

# Joseph Anthony White United States Army (Aviation)



Republic Of Vietnam

1965 - 1973



Many Americans are aware of the names, and accomplishments, of the top American commanders in Vietnam, men such as generals William Westmoreland or Creighton Abrams. However most are not aware of their enlisted counterparts, the ranking non-commissioned officers during the war who often served without publicity, quietly and effectively doing their jobs. In the Army aviation field a couple of names stand out, SGM Cyril G. Manning, Aviation Soldier of the Year 1964, and 1SG Joseph White, both of whose careers encompassed multiple tours in Vietnam, effectively spanning most phases of the War.

Those of us interested in Army aviation history, heraldry and insignia got to know Joe White when he was with the pioneering "Knights of the Air" 114th Assault Helicopter Company (Air Mobile light) in Vietnam. Joe, with his passion for collecting military insignia, was kind enough to offer to share the 114th's unit's history and patches with others. His career continued in Vietnam, most of it spent in the Delta, where he served with the 164th Combat Aviation Group and ended up with the unique 18th Corps Aviation Company in late 1972. He was a charter member of that select group known as "Delta Legends," exceptional individuals, officers, warrants and non-commissioned officers, who served two or more tours with the same, or different, units in the Delta.

After retirement Joe's interest and significant contribution to Army aviation continued. He was ever helpful to the many historians who sought his support and advice, giving freely of his time and knowledge. Although he often never saw results of his labors, his love of and devotion to Army aviation caused him to persist, tirelessly, in his endeavors. Now is a fitting time to acknowledge and honor the many accomplishments and contributions of 1SG Joseph A. White to Army Aviation history, particularly during the Vietnam War 1961-1973.



**Aug 65 - Dec 65** - HHC, 3rd Infantry Brigade (S2/3 Air Operations)

1st Cavalry Division (AM) An Khe, RVN **Dec 65 - Sep 66** - HHC, 11th Combat Aviation Group

NCOIC - An Khe Army Airfield Command

**Jun 67 - Jun 68** - 114th Assault Helicopter Company - Vinh Long

13th Combat Aviation Battalion 164th Combat Aviation Group

**Jun 68 - Nov 68** - HHC, 164th Combat Aviation Group - Can Tho

NCOIC - S2/3 Air Operations

**Apr 69 - Apr 70** - HHC, 34th General Support Group (AM&R) - Saigon

NCOIC - DPO (Directorate Plans & Operations)

**Jan 71 - Jun 71** - 1SG - 165th Transportation Company (AMS) Phu Loi

**Jun 71 - Dec 71** - 1SG - 214th Combat Aviation Battalion - Vinh Long

**Jul 72 - Nov 72** - 1SG - HHC, 164th Combat Aviation Group - Can Tho

**Nov 72 - Jan 73** - 1SG - 18th Corp Aviation Company - Can Tho

**Jan 73 - Mar 73** 1SG - 18th CAC - Can Tho Assigned to US Embassy after the US Army departed. To fly UN; ICCS and NVA/VC Peace Teams through the Mekong Delta to observe peace stand-down.



## **Awards, Decorations and Badges**

### **Distinguished Flying Cross**

Bronze Star Medal with 5 OLC.    Army Commendation Medal with 4 OLC.

Air Medal with 4 OLC.    Purple Heart.    Presidential Unit Citation.

Valorous Unit Citation. Meritorious Unit Citation.

Good Conduct Medal w/5th Award.    National Defense Svc Medal w/OLC.

