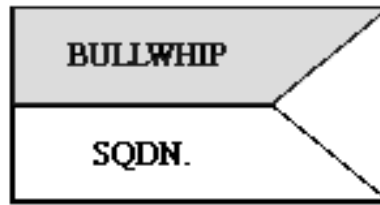


3rd/17th --- 1st/9th
Air Cavalry Squadron



THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

The official News Magazine of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

January 2003



EWART'S SAYINGS

FOR

LIFE

- *LIVE YOUR LIFE WITH HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND HONOR*
- *CONTROL YOUR MOUTH AND YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR LIFE*
- *BE A LEADER OR A FOLLOWER,, NOT A CLOWN, BUT NEVER A JERK*
- *ALWAYS BE A GENTLEMAN. SAYING SIR AND MA'AM, IS MANDATORY*
- *THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING AND EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE*
- *TAKE TIME TO DO IT RIGHT, THE FIRST TIME. READ THE DIRECTIONS*
- *YOU ARE KNOWN BY THE FRIENDS YOU KEEP, AND HOW YOU KEEP THEM*
- *EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO INTELLIGENCE, INTELLIGENCE IS THE KEY TO POWER*
- *SET YOUR GOALS FOR YOUR LIFE AND SET YOUR PRIORITIES IN YOUR GOALS*
- *ALWAYS DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT*
- *THIS IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. USE IT WISELY*
- *YOU GET OUT OF LIFE WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT, NOTHING MORE*
- *SHOW RESPECT AND BE POLITE TO ELDERS, THEY DESERVE IT*
- *YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR ACTIONS. NO ONE ELSE IS.*
- *WHEN IT IS TO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT'S PROBABLY NOT TRUE*
- *IF THE PUNISHMENT IS WORTH THE CRIME, DO THE CRIME*
- *NEVER START A FIGHT, BUT IF YOU MUST FIGHT, WIN*
- *RULES AND LAWS ARE FOR A REASON. OBEY THEM*
- *FRIENDS DON'T ASK FRIENDS TO LIE FOR THEM,
FRIENDS DON'T GET FRIENDS IN TROUBLE*
- *TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WANT TO BE TREATED*
- *ABOVE ALL, KEEP GOD IN YOUR LIFE*

LOEL A. EWART
LTC (RET) U.S. ARMY
A Troop, 1/9 65-66



Adjutants Call

FIRST OF ALL MY CAV HAT IS OFF TO GENERAL DAVE AND HIS TALENTED, DEDICATED CREW WHO PULLED OFF, WITHOUT A HITCH, THE LATEST OF OUR "ONCE AND ONLY" BULLWHIP REUNIONS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON, I WONDER IF YOU REALIZE THE HOURS, DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS OF PLANNING, ARRANGING AND DEALING WITH THE OBSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND BARTERING FOR DEALS AND GOOD PRICES, THAT GOES ON, ALL ON OUR BEHALF AND AT NO COST TO US OR TO OUR ASSOCIATION. SUCH A DEAL!!!!!!!!!!!!

DEVOTED WORKERS WITH A PROVEN RECORD, SUCH AS TROOPERS DEFLERON, EWART, ALLEN AND OTHERS, WHO HAVE THE KNOW HOW AND WILLINGNESS TO SERVE. THE REUNION SHOULD BE KEPT IN THE HEART OF DIXIE.

IF YOU AGREE WITH ME THAT OUR REUNIONS SHOULD BE HELD AT OR NEAR FORT RUCKER AND THE CURRENT CREW IS DOING A GREAT JOB-----DROP THEM A LINE SAYING, "THANKS" AND ASKING THEM TO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

We Can, We Will, We Did !!

FOR THE COMMANDER,
DICK D GRUBE
ADJUTANT

I want you to close your eyes and picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge, as he holds his musket in his bloody hands. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred from the eternity away from his family surrounded by nothing but death and carnage of war.

He stands tough, with fire in his eyes and victory on his breath. He looks at us now in anger and disgust and tells us this...

I gave you a birthright of freedom born in the Constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read it. I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote and you stay at home because it rains.

I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be bad for business.

I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people.

It's the soldier not the reporter who gives you the freedom of the press.

It's the soldier not the poet who gives you the freedom of speech.

It's the soldier not the campus organizer who allows you to demonstrate.

It's the soldier who salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag that allows the protester to burn the flag!!!

"Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen,"

Jim B. The older I get... The better I was.

Many of you have written articles for the news magazine and have expressed your opinion on many subjects, both liberal and conservative. The editor has maintained a policy of printing those articles regardless of the "political correctness" of the articles, as long as they were acceptable for all audiences regardless of age, to read, and were written with integrity.

It has been recommended tht we print nothing that concerns race, religion, or that deals with politics. In today's environment you cannot stick your head in the sand and ignore the world. These three areas are deciding the life, or death, of our country. The constitution gives every citizen the right to free speech. It is the citizen's duty to speak out and fight for their beliefs through congress, the courts or by being in the military. Being "politically correct" dooms us all. Remember 9-11. I do not want the epitaph on this countries headstone to read, "Killed By Political Correctness".

Articles in this issue are again from our members, and others, that sound an opinion worth reading. It is up to you, the reader, to determine if the articles mirror your beliefs and attitudes. If they do not, then it is your prerogative to sound off with your opinion in the next issue.

Our lifestyle and freedoms have been drastically changed by the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. Make no mistake, we are under attack for our Christian way of life and beliefs. What we, as a nation, do now, will determine the future survival of our country, The United States Of America.

