

MICHAEL E. SLONIKER

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Mike Law  
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July 18, 1995

Dear Mike

Thanks for the surprise at the business meeting. The legacy of that two month period lives on.

I got a call on Friday, July 14th, from Butch Elliot, Witchdoctor 5, who was shot down near Aloui. I have his Mayday on audio tape. He told me that he would have never been rescued if it had not been for an Air Force FAC named Roger Carter. Carter is now a full Colonel, and in the Pentagon. I called Carter Friday night, and we talked for two hours. An unbelievable two hours.

BG Sid Berry and LTC Kirklighter did NOT want to go back for Elliot, because the area was too hot. Carter, then a first lieutenant, convinced them the rescue could be done and did it. He took lots of pictures from the OV-10 and has some of Elliot in a bomb crater with his crew. Naturally, I am going to copy everything. Additionally, they both wrote down their impression of the experience, which is inbound to me.

Carter told me he was over Lolo before the first Huey got there with TACAIR and was told by BG Berry that he would not be needed; this is an Army show. Soon as the shit hit the fan, Berry was leading the call for TACAIR.

One Sunday afternoon in August, I am going to get Carter over to my house, invite new VHPA member Ron Walters (who was in an ARA Cobra from B Btry 2/20 AFA, 1st CAV over Lolo), Doug Womack (3d aircraft into Lolo), Jerry Crews (8th aircraft into Lolo and 3d to crash and burn) Fulbrook (71st AHC) and go over Lolo and then the rest of LS 719. I'll be making videotapes, audiotapes, and pictures of the event.

B Btry 2/20 ARA (Blue Max) is not listed in any after action report, and we do not it in the directory. I got verification from different pilots.

Thanks for the picture.

*Mike*

Info removed by VNCA