

Zuasschwert, John "John Z"*	Zumar, Anthony P. #	Zuopke, Thomas S. #	Zwar, Donald R	Zygowicz, Alan J. "Zvoo"
CLASS 60-6Q/58-17 67 269 CAB Farmer	CLASS 69-49 Zumbro, Harold D. DAT Zumwalt, James W. #	SERVICE USMC Zurawik, Richard L. #	CLASS 69-29/69-27 Model Maker (Whirlpool) Zwarycz, Gregory DAT Zwerg, Ralph F. DAT Zwink, Robert R.	SERVICE USMC Trained (USA) 70-42 72 HMM-165 Div Chief Fed Law Enf Trn Ctr Zvlka, John F.
Zuk, Anthony I. #	20111-7017 Zuniga, German #	CLASS 68-510 Zurl, John J. #	CLASS 68-21/68-35 69-70 118 AHC 73 AIR AMERICA VIETNAM 73 ICCS Pilot	CLASS 70-2 70 121 AHC 70-71 335 AHC Zvnda, Gerald I. #
CLASS 71-43 Zuk, Thomas D. # CLASS 67-12 Zulberti, Alan J. #	SERVICE USMC Zupan, Terry M. DAT Zupancic, David P. #	CLASS 70-39 Zutter, Walter E. #		Zysk, Edmund C. # CLASS 70-10
CLASS 69-9 69-70 205 ASHC Retired	CLASS 70-10	CLASS 68-509/68-11 Zuvela, George M. DAT Zwaagstra, Bert J. DAT		

SECTION II - Honorary Members

Terrie, the former wife of VHPA Founder, Larry Clark, was a key person in the conception of the VHPA.

Julie, "little sister" of KIA WO1 David R. Kink, has supported the VHPA and the VHFCN by assisting family members of helicopter crewmen and pilots who were casualties of the Vietnam War.

Pat & Cheryl have produced award winning documentaries about the Vietnam War which have shown the historically accurate use of helicopters and its crew members.

SECTION III – Helicopter Aviation History as Reflected in Books about the Vietnam War

In keeping with the traditions set by past VHPA Directories, the Directory Committee presents a few pages to support the theme of this edition – Helicopter Aviation History as Reflected in Books about the Vietnam War. Due to page limits, only a portion of this material is printed in this paper edition. The complete Section III is on the CD edition and the membership directory web site on <http://www.vhpaservices.com>.

It is important for all readers of the VHPA Annual Membership Directory to know that there is no "hidden message here" by presenting this history in this edition. Neither the VHPA as an organization nor the Directory Committee are trying to "make any statement here" that any of these books is better or somehow deserving of special treatment versus other books about the Vietnam War. This history is simply one good example of the material that makes up part of the VHPA's legacy. As with all pieces of the VHPA's legacy, they are worthy of collection, preservation, and addition to The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University.

The following five pages are simply an extract from the full history. The goal in selecting these five pages is to present the reader with samples for the history to display the "richness" of the material in the full history. Warning: The narrative on one page does not continue to the next page in this five-page extract.

Helicopter Aviation History as Reflected in Books about the Vietnam War

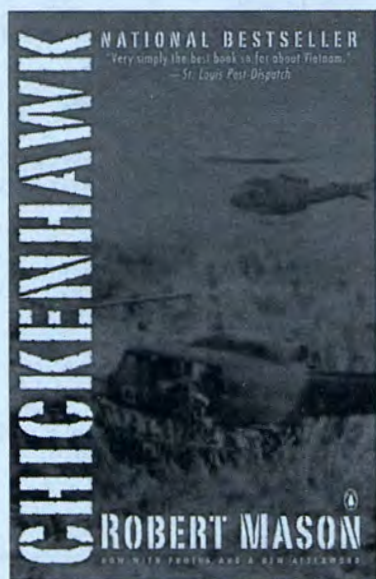
by Mike Sloniker VHPA Historian Summer 2012

