



Dear Phoenix,

4 April 92

Based on recent history, if I start writing this today, you may receive it before mid-June. Hopefully, it's arrival will be somewhat sooner.

The last newsletter did not trigger an avalanche of response, but then I never thought it would in February. However, based on a few conversations, correspondence and a heretofore reliable grapevine, the following list is what I have to date concerning attendance at the Atlanta reunion.

Gerald Lord	Gary Earls
Gary Sherman	Tom Marshall
Jack Glennon	Ron Nyhan
Bruce Fairley	Jack Ross
Frank Metsker	Don Cornwell
Butch Doan	Aaron Brown
Jim Leach-hopes to	John Kamps-probably
Ken Mayberry-has made reservations in Atlanta, but Sue would like to go to Hawaii. This could be interesting.	

According to the Phoenix calendar of events, April is early to have 15 people say that they are going to do anything. Adding to that the following considerations (1) a lot of the reunion regulars are not on the list yet (2) nine Phoenix have surfaced in the last year (3) it has been 3 years since our first and largest reunion was held in Chicago (4) Atlanta is relatively easy to get to for a large segment of our group; we have the makings for a sizable gathering.

#### ATLANTA HOSPITALITY SUITE

As of yet, I have made no reservations for a suite. I did receive a \$250.00 donation to put towards something to benefit the Phoenix, so with that in hand I will make the inquiries. Any input that you may have in the way of cash or comments are welcomed.

#### DAVID RAYBURN

If all plans were on schedule, this newsletter will find one of the more familiar faces at our last 3 reunions on TDY in Australia. Dave Rayburn and family were due to move to Sydney for a 2 year stint in mid March. Although Dave hated to miss the VHPA and Phoenix reunion this year, particularly since it is being held in his hometown, he was looking forward to introducing grits and NASCAR racing into the Australian culture.

The 1994 reunion should be interesting if for no other reason than to hear what the marriage of Australian and south Georgia accents produce. I can almost hear, "G'day mate, how yall doin?" now.

If any of you plan to vacation in Australia, I'm sure Dave and Brenda would be happy to slip another shrimp on the barbie for you, right next to the cornbread and sweet potatoe pie.

#### FOUND PHOENIX

I received a call from Wayne Moline a couple of weeks ago. It seems Wayne answered his phone one night and Tex Mobley was on the other end. Tex is still residing in Texas (where else) and was glad to hear that there was a Phoenix organization. We hope to see Tex in Atlanta.

John Michaelson has kindly volunteered to update the Phoenix roster and provide computer generated mailing labels. A few of you have moved and I have no new address. Although if you are reading this, I guess it doesn't apply to you.

A whole truckload of you have moved since the last roster was printed, and we have quite a few additions. Due to the number of changes in the roster, there will be a 2 year moratorium on moving. NOTE: John Kamps read the above sentence again.

PHOENIX PROMOTED TO GENERAL OFFICER

To those of you who know Randy House, the enclosed invitation will come as no surprise. To those of you who remember the day in December 69 that this skinny little Texas Aggie walked into the Phoenix, you're gettin old. Congratulations General House.

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*The Commanding General  
Fort Carson and 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized)  
requests the honor of your presence  
at a Promotion Ceremony honoring  
Colonel Randolph W. House  
Assistant Division Commander (Operations and Training)  
on Friday, the twentieth of March  
at half past one o'clock  
in front of Division Headquarters  
Reception follows in the foyer*

*RSVP 579-2757  
by 17 March 1992*

*Duty Uniform*

INCOMING MAIL

If you belong to VHPA and read the newsletter, you see that I have borrowed one of their bylines. I receive copies of all of the "Letters to the Editor" from VHPA, and recently one in particular caught my attention. It was from the cousin of a helicopter casualty in RVN seeking contact with anyone who knew his cousin, Robert K. Cole of C/158.

Robert Cole was the co-pilot when Nick Saunders aircraft was lost. The author of the letter wanted nothing more than to know his cousin a little better. I contacted the author, Greg Howard, to let him know his letter had been received. I told him I did not know his cousin or the circumstances of the crash, but sent him one of the cooler cups we had made in New Orleans with the Phoenix patch on one side and the memorial listing of Phoenix casualties on the other, which included Robert K. Cole.

A few weeks later, Greg was in town and we had dinner. He was

curious, and glad to know what type of unit his cousin was in, where he was stationed, what type of a/c he flew, what our unit patch looked like, etc., which was about all I could provide. I did tell Greg that we had a network of about 90 Phoenix and that I would pass along his request to correspond with anyone who knew Kenny Cole. As near as I can determine, Cole graduated from flight school in Class 69-49 in late Feb 70, and was only in country a few weeks before his death. If you have any information you might want to share with Greg, please let me know and I'll put in touch with him.

WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT

Attached is an excerpt from a letter that Mike Sloniker received. In the interest of space, I will just include his request and tell you Mr. Freeman was a grunt with 1/506 and was on the initial CA onto Hamburger Hill.

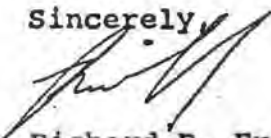
four days; completely surrounded by intelligence estimate of anywhere from two to four thousand NVA; went without water for three days with the exception of licking some leaves for morning dew and yet, I was one of the lucky ones. Out of a company of about 130 men, only twenty of us made it through the entire battle.

So what does that have to do with you? Well, I read the book, "Hamburger Hill" and it just didn't seem quite right. I got in touch with some of the guys from my company and they all agreed that the book wasn't correct. I am looking for anyone who might know something about the battle, anyone who has any pictures of Hamburger Hill and two fearless pilots by the names of William W. Cooper (W-3160726) and Eric M. Rairdon (W-3161908) or any other pilot or crew who flew during that battle.

I am including a listing of names and addresses that I have collected. Any help that you could give me would be greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you for your time and I hope that I didn't ramble and bore you.

Sincerely,

  
Richard R. Freeman