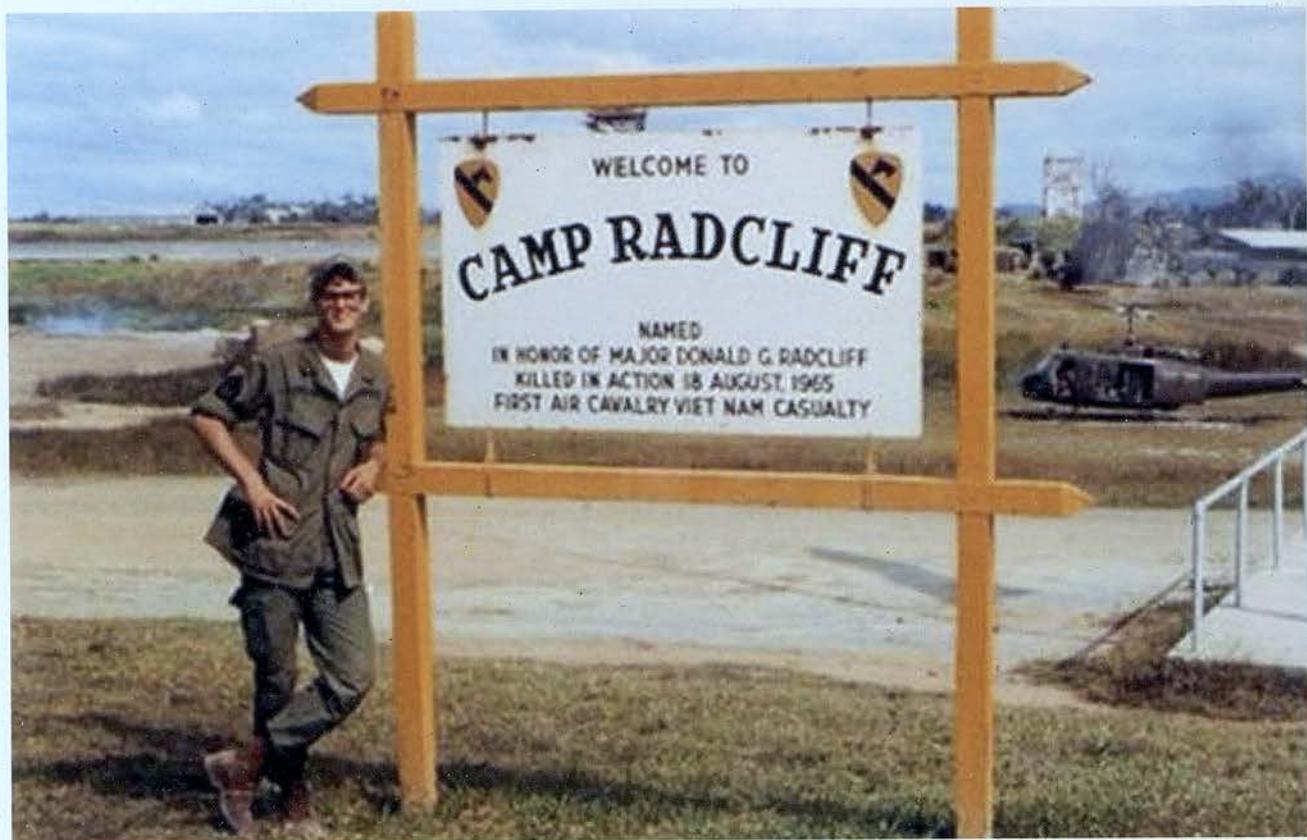
RVN Service Medal - 3 Silver Stars - 2 Bronze Stars

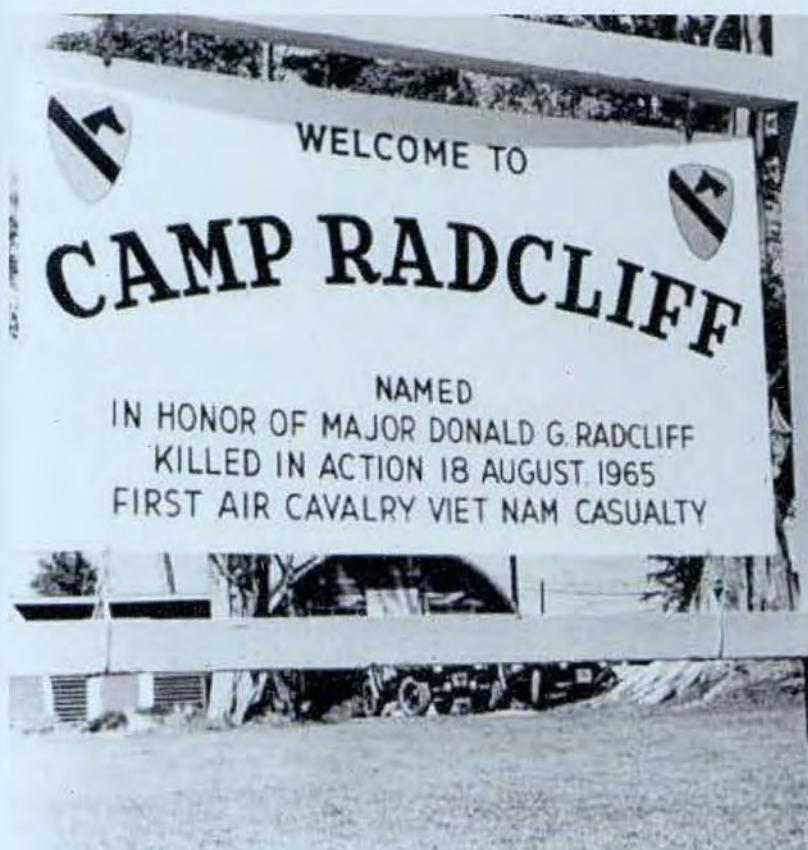
RVN Cross Gallantry - 5th Award.    RVN Cross Gallantry Fourager.