There has been a plethora of books written about the impact of helicopters and the spirit of their crews in the Vietnam War. It is not the intention of this piece to name all of these books - I just want to pass on what I have read or assisted. Since asked to be the VHPA historian in 1997, I have gotten many emails asking what books tell our story. If you go to Amazon.com the list is endless, however, the questions I get relate specifically to the helicopter war. Joe Galloway, co-author of We Were Soldiers Once and Young, the guest speaker at the 2000 VHPA reunion, speaking to over 2000 gathered at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at 0900 on 2 July before the flyby said it this way:

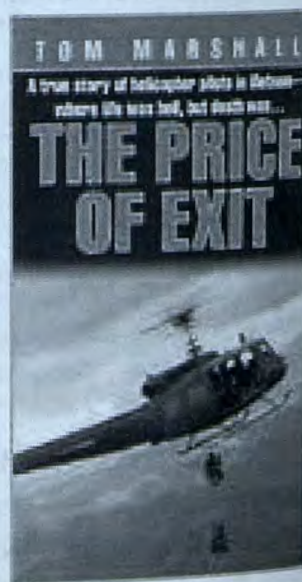
"Is there anyone here today who does not thrill to the sound of those Huey blades?? That familiar whop-whop-whop is the soundtrack of our war...the lullaby of our younger days, it is burned into our brains and our hearts. To those who spent their time in Nam as a grunt, know that noise was always a great comfort... Even today when I hear it, I stop...catch my breath...and search the sky for a glimpse of the mighty eagle. To the pilots and crews of that wonderful machine ...we loved you, we loved that machine. No matter how bad things were...if we called ... you came... down through the hail of green tracers and other visible signs of a real bad day off to a bad start. I can still hear the sound of those blades churning the fiery skyTo us you seemed beyond brave and fearless... Down you would come to us in the middle of battle in those flimsy thin skin -chariots ...into the storm of fire and hell,.....we feared for you, we were awed by you. We thought of you and that beautiful bird as " God's own lunatics"... and wondered ...who are these men and this machine and where do they come from Have to be "Gods Angels". So with that I say to her, that beautiful lady sitting out there, from me and all my lucky brothers, that were given the honor to serve their country, and the privilege of flying this great lady in skies of Vietnam - Thank you for the memories...Thank you for always being there...Thank you for always bringing us home regardless of how beat up and shot up you were..., Thank You!!!!. You will never be forgotten, we loved you then..... we love you now... and will love you till our last breath ... And as the sun sets today, if you listen quietly and closely you will hear that faint wop wop wop of our mother speaking to all her children past and present who rode her into history in a blaze of glory ...she will be saying to them: I am here... I will always be here with you. I am at peace and so should you be ... and so should you be."

His book, with LTG ret Hal Moore, We Were Soldiers Once and Young, has an entire chapter on Army Aviation titled, "Brave Aviators."

The Helicopter War written by the Helicopter Pilots



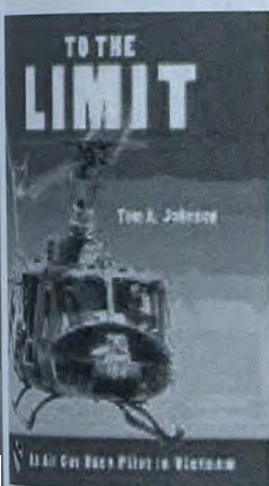
Many of the books are from the perspective of the pilot flying in combat and are aviation centric. Chicken Hawk by Robert Mason was an early book that verbally described Warrant Officer Rotary Wing Classes, the terminology of just what is going on in the cockpit of a Huey and wrote with a style the non aviator could understand. Price of Exit by Tom Marshall chronicles his flight class through their 70-71 service and lists the fallen from that class. This book is a favorite with many Air Force fighter pilot members of the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association who



highly recommend it. This book, according to their comments provided, gave them a different, clear perspective of the air war they flew over.



