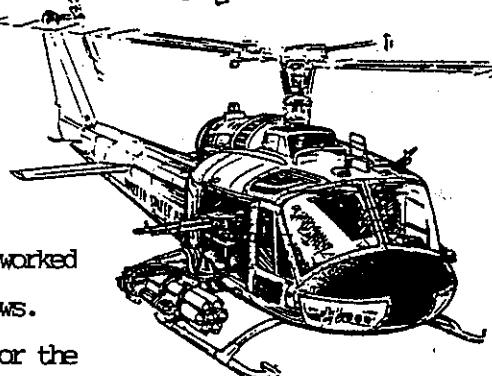


Greetings,

My name is Dick Detra. In 1991, I decided to research the unit I spent my tour of duty with during the crusades in Vietnam. I was sent to basic at Fort Lewis, Washington and then flown to Fort Polk Louisiana, which was the birthplace of combat infantrymen for Vietnam. My MOS was light weapons infantry, 11 Bravo. On June 10, 1967 our plane landed at Bien Hoa and we were bussed to the 90th Replacement in Long Binh. During this period, there was a call up for perimeter guards because of the large number of Aviation Units being deployed in the III Corps Area of Operations. A few of us were assigned to the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion and sent to Dau Tieng (Camp Ranier). After a month of perimeter guard, there was a need for door gunners in the lift platoons(slicks). After passing a flight physical our MOS's were changed to 11B2F, aircal gunner. From that point on it was on the job training. After proving ourselves under fire, a few of us were fortunate enough to get into the gun platoon. The 188th Assault Helicopter Company, Black Widows and their gun platoon, the Spiders flew support for the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. But, when I arrived at Camp Ranier the 3rd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division was in place. To the best of my knowledge, this is how the name of the camp came about. The 3/4 was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, with a panoramic view of Mt. Ranier. When the 3/4 arrived by ship in late 1966, they took over the base camp at Dau Tieng from the 25th ARVN Division. They named their new base camp, Camp Ranier. On August 1, 1967 the 3/4 was changed to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. At the time the 3/25 was stationed TDY up in Pleiku, in the II Corps A.O. Instead of dealing with a logistics nightmare, they simply changed patches. I'm trying to locate people who were stationed at Dau Tieng during 1967-1968. I've heard of it being called Rocket City also. For some reason I have blanked out a lot of the experiences we were part of or just wanted it all to go away. Most of the units in the western III Corps A.O., participated in the same operations, to some degree. I'm trying to put together, an accurate account of what we all experienced in the rubber at Dau Tieng. I would appreciate any input you may want to share, your memories during 1967-1968. Things that were unique to Dau Tieng, the Olympic size swimming pool, the air field, the French buildings, the P.X., the ice factory in the village, etc. I'm trying to make a map of the layout of the base and the location of the units stationed there.





We all remember certain things about our tours and dates.

I would like to incorporate photos from the various units we worked with, along with those I already have of the 188th Black Widows.

Any quality photos of Camp Ranier, the village of Dau Tieng, or the immediate area around the base camp. I would reimburse you for any costs in the making of copies of your photos. If you wanted to mail me your photos, I would make copies and send the originals back to you. I am a member of the V.F.W; Viet Nam Veterans of America, Vietnam Helicopter Crewmembers Association, D.A.V.(life member)and Veterans of the Vietnam War Inc. I am the coordinator for the 188th A.H.C. and have been working on an active roster of all our E.M. and N.C.O.'s. It has been a very slow process. Since most of us rotated back to the states at different times, it was hard to keep in touch with anyone. People moved around, relocated....you get the point.

Fire Support Base Burt was one of my highlights on New Years Eve 1967. They scrambled our gun team that night to come to the aid of that FSB, which was being overrun. I remember making gun runs along the perimeter and the wire. There were close to 400 bodies left in the wire and around the perimeter. Jerry Pierce, a platoon sergeant with 3/22 was at Burt and had to help count the bodies and help gather them up, so they could be thrown into a huge ditch. He sent me a couple of photos of those K.I.A.'s. My goal is to write a detailed account of all the units we flew support for and add that to my own unit history. We most certainly kicked some ass over there, now didn't we. The 188th lost 18 men K.I.A. during my tour, 6/67-6/68. I want our little bit of history to be correct. As you well may know, most of those in charge of keeping records did not do a very thorough job. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and WELCOME HOME!