

November 18, 1988

Letter 4

Greetings:

Well, its now been about 2 months since Letter 3 and its about time to give it another try. I've been trying to hold off until the new VHPA directory came out and luckily I've been able to add 10 names to the mailing list as a result.

The first order of business is an apology to a very important contingent of 189th members. It seems in all my ramblings, I've not even mentioned the Care Takers, callsign of our maintenance platoon. While I can recall instances when they were not too pleased with me for red X'ing an aircraft at some far away place like Da Lat or Nha Trang, I think they did an excellent job of keeping us in the air. I'm sorry for the oversight.

While I'm on the subject of unmentioned but not forgotten former members, a word or two about the enlisted personnel is in order. I know each and every one of us is beholding to our crewchiefs and door gunners. On many instances, it was through their courage and dedication that I'm able to be here today writing this little tabloid. I do not intend it as a slur on any of these people that I have not included them in my mailings. It would be absolutely wonderful if we could someday have a reunion that included all members of the 189th, its just that I do not have the time nor resources to attempt to gather every member together. While I can not write to nor try to locate all crewchiefs or door gunners, I would be willing to include a few on my mailing list, assuming the numbers don't get to large. If you know of someone who would like to be included, just drop me a line.

A special thanks goes out to all of you offering words of encouragement for this endeavor. Thanks to your help, the mailing list has grown to 54 from about 30 since July. Sorry I can't respond personally to each of you, but I really appreciate all the comments. Hopefully, we'll all be able to get together someday and we can really expand on some of the stories that we're only able to hint at on a piece of paper.

I would like to ask for help from those of you still on active duty and in a position to request information from the appropriate agencies. I still get mail from RCPAC in St. Louis, so I assume others do to. Could and/or would you see if you can get current addresses on those listed on the trying to find list? In some cases, I have SSN's but not very many. The rest of you can help by digging through old orders and other papers and sending copies.

The unit history is coming right along. Lonnie Welsh has done a lot of work on it up until the time he DEROS'ed. Some of you may have had the pleasure of being unit historians, if so, please see if you happen to have any copies. I will be sending an advance copy to a few of you that went to Vietnam with the unit and asking for your comments. There is still a large time frame open so if you can relay any information please do so.

In response to an ad I placed in a magazine, I've had a request from a former door gunner for a copy of our history. His name is Doug Reed and according to his letter, he was the last person to join the 189th prior to it being disband. If anyone would like his address, let me know.

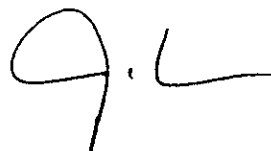
For those of you wanting copies of the movies mentioned in a prior letter, I haven't forgotten you. It's going to take a little time before we can get the copies made. I'll keep you posted.

In the last article I sent, it mentioned a gentleman by the name of John Paul Vann in a footnote on page 160. Since then I saw a book review on his biography. The library was able to get me a copy but I haven't had time to read it yet. What little bit I have read seems to be a little to political for me, but if your interested the title is "A Bright Shining Lie-John Paul Vann and America in Vietnam", by Neil Sheehan and published by Random House. I don't normally read those kind of things but I found it interesting that someone would want to spend 10 years in Vietnam doing what he did.

This month I'm sending a copy of an article I received from Bob Steinbrunn. If you have anything that might be of interest to the rest of us, please send it. Depending on what else I'm mailing at the time, I'll try and send everyone a copy. This could get boring unless ya'll help out.

Since deer season opens tomorrow I better stop this nonsense and get ready. As I probably won't be getting another letter out until next year I want to wish everyone a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON and BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR. And don't forget to plan on being in

CHICAGO, June 29 thru July 2, 1989



John M Graysneck
Avenger II

LOOKING FOR FORMER
189th AHC PILOTS

Charles D. Baker
Barker
William N. Benton
Michael W. Brooks
Patrick C. Buchan
Richard E. "Moose" Butler

Roy Carraway
Bruce Cochran
Brian D. Cope
Cornell
Lee Cranney

Charles T. Daily
Dexter K. Decker
Roger D. Deuschle
George Dixon
Craig Dobson
"Snooky" Dowd
William D. Durham

Frank Edwards

Ronald M. Fish
Lt. Fitzgerald

Jack E. Gerke
William G. Ginac
Guthrie

Gary W. "Dirty Joe" Hall
Hamilton
Brent "Bananamalt" Hanawalt
James T. Hattan, III
John Hatten
Cpt. Hendrick
Don High
Darrell L. Howard
Hurt
"Hutch" Hutchenson

Lt. Jeffery
Charles R. Jones

Pat Leary
David E. Lee
Greg Lesh
Lincoln G. Lester
Neil I. Leva
Cpt. Lillibridge
Richard L. Lincoln
Jerald G. Lindsey
Thomas L. Locke
Emory S. Lord

Joseph B. Martinak
McClusky
Robert McEachern
Joseph B. Martinak
McClusky
Robert McEachern
"Watash" Michaels
John F. Mills
Maj. Morgan
Robert N. Morrison

Roman Ochotsky

David W. Peters
Pierce
John P. Ratliff
Ray
Rayford
Redmond
James E. Remsburg
Renfro
Henry B. Rice
Joe A. Richmond
Charles G. Riggs
Kenneth L. Rosenbaum
William B. Ross
James Rostine
Milton E. Ryan

John M. Salonich
Larry J. Saunders
William D. Saunders
Stephen R. Schmidt
Phillip G. Shearer
Shirley
Francis T. Simmons
Paul E. Sonier
John W. Sparks
James D. "Dave" Speer
Stecheski
Story
Edward Stranger
Arthur Sullvian
Dave Swanson
Gregory L. Swint

Scott Temple

Carl Walden
Lawerence S. Webster, Jr.
Dave (?) Weller
Bart Wheeler
James D. White
Alfred Williams
Lt. Wimberly
Ken Woods

Yingst

Zirski