this week.

The operational statistics for the period are:

Rotary Wing:

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Total Sorties      | 4428 |
| Total Flying hours | 1404 |
| Passengers         | 5421 |

Fixed Wing:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Total Sorties     | 329 |
| Total Flying hour | 556 |

The following awards were received by the Battalion:

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Distinguished Flying Cross | 6  |
| Bronze Star "Valor"        | 1  |
| Air Medal "VALOR"          | 11 |
| Army Commendation Medal    | 3  |
| Purple Heart               | 10 |

The following promotions were received:

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Capt to Major | 2  |
| E-2 to E-3    | 11 |
| E-3 to E-4    | 3  |
| E-4 to E-5    | 11 |
| E-6 to E-7    | 1  |



## **SUMMARY OF CIVIC ACTIONS (1 April - 7 April 1966)**

The Hq & Hq Detachment donated 4500 pounds of rolled wheat, candy and canned goods to the Bui Vinh refugee center.

The 68th Aviation Company evacuated or relocated 114 ARVN dependents and refugees in the VO DAT, XUAN LOC area. 10,000 pounds of personal belongings and foodstuffs were airlifted concurrently with the dependents and refugees. Final coordination was made at Can Gio by representatives of the 68th Aviation Company, in an effort to begin several projects in that community.

The officers and men of the 74th Aviation Company distributed coolaide to the children of the 5th ARVN Division Dependents School at Phu Loi. In addition, coolaide, orange juice, candy and cookies were donated to the HIET BINH XA School. Lt Ebert and Sp/4 Montey conducted a conversational English Language Seminar for the faculty of the HIET BINH XA School.

The 118th Aviation Company evacuated twenty-five refugees from a 25<sup>th</sup> Inf Div operational area. Armed elements medically evacuated five Montagnards from a V.C. controlled area to HON QUAN. As a result of this evacuation, intelligence was gained, and later the same day armed elements made strikes based upon this intelligence. Here is another example of an immediate pay-off of Civic Action efforts. Donations to the Bien Hoa Orphanage this week consisted of a large amount of foodstuffs, assorted toys, plastic baby bottles with nipples, and clothing for infants and children. In addition, the following items were donated to the Catholic Orphanage in TU DUC: Preserves and jellies, peanut butter, tooth paste and brushes, and assorted children's clothing. Doctor Altomonte made his weekly visit to the Leper Colony at TAN UYEN and treated twenty-five patients. Doctor Altomonte also donated medical supplies to the Bien Hoa Orphanage in an effort to improve the health and sanitation level. Sp/4 Amisano continued his conversational English instruction each day this week to the children of Cong Ly street and several Bien Hoa National Police.

A/501st Aviation Battalion was active in Refugee Assistance, Transportation, Education, and Community Relations. On 6 April, airmobile elements evacuated 125 refugees from near a the Cambodian border to Bien Soi. The refugees, mostly women and children, had been rendered homeless by a search and destroy operation. Transportation was also provided for the Bien Hoa JUSPAO representative, Mr. Martin, in support of psychological warfare. The officers and men made the following donations: 1500 pounds of rice to the Catholic Orphanage, and 17,478 piasters to a private Bien Hoa school for the purchase of school supplies. Conversational English classes were conducted for members of the Bien Hoa National Police.

Horst K. Joost, Lt. Colonel, Inf  
Commanding

### **Commander's Combat Note: #17**

**16 April 1966**

#### **HELICOPTER TACTICS**

1. On a recent operation of the 145th Avn Bn, over a period of five days it became apparent that the VC in the area of Cu Chi were well trained in anti-heliborne tactics. A large number of aircraft were hit and several men were wounded. Most of the aircraft hit were either on low final approach or had just taken off. The VC have an extensive tunnel system in this area and are well dug in. They also have overhead cover and it is difficult to detect them from the air. In one instance there were three cal .50 MGs within a 6 KM radius in a triangular shape that opened fire on an aircraft at 2500: and continued firing until the aircraft was over 5000.

2. There are several sound principles which can be followed to reduce the chance of an aircraft being hit. In areas like Cu Chi troop carrier aircraft should never operate at less than 2500 ft. unless accompanied by an armed escort. At low level an aviator's best defense is speed. On approaches to the same LZ alter the approach from time to time.

3. The 197th Avn Co has twelve cardinal rules that apply to armed aircraft. Most of them also apply to troop carriers. They are proven as effective tactics.

1. Do not overfly the target.
2. Do not fly in the deadman zone without a reason (100'-1000').
3. Never fly the 180 degree wing position.
4. Always assume that the area is hot.
5. Always make a high reconnaissance.
6. Never fire until you have the friendly forces located.
7. Never fly parallel to terrain features.
8. Avoid firing over the heads of friendly troops.
9. Expend only when you have a worthwhile target.



10. Always know the situation.
11. Take your time.
12. Brief your elements to a man.

4. Commanders, remember, an aviator must be briefed on the tactical situation and his mission to be effective. Detailed coordination with the supported ground commander will help to clarify the enemy situation. Use all the protective measures available to you. If gunship escort will increase the probability of mission accomplishment- use it.

Above all, avoid flying over known hostile position if you can accomplish your mission.

"First In Vietnam"

Horst K. Joost, Lt Colonel, Inf  
Commanding

## **Commander's Combat Note #18**

**16 April 1966**

### **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 8 APRIL THROUGH 14 APRIL 1966**

On Easter Sunday the 145th Aviation Battalion, reinforced by elements of the 11th Aviation Battalion, conducted an airmobile assault, employing 489 troops of MIKE FORCE, III (ARVN) Corps approximately 25 kilometers South of Bien Hoa. The force was landed in three lifts. It was planned to extract the force on the following day, however, at 1445 hours this Battalion was alerted and responded to a rapid reaction request to extract the force immediately. Aviation was recalled from other missions and assembled for the extraction which was completed by 1905 hours.

