

**Subject: Re: PBS documentary on VN era Army Pilots.**

**Date:** Sat, 17 Jul 1999 08:54:56 -0500

**From:** "Thomas Payne" [redacted]

**To:** "Walker A. Jones" [redacted]

[redacted] "Gary Roush" [redacted]

"Don Joyce" [redacted]

"Robert Mason" [redacted]

"Don Lewis" [redacted]

"Mike Sloniker" [redacted]

**CC:** "Jack Swickard" [redacted]

"Reed and Sandy Kimzey" [redacted]

"Tom Marshall" [redacted]

"Thomas Payne" [redacted]

"Randy Zahn" [redacted]

"Mike & Mary Brown" [redacted]

"Michael J. Wheeler" [redacted]

"Ken Mayberry" [redacted]

"keith d wysong" [redacted]

"Gary Grow" [redacted]

"Forrest B. Snyder" [redacted]

"Fenwick" [redacted]

"David Freeman" [redacted]

Mike, would recommend Reed Kimzey who was a slick driver in 66-67 time period in III & IV Corps. He flew in every major offensive in War Zone C and D (ie Attleboro, Junction City, LZ Gold and much more.) Also he was present, as was I, when 1st Div, 9th Div, 199th LIB, 197th LIB and 11ACR deployed into RVN and supported them. He also was involved in cross border SOG stuff in early 67 to find POW/MIAs. Much more is available from him and he has fantastic mind and memory. He now, and for last 8 years has flown Russian helicopters and fixed wing a/c as aggressor for US and Int'l training exercises. His e-mail is RKimzey@aol.com and I can provide address and phone if needed. On his second tour he served with the 25th Div as Avn OPS officer and finished out his 2nd tour as Avn Officer for 18th Eng Bde.  
Tom Payne

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> **From:** Mike Sloniker [redacted]  
> **To:** [redacted] Don Lewis [redacted]  
Robert Mason [redacted] Don Joyce [redacted]  
Gary Roush [redacted]  
Walker A. Jones [redacted]  
> **Cc:** David Freeman [redacted] Fenwick [redacted]  
[redacted] Forrest B. Snyder [redacted] Gary Grow [redacted]  
[redacted] keith d wysong [redacted] Ken [redacted]  
Mayberry [redacted] Michael J. Wheeler [redacted]  
<102733.1650@compuserve.com>; Mike & Mary Brown [redacted]  
Randy Zahn [redacted] Thomas Payne [redacted]  
[redacted] Tom Marshall [redacted]

> **Subject:** PBS documentary on VN era Army Pilots.

> **Date:** Friday, July 16, 1999 10:21 PM

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At Nashville, Bob Mason, author of "Chickenhawk" and I discussed a two hour documentary with PBS that he is working on.

As some of you know, I helped with the Wings piece called "Whispering Death." Bob's effort is much more organized than the Wings piece was.

He and I discussed who he should talk to, and I promised him a list and why the folks are on it. The premise of my selection is that if I was doing the task of telling America about Army Aviation in Vietnam these are the folks I would interview and use for that documentary and why. Their emails are attached, if I could find them. There are many

others. This list consists of folks I specifically knew, can vouch for, and I hold the highest regard for. There are many others. Many others.

Don Joyce (FL) Was in early units. Flew Caribous in VN before 1965  
AAAA Hall of Fame member.

Ted Jenkins (TN) 64-65 Early missions using the CH-37 and sparsity of Americans vicinity Da Nang. Second tour was in Crane unit that supported 1st Cav. Was in unit that had CH-54 obliterated while over a Cat bulldozer in the A Shau when the 1st Cav went in, Apr 1968.

Bob Mason (FL) Ia Drang 1965. X-ray and specifically the night medevacs by slick units into Albany.

Need recommendation for 1966 Bong Son or any other 1966 action.

Don Lewis (TX) 1967 170th AHC Cross border ops supporting Studies and Observation Group (SOG) from Dak To and Kontum. Also flew missions into the 173d ABN fight at Dak To in Nov 1967

MG ret Pat Brady (UNK), MOH 1968 as medevac pilot

George Miller (AL) 1967-68 Chinook pilot Knows names and location of the Vietnam Veteran's memorial of all folks he served with that died when he was there.

Mike Brokovich (VA) 1969 Was on second tour. Was in B/4-77 ARA when it formed at Ft Bragg, NC, deployed to VN and the 101st, transitioned in country to Cobra, flew extensive SOG CCN missions from Quang Tri into Laos in 1969.

Ken Mayberry (NE) 1970, flew slicks in C/158. Flew #607 into FB Ripcord as it was being overrun, flew out the wounded. Aircraft so shot up it had to be left on Charlie Med pad at Camp Evans. Aircraft gave its all to save the wounded.

Julie Kink (MN), Randy Zahn (lives in Scotland) and Walker Jones (TX), C/1-9 Cav 1969-70. Julie Kink was 8 years old in 1969 when her brother David Kink went to the Nam. He did not return alive. In 1996 she started finding folks who knew her brother. Amazing story that lives today. Zahn's audio tapes home to his parents were used in a BBC piece that Randy shared with me. His story on those tapes really speak to the fact that the Vietnam war was fought by teenagers. It is a strong message. Jones has done extensive research on his troop.

Tom Marshall (FL) 4th ID, C/158 and 163d 101st. Author of "Price of Exit" Extensive work done on the fall of Ripcord in Jul 1970, CCN missions by C/158, 1970, and has written extremely credible history on Lam Son 719

Keith Wysong (TX), Joe Kline (CA), Gary Grow (VA) Feb-Mar 1971 Lam Son 719. These guys have big balls, and incredibly strong memories of flying into Laos. I have copies of written histories that can attest to the cajones part.

Forrest Snyder (VA) 1972, 361st Easter Offensive in II Corps Covered rescue of John Paul Vann before he was killed. Vann is apparently the subject of "Bright Shining Lie." Extremely articulate and writes clearly.

Scott Fenwick (CA) 1972 Easter Offensive. Flew UH-1B TOW tank killing aircraft in II Corps. Was the beginning of the tank killing atk helos.

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Mike Austin (WA) 1972 Easter Offensive. F/8 Blue Ghost. Outstanding writer and participant equipped with an enormous accurate memory.

This is my first brush recommendation. I am sure I have left out someone significant, but such is life.

Happy Trails

Mike Sloniker

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