

ROBERT R. WILLIAMS

Directory Committee
V.H.P.A.
7 West Seventh Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202

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Dear Committee:

Your 1995 Membership Directory is a masterpiece. It is the most complete, best organized, useful and interesting directory I have seen. Congratulations and thanks for producing a document that will be very useful for many of us.

You invited comments. Taking advantage of this invitation I suggest that your next edition feature the Huey (unless you have done this before; I am a new member). If not the Huey, how about the Cobra? Hans Weichel, a retired senior vice president of Bell Helicopter, has written several detailed papers on the history of the Huey. He lived the program from its inception to the end of the United States Army procurement. His address is: Mr. Hans Weichsel, 5801 Rockhill Road, Fort Worth, TX 76112.

Your section VII-Flight Class Inventory and your Index- U.S. Army Flight Training Class deal with training conducted at Fort Wolters, Fort Rucker and Hunter AAF but list classes during the period 1942- 54 when none of those locations were used for aviation training. During the period 1942-45 primary flight training was conducted at Pittsburgh, KS; Denton, Tx; and Tuskegee, AL. During the period 1945-55 primary training was conducted first at Waco, TX and later at San Marcos, TX. Advanced or tactical training was conducted at Fort Sill, OK. It may surprise you to learn that there have been Army Aviators who did not go through any Army course; at least two, Del Bristol and I, served in Vietnam.

I can provide you some background information applicable to your section VII-Flight Class Inventory and your Index- U.S. Army Flight Training Class if you desire. The information would be based on my memory and discussions with as many individuals who typify each period or significant group as practical. I am not a historian and I have not been a record keeper. There will be little documentation unless I pick up some from the individuals I contact.

My memory comes from having served in the following assignments related to Army Aviation:

1942- Member of the Test Group for Organic Aviation for the Artillery

June 1942-43- Chief of the Flight Division, Department of Air Training, U.S. Army Artillery School.

1952-55- Chief of the Army Aviation Branch, Department of the Army.

1955-58- President Army Aviation Board. (during this tour I went through the Navy jet operational pilot school at Olathe, KS, a course designed to transition world War II Navy pilots into jets. This is the only military or civilian flying course I was lucky enough to get.)

1957- I received the first Army Master Aviator Rating.
1961-63- Commandant U.S. Army Aviation School and
Commanding General Fort Rucker.
1964-65- Commanding General, Test Evaluation and Control
Group, Air Assault II.
1966-67- Director Army Aviation
1967-69- Commanding General 1st Aviation Brigade and
Aviation Officer, USARV.

If you are interested in having information on how Army
Aviators got their wings let me know and I will make a run at
putting together some information.

If any of you are going to be at the AAAA convention the end
of this month look me up during the meeting.

Warm Regards


Robert R. Williams
Lt. Gen U.S. Army (Ret.)

Info removed by VNCA