

The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion (Vietnam) Association is a fraternal Veterans organization filed under IRS Code section 501(c)19. We are established for the purpose of holding reunions, writing unit and battalion history, and to re-establish the comradery of the Battalion, units and Detachments associated with the 145th CAB, (45th Trans BN in the early days). We are trying to locate everyone who served with the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion and the 45th Transportation Battalion in Vietnam, the units listed below:

Aviation Companies

HMC	147th
18th	184th
25th	190th
68th	UTT 68th
71st	197th
74th	384th
117th	213th
118th	240th
118th	338th
120th	CGA 33rd
121st	CGA 401st
138th	67th MBD DET

Transportation Companies

8th	81st
89th	89th
57th	389th

And all detachments
of these units

Many of these units served with the 145th Battalion for just a short time in Vietnam. To truly re-establish the comradery of the units we welcome, and hope for, everyone assigned to these units to join in with us. To us a unit is a unit no matter what other Battalions it may have been assigned to before or after serving with the 145th.

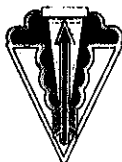


145TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (Vietnam) ASSOCIATION

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"OLD WARRIORS"
Newsletter

JANUARY, 1991, VOL. 16

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We have had a very good response in renewing memberships and joining the Association, but we still spent more in 1990 than we took in. If you check the mailing label of this newsletter, you will see your membership status. The mailing label will say Member, or Please renew, or Please join. If it says Please renew or Please join then please send in your \$10 membership dues so we can keep locating new people. Some people have asked for a reminder of when their dues are due and the individual mailing label is the easiest way. The 89-90 membership year expired on 1 July, so check your membership card and please renew if it expired in July 1990.

I think I will actually get this newsletter out on time. If it seems like these newsletters are close together its because the last one was so late. In 1991 I will try to have each of the newsletters out on time.

The T-shirt sells have been going real well especially the Association design. Along with the Association, we also have unit T-shirts for the 68AHC, 118AHC, 120AHC, 121AHC, 135AHC, 190AHC, UTT, 197th, and 334AHC, and I'm working on the design for the 71AHC. For more details on the T-shirt designs see pages 19 and 20. And I'm working on more of the unit T-shirt designs, let me know which design you want me to work on next.

You will notice that starting on page 2, is a section called Readers Response, I look forward to receiving your response from this newsletter and hope to find many more of the details of our history in your responses. So send in whatever info you can and of course we are always interest in any remarks you may have. The Readers Response section of the newsletter is your section, written by you, I will put in almost everything you send in, unless I feel that you didn't want it put in, space permitting, if you mark it for the R R section or not for the R R section it will help. Let me know if you think there is to many Editorial Notes, most are to explain why I do things certain ways or give credit where credit is due. Writing the Readers Response section gives me a chance to catch up on the mail, if you have written in your letter and answer is probably in that section.

I have gotten many positive comments about the articles about the Battalion History, so the article continues in this newsletter on page 14, 15, 16 & 17. The article deals with the time period 10-20 June 1965. If you would like to see more details on your time with the 145th please send in any information you can. Remember I was there in 69-70 and that's the only time period that I can remember, so please put in as many details as possible. And for those of you who served with a unit before or after it was assigned to the 145th please send me info on your unit so I can cover them better. My historical information file is still very thin after Tet of 1968, so please send me any information you can, try to put as close a historical date on it as you can.

If any of you have any sets of orders that has any information about anyone who served with the units listed on the cover of the newsletter please send me a copy, if you haven't done so already. The information may help locate them. If you have any old address please send them. I need all the information you can send. If you have any current address or can get any current address, I will put them on the newsletter mailing list. I would appreciate it if you could copy the top of the cover page and post it anywhere some of our former members may be, VFWs, Am. Leg., Military Post, Guard Units, etc., etc.

This newsletter contains all the information about our 1991 Reunion, and includes forms for you to send in to the Reunion Committee. It will really help the Reunion Committee if you send the forms in as soon as possible (ASAP). There is information about the back-up hotels and campgrounds, the Holiday Inn is filling up fast. I talked with Gen Kenyon a few days ago and the Committee is really working to put together a fine Reunion for us. There is a good possibility we could have over 500 people attend the Reunion including family members. We have about 110 former members of the Battalion that live with in a 45 minute drive of Fort Rucker. SEE PAGES 9-13.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, I tried to put in many interesting articles. Please let me know what you think, positive or negative. If you have anything you think would be of interest please send it in, I would appreciate it.

READERS RESPONSE

Here are some of the letters I have received since the last newsletter. I thank all who wrote in and I invite everyone to write in. I think this is the best part of the newsletter. Please read the letters, I think you will find them very interesting. And this is about the only way that I get caught up on answering most of the mail. So please read on for the answers to the letters.

Dear Jim & Deb; We are looking forward to June with eager anticipation - I think this one will be a blockbuster. Have located only 2 that I don't see on the last roster: Orlie J Underwood (Jim), wife Glynda, 11917 Brookwood Circle, Austin, Tx. 78750 Ph 512-258-5437, 118th AHC 1966 Major C.O., and James J Ransbotham, wife Janie, 1646 Greenock Ave, Fayetteville, NC 28304-2930 Ph 919-425-1561, Exec Off. 145th C.A.B. 1968-69. I gave both applications for membership maybe they have joined by now. Also sent info and application to Michael Lindell- he is already on the Roster as non-member. I have reservation at Holiday Inn - spoke with Charles Haney - he also has reservation. George Owens

(Editorial Note) Thank you George, Jim Underwood and James Ransbotham have both been added to the mailing list, I sent both of them a newsletter vol. 15 and a 90-91 Directory. Hopefully both will be at the '91 Reunion, sounds like the hotel is filling up fast. In the next letter you will read that Michael Lindell's NG unit was activated and he is back on active duty at Fort Bragg, I sent a newsletter and Directory to him at his home address. I wanted to let him know that his friends from the Vietnam War remember him, before he's in the middle of the next war, that we support him and hope for his safe return home.

Dear Jim, Have enclosed a check for 145th Asso renewal. Hope it brings me up to date. Have also thrown in a couple or so photos I took of the Aviation Museum last June. I most always make the W-4 reunion there. Looking forward to seeing you next year. My current telephone number is (703) 491-6288. The one shown in the Directory is an old one. One of our old 68th pilots (65-66) Mike Lindell, is back on active duty at Fort Bragg. His NG outfit got activated! Also Jim, there is a miss-spelling of a name in the directory Frank Rush (68th) should be Rusk. Talked to Frank a few days ago, he is fighting a second bout with cancer. Hopefully in remission a second time! As Always, John Hope the whole family has a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

John & Barbara Langwasser

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Dear John, I received your Christmas card yesterday and inclosed you will find your new membership good till July 1992. Thank you for renewing your membership, that's what keep our people located list growing. Deb and I were at Fort Rucker the last part of July 1990 and we really liked the new museum. I'm sure everyone at the reunion that tours the new museum will enjoy it. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the reunion, we've come a long way from the wet and muddy tent in Kokomo 1986. I'm glad General Kenyon could get our reunion set for the same time as the W-4 Convention. I have corrected the spelling of Frank Rusk name for the next printing of the directory, as well as your phone number. And I put Frank back on our newsletter mailing list, hopefully he will enjoy reading the newsletter while beating the cancer. The last newsletter mailed out has an article and survey about cancer, maybe he will be able to shed some light on what kinds of cancer to look for and what warning signs there are. I've talked and corresponded with Bob Wright a few times in the last couple of months, he really needs some moral support now. His mother was killed by a burglar around the first part of Oct. The killer was caught and now they have the ordeal of the trial. Now Bob has to deal with his anger about the murder of his mother as well as his PTSD. Bob will be in the VA hospital from 26 Dec 90 to 9 Jan 91. His address there is: Bob Wright, V.A.M.C. Ward 8, Northampton, MA 01060. After that he will be back at home. Bob Wright, 21 Arkwright Rd, Webster, MA 01570 1-508-943-9680. Bob says his faith in God and the support of his family and special friends is all that is getting him through this. You might want to drop him a line every now and then and let him know we care about his well being.

Dear Jim, How are you? I'm doing a little better. They changed my medication a couple times to help me after the murder of my mother. The new meds made things worst (Mellaril and Prolixon), I went off them after 1-2 weeks. Now I'm still very depressed, isolated, anxious and on the verge of rage due to suppressed anger from Nam and the murder. I sleep erratically with troubling dreams and nightmares but usually wake between 3 and 4 thrashing, crying and angry. We're (wife & sons) are getting closer to God and are getting strength from Him. Our faith is a big help. My wife bought me a display case for all my military medals, ribbons, patches, badges, etc. Along

with framed Honorable Discharges (one from active Army and one from 6 years in the Guard) I'm going to display this on the wall over my T.V. in the living room. I'm also including blow-ups of some slides from Nam. Jim, what I'm lacking is a battalion crest pin (preferably the one we used in 65-67) to include in the display, mine was lost in the shuffle over the years. If you could help out by Christmas I'd appreciate it, if you can't come up with the older, original version I'll settle for the one used later, the one you use on our newsletters and membership card. Whatever it cost, let me know and I'll forward it to you. I'm due to go back into the Northampton, MA V.A.M.C. PTSD UNIT 12/26/90 - 1/09/91. This is to help me deal with my mother's murder and how it gets all mixed up with Nam in my head. Would appreciate cards or letters from Association members while in the hospital, address is: Bob Wright, VAMC, Ward 8, Northampton, MA 01060. I met a guy named Danny the other day who served with the 120th, gave him your address, phone number and explained a little about the Association. The other guy, Wayne Lynch, who also served with the 120th was very appreciative of your quick response of a newsletter and is eager to get involved in the Association. Will sign off now. God bless you and your family and have a wonderful Christmas. Your Friend, Bob Wright

P.S. You can print this letter if you want. Thanks for all your caring and support, Jim. Say HI to Deb.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I called and talked with Bob, he needs our caring and support now. I feel that is the least I can do for a friend and brother Vet. When I first made contact with Bob in 1986 Bob was working very hard to help other Vietnam Vets and everything was going pretty well in his life. Bob was very willing and helpful in locating more people and helping to get our first reunion together. A few weeks before our first reunion Bob called and asked what was planned to keep us in contact after the reunion. Many of the ideas for our Association came from Bob. The next year everything seem to fall apart for Bob. Its been a long hard battle for Bob fighting his way back up, I've known many that would have given up, but Bob is a fighter. I'm sure Bob will make it back up on top. Just when things were starting to smooth out for Bob, his mother was murdered. All I can do is to offer Bob some moral support and be here when he needs me. Any encouragement you can offer him will be very welcome. He needs our moral support now. His address is: Bob Wright, 21 Arkwright Rd, Webster, MA 01570-1639. Let let him know we care about our brother Vets. I wasn't able to help Bob out with the Bn crest for the display, if anyone can please let him know.

