



## THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

---

The official Newsletter of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

Aug 1998

### Adjutants Call

The Adjutants Call for this newsletter will be a little different. I believe it is appropriate to remind all troopers of past history, when that history has impacted all of us so much. History is in the making of words and deeds, some by gallant troopers and some by not so gallant "others".

With that in mind, the following letter will serve as the starting point for this article and the reminder of a Gallant Trooper.

Dear Loel,

I have two items that I would like to bring to your attention. **One is the last letter I received from Bullwhip-6. I don't know why I kept it. I guess I was impressed at the statistics or it could easily have been because I admired this guy enough to follow him anywhere after the night I spent in LZ Betty, with several other troopers who survived solely on the strength of John B. Stockton's intestinal fortitude.** The other item is a date correction on SFC (Ret) Lionel Dela Rosa's article concerning the Chu Pong Massif's battle with "B" troop personnel. I can assure him that it was not the 20<sup>th</sup> of March but it was the 30<sup>th</sup> of March because I still remember the day very well as should John Gere. I received wounds that day that kept me in Martin Army Hospital for over 22 months and eventually retirement.

You guys are doing a super job on the Bullwhip Squadron News letter and Dela Rosa's story could have been a missed number on the keyboard (and it was. BWS).

Enclosed please find a copy of the farewell to the Squadron troops by the illustrious John B. himself.

Looking forward to the Squadron Associations Reunion.

Sincerely

Richard C Sistrunk  
1505 Buena Vista Dr.  
Dothan, AL 36303-2003

## Final Letter To The Troops From John B. Stockton.

Subject: Farewell

18 December 1965

TO: All Troopers  
1/9 Cavalry Squadron  
1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division

As it will to all of you some day, my time has come to leave our Squadron. I do so with profound regret but with the fondest possible memories a soldier can take with him.

We have trained together from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River- - at Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, the Carolinas maneuver area, Fort Bragg, Camp Shelby, Fort Campbell and Fort Knox. Our first year together was a busy one, and in the process we became a capable combat-ready team.

We have fought together from the China Sea to the Cambodian border- - in the Suoi Ca valley, along Highway 19, on the Tae and Drang Rivers. In our several skirmishes and in our pitched battles we have demonstrated beyond reasonable argument our combat capability. The facts are there, on the record - - 125 PAVN/VC killed by body count, another 187 estimated killed; 203 PAVN/VC wounded; 64 prisoners captured and 16 VC suspects apprehended; 19 enemy weapons captured. We have fought the Peoples Army of North Vietnam and defeated him. We have fought the main battle force of the Viet Cong and defeated him.

I mourn with you our departed comrades. I ask my maker, as you do, to speed the recovery of our wounded, injured and sick troopers. **I salute you all.**

My only request to each one of you is that you continue to serve your Squadron, and thus the Nation, as well in the future as you have in the past. You are especially capable members in a noble profession, defending the cause of freedom in the name of the United States of America. **Remember your mission - - Find Them. Fight Them. Prevail.**

God bless you all.

John B. Stockton  
Lt Colonel, Cavalry  
Commanding

**Always Remember, John B. Stockton Was No "Piss Ant."**

---

### TAPS

John Schlichter	Passed On	3 March, 1997
William Gilboy	Passed On	February 1998

---

-----  
**From The Commander:**

The picture of the colors coming ashore in Vietnam is the only picture of any US Military unit arriving in Vietnam. It was first printed in Newsweek in 1975. I wrote to the magazine requesting a copy of the picture which they gladly sent to me with the proviso that Newsweek retained the photo rights. The picture may not equal the WW II Iwo Jima flag raising picture – but for the Bullwhip Squadron, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Vietnam era veterans, it sure is a great picture of the First of the Ninth leadership, with the dog Susy coming across the beach at Qui Nhon on 13 September 1965!

The article by LTC Bert Chole reminds me to tell you that he is an author of a book written about his tour of duty with the First of the Ninth in Vietnam. Hopefully, Bert will take some orders from the reunion attendees for his book. Of particular interest is the forward to the book – it is dedicated to Col John B. Stockton, the Father of Modern Air Cavalry.

The Fort Rucker Aviation Museum has been undergoing a major roof repair for the past 6 months and may be closed to normal tours/visits during the BW Sqn reunion dates. However, the museum curator has assured me that he will arrange a special tour for those of you who have never seen this facility. I'll provide an update at the reunion.

I have previously mentioned the Museum's Flight Lines computer data base site. Individuals and units can place their personal aviation or unit history into this data base which then can be viewed/seen on a TV screen by anyone. It's a great way to preserve your personal military history for your children and grandchildren to see.

This 1998 reunion is sure to be the largest of the 3 reunions of the BW Sqn. By expanding the membership roles this past sprung, the organization has really grown. We appreciate all of your support.

See y'all in October

DAVID J. ALLEN  
Brigadier General,  
Cavalry, USA Ret,  
Commanding

---

---

**Eyes and Ears, of the  
Division .**

**CAV**

---

---

**From The Command  
Sergeant Major**

As this old soldier thinks forward to the future time of the Army and the change in leadership and missions, I can't help but think of the past and the many young soldiers who came into the Army, did their training and

joined us, before or during Vietnam, either with the 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> at Fort Benning or the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> in Vietnam. They were our brothers, through the worst of times and the best of times. Many did not return with us to our great nation, but paid the supreme price for freedom and the American way. All were the Brotherhood of Bullwhip soldiers. We, the Cavalry, WERE their Army, and for many, were family. Their memory still lives with us.

Many of you have not seen your brothers for many years and the upcoming 98 reunion will be a true reunion of Brothers. I look forward to seeing all of you at the reunion. If you know of any troopers that have yet to be contacted let the Squadron Association know their names and addresses.

The Bullwhip Squadron shall forever march forward with honesty and integrity with complete belief of God, Duty, Honor, and Country.

As ever, your points of contact for normal Squadron business remain;

Loel Ewart -  
Rt. 2 Box 158  
Ozark, Al. 36360  
Ph# 334-774-0328

Or

Al DeFleron -  
1145 Holland Rd.  
Newton, Al. 36352  
Ph# 334-692-5685

You are the best. You are  
CAV. NEVER FORGIT!

### **From the Chaplain:**

The Chaplain is away for this newsletter and expects to see all of you at the reunion in October.

For this issue of the newsletter we have an article that brings back memories of lost brothers and a tear to the heart. Read and understand.

BWS

### **Still the Noblest Calling**

I visited with three old friends recently at a park near my town. It seemed like only yesterday that we were all together, but actually it had been 28 years. There was a crowd at the park that day, and it took us a while to connect, but with the aid of a computer we made it. I found Lance at panel 54W, line 037, Lynn over at panel 51W, line 032, and Vince down at panel 27W, line 103.

In 1968 we were gung-ho young fighter pilots in Vietnam, the cream of the crop of the U.S. Air Force pilot training system, and now their names are on that 250-foot-long, half-size model of Washington's Vietnam War Memorial that moves around the country. I had intentionally avoided visiting the wall when it came to town in years past because I did not trust myself to keep my

composure. But after nearly three decades it was time to try for some closure on this issue. I told my wife that I preferred to go alone, if that was all right. Truth be known, I nearly backed out at that. Dancing the Wild Blue Standing in front of that somber wall, I tried to keep it light, reminiscing about how things were back then. We used to joke about our passionate love affair with an inanimate flying object--we flew F-100s--and we marveled at the thought that we actually got paid to do it. We were not draftees but college graduates in Vietnam by choice, opting for the cramped confines of a jet fighter cockpit over the comfort of corporate America. In all my life I've not been so passionate about any other work. If that sounds like an exaggeration, then you've never danced the wild blue with a supersonic angel.

I vividly remember the Sunday afternoon, in the summer of '68, when we flew out of Travis Air Force Base, California, on a troop transport headed for Vietnam. Lynn, Lance and I crowded around the same porthole and watched the Golden Gate Bridge disappear below broken clouds. We had gone through fighter Pilot School together and had done some serious bonding. In an exceedingly rare moment of youthful fighter pilot humility, I wondered if I would live to see that bridge again. For reasons I still don't

understand, I was the only one of the three of us who did.

Once in Vietnam, we passed the long, lonely off-duty hours at Dusty's Pub, a lounge that we lieutenants built on the beach of the South China Sea at Tuy Hoa Airbase. The roof at Dusty's doubled as a sun deck and the walls were nonexistent. The complaint heard most often around the bar, in the standard gallows humor of a combat squadron, was, "It's a lousy war, but it's the only one we have." (I've cleaned up the language a bit.) We sang mostly raunchy songs that never seemed to end--someone was always writing new verses--and, as an antidote to loneliness, fear in the night and the sadness over dead friends, we often drank too much. Vince joined us at Dusty's Pub halfway through my tour of duty, and since he was a like-minded country kid from Montana, we hit it off. He had a wide grin, slightly stooped shoulders and his own way of walking--he just threw his feet out and stepped on them. But what he lacked in military bearing he made up for with the heart of a tiger.

He often flew as my wingman, and we volunteered for the night missions on the Ho Chi Minh Trail. One starless night, the longest, saddest night of my life, we got into a nasty gun duel with some antiaircraft artillery batteries. I watched Vince die in a mushroom-

shaped fireball that for a moment turned night into day. Lance--a New York boy who took unmerciful grief from us because he talked like a New Yorker--crashed into the side of a mountain in the central Vietnamese highlands while attacking a target. Lynn, a happy-go-lucky jock from Pennsylvania's Slippery Rock College with a hound named John the Basset, returned to his base on a stormy night in July after weather aborted his mission. Two miles of wet runway weren't enough to stop an F-100 landing at 160 knots with all its bombs still on board. He ran off the end, flipped over, and slid through the minefield at the perimeter fence, setting off a gruesome sound and light show.

At the wall, I told the guys only about the good parts of the last 28 years. Lacy, one of our associates from Dusty's Pub, became an astronaut, and a few summers ago I watched from my backyard, near Tampa, as he blasted off. His voice over the radio from space was at least an octave lower than it was the day I heard him radio for help while swinging from his parachute hung in a tree in Laos.

Another Dusty's patron, Rick, is now a two-star general, and I reminded them what we used to say about the military promotion system--it's like a septic tank, only the really big chunks float to the top.

I didn't tell them about how ostracized Vietnam vets still are, that during that same week, one of the nation's leading newspapers had run an article that implied we Vietnam vets were, to quote one syndicated columnist, "either suckers or psychos, victims or monsters." I didn't tell them that the Secretary of Defense they fought for back then has now declared that he was not a believer in the cause for which he assigned them all to their destiny. I didn't tell them that a draft-age kid from Arkansas who hid out in England to dodge his duty while they were fighting and dying is now the Commander-in-Chief. And I didn't tell them we lost that lousy war. I gave them the same story I've used since the Nixon administration: We were winning when I left.

I relived that final day as I stared at the black onyx wall. The dawn came up like thunder after 268 combat missions in 360 days in the valley of the shadow. The ground trembled as 33 F-100s roared off the runway, across the beach and out over the South China Sea, climbing into the rising sun. On the eastern horizon, a line of towering deep-purple clouds stood shoulder-to-shoulder before a brilliant orange sky that slowly turned powder blue from the top down. From somewhere on that stage, above the whine of spinning turbine blades, I could hear a choir singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" in fortissimo: "The Lord God

omnipotent reigneth," and He was bringing me home, while Lance and Lynn and Vince will remain as part of the dust of Southeast Asia until the end of time.