On 11 April, the Battalion returned to the Cu Chi area to support the 25th (US) Division. A jolly time can always be expected when operating in this area and we were not disappointed. Over 500 troops were employed in an airmobile assault of four lifts ten miles northwest of Cu Chi. No artillery or tactical air preparation was used on the landing zone due to the proximity of a village. As the first elements approached, the gunships marking and reconnoitering received moderate automatic weapons fire. The gunships returned the fire, allowing the troop carriers to land. Light enemy fire persisted throughout the assault with the result of four aircraft being hit. The battalion's gunship continued to provide close in fire support to the ground elements after the completion of the lift.

For the last two days of the period, the 145th Aviation Battalion supported the 173rd Airborne Brigade in conducting eight airmobile assaults and two extractions in the Song Be area.

The gunships of the 197th Aviation Company again added to the toll of Viet Cong destruction. In one action, gunships responded to a call from an Air Force forward air controller who spotted Viet Cong in the open near Duc Hoa. The gunships engaged with a result of ten confirmed dead Viet Cong. The company's total score for the week is three sampans destroyed and five damaged, five structures destroyed and three damaged, and ten confirmed Viet Cong killed and six estimated killed.

The 74th Aviation Company flew 142 visual reconnaissance and 39 escort missions during the period.

Task Force Sea wolf continued to operate from the U.S.S. Belle Grove in support of Naval operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone. Their activities consisted of giving area and aircraft orientation flights to river patrol boat commanders, conducting daylight and night visual reconnaissance of the river areas, conducting airstrikes against Viet Cong targets, and flying cover for patrol boats. On two occasions Task Force Sea wolf was instrumental in stopping Viet Cong attacks against friendly villages by repeated firing runs against the besiegers. The total score for the Task Force for this period is one sampan destroyed and two damaged, and two confirmed Viet Cong killed and four estimated killed.

Operational statistics for the period are as follows:

#### **Rotary Wing:**

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Total Sorties      | 4440 |
| Total Flying Hours | 1640 |
| Passengers         | 6040 |

#### **Fixed Wing:**

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Total Sorties:     | 393 |
| Total Flying Hours | 605 |

#### **Training:**

The airmobile companies of the Battalion are conducting in-country orientation briefings and flights to aviators of the 25th (US) Aviation Battalion.

#### **Awards:**

The following is a recapitulation of awards received:



|                                 | 8 April- 14 April | Since 1 January 65 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Distinguished Service Cross     | 0                 | 2                  |
| Silver Star                     | 0                 | 15                 |
| Legion of Merit                 | 1                 | 3                  |
| Distinguished Flying Cross      | 2                 | 120                |
| Soldiers Medal                  | 0                 | 9                  |
| Bronze Star "Valor"             | 0                 | 26                 |
| Bronze Star                     | 1                 | 95                 |
| Air Medal "Valor"               | 4                 | 277*               |
| Air Medal                       | 0                 | 9,486*             |
| Army Commendation Medal "Valor" | 0                 | 50                 |
| Army Commendation Medal         | 8                 | 286                |
| Purple Heart                    | 3                 | 186                |

\* It is worthy of note that these 9,763 Air Medals represent in excess of 375,875 combat flying hours by members of this Battalion!!

### **SUMMARY OF CIVIC ACTIONS (8 April - 14 April 1966)**

On 14 April, the HQ & HQ Detachment, 145th Aviation Battalion donated 3000\$VN piasters to purchase school furniture for a self help construction project in the Bui Vinh Parish. In the psy-war effort, thirty pounds of reading material were placed in the community reading room.

The 68th Aviation Company was active in the area of transportation. On 12 April, an airmobile element medically evacuated a wounded child to Bien Hoa Provincial Hospital for immediate attention. In addition, the company evacuated or relocated 62 ARVN dependents and refugees and 2500 pounds of personal belongings and foodstuffs in the course of normal missions.

In the area of Community Relations, the officers and men of the 74<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company donated a case of fresh eggs to Regional Forces dependents on Easter, 500 pounds of clothing collected by the Washington States Highway Patrol to the Duc Hoa Refugee Center, and foodstuffs to an employee with a recent death in his family. 5900\$vn piasters were turned over to the Phu Cuong orphanage for the purchase of supplies and materials.

The 118th Aviation Company made significant contributions in the civic actions in support of 25th Division operations at Cu Chi. Airmobile elements medically evacuated a total of 15 GVN civilians to medical facilities at Trung Lap. In addition, approximately 50 refugees were evacuated from search and destroy areas to the Cu Chi District Headquarters for immediate refugee assistance. The officers and men donated over 1000 pounds of foodstuff, 9 boxes of assorted clothing and sanitation items to the Bui Vinh Refugee Center, and the Bien Hoa Orphanage. Captain Cooper personally donated 1200 pencils inscribed "From an American Soldier of the 118th Aviation Company", to the Bien Hoa and Bui Vinh School children in a friendship gesture. Sp/4 Amisano conducted English classes for the residents of Cong Ly Street. Doctor Altomonte treated approximately thirty patients and local civilians during his weekly visit to the Tan Uyen Leper Colony. Doctor Altomonte's effort at Tan Uyen were cited by the District Chief as a major contribution in the pacification effort in this Viet Cong influenced area.

The officers and men of the 197th Aviation Company donated 100 pounds of clothing and health and sanitation items to the An Loc Orphanage on Easter Sunday. An armed element of the company branched out in the communications field when it dropped psy-war leaflets in the Run Sat Special Zone at the request of the NHA BE District Chief.

This week, A/501st Aviation Battalion accepted limited sponsorship of the Bui Hiep Refugee Center. In addition, 9 refugees were evacuated in the Ham Tam area by airmobile elements on 11 April. Ten Bien Hoa National police attended the weekly conversational English class conducted by members of the unit.

HORST K. JOOST, Lt Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

### **Commander's Combat Note # 19**

**23 April 1966**

### **SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 15 APRIL THROUGH 21 APRIL 1966**

Long in need of praise have been a number of aviation activities which are not necessarily glamorous or receive much recognition but which are all important to the mission accomplishment of the 145th Aviation Battalion.



The first of these is the support provided to us during each airmobile operation by Captain Thurman, Operations Officer, 56th Transportation Company, and his aircraft recovery crews. During this month alone he has recovered three downed UH-1D aircraft out of hostile territory. Each recovery has been performed under duress but with such efficiency that in no instance did it interfere or detract from the airmobile mission. Our highest praises to this unit.