Dear Jim I would like to express my sincere thanks to you, because of your efforts in responding to a request I made a while ago, I had a very pleasant surprise. I was sitting in my den watching T.V. one night when the phone rang. I let the answering machine get it. My daughter comes downstairs to tell me I had a phone call from someone in Alabama. This was quite a surprise since I don't know anyone from Alabama. Much to my surprise it was Roger Dillow my pilot in Nam. I immediately called him back and we spent an hour or so on the phone. I'm looking forward to meeting up with him and others from the 68th at our next Reunion. So Jim once again thank you for making this possible. In appreciation please accept my small donation to the Association. Good luck and keep up the great work you are doing. Thanks Again, Walter Warren

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Walter for the \$15 donation. Now you really know why we have our Association, to reunite old friends and have reunions, on the phone and/or in person. That's what makes all the work worthwhile, and I pass on the thanks to all those who help locate more people for us. Most of the work of locating more people for us is done by our members who very seldom get much credit, so to all those, I say thank you and I pass along Walters thanks. Each time I print a New People Located list in the newsletter many of our members have a small reunion with a very good friend from many years ago. Every now and then someone will write in and tell about a special call they received, it happens hundreds of times a year, that's what keeps our Association worthwhile. Thank you Walter.

Dear Debbie & Jim, Our family wishes you and yours a very special- Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year!!! Both of you have done an outstanding job, a job- above and beyond the call of duty. Mahala and Mele. Kalikimaka and Hauali Makahihi Hou. Ruth & Stan Takeuchi

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ruth & Stan. Each year we get many many Christmas cards from Association members and we appreciate them all. Some express best wishes, others have short notes, and other contain letters. All of them let us know that they are thinking of us. I want to thank all of you who have sent cards, we are thinking of you too, and wish you all the best through out the year. They make me feel very special, and show the closeness of our Association,

as in comparison to national offices of V.F.W.s, D.A.V.s, and American Legions. As far as the "above and beyond the call of duty", I'm just following an idea, a dream, I had as I was preparing to leave Vietnam, that some day we could all get together again, in a peaceful relaxed surrounding. My biggest wish is that more of us be able to get together, all of us. The saddest part is that not all of us made it back home. And that many of those that have made it back home have not gotten the peace and joyes that life should bring. The best part is that so many have joined and share the idea. I'm not quite sure if I got the spelling right or exactly what the translation is on the last part of the note, but it sounds nice.

Dear Jim, Enclosed you will find my dues for the continued support of the organization. Also I have taken a picture of the 80th Trans Detachments Patch which is enclosed. The two negatives should be of quality that you can work with should some one want to silk screen. The large picture is actual patch size. Should some one want some patches there is a patch store outside of Yokuska naval base which does this by computer. Would have to check on his price first. He has more than 4000 patches on the walls of his business. This is not the original patch that the detachment left Ft Devens with. I don't have one of those to offer as a historical sample. The unit had been in Nam two years when I arrived. The patch was unfortunately rather drab and the troops wanted something brighter and also to set them apart from the 121st which we were attached to. So what you see is what evolved from a contest. Then they wanted blue hats to set them apart on the flight line. So when the 121st Cdr observed the first Vietnamese laborer wearing a blue baseball cap he asked my CO if that was one of his new replacements. And you can understand there is not enough time or space to explain the conversation after that. Also have enclosed two General Orders relating to awards of the Presidential and Valorous Unit Citations the unit received. There is also DA 6039 dtd 1970 which awarded the Meritorious Citation. I am unable to find a copy out here in the Pacific Rim. Stateside posts may have it. Someone may be looking for this to write the big story. Hang in there keep up the good work. Would enjoy to attend the reunion but I will be in Europe at the time, maybe next time. Yours Truly, Marcellus A Karrigan
CW4 AUM USA Ret

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you for renewing your membership Marcellus. And thank you for the pictures of the 80th Trans Det patch, they will be placed in the Battalion Display and will be available when we are ready to start on Trans Det silk screens for t-shirts. It would be nice to get a list of the Army Avn patches that the patch store outside Yokuska naval base has on its wall, maybe a few are ones were looking for. If anyone has one of the original patches that the 80th Trans Det left Ft Devens with please let me know. The information from the two General Orders will be added to the Bn and unit histories. And the copies of the General Orders will be added to the display of military orders that we have. If anyone knows where and how to get copies of General Orders please let me know.

Dear Jim, Thank you for the newsletter I received recently - was really great to hear from you & the Association. Enclosed is my bank draft for \$77 US to cover my membership to 30 June 92 plus the merchandise as listed on the green form. Best wishes to all in the Association for Christmas 90, together with a prosperous 1991. Graeme Price RANHFV/135th AHC, Oct 69 - Sept 70

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you for your outstanding support. It's always great to hear from our members in Australia. Hopefully I'll be in contact with more of the members from the 135th soon.

Dear Jim, Am sending you money for T-shirts, use the rest of the money as you see fit. Also enclosing a set of orders, hope they come in handy for locating people. I think you and your wife Deb are doing a great job on the newsletter. I look forward to receiving it. Keep up the good work. Robert Raffaello

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob for your order for 2 T-shirts, one Association design and one for the 121st, and the \$34 donation. I'm logging the information from the set of orders into the help find file. The first three numbers of the social security numbers on the orders tell me what state the people were from, so hopefully some can be located soon.

Dear Jim, Received the newsletter last week and to my suprise realized I hadn't paid my dues at the reunion last Aug. Enjoyed the entire letter, and was especially happy to hear Bob Anderson had won the primary in North Carolina. Hope he won the seat in the General Election. Also enjoyed Bill Frakers comments concerning Joe Jobe, Dick Jarrett and Marv Dorr. All of us go back to a time when Army Aviation was in its infancy, so to speak, and the entire Corp of Aviation wouldn't

equal half the number that ended up serving in the 145th in "Nam". Enclosed is my check for this year and next years dues. Note my address change back to my permanent address in Bryan/College Station, Texas. Still have a couple of business enterprises in the Austin Area, one with my son and another with another "Old Warrior" by the name of Bill Rhyan. Keep up the great work. See you in June at Rucker. Cal Dodd

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Cal. Bob Anderson hasn't said how the election came out, hopefully I'll hear from him before long. I heard a few of the stories Bill Fraker has; never a dull moment, hopefully they all will be able to make the next reunion. Hopefully all your business enterprises will work out fine. When you see Bill Rhyan tell him we're still around, bring him to the 91 Reunion, it will be a great time for everyone.

Dear Jim, I would like to thank you and I enjoy your newsletter every time I get it. I see a lot of names of people I knew in Texas in the 135th AHC, that I went over to Vietnam with. I would like to say one thing, we didn't know what we were getting into. We didn't know it was going to come back to haunt us in the form of PTSD. I was in a PTSD program in the VA Hospital. Where they turn Veteran against Veteran. But there is a few people who lied a lot about their Vietnam experience just so they could get disability and it makes it hard on other people trying. When I was in the program there were more drug addicts & alcoholics than straight people. But the PTSD program in VA is trying to straighten it out. What I know of the 135th started in Gray Army Airfield Texas when the 135th was known as the Lone Stars and we went to Vung Tau Vietnam where the company was renamed and split up and sent to other companies in Vietnam. I went to the Greyhounds in Bear Cat. Most of my platoon went to. I went back to Vietnam in 1971 and I helped stand the 135th down at Zeon and from there they went home. They served at Vung Tau, Black Horse, Bear Cat, Dong Tam, and Zeon. The 135th served their Country in time of war. So this newsletter is one of the best I've read. I would like to ask everyone that reads this newsletter to get out and support the American Legion, DAV, and VFW, these people do a lot for Veterans who need help. I belong to the DAV. We need to belong because the old Vets are dying off, they need younger Vets to take over and fight for the benefits the government is trying to take away from us. Also we Vietnam Vets ought to recognize the nurses and other women who also were over there too, who also have PTSD. So we should recognize these ladies, they went through a lot taking care of us when we were all shot up. I got the T-shirt and I really like it. I washed it like you said and all colors are still there. In closing, I'm proud of belonging to the 145th C.A.B. Asso. Yours Truly, Richard C Starkey

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Richard. I think you will find that each group of Vets going through the PTSD program will be different. One time the program will seem like a waste of time and the next time it might be great. The amount of trust built up between the guys in the program usually determines its effectiveness. There usually is a lot of drug addicts and alcoholics in the PTSD programs, both conditions are sometimes a symptom of PTSD. In that case both PTSD and addiction must be treated. And there are cases where people claiming disabilities from PTSD never served in the military. One good thing about our Association is the honesty, in most cases there is someone else in our Association that can verify the main part of each event. It would be nice if all of our people in need of a PTSD program could be matched up and sent through a program with other people who were with Nam. Something like this could be done with an organization like ours but would probably be too intense for VA to want to handle, and the counselors running the program would just about have to have a Vietnam helicopter crewmember background. And I agree about supporting the VFWs, DAVs, American Legions, etc., within a few years Vietnam Vets will be the biggest part of their membership. And in just a few years after that another group of Vets will take their turn when most of us are gone.

Dear Jim, I don't know just how to start this letter. I just found out about your Association. I have a copy of your newsletter. I found it interesting. Is there anyway possible, I would like to hear from anyone serving with the 118th AHC Bien Hoa. I was there from 70-71. I would also like to know more about your Association. I am also interested if you have any of my unit patches. I saw in your letter you print T-shirts. I need to see the designs you put on the shirts, colors, etc. I am in the V.A. hospital in Johnson City, TN. I am having a hard time with my PTSD problem. I would like any information you have on my unit. This to help me remember what went on while I was there. I would also like to see if you can help me locate a brother of mine. His name is and all I know are as follows: SP4 William Pierce, 118th AHC, Bien Hoa, 70-71, He came from Pagosa Spring, CO, he was our wrecker operator. This is all I can remember of him. I want to join your

Association. I am sending you \$10 for my membership. My name and address are as follows: Ivan L Gillian, P.O. Box 613, VAMC, Mountain Home, TN 37684 I was an EM. I served with the 145th CAB with the 118th AHC, Bien Hoa from May 70 thru Apr 71. I was a cook, ration person etc. I hope you can make heads or tails of my letter. Right now I am not thinking very well. Thanks for being around. Sincerely, Ivan L Gillian

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Ivan. I'm sending, in another package, our latest newsletter, a directory, Battalion historical info, T-shirt design info, and your membership card. Hopefully there are many names you remember from your tour in the directory, and that some of the people will be able to help you with more information. I was with the 68th AHC from July 69 - Dec 70 and remember some of the time period you were there. I remember the company areas, movie area, day rooms, the Action Inn EM Club, gift shop, etc. I don't remember the date right now but I remember the 118th AHC Mess Hall being hit by a 122 MM rocket. I'll add Sp4 William Pierce to our Help Find File and hopefully some of our people in Colorado will look for him. Pagosa Springs is about 30 to 60 miles due east of Durango. The 118th AHC patches we have are reproductions made from David Evans, original, new condition patch, the blue is just a little bit darker than the blue on the T-shirt design.