I was not the only one talking to the wall through tears. A leather-vested, bare-chested biker two panels to my left was in even worse shape. I backed about 25 yards away from the wall and sat down on the grass under a clear blue sky and midday sun that perfectly matched the tropical weather of the war zone. The wall, with all 58,200 names, consumed my field of vision. I tried to wrap my mind around the megatonnage of violence, carnage and ruined lives that it represented. Then I thought of how Vietnam was only one small war in the history of the human race. I was overwhelmed with a sense of mankind's wickedness.

### **God, Duty, Honor, Country**

My heart felt like wax in the blazing sun and I was on the verge of becoming a spectacle in the park. I arose and walked back up to the wall to say goodbye and ran my fingers over the engraved names--Lance and Lynn and Vince--as if I could communicate with them in some kind of spiritual Braille. **I wanted them to know that God, duty, honor and country will always remain the noblest calling.**

Revisionist history from elite draft dodgers trying to justify their own actions will

never change that. I have been a productive member of society since the day I left Vietnam. **I am proud of what I did there, and I am especially proud of my friends--heroes who voluntarily, enthusiastically gave their all.** They demonstrated no greater love to a nation whose highbrow opinion makers are still trying to disavow them. May their names, indelibly engraved on that memorial wall, likewise be found in the Book of Life.

Author Unknown

Now for another matter. We have a trooper that needs our help. James Conner, a trooper of the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> needs the Brotherhood. His wife has been corresponding with me. He was in a serious auto accident in 1997 and has been in and out of VA hospitals, since. Today he is practically an invalid. He is in failing health and he and his wife need our support. James memory is gone from the old days, and he has trouble remembering from day to day. They are in need of moral support.

It would be a calling of true Brotherhood for anyone who lives close by if they would stop to visit and give support.

His address is  
1304 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.  
Decatur, AL 35601  
Phone is 205-855-4599

Chaplain Treude will return with his article with the next newsletter.

He is Your Chaplain

Harry K. Treude

---

---

The Cav Trooper is never alone. The Brotherhood, past and present, stands with him..

LAE

---

---

### **From the Sergeant Major:**

I would like to start this article by extending a very hardy WELCOME to all of the new members to the Squadron Association. It was a very heart warming experience to see the many invitations return ready to join and once again unite with old comrades and fellow troopers.

We have gone from 70 members (at the time to vote on the reunion site) to 236 at the present time with more members joining almost daily. This growth would not have been possible without the enormous help received from the many troopers who, not only returned their invitations, but sent addresses and names and asked us to send them invitation to join letters. Some even made copies and passed them along to their friends. And for this, we thank them. From some I received railing lists they had compiled and we worked

from them, finding more members. The lists and the names have been very productive in locating our troopers.

But our search must still go on, as we all would like to see all of those out there who doesn't know our Squadron Association exists. It didn't just take a few to make this Squadron the Great Squadron it was and is. It took **all** of us. All of the troopers from 1963 to 1973, a decade of time and troopers.

The Vietnam era was ours. Before us it was the Buffalo Soldiers, and after us it was the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

So please continue to seek out those addresses you may have misplaced. Either tell them about our Squadron Association or send me the addresses and I'll send them an Invitation to Join . Your help is wanted, needed and welcome.

I have talked to many of our new and old members by phone and met quite a few at the Buffalo Reunion on 10 August. The 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Squadron probably had one of, if not the largest, in attendance in Buffalo. Some of the unit's had to combine with others in order to have enough for the unit lunches. Usually the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav of the Vietnam era has the largest unit present, but I don't think so this time.

The 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> had three past Squadron Commanders present. Gen. Shoemaker, Gen Smith and Col Booth, and approximately 48 troopers and wives.

One of the many highlights of the Reunion was a young active duty trooper representative from the 9<sup>th</sup> Cav Regiment, Fort Hood, TX., PFC Barron White. PFC White was quite an impressive young trooper of our new modern Army, but had many questions about our times and how we operated with aircraft as to Bradleys, tanks and such. With young troopers like PFC White I'm sure we'll be in good hands as they carry on with our 9<sup>th</sup> Cav.

Now from one reunion to another and ours is just a short time away, it appears to be a very large one in attendance, and we hope a great one, for one and all.

May all of you who come to the reunion have a very safe journey.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the Reunion and meeting our new members.

As ever

L.A. Defleron  
Sergeant Major

---

---

### **From the Keeper of the Rock:**

Many of the stories in the newsletter make you remember the past and old friends, and the thought of seeing those friends again. Well this article is one with a little bit of humor. The author is Joseph D. Townsend, Senior Systems

Engineer with AEGIS Research Corp in Huntsville, AL. So Read and laugh.

### **EVERYTHING I EVER NEEDED TO KNOW IN LIFE I LEARNED AS A HELICOPTER CREWMAN IN VIETNAM.**

Once you are in the fight, it is way too late to wonder if this is a good idea.

It is a fact that helicopter tail rotors are instinctively drawn toward trees, stumps, rocks, etc. While it may be possible to ward off this natural event some of the time, it cannot, despite the best efforts of the crew, always be prevented. It's just what they do.

NEVER get into a fight without more ammunition than the other guy.

The engine RPM and the rotor RPM must BOTH be kept in the GREEN. Failure to heed this commandment can affect the morale of the crew.

Cover your Buddy, so he can be around to cover for you.

Decisions made by someone above you in the chain-of-command will seldom be in your best interest.

The terms Protective Armor and Helicopter are mutually exclusive.

Sometimes, being good and lucky still is not enough.

"Chicken Plates" are not something you order in a restaurant.

If everything is as clear as a bell, and everything is going exactly as planned, you're about to be surprised.

Loud, sudden noises in a helicopter WILL get your undivided attention.

The BSR (Bang Stare Red) Theory states that the louder the sudden bang in the helicopter, the quicker your eyes will be drawn to the gauges. The longer you stare at the gauges the less time it takes them to move from green to red.

No matter what you do, the bullet with your name on it will get you. So, too, can the ones addressed "To Whom It May Concern".

If the rear echelon troops are really happy, the front line troops probably do not have what they need.

If you are wearing body armor, they will probably miss that part.

Happiness is a belt-fed weapon.

Having all your body parts intact and functioning at the end of the day beats the alternative.

If you are allergic to lead, it is best to avoid a war zone.

It is a bad thing to run out of airspeed, altitude, and ideas all at the same time.

Hot garrison chow is better than hot C-rations which, in turn, are better than cold C-rations, which are better than no food at all. All of these, however, are preferable to cold rice balls, even if they do have the little pieces of fish in them.

Everybody's a hero ... on the ground ... in the club ... after the fourth drink.

A free fire zone has nothing to do with economics.

The further you fly into the mountains, the louder the strange engine noises become.

Medals are OK, but having your body and all your friends in one piece at the end of the day is better.

Being shot hurts.

"Pucker Factor" is the formal name of the equation that states the more hairy the situation is, the more of the seat cushion will be sucked up your asshole. It can be expressed in its mathematical formula of S (suction)+ H (height above ground) + I (interest in staying alive) + T (# of tracers coming your way). Thus the term 'SHIT!' can also be used to denote a situation where high Pucker Factor is being encountered.

Thousands of Vietnam Veterans earned medals for bravery every day. A few were even awarded.

Running out of pedal, fore or aft cyclic, or collective are all bad ideas. Any combination of these can be deadly.

There is only one rule in war: When you win, you get to make up the rules.

C-4 can make a dull day fun.

There is no such thing as a fair fight -- only ones where you win or lose.

If you win the battle you are entitled to the spoils. If you lose you don't care.

Nobody cares what you did yesterday or what you are going to do tomorrow. What is important is what you are doing -- NOW -- to solve our problem.

Always make sure someone has a P-38. Uh, that's a can opener for those of you who aren't military.

Prayer may not help . . . but it can't hurt.

Flying is better than walking. Walking is better than running. Running is better than crawling. All of these, however, are better than extraction by a Med-Evac, even if it is, technically, a form of flying.

If everyone does not come home, none of the rest of us can ever fully come home either.

Do not fear the enemy, for your enemy can only take your life. It is far better that you fear the media, for they will steal your HONOR.

A grunt is the true reason for the existence of the helicopter. Every helicopter flying in Vietnam had one real purpose: To help the grunt. It is unfortunate that many helicopters never had the opportunity to fulfill their one true mission in life, simply because someone forgot this fact.

**If you have not been there and done that . . . you probably will not understand most of these.**

No truer words ever spoken.

Thanks Joseph, for an enlightening side.

Keeper of the Rock  
Gene Smith

---

---

Our legacy is in the past. Our deeds and actions speak for themselves. Our troopers have set the standard for all units who come after us and no trooper since has ever let the Cav down.

Just who are we?

**WE ARE THE KEEPER  
OF THE FLAME!**

**WE ARE THE CAV!**

**NEVER FORGIT!!!**

We have had a lot of calls about the videotapes that Jerry has for sale. So for all of you that are interested, this article is being reprinted especially for all of our new members.

“For those of you who are not aware, we, in the Bullwhip Squadron, have quite an asset in the person of Jerry “Smoky” Schmotolocha. Smokey has done an excellent job of compiling and editing tapes about the Bullwhip Squadron, the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav and the Air Cav in general. In addition to these tapes being of great interest to us, some of the proceeds from the sales will go toward the purchase of a horse to be named “Bullwhip” and given in

COL Stockton's memory to the Horse Honor Detachment at Fort Hood.

The available tapes are;

Tape #1: "The Making of Decisive Weapons" by the BBC. This tape includes a 1 hour, 30 minute interview with COL Stockton and CSM Kennedy about the Bullwhip Squadron and how such traditions as the black hats and saddlebags, were begun. The final 30 minutes of the tape is the final program, aired by the BBC. This is available for \$25.00 (with \$15 of this going to the horse fund).

Tape # 2: BG Dave Allen and LTC Chuck Knowlen discuss the ambush in the Ia Drang Valley (1 hour 10 minutes). This is followed by a 50 minute, A & E program about the Air Cav in Vietnam. The purchase price is \$25.00 (with \$15 going to the horse fund).

Tape # 3: LTG Hal Moore talks about the Battle of Ia Drang Valley from the 7<sup>th</sup> Cav perspective. This is a \$20.00 tape (of which \$10 goes to the Ia Drang Scholarship Fund).

For further information about ordering these and other tapes, please contact:

Jerry "Smoky" Schmotolocha  
23 Congressional Parkway  
Livingston, NJ 07039  
Phone: (201) 994-0738  
(973) 535-3926

In addition to these tapes being interesting and a part of our heritage, Smoky has gone to much effort to compile and

edit them. I feel that as fellow troopers, we need to support his efforts.

Even more than that, we need to support the memorial effort in COL Stockton's memory."

BWS

---

---

## **Legal Advice**

The Legal Advice article in this newsletter will be a rerun due to the many calls by our new members asking for information about Wills that our legal expert, Manny Sedeccea recently wrote. Here is the article in its entirety.

BWS

"This is the first in a series of articles dealing with the need for a Will, the components and information necessary when drafting a Will, and finally the court process by which the provisions of a Will are implemented. While these few paragraphs are not, by any means, intended to be specific legal advice to BW Squadron members, it will give a broad overview of the process.

