

RE: History of the 2/17th Air Cav.

Dear Bill,

Sorry for the long delay in getting back to you. In your letter of 12 Aug 91 (your going to get me in the habit of using military dates!) you asked if I would be interested in spearheading the quest to acquire history on the 2/17. The long delayed response is yes.

I do not have the foggiest idea where to start. I do have the resources though. I have a home computer system with word processing and database systems. I am also on disability so I have the time. What I don't have is allot of money to donate to the cause. If I am what you are looking for then let me know. Oh by the way I would be more timely in the future... I have had some very special events happening which dominated my time.

When you asked about items for the historical committee were you referring to things like this: Scott Kerr and I were Flying a Cobra over Bac Ma Mountain south of Camp Eagle covering an ammonia sniffer mission UH-1, when we lost a tail rotor to enemy fire. At the time we were traveling at 100 kts. The aircraft went into an abrupt anti torque spin as if at a hover. We were 200 to 300 ft above the ground, since the aircraft was completely through one revolution before Scott could even react and most of our air speed was gone the decision was made to not enter autorotation. Scott flew the aircraft into the trees in a controlled descent with the exception of the anti torque spinning. The horizon was a blur with a distinct line of blue (sky), green (mountain). When the green got to eye level Scott started applying more power to slow the descent. As the aircraft settled into the trees the fuselage stopped rotating, the aircraft settled down through the trees chopping the double canopy jungle down as it settled (this was a pretty violent and rough ride, though controlled). When the aircraft felt like it had touched ground Scott reduced power only to discover that one skid was hanging over a cliff. Consequently the Cobra, pilots and all went tumbling down Bac Ma mountain.

The story even gets better after that, a/c destroyed, I broke both legs, jungle was so thick Loches could not find us until crew chiefs laid on skids and moved the branches to look in to the jungle, could not extract us until they ran off bad guys, approx 10 hours in jungle. Scott and I got together last month for the first time in 22 years. When we both started telling what we remembered

we both validated memories that bordered on absurd and hilarious.

Boy what a mouthful. Like I said a minute ago, is that what your looking for?

Looking forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Kennedy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "J" at the beginning.

John S. Kennedy