Dear Jim & Debbie, Hi! Hope this finds you guys OK. We're fine here. Getting ready for the holidays. Sorry to be sending these dues later than usual. With me switching jobs its been hectic! We're planning on taking our vacation for the 91 Reunion so we'll see you there. If we can help with anything anytime call us! By the way, when can we order T-shirts with the 68th Logo! Keep up the good job. See ya at Ft Rucker! Bill & Joy Shockley & Bill

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bill & Joyce. I hope Joy likes the new job. We're looking forward to seeing you at the Reunion. Everything going real good around, the kids are doing real good in school. And as per our phone conversation the Top Tiger T-shirts are on there way. Take care.

Dear Jim, Your efforts are greatly appreciated. Enclosed is an extra \$10 for the good of the Assn. Thanks Jim Buchheister

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim, its so nice to be appreciated and everything helps.

Dear Jim, I see that annual dues are due so I thought I'd include a note. I enjoy reading the newsletter & reviewing the membership directory to see who's in there that I knew. I like to read the unit histories too. I departed Travis in June 62 with 20 other officers, most of whom had only recently been checked out in the UH1A (28 hours, I believe). I believe we were the first Huey outfit in RVN. We were to get 10 UH1As by ship in the near future, we were satelited on the old 57th Trans in tent city at Tan Son Nhut, Saigon. We didn't have anyone with enough time to be an IP nor did we have a maint. officer. They located 2 guys in country & 3 of us who were Otter qualified drew straws to see who had to go to the 18th Avn Co (OTTER). None of the 3 of us wanted to go but Jack Swan & I lost, so we were transferred to the 18th at Nha Trang. The UH1A Det mission was to support MACV HQ & the 3 Corps HQ (later 4). After they got their birds, that's what they did. Ray Vinning (one of your members) was a member of that Huey Det & stayed with them for a year, so he can provide more info. I mention this because I've never seen anything in the newsletter about this Det. The armed gunships, UTT, came later in '62. My second tour was in 66-67 with the USARV Flt Det in Saigon, Tan Son Nhut. We had 18 - UBFs til Aug 67 when the U21s started coming in. We also had 4 - 6 UH1Ds which we flew out of Hotel 3 (Heliport 3) at Tan Son Nhut. Also had 4 DeHavilland Beavers (L20s) for close-in flights, primarily in III & IV Corps area. I don't know if the Flt Det ever got a numerical designation or not. After I left in Sept 67, they moved out of Saigon to Long Vanh (?) just south of Long Binh (USARV HQ), that was the Co HQ of USARV Flt Det. While in Saigon they were collocated right across from the 145th Bn HQ in that compound at Tan Son Nhut. LTC Dick Johnson was our Co Cdr, by the way. So I don't know where you can list me for my second tour over there, anyway I retired in '70 as a LTC. I'm working on a 3 year civil service tour in Germany but will be returning to Patrick AFB in Florida next year - & thats home. Hope to attend one of your reunions one of these days. Keep up the good work. I'm sure you have a lot of thankful supporters. Best regards, Bob Herbold LTC, Retired

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Bob and your right, not enough has been said about the 145th Flt Det, or as some called the Huey Platoon. In Newsletter Vol. 14, page 9, Bob LaMonte, tells a little bit about it. Hopefully we will hear more about them from our readers. From the information I have the 57th Med Det was the first unit to arrive in Vietnam with Hueys in February 1962. But the 145th Flt Det was the first to arrive in Vietnam with Hueys for the purpose for which they

used them, for cargo and troop transport. We should also have more info on the history and mission of the 18th Avn Co, they held together all the Avn unit in Vietnam in the early days. I think that the USARV Flt Det used that as their name the whole time they were in Vietnam. If anyone else has more info please let us know. And Bob if you arrive back in the States before June 7th, 8th, and 9th hopefully we will see you at the Reunion at Rucker.

Dear Jim, Here are the ten patches you had asked for. As they are sold, just deposit the total proceeds (\$40.00) in the Association bank acct. I have already deducted that from the total due the Association from projected patch sales. The Association (by my figures) has received a total of \$70.20 not counting the projected \$40.00 from these patches. It was anticipated that sales would be slow, and it is no burden on me whatsoever that it will take quite a while yet to recover the cost of having the patches made. We will have them available for some time to come yet, and that is good. Adios for now, and have a Happy New Year! Killer (Dave Evans)

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Killer, I really appreciate your dedication to our Association and your making the 118th "Thunderbird" patches available to the members of the 118th. I want to congratulate you and Sharon on the news of your first baby being due on June 10, 1991.

Sorry to be a late dues payer. Uncle Sam gave me a call and on Aug 1, 1990 I was at Ft. Rucker and on Sept 20, 1990 in Saudi Arabia. Just returned Dec 15th so correspondence is slightly behind. Albert J Willett CW4 USAR, "Spartan 28"

(EDITORIAL NOTE) I call and talked with Al right after I received his letter. Al was with the 18th Avn Bde which consist of two Battalions of CH-47s and one Battalion of UH-1s. I talked to Al about the 145th Association adopting his unit, sending letters, cards, packages, to members of the 18th Avn Bde. He thought it was a very good idea. He suggested we send the letters to the Chaplain to be distributed to the troops. So here is the address:

Chaplain
HHC, 18th Avn Bde
APO NY 09657-4000

Now that we have a unit and an address I would like each of us, as an Association, to send a letter and let them know that we support them as soldiers doing their duty as asked, and that we pray for their safe return. By the time this newsletter is received by you we will most likely know if our troops are in battle or if War was avoided. I ask each of you to think back 20+ years ago when we served in Vietnam, not knowing from day to day what would happen to us, and how lonely it was with no mail at mail call. As an Aviation Bde with CH-47s and UH-1 aircraft most of us can relate to the jobs these troops are doing. It's my guess that the lineage of the 18th Avn Bde includes the 18th Avn Co that served with the 45th Trans Bn and 145th Combat Aviation Battalion in Vietnam. Let us let these troops know that they are not forgotten and people back here really do care.

Dear Jim, Just received the newsletter, sorry for the delay in my dues, no excuses. Inclosed find check for this and next years dues. Also inclosed is names of two members of 335th AHC.

Joe Morrison, 211 Hogan, Copperra's Cove, TX 76522 1967
Robert E Luke, RR-3, Box 188-D, Junction City, KS 66441 1968-69

Also inclosed are copies of orders, 1st Avn Bde 1967-68 with some members names. Again, Sorry for my delay. Keep up the good work. Sincerely, John Bonagorda

P.S. I made my reservations today (12/28/90) at Holiday Inn, they said they had plenty left.
P.P.S. I think your Idea about adopting a unit is great. I am a Red Cross Volunteer for Operation Canteen with 1st Div.

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you John for renewing and for the address. I have sent both of them a newsletter and a Directory. I will be adding the info from the orders into the Help Find File. I want to thank you for filling out the survey, when more are returned I will compile the information and separate by units, jobs, dates, etc, etc, and see if we can make sense out of any of it. The individual information will be kept confidential and the overall information and conclusions will be publish in the newsletter when available. More and more people are saying they have made their reservations at the Holiday Inn so it should be getting pretty well fill by the time this newsletter is delivered, a complete Reunion 91 package is on page 10-13.

Dear Jim, Returned herewith are your surveys on effects of Agent Orange and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Many of us, of course, supported the Ranch Hands in their defoliation mission,

especially in the earlier days of the conflict...no effects here whatsoever, ill or otherwise. I'm saving a PTSD episode so I can exterminate some liberal puke trying to lobby against our guys in Southwest Asia. Texas courts have already freed several veterans who've claimed flashbacks lead them to violent behaviour...generally after prolonged sessions involving beer and tequila. As a matter of information, the 57th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance), one of the original 145th CAB units, deployed to Saudi Arabia this past August. Please include in your list of "other organizations", one that is closely allied to the 145th CABVA, the Dustoff Association. The organization consists of aeromedical evacuation crewmembers, aviation medical officers, and others supporting the Army aeromedical program, past and present, in war and in peace. It's genesis was, of course, the experience in the Republic of Vietnam and it's founder was a Dustoff crew chief from the 1965-66 time frame. The address is: Dustoff Association, PO Box 8091, Wainwright Station, San Antonio, TX. 78208. Hang in, Jim Truscott, Col, MS

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you Jim, for any survey to be helpful it needs a large number of participants. When more of the surveys are returned the information will be compiled and the results printed in the newsletter. All survey forms are confidential, some parts of some of the remarks maybe printed but no authors given. I am hoping that everyone will return their form soon. There has been much debate about cause or affect surrounding PTSD and drug and alcohol abuse. Some say drug and alcohol abuse cause PTSD episodes, others say PTSD leads to drug and alcohol abuse, still others say the drug and alcohol abuse is self medication for the PTSD symptoms. All of these people are right and wrong, without knowing the person involved it is impossible to make a good judgement. There are some Vets that use PTSD as an excuse. In most cases only the individual can determine their own motives, and then only if a real case of PTSD is not too severe. The main part of dealing with PTSD is knowledge and understanding it, knowing that what we are feeling is normal for our experiences, and knowing that there is hope and we can deal with it. And like many of you I still need to set down and fill out the form, my wife has been asking me when I am going to fill out the form and if I will share it with her. It isn't easy to fill out, and sharing the information with her will be 100 times harder, trust and being vulnerable is still a problem, but I will do it. Well enough said about the survey for now. When ever I have room in the newsletter for Other Organizations I will try to list the Dustoff Assoc.