RVN Staff Medal. RVN Campaign Medal.

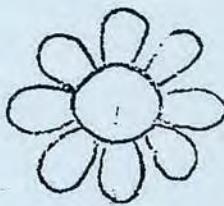
Combat Infantryman Badge.    Master Aircraft Crew Member Badge.

Crew Chief Mechanic's Badge. 11th Air Assault Div Air Assault Badge.

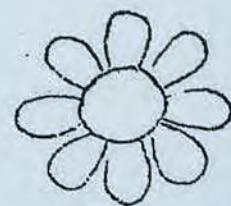




1. LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, MIDDLE NAME <b>WHITE JOSEPH ANTHONY</b>				2. SEX <b>M</b>	3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <b>[REDACTED]</b>	4. DATE OF BIRTH YEAR <b>28</b> MONTH <b>03</b> DAY <b>03</b>	YEAR <b>28</b> MONTH <b>03</b> DAY <b>03</b>																								
5. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH OR CLASS <b>ARMY - RA</b>				6. GRADE, RATE OR RANK <b>MSG</b>	7. PAY GRADE <b>E-8</b>	8. DATE OF RANK YEAR <b>68</b> MONTH <b>06</b> DAY <b>27</b>	YEAR <b>68</b> MONTH <b>06</b> DAY <b>27</b>																								
9. SELECTIVE SERVICE NUMBER <b>50 49 28 136</b>		10. SELECTIVE SERVICE LOCAL BOARD NUMBER, CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE <b>LB #49 Brooklyn, New York 11217</b>			11. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE SERVICE (Street, RFD, City, State and ZIP Code) <b>542 Dean St Brooklyn, New York 11217</b>																										
12. TYPE OF SEPARATION <b>RETIREMENT</b>				13. STATION OR INSTALLATION AT WHICH EFFECTED <b>FORT RILEY, KANSAS</b>																											
14. AUTHORITY AND PERSON <b>TITLE 10 UNITED STATES CODE SECTION 3914 SPD 230</b>				15. EFFECTIVE DATE <b>74 01 31</b>	16. TYPE OF CERTIFICATE ISSUED <b>DD FORM 363A</b>	17. REENLISTMENT CODE <b>RE-4</b>																									
18. CHARACTER OF SERVICE <b>HONORABLE</b>				19. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND <b>HHC 1st Inf Div Fort Riley, Kansas - FORSCOM</b>			20. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED <b>USAR CON GP (RETIRED) RCPAC 9700 PAGE BLW ST LOUIS, MISSOURI 63132</b>																								
21. TERMINAL DATE OF RESERVE/10. HIS OBLIGATION <b>YEAR 83 MONTH 07 DAY 27</b>		22. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICE (City, State and ZIP Code) <b>Can Tho Vietnam</b>			23. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY THIS PERIOD <b>YEAR 68 MONTH 03 DAY 25</b>																										
24. PRIMARY SPECIALTY NUMBER AND TITLE <b>71P50 1 Mar 61 FH Ops Coor</b>		25. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER <b>912.168 Airplane Dispatcher</b>			26. RECORD OF SERVICE <table border="1"> <tr><td>(a) NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD</td><td>5</td><td>10</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>(b) PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE</td><td>14</td><td>7</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>(c) TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE (a + b)</td><td>20</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>(d) PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>(e) TOTAL SERVICE FOR PAY (c + d)</td><td>20</td><td>6</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>(f) FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE THIS PERIOD</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>21</td></tr> </table>			(a) NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD	5	10	6	(b) PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE	14	7	28	(c) TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE (a + b)	20	6	4	(d) PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE	0	0	0	(e) TOTAL SERVICE FOR PAY (c + d)	20	6	4	(f) FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE THIS PERIOD	3	1	21
(a) NET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD	5	10	6																												
(b) PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE	14	7	28																												
(c) TOTAL ACTIVE SERVICE (a + b)	20	6	4																												