Another unsung activity is the constant cover we receive from the 57th Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance) during airmobile operations. They are always overhead when needed. In a recent Battalion operation, one helicopter ambulance received eight hits while evacuating wounded U.S. Forces. They always come back for more.

Our own 74th Aviation Company is constantly aloft to provide radio relay service, weather advisory, visual reconnaissance and air artillery adjustments during airmobile operations. These aircraft spend many long hours over the objective area. They are the first aircraft over the objective area and usually the last to leave after the operation is completed.

The next activity is that of our Battalion Pathfinder Detachment. This Detachment is commanded by Lieutenant Grover D Westfall. It precedes the troop carrier aircraft into the pick up site to organize and control troop loading and aircraft landing for pickup. During an extraction, these personnel depart the extraction zone after the last ground elements are airborne.

The 145th Aviation Battalion supports the III (ARVN) Corps with helicopters on a daily basis. Every company in the Battalion receives a turn at this duty. In the performance of this duty aircraft are dispatched throughout the III Corps area, and engage in a variety of missions. Locally we brand these as "Pigs and Rice" missions, the name being derived from the requirement to frequently haul these commodities. These missions are administrative and tactical in nature. An example of some administrative support: This Sunday a helicopter was used to lift Post Exchange supplies and operate as an airmobile PX to fourteen extremely isolated posts which are inaccessible by road in the III Corps area. Religious service are conducted in this manner to isolated posts. Daily mail and courier flights are made to all posts in the three division tactical areas. Helicopters are used to resupply the ARVN forces located on a number of high pinnacles in the Corps area. These outposts exist only by helicopter resupply. Popular forces personnel and occasionally their dependents and belongings are transported to new locations. A helicopter pilot flying these missions cannot allow himself to become shook about what he may see being loaded in his aircraft. Other administrative tasks are to transport advisors to these remote outposts, the only contact they have with the forces at these locations.

The tactical mission for the Corps consist of providing armed helicopter fire teams daily to each of the three ARVN divisions. These teams are used to conduct strikes against Viet Cong locations, provide escort for road convoys and aerial reconnaissance. Psychological warfare loudspeaker missions are flown by troop carrier helicopters, supported by a fire team. These missions can always be counted on to prompt a reaction by fire from the Viet Cong. Another tactical mission is the delivery by helicopter of Recondo Teams. This week, three Recondo Teams were employed by this Battalion into Viet Cong suspect areas. Gunships cover these deliveries.

Daylight and night reconnaissance is made around the Bien Hoa Air Base complex by a fire team. The senior advisor of the Dong Nai area credits this continuous surveillance as a major contributing factor to the security from Viet Cong attack that the Air Base has enjoyed.

Now for the airmobile operations conducted this week.

On 15 April, Company A/501st Aviation Battalion supported the 173rd Airborne Brigade by conducting two airmobile assaults and four extractions. A total of 425 troops were lifted in twelve lifts. Enemy ground fire was received in the landing zone.

On 16 April, the 68th Aviation Company, supported the 2d Brigade, 25th(US) Division by airlifting 126 troops in two airmobile assaults, northwest of Cu Chi.

Company A/501st, continued to, support the 173rd Airborne Brigade, by conducting six airmobile assaults with 333 troops of the First Royal Australian Regiment in the vicinity of Song Be.

On 17 April, A/501st supported the 173d Airborne Brigade by conducting five airmobile assaults and one extraction in the vicinity of Song Be. A total of 367 troops were lifted.

The 145th Aviation Battalion conducted an airmobile operation on 18 April for the 25th (ARVN) Division, ten kilometers Northwest of Tan An. This operation demonstrated some problems in coordination and control when an unscheduled, unannounced and uncontrolled air strike with White Phosphorous ordnance struck the landing zone immediately prior to the time of the troop landing. Aircraft were diverted for forty-five minutes until the smoke in the landing zone dissipated. A total of 510 troops than assaulted four landing zones. During this



operation, armed helicopters of the 68th Aviation Company engaged a squad of Viet Cong with a result of three kills estimated.

Company A/501st again supported the 173d Airborne Brigade on 18 April, by conducting ten combat assaults with 563 troops in the Song Be area.

On 20 April, the 145th Aviation Battalion Supported III (ARVN) Corps CIDG Forces by airlifting 570 troops in four air assaults out of Song Be to two landing zone thirty kilometers east of Song Be. One highlight of the assault was the first employment of the XM-31 20mm cannon sub-system in a combat operation. The System is currently being tested by the 197th Aviation Company (Armed). It consists of 2 - 20mm cannons which are flexible in elevation, mounted on each side of the UH-1B helicopter. This weapon system was used for the helicopter prestrike of the wooded areas surrounding the landing zone. The assault was uncontested.

Also on 20 April 1966, the 118th Aviation Company supported the Capitol Military Region by conducting an airmobile assault with 100 troops ten miles southwest of Saigon. Later in the day this force was extracted.

On 21 April, the 68th Action company departed for Vinh Long to reinforce the 13th Aviation Battalion in support of the IV Corps (ARVN) for a three day period.

The activities of the 197th Aviation Company while operating on separate gunship missions account for seven Viet Cong estimated KIA, four Sampans sunk and two damaged, seven structures destroyed.

The 74th Aviation Company (FW) performed the following tasks during the period:

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Visual Reconnaissance | 102 |
| Escort Missions       | 76  |
| Photo Missions        | 2   |

Operation Sea Wolf moved into Phase II this week by assembling armed helicopters and additional crew and support personnel to outfit another naval vessel. Personnel are undergoing training to land on LST decks at this time. Also the U.S.S. Belle Grove is being replaced with another LSD. This Battalion received a message this week from Commander and Captain of the U.S.S. Belle Grove Naval Task Force 116 which praised the Sea Wolf Operation. An extract follows:..." In addition we must doff our hats to the highly capable Army helo pilots who so rapidly integrated into their fire support role and who so admirably carried out their assignments. Their quick adjustment without any hitch to night and day flying from our helo and super decks was testimony to their outstanding professional competence. Shipmated in every sense of the word their presence will be sorely missed. However we depart secure in the knowledge that fire team support of the river forces will be in the best of hands. Please convey to USMACV and the Commanding Officer 145th Aviation Battalion our "well done" to Captain Brofer and his fine crews for a truly superlative performance."