If this first installment has the effect of triggering thought about Wills, and planning for the future inevitability, I will be satisfied.

As we meet at reunions, at various military installations and functions, and see the lean young warriors of the present Army, I am put in mind of just how young we

were when we trained at Fort Benning and deployed for Viet Nam in the Summer of '65.

Now, 30+ years later, many of our youngest members are in their 50s, married with grown families, and some looking toward retirement. That, and informal inquiries I've received from our comrades regarding Wills, prompts me to write this column starting with the concept of a Will".

## **WHERE THERE'S A WILL**

If you died without a Will, how would it affect those you love - spouse, children and others who depend upon you for wise planning? If you died with an outdated Will which no longer expresses your desires because of changes in your life, such as changes in marital status, grandchildren, etc., how would that affect those within your family?

### **Intestacy**

In the event of intestacy (which means dying without a Will), the Probate laws of your State determine how your property will be distributed, even though you may not be pleased with the outcome. Likewise, an outdated Will could cause the wrong person, such as an ex-spouse, to receive a portion of your property - even

though this was not your intent - or even fair.

### **What is your estate?**

With certain exceptions, such as contracts of insurance, joint tenancy property, and trust income, the assets you own when you die comprise your estate and are subject to Court supervision called probate. These other forms of ownership may also be part of your estate in the broad sense, but are subject to other laws for disposition after death. Your Will is the primary instrument to determine how these resources are to be distributed and the timetable for doing so after your death.

### **A Will can name a Guardian for minors**

Your Will should be drafted to include provisions to save taxes (if appropriate), and conserve your property for those you intend to benefit. If you have minor children, or want to benefit minor children such as nieces, nephews, or grandchildren, you should also consider who you want to serve as the guardian of the gift you are giving the minor until they reach the age of majority.

### **A Will tells the Court you wishes**

Your Will is a written means of directing your State of residence to recognize your wishes. How else can your state, and through it the Courts, know your wishes unless you make these specifically known in a

properly prepared legal document?

### **Avoid ambiguities and complications**

One of the benefits of a properly prepared Will is that it gives you the freedom and peace of mind to enjoy your family now, secure in the knowledge that those family and friends who are the natural objects of your bounty, along with those institutions, charities, and other individuals you want to benefit from your estate are properly and specifically identified. This avoids legal complications later.

### **Modification/Codicil**

Once you've drafted and formalized your Will, you may modify it to reflect changes in you age, lifestyle, and family status by an amendment called a Codicil. But be careful- a Codicil, which may appear simple (ridin by at a full gallop), must be prepared with the same formality as the original Will. An improper or defective codicil can engender litigation, especially if a substantial estate is in issue.

### **Don't procrastinate!**

Although there are do-it-yourself books and self-help guides, this is a technical area. In preparing a Will, one must think in terms of what happens if I die tomorrow in an accident, as well as, does this Will have the foresight and elasticity to accommodate changes without a major overhaul? A good source of information is your local Bar Association

which usually can provide pamphlets, brochures, and the names of local Counsel whose practices focus on Probate/Estate Planning.

Because the drafting o a Will puts us in mind of our own mortality, we are prone to procrastination. Doing so can have serious consequences. Don't put it off-now is the best opportunity to do it!

Nest time I will discuss the actual components and elements of a Will.

---

In the last installment of "Where There is a will..." I set forth some thoughts on the need, and effect of a thoughtfully prepared Will. This issue deals in general terms, with the elements necessary to create an effective Will. There is a caveat: Although many States have similar statutes, each individual State has its own Probate Laws identifying particular elements required for a valid Will in that State. This commentary is simply to alert you to matters, which must be considered in preparing a Will.

**Name:** Here we need full names, including any other names by which the person creating the Will is generally known. This is done through the use of AKA (also known as) designation. This is often of more concern to women who have used their husband's name after marriage(s). With names like William or Robert, the use of "Bob" or "Bill" are often a

given and not necessary. “Antler Blue,” “Bullwhip 6” and “Fixer” don’t count.

**Residence:** This residency designation is important because it determines the State whose law will be applied to the interpretation and execution of the Will’s provisions. It is more important for active duty service personnel who may be stationed at someplace other than the State they claim for residency. For those persons, the local JAG office can be of some help and may even be able to provide the requirements for a specific State.

**Marital Status:** This is important because of the different and often more favorable tax consequences associated with a gift of property going to a surviving spouse.

**Children:** Because the law of most States considers children as the “natural objects of one’s bounty,” omitting to identify a child in one’s Will does not have the effect commonly called “disinheritance.” On the contrary, failing to refer to a child in a Will can trigger a concept of “pretermitted heir” in which failure to refer to a natural child is treated as an oversight. That child would then take the amount or share s/he would’ve received if there was not a Will. This is called an intestate (no Will) share.

It is often prudent to identify a child by birth date. This extra bit of caution simply avoids confusion in the

future.

### **Personal Representative/Executor**

The person(s) named by the Testator to execute his/her wishes as reflected in the Will is called the Personal Representative. There are 3 classes of Personal Representatives:

1. **Executor** is a specific person named in the Will (or alternate).

2. **Administrator CTA** is a person appointed by the Court to carry out the Testator’s wishes in a Will, if the named Executor(s) cannot serve. CTA means a will is attached so the instructions are both specific and clear.

3. **Administrator** is a person appointed by the Court to act in the absence of a Will (intestacy).

In general, the Personal Representatives, whatever their title, have the same powers and mission: Administer the Estate as expeditiously as possible to get decedent’s bills paid, the property assets divided and distributed, and close the Estate.

Persons often named as Executor include a spouse, adult children, other relatives, family friends, business associates or an institution. In determining who should act as an Executor, you should select someone responsible, well-organized and experienced in maintaining books and records. In addition, it is useful if an Executor or successor Executor has had

business experience and is knowledgeable about making investments. Have alternates in mind for contingencies when you plan your Will.

It is therefore extremely important that the Personal Representative be chosen carefully with special attention to his/her personal honesty, strength, loyalty and ability to faithfully discharge their duties as set forth by the Will or law. Since the Personal Representative may serve with or without bond, it is critical to determine for yourself the quality of trust/confidence you have in this person before you make the decision to waive bond. Remember that person will be in charge of whatever Estate you leave.

If the Will’s main beneficiary is the spouse, bond is often waived. However, this is not a hard and fast rule. Be careful and discuss this with those whose judgment you trust.

### **Actual Gifts/Distribution**

This is the tough part: Here one must decide who gets what. Keeping in mind the Estate represents a lifetime of labor and all receiving gifts need not necessarily be treated equally, this too requires serious thought. This area is as much political as it is legal. Some observations might be helpful:

1. Leaving the bulk or all of one’s Estate to a surviving spouse of a long term marriage or

alternatively to children in equal or unequal shares is not unusual.

2. Gifts of specific property, e.g., jewelry, firearms, collectibles, and even real property, can be made by Will.

3. The above or combination of the above is acceptable if permitted by the individual's State of residency and defined clearly and simply enough for the personal Representative to understand, locate and execute.

**Signatures:** Finally, depending upon the laws of the individual state, the Will must be signed by the Testator, usually in the presence of 2 witnesses (sometimes 3 to be sure) who must be there at the same time. This is a formal Will.

Caution: With the exception of some jurisdictions, a notary is not necessary and often injects note of defect into a Will document if done improperly.

There are jurisdictions which permit informal handwritten Wills and Soldier's Wills. Those are for specific purposes and not addressed here.

Remember, the information supplied here is general and not intended to take the place of specific legal advice tailored to your needs and the laws of your State. It is designed to raise issues, which must be considered in the preparation

of a Will. Your own Counsel, or the State Bar of your State, can give you more specific information for your state and perhaps a referral to Counsel in your community whose practice focuses on Wills, Trusts and Probate.

Next time: Alternatives to Probate-present gifts, informal Trusts and Joint Tenancy.

Manny Sedeccea

---

### **Lost And Found**

None this issue.

---

---

### **From the Swamp**

A.J. Welch has kindly given his space for this newsletter to another trooper, LTC (Ret) Bert Chole, with a fantastic article.

---

#### **CAMBODIAN OPERATIONS BY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SQUADRON 9<sup>TH</sup> CAVALRY, FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION**

Official cross border operations by the Squadron into Cambodia occurred in May and June 1970 and again in February-May 1971. The first of these operations was part of the much publicized "Invasion of Cambodia" by United States forces under the direction of President Nixon.

These were two very distinct and different operations. The May-June 70 incursion was as a part of the First Cavalry Division operations under the command and control of the division. The second operation, February-May 1971 occurred after most of the Division had deployed back to the United States.

The planning for the first operation took into consideration the lessons learned by the division since its arrival in Vietnam. The Air Cavalry squadron remained under division control and was not fragmented. All troops of the Squadron (HHT, A, B, C, D) and our normal attachments of Co. H 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers and the 62<sup>nd</sup> Combat Tracker Team all participated in the Cambodian operation. In addition to conducting operations into Cambodia the division retained responsibility for their assigned Areas of Operation (AO) in Vietnam. The division task organized for the Cambodia incursion by forming Task Force Shoemaker under the command of Brigadier General Shoemaker. The Task Force consisted of HQ, 3<sup>rd</sup> ARVN ABN BDE; HQ, 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div, HQ, 11<sup>th</sup> ACR and their subordinate elements. Five Batteries of artillery, one assault helicopter company, an engineer company and one MI detachment completed the Task Force.

D-Day, 1 May 1970 began at 0410 with the first of six serials of B52's conducting arc light missions in the Area of Operations. At 0600 the artillery preparation began and at 0630 a 15,000 pound bomb with a daisy cutter fuse was dropped, creating LZ East. Fifteen minutes later another 15,000 pound bomb was dropped creating LZ Center. Shortly after first light Forward Air Controllers started tactical air strikes against preplanned targets. At 0700, artillery fires were shifted to support the movement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde. And 11<sup>th</sup> ACR as they began movement towards the border. When the fires were shifted, B Troop 1-9 flew across the border into Cambodia becoming the first element of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division to enter Cambodia.

The 1-9 (-) consisting of Alpha and Bravo Troop began reconnaissance operations in their assigned sectors. At 0740 hours 5 NVA soldiers in a 2 1/2 ton truck were observed by a pink team from Bravo Troop and engaged by the scout and accompanying gun ship resulting in 5 NVA and one truck Killed By Helicopter (KBH) and the first recorded enemy casualties in the operation. At 0815 the first combat assault into Cambodia was completed by the 1/3 ARVN Abn. into LZ East.

Elements of the 1-9 conducted LZ reconnaissance throughout the Tactical Area of Operations (TAOR). Final

selection of LZs was completed at 0930 and the three ARVN Airborne Battalions assumed alert posture at Quan Loi. The first elements of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde. crossed into Cambodia at 0945 and the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR crossed into Cambodia at 1000. This was followed by a 42-ship air assault into Objective B by the 5<sup>th</sup> ARVN Abn. Bn. Contact was immediately made with a force of approximately 200 NVA. Fighting throughout the day resulted in 27 NVA KIA and one 1 ARVN soldier KIA. The 9<sup>th</sup> ARVN Abn, Bn, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> ARVN Abn. Bn. completed the ARVN air assaults into Objective A. The final air assault on day one was conducted by two companies of 2-7 Cav into LZ X-Ray.