(d) PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE	0	0	0																												
(e) TOTAL SERVICE FOR PAY (c + d)	20	6	4																												
(f) FOREIGN AND/OR SEA SERVICE THIS PERIOD	3	1	21																												
27. SECONDARY SPECIALTY NUMBER AND TITLE <b>67Z50 25 Apr 69 Acft Maint Supv</b>		28. RELATED CIVILIAN OCCUPATION AND D.O.T. NUMBER <b>NONE</b>			29. HIGHEST EDUCATION LEVEL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED (In Years) <b>SECONDARY/HIGH SCHOOL 12 yrs (1-12 grades) COLLEGE 0 yrs</b>																										
30. INDOCHINA OR KOREA SERVICE SINCE AUGUST 5, 1964 <b><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO</b> See Item #27		31. TIME LOST (Preceding Two Yrs) <b>6 days</b>			32. DAYS ACCRUED LEAVE PAID <b>NONE</b>																										
		33. SERVICEMEN'S GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE <b><input type="checkbox"/> \$15,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE</b>			34. DISABILITY SEVERANCE PAY <b><input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES AMOUNT DNA</b>																										
35. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, COMMENDATIONS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED		36. PERSONNEL SECURITY INVESTIGATION <b>TYPE BI DATE COMPLETED 14 Feb 56</b>																													
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS BRONZE STAR MEDAL W/2 OLC AIR MEDAL W/4 OLC		ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL W/2 OLC PURPLE HEART PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (SEE ITEM #27)																													
37. REMARKS  Last Overseas Service - Vietnam Last paid reenlistment bonus - \$466.40 Total reenlistment bonus - \$2000.00 Ref Item #19 - 18 Aug 65 - 10 Sep 66; 2 Jun 67 - 5 Nov 68; 4 Apr 69 - 3 Apr 70; 7 Jan 71 - 17 Dec 71; 28 Aug 72 - 26 Mar 73 Ref #26 - VALOROUS UNIT AWARD MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION W/OLC GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL 5TH AWARD CREWCHIEF MECHANIC BADGE CIVIL ACTIONS HONOR MEDAL VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL W/3 SILVER & 3 BZ STARS REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN MEDAL  Ref Item #21 - 6 days excess leave		38. NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL W/OLC ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL VIETNAM CROSS OF GALLANTRY 5TH AWARD VIETNAM STAFF MEDAL COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE AIRCRAFT CREWMAN BADGE (MASTER) AIR ASSAULT BADGE																													
39. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Street, RFD, City, County, State and ZIP Code) <b>542 Dean St Brooklyn, New York 11217</b>		40. SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING SEPARATED <b><i>Joseph A. White</i></b>																													
41. THREE NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZING OFFICER <b>VERNON L. FRENCH MAJ AUS (RET) CHIEF, TEE ACTV BR</b>		42. SIGNATURE OF OFFICER AUTHORIZED TO SIGN <b><i>Vernon L. French</i></b>																													



114<sup>TH</sup>



# KNIGHT CAP

Authorized and published bi-weekly by the 114th Assault Helicopter Company, Vinh Long, APO 96357 S.F.. WO Dennis Murphy, Editor, contents are unofficial and are written or reproduced for the interest and information of the 114th personnel, and are not necessarily the opinion of the commander, the Staff or the Department of the Army.

## SOUND OFF

There are a lot of us on the compound who question just what the #?! # is going on around here, but get no answers so how about this? We of the Knight Cap would like to put together a little column we'll call Sound Off and you out there who want to get some answers, logical or otherwise, can pass your questions along to us and we'll do our best to come up with something.

