



GLADIATORS REUNION COMMITTEE

57TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
KONTUM • AN KHE • PLEIKU



February 1992

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Brother Gladiator -

Two decades after completing our tours in Vietnam, many of us have never had occasion to reunite with our buddies from the days of overseas service. In Vietnam, friendships were formed which should endure a lifetime. Yet, after leaving for the World, most of the men completely lost touch with each other.

Although we served at different times, the writers recently crossed paths in an improbable way. We had both read Ray Harris' book, "Break Contact, Continue Mission", an astutely accurate recounting of CCC missions over the fence, written by a Special Forces team leader. Ray had described the Gladiators' role in these missions, and in fact related some operations known to us. We were both separately moved to write to Ray, and we subsequently struck up long distance friendships. Ray put us in touch with each other, and we met in September for the first time.

While our kids played in the yard, we showed each other our photos and memorabilia from our time in the 57th, and after a while we jointly came to a conclusion: it is high time that someone organized a reunion of the Gladiators. We both remembered our experiences and particularly our buddies, and we agreed that we had each passively anticipated seeing the guys again, once "they" arranged an event. Neither one of us knew who "they" were -- the C.O. maybe? Doubtful, it hasn't happened yet.

So two old crew chiefs decided to find the Gladiators, and get them together again. At this point we are in the information gathering stage. We need to develop an accurate mailing list before moving on. Once this is done, we will communicate with the group and choose a time and place for the reunion. We'd like to do it in 1992 if possible. With your help, it can happen.

Please call or write to either one of us, with any information you may have regarding the whereabouts of other Gladiators. We already have some information from the Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers Association roster, and from the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association roster as well. Any information you have, no matter how old or sketchy, could help.

What do you think? Is it time for our next mission? Let's give it a shot!

Yellow lead, over...

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