Firebirds by Chuck Carlock clearly chronicles the 71st AHC. If you read Firebirds, a companion book, Why Didn't you get me out? by Frank Anton is the story of Anton's trials from 68 to 73 as a POW. Anton was a member of the 71st. In Firebirds, Carlock also writes about Major Patrick Brady, MOH awardee's flights off Chu Lai to medevac wounded during Tet 68 in terrible IFR weather conditions. Brady's book Dead Men Flying clearly describes his actions and the crew coordination. A must read. This book tells the story of medevac/dustoff in great detail.



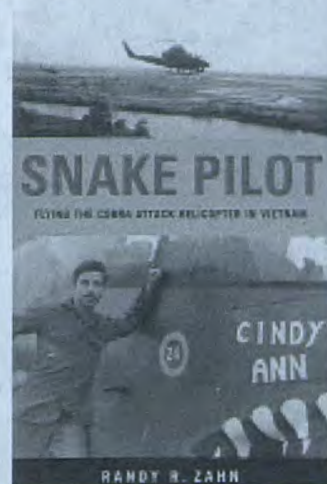
To the Limit by Tom A Johnson is one book that is a must read for those who want to pass on to their children and grandchildren the story of 'this is an example of what I did.' Johnson's soulful book tells the story of his 67-68 tour in A 229th, the aircraft commander / peter pilot relationship in the UH-1D, the missions in II Corps around Bong Son and the vast difference in those in the A Shau in I Corps. Tom's description of being shot at and hit through the clouds over the A Shau in 1968 was never passed on as a lesson learned to those of us who followed except by war stories told by IPs at Wolters and Rucker. The massing of radar controlled 23mms in the A Shau would show up again in Lam Son 719, Easter Offensive around An Loc and Kontum. However the decision

to put us in one year tours - get us in and out - did not provide the means to pass on that information. The sheer terror of going through the clouds in a dying Huey is written well by Tom Johnson. Tom honors his flight class by listing the KIAs in his class as does Tom Marshall in his book Price of Exit.



Low Level Hell by Hugh Mills set a high standard in 1992 for Air Cavalry "there I was" writing from the perspective of the cockpit in the 1st Infantry Division AO in III Corps.

Snake Pilot by Randy Zahn follows up with the AH-1G view of the war in a later part of the war with the 1st Cav Div in the same III Corps AO. Zahn and Mills have a different writing style, however the intensity of flying low over the trees, and the responsibility of the Cobra pilot to protect the scout, is extremely clear.





Concerning the AH-1G, USMC veteran Cobra Pilot Robert W. Robinson's book Scarface 42 is an excellent example how a shared aircraft, the AH-1G, was fought differently by the Marines in I Corps. Amazon's recommendation is: " *Scarface 42, call-sign of the author, a veteran of 1,140 combat missions, is a compilation of selected factual actions of USMC Helicopter Squadron HML-367 which took place during the authors tour of duty in Vietnam 1969-70. Events include super secret missions in Laos, rescue missions of downed aircraft crews, attack missions using the firepower of the deadly UH-1 Huey gunships and AH-1G Huey Cobras and day to day activities of a U.S. Marine combat helicopter pilot.*"

The "Super Secret Missions"

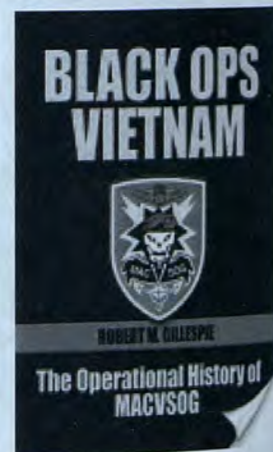
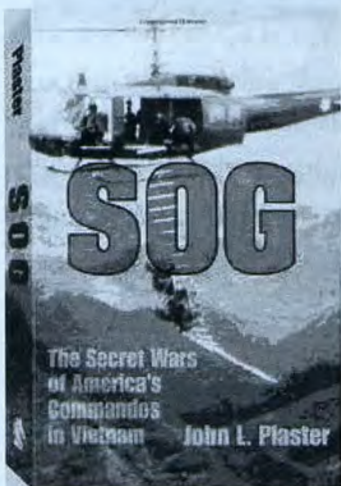
Special operator/Vietnam era author John Plaster's first book SOG in 2000 and later Secret Commandos in 2005 opened up the box on what information has been declassified concerning cross border operations into Laos and Cambodia. Plaster names many helicopter units, the uniqueness of the FAC with the SF Covey Rider in the back seat, and puts the reader into the fight.