All you'll have to do is write down your question on some scrap of paper and drop it in the mailbox by the Orderly Room in an envelop marked "Knight Cap" you can address your question to Knight 6, Knight 5, the different platoon leaders, or anyone else you care to hear an explanation from. These people have already agreed to co-operate fully.

If you don't wonder about certain things that are going on around here, you must be the exception to the rule, so why don't those of you who do want to have some sensible explanations whip a few questions on us.

TWICE A MONTH?  
GOOD GRIEF!







Joe. To the most outstanding Operations Sgt I know Col. Al Post

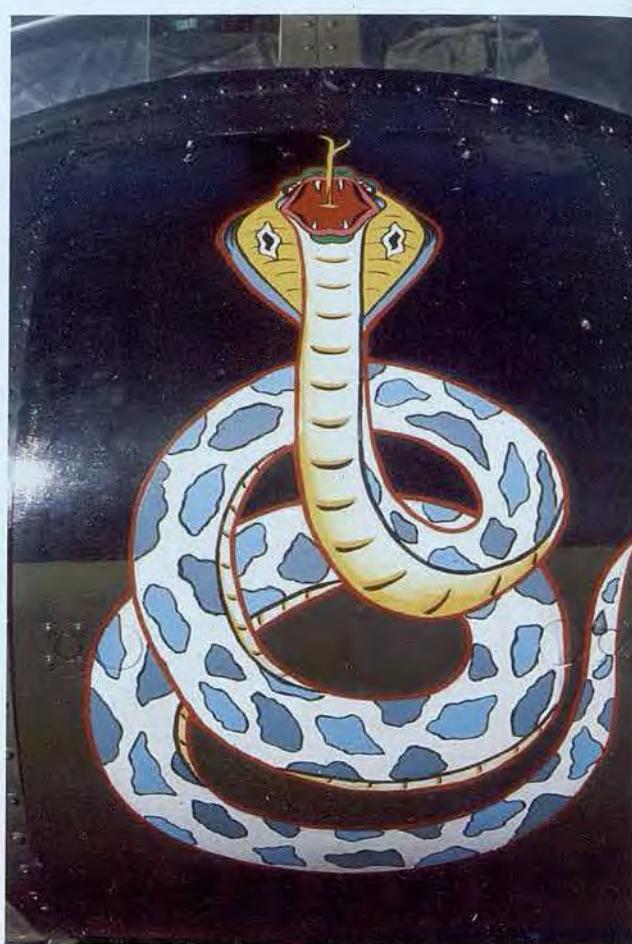


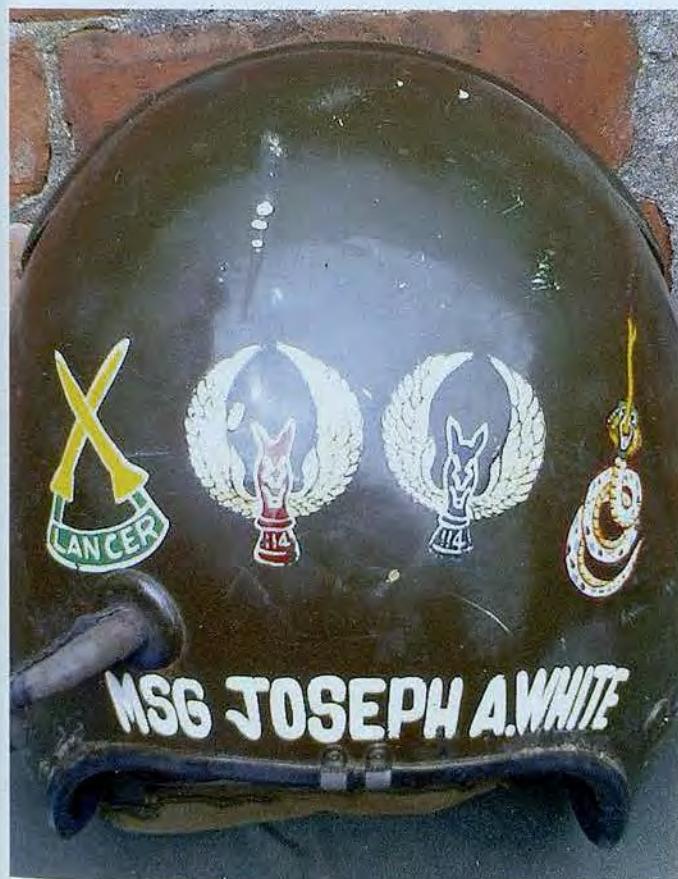
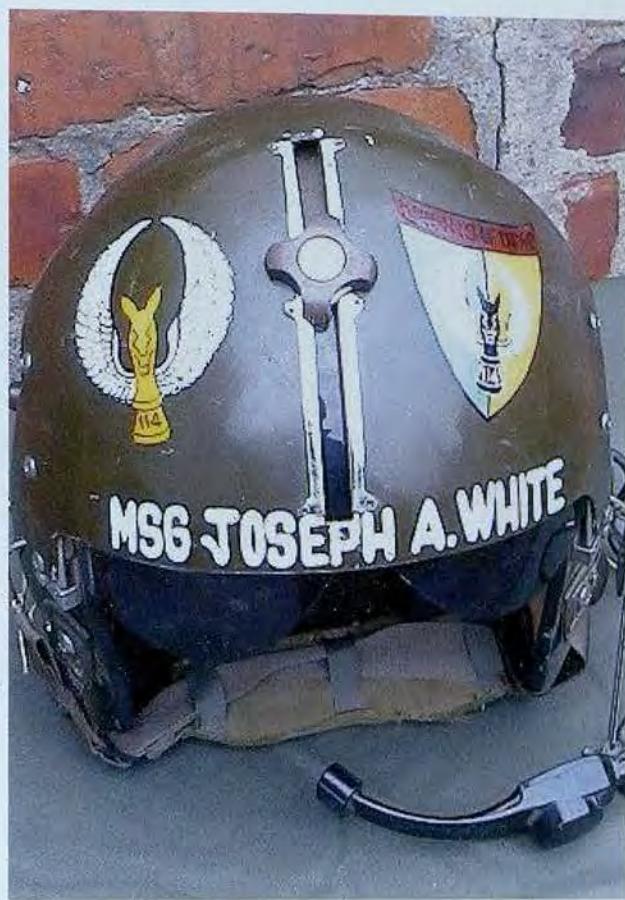
**WELCOME ABOARD**



