

July 11, 1994

Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Ass'n
Attn: The Directory Editor
7 West Seventh Street, Suite 1990
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Dear Sirs;

Here are a few comments concerning the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Ass'n Historical Reference Directory which you recently published.

I received that document and began to look through it with some pleasure. It was particularly good to see old "061" and another 57th Trans Co (Lt Hel) CH-21 on the cover - as the first helicopter type in country, assigned to the first unit - it was right up front where it belongs in any history of the Vietnam war.

The history of the 145th Bn was interesting and the coverage seemed fairly comprehensive. It is, however, a little spotty for the 45th Trans Bn and the subordinate TC units from which it sprang.

I suppose that is partly my fault (and others like me who were there) because I have not taken the time to write a history. I did, however, put together a historical scrapbook on the CH-21 for a reunion of the 57th Trans Co and the 98th Trans Det some years ago.

The Boeing Vertol Company was kind enough to set it up and print it for me so it covers the helicopter as a main subject, but it also records some contemporarily published articles, copies of official records, and information on the 57th & 98th covering deployment and operations in Vietnam during 1961/62. I am attaching a copy for your information and I will also send a copy to James Bodkin at the 145th Bn Ass'n. The information in the scrapbook is not comprehensive since it was composed of what I had around at the time, but it is accurate and provides some detail.

Although there are a lot of names in your directory, I think that the main weakness in the story, as told so far, is on the people side. For example, while I was pleasantly surprised by the CH-21s on the cover, it was a little disconcerting to find my name only associated with an accident. Since I was the Ops Officer who had major responsibility for planning and, with CWO Bennie B. Potts, flew the lead helicopter on the first combat assault in Vietnam, I thought that history might treat me a little better than that. I expect that others might have a similar reaction.

On a quick review, I didn't find what your plans are for Volume II and later, but I'm sure a more balanced story (units, machines, battles, incidents, major events and people) will emerge with time. Who knows, when I retire again I may try some more writing on the subject, but that won't be for a while yet if ever, so you guys keep up the good work. You may have gotten a copy of this scrapbook before, but for what it's worth, here is some good early history for you.