

Lt. General H.W.O. Kinnard

22 August 1990

Lt. General Richard T. Knowles

Dear Dick,

It was truly a delight to see you and Betty again at our fine reunion. I really wanted much more time for catching-up and finding out more about what you are doing now. Somehow the reunion came and went and I found myself on the way home with entirely too little time spent with you two.

I want you to know, Dick, that I was as humbled as I was pleased by your exceptionally warm and generous introduction at the Banquet. I have often reviewed in memory our days together and always find the recall most pleasant. And that's true even though one of the toughest decisions I ever had to make was in not canning John Stockton as you so understandably recommended.

I had hoped, among other topics, to discuss with you a concern which has been gnawing on me about a trend I believe I see in the Division Association. It has to do with the big head of steam that has been generated by some of our people who were in the fighting in the Pleiku Campaign. I refer to the Ia Drang Chapter and the constant emphasis on X-ray (and to a lesser extent Albany) almost to the exclusion of all else that happened in that Campaign and in all our other actions such as Masher/White Wing. I yield to no one in my admiration for the 7th Cav units, but I would not like to see the First Team Association become "the Seventh Cav and some others".

Maybe my fears are groundless; I certainly hope so. But I would like your assessment of this thought and, for now, would ask that the discussion not go beyond you and me. I have not talked to Hal Moore and do not want to unless this really begins to get out of hand. It is obviously a delicate subject with the inherent possibility to do serious harm if my sensing is accurate.

I had also hoped ask your reaction to my Banquet talk. I had some concerns and would appreciate your most candid comments. I have never had a thin skin, especially with regard to writing or speaking. With that in mind I'm enclosing a copy of the talk, pretty much as given.

Once again, 'twas great to see you both; all the best.

Sincerely,

*Harry*