**114th Assault Helicopter Company**  
**Major Robert W. Reid, Commanding**



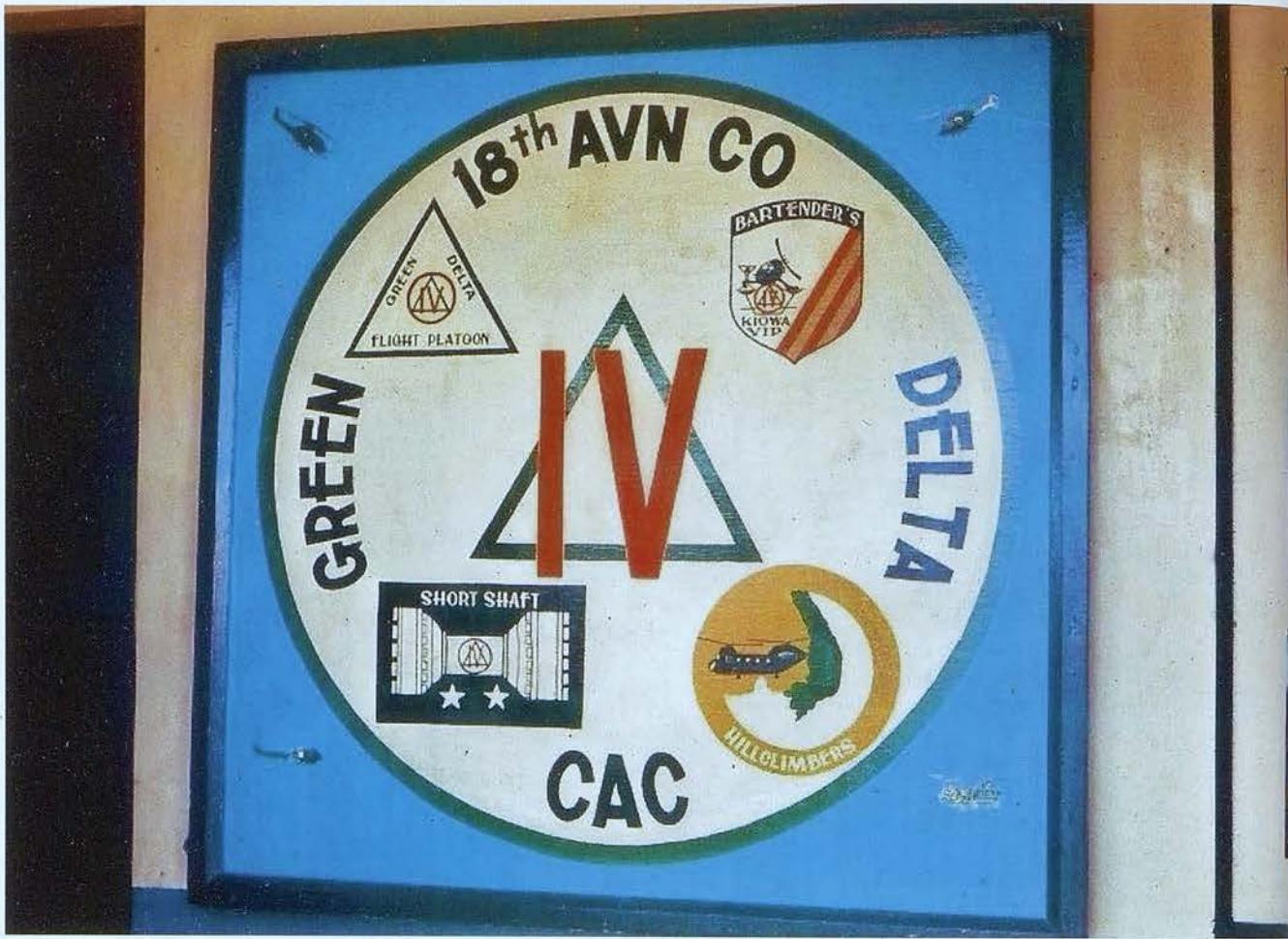






To Master Sgt Joe White, a fine friend and an outstanding performer. Ltc Samuel Walker. 34th General Support Group









# The Delta Dragon

Can Tho, Republic of Vietnam

## 1SG has over 8,000 medals

By SPC Stan Berry

**VINH LONG ARMY AIRFIELD.** — First Sergeant Joseph A. White is winging his way toward a goal. His ambition is to have the most complete collection of military aviator's wings in existence.

Already the first sergeant of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 214th Combat Aviation Battalion has interested the Smithsonian Institute, National Air Museum and the Naval Aviation Museum in his hobby.

1SG White's collection of wings number more than 8,000 sets, and date from the early years of the 20th century, when flying was in its pioneer period, to today's wings worn by astronauts. The first sergeant values his collection so highly that he has it protected by the famous insurance company Lloyd's of London.

The wing collecting fanatic first became interested in his hobby while serving a tour of duty in Germany 12 years ago.

"While attached to German Army Headquarters," he explained, "I met a former World War II Messerschmidt pilot who had a few sets of wings. He told me some good stories and that got me interested."

Since that time his collection

has expanded from United States and German wings to include wings from Austria, Australia, Bavaria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Hungary, Isreal, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovak (Czechoslovakia) pilots who flew for Nazi-Germany), South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and Uruguay.

Included in the United States portion of the collection is one of the original 14 badges awarded to Army aviators in 1913. One of these was awarded to Second Lieutenant H. A. Arnold. Before Lt. Arnold's military career was over, he became Chief of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and a 5-star general.

Besides Army and Air Force wings, the first sergeant has wings worn by aviators of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units, from their first authorized wings in 1917 to the present-day U.S. Navy Astronaut wings.

In searching out wings, badges and insignia, 1SG White has come in contact with some fabulous fliers, such as Jacqueline Cochran, Rickenbacker, Gen. H. A. Arnold, Sikorsky and others.

An example of one of his famous contacts is Colonel Hans Rudel, a former Stuka pilot for

Nazi Germany, who flew more than 2,000 missions on the Russian front, and caused Adolf Hitler to invent six new decorations just for him. One is an expensive medal studded with jewels which the German dictator presented himself. 1SG White purchased this badge, the only one of its kind in the world, while he was stationed with the German High Command Headquarters in an advisory capacity for \$500.

