9/13/02

Dear Sheryl:

This package is a followup to our telephone conversation of a couple of weeks back. The history, video and picture are some examples of the information we have available on the 188TH AHC / C Co 101ST Avn Bn that might be of use to you in the "Wings of Liberty" Military Museum.

The picture represents just one of maybe 2,000 that Dick Detra has collected over the years. It shows a typical Combat Assault we would make several times a day in some operations. We had one of only a few smoke ships used in country and we would use it on almost every CA we did. It would, as you can see, effectively block the vision of the enemy from one side of the approach as we inserted troops. The aircraft on the far left of the smoke is a gun ship and you can see a line of tracers being put into the tree line left of the smoke. On the history there are several more pictures of the use of the smoke ship.

Dick Detra has been the driving force behind the development of our history.

He has collected a vast treasure of pictures, patche orders, citations and documentation which can be used to verify our historical accomplishment in support of the 101ST and other units in Viet Nam. He stands by to help you with anything we have that will help document our support of the division. I am aware that he has made contact with the museum director and that his address, phone and e-mail address are or should be already on record. If it isn't I will provide them to you.

I have also included an e-mail with the history that we got from LTG Cushman. We have had a close relationship with Gen Cushman since we were in direct support of his 2nd Brigade at LZ Sally in 1968. I'm very proud to say that I was able to support one of the greatest warriors I've ever been associated with when I commanded the 188th at LZ Sally.

The video was constructed from 8mm movie film (no Camcorders then) and is the best we could salvage out of film that was 30+ years old and in some cases not treated too well in storage. The last half of the video is from our trip North and our support of the 101ST at Camp Eagle and LZ Sally. The guys who made up C Company, 101st Avn

Bn after 1 July 68 when the 188TH AHC was deactivated have more film but so far we haven't tried to put it together as one documentary. If you want to try that we may be able to motivate them to dig out their film and do the same as we have for the 188TH.

I do hope that this will be of help to you in developing the history of the Conversion of the Division from Airborne to Air Mobile in 1968. I was present in the staff Meeting when the C of Staff read the order at Camp Eagle. It was a very traumatic event but we all did our jobs and the Division went on to achieve some significant victories after the change over.

Both Dick and I look forward to the opening of the Museum and the dedication of the "Pathway of Legends" walkway. We will continue to work hard to get bricks for all of our fallen Comrads who served in the 188TH and C Company 101ST Avn Bn.

Sincerely
Jack Johnson