Dear Jim, Reference NL815, page 10 an individual wanted to know the origin of the Viking nose emblem for the Gun Platoon of the 121st. Suggest he contact the following individuals on page 16 90-91 Directory. 1.Jerry Daly, 2.Billy Lindsey, 3.Joe Levinson, 4.Ralph Hammer (not listed). These people were all in the unit when I arrived in June 1964 and the propeller spinner and Water Buffalo horns were being assembled into a Viking Helmet. The avionics compartment doors were being painted with the emblem and as usual door switching went on as aircraft were substituted, transferred, etc. Hope this helps. Lindsey or Daly should remember the unit historian who was putting all kinds of notes in a big ledger. Unfortunately other than General Orders I sent you all my papers are in Government Storage when I took this job if I didn't can them. It will be another couple of years before I see them again. I'm in the process of writing my memoirs of that period and can in some recollections. I was the maintenance officer so participation in operations was not my daily activity. But I will answer any referrals for information Jun 64-Jul 65 timeframe. Yours Truly, Marcellus Karrison, 17th ABC CM Box 3137, APO SF 96504

(EDITORIAL NOTE) Thank you, and you were right, please read on for a letter from Billy W Lindsey.

Dear Jim, Keep up the excellent work you are doing in keeping old ties going and renewing friendships of the past and sometimes, trying times. Your efforts are appreciated. I've included my check for membership renewal - what a good deal. In response to M.F. Cusick's curiosity about the 121st Aviation Co "Tiger and Viking" emblems, I served with the 121st from January 1964 thru Jan 1965. While there, I was told that the 121st had a Bengal tiger as a mascot but that one of the guys one day playfully threw a poncho liner over the tiger while it was lying down and jumped on the tiger. The tiger did what any of us would do - it came up fighting. Army policy naturally condemned the tiger and it was banished to a zoo in the U.S. - As for the Viking emblem on the gunship nose, I painted on the originals in about May 1964 after activation of the gunship (Viking) platoon. We got our 10 hours of transition training from the CH-21C's to the new UH-1B's in Ving Long (118th Avn Co) and then gunnery training from the guys of the UTT out of Saigon. As I was only a WO Jug One WO1 at the time, I was not privy to exactly who came up with "Vikings" and for what reason but we liked it and it served us well. I am currently flying a BK117 for emergency medical service. Sincerely, Billy W Lindsey, CW4 USA (Ret)

(ED NOTE) Thanks Bill.

"REUNION 91" UPDATE

The 1991 Reunion will be held at Fort Rucker, Alabama, on 7th, 8th, and 9th of June 1991, that's the same week-end as the W-4 Convention at Fort Rucker. A "Early Warrior Reception" will be held starting at 6pm, 6 June at the Ozark Holiday Inn. Page 10 - 13 of this newsletter is the most current information from the Reunion Committee. It is arranged this way so it can easily be taken out of the newsletter if desired, and can easily be found located right in the center of the newsletter. There is a reunion form that should be sent to MG (Ret) Richard D Kenyon as soon as possible and include your check to cover reunion cost and meals. On page 10 is basic info on reunion, page 11 and 12 is the schedule for the Reunion, page 13 contains info on lodging in the Ft Rucker area and air transportation information.

The Holiday Inn in Ozark, AL will be our main host Motel, it has 71 rooms reserved for us and one of those will be set up as a Hospitality Room and the other 70 are reserved for our reunion. As usual each person will make their own room reservations, to reserve a room you must tell them that you are with the 145th Reunion and one night's money or credit card number to guarantee to hold. Anyone attending by themselves and wanting to share a room the Reunion Committee and hotel are willing to help set it up. The normal meal cost in that area is less then \$10 per meal, the Saturday Buffet meal charge is \$10.50 for each adult and \$5.25 for children, the Reunion Fee is \$10.00 per family.

When looking over the schedule you will see all the exciting thing that that the Reunion Committee has planned for the reunion, tours of the new museum, flight simulator center, briefing in Post Theater about Fort Rucker's current activities, parade on main parade ground or static display of current aircraft, and airfields. Most of our activities will be combined with or shared with the CW4 Reunion and 114th AHC former members. This will really be great for many of our members were CW4s and some of those also served with the 114th. The 114th AHC may have been under the command of the 145th for the first month it was in Vietnam, although that hasn't been confirmed yet, the 114th did serve in the same Battalion as the 121st AHC during most of its time in Vietnam.

Dress will be casual and you may want to have swim gear with you. Everyone I have talked to about the reunion have been very excited about the location, and the people who served with Gen. Kenyon are very excited about him being the Chairman, they say that everything he does turns out great.

Richard Kenyon served with the 68th Armed Hel. Co. and the 197th Armed Hel. Co. in 1965 as a Captain and served as the Battalion Commander of the 145th C.A.B. from 1 Dec 70 to 19 July 71. Since his retirement from active duty on 30 June 1987, he is now the Honorary Colonel of the 145th Avn. Regiment and head of a major corporation in the Fort Rucker area.

Watch for "Reunion 91" updates in future newsletters as the plans come together. The next newsletter will have this Reunion Information package and will also update the Air Transportation information. The Reunion Information will be sent out to every one we have an address for, that will be over two thousand former members of our units before the reunion.

Now that we only have 70 rooms reserved I would suggest that you write to the hotel and reserve your room, please state that you are with the 145th Combat Avn Battalion Reunion on the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June 1991: Holiday Inn, Ozark, 151 US HWY 231 N, Ozark, AL 36361 1-205-774-7300. And for your convenience the even numbered rooms are on the pool side of the motel and the odd numbered rooms are on the outside of the L-shape, for those that like to party ask for the even numbered rooms and those that want it a little quieter ask for the odd numbered rooms. To guarantee to hold send one night's money or credit card number.

General Richard Kenyon and the reunion committee have been looking at a back up motel to handle the over flow, see page 13 for a complete list of Motels in the area and their prices. For those wanting to camp there is a list of Camp Grounds on page 13.

I've talked with George Reese who served with the 117th AHC 71-72 who operates the Yankee Trader in Enterprise and he will be contacting our Reunion Committee and the CW4 Reunion people about setting up his Vietnam Display at the Reunion. That's the display that was set up at the VHPA Reunion last year. George collects, buys, and sells all types of military memorabilia all the way back to the Civil War. Anyone wanting to do any trading George will be there.

145TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION (VIETNAM)

ASSOCIATION

REUNION

WILL BE HELD AT FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA

7, 8, 9 JUNE 1991

(SAME TIME AND PLACE AS THE ANNUAL CW4 REUNION)

The following pages provide planning information and a personal registration form to be completed and returned to:

MG (Ret) Richard D. Kenyon

c/o DynCorp

P.O. Box 39

Fort Rucker, AL 36362

prior to 30 April 1991. Please note that each attendee is responsible for making his own motel reservations! Refer questions to Jim Bodkin at (219) 483-5149 or General Kenyon at (205) 598-0401.

SCHEDULE

(The dress for the entire reunion is appropriate casual attire!)

Thursday, 6 Jun 91 - 1800 - ?

"Early Warrior Reception" -
Outdoors at the Ozark
Holiday Inn. Reunion
registration desk will be
available. Pay-as-you-go
bar. Dinner available at
the Holiday Inn.

Friday, 7 Jun 91 - 0900 - ?

Renew acquaintances at the
Lake Lodge on Lake Tholocco
at Fort Rucker.
(Transportation will be
available from the local
motels to the Lake Lodge).
Reunion registration desk
will be set up. CW4
Reunion and 114th AHC
attendees will also be at
the Lake Lodge. Lunch
available at the Lake
Lodge.

Optional Events (transportation provided):

1000 - 1400

Visit the new Army Aviation
Museum and the Flight
Simulator Complex to see
the latest technology
flight simulators (motion
base and visual displays).
Round-robin buses scheduled
from the Lake Lodge and
return.

1500 - 1600

Briefing in Post Theatre
which tells about Fort
Rucker's current
activities.

1600 - 1700

Parade on main parade
ground or static display
of current helicopters and
aircraft at same location.

Dinner and the evening on
your own.

Scheduled Events Continued

Saturday, 8 Jun 91

0900 - ?

Back at the Lake Lodge.
Bus transportation from
motels and return in the
evening.

Optional Events (Transportation provided):

1000 - 1600

If parade on Friday, static
display of today's
helicopters including the
AH-64 Apache at Hanchey
Airfield. Museum again
open for visitors.

1800 - ?

Buffet dinner and business
meeting at the Lake Lodge.

Sunday, 9 Jun 91

0900 - 1030

Champagne Brunch at the
Officers' Club on Fort
Rucker. Pay-as-you-go at
\$5.95 per adult and \$3.00
per child (under 11).

1030 - 1100

Non-denominational Memorial
Service at Recreation
Center Auditorium.

END OF PLANNED EVENTS

All who desire can attend the CW4 Reunion Picnic at the Lake Lodge
on Sunday afternoon (\$8.50 per individual covers all you can eat
and beer).

INFORMATION ON LODGING IN THE FORT RUCKER, AL AREA

MOTELS:

Holiday Inn, 151 US Hwy 231 N., P.O. Box 190, Ozark, AL 36360, (205) 774-7300. Room Rates: Single \$35.00 plus tax; Double \$39.00 plus tax; 3rd person \$5.00; children under 19 free. Restaurant, pool, lounge. Make reservations early as Holiday Inn will only block 70 rooms, but will take reservations for 145th up to all 101 rooms.

Best Western Ozark Inn, US Hwy 231 South, Ozark, AL 36360, (205) 774-5166. Room rates: Single \$27.50 plus tax; Double \$32.50 plus tax. No restaurant - complimentary Continental Breakfast, pool, lounge. (Ask for best rooms in new building).

Econo Lodge, 241 Daleville Ave, Daleville, AL 36322, (205) 598-6304. Room Rates: \$29.00 plus tax for 1-4 persons. No restaurant - many fast food outlets within walking distance - pool, no lounge.

Daleville Inn, P.O. Box 1107, Daleville, AL 36322, (205) 598-4451. Room rates: \$30.00 tax included for 1 - 2 persons. Restaurant, pool, lounge. (Ask for best rooms in new building).

The Greenhouse Inn & Lodge, 501 S. Daleville Ave., Daleville, AL 36322, (205) 598-1475. Room rates: \$27.95 plus tax for 1 - 4 persons. Pool, no restaurant or bar. No facilities within walking distance.

The Colony Inn, 630 Glover Ave., Enterprise, AL 36330, (205) 347-6262. Room rates: \$34.00 plus tax for 1 - 2 persons. Extra persons \$2.00 with maximum of 4 persons per room. Restaurant (closed on Sunday), pool, lounge.