Another contact is Sgt. William Reilly, who shot down three planes flying with the Royal Australian Air Force in the Battle of Britain and in the Pacific. Reilly, who finally lost a leg in combat and today operates a store in Australia, sent 1SG White a pair of wings he wore on his wartime tunic.

The hobby is further enlarged by photographs of military aviation during World War I. The collection numbers over 100 different pictures.

Each item in the wing collection has a story accompanying it to tell about air heroes both past and present, making aviation history come alive from the flying Jenny to space age rockets. To tell the story of aviation wings, 1SG White is in the process of writing a book, with art and pictures showing all his finds.



Mg Allen Burdett Jr CG, 1st Aviation bde VN.  
Inspects Joe Whites wing collection, TSN. AFB Saigon



THIS INVOLVES ANOTHER CLOSE CALL WHICH I HAD IN VIETNAM. I HAD GONE TO SAIGON TO VISIT SOME WOUNDED PERSONNEL AT THE SAIGON GENERAL HOSPITAL. I REMAINED OVERNIGHT AND WENT OUT TO THE "GOLF COURSE" WHICH WAS OUR NAME FOR THE ARMY'S HELIPORT IN SAIGON TO BUM A RIDE BACK TO MY UNIT AT CAN THO. I ARRIVED AT THE FLIGHT OPERATIONS DESK AND SIGN UP FOR A RIDE TO CAN THO ON THE FIRST AVAILABLE AIRCRAFT RETURNING THERE. ABOUT TWO OR THREE HOURS LATER ONE OF MY UNIT'S OWN AIRCRAFT, A CH-47 ARRIVED TO DROP OFF SOME SUPPLIES AND WAS RETURNING BACK EMPTY. I WAS BOOKED ON THIS FLIGHT ALONG WITH 20 OR 30 OTHER PERSONNEL RETURNING TO THEIR UNITS. THERE WOULD BE ANOTHER HOUR DELAY WHILE THE CREW HAD LUNCH.

WHILE SITTING THERE AT OPERATIONS A COLONEL FRIEND OF MINE HAPPEN TO PASS BY AND ASKED ME WHAT I WAS DOING HANGING AROUND OPNS. I TOLD HIM I WAS WAITING FOR A RIDE TO CAN THO. HE TOLD ME HE HAD HIS OWN AIRCRAFT AND IF I DIDN'T MINE FLYING AS CO-PILOT TO VUNG TAU WITH HIM, HE'D THEN DROP ME OFF AT CAN THO. SINCE HE HAD A MUCH FASTER AIRCRAFT I DECIDED TO GO WITH HIM. WE FLEW TO VUNG TAU BUT GOT SIDE-TRACKED WITH SOME MUTAL FRIENDS WE HAD RUN INTO. BUT EVENTUALLY WE TOOK OFF.

HE DROP ME OFF AT CAN THO AND I WALKED INTO MY ORDERLY ROOM WHERE THE UNIT SECRETARY PROMPTLY SCREAMED. EVERYBODY HAD LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS A GHOST.

IT WAS THEN I FOUND OUT THAT THE AIRCRAFT I WAS SCHEDULED TO RETURNED ON HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN WITH ENEMY ROCKETS KILLING ALL ON BOARD HER. SINCE I HAD NOT HAD MY NAME REMOVED FROM THE FLIGHT MANIFEST FOR THE AIRCRAFT, AND AFTER CALLING SAIGON OPERATIONS, HAS ASSUMED I WAS ON HER WHEN SHE WAS SHOT DOWN.

I PROMPTLY VOLUNTEERED TO GO OUT ON BODY RECEOVERY ALTHOUGH IN ENEMY TERRIORITY.

31 Oct 72

BOARDING PASS		
PASSENGER NAME AND NUMBER <b>CAN THO</b>		
FLIGHT NO./DATE <b>12</b>	REPORTING TIME AND DATE <b>1400</b>	FLIGHT LUNCH STAMP <b>-</b>







The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 32 Queens, New York arranged for Joe White's burial at Calverton National cemetery on Oct. 14, 2008..



Rest In peace Joe. 1928 - 2008



MIX

Paper from  
responsible sources

FSC® C016917



1/2 T65898742



B

T65898743

