

5 February, 1989

Dear Mike,

Forgive the haste with which I write this letter as I want to get it to you before you leave for England. I can blame my mistakes on my hurry and the fact that I'm attempting to use a new computer which is still a mystery to me. I'm slowly learning to use it as I make mistakes...many, many mistakes.

First, I would be happy to help put together a list of units in South Vietnam. It will be an interesting task as I have talked with many people who told me they were with a unit that didn't exist in any table of organization! I have what is supposed to be a complete organizational table for the First Avn. Bde. in Vietnam. I also have an extensive list of Air Force units who served in South East Asia. I guess I'm already working on the project for you and by consolidating what I have and organizing it, I think I'll have a good base from which to work.

Second, I don't know if I have the proper credentials, but if you need someone to work in the Historical (Vietnam) Committee as chairman, I'd be happy to offer my services and do whatever I can.

The project with Taylor Publishing sounds interesting but brings many questions to immediate attention. Is the goal to have histories of all (helicopter)aviation units in Vietnam or just U.S. Army aviation units? Are there going to be histories about helicopter units from the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard? What about allied forces and their helicopter units (the Australian, New Zealand, ROK, etc.). Where is the project heading and how inclusive will it be? How long will the histories be or will it depend on the missions? To give you an example, the First Avn. Bde. had over 100 units, most of which were helicopter! And then there is the 1st CAV!! What a mess that will be to figure out. But they were always that way. Accurate histories can be long and be difficult to untangle. Once the histories are written I believe the very least one could expect would be about 100 to 200 pages! What about photographs of unit insignia and the different types of helicopters flown (now I'm starting to get into one of my areas of research)? Your upcoming article for the Newsletter is interesting and should provide some feedback. Have you considered an expanded member information questionnaire? I'll work on an example as to what I'd like to see if I was looking for historical information - an idea.

I have asked my father to do a little digging for me about the CIA....excuse me, Air America, in Vietnam. As a retired Air Force Intelligence officer with about 32 years doing that he has the ability to find out a lot of what you may want to know. And what can be printed. After he retired he landed a job as an historian with the Air Force at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery. Although retired from that job he still does a lot of research there and knows everyone and where things are. After the reunion in Chicago I plan to visit my parents in Montgomery for a few days during which time I'll visit the archives there and get down to Rucker to do some looking around.

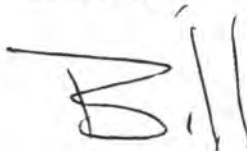
In the meantime I'll be assembling what information I have and do some more in-depth research.

I will confess that although some would consider this a labor of love, I am being very greedy. For me it's a blessing to be allowed to do something constructive, especially when it is one of interest and something of great pride to me.

I have several friends in England and Scotland so I understand the mail problems, oh, so well. One man for whom my father did a great amount of research lives in England. He wrote AIR WAR IN VIETNAM. His name is Phil Chinnery and the last time I spoke with him he was planning a book about THE HELICOPTER WAR IN VIETNAM.

Thank you for writing, I hope to hear something from you and in the meantime I'll be putting together what I can

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bill Greenhalgh

my phone # is [REDACTED]

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