

FIRST "GLADIATOR" REUNION

PREFACE

As in the research, study and writing of any history, the subject of the work can never be complete. Someone or something can always add to the story to enhance it and give it more focus. This is especially true for the history of the Gladiators.

Although we know the 57th existed from 1961 to 1987, our focus for the 1993 Reunion was for the Vietnam years of 1966-1973. To our knowledge, no one "Gladiator" was there for those six years to tell the whole story. Our research took us to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to get material on the unit's history. Much information was found there, but a lot was not.

We found that fairly extensive summaries were written for the years '66, '68, '69 and '70. For the other years the information was quite slim. In recent conversations with other members of the 57th, we have pieced together some general information on the "Missing Years". Consequently, we have left out quite a bit of information that is known to be fair to the men who served in years where information was little. For example, '69 and '70 included the "Honor Roll"... a list of the men who were KIA. It would not be acceptable and a dishonor to include those names without including our fallen brothers who's names we do not know.

Hopefully, we may now be able to change that. This Reunion is giving us the chance to renew old friendships and share memories. By doing this we can learn more about the "Gladiators" and our history. In this way, we can add to the following. The narratives for '67-'70 will be available for all to see here in Orlando. If one or a few of us would like to take on the task of expanding on this history, it would be most welcome. Then perhaps if we never get together again in the future we will have a more complete story to share.