Operational statistics for the week are as follows:

Rotary Wing :

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Total Sorties      | 4332 |
| Total Flying Hours | 1480 |
| Personnel Lifted   | 5803 |

Fixed Wing:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Total Sorties      | 402 |
| Total Flying Hours | 538 |

Personnel of the 25th Aviation Battalion continued with their in-country flight training.

Awards received by the Battalion this week:

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Distinguished Flying Cross | 1   |
| Bronze Star "Valor"        | 1   |
| Air Medal "Valor"          | 8   |
| Air Medal                  | 166 |
| Army Commendation MS       | 4   |
| Purple Heart               | 1   |

At a brief ceremony on 19 April 1966, in Bien Hoa, Honour-Smith Compound was dedicated in memory of Lt. Colonel Charles M. Honour Jr., formerly Battalion Commander of the 145th Aviation Battalion, and Captain Albert M. Smith Jr, formerly Battalion Assistant Adjutant.

After Chaplain (Major) Hugh N. Barnes conducted a short memorial service, Brigadier General Robert T. Knowles, Chief of Staff II Field Forces V, and Lt. Colonel Horst K. Joost, Commanding Officer of the 145th Aviation Battalion, unveiled a large sign at the gate of Honour-Smith Compound. Honour-Smith Compound, previously known as Cong-Ly Complex, Houses parts of three separate units, II Field Forces V, the 145th Aviation Battalion, and 232d Signal Company.