At the conclusion of day one this entry appears in the division after action report, "1-9 Cav had a field day catching small groups of NVA trying to evade, resulting in a record total of 157 NVA killed by helicopter."<sup>1</sup>

The natural trepidation one feels, on moving into a new AO, was present throughout this first day. As the day wore on it was soon

---

<sup>1</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Combat

After Action Report for the Cambodia Campaign, (Vietnam:

1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 18 July 1970), p. 1-B.

apparent that the only thing that had changed was the area on the map where the Squadron was operating. The Squadron Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were followed and warfare as the Squadron conducted it, was in full swing. "Pink Teams" consisting of one AH-1G and one OH-6A were scouring the countryside finding, fixing and destroying, within their capability, as many enemy as possible. The "Blues" (Aero-rifle platoon) were inserted to fix the enemy until a larger force could be committed into the area. They were also used to conduct ground reconnaissance, search bunker complexes and possible cache sites.

The Squadron scout pilots discovered one major supply area and one major cache area. SSG Ron Renouf of the First Cavalry quarterly publication "The First Team" describes these finds in the summer 1970 issue as follows, ". . . Hunter Killers of Bravo Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup>, found a major installation soon to be nicknamed "The City." . . . Warrant Officer James Cyrus, a LOH pilot with Bravo troop, discovered the complex during a routine mission."

"We found the building complex almost by accident, 12 kilometers west and 25 north of the Cambodian border. We were looking for something in the area, but didn't see anything at first. Then I spotted one hooch, well camouflaged. Unless

you were at treetop level, it was almost invisible. I just followed the bamboo walks from hooch to hooch, and saw the street signs, bridges with walkways and ropes and what looked like a motor pool and a lumber yard.” Cyrus said. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was inserted the next day to remove the equipment from the supply area.<sup>2</sup>

The Cav’s other initial Cambodian assault, north of Phuoc Long and Binh Long Provinces, also had spectacular results with the discovery of the “Rock Island East” cache. Scout pilot Charles L. Frazier of Charlie Troop, 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup>, was on a routine recon 10 miles northeast of Bu Dop near the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade’s FSB Myron.

“We saw the road running out of a small village. Following the road, which had been heavily used and recently by trucks, we could see pallets stacked off the side of the road,” recalled Frazier. “But the overhead jungle canopy was too thick to see very far inside. Next day two of the pallets we’d seen previously were gone and we found truck tracks leading to the spot. We followed them and saw three two and one half-ton trucks loaded with troops in complete NVA field uniforms. They heard us and tried to dismount the trucks and hide. We engaged them and killed 23 of them and

---

<sup>2</sup> SSG Ron Renuf “Cambodia,” First Team. Summer 1970, pp 3,7.

destroyed their trucks.”<sup>3</sup> Delta Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 12<sup>th</sup> Cavalry conducted an air assault to exploit this find and was followed the next day by Charlie Company and recon platoons of Echo Company.

All elements of TF Shoemaker were returned to Division control at 1431 hours, 5 May.

The following descriptions of the results achieved by each Troop and Company assigned to the Squadron is taken from Annex K of the Division After Action Report.

“A Troop during this period was credited with 230 enemy killed by helicopter, 13 enemy KIA in actions against the “Blues”, 152 individual weapons destroyed, 3 crew served weapons captured, 52,100 rounds of ammunition captured or destroyed, 266 tons of rice captured or destroyed and 9” of documents captured.”<sup>4</sup>

“B Troop during this period played a most successful role in the allied drive into enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia. They netted 437 enemy killed by helicopter, 307 individual weapons captured or

---

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. intelligence reports brought back.”<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Combat After Action Report for the Cambodian Campaign, (Vietnam: 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 18 July 1970), pp K2, K4

destroyed, 18 packs captured, 5 bridges and 10 trucks destroyed and 3,000 lbs. of rice captured or destroyed. The discovery and first exploitation of an enormous enemy cache site on 4 May, 1970 highlighted the efficiency of B Troop’s reconnaissance, later named “The City”.<sup>5</sup>

“C Troop, although coming into the Cambodian conflict after its sister units, was not to be outdone. They accounted for 284 enemy killed by helicopter, 2 individual weapons captured, 100 boxes of fuses destroyed, 37 – 22” diameter wheels destroyed and 4,400 lbs. of rice captured or destroyed. C Troop was also responsible for leading ground forces into the cache site later named “Rock Island East”. A scout helicopter from the troop discovered the cache while on a visual reconnaissance mission.”<sup>6</sup>

“D Troop, . . . During this period, the troop escorted 13 convoys to Duc Phong and Song Be, [made] 27 combat assaults to Loc Ninh and Song Be as a quick reaction force, were inserted into Cambodia three times to reinforce the squadron’s Aero-Rifle platoons, picked up 95 detainees and killed 2 NVA, captured 2 AK-47’s and one 122MM rocket booster.”<sup>7</sup>

“H Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers, during this reporting period,

---

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

conducted 50 missions into Cambodia. These resulted in 38 enemy sightings, 15 contacts, 9 enemy KIA, 16 enemy contributed kills by helicopter, and numerous

“62<sup>nd</sup> Combat Trackers . . . performed 19 missions during this period consisting of tracking to regain contact with the enemy, reconnaissance, and to track missing or lost friendly personnel. . . . CCTT 5’s performance of tracking down 4 Ranger MIA’s after a heavy contact with the enemy . . . resulted in finding two of the MIA’s.”<sup>8</sup>

The 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 9<sup>th</sup> (Air) Cavalry accounted for 985 of the enemy KIA’s<sup>9</sup> out of a 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division total of 2,339 enemy KIA’s,<sup>10</sup> or 42% of the division total KIA’s. This was consistent with this squadron’s remarkable achievements during the entire time they were in combat in Vietnam.

It was fitting that this incursion into Cambodia ended as it began, “At 1728, the last aircraft of B/1-9 returned to mark the end of all 1<sup>st</sup> Cav forces in Cambodia, 25 minutes ahead of the 1800 deadline set by higher headquarters.”<sup>11</sup>

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Combat After Action Report for the Cambodian Campaign,

(Vietnam: 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 18 July 1970), pp 1-A, 60-B

<sup>11</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division combat after action report for the Cambodian campaign,

Returning from Cambodia, the Squadron resumed their normal operations in Vietnam’s III Corps area.

The impact of our operations in Cambodia lasted for several months as the level of activity in the III Corps area was dramatically reduced. By September the US troop withdrawals from Vietnam were in full swing. The First Cavalry Division was picking up more and more area and by the end of August 1970 was responsible for approximately 4536 square miles, from the South China Sea to the Cambodian border.<sup>12</sup> Between the end of this first incursion into Cambodia and the beginning of the second incursion into Cambodia the Squadron had many unique challenges and opportunities to excel. We formed the Ninth Provisional Air Cavalry Brigade, started to stand down and prepare to return to the United States, and then were told to stand back up.

The start of the story of the second incursion into Cambodia begins on 25 December 1970 at 0830 when the Squadron was directed to position a troop at Tay Ninh to support ARVN forces. The combat elements of C/1-9 arrived at Tay Ninh at 1040 hours and by 1400 had established contact with the

---

(Vietnam: 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, 18 July 1970), p. 60-A

<sup>12</sup> Hilbert Chole, 9<sup>th</sup> (AIR) CAVALRY BRIGADE (PROVISIONAL), (London: Minerva Press, 1995), p. 18

enemy. For planning purposes C Troop was to remain at Tay Ninh for three days. The troop remained at Tay Ninh from 25 December 1970 until 19 May 1971.<sup>13</sup>

The learning experience Charlie Troop acquired while working with the 18<sup>th</sup> ARVN Division was applied to all other troops of the squadron when the First Cavalry Division, minus the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bde., stood down and the 1-9 received the mission of supporting ARVN forces in MR III.

“In the two months prior to the Cambodian operation the Squadron, while still part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Cav Bde., trained ARVN rifle platoons to perform detailed ground reconnaissance normally accomplished by the Aero-Rifle (Blue) platoon of the Air Cavalry Troop. Use of these ARVN platoons (Browns) greatly reduced the language problem between the forces accomplishing ground reconnaissance and the reinforcing troops that followed. In Cambodia, U.S. ground forces were not allowed on the ground; however, the Brown teams were immediately available to secure downed aircraft or to rescue shot down crews. General Minh, CG, MR-III, decided to expand the Brown team concept to 13 teams. The Air Cavalry Troops trained the teams in rappelling from helicopters, helicopter familiarization, rigging downed helicopters

---

<sup>13</sup> Ibid. p. 109

for extraction, and ground reconnaissance as well as refresher training in booby traps and marksmanship.”<sup>14</sup>

We had been working very close with the ARVN troops throughout the months of December and January and the early part of February. As the stand down of U.S. forces progressed there was increased activity by the NVA along the border of Cambodia and Vietnam. In response to that increased activity another incursion into Cambodia was planned, only this time the incursion would be under the control of the ARVN forces with General Minh, CG, MR-III in charge.

The Task Organization at the beginning of the operation was similar to the organization of the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Cavalry Brigade. The 1-9 Cavalry Headquarters was the controlling and operational headquarters for all air cavalry units involved in the operation. The TF organization on 22 February 1971 was as follows: A/1-9, B/1-9, C/1-9, A/3-17, and A/2-20 (Blue Max) in direct support.<sup>15</sup> Echo Troop 1-9 Cav was going to revert to its original designation of D-227 AHB on 24 February and as such did not participate in this campaign.

On 21 February 1971 the squadron was told that the

---

<sup>14</sup> After Action Report, Air Cavalry Combat Operations in Cambodia, (Vietnam: Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 17 June 1971), p.1

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

following day would find us, once again, going into Cambodia in support of the ARVN forces. This time no American forces would be allowed on the ground. If we had an aircraft shot down; the ARVN Brown platoons would secure the aircraft, and evacuate the crew and aircraft. This also mandated that we change our method of operating. Normally the squadron had pink teams operating independently without a Command and Control (C&C) aircraft. This incursion into Cambodia would require a C&C aircraft on station whenever a troop was operating in the TAOR. On board the C&C would be the senior troop officer and an ARVN LNO. The LNO would obtain clearance to fire and to insert the Browns, from the ARVN Commander in whose AO we were operating. This worked very well but our major problem with the ARVN forces during this operation was their inexperience with the “pile on” concept of Airmobile operations and their reluctance to provide a Ready Reaction Force (RRF) whenever the Browns made contact on the ground. It took time to work our way through this problem and with some units, we never did get it solved. In those cases when the ARVN unit commander would not provide a RRF when the Browns had contact, we would extract the Browns and attempt to destroy the enemy

with organic weapons, air strikes and artillery.