Black Ops, Vietnam: An Operational History of MACVSOG by Robert M. Gillespie does the best so far at naming the specific helicopter units. There are many significant items in this book rarely mentioned in others of this activity:

1. Gillispie, a historian documents the maintenance difficulties of the AF 20th SOS UH-1Ps and their replacement by the UH-1Ns.

2. Many have noted this is the first book to show reference notes and speak about USMC units in SOG missions.

3. Gillispie has written about the deepest SOG strike into Laos-Operation Tailwind.



Leave No Man Behind is the ultimate book for a thorough history of search and rescue. This book highlights all services, AF, USN, USMC, Coast Guard, Army and Air America rescues. The reference notes have been extremely helpful to other authors trying to narrow the search on rescues. Also significant is how the authors highlight the poor command decisions to stand down key SAR units while they are engaged in a high combat tempo. The reader just scratches his head when reading how closely the A-1 Sandy's worked with the HH-53 Jolly's, clearly describing how these two aircraft would penetrate a cloud to make the rescue and then learn the AF confusion when the A-1s are stood down and a jet, the A7 clearly cannot fly slow enough for the HH-53 to fly on its wing through clouds. This book provides precise information and notes on the technology advances that were used to make

IFR rescues. May 10, 1972 was the longest SAR mission to rescue down AF WSO Capt Roger Locher. The authors detail the planning, decision making to conduct the mission, the intense fire and rescue of Locher who was near Hanoi by Capt Dale Stovall. This book is a history of SAR and in the end mentions the funeral of Jolly 67. This Jolly shoot down first was documented in Darrell Whitcomb's book The Rescue of Bat 21, where the reader learns in detail the loss of UH-1H Blue Ghost 39, April 72 NW of Quang Tri.



Jolly Green 67, HH-53 #68-10365
6 Apr 72

Peter H. Chapman, II
John H. Call III
Roy D. Prater
Allen J. Avery
William R. Pearson
James Alley (Photog)

37th ARRS

SVN

SAR mission for BAT 21 (EB-66C),
crash site excavated May 94, remains
of crew buried in Nov. 1997

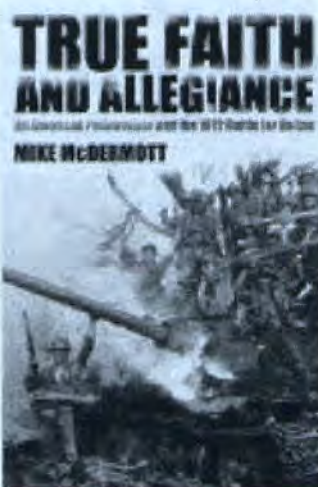


The Easter Offensive of 1972.

My second tour was with A 229th 3rd Bde (Sep) which participated in the Easter Offensive and in 1974 was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for same. In 1999, the late Ron Timberlake and I started compiling YOUR stories about this 1972 offensive. F/8 and F/4 at the Nashville Reunion provided me hours of information in I Corps. Bill Reeder, a Pink Panther shoot down and POW provided me his story as did members of the 57th AHC and the provisional 17th Cav troop in II Corps. Ron and I provided what he had at the time to the VHPA.

In 1995, Trial by Fire was written by Dale Andrade about the entire Easter Offensive. Comprehensive. However as an employee of the Center for Military History, he left out the entire account of the actions of the 229th, and left the impression the 12th Avn Group in Long Binh were alone in the fight. This is very disappointing to a participant. The Battle of An Loc by James Willbanks corrected the error. I contacted him with my heartburn, gave him a list of participants, he interviewed them and he interlocked our story with his story as one of the advisors on the ground.