# NEW PEOPLE LOCATED

| UNIT    | LAST NAME  | PEOPLE LOCATED ARRANGED BY UNIT AND DATE ENTERED |        |                  | 04-07-02 |           | DATE | DATE | RANK |
|---------|------------|--|--------|------------------|----------|-----------|------|------|------|
|         |            | FIRST NAME                                       | STREET | CITY             | STA      | ZIP PHONE |      |      |      |
| HHC     | CURRY      | LEON   |        | MANVEL           | TX       | 77578     | 1963 | 1963 | OF*  |
| HHC     | WEEKS      | JOE D  |        | EBRO             | FL       | 32437     | 1963 | 1964 | EM*  |
| HHC     | MARTIN     | DALE S   |        | WADESVILLE       | IN       | 47638     | 1964 | 1965 | OF   |
| PATHFIN | HUPP       | H.D.   |        | PARKERSVILLE     | WV       | 26101     | 1964 | 1965 | EM   |
| HHC     | GORDY      | JOHN W   |        | ALEXANDRIA       | VA       | 22307     | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| HHC     | SAUERS     | ROBERT L   |        | SHALIMAR         | FL       | 32579     | 1966 | 1966 | OF   |
| HHD     | OKERLUND   | DICK   |        | BALINE           | MN       | 55434     | 1966 | 1966 | EM   |
| HHC     | GREENE     | TED R  |        | FAYETTEVILLE     | GA       | 30215     | 1966 | 1968 | EM   |
| HHC     | JARVIS     | RICHARD  |        | BALLSTON SPA     | NY       | 12020     | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| PATHFIN | COOK       | STEVEN E   |        | AMISSVILLE       | VA       | 20106     | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| HHC     | RICHARDS   | KEN L  |        | THOMSON          | GA       | 30824     | 1969 | 1971 |      |
| 18 AVN  | WEAVER     | M.E. (RON)                                       |        | CHAMBERSBURG     | PA       | 17201     | 1964 | 1965 | EM*  |
| 25 AVN  | REINAUER   | RON L  |        | FPO AP           |          | 96595     | 1970 | 1972 | EM   |
| 68 AML  | BALINT     | BARRY T  |        | RANCHO PALOS VER | CA       | 90275     | 1965 | 1966 | OF   |
| 68 AML  | SAUERS     | ROBERT L   |        | SHALIMAR         | FL       | 32579     | 1965 | 1966 | OF   |
| 68 AHC  | BROWN      | JOHN A   |        | LORDSBURG        | NM       | 88045     | 1966 | 1967 | EM   |
| 287SIGN | HEY        | GEORGE C   |        | COLO SPRS        | CO       | 80916     | 1966 | 1967 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | WALTER     | RALPH E  |        | MILFORD          | NJ       | 08848     | 1966 | 1968 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | NOYES      | SANDY  |        | NORWICH          | CT       | 06360     | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | POTTER     | JOE  |        | CENTREVILLE      | MD       | 21617     | 1967 | 1968 |      |
| 68 AHC  | BROWN      | JOHN A   |        | LORDSBURG        | NM       | 88045     | 1967 | 1969 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | CROSBY     | TOM  |        | POWAY            | CA       | 92064     | 1967 | 1968 |      |
| 68 AHC  | DRACKETT   | GARY   |        | TALLAHASSEE      | FL       | 32311     | 1967 | 1968 | WO   |
| 68 AHC  | DAWSON     | BUTCH  |        | CLAYTON          | OK       | 74536     | 1968 | 1969 | EM*  |
| 68 AHC  | GIANNINI   | LEE  |        | STREET           | MD       | 21154     | 1969 | 1969 | EM   |
| 68 AHC  | HOWER      | WAYNE R  |        | EASTON           | PA       | 18042     | 1970 | 1971 | EM   |
| A/501   | HOPPER     | CLARK T  |        | BENTON           | AR       | 72015     | 1965 | 1966 | EM   |
| A/501   | RALSTON    | TOM  |        | MERCERSBURG      | PA       | 17236     | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| 74 AVN  | JONES      | JOHN B   |        | HAMPTON          | VA       | 23669     | 1965 | 1966 |      |
| 74 AVN  | RALSTON    | TOM  |        | MERCERSBURG      | PA       | 17236     | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| 140TRAN | COLDREN    | JERRY K  |        | CHELSEA          | OK       | 74016     | 1961 | 1962 | EM   |
| 8 TRANS | WILSON     | KENNETH W  |        | BROWNSVILLE      | TX       | 78521     | 1961 | 1962 | WO   |
| 8 TRANS | MOODY      | MARVIN D   |        | POWELL           | TN       | 37849     | 1963 | 1963 | EM   |
| 130 MED | SAMSON     | JAMES R  |        | TWIN FALLS       | ID       | 83301     | 1963 | 1964 | EM   |
| 130 MED | WENDT      | PAT  |        | E. MOLINE        | IL       | 61244     | 1963 | 1964 | EM   |
| 140TRAN | DAVIS      | WESLEY   |        | NEWPORT NEWS     | VA       | 23602     | 1964 | 1965 | EM   |
| 33TRANS | SPARLING   | HAROLD   |        | FAYETVILLE       | NC       | 28303     | 1963 | 1964 |      |
| 118AML  | MIKA       | RICHARD  |        | SPRING LAKE      | NC       | 28390     | 1963 | 1964 | EM*  |
| 118AML  | MCNEESE    | VINCE  |        | TAYLORS          | SC       | 29687     | 1963 | 1964 | CO   |
| 118AML  | ISLIN      | JOHN A   |        | WONDER LAKE      | IL       | 60097     | 1964 | 1965 | OF   |
| 118AML  | GRASMEDER  | JACK   |        | COLONIAL BCH     | VA       | 22443     | 1964 | 1965 | OF*  |
| 118AML  | MADSEN     | RON L  |        | TWINS FALLS      | ID       | 83301     | 1965 | 1966 | WO*  |
| 118AML  | GRIFFIN    | J "BILL"   |        | GADSDEN          | AL       | 35906     | 1965 | 1966 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | SAUERS     | ROBERT L   |        | SHALIMAR         | FL       | 32579     | 1966 | 1966 | OF   |
| 118AHC  | STEVENS    | RICHARD  |        | PENSACOLA        | FL       | 32506     | 1966 | 1967 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | JAMES      | JOHN   |        | QUITMAN          | LA       | 71268     | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | WILLIAMS   | TONY   |        | MUNISING         | MI       | 49862     | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |
| 119AHC  | VAN FAROWE | GARY   |        | HUDSONVILLE      | MI       | 49426     | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | BROWN      | JOHN A   |        | LORGBURG         | NM       | 88045     | 1969 | 1969 | EM   |
| 118AHC  | JOHNSON    | JEFFREY A  |        | WELLINGTON       | OH       | 44090     | 1970 | 1971 | WO   |
| 57 TRAN | FRYETT     | GEORGE   |        | DILLON           | MT       | 59725     | 1961 | 1962 | EM   |
| 120AML  | DARBY      | DON  |        | ELIZABETHTOWN    | KY       | 42701     | 1963 | 1964 | EM   |
| 98 TRAN | MARTIN     | DALE S   |        | WADESVILLE       | IN       | 47638     | 1964 | 1965 | OF   |
| 120AML  | McMAKIN    | RICHARD  |        | OLMSTED TWP      | OH       | 44138     | 1964 | 1965 | WO   |
| 120AML  | THACKER    | SIDNEY M   |        | KODAK            | TN       | 37764     | 1964 | 1965 | EM   |
| 120AML  | WEAVER     | M.E. (RON)                                       |        | CHAMBERSBURG     | PA       | 17201     | 1965 | 1965 | EM*  |
| 120AML  | TRUCHON    | MIKE   |        | CHANCELLOR       | AL       | 36316     | 1965 | 1966 | WO   |
| 120AML  | GOLDEN     | RUSS   |        | MIDDLETOWN       | PA       | 17057     | 1965 | 1967 | EM   |
| 98 TRAN | MILKS      | RON O  |        | LAFAYETTE        | IN       | 47905     | 1967 | 1967 | EM   |
| 120AHC  | HARRIS     | FRED   |        | AUBURN           | WA       | 98001     | 1970 | 1970 | OF   |
| 93 TRAN | CURRY      | LEON   |        | MANVEL           | TX       | 77578     | 1962 | 1963 | OF*  |
| 184AVN  | GORDY      | JOHN W   |        | ALEXANDRIA       | VA       | 22307     | 1966 | 1967 | OF   |
| 190AHC  | LONDERS    | JAMES J  |        | PAWTUCKET        | RI       | 02860     | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | WILSON     | DOUG   |        | LINCOLN          | KS       | 67455     | 1967 | 1968 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | GONSALVES  | FRANK  |        | SAN JOSE         | CA       | 95123     | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | LONG       | BILL   |        | PALM CITY        | FL       | 34990     | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | MALLORY    | JESSE R  |        | ROY              | UT       | 84067     | 1968 | 1969 | EM   |
| 190AHC  | DAWSON     | DAVE (ROCKY)                                     |        | BURBANK          | CA       | 91505     | 1969 | 1970 | EM** |
| UTT     | FOX        | RAY A  |        | LOGANVILLE       | GA       | 30052     | 1961 | 1963 | EM*  |
| 197AHC  | HUPP       | H.D.   |        | PARKERSVILLE     | WV       | 26101     | 1964 | 1965 | EM   |



# NEW PEOPLE LOCATED

| UNIT   | LAST NAME | PEOPLE LOCATED ARRANGED BY UNIT AND DATE ENTERED |        |             | STA | ZIP   | 04-07-02<br>PHONE | DATE | DATE | RANK |
|--------|-----------|--|--------|-------------|-----|-------|-------------------|------|------|------|
|        |           | FIRST NAME                                       | STREET | CITY        |     |       |                   |      |      |      |
| 197AHC | GREENE    | JOHN A   |        | MONTAGUE    | MA  | 01351 |                   | 1965 | 1966 | WO   |
| 197AHC | MOODY     | JIM E  |        | McLEAN      | VA  | 22103 |                   | 1965 | 1966 | OF** |
| 197AHC | SCHMIDT   | JOHN L   |        | ENTERPRISE  | AL  | 36330 |                   | 1965 | 1966 | WO   |
| 334AHC | CHILDERS  | BRUCE  |        | POST FALLS  | ID  | 83854 |                   | 1966 | 1968 | EM   |
| 197AHC | DIXON     | LARRY E  |        | VIRGINA BCH | VA  | 23454 |                   | 1966 | 1967 | EM   |
| 334AHC | KELLY     | THOMAS J   |        | EUSTIS      | FL  | 32726 |                   | 1967 | 1967 | EM*  |
| 334AHC | ROBERTSON | JESSIE   |        | ABILENE     | TX  | 79603 |                   | 1967 | 1968 | EM*  |
| 334AHC | WILLIAMS  | TONY   |        | MUNISING    | MI  | 49862 |                   | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |
| 334AHC | SHARON    | PAUL   |        | LONGVIEW    | TX  | 75606 |                   | 1969 | 1970 | EM   |

