

No Recipient, 173 CO

To:
From: Gary Roush [REDACTED]
Subject: 173 CO
Cc:
Bcc:

From: [REDACTED] (Donald Joyce)
Date: Sat, 7 Mar 1998 21:27:44 -0500
Subject: 173rd Avn Co History

--WebTV-Mail-1429280156-1939
Content-Type: TEXT/PLAIN; CHARSET=US-ASCII
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7BIT

Flight....This letter from John Stanfield, the 1st "Robin Hood" CO, was forwarded to me by Bruce Silvey, from the Army Otter-Caribou Association net, after he read Bud's "precision flying" story. COL Stanfield would like to hear from 173rd Crewmembers on the nets.

His e-mail: [REDACTED]

Don Joyce

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Content-Type: MESSAGE/RFC822
Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7BIT

From: BSilvey [REDACTED]
Message-ID: [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, 6 Mar 1998 06:10:36 EST
To: [REDACTED]
Mime-Version: 1.0
Subject: 173AvnCoUpdate
Content-type: text/plain; charset=US-ASCII
Content-transfer-encoding: 7bit
X-Mailer: AOL 3.0 for Windows 95 sub 49

Well - one never knows what stories lurk out there - I sent along the great story about Dutch to some of my favorites - The following came back from John Stanfield.

What a thrill to read the story of Dutch and the 173rd. There is only one correction and I am sure that Dutch will remember this. I was the first commander of the 173. I put the unit together at Fort Benning in late 1965 and took it through training for deployment to Vietnam. We were set for deployment in late Sept 1965 but the command in Vietnam decided it need our aircraft to replace losses. Therefore we were delayed by another four to six weeks. During this time I got promoted to Lt.Col. and Phip Seneff decided that I could not deploy with the company. I put forth every argument possible including the 20 some odd Majors assigned to the company but he would not budge. He said it would be a precedent that he was not ready to accept. Hence Dutch became the Co Commander and took the unit to Vietnam. I remained at Fort Benning until the 135th deployed in Jan 1966 and was ordered by J.Elmore Swenson to go along as an escort on the Ferry Flight because of some problems previous Caribou units has had passing thru Hawaii. Being Caribou rated with one trip to Vietnam thru Europe, I had no problem fitting in with the 135th. I informed Marv Childers that so long as the troops behaved with no problems in Hawaii, I would only be a "ferry pilot", if there were problems he would hear from me. I was a good ferry pilot, the unit was superb and he never was bothered by having a new Lt.Col. "spy pilot". After arriving in Vietnam, my first mission was to visit the 173rd Aviation Co. I stayed in Vietnam for 6 weeks flying missions with various companies to gain experience to take back to Fort Benning to be integrated into the unit training. Upon arrival back at Fort Benning, I assumed command of the 58th Transportation Battalion and deployed back to Vietnam in March 1966. So there you have the rest of the story. Dutch was number two, but he was my choice and he did one tremendous job!!!!

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