Comfort Inn, 614 Hwy 84 By-Pass, Enterprise, AL 36330, (205) 393-2304. Room rates: \$35.00 plus tax for 1 - 2 persons. No restaurant, complimentary continental breakfast. Restaurants within walking distance. Pool, no lounge. When calling, identify yourself as 145th CABV Reunion member.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKS:

Fort Rucker (Active Duty or Retired Military & DOD Civilians) Outdoor Recreation, Bldg. 24201 - Lake Tholocco, Fort Rucker, AL 36362, (205) 255-4305/5768. 18 spaces with water and electricity (dump station on post), restrooms and hot showers. Rates: \$6.00/day, 35.00/week. 50% discount with Golden Age Passport.

Ozark Camper Park, 3 miles North of Holiday Inn on US Hwy 231, Rt. 2, Box 448, Ozark, AL 36360, (205) 774-3219. 40 spaces with full hook ups. \$11.25/day for 145th reunion.

Mr. D's RV Park, 1 mile North of the Holiday Inn on US Hwy 231, P.O. Box 1147, Ozark, AL 36361, (205) 774-5901. \$10.00/day.

TRANSPORTATION - The local airport is Dothan, Alabama. It is served by three airlines that utilize commuter aircraft. Northwest Airlines comes in from their hub in Memphis, TN, while Delta and Eastern come in from Atlanta. The reunion committee is arranging discount air fares and the details will be provided in the next newsletter.

BATTALION HISTORY

BATTLE OF DONG XOAI, 10-20 JUNE 1965

At 0100 hours, 10 June 1965, the 118th AHC was directed by the III Corps Tactical Operation Center to send its standby fire team immediately to Dong Xoai. They were told that the Dong Xoai Special Forces Camp had been under extreme heavy mortar and small arms fire since midnight. The fire team approached the town at 0130 hours and started making firing passes once they were in position over the town. They were engaged by the Viet Cong as soon as they began firing and the tracers from their guns kept the enemy gunners aware of their position. Without the slightest hesitation, the two armed helicopters kept up a steady stream of fire to silence the enemy guns surrounding the Special Forces compound. Not until after they had expended all their ammunition, and the fire team leaders helicopter was hit by ground fire and the pilot wounded, did the two helicopters leave the battle area.

At the time that the light fire team was closing Bien Hoa, III Corps had decided to reinforce Dong Xoai by helicopters at first light with Vietnamese infantry. At 0430 hours, flight crews of the 118th Aviation Company were on flight line preparing for the combat assault at day light.

The town of Dong Xoai is situated at the most important road junction in the heart of War Zone D. The United States Special Forces has established a fortified compound and numerous strong points at strategic locations taking the entire area under their command. Many parts of the fortifications were still under construction when the first mortar shells awoke the defenders.

At 0600 hours, 10 June 1965, all flyable 118th Aviation Company aircraft departed Bien Hoa for a combat assault on Dong Xoai. The morale of the company was high. They had grown fond of the Special Forces over three years in which the company has served in Viet Nam. Many members of the Special Forces B Detachment at Dong Xoai were friends of the company. Although the tactical situation was extremely confused at Dong Xoai and only scattered intelligence as to the enemy's strength and positions had reached III corps, the 118th was ready to do anything within their capability to aid the garrison under attack.

Phuoc Vinh, the nearest fortified town to Dong Xoai, was the staging area. Elements of the 1st Battalion 7th Regiment ARVN, were going to make the first assault with the 118th Aviation Company. Due to the urgency of the situation, there was little time to gather data on the enemy situation. The landing zone for the first assault was an open field two miles north of Dong Xoai and next to the road that led to the Thanh Loi Plantation. In case more ground troops were needed, two more landing zones were chosen at suitable strategic areas in the vicinity of Dong Xoai.

The formation of 118th helicopters begin to receive fire as they began to descend east of Dong Xoai. On final approach into the first landing zone more fire was received. The flight held suppressive fire as it was not known at the time whether friendly troops were in the area. Seconds before the flight touched down the lead helicopter reported what appeared to be friendly civilians waving to them from the edge of the landing zone. The flight leader at once gave the order to the crews to hold their fire because they were friendly civilians in the area. As soon as the ships landed and the troops started unloading the civilians dove into concealed fox holes where they had their weapons hidden and immediately engaged the helicopters. Due to the fact the whole flight of helicopters were low on fuel and were able to become airborne and out of the range of small arms very quickly, no major damage to the flight element resulted. However, with the departure of the helicopters, the Viet Cong directed their fire on the assault troops in the landing zone. The enemy had utilized the lack of intelligence on the part of the allied forces to their best advantage at the crucial moment by deceiving the heliborne force. Once the troops were committed, they were ambushed. The Viet Cong, from their well prepared positions, systematically cut down the lead elements of the 1st Battalion, 7th Regiment. Later when the battle was over, it was disclosed that the 1st Battalion ceased to be a fighting unit twenty minutes after it was committed into the Viet Cong trap.

When the 118th Aviation Company returned to Phuoc Vinh for more soldiers and fuel, they were informed that the Viet Cong had anticipated heliborne reinforcements for the surrounded Special Forces Camp were employing strong units with heavy weapons and they intended to occupy Dong Xoai. It was also disclosed that all the friendly troops had been forced to reposition themselves inside the main compound that had the best defensive capability.

When the 118th helicopters, loaded with soldiers of the remaining elements of the 1st Battalion, 7th ARVN departed Phuoc Vinh they set their organic armed helicopter platoon ahead of the flight to conduct a reconnaissance of the intended landing zone. The armed fire zones made repeated passes over the air strip at the Thanh Loi Plantation for traces of the enemy concentrations but were able to find no evidence of the Viet Cong using the plantation to stage attack on Dong Xoai. The fact that the enemy up until the battle of Dong Xoai, had never used a plantation openly as a headquarters and staging area caused the flight elements to hold their suppressive fire power again as the helicopters approached to land.

As the 118th Aviation Company's formation of fourteen troop helicopter approached the landing strip a heard of cattle appeared and moved up the strip to the intended landing area. The lead helicopter made a decision to land the troops short of the original intended area. The decision saved many lives. No sooner had the skids of the first helicopter touched ground when a tremendous explosion was seen and heard and felt. The enemy had detonated a huge claymore mine planted at the original landing area. The explosion of the mine was a signal. Within seconds of the explosion, reports of automatic weapons fire came from all members of the formation. The soldiers and helicopters were caught in a hail storm of bullets and exploding mortar rounds. The enemy fire was coming from everywhere. In the well kept and beautiful plantation mansions they were firing from windows and roofs. Among the rubber trees fire from concealed bunkers and fox holes. At once, the armed escorts of the 118th Aviation Company charged in and fired everything they had on both sides of the helicopters still unloading their troops. At the same time the door gunners of the troops carriers were burning up the barrels of their machine guns to suppress the enemy fire. It was only a few seconds since the formation of the helicopters had landed, and yet it was already eternity for the helicopter crews and the ARVN soldiers on the ground. Scores of the brave little Vietnamese soldiers were falling in front of the eyes of the helicopter crews as they watched them leap from the aircraft and fall as enemy bullets slammed into their bodies. The helicopters were also receiving heavy damage in those seconds on the ground. One of the troops carriers had a mortar round explode right outside the cockpit causing it to roll over immediately on its side. A split second later it exploded in a ball of fire. The entire crew was killed. The remaining helicopters were taking off at this time. All guns were firing, but the enemy fire was not decreasing in intensity. From roof tops, windows doorways and trenches, enemy bullets ripped into helicopters. When at last the whole formation was out of range of the enemy weapons, only one helicopter reported negative damage.

The Viet Cong had planned the attack on Dong Xoai with superb care. There was no question left in anyone's mind that further heliborne assaults into available landing zones would mean annihilation to the majority of the ground troops and at tremendous risk to the aviation elements. The 118th Aviation Company commander, in temporary command of the entire Army Aviation efforts in Dong Xoai at the time ordered the remaining elements with troops aboard back to the staging area. The last helicopters to land at Phuoc Vinh were two armed helicopters from the 118th. The fire team remained over the battle area to act as radio communication relay and fire support for the ground troops. The light fire team had expended ammunition and had lost all communications with the ground assault elements. It was not known at this time whether the Special Forces compound was still holding out after almost 18 hours of continuous attack.

The 118th Aviation Company's flight surgeon in charge of the medical aid station at Phuoc Vinh was at the communication center requesting Air Force C/130 transports to evacuate over a hundred wounded ARVN soldiers when a relayed radio came through from Dong Xoai. It was one of the Americans in the Dong Xoai Special Forces compound. The message was tragic and heroic. It said I am using my last battery for my radio and there is no more ammunition; we are all wounded, some of the more serious wounded are holding grenades with safety pins already pulled. The Viet Cong are attacking in human waves. The last wave has been defeated but we are expecting the next wave now.

The commander of the 118th who was present and heard the radio message stood up and said "I am going in". With that he went to the parked helicopters. Five other officers followed him and enlisted crew members just climbed into their seats and waited for take off.

Three Helicopters departed Phuoc Vinh for Dong Xoai to evacuate the brave soldiers who were holding out to the last grenades. When they were about to close Dong Xoai, A message to all air units in the Dong Xoai area came over the radio. Dong Xoai was declared to a free strike area and everything that moved would be bombed and strafed. The three helicopters, nevertheless, pressed on without hesitation. Such was the moral present in the 118th Aviation Company. Had there been need for the entire company to go to Dong Xoai, the company would have volunteered to the man.

The 118th Aviation Company's own organic helicopters again played a vital role in the successful execution of the mission. The armed escort contacted Air Force fighter bombers in the area and ask for their fire support. While the Air Force made their bomb runs over the town the armed escorts went in from the south with all guns firing. One quarter of a mile south of Dong Xoai compound was a water crossing. The Viet Cong had concealed in the area two French armored cars that were captured earlier in the battle. The armed helicopters were able to discover these mobile weapons platforms during their low reconnaissance by fire and engaged them with rockets. Their accurate fire effectively rendered the armored cars incapable of further combat. Had the .50 cal. machine guns on those armored cars not been put out of action, they would have taken a serious toll of the troop carriers as they approached Dong Xoai.