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

117th AHCVA, Allen Bennett, Rt 1 ox 77B-1 Wilkes Rd, Adel, GA 31620  
1-229-896-2500 e-mail namvet42@hotmail.com web site <http://www.117thahc.org>

Co A/501st Avn Bn / 71st AHC, Ron Seabolt, 7755 CR 302, Terrell, TX 75160-7843  
Phone 1-972-524-9033 fax 972-524-9034 e-mail rattler1@rattlers.org web site [www.rattlers.org](http://www.rattlers.org)

135th AHC Reunion: Tom Staadt, 2340 S. River Rd, Suite 211, Des Plaines, IL 60018  
1-847-544-0031 e-mail: tstaadt@aol.com web site <http://www.135ahc.com/reunion.htm#news>

114th Avn Co Assoc, P.O. Box 448, Oakton, VA 22124  
Jim Gosnell 1-305-292-5681 Key West, FL e-mail jgosn10293@aol.com

335th AHC / A-82d, Doug Wilson, 1750 Whittier St 34, Costa Mesa, CA 92627-4571  
1-949-646-5335 e-mail: junglcruiser335@webtv.net

14th CAB, Harvey York, PO Box 2031, Cedartown, GA 30125 1-404-748-1510

52nd CAB, Vernon Gano, 6 lakes Port Ct, St Peter, MO 63376 1-314-441-3590

Army Otter & Caribou Assoc, PO Box 55284, St Petersburg, FL 33732-5284  
1-800-626-8194 e-mail BSiley@aol.com web site <http://www.otter-caribou.org>

VN Helicopter Pilots Assoc, 5530 Birdcage St, Suite 200, Citrus Heights, CA 95610  
1-800-505-VHPA <http://www.vhpa.org>

Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers Assoc, PO Box 752592, Memphis, TN 38175  
1-800-842-6201 <http://www.blv.org/vhcma/>

## Check out these web pages

For the 118<sup>th</sup> AHC <http://www.gorilla.net/~118ahc>

For the 68<sup>th</sup> AHC <http://www.toptigers.com>

For Flight School pictures <http://leav-www.army.mil/wocc/history/classpics.htm>

## Question

What your feeling on an e-mail copy of the newsletter?



## Reunion 01 Report

The 2001 Reunion of the units of the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion was held in Washington, DC, 9th thru the 12th of August. The Reunion was really great, with many activities, which all attending enjoyed. We started the Reunion August 9 with the check-in at noon and the "Ice Breaker Reception" even though many of us had an earlier reception the evening before.

On Friday morning many of our group visited the FBI Headquarters on a special tour where they didn't have to wait hours to get in. We had a special tour of the Pentagon in the early afternoon, just a month and a day before the attack.

On Saturday morning we toured Mount Vernon where Deb got the privilege to raise the flag and I had the privilege to place the wreath at George Washington's tomb. From there we went to Arlington Cemetery where Frank Thompson, by virtue of being the earliest one in our group to arrive in Vietnam, laid our wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown. We then did a drive-by tour of the U.S. Capitol and Mall area. We stopped at the Wall for a visit and had group pictures taken on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before heading back to the hotel. Saturday night we had our Reunion Banquet in a fully packed house where many of our members shared their thoughts and memories of their time in Vietnam.

On Sunday Morning we held our Memorial Service and our Business Meeting. At the Business Meeting we decided that the 2005 Reunion would be held in the Kansas City area with Joe Boggs as the Reunion Committee Chairman, and we are looking for more volunteers to assist him. Our 2003 Reunion will be held at Ft Rucker, AL, usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of June that would be June 20, 21, and 22. We will be dedicating our Memorials that we decided to fund at our business meeting at the 1999 Reunion, through donations. One is a Memorial in the park just inside the Daleville gate, in front of the museum; the other is a memorial plaque in the museum.

I want to thank our 2001 Reunion Committee for their hard work and the outstanding job they did putting the Reunion together.

Here are some of the Reunion notes from Maj Gen Carl McNair (Ret):

Dear Jim, We have finally cleared all the bills, refunds, and contributions for the 2001 Reunion and I'm enclosing a check for the balance of the account for the Association. A reconciliation of the income versus expenses reflects that we have provided checks to you for the following: \$750 for 145<sup>th</sup> CAB Memorial Plaque for Aviation Museum, \$750 for 145<sup>th</sup> CAB Granite Marker for the Aviation Center Memorial Park, \$522 total proceeds from Reunion Raffle for the Assoc treasury, \$21.68 Balance of account. Total \$2,043.68 to 145<sup>th</sup> CAB Association from 2001 Reunion. The Reunion Committee approved the following additional contributions from the balance of the Reunion Account: \$500 Aviation Museum (presented to the Army Aviation Museum Foundation Board) on behalf of the 145<sup>th</sup> CAB, \$250 Army Aviation Scholarship Foundation on behalf of the 145<sup>th</sup> CAB (presented by Harry Townsend to the Foundation President). Total \$750. Thus, the total 2001 Reunion proceeds of \$2,793.68 were provided for the Association and the desired 145<sup>th</sup> memorials, so that they can be dedicated, debt free, at the 2003 Reunion. In addition, ten dozen residual hats, as well as some shirts, cups and pens were provided to the Association for subsequent sale or disposition. Two dozen hats, plus a few shirts, pens and cups were provided to the 145<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion at Fort Rucker.

