

7/6/98

2100HRS

Mike:

THOUGHT I WOULD GET A QUICK NOTE OFF TO YOU WITH
ENCLOSED — DID NOT KNOW THAI'S HAD FLYING SCHOOL FOR LAO
PILOTS ... CHECK OUT MCCOSKRIE AS HE SEEMS TO HAVE
INTERESTING INFO (40 THAI HELICOPTERS, FLIGHT SCHOOL, ECT. ...)

I SENT FOIA TO NATIONAL ARCHIVES ON "WATER PUMP"
WILL LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS —

WROTE CHIEF-OF-STAFF, ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE FOR ANY
INFO OR HISTORY ON THEIR HELO UNITS (1960-1975) AND AS MANY
NAMES OF THAI HELO PILOTS AS THEY CAN COME UP WITH

ALSO WROTE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION THAILAND FOR
RECORDS ON ALL CIVIL HELO'S IN THAILAND (1960-75) ALONG WITH
NAME OF COMPANY REG. TO. I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHAT
COMES OF THIS —

DID YOU RECEIVE MY STORIES ON "MINES AND BOOBY-TRAPS"
AND "LAST HELICOPTER FROM PHUM PHEN"? ALSO THE KHMER
AIR FORCE AIR-ORDER-OF-BATTLE? REASON I ASK — MAIL
NOT GOING OUT — AND MAIL RECEIVED BEING THROWN AWAY BY
SOME STAFF. !!!

HOW WAS REUNION? SO CLOSE AND YET, SO FAR AWAY!
HOPE YOU HAD SOME MORE INPUT TO DIRECTORY MATERIAL FROM
THOSE WHO ATTENDED — I KNOW IT WAS A HOT ONE THIS
YEAR.

TILL NEXT TIME / AUGUST

John



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HQ WARNER ROBINS AIR LOGISTICS CENTER (AFMC)
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE GEORGIA

W2 John B. Konek (RET)
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May 26, 1998

Dear Mr. Konek:

I'm answering your letter post-haste w/o any additional data, just to let you know I want to help w/the 20th data. It'll be awhile before I can put anything together, probably 15 June or so since I'm doing an exercise next and leave the week after. How much time have you got for your suspense?

I'm not sure what we have that will suit your purpose and no doubt much of what I write/send will be ramblings from 30 years ago (Mar 68 - 69). The 20th & 21st just had an Air Commando/Special Ops Helicopter reunion at Ft. Walton Beach, 16 - 19 April - not too good a turn out due to lack of publicity. I have to join VHPA as I've fiddled around enough putting it off. I think this is a great thing you and VHPA are doing. I'm w/USAF HPA but it's not the same. We, here at the museum, have plans to build a \$3m plus Vietnam exhibit complete w/fire base, Wall and all within the next 3 - 5 years. Right now we have a large FAC exhibit (0-1, 0-2, Konnex, etc.) and the P model (by itself - no display). We still need one Air Force mini-gun, two rocket pods and a sight. Otherwise, it's complete with instruments, fire control panel, etc. It was the only serial number I could match up with the 20th in 68 - 69 in 1991 when we tried to do a 'Nam exhibit. It's been inside with a camouflage paint job and a Green Hornet on the side ever since. I hope to use an F model (no Vietnam) that we have as the future exhibit is to be out side to cover Saigon and DaNang, and of course the fixed-wings!

I'm throwing in a "Rotar Blade Review" from a gunner, Tom Booth, that's trying to start something with the 20th. He could probably put a notice in the next one if you can contact him. I'll feed you whatever I can. Photos are more difficult. A couple of references (I have neither, nor does the museum): S.O.G. by Plaster and Appolo's Warriors by Haas are both good books published in 1997.

Well, I didn't intend to get carried away. You hit a favorite subject. Best of luck to you in your endeavor.

Regards,

DARWIN G. EDWARDS
Curator
Museum of Aviation