The three troop carriers now moved in from the south. They were fast and low and their door gunners were firing at any trace of Viet Cong activity in range. There was constant firing and marking of targets all along the flight route into the soccer field at Dong Xoai. With complete surprise they touched down in the soccer

field outside the Special Forces compound. Hastily, the Viet Cong organized an attack. The crews reported enemy standing up on the compound walls and firing down at the helicopters not more than fifty feet away. While the helicopters were being hit from all directions and the door gunners firing at point targets at close range, a crew chief leaped from the helicopter and exposed himself completely to the enemy fire. He fired a full magazine from his M14 at the compound entrance, then with disregard for his own safety, fought his way into the compound and brought out the last defenders of the outpost. For this act of valor the crew chief was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. There were nine wounded Americans and eight Vietnamese that were rescued from Dong Xoai that afternoon. They were the last survivors of the original defenders of Dong Xoai.

At the debriefing held at Phuoc Vinh after the three helicopters had returned, an interesting event came to everyone's attention. Within seconds after the take off of the evacuation helicopters, the area where they had landed exploded into mortar fire and it was raked with large caliber machine gun fire in all quadrants. The fact that the helicopters were able to successfully complete their mission can be attributed to the element of surprise and the daring courage of the 118th helicopter crews. The Viet Cong were evidently expecting a landing in the heart of Dong Xoai. The extra seconds it took them to reposition their weapons to bear down upon the helicopters that were making the evacuation allowed the successful accomplishment of that daring mission. For their courage above and beyond the call of duty, the three crews were decorated with one Distinguished Service Cross, five Silver Stars, one Distinguished Flying Cross and five Air Medals for heroism.

With the evacuation of the compound, the armed helicopters and Air Force fighter bombers were free to make strike over the entire area. The armed helicopters made strike after strike stopping only to rearm and refuel. There was constant rain of fire from the sky in the whole area, was the remark made by III Corps advisor in a 118th Aviation Company command and control helicopter.

Late in the afternoon of 10 June 1965, the 52nd Ranger Battalion arrived in Phuoc Vinh. Plans were immediately put into effect to take them to Dong Xoai. Verbal orders were given to the aviation company commanders while the crews made last minute checks on their helicopters prior to becoming airborne. As the battalion-sized airmobile force neared Dong Xoai, the final decision was to put the Rangers into the soccer field where the successful evacuation was made a few hours before.

The 118th Aviation Company was again given the honor of leading the combat assault. The flight route was the same as we used on the previous evacuation mission. The helicopter slipped into the soccer field receiving only scattered small arms as they landed. Once on the ground, however, the Rangers were being shot down as they tried to move from the landing zone to the compound and toward the center of town. The enemy, nevertheless, must not have expected another daring assault that day and the air strikes must have done their job well. The Viet Cong hastily prepared a defense around the church in town which had become their forward command post. However, resistance was slowly put to an end, the compound was secured, the town reoccupied. Dong Xoai was under control of the allied forces once again when darkness came that day. The success of the last assault must be attributed to the high degree of mobility and flexibility of our fighting force, and the determination and willingness of our flight crews in their helicopters.

The 118th Aviation Company returned to Bien Hoa after the lift of 52nd Ranger Battalion on 10 June 1965. The day of heavy fighting had caused the loss of one entire helicopter crew and aircraft, plus almost every helicopter having received bullet and shrapnel damage. Ten purple hearts were awarded to members of the 118th Thunderbirds as a result of this action.

During the night, more detailed intelligence of the enemy situation was developed. The enemy had initially committed a full regiment of regular troops with heavy supporting elements. Seven Viet Cong anti-aircraft gun positions were destroyed by air in and around Dong Xoai. Hundreds of mortar round from enemy mortars had destroyed practically every fortification in the Special Forces Compound. But the devastation air strikes and bombardments had caused the Viet Cong to suffer heavy losses. During the day a second regiment with headquarters at the Thanh Loi Plantation had to be committed for the attack on the compound. The Viet Cong used human wave attacks on the compound was repeatedly beaten back before the defenders were evacuated when their ammunition gave out. However, even though the Viet Cong occupied all of Dong Xoai by late afternoon 10 June 1965, it was not long before they were overwhelmed by the allied forces. The arrival of the battle wise ARVN Ranger Battalion was enough to break all organized resistance in the immediate vicinity of the town.

The next morning 11 June 1965 118th Aviation Company was back in full strength at Phuoc Vinh. There was to be a battalion sized combat assault with the 118th as the lead element. One hundred paratroopers of the 7th airborne Battalion ARVN were lifted by the 118th into the soccer at Dong Xoai. Although fire was expected by the aviation units, the armed escorts flew low to draw fire from the enemy prior to the arrival of the troops carrying helicopters, no enemy fire was received. The assault was completed with the arrival of the remaining elements of the airmobile battalion.

Large scale medical evacuation of ARVN casualties began immediately after the air landing of the paratroopers on 11 June 1965. Hostilities were coming to a halt in Dong Xoai except for isolated and rear guard

action. The wounded were brought to the soccer field and loaded on helicopters. There were almost no medical facilities at Dong Xoai all the casualties were taken to Phuoc Vinh where the 118th Aviation Company flight surgeon had set up a clearing station. The doctor had been working for over forty hours with little rest when the mass evacuation of wounded ARVN soldiers began. Helicopters continued to bring to Phuoc Vinh seriously wounded and the medical personnel were overwhelmed with the work. At one time there were over two hundred wounded awaiting treatment at Phuoc Vinh. The medical personnel worked diligently and many soldiers lives were saved.

On 12 June 1965, again staging from Phuoc Vinh, Republic of Vietnam, the company lifted elements of the first battalion 48 Regiment ARVN. The mission of the 1st Battalion was to reinforce the garrison already located at Dong Xoai. The troop strength at Dong Xoai was approaching a thousand and sufficient strength was present to secure the town.

Except for isolated snipers and enemy soldiers that were trapped in the town itself, the main body of the enemy had vanished. There was only small units engagements on 12 June 1965. The 118th provided armed helicopters support on a continuous basis to give fire support to the ground forces. There was enemy fire but no casualties were sustained by the flight crews. The armed helicopters also made an extensive reconnaissance and search of the areas where the elements of the 1st Battalion 7th Regiment were committed to battle on 10 June 1965. They were unable to detect any signs of the ARVN unit. The 118th thus prepared for an assault on the following day.

After being in continuous operations for over 72 hours, the 118th Aviation Company still provided the majority of the helicopters for the assault on 13 June 1965. Despite the heavy casualties and excessive damage to the helicopters, the morale of the company remained extremely high. Many of the helicopters now carried volunteer gunners consisting of clerks and cooks from the company.

The company went to Xuan Loc to pick up soldiers belonging to the ARVN 43 Regiment. A hundred soldiers were lifted into a landing zone a half mile north of the original assault area conducted on the first day of the operation. From the landing area, the soldiers were to move through the jungle and rubber trees to search for the troops that had disappeared shortly after they were landed. During the conduct of the assault, scattered small arms fire was received from the enemy hiding in the vast Thanh Loi Plantation. The company did not sustain any damage to the helicopters, nor any casualties. The enemy in this assault, turned out to be the weather witch became to be a serious hazard to flight.

The lift of the 43 Regiment was conducted at night under minimum lighting conditions. All during the daylight hours, fire teams searched for the 7th Regiment soldiers. Finally the situation became too urgent not to risk an air assault and ground search. The 118th was the only airmobile company experienced in night assaults. The assault was accomplished according to schedule. However due to the rapidly deteriorating weather on the return flights, the pilots were unable to hold their formation and helicopters were scattered all over "War Zone D". There was hidden thunderstorms through out the area. Heavy rain reduced visibility to bare minimum and winds gusting up to forty knots made any helicopter flying extremely difficult. Only the high degree of training and professionalism of the aviators prevented sure disaster and loss of crews and helicopters. The flight returned to Bien Hoa individually with every helicopter accounted for at 2330 hours. Many of the helicopters had but few minutes of fuel remaining.

The Dong Xoai battle was to have a final chapter on 20 June 1965. On that date the largest heliborne operation in the III Corps area was to climax the closing of the battle. The 118th Aviation Company was again chosen to lead the assault of seventy-seven troop carriers and forty armed escorts. Staging for Non Quan, the mission of the heliborne force was to conduct combat assaults to the area north of Dong Xoai where reconnaissance patrols and intelligence indicated a concentration of Viet Cong forces in a rubber plantation it was believed that they were remnants of the two enemy regiments that had attacked Dong Xoai. It appeared that the enemy was now attempting to withdraw and break contact.

One thousand and eighty-nine paratroopers with were the entire 3rd and 8th ARVN Airborne Battalions, cream of the Vietnamese Army, were landed by combat assault. Minor damages were sustained by a single helicopter which was caused by one enemy small arms bullet. There was no other incidents of enemy resistance that day.

On 20 June 1965, the battle of Dong Xoai came to a close for the 118th Aviation Company.

Distinguished Unit Citation were awarded to the 145th C.A.B., 117th AHC, 118th AHC, 120th AHC, 121st AHC, and Company A/501st Avn. BN. for their actions between 10 June 1965 to 13 June 1965.

FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report covers 1 October 1990 to 31 December 1990. This report is intended to give you an over all look at what your dues and donation money is used for. If you have any questions or suggestions please let me know. I want you to know that your money is being used for the intended purpose.

Balance 1 October 1990.....\$488.77

Total deposits 10/1/90 to 12/31/90 (Dues, Donations, Fund Raisers)..\$1619.40

Total.....\$2108.17

Expenditures

Postage.....\$281.53

Long Distance Phone.....\$199.27

Miscellaneous (see note).....\$520.94

Bank Fees.....\$29.55

Fund Raiser Supplies.....\$351.95

Copy Machine Repairs.....\$484.39

Total expenditures.....\$1867.03 -\$1867.03

Balance 31 December 1990.....\$241.14

Miscellaneous includes computer supplies (paper, mailing labels, printer ribbons, etc.), newsletter supplies (paper, staples, copy machine supplies, etc.), envelopes, notes books, ink pens, etc. The Fund Raiser supplies are listed separately in this report because the amount was so large with getting the supplies to make the silk screens, buying ink, and T-shirts. Our stock is slowly building up and sells are going rather well.

To give you a look at how we did this last year, here is a brake down of what we brought in and what we spent:

1990 Total Intake.....\$6368.60

1990 Expenditures

Postage.....\$1639.78

Long Distance Phone.....\$585.09

Miscellaneous (see note).....\$2379.53

Bank Fees.....\$88.12

Fund Raiser Supplies.....\$1555.04

Copy Machine Repairs.....\$749.39

Memorial Fund.....\$60.00

1990 Total expenditures.....\$7056.95 or Negative income \$688.35

For that \$688.35 negative income or loss we have located many new people and increased our stock. We start out 1991 with 142 T-shirts printed ready to go with a cash value of \$1846 and supplies to print another 146 at a cash value of \$1898. So as a profit for all our efforts in 1990 we have many new friends and a T-shirt stock of \$3744.

WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS FOR EVERYONE WE HAVE LOCATED WHO HAVE NOT JOINED THE ASSOCIATION TO JOIN. WE NEED THE MONEY TO KEEP GROWING. So please check your membership card, if the card is expired or if you don't have one please join our association, we need your support. If another 69 people would have joined or renewed their dues our negative income would have been a positive income. I want to thank all those who have joined and all who have made donations above the dues, to your credit we have done this well.

We have cut our expenences down by only sending newsletters to those who have joined the association or just been located. NOTICE if you have not joined please do so, if not you probably will not recieve any more newsletters. Right after this newsletter I will be cutting down the mailing list again. When I receive membership dues I code the individal's file with the membership year/s they joined, example 90-91, 91-92, 92-93, if the code is not on your file the printer will not print a mailing lable for you. Membership years are from 1 July to 30 June, now is the time to join or renew your membership. Our Association will continue for all those who join. Check the mailing lable on this newsletter for your membership status.

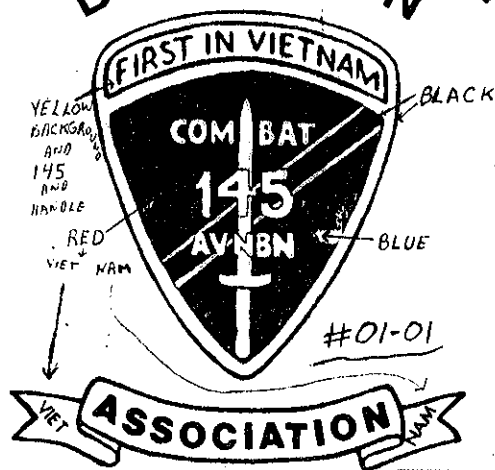
PLEASE JOIN TODAY, WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

COLOR T-SHIRTS

The T-shirts sell for \$13 each. They are in the original unit patch designs and colors as close as I can. They are printed on ringer type T-shirts, that's white T-shirts with dark blue around the neck and sleeves. These T-shirts are printed with Association money and all money from the T-shirts go to the Association to help with expenses. So if you can, please order one, they are also great advertising for locating new members for our Association. The lettering outside the Association and Unit designs are printed in black ink. The pictures at the bottom of this page are black and white because this copy machine doesn't print color but please try to imagine them in color. I have assigned stock numbers to the designs for easier ordering and filling of orders. Please try to use the stock numbers. I will try to stock them in Medium, Large, XL, XXL, XXXL. The Association T-shirt design is the unofficial 145th C.A.B. "First In Vietnam" design. It is intended for use by everyone eligible to be a member or associate member of our Association. I would like to see everyone have an Association T-shirt and a unit T-shirt for their unit.

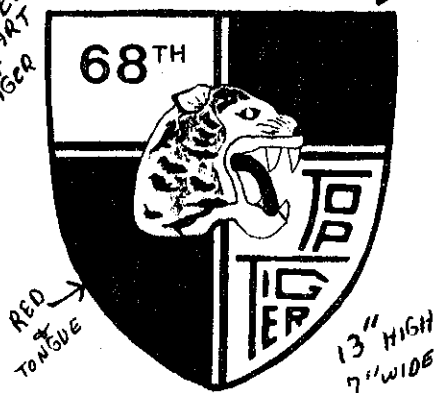
To order see order form inserted in newsletter. Thank you, and please send your order today.

145TH
COMBAT AVIATION
BATTALION



BLACK
LETTERING
& OUTLINE
YELLOW
OF
PART
TIGER

68TH
ASSAULT



HELICOPTER
COMPANY

#05-02

#09-02

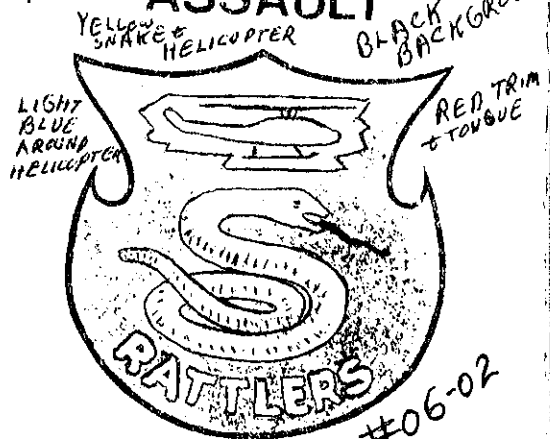
118TH
ASSAULT
BLUE BACKGROUND



HELICOPTER
COMPANY

13" HIGH
7 1/2" WIDE

71ST
ASSAULT



HELICOPTER
COMPANY

120TH
ASSAULT

#11-02



HELICOPTER
COMPANY

121ST
ASSAULT

#12-04



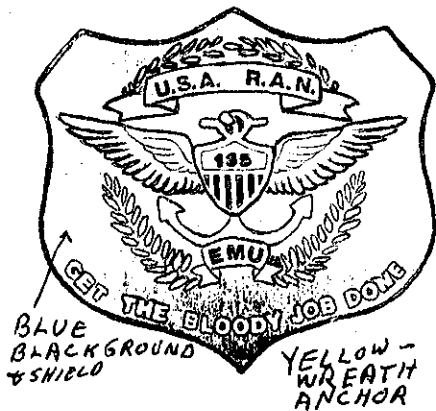
HELICOPTER
COMPANY

RED -
U.S.A.
R.A.N.
135
EMU
SHIELD LINES

BLACK - LETTERING
OUTLINE

135TH
ASSAULT

13" HIGH
7 1/2" WIDE

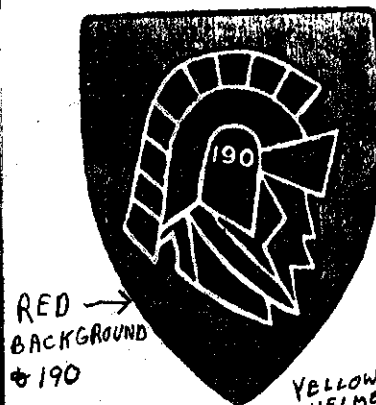


HELICOPTER
COMPANY
#13-02

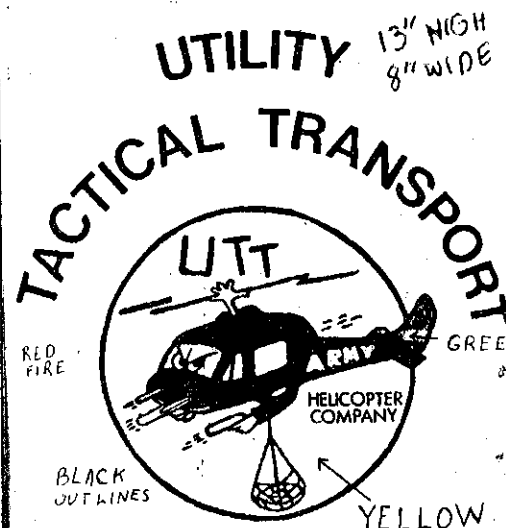
BLACK
LETTERING
HEAD
& OUTLINE

190TH
ASSAULT

13" HIGH
7" WIDE



HELICOPTER
COMPANY
#16-01



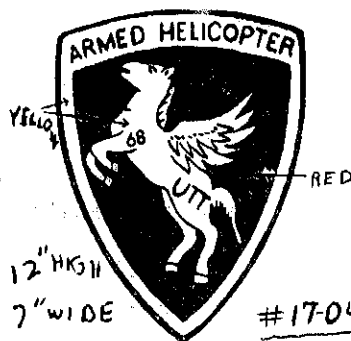
#17-01
HELICOPTER
COMPANY

UTILITY
TACTICAL
TRANSPORT



#17-02
HELICOPTER
COMPANY

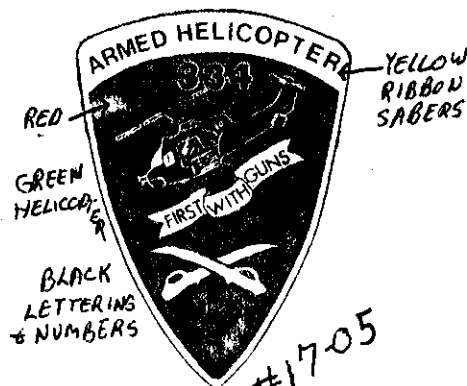
197TH
ARMED



#17-04
HELICOPTER
COMPANY

13" HIGH
7" WIDE

334TH
ARMED



#17-05
HELICOPTER
COMPANY

FULL COLOR UNIT
T-SHIRTS \$13.00 EACH

3 OR 4 COLORS ON EACH DESIGN

SEE ORDER FORM INSERTED

THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE YOU WILL
FIND THESE T-SHIRT AVAILABLE

NEW PEOPLE LOCATED LIST

21 January 1991

The list is arranged chronologically by unit. I arranged the list as accurately as possible with the information I have, some people I only have the year they entered Vietnam, others I have the complete date. I would like to have at least the month and year in and out of the unit, if possible. I tried to list people's rank in one of three categories, OF=Officer, WO=Warrant Officer, or EM=Enlisted Men. Please check the list for accuracy, please notify me of any mistakes or blank spaces. The * beside the rank denotes those who have sent in their annual dues already. Note the date on the top of the page. Some of the people listed have a new address so use this as an update to the Directory. Thank You