The Committee received many favorable comments from the participant concerning the reunion and activities therein. With the tragedy of September 11, many of the tours and sites we enjoyed in August simply cannot be done now – since tours of the FBI Building and Pentagon are no longer permitted. In fact, the metro entrance to the Pentagon, which we entered through for our tour is now sealed, and the escalators completely gone. Public access has been stopped and "E" ring corridor we walked through on August 10, was destroyed a month later. Many of our members who participated with us have since written or called to make that observation and say how glad they came in August – a walk through history.

I have not seen a 145<sup>th</sup> newsletter since our August business meeting, but as I recall, the Fort Rucker Reunion is set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in June 2003, which makes it, June 20-22. You might want to get that word out sometime soon so that members can begin their planning. The 13<sup>th</sup> CAB is having their Reunion at Fort Rucker on June 27-28, 2002. Perhaps you can highlight that



in our newsletter, since many of our members also served with the 13<sup>th</sup> CAB. From our discussions, I believe the recap of earlier reunion locations and future plans were as follows: 1986 Kokomo, IN, 1987 Ft Wayne, IN, 1989 Denver, CO, 1991 Ft Rucker, AL, 1993 Ft Worth, TX, 1995 Ft Rucker, AL, 1997 Las Vegas, NV, 1999 Ft Rucker, AL, 2001 Washington, DC, 2003 Ft Rucker, AL, 2005 Kansas City (Joe Boggs, Chairman), 2007 Ft Rucker, AL. You might want to include the summary in your next newsletter as well. With this as my concluding report, I will consider the books and activities of the 2001 Reunion closed. Do hope all goes well with you and Deb. Sincerely, Carl H. McNair, Jr Major General, U.S. Army (Ret)

Thank you Carl, a job well done to you and the whole Reunion 2001 Committee. We truly enjoyed ourselves at the Reunion. I hope to see you and your committee at the 2003 Reunion where you can sit back and enjoy.

## Reunion 03 Update

As stated in the 2001 Reunion Report the 2003 Reunion of the units of the 145<sup>th</sup> C.A.B. will be at Ft Rucker, AL. We are looking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of June 2003, June 20-22. Ft Rucker is still an active military base and getting busier all the time, so world conditions may affect our access to the base. Maj Gen (Ret) Richard Kenyon is the chairman of the Committee, with Willie Ruf and Chuck Frye. They are in need of more volunteers so if you live in the area and are willing to help, please contact Gen Kenyon or me.

At the 2003 Reunion we will be dedicating the Memorials. One of the items still needing to be decided is the final wording for the Memorials. The idea was that the outside memorial would say something like: "In tribute to all those that served with the units of the 145<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Battalion in Vietnam", and the inside memorial would say something like: "In memory of all those that gave their life while serving with the units of the 145<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Battalion in Vietnam". I'm sure we have people in our Association that can word it much more elegantly than I while still keeping it simple. Because the Memorials are on a military base all designs must be approved by the base. The Reunion Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the wording so if anyone has any ideas please send them in to me and I'll forward them to the Committee.

I hope to see all of you at the 2003 Reunion so start making your plans to attend. See you there.

## Sorry To Report

I'm sorry to have to report the passing of some of our members.

In an e-mail note from John Gaither, he said Marvin Spidel passed away just before last Thanksgiving of heart failure. Marvin was a Razorback crewchief (120<sup>th</sup> AML) in 1964-65 and retired as an E-6 after 20+ yrs in the Army.

In a phone call from the wife of Sidney A Schmidt, she said that Sidney passed away last summer with type 2 diabetes. He served with the 118<sup>th</sup> as a CWO in 1966 and 67.

In an e-mail from Joe Bell he said he had received a phone call from Earl McConaha saying that Col John Hughes passed on or about 20 Jan 02. I e-mailed Earl and he responded with this info on Col Hughes: Col Hughes had a stroke in September and lost the use of his legs, ending up in a wheel chair. He was having recurring respiratory problems, but the final blow was a heart condition. It was only putting out 15-20% of normal with a result that he had recurring low blood pressure episodes causing him to pass out. He was in the VA hospital in Denver and they released him to an assisted living facility in Ft. Collins, CO so he could get some therapy for his legs. Apparently he went to sleep one night, had one of his low blood pressure attacks and never woke up. It was a heavy blow for me when I got the news. He was a great soldier. Earl McConaha Col Hughes (Corn Cob 6) was a regular at our Reunions. He spent his time talking with everyone that attend, to him there were no strangers there. In NL32 August 1997 Col Hughes sent in an article about receiving "The Order of Saint Maurice" from the Natl Infantry Assoc and about him being made Honorary Col of the 29<sup>th</sup> Inf Regt at Ft Benning, where he ran with the troops a few weeks a year. I believe Col Hughes was commissioned in WWII, he was our Battalion Commander in 1964 and 12<sup>th</sup> Group Commander in 1969-70 I think. Col Hughes' wife of over 50 years, Ann, lost her battle with cancer in 1994. Condolence can be sent to Col Hughes's son Lon at [REDACTED]



## FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report covers 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001. 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 question or suggestions please let me know. I want you to know that your money is being used for the intended purpose.

### Checking

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Balance 1 January 2001.....   | \$3273.88 |
| Total deposits checking account 1/1/01 to 12/31/01 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)..... | \$3264.00 |
| Transferred from savings .....  | \$ 0.00   |
| Total...  | \$6537.88 |

|                                   |            |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <u>Expenditures</u> Bank fee..... | \$ 54.83   |            |
| Computer hardware.....            | \$ 331.65  |            |
| Computer supplies.....            | \$ 123.51  |            |
| Fund raiser supplies.....         | \$ 302.98  |            |
| AOL (on-line).....                | \$ 133.65  |            |
| Postage.....                      | \$ 1208.60 |            |
| Printing newsletters.....         | \$ 1585.74 |            |
| Reunion Expense.....              | \$ 250.00  |            |
| Trailer Repairs & PM.....         | \$ 430.00  |            |
| Miscellaneous .....               | \$ 208.68  |            |
| Total Expenditures                | \$ 4629.64 | \$4629.64  |
| Balance 31 December 2001 .....    |            | \$ 1908.24 |

### Savings

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Life Membership Balance 01/01/01..... | \$7497.49  |
| Life Membership Deposit.....          | \$3451.00  |
| Life Membership Interest .....        | \$ 162.76  |
| Personal Loan...(Investment).....     | \$-2000.00 |
| Personal Loan Interest.....           | \$ 180.00  |
| Personal Loan Repayment.....          | \$ 210.00  |
| Life Membership Balance 12/31/01..... | \$ 9501.25 |

Miscellaneous includes supplies (paper, mailing labels, printer cartridges, copy machine supplies, envelopes, staples, note books, ink pens, etc.).