On 22 February, the first day of the operation, A/1-9 supported TF 9 in the Snuol area, B/1-9 supported TF 333, C/1-9 was supporting the 18<sup>th</sup> ARVN Division, and A/3-17 was supporting the 3<sup>rd</sup> ARVN Armored Cavalry Brigade. During the day we inserted the Browns twice and extracted them twice, five aircraft were fired at with two of them hit and one AH-1G from A/3-17 shot down and later extracted. Bravo Troop received ground to air fire and engaged the area. A/2-20 arrived on station in support of this contact and also engaged the enemy. At the end of this engagement B/1-9 had killed 25 NVA and A/2-20 had killed 19 NVA. The start of this second incursion into Cambodia proved the NVA was back in strength.<sup>16</sup>

On 24 February we had the Air Cavalry Troop (ACT) of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) attached to the squadron and began working the area near the Chup Rubber plantation. On 25 February an ARVN convoy was ambushed in the B/1-9 AO. Bravo troop responded and engaged the enemy. The fire was intense as they made repeated gun runs upon the enemy. It was soon apparent the ambushing NVA were in at least company strength. Four sections of ARA from A/2-20 were used throughout this

---

<sup>16</sup> Ibid p. 10

engagement accounting for 27 NVA KIA. At the end of the day Bravo Troop had accounted for 130 NVA KIA.

The following day Bravo Troop returned to the general area of the previous day's contact and regained contact with the enemy further to the south. One Cobra took heavy ground to air fire and one LOH took fire from three 51 caliber positions, one 30 caliber machine gun and extremely heavy small arms fire. The LOH burst into flames and crashed. This turned into a daylong battle with B/1-9, C/1-9, A/3-17, 11<sup>th</sup> ACT and A/2-20 all involved in the battle. ARVN forces attempting to reach the downed aircraft got within 200 meters of the aircraft but were driven off. The crew's bodies were never recovered. 234 NVA were KIA as a result of this action.<sup>17</sup> This day turned out to be the day with the highest body count during the entire operation.

On 10 March at 1411 hours a LOH from A/1-9 received heavy 51 Caliber fire crashed and exploded on a riverbank. The Browns were inserted at 1630 hours and recovered one body (the crew chief) and found two additional flight helmets. The ARVN Lieutenant in charge of the Browns was convinced that the pilot and observer were either killed or captured. I was the Squadron XO at this time and conducted the MIA

---

<sup>17</sup> Ibid. p. 13

investigation. As I interviewed the two Cobra pilots, both told me there was no way anyone could survive that crash. On 13 March at 1340 hours the Alpha Troop Operations NCO was shocked to receive a call from General Minh informing him that Warrant Officer Houser (the LOH pilot, shot down on the 10<sup>th</sup>) was at his headquarters and would Alpha Troop care to pick him up?

I reopened the investigation and interviewed WO Houser upon his return from the hospital. As he recalled what happened this incredible story came from his lips.

"I knew we were going to crash. I don't remember the crash, but the force of the crash ripped my seat from the aircraft and I went through the windscreen. I came to under water and I was still strapped to the seat. I fought to get out of the seat while thinking I was going to drown. I swam to the surface and towards the nearest shore. Fortunately I swam to the south side of the river since the north side was full of NVA. As I pulled myself up on the bank I moved further into the jungle and away from the fight. When I was several hundred yards from them and the adrenaline had stopped pumping, I took stock of what I had. I had my survival knife, a wrist compass and my 38 Caliber pistol. "That is not much," I recalled thinking. But I knew roughly where I was at when

I was shot down and I knew highway 13 was to the southeast. I checked my compass and started in that direction. As night descended I was deep into the jungle. I had moved down some heavily used trails and past some sites that had indications of recent use. I found a small stream and got something to drink. As I was getting a drink I heard voices of an approaching force of some sort. I moved away from the stream and back into the heavy undergrowth. A three-man NVA unit passed by the spot I was hiding, as the adrenaline surged through me. I lay motionless as they passed and decided I had better get some sleep. In the morning I continued moving towards the southeast. It was hard going and very hot. I continued moving all day but this time I stayed off the trails. As the second night descended upon the jungle, I wondered if I was ever going to find highway 13. I felt very much alone and isolated. In the morning I started moving south-east again and within a few hours found myself at the edge of Highway 13. I checked both ways before I moved onto the road. I was elated at first and then realized I was very vulnerable in the middle of the road, and moved to the edge of the road as I continued moving to the south. Within an hour a man on a bicycle appeared as he rounded a bend in the road. I jumped into the underbrush and as the man was opposite

me I stepped into the road in front of him, aiming my pistol at him. I told him, "I know you don't understand what I am saying but I need your bicycle," as I motioned with my pistol for him to get off the bike. I got on the bike and started peddling as fast as I could. I was sailing down the highway when suddenly a jeep came over a slight rise directly in front of me. "God", I thought, "Am I going to get captured when I am so close to safety?" The Jeep slid to a stop and two soldiers jumped out. They had their weapons at the ready position and motioned for me to get in the jeep. I couldn't tell if they were ARVN or NVA. I was scared. They didn't take my pistol and I started to relax thinking, "They must be ARVN'S". We rolled into a compound and in a few minutes General Minh introduced himself and wanted to know if I was the pilot that had been shot down three days ago. I replied yes and he said, "I know some people who will be very happy to hear you are alive."

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 1971 the stand down ceremony for the First Cavalry Division (- the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bde.) was held at Bien Hoa as the Division cased their colors and returned to the United States. On 27 March, B/1-9 completed their last day in Cambodia and was attached to the Third Brigade. On 28 March, B/3-17 was placed OPCON to the 1-9 Cavalry and started working

in the Snuol area while A/1-9 was given responsibility to conduct operations in the Chup rubber plantation.

During this entire period we hoped the Squadron would stand down and return to Fort Hood as soon as this operation was completed. We moved the Alpha Troop rear area from Song Be to Phuoc Vinh in mid March and on 27 March started moving the rear areas of HHT, A, C, and D Troops to our new Squadron area located at Di An, while the combat elements of the Squadron laagered at Tay Ninh. H Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers and the platoon from the 62<sup>nd</sup>. Combat Trackers were detached from the Squadron. We closed on Di An on 4 April as the last elements of the First Cavalry Division left Phuoc Vinh. On 1 April, F/3-4 Air Cavalry was placed OPCON to the Squadron. On 8 April 1971 the 1-9 Air Cavalry Squadron was assigned to the First Aviation Brigade.

Combat operations continued in full swing as the Squadron administrative, maintenance and supply activities conducted these various moves. The months of April and May saw daily contact throughout the Cambodian TAOR. 19 days after being assigned to the First Aviation Brigade the Squadron was notified it was to start stand down operations on 20 May 1971.

On 19 May 1971 the Squadron and all attached and OPCON troops engaged

the enemy for the last time resulting in 14 enemy KIA. The totals for this second incursion into Cambodia were 1307 enemy were killed by the Air Cavalry Troops, 330 killed by A/2-20 ARA, 80 enemy killed by air strikes and 16 killed by Artillery. The last entry in the S2/S3 daily journal for 19 May 1971 was this entry. "Operations halted at 1912 HRS."<sup>18</sup>

In addition to the enemy killed this operation destroyed; 108 tons of rice, 1,429 structures, 22 trucks, 342 bicycles, 54 motorcycles, 130 sampans, and 94 weapons destroyed and another 27 weapons captured.

This operation resulted in 25 American soldiers KIA, 1 MIA and 33 WIA. 95 Aircraft were hit by ground fire with 38 of these shot down. 22 Aircraft were recovered and 16 were destroyed.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Staff Journal 1-9 base, (Di An, Vietnam, 19 May 1971) last page

<sup>1</sup> After Action Report, Air Cavalry Combat Operations in Cambodia, (Vietnam: Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 17 June 1971), p. 33

<sup>1</sup> After Action Report, Air Cavalry Combat Operations in Cambodia, (Vietnam: Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 17 June 1971), p. 33

---

<sup>18</sup> Staff Journal 1-9 base, (Di An, Vietnam, 19 May 1971) last page

Brother troopers, history is the writing down of stories and events, which took place. I hope to ensure that the history of our squadron is written down and saved for our descendants. However, I can only write down what is told. I will need your help in the future. If you have any story or remembrance of an event which happened while in-country, please contact me so that it can be remembered (it will also help support this column).

My address is:  
A.J. Welch  
1505 Tally Ho Ct.  
Kokomo, IN 46902-4446  
e-mail (plain)  
ajwelch@juno.com  
(with attachments)  
gamecock@netusa.net

Hope to see all y'all at the reunion in October.

A.J. Welch  
Unit Historian

---

---

### **From the Comptroller:**

It has been very gratifying to see all of the new members that are now associated with the Squadron Association.

As of this date we are at 235 members with more coming weekly. We could not have done this without your support. Thanks to all troopers!!!

Our members are what makes the Squadron.

---

Throughout this newsletter you have seen the words, God, Duty, Honor, Country. There is a reason for this.

Our Association stands for the standards that made our country strong. Those that we have lived our lives by. Those that mean honesty, integrity and perseverance.

While our country is still going strong, we can see the fatigue lines beginning to show within our society. Our elected officials in the highest office of this country have broken faith with the American citizens.

It will take all of us pulling together to help this country regain it's rightful place in this world, as an honorable country lead by honorable people. It means standing up for what you believe, for what is right, not what is politically correct.

### **STAND TALL BE PROUD YOU ARE CAV!**

Now for something on the lighter side. The Association has Bullwhip Squadron items for sell. All the proceeds go into the Squadron fund, so as you buy you help the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

No we are not selling mugs! **Fortunately** the mugs are no longer a millstone for us. After this reunion all the mugs will be gone!

However we are selling items to build up the Squadron fund.

All merchandising items for sale will be handled by

Squadron member, Gene Markum.

His address is, 1261 Bellwood Rd., Enterprise, AL. 36330, Phone # (334) 347-7320.

You can call or write Gene for any of the items we have. Gene will either hold for the reunion or ship to you after receiving the money. When you order, please state size. Also add \$5 for shipping.

The items we have for sell are;

T- Shirts with the 1/9 logo on the front. We have these, (**thanks to Guy Beardsley**). Price \$10 plus shipping.

White ball caps with Squadron guidion, \$10.

White polo shirts (golf), with Squadron guidion, \$23.

Three statues (96 reunion), \$25 each.

Wind breaker jackets, lined, in colors, with Squadron guidion, \$25.

We had mentioned that we had hopes of having an OH-13S scout helicopter here for the reunion. Unfortunately the rebuild of the helicopter is taking longer than expected so it will not be at our reunion. However it will be at the 1999 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div reunion at Fort hood Texas.

The Association has gone all out to find those troopers who do not know of the Association but would like to join. Over 1300 Invitation to Join letters were sent out to those who carried on, and sustained, the Cav tradition

after COL Stockton's command.

We have been very pleased with the turnout of new members and hope to see many of you at the October reunion.

**Reluctantly, The BW Association Counsel decided that the last letter would be the last sent to non members. So if you are receiving this newsletter you are a member in good standing! We do ask you to check your name against the membership list in this newsletter.** If your name is misspelled, please drop me a line or call and correct the misspelling so I can correct our records.

For those of you attending the reunion, if you desire to pay 1999 dues, we will accept 1999 dues payment. Remember, it's only \$15 per year and that includes the newsletter.

**This will be your last newsletter for 1998, so this is also a reminder that 1999 dues are due in January, so don't forget,**

**AND DON'T PROCRASTINATE!**

You can make payment for annual dues (and donations) by checks, made payable to the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

You can send your annual dues for 99 to me, **Loel Ewart, Rt. 2, Box 158, Ozark, AL. 36360.**

My phone number is home, **(334) 774-0328,** office, **(334) 983-3828.**

Membership runs from January to December.