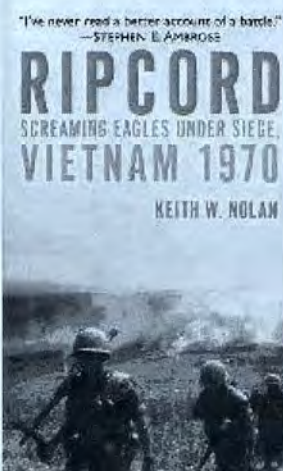
Since Willbanks' book, True Faith and Allegiance by Mike McDermott has been published about that fight from the perspective of an advisor to the VN airborne. McDermott makes you glad you went to flight school, and did not go the ground infantry route. However, his recollection of how he was swooped out of An Loc by some teenaged Army helicopter crew is classic.

Kontum by Thomas McKenna credits the work you VHPA members have provided me over the years. Using your VHPA archived data, McKenna clearly credited the Army Aviation units who fought around Dak To, to Kontum, the UH-1B Hawk's Claw TOW gunships, and the huge Air Force C-130 effort to keep the place alive. Again, like Willbanks, he was there

as a MACV advisor, infantry type in this fight. This is a very well written book that verbally puts you right into the fight. The E&E by aviators from the 57th AHC is documented here.



Making Good Books Better



The late Keith William Nolan was a prolific writer who has used an extensive interview process in writing his books. He wrote: Operation Buffalo, The Battle for Saigon, Battle for Hue, A Hundred Miles of Bad Road, The Magnificent Bastards, Death Valley, Into Cambodia, Sappers in the Wire, Into Laos and in 2000, "Ripcord, Screaming Eagles Under Siege, Vietnam 1970," was published by Presidio Press. The Battle for Saigon is an account of the Tet offensive around Bien Hoa, Long Binh and Tan San Nhut. Into Cambodia is about the Spring 1970 invasion into Cambodia and is one of only two books I have found on the subject.

In 1987, I read Into Laos which is about Lam Son 719 on both sides of the border to Laos that covers the fight not only from the aircraft but also the US Ground Forces that had to keep Highway 9 open to Khe Sahn. Into Laos, was the first time I had seen extensive history of the helicopter action, but was disappointed the units were not always mentioned. Because I had the VHPA directory, I could find out who

was in C/158 the Phoenix, B/7-1 Cav the Dutchmasters from the Delta, and others

I have always appreciated Nolan's style because of how deep he goes to get the story, and great use of an epilogue, and notes to further explain the story. However with Ripcord, I really wished he had named the aviation units, for example, the scouts from C/2-17 Cav, again the Phoenix from C/158th, and the specific 159th ASHB Chinook companies. Ripcord is a gripping story of a firebase established in contact, maintained and manned in constant contact, the location of the only NFL (Buffalo Bills) player to be killed in Vietnam, 1LT Bob Kalso, Oklahoma University 68, and a firebase that had to be abandoned.

Ripcord is the location of the second artillery battery to be completely destroyed in the same Field Artillery Battalion, the 2/319th FA. Bravo was lost on Ripcord in June 1970 when a 159th Chinook crashed into the ammo dump on the firebase which destroyed the battery that was nearby. Ironically, Charlie Battery 2/319 FA was destroyed at 0300 on 13 May 1969 at a firebase to the south of Ripcord named Airborne. The Book HAMBURGER HILL by Samuel Zaffiri, Chapter 11 Sideshow: At Firebase Airborne, and available at Amazon.com has the details. In all the books I have read about Vietnam, I have not found another instance of one artillery battalion losing two artillery batteries.

After a second reading of Hamburger Hill there is a need to clarify the aviation units in that book. The 4-77 ARA is documented, probably the 158th AHB which usually supported 3rd Bde 101st is the lift unit, but which Cav troop from 2-17 Cav did the recon?

Continued on page 528....