The Personal Loan (Investment) item is when I needed a personal loan when buying my house here in Florida. I called Mike Hoke, our auditor, and ask him about it and he said he couldn't see a problem as long as everything was documented. Repayment interest terms are \$20 a month until balance is below \$1,000, then \$10 a month until repaid. I much rather pay interest to our Association then a loan company. The interest income to the Association is much more then the bank would pay.

The saving account includes \$2000 donated for the Memorials at Ft Rucker. The 2001 Reunion Committee donated \$1500 of that. I offer a very big THANK YOU to them, it is appreciated.

If by chance you haven't sent in dues for the 01-02-03 membership years please do so, it will make it easier. Dues are \$15 a year. Life membership is \$250.

**PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOU MEMBERSHIP TODAY**

**Just \$15 a year**

**Our Memorial Fund Donations so far are \$1,000 for inside and \$1,000 for the outside Memorial, see page 31 for details.**



## ORDER & MEMBERSHIP FORM

FILL OUT COMPLETE ADDRESS AND PHONE

send in **complete form**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send form to: **145th C.A.B.V.A., PO Box 18499, PANAMA CITY, FL 32417**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

145th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (VIETNAM) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

I served with the (**unit**) \_\_\_\_\_ from (**date**) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**RANK** (check one) EM \_\_\_\_\_ WO \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$15 for each membership year. **Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_ for 1 July 01 to 30 June 200 \_\_\_\_\_

Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ NL37

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_ LIFE MEMBERSHIP \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ FULL PAYMENT \_\_\_\_\_ PARTIAL PAYMENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS** \_\_\_\_\_ inside \_\_\_\_\_ outside \_\_\_\_\_ other see page 31

## CASSETTE TAPE

Send me the indicated cassette tape/s, Audio Cassette sell for \$15 each. NL37

\_\_\_\_\_ "Battle of Bien Hoa/Gunship Action" \_\_\_\_\_ Combat Assault \_\_\_\_\_ Song of the UTT

## 145<sup>TH</sup> LICENCE PLATES

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ 145<sup>th</sup> License Plate/s at \$10 each

## UNIT PATCHES or

## HAT

Send me \_\_\_\_\_ 118AHC, \_\_\_\_\_ 118AML, \_\_\_\_\_ 119AHC, \_\_\_\_\_ UTT (Pegasus),  
\_\_\_\_\_ FIREBIRD, \_\_\_\_\_ MUSTANG (Grim Reaper), at \$4 each.

Or send me \_\_\_\_\_ 145th C.A.B. baseball cap at \$5 each.

NL37

## COLOR UNIT T-SHIRTS

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

### #01-01 145th BN Assoc

\_\_\_\_\_ #04-03 57th Med Det

\_\_\_\_\_ #05-02 68th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #06-02 71st AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #06-04 FIREBIRD

\_\_\_\_\_ #08-03 117th AML

\_\_\_\_\_ #08-04 117th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #09-01 118th AML

\_\_\_\_\_ #09-02 118th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #10-02 119th AML

\_\_\_\_\_ #10-03 119th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #11-02 120th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #12-02 121st AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #13-02 135th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #16-01 190th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #17-01 UTT (1963)

\_\_\_\_\_ #17-02 UTT (1964)

\_\_\_\_\_ #17-04 197th AHC

\_\_\_\_\_ #17-05 334th AHC (1966-68)

## SIZE

\_\_\_\_\_ MEDIUM

\_\_\_\_\_ LARGE

\_\_\_\_\_ EX-LARGE

\_\_\_\_\_ XX-LARGE

\_\_\_\_\_ XXX-LARGE

ALLOW 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY, IF NOT IN STOCK. SEE PICTURES IN DIRECTORY



# FUND RAISERS

We have a few ongoing fund raisers, the purpose of these is to raise operating funds for the Association and 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 form printed in the newsletter. Please help us grow.

## 118th AHC, 118th AML, 119th AHC, & UTT UNIT PATCHES, FIREBIRD & MUSTANG GUNSHIP PATCHES

We have reproductions of the 118th Thunderbird, 118th Air Mobile Light, 119th AHC, and UTT 1963-64 (Pegasus) patches to sell to raise funds. The patches sell for \$4 each. See order form printed in newsletter

## 145<sup>th</sup> C.A.B. License Plates

THE 1999 Reunion Committee had License plates made to go on the front bumper. The top half has 1963 on the left, Battalion emblem in the center, and 1972 on the right. The bottom half says 145<sup>th</sup> COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (VIETNAM) "OLD WARRIORS". After the Reunion they turned over 75 of them for us to sell to raise funds. We're selling them for \$10 each while supplies last. If they sell quickly we'll order more.

## 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 on the other, its called "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 Taipans, 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 mission of Vietnam Helicopter crews, recorded in Vietnam in 1965, with a country flavor.. These tapes have been very popular with all who have heard them and I recommend them 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 printed in newsletter.

## COLOR T-SHIRT

We now have color T-shirts made with the original unit patch design for many of the units, most of 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 10" to 13" high including the lettering and are in color as close as I can match the original color. The cost is \$13 each and all profits go to the Association. See pictures in the back part of the directory for more details. See order form printed in newsletter.

## 145<sup>th</sup> C.A.B. REUNION HATS

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. The 1991 Reunion Committee had the hats made and they have been a big seller. Order one today.

## 145<sup>th</sup> MEMORIAL DONATIONS

At the 1999 Reunion it was decided to fund two memorials at Ft Rucker. One inside the Museum and one outside by the Daleville gate. Anyone wanting to help fund these please indicate your desire on the Membership/ Order form. We want to have these funded and built before the 2003 Reunion at Ft Rucker. The museum and the post will take care of the design to be fitting with other memorials in the area