**If your name is not on the list and you believe you have paid your dues, please call me for resolution.**

Our leader, COL John B. Stockton, is with us in spirit and will always hold that special place of honor within the Association.

The 1st/9<sup>th</sup> Air Cav Squadron, starting with Bullwhip 6 and continuing with other Squadron Commanders, is known through out Army Aviation and supported units as a "Can Do" outfit. No job to tough, a unit you can count on, the only unit you want covering you overhead, a unit that gets the job done.

Take pride, in your past. Our battles were not in vain and our Brotherhood remains strong knowing that what we did was right.

Our newsletter is how we stay in touch with each other.

Read the letters to the editors. There are troopers out there that have found their home again, just by membership in the Association and the Newsletter.

---

**The Cavalry,  
Always In Front!**

---

Now for an accounting of funds since the last newsletter. You will notice that our balance has almost doubled and the horse fund is healthy.

BWS Deposit \$4,984.25  
Reunion Deposit \$5,962.00

Ending balance \$10,946.25

We expect the reunion bills to be approximately \$7,500.00 total. After paying all debts for the reunion we will still be in the black.

Horse Fund \$3,000.00

We are well on the way to our goal of \$3500 for the Horse Fund.

Yes, we are solidly in the black, thanks to all of you that paid your dues.

---

Troopers, a fellow Brother, Wayne Phillips, is in the hospital, recovering from heart surgery. All our best wishes and prayers go to him for a speedy recovery.

---

**The reunion is picking up steam! We now have 68 troopers registered plus guest, for 114 total for the banquet. More reservations are coming in every day.**

**There are only 13 BWS rooms available, out of 90, at the Holiday Inn, Ozark, AL. So register quick if you want a room.**

**One final call. There is still time to register for the reunion. If you have lost your registration forms, call either "D" or me. We will sent a**

## replacement set to you ASAP.

This reunion will be the biggest yet, with many new members attending for the first time.

Don't hesitate until it's too late. At worst case we will take reservations at the door on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

**BE THERE!**

Until the next News letter

Loel Ewart  
Comptroller

---

A Cav Trooper is known by only four indicators;

What you say and how you say it.

What you do and how you do it.

These four indicators mark a trooper for life.

**ALWAYS CAV!**

**Honesty and Integrity, the mark of a Cav Trooper.**

lae

---

**Newsletter Picture**

The following list of Association members is as of August 29, 1998.

---

### **Bullwhip Squadron Association Members**

#### **Honored Halls**

COL J.B. Stockton (Deceased)  
Glenn Shumake (Deceased)  
Earl D. Thompson (Deceased)  
John Schlichter (Deceased)  
William Gilboy (Deceased)

---

#### **Association Members**

Abernathy, George  
Alexander, R.B.  
Allen, David  
Arthur, Edward  
Auskiewiez, Richard  
Avelar, Jose A.  
Bachman, Jim  
Ballard, Stephen  
Banks, Larry  
Barrett, James  
Beadle, Thomas  
Beardsley, Guy  
Bedsole, Kenneth  
Berggren, Gerald  
Black, James  
Blankenburg, Mitch  
Blankenship, Nelson  
Blouin, David  
Bluestone, Bill  
Bogdue, Mike  
Borsos, J.R.  
Bowen, Joseph S.  
Bray, David  
Burke, Paul  
Burnett, Clark  
Bush, Patrick  
Byrd, William  
Campbell, Harold  
Castner, Fredrick  
Chole, Hilbert

Conner, James  
Copeland, Larry  
Copson III, Charles  
Coshey, Donald  
Cote, Zenith  
Cox, Leonard  
Cox, Robert  
Crispino, Joseph J.  
Danielson, Ted  
Dean, John  
Defleron, Al  
Dehart, Bruce  
Denning, Richard  
DeSloover, David  
Dettmer, Marion  
Dockett, Aurthur  
Doslop, Joseph  
Dula, Jones  
Dunning, David  
Dupree, Ronald  
Dupriest, Samuel  
Eller, Jack  
Erway, Douglas  
Etchison, Craig  
Ewart, Loel  
Fisher, Gordon  
Flanagan, John  
Franco, Warren  
Frazer, William  
Frazier, Chuck  
Galloway, Joe  
Garrett, Robert  
Gee, James  
Ghere, John  
Gilboy, William  
Gillette, William  
Glance, Jesse  
Goldsberry, James  
Grett, Stanley  
Greer, James  
Grube, Dick  
Hara-Eull, Micheal  
Harris III, Lucious  
Herra, James  
Hartley, Thomas  
Herron, Richard  
Hilton, Mark H.  
Hlywa, Nicholas  
Hobbs, Earl  
Holland, Les

---

Hubler, Irvin  
Hugele, John  
Hughes, Billy  
Hulsey, James  
Hunter, Jerry  
James, Jesse  
Johnson, Bruce  
Johnson, Monte  
Jones Jr., Walker  
Jorgenson, Kregg  
Judson, Robert  
Kelbus, Joseph  
Kellams, Robert  
Kelly, Michael  
Kenerson, Ron  
Kennedy, Lawrence  
Kilcrease, Jack  
King, Thomas  
Kink, Julie  
Knowlen, Charles  
Knowles, Patrick  
Kowalski, Henry  
Kramer, John  
Kraus, Larry  
Krohlow, Kenton  
Kuster, Robert  
Labak, Robert M  
Lahey, John.  
Laidlaw, William  
Landor, Jaime  
Lanegan, Terrence  
Lange, Herman  
Larson, Edward  
Larsen, John  
Lassiter, Norman  
La Vigne SR., Barry  
Leger, Joseph  
Leonard, Thomas  
Lewis, Kenneth  
Lewis, Rhett  
Lobaugh, Carl  
MacLeod, Richard  
Madigan, Douglas  
Magarrell, Robert  
Maher, James  
Marcum, Eugene  
Marshall, Richard  
Matlock, Milton Craig  
Matthews, Allan  
Marrone, Jack

Massey, Gary  
McAnally, Loren V.  
McGowan, Deirdre (Sabine)  
McIlwain, Blake  
McNinch, Jerry  
Mellgard, Nils  
Metcalf, Marvin  
Mills, Willis  
Moore, Hal  
Moseley, Joe  
Moser, Frank  
Mundy Jr., G.G.  
Murtha, Paul  
Nielsen, John  
Oliver, John  
Olson, Kenneth  
O Neil, Michael  
Orifici, Anthony  
Owens, Ronald  
Partridge, Robert  
Parnell, James  
Park, George  
Peterson, Robert  
Pettit, Richard  
Pickett, Malcolm  
Poe, Robert  
Polisky, Simon  
Poos, Robert  
Potts, William  
Powell, John W.  
Pratt, James  
Pressman, James  
Price, David  
Pumphrey, A. T.  
Rankin, Garth  
Rawl, Joseph  
Reid, James  
Retterer, John  
Rochat, Louis  
Rose, Harold  
Roshier, Galen  
Russell, John  
Schellenberg, Woodrow  
Schmotolocha, Jerry  
Schultz, Edward  
Scott, Kenneth  
Sedacca, Emanuel  
Shanklin, David  
Shoemaker, Robert  
Sistrunk, Richard

Smith, Ben L.  
Smith, James  
Smith, Rayburn  
Smith, Ronald  
Snow, Peter  
Stanfield, Neil  
Steine, Joel  
Stewart, Frank  
Stockton, Margret  
Stockton, Rita  
Stone, Gordon  
Stoverink, Robert  
Sundt, Richard  
Swain, Robert  
Tadlock, Robert  
Tasker, Larry  
Tassin, Paul  
  
Terry, Michael  
(Garry Noonan)  
Tyrrell, Paul  
Thaxton, Robert  
Thomas, James Hank  
Thomas, James M.  
Timmons, Dick  
Treude, Harry  
Trombley, Thomas  
Tucker, Douglas  
Turner, Barrie  
Valaer, John  
Vines, Otis  
Wallace, John  
Wamboldt, Richard  
Washington, James  
Washington, Royall  
Weatherspoon, Freddie  
Weems, Neil  
Welch, A. J.  
Wells, Marshall  
Westfall, Ronald  
Wilkins, Donald  
Williams, Billie  
Williams, Franklin  
Williamson, John  
Wingate, Charles (Chuck)  
Wood, Doug  
Wright, Larry  
York, John Jr.  
Zemke, Phillip

---

Zion, Robert

---

---

**You have answered the Squadrons call. A very sincere “thank you” and a very warm Welcome to all of our new members.**

**The mark of a professional is upon you. You make the Bullwhip Squadron Association a success!**

**Thanks guys for the great donations and joining!!!**

---

Again, we ask you to help us find more troopers who will become members and help grow the Association and keep the Association strong! There are still many more out there waiting for us to contact them.

---

We have a current address on all present members and we also have the last known addresses for about another 1100 troopers who are not members. So if you want to get in touch with any of them, just call for the address.

---

**THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, HELP US MAKE IT THE BEST!**

---

---

---

James H. Conner, 1304 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.E., Decatur, Alabama 35601

As all you troopers remember from the last newsletter, James went through hell with an accident that impacted his memory. He, with our help, is improving.

As the Chaplain in his column said, both James and his wife could use some personal time with fellow Troopers. So if you live close, drop by for a visit.

Help out a fellow Cav Trooper.

---

**Duty, Honor, Country. Just three words; words to build your life on.**

LAE

---

---

Every now and then a poem comes along that makes you stop and think. Yes, one person does make a difference. This poem is one.

#### THE STARFISH

Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began to work.

---

One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

As he got closer he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?"

The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish in the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?"

"The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die." "But young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then bent down, picked another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, "It makes a difference to that one."

Loren Eisley

---

There is something very special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference. And if we

can become aware of that gift, we gain through the strength of our visions the power to shape the future.

We must each find our starfish. And if we throw our stars wisely and well, the world will be blessed.

**Yes, one person does make a difference.**

---

**When politics and diplomacy fail, the military action becomes the final card played by politicians.**

**War does not make the man. Man makes war.**

LAE

---

### **From The Editors**

As you can see the Newsletter continues to change, hopefully for the better, as your good suggestions come in

---

**This is not a one person, operation and volunteers are desperately needed to write articles.**

Any article is appreciated, on any subject, past, present, military or civilian, funny, or sober, as long as it is in good keeping of the Association's ideals.

So if you would like to write an article, contact Loel Ewart. His address and phone number are in the newsletter.

Also, if you write a letter to the Editors and do not

want it printed, just say so and we will honor your desires.

The following items are now found in each issue. The Lost and Found column, the Letters to the Editor column, and the newsletter Picture.

### **We need help with the Newsletter, Picture.**

If you have a photo that you would like to see in the Association newsletter, send it in to the Editors for printing. If you have a before and after photo (young guy/mature (old) guy) we will print. If you have a special picture, send in a copy, and we will print. In fact we will print all photos received for the Newsletter.

We are in hopes of increasing our membership above the present numbers, with your help. So if you know of anyone who is not a member please drop us a note with the name and address, and we will sent them a personal invitation to join the Squadron Association.

We have been asked about getting copies of past newsletters. We have a limited number of past newsletters so if you desire one, send a self addressed large envelope with 64 cents worth of stamps on it, for each newsletter, and we will send you the newsletter you are missing. However, you must be able to tell us what newsletter you need, or describe what is in it.

