

12/20/96

Dear Bob:

I am a new member to the VHPA and I want to send some information about my flight school class that might help fill out some of your data. When I received the 1997 Membership book I saw that you didn't have any information on Class 55-J that started flight school in the summer of 1955 at Gary AFB, San Marcos, Tex. I went through some of my records and found several documents that I made copies of for you.

The first is a graduation booklet from our graduation at Gary. The second item is the graduation booklet from Gert Rucker. The third item is our DA orders placing us on flight status and the fourth is a letter telling me of my class standing upon graduation.

We wore yellow hats while in training at San Marcos and when we soloed we put a small aircraft wheel in the front of the Cop. We also wrote the date of our various check rides on the lid of the box after we passed the check. As I recall we had a solo check, 45 hour, 75 hour and final check. I cannot recall the number that started our class but it was around a hundred. We lost about 50% of the class before the 45 hour checks were completed.

Several of us stayed on at Fort Rucker following graduation to serve as flight and ground school instructors. I was one of them. We arrived at Camp Rucker which was just being re-opened at the time to become the home of Army Aviation. When we graduated it was Fort Rucker.

Many of my Class mates served in Viet Nam and in many other positions in the Army as our careers progressed. Like Ken Fritz one of my Class mates.

I tried to find more information on my rotary wing Class which was AAHC 58-4. We graduated on 6 Feb 58 and I think that there were 30 in our Class. I couldn't find much else about that Class and you appear to have some info on it already as indicated in the membership book.

I flew in VN in 1964/65 with the UTT and commanded the second platoon - RADER 26. I also flew with the 188th AHC, Dec 67 to Jan 68 as the CO.

Blackwidow 6. I am working with Dick Petra to document a history of that unit. I don't have any info on a history of the UTT being written or anyone who is interested in doing one. If you have a contact for the UTT, I would appreciate having it sent to me.

I hope that this will be of some help. I spent many hours going over the membership book looking up old buddies. Keep up the good work. Have a happy holidays.

Sincerely,

Jack O. Johnson