

Subject: Letter/request from John Plaster author of SOG

Date: Sun, 14 Jun 1998 13:37:30 -0400

From: Michael E Sloniker [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

CC: [REDACTED]

I sent the following note to John Plaster, his response follows, and I need Helivet help at the end.

Freeman, please forward to Holley.

Roush, FYI.

Michael E Sloniker wrote:

>
> Last year I cowrote a book, "Primer of the Helicopter War" with Charles
> Holley. On page 114 of that book Holley provides full accounting of the
> Marine Helo unit that flew the mission.
>
> Units were MHM-463(CH-46) and HMH-361(CH-53D) and 4 USMC AH-1Gs, unit
> not listed, all from Marble Mountain. Dates listed were 7-14 Sept 70.
> Source was pilot that flew it USMC Capt Bill Beardall. Two 46s were
> lost with 6 crew members wounded.
>
> No Sarin is mentioned. Just the horrific fight of inserting 200 folks
> from SOG.
>
> John, I have sent you pictures in the past and you have acknowledged. I
> got your email from a trusted friend of yours in Richmond and wanted to
> get his information to you soonest.
>
> This URL has information concerning Tailwind:
>
> <http://www.WorldNetDaily.com/btlines/980612.btl.cnn.deceipt.nam.html>
>
t I have a lot of data concerning the flight crews, should you ever want
to pursue that side.
>
> I also just got an audio tape of a 1970 Praire Fire with CCC. Tape was > made in
>
> I think I sent you the Loren Hagen (RT Kansas) team recovery on 07 Aug
> 71. We are now learning who the crews were.
>
> Mike Sloniker

Mike,

Excuse my slow response, but ever since that CNN garbage last Sunday I've been swept up -- turns out, I knew more about who did what, the kinds of gas (CBU-19), U.S. policies on CS employment, etc -- and everyone from DoD to Newsweek have called me for help. The CNN claims are 100% untrue -- no nerve gas, no defectors. Their primary source, the lieutenant, has some enormous credibililty problems, and the story is just plain untrue. In the past week, I've averaged 30-50 e-mails per day and 50+ phone calls -- just incredible. Plus I've done radio

interviews for CBS and the lead station in LA.

All that said, I truly and deeply appreciate your help. It is indeed my intent to give genuine recognition to some gallant air crews and units that often saved our lives -- the line between those of us on the ground and you who flew to our aid is indistinguishable. It was a cohesive effort and SOG could not have achieved half of what it did without the willingness of men such as you to risk your lives for us. I don't know an honest former recon man who thinks differently. Incidentally, thank you for the unit designations of the Marines who flew for Tailwind -- I want to make sure they're cited in my upcoming pictorial history.

And now, I have yet two more requests to make of you.

1. To ensure I give full credit in the picture history to units that flew for SOG, I'd appreciate a roster of every unit you know (for sure) that flew in support of SOG == Army, Marine, USAF, whatever. I'm asking the same for some other aviation contacts, and hopefully I'll be able to sort them all out.

2. And MORE IMMEDIATELY (ASAP!), I'd appreciate you xeroxing and FAXing me the pages in your jointly-authored book which tells of the aviation support to Tailwind. This is really important right now, because the Special Forces Association and Special Operations Association is trying to assemble a ton of first-hand accounts to rebutt the CNN trash, and we need to get our hands on every possible bit of info. Just FAX it to me (with the cover, for sourcing), and I'll relay it to the organizations.

Again, thanks for the help in the past, and now.

Best Regards,

--

John L. Plaster

Sloniker Sendz:

I have pictures, audio, or old notes of CCN and CCC missions from the following:

174th at Khe Sanh in 67-68, as a detachment
281st in III Corps with Omega? Also in the book, Vietnam at the treetops by the FAC Flanagan

C/158

D/158

A/101

B/4-77 ARA

C/4-77 ARA

57 AHC

170 AHC

155 AHC..message traffic between Grow and Westbrook

AF 20th SOS

21st SOS

I think the C/101 is the lift unit on the 07 Aug 71 hot recovery of RT Kansas, but need help

I need any info possible, BC or if you want FC, that gives any insight to you unit, when, which FOB (forward operating base, i.e. Quang Tri, Kontum, Dak To, etc. I think the 281st did some out of Kham Duc in 66-67.

I also think there was some 119th AHC work in II Corps in addition to

189th AHC and am digging it out.

I have nothing on CCS.

If you are concerned about the stuff still being classified, tell me the date, and I will forward to Plaster. He is in the data, and knows what is classified, still. If you read his book, and Jay Veith's Code Name Bright Light, it looks as if all is unclassified.

Mike Law wants to dedicate the VHPA directory in 98 to the cross border crews. I will talk to him at the reunion, and share what I have with him. He and I worked together on the 1994 directory. He does good work.

Mike Sloniker