Contact Loel if there are any questions.

Several of the articles are makeovers from the last

newsletter. We felt that they were important for the new members to read and understand where we are going as an Association. We hope this has not inconvenienced any of our Troopers.

---

Due to the many new members, the following article is a re-print of the last newsletter;

“Starting with this newsletter, we intend to print a newsletter three times a year.

---

If the Association members would like to stay at a quarterly printing, the members must support the quarterly with articles and letters.

Let us know how you feel, quarterly or three times a year.”

---

The newsletter is your newsletter and we hope you enjoy the history, the tidbits, and the camaraderie and Brotherhood found here.

Squadron membership certificates, will be sent to you, hopefully, in the near future. Yes I know we said that they would be sent with this newsletter, however we are in the process of having them printed and time caught up with us.

---

We are sending this newsletter to 460 addresses at an overall cost (postage, printing, paper) of approximately \$1.30 each. However, as stated earlier, due to cost, future newsletters will only be sent to dues paying members. We, as an Association, need members to grow. Become one of us.

The Editors

---

---

### **A Cav Brother always, in mind body and spirit.**

LAE

---

---

While very few of us are poets, occasionally a diamond in the rough shines through a Cav Trooper.

Here is a poem by one of our own, from the pen of Barry McAlpine.

#### **GOD**

I can't tell you of ever finding God in church and I can't remember feeling He was near me when I was there.

I do remember seeing a lot of friendly faces and people dressed in all their nice clothes.

Somehow, I always felt uneasy – too many people, too close.

No, I don't remember seeing God in church but I hear His name there constantly.

---

Some ask, "Have you been born again? If so when?" And I don't understand!

I did feel God in Vietnam—almost everyday.

I felt Him when, after an all night firefight,

He sent the sun to chase the rain away; the rain would return with majesty the very next day.

He was there when I collected Sgt. Moore's body parts to put them in a body bag.

He was there when I wrote a letter to his widow explaining how he died.

He was behind me when I heard Sgt. Sink's last dying gasp.

He helped me carry Sgt. Swanson down a hill in the An Lao Valley.

---

I caught a glimpse of God when I felt the heat of Napalm called on our own position, 27 May 1967.

I felt him around me when the Chaplain would hold services for our dead.

I saw His reflection in the faces of my men when I told them to save one bullet for themselves as we were about to be overrun one hot steamy day in a Nam far away.

He led me in the "Lords Prayer" on every air assault as we stood on the skids coming in at treetop level.

When we set up our night ambushes and I couldn't see my own hands because of the darkness,

I would feel His hands.

He sent loneliness to guarantee the fond memories

that always appear later in life.

I'll always remember the strength God gave to the orphans – the children of war.

He made them strong, but they didn't understand.

I know after 25 years, we sleep under the same star.

He sent boys into war. They returned young men;

Their lives forever changed, proud to protect the land of the free.

I don't know if God goes to church, but I know He goes to war.

Very well written Barry. You have expressed the thoughts many of us have, who have gone to war.

---

**One day at a time is the way war is won.**

LAE

### **Letters To The Editors**

Some of our letters go all the way back to just after the last newsletter. We have had an outpouring of letters during this period and space keeps us from printing all of them.

I have attempted to take a good sampling of letters for printing so please don't take offence if your letter is not here. We will post it in the next newsletter.

All letters are interesting and have the long reach of a Cav Trooper.

Some of the notes and letters require a little dressing up so the language is fit for sensitive ears. Please do not

take offense, **and keep those letters coming.**

---

The first letter is from an honorary member, the sister of a Brother in Arms that lost his life doing what he believed in.

Dear Mr. DeFleron,

Thank you for sending me news of my honorary membership in the Bullwhip Squadron Association. I had received a phone call from Ken Olson notifying me of this honor and that my dues was paid. I also received a congratulatory phone call from Bill Bluestone.

I am pleased and surprised to be included in this group, in honor of my brother, WO1 David Kink (C Trp 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July 1969). I think he would be proud to be a part of this organization if he were alive. And if he were a member, I would not be. In his absence I have been warmly accepted and am forever grateful.

To explain a little bit about my situation, David died of injuries sustained in a LOH crash outside of Phouc Vinh in 1969. He had only been in Vietnam for a month. He was 19 years old and I had just passed my eight birthday.

In his last letter home, 14 Jul 69, my brother wrote, "I've only seen one aviator killed since I've been here. You see, you are never alone on a mission. There's always somebody to protect you and get you out even before you

hit the ground". He was trying to reassure Mom.

A week later, the aircraft went down while doing recon by fire. My brother, in his second day in a LOH and flying as observer, was the only one to survive the crash and lived 12 days before he died at 106<sup>th</sup> Gen. Hosp. in Japan.

In 1993 I began searching for people who might have known my brother, in hopes of finding out more about what kind of a person he was, and what he did in Vietnam. I am very grateful to the members of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the Vietnam Helicopters Flight Crew Network, and internet group of about 400 pilots and crew members who have "adopted" me as their little sister. I was allowed to join the flight crew network as the only non-Vietnam veteran, female member, and be on their Family Contacts Committee.

I also am grateful for the help of Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div. Assoc. and Saber, the Vietnam Veterans Home Page on the internet, and members of VVA Chapter470 in Anoka, MN who have welcomed me as an associate member.

I owe a great deal to the Vietnam Veterans who have become my new "big brothers." Because of these contacts, I met three buddies of my brother's in flight school, and heard their stories about pranks, brawls on the

bus, and the fun they had as young men.

I also learned what actually happened in the crash that caused my brother's injuries, and the names of the two men who were killed. Our families' lives had been intertwined with each other for almost 30 years, without ever knowing each other's names.

I also have talked to Luther Russell, who said he was the first one to the scene of the crash and helped put my brother on the medevac. I was finally able to tell him, "Thank you." I don't know if I have ever said a more heartfelt thank you in my life.

I have met Bob Tredway, who was the troop commander at the time of Davids's death. He gave me a plaque that the unit gave him when he left, which he wanted me to have. I had a strange feeling of "coming home" when I shook the hand of this man whom David must have respected, and who most have cared for my brother as on of his men.

I have learned about the reputation of the CAV, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup>, and how you had to volunteer for this unit. I never knew David volunteered. He must have wanted to be a part of them very much and been very proud.

From the few people I have talked to who actually served with my brother, I have learned that he would have probably made a good pilot, had he lived, that he was accepted by "the gang"

in Vietnam, that he was apprehensive about transitioning into LOH's from Hueys, that he matured over there and seemed to be developing the ability to handle things under pressure. All these things would never have been possible for me to know if not for the friendship of my new big brothers.

I am very sensitive to the fact that nobody HAD to write to me, nobody HAD to tell me A THING about the Cav, the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9<sup>th</sup>, Vietnam, or helicopters. Nobody had to share their feelings about one of the most intense times in their lives. Yet I have learned that there were good times as well as bad in Vietnam, people laughed, threw hats and shower shoes at each other, talked to the Vietnamese, cut each other down, built each other up, developed an internal language and thought process that bound them together completely and seamlessly and for decades afterwards.

You have much to be proud of, and I have much to be grateful for in being allowed to experience your brotherhood.

I am planning to attend the upcoming VHPA reunion in Ft. Worth, TX and also intend to go to Washington, DC for Veteran's Day this year again – my 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It seems like that is where I should be, as David's birthday was November 11<sup>th</sup>.

I didn't mean to make this so long, but felt you deserved an explanation for this

departure from the norm. Thank you once again for this honorary membership, I look forward to receiving the newsletter and hope to meet you someday.

Sincerely,

Julie Kink  
224 N. Harriet St.  
Stillwater, MN 55082

**Julie, the Cav takes care of it's own. May God bless you and yours.**

-----  
To the Bullwhip Squadron

Dear Friends,

I was so sorry to hear about my cousin, John Stockton's death. He was an ornery "but admirable person and I'm sure he was a great Commander.

I don't know what you do with the fund, but I'm sure you do what you can for families of the departed squadron members. This donation is just a pittance but it is a remembrance.

I wish you but the best in your endeavors.

Mrs. Norman D. Wiltrout

-----  
The next letter is from a trooper who found a brother!

Dear Loel,

After 32 years I decided to see if I could find (SP4) Jim Plesz. Jim and I served

together in 64/65, 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Cav, and have not heard from each other in 32 years. I had my Son put Jim's name to put into the computer (Internet) under [WWW.SWITCHBOARD.COM](http://WWW.SWITCHBOARD.COM). Only one name (Jim Plesz) with an address and telephone # came up. I called the telephone # and , YES it was the same Jim Plesz I served with 32 years ago. We had a great talk. Jim would LOVE to hear from the "Bullwhip Troopers", especially the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, D Troop, Troopers.

His address is;

James Plesz  
329 E 800 N  
Lake Village, IN 46349  
Ph# (219) 345-2701

Loel, please mail Jim an Application to Join, the "Bullwhip Family."

Thank You

Tom Leonard  
24Fremont Road  
Valley Stream, NY  
11581-2107

Thank you Tom, for finding another Trooper. An application is on the way.

-----  
This next letter is from a trooper who is finding us again. Lionel, take pride that you are a member of the Brotherhood.

Dear Editor,

For nearly twenty years I lived in a shell, concerned only with my immediate family, job and friends. I was apprehensive to acknowledge that I had served in Vietnam and avoided contact with any cavalry members. Don't get me wrong, I was very proud of having served with the 1/9 Squadron, but kept that pride within the family.

Then a friend told me about the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Association and shortly after started writing of my experience as a Door Gunner (1966) – 1970). Later I joined the Bullwhip Sqdn and even the VFW.

Today I read your July Newsletter and I loved it! It reminded me of my Crew Chief (no names please), whom I served with for nine months in 1966. He was a dedicated member of the squadron, especially COL Stockton. He was so devoted that he actually disesteemed the Squadron Commanders that followed COL Stockton. I, on the other hand, liked them and thought that they were terrific Commanders who made John Wayne (actor) look like a Boy Scout. But then, I am sorry to say, I never had the privilege of serving with COL Stockton.

To clarify, I arrived in Vietnam on December 65 and was assigned to the Squadron's chase ship as a Door Gunner. We had no machineguns for the gunner or crew chief and had to rely on our M-16 and the three shot grenade launchers. Our machineguns had been

donated to the grunts during the night Ambush at Ia Drang.

We were at Chu Pong Massif on March 20, 1966 when B Troop blues went in to check the area for NVAs. The result was the lost of two lift ships on the ground, another crashed later on it's way to Plei Mi and the forth was flown out by it's crew chief, after the pilot was killed and the co-pilot badly wounded.

Our crew chief, the co-pilot, an Air Force Liaison Officer and I went in to the aid of the third helicopter that crashed in a wooded area, while our pilot stayed on the ship to evacuate the wounded.

In May I was transferred to the Squadron Commander's ship after his door gunner was wounded on the second day. An hour after the transfer, the ship was nearly blasted out of the sly.

Except for the Squadron Commander and I, everyone (crew chief, Commo NCO, copilot, Artillery Off.) was wounded. This forced our crew chief into the position of being the new Squadron Commander's crew chief. There was no time to cry or lick our wounds. We were back in the air 15 minutes after the Commander landed the crippled ship.

I adore my Crew Chief. He was my mentor, witty, always smiling, brave efficient and so ugly that he attracted women like mess attracts flies.