UNIT	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	STREET	CITY	ST ZIP	PHONE	DATE	DATE	RANK
HHC	BOJTOCHEWSKI	MASSTLY	602 MARLBROOK LN	LANSDALE	PA 19446	215-361-2887	1963	1964	EM
HHC	RANSBOTHAM	JAMES J	1646 GREENOCK AVE	FAYETTEVILLE	NC 28304	919-425-1361	1968	1969	OF
HHC	BRIGHT	LINDSAY W	4715 POPLARVIEW	LOUISVILLE	KY 40216		1971	1972	EM
68 AHC	BAGOSY	JOHN N	10116 WEST TUNEY	PHOENIX	AZ 85039	602-877-3824	1969	1970	EM
A/501	BROWN	ALFRED J	2220 AVE M	GALVESTON	TX 77550		1964	1965	
71 AHC	SEABOLT	RON	6410 FALLBROOK	GARLAND	TX 75043	214-226-2289	1966	1967	EM*
71 AHC	BARAGONA	JAMES	314 AVERY DR	SLIDELL	LA 70461		1967	1969	
71 AHC	BURROUGHS	BOB	1195 A DRENNON	FT CAMPBELL	KY 42223		1967	1968	
71 AHC	BANDINI	VIC	4421 HAZY LN	GREENWOOD	IN 46142	317-882-4000	1968	1969	WO
71 AHC	GARREN HC-45554	DANIEL E	P.O. BOX 4000	VACAVILLE	CA 95696		1969	1970	EM
71 AHC	BEAUMONT	MICHAEL J	PO BOX 1516	LAURINBURG	NC 28352		1970	1971	
117AHC	BADEN	ROBERT	1757 ABERDEEN	CANTON	MI 48187		1965	1965	
117AHC	BOUCHARD	JOHN R	2909 ROMINE AVE	PITTSBURGH	PA 15226		1967	1968	
117AHC	BESEDA	JOSEPH	11747 RAINTREE DR	MUNSON	OH 44024		1971	1972	
118AHC	UNDERWOOD	ORLIE "JIM"	11917 BROOMWOOD CIRCLE	AUSTIN	TX 78750	512-258-5437	1966	1966	OF
118AHC	THOMAN	STEVE	851 CHARLES ST	GALION	OH 44833	419-468-7197	1968	1968	EM*
118AHC	GILLIAN	IVAN L	P.O. BOX 613, WMC	MOUNTAIN HOME	TN 37684		1970	1971	EM*
119AHC	BERRYHILL	CHARLIE	RT 1, BOX 320	EDNA	TX 77957		1965	1966	
119AHC	BIDDLE	MICHAEL B	QTRSH1 RAAP	RAVENNA	OH 44266		1965	1966	OF
119AHC	EVANS	MESLEY L	2351 STOREN ST	CHARLESTON	SC 29405		1967	1968	EM
119AHC	CLOUGH	ALAN S	397 DOE TRAIL COVE NORTH	CORDOVA	TN 38018	901-753-0106	1969	1969	EM*
120AHC	KOHLER	ANTHONY J	1125 JERSEY ST	DENVER	CO 80220		1969	1970	EM
120AHC	BURNS	JOHN J	BOX 233	BURTON	KS 67020		1972	1972	
93 TRAM	BEYER	GENE A	5030 CRUSADE ST	SAN ANTONIO	TX 78218		1968	1964	
121AHC	CAMPBELL	JOE	6140 E. SADDLEBACK	MESA	AZ 85205	602-396-8486	1964	1964	OF
121AHC	BENNETT	MICHAEL E	222 PORTER CIRCLE	COLUMBIA	TN 38401		1968	1969	
135AHC	JARUGA	STAN	1 CONUNA CT	CORIO GEELONG	3214 AUSTRALIA		1968	1968	EM
135AHC	ANDERS	BOB	15607 DEERWOOD	SAN ANTONIO	TX 78232		1968	1969	
135AHC	BLACK	DAMERON	80 VALLEY RD NW	ATLANTA	GA 30305		1969	1970	
135AHC	BURNS	JOHN J	BOX 233	BURTON	KS 67020		1971	1972	
135AHC	BALLIS	ARTHUR H	19 KIRBY ST	FT RUCKER	AL 36362	205-398-3162	1972	1972	
190AHC	BAILEY	DAVID R	PO BOX 272	ROBERTA	GA 31078		1969	1970	WO
190AHC	BENNETT	DAVID E	109 OXFORD ST #3	ARLINGTON	MA 02174		1969	1969	OF
UTT	TATE	IRVING W	8 SPRING ST	WHITEFIELD	NH 03598	603-887-2279	1962	1968	EM*
197AHC	BENNETT	DONALD E	330 RIDGEMONT DR	FAYETTEVILLE	GA 30214		1966	1967	WO
334AHC	HORLACHER	JOE	BOX 24	LATAH	WA 99018	509-286-3771	1966	1969	EM*
334AHC	WATERHOUSE	JOHN H	COUCH RD	NEW PRESTON	CT 06777	203-868-7277	1966	19	EM*
334AHC	BOHRISCH	DOUG M	RT 1, BOX 1357	THAYER	MO 65791		1968	1969	WO
334AHC	ADAIR	RONNIE L	6160 SOUTH AIRPARK DR	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502		1971	1972	
213AHC	BLANKENSHIP	EARNEST W	RT 2, BOX 273	MONTEVALLO	AL 35115		1970	1971	
A/82	TRAVIS	LYLE T	811 N LIVE OAK ST	ROCKPORT	TX 78382		1965	1967	EM
335AHC	MORRISON	JOE	211 HOGAN	COPPERA COVE	TX 76522		1967	1967	
335AHC	BROCKELSBY	JOHN	811 SAN SALVADOR AVE	CARROLL	IA 51401		1968	19	
335AHC	LUKE	ROBERT E	RR-3, BOX 188-0	JUNCTION CITY	KS 66441		1968	1969	
335AHC	BUTLER	RICK E	1260 S FOOTHILL DR	LAKEWOOD	CO 80228	303-989-4061	1971	1971	

LAST MIMUTE NOTES 335th AHC COWBOY PATCHES



Jim Spanel who served with the 335th AHC in 1971 has gotten his original 335th AHC patch reproduced. I will try to copy the patch here in the newsletter but it doesn't come out very good in black & white. The patch design is a cowboy riding a huey and lassoing a VC. The cowboy is wearing a red shirt, blue pants, riding a green helicopter, brown boots, gloves, hat, and VC clothes, black outlining, the patch also contains some yellow and flesh tones. Jim sent me 25 patches to sell to raise funds for the Association at \$4 each. Hopefully we will have enough so that everyone who served with the 335th who wants one can get one. See order form on back of "HELP" article.

PHONE BOOKS

I use phone books from all over the country to look up people we are trying to locate. If I could get everyone going to our Reunion to bring this years or last years phone book it would really build up my collection, and hopefully help in finding more people. So please try to remember to bring a phone book with you to the Reunion.

ANOTHER MOVING WALL

Back many years ago John Devitt, a Vietnam Vet, a doorgunner, was so moved by the "WALL" when visiting Washington, DC that he wanted to build one in San Jose, CA so that West Coast Vets that couldn't go to Washington, DC could atleast see and feel the "WALL". He put together a 1/2 scale "WALL" and set it up near San Jose. He was approached by other Veterans groups to display the 1/2 scale "WALL" in their area before the 1/2 scale "WALL" was made permanant. That's the story of the "Moving Wall". The #1 rule John had for the "Moving Wall" was it wasn't to be used to sell anything. Back in 1986 and 87 Adolph Coors Company had what they said was an original idea of building a 1/2 scale "WALL" and take it around the country, this was after seeing the "Moving Wall", and just so happened the showing date and places was about the same as the new distribution places for Coor Beer. After much court and attorney time Coors settled with John's organization and got out of the Wall business, and I'm glad of that. Now I hear that another company has a "Moving Wall", there is no charge for it and they only show it on their property. The company SCI, Service Corporation International, a 1987 summary stated that this company is the largest publicly held funeral service / cemetery company in North America, operating some 375 funeral homes, 91 cemeteries, 22 funeral product & supply manufacturing plants, two casket distribution centers and 72 flower shops throughout the U.S. & Canada. Now I'm sure that a company as big as SCI wouldn't be trying to take advantage of the fact that most of us Vietnam Vet are reaching the age where we start thinking about the need for their services. If a company was using the "Wall" to play on our emotions and sell us thing, I would consider that as being immoral and unethical. Anyone that would like to write and thank them or send comments, here is their address: Service Corporation International, 1929 Allen Parkway, Houston, TX 77019 (713) 522-5141

I don't believe that any of the people who's names are on the "WALL" made that sacrifice just to help sell a product, or to make a political statement for what's going on in the world today. People shouldn't use the blood of our brother and sister Veterans for their own profit or personal viewpoint.

FUND RAISERS

We have a few on going fund raisers, the purpose of these is to raise operating funds for the association and to provide you with items you might like. We need the money and hate to beg for it. Membership forms for those who need to join or renew their membership is on the top of the order form inserted in the newsletter. Please help us grow.

TOP TIGER PATCHES

Gary Allison had 200 Top Tiger patches made up, they sell for \$4 each. He donated the last 70 to the association. He funded this project with his own money. After this project is completed we hope to be able to have patches made for the other units. Hopefully the association will be able to fund these projects, the demand and the availability of a patch will determine which patch we have done next. See order form inserted in newsletter.

THUNDERBIRD PATCHES

David Evans had 200 Thunderbird, "It Shall Be Done" patches made up, they sell for \$4 each. Any profits he is donating to the Association. The patches look great. You can order them by writing to: David Evans, 29609 Bock St, Garden City, MI 48135. Or send order form inserted in newsletter. Include your name and mailing address with the \$4 each.

335th COWBOY PATCHES

Jim Spanel who served with the 335th AHC in 1971 has sent me 25 of the COWBOY patches to sell to raise funds and also to give you the opportunity to have one. The patch is the 4" round one of the Cowboy riding a huey and lassoing a VC. The patches sell for \$4 each.

CASSETTE TAPE

The tapes "Bien Hoa Attack, Tet Jan. 31, 1968" and "Combat Assault 190th Avn. Co. (Gunship)" I put on one tape. Bien Hoa Attack on one side and 190th Gunships on the other, and calling it "Battle of Bien Hoa and Gunship Action". At the 87 Reunion we were selling these for \$10 each, they have been put on one tape that we are selling for \$15 as a fund raiser. This combined tape has been very popular with all who have heard it and I recommend it to everyone who served at Bien Hoa or anyone who served with a helicopter unit. Order one, I think you will like it. See order form inserted in newsletter.

Color T-Shirts

I now have the color T-shirt made of the original UTT design, the one with the helicopter on it and the UTT T-shirt with Pegasus (the flying horse) on it and the 197th design (Pegasus with the 68 and 197 added), we also now have full color T-shirts for the 68th AHC, 71st AHC, 118th AHC, 120th AHC, 121st AHC, 135th AHC, 190th AHC and 334th AHC, these designs are ready to be mailed out when I receive your order. These designs are printed on the front of a white T-shirt about 12" to 13" high including the lettering and are in color as close as can be matched to the original color. The cost is \$13 each and all profits go to the Association. See page 19 & 20 of this newsletter for more details and pictures. Use order form inserted in newsletter. Send order to: 145th CABVA, 3719 Forest Hill Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46805

The Association T-shirts are ready to be mailed as soon as I receive your order, they are going real fast. When the current stock runs out I'll print more, so delivery time should be short. They have the 145th "First in Vietnam" patch design with Association written below, and in color.