As I mentioned before, your Newsletter brought back memories and a pride that I had forgotten. For that I thank you.

Sincerely,

Lionel Dela Rosa  
SFC (Ret)  
14835 N. 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Phoenix, AZ 80532

Lionel you have spoken from the heart. We thank you.

---

The next letter tells how to find out if you have paid your dues.

Dear Loel,

I just received my copy of the Bullwhip Sqdn News, it is really great to read and remember!!

When I got to the list of members I couldn't find my name. Then I went through my 1st Cav file and found the Sqdn News from I Feb 96, and it dawned on me that I hadn't paid my dues for a while so that is why my name was not on the list. I'm sorry but time has really gotten away from me.

I was a Sp4 clerk typist in HQ Troop working for E-7 Burgess. Needless to say I knew COL Stockton, Capt Nave, Maj Radcliff and Maj Grube very well. We worked day and night typing up ship manifests for all the personnel going overseas.

My enlistment was almost up so I stayed behind. Some Vets and myself went to the dedication of the VN memorial in Sacramento, CA in 89 and I ran into a lot of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Association people. I have been a member ever since that time.

I was thrilled when I received the letter in the mail from Mike Bogdue concerning the start up of the Bullwhip Squadron. I sent in my dues in and received the Bullwhip Squadron Certificate, which I have handing in my office. I was very proud to serve with the group.

I am enclosing a check for \$50 to cover dues for 97 and 98, plus a set of our original orders. I will be visiting Capt Nave and Maj Radcliff at the wall in September during my trip to Washington DC. They are two of the finest people I have ever met, I am proud to have known them.

Thanks again for the copy of our newsletter.

I look forward to receiving them for many years to come.

Sincerely,

SP4 Billy Hughes  
120 Heysman Rd.  
Selah, WA 98942  
Ph# (509) 698-3827

Billy, you are a true Bullwhip man at heart. You will notice your name is on the roster. Your copy of movement orders has helped us located more lost troopers.

---

Dear Loel,

Mike Kelley sent me your newsletter this week. I was sad to hear that Bullwhip 6 had passed on.

For all these years since, probably the closest characterization of John would be that Commander of the Cav in "Apocolypse Now", "I love the smell of napalm in the morning."

He had the hat, scarf and nerve of John. Quite a large set of boots to fill.

I have been writing to Corners as of late. Have not seen anyone I served with after I got out of Vietnam. I talked to Kelley about one week ago. Mike and I served together in AnKhe.

I am one of the original Scouts that served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault in the beginning.

We packed everything up and shipped it to Nam. I left in August on the Boxer from Mayport FL. Went through the Suez and around to Que Non after stopping off at Cam Rhan bay to drop off four Mohawks.

I was a crew chief on an OH-13S model. Our call sign was White One. CWO G. Grimm was my pilot.

My ETS was Sept 20,66. C Trp 1/9 Cav.

Everybody scattered to the four winds when we got turned loose in Oakland.

At least we got to fly back. Kind of rude ending to go from about 110 degrees from Saigon to about 30 degrees in Cleveland in the space of a couple of days.

Enclosed is my check for the dues and some for the horse fund.

Richard Denning  
23310 Elgin  
Lemoore, CA 93245  
Ph# (209) 924-7435

Richard, welcome back to the Brotherhood.

---

The next letter is from a trooper who was looking for us.

Loel,

In my Saturday's mail I received the information about the Bullwhip squadron Association from David Allen and need to ask you some questions about whom may join. I was with the 62 CTT (Combat Trackers) located at LZ Two Bits and was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> and if my memory serves me right, we were the F Troop. The Trackers were designed group of 4 teams, with a dog handler, visual tracker, coverman, Squad Sgt and an Officer. We were the guys with the big black labs!

I remember working with the other Troops; one unit stood out in my mind was the Blues. I remember one SSgt with them that wore black skintight leather gloves. He was always looking for a kill. A real bad ass SOB. If our unit is qualified to join, I have addresses of 16 other members of our old unit and I'm sure some would have an interest in joining. Please

contact me as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Stephen K Cradick  
Sheriff, Owen county

Yes Stephen, you belong. The Invitations were sent to you, enough for all the associated troopers. We look forward to receiving your membership.

---

This letter voices all our deep felt feelings, not only for Bullwhip 6 but all the other Brothers of the Squadron.

Dear Loel,

I have enclosed two checks- one for \$15 annual dues and one for \$100 for donation to the "Bullwhip" horse fund for it's place of honor in the 1st Cav. Horse Platoon. Please make sure the checks get deposited in the proper account.

The "Brotherhood" means more to me each day I live. I still morn the loss of bullwhip 6, but I have learned that grief is the price we pay for loving the ones that we have and lose. I can take the grief, but I could never accept the alternative – not to have ever known the person that I loved so dearly.

Your Mother Trooper

Dick Marshall  
Box 1468  
Pawleys Island, SC  
29585-1463

Dick, no truer words were ever spoken.

---

BG David Allen

I believe your proposal to open membership to all that served in 1/9 cav, 1965-1971 is a good idea and urge that be done. Every person who served should share our pride in Bullwhip Squadron.

As far as the Aviation Hall of Fame, they missed a hell of an opportunity to put some real meaning and dignity into their efforts.

If there is a Cavalry Hall of Fame, that is where BW6 really belongs, and, they all know it.

Regards

Hap Rose

Sir, no truer words ever spoken.

---

The next letter brings up the Horse "Bullwhip."

Dear Loel

Please find enclosed a check for \$100. I think I owe for last year's dues and I know I owe for 98.

Please send me 4 mugs. If there is any left of the \$100 please put it toward the horse Fund. If there isn't enough, please let me know.

Enclosed is also my reunion ballot.

The newsletter noted that the Bullwhip horse would cost approximately \$3,500. How much more will be

needed for first rate tac, saddle, etc?

Sincerely

Warren Franco  
P.O. Box 8427  
Portland OR 97207

Warren, all the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div is collecting for the horse and tac. Hopefully there will be enough funds to buy the horse, tac and maintenance for many years.

We are hoping that just the Bullwhip Association will be able to provide the \$3,500 for the horse alone, and at the rate we are going I believe we will make it.

For all you new Troopers, we are in the process of buying a horse for the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div Horse Platoon (spit and polish drill), to be named Bullwhip. It will be the Platoon Leaders horse. The horse will be dedicated in memory of COL John B. Stockton at the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav reunion in 1999 at Ft. Hood TX.

---

The next letter is a correction letter.

Dear editors,

I would like to correct and add to the Bullwhip Squadron Association Newsletter last paper the Keeper of the Rock wrote for me.

The videotapes are two for \$25. The 7<sup>th</sup> Cav Ia Drang 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is \$15.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ia Drang, COL Stockton for the first time and only time spoke what really happened to him in Vietnam.

When a historian called him from Washington DC for Army purposes to write for the Army History. He gave my name, because he said he's not going to repeat what he said at the 30<sup>th</sup> An so Mr. Cartland did just that and hopefully I should get the transcript he wrote for the Army.

On the tape that Paul Tilzey from BBC TV taped was what COL Stockton and CSM Kennedy had to say how they had put the 1<sup>st</sup>/9th together. How they chose their officer's and NCOs, how they got the Stetson hat, crossed sabers and saddle bags. Also who found and spotted the North Vietnamese (Dave Bray) in Ia Drang, which led up to the battle at the hospital by Capt Jack Oliver and then the big

ambush by Capt Chuck Knowlen.

Sincerely

Smoky

All you troopers, who want tapes from Smoky, look in the last newsletter for the address and the tape numbers. These are a set of tapes you don't want to miss.

---

The next letter is from a trooper whose first letter may have gone astray.

Sir;

Put \$10 of the \$25 into the Horse fund.

I wanted to explain how we came by the Bullwhip call sign, but you didn't see fit to print my last letter to the Editors so I didn't feel that you would be interested.

I don't want to sound confrontational, but I hope that the organization doesn't become the voice of a chosen few.

I believe that if you checked, there is no one in the Association who predates me in the Squadron. I was one of the originals in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully

George A. Park  
15817 Langley Dr.  
Biloxi, MS 39532-5623  
Formally BW 10

George, the Squadron voice is the voice of the whole. There are no chosen few. Your input is very much needed, especially about the Bullwhip callsign.

I can only apologize for any misunderstanding the lost letter may have caused.

---

The next letter is from a new member.

Dear Editors,

Thank you for signing me up as a member of the BW Squadron.

I believe my name was given by to you by Lt. Gen. Moore.

I've enclosed dues and some money for the fund. Also is money for the Horse Fund. I hope it helps.

Serving in the 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Cav, B Troop was, no doubt the proudest thing I've done, and to be included in this organization is a great honor.

Thank you, and thank you Hal Moore.

J.R Borsos  
PO 1248  
Crested Butte, CO  
81224  
Ph # (970) 349-  
0246B 1/9, 67-68

J.R. every dollar helps on the horse fund. All moneys received have been from the heart. That is what counts. Thank you for joining the Association Brotherhood.

---

The next letter shows we all have a bad case of the CRS (can't remember crap).

James, you are one of us, mind and soul.

Outstanding newsletter. But my face is red. Must have had my head up and locked when I found my name missing from the Association Members list. My error. That I will correct now.

Enclosed are my dues for 97 and 98 plus some for the horse fund and for two mugs.

I thought I had paid my 97 dues and if it's too late just add it to the horse fund.

Keep up the good work

James C. Maher, Ret  
807 Kings Road  
Hinesville, GA  
31313

Jim, the main thing is you are still one of us.

---

The last letter for this newsletter is from John Nielsen.

Hi Loel

Hope you and yours are healthy and happy. Saw the Garretts in Maryland last Labor Day weekend.

Enclosed, find my check for dues and a check for the horse fund.

If you open the doors to post JBS 1<sup>st</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> Cav troopers, I know two who may be interested: 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Wally Martz from ND. We flew together my last month – good man. Also John Wiegeat, Blue grenadier, awarded the Silver Star for his actions 2 Oct 66. We (A troop) lost 3 KIA that day. He is featured in “Hunter/Killer Squadron.” He is now State Trooper Station Commander near me-upstate NY.

As a result of you printing my note in the newsletter, I am now in touch with Joe Waters. A door gunner from C Troop called from MI last Sunday with Joe's number

and address. His name is Dave DeSloover.

I vote for a quarterly newsletter.

Keep your powder dry,

John R. Nielsen  
329 Lindholm Road  
Hurleyville, NY 12747-5009  
Ph # (914) 292-1678

---

That's all the letters for this Newsletter. Send your letters to, “The Bullwhip Squadron Editors” c/o Loel Ewart, for the next edition.

---

To close out this edition of the BW Sqdn Newsletter, it is only appropriate to pay homage again, to another unsung hero, that is always in the background, and that every pilot depends on. The Aircraft Mechanic (in this case, helicopter mechanic). Without them, no one would be flying.

---

One last word about the October 1998 Bullwhip Squadron reunion.

There will be a reunion registration form in the mail to everyone by the middle of June. This will give pricing and an itinerary for the reunion.

**Look For It!**

---

Until the next newsletter, keep the pickem up truck wheels between the white lines, the chopper right side up, cold brew in the fridge, good fellowship with your Brothers and may all things go your way.

---

---