The articles in the news magazine are not necessarily the opinion of the editor or the BWS Board Members. The articles are here to make you think and act as a responsible citizen and veteran of this great country.

God Bless America.

BWS

TAPS

John York	Passed On	June 17, 2002
Cowles Waldron	Passed On	June 2002
William D. Preacher	Passed On	July 14, 2002
Judson Lucas	Passed On	2002

* If you want government to intervene domestically, you're a liberal. * If you want government to intervene overseas, you're a conservative. * If you want government to intervene everywhere, you're a moderate. * If you don't want government to intervene anywhere, you're an extremist.

Joseph Sobran (1995)

The past Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases:

- * If it moves, tax it.
- * If it keeps moving, regulate it.
- * And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

Ronald Reagan (1986)



FROM THE COMMANDER

Christmas and New Years have come and gone. My sincere hope is that all troopers and families had a very good Christmas season, understanding this is the season that we celebrate the birth of Christ. And may the New Year be everything you desire.

What a great 5th reunion! Every 2 years the BWS reunion gets bigger and better as we find new troopers to join the organization and then come to the Ft. Rucker/Ozark gathering. General Shoemaker our second squadron commander said this reunion has as many attendees as the entire 1st Cav. reunion. We must be doing something right. The small planning group of Loel and Barbara Ewart, Al DeFleron, and Ken Bedsole, as usual, did a wonderful job organizing this event.

But we couldn't do it by ourselves without the help of the early arrivals that pitched in and really made it happen—to you troopers and wives, we really appreciate your help.

As we always do shortly after a reunion, the planning group gets together and critiques all phases of the reunion from start to finish to see how we can do better for the next one. One area in particular that needs our and your attention is to develop something for the wives to do besides listening to the same old war stories. To be honest there isn't much to do or see in Ozark—therefore we are looking at the Dothan area which has several possibilities such as a fashion show. We'll explore the options that may be available but would also like to hear from the wives. Please let us know what you think and we'll come up with several ideas.

I attended the Veterans Day event on 11 November at the Ozark Memorial Garden- the same place we held our BWS 13 October memorial service. Mayor Bob Bunting opened the ceremony with his reflection on why veterans in this area are special. This was in direct response to a city council member who had questioned why the BWS got a "special" reduced rate for the use of the Civic Center. The local editor of the Southern Star thought the Mayor's comments were worthy to print- and so do I. By the way this

particular council member is a real flaming ALPHA HOTEL and is well known for his anti-military feelings. The other 15,617 residents of Ozark love the Bullwhip Squadron!

Remember, our next reunion is less than two years away. Start planning now on attending. And we will see what new surprises our elite team performs for our next reunion.

So until the next news magazine, and looking forward to the reunion.

I remain,

David J. Allen
Brigadier General
Cavalry USA (Ret)
Commanding

From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers,

Our October 02 reunion was indeed the greatest reunion yet, with many of our troopers attending for the first time. It made my heart sing to see so many brothers at one time and location.

We are still looking for lost troopers. If you know of any troopers that have not been contacted, give the Squadron Association their names and addresses and we will contact them.

Loel tells me that the membership is now over the 446 point and growing.

Troopers, I will say again, that what Congress gives, it can take away. All of us must support our military associations. NCOA, MOAA, American Legion and other retired associations to make sure that congress lives up to the law and our benefits are not lost! Especially in these times of military spending increases because of the war on terrorism.

All of you troopers who make up the 1st/9th Air CAV Squadron make this old soldier proud. When the country called, you were first to answer. I, and this great nation will never forget you.

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

Loel Ewart
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Ozark, Al. 36360
Ph. # 334-774-0328
e-mail lewart@charter.net

Or

Al Defleron
1145 Holland Rd.
Newton, Al. 36352
Ph. # 334-692-5685
e-mail aldefleron@snowhill.com

God willing, I am looking forward to again seeing all my old soldiers at the October 2004 reunion.

CSM Kennedy
Bullwhip 7

From the Chaplain:

My Fellow Bullwhippers,

This time, I want to share with you a sequence of events that had to do with the impact of war on faith. This involved an Apache Blue Platoon Leader, about whom I wrote in the first edition of *It Took Heroes*, Volume II: One day in late November or early December, an obviously troubled lieutenant-Apache Blues-came to me following a worship service and said in essence, "Chaplain Newby, I used to believe in God, but I cant believe anymore...If there were a God, he wouldn't allow horrors like this to happen."

The lieutenant was medevaced to the states before I got to see him again. However, we've been in contact and even saw each other at the latest Bullwhip reunion (2002), and this is his update, used with his permission:

On December 7, Pearl Harbor Day, LT Gary Qualley and his Apache Troop Blues were inserted to check out a bunker complex:

"One of our Apache scout birds was guiding us toward a suspected NVA base camp. I had the troops on line and we'd just entered the tree line. I dropped behind a small tree-about 5 inches diameter-when the squads on our right reported

occupied bunkers. 'Frag them,' I ordered, and still had radio handset to my ear when from about five meters away, an NVA jumped from a hidden bunker and sprayed us with AK-47 fire. That first burst hit Sp4 Sanchez, got me in the thighs-shattered both femurs- and gut-shot Sp4 Timothy McCreight of Aledo, Illinois.

"To get into a prone position to fight, I had to pull my leg around one a time-they were bent at strange angles, like I had a second pair of knees. We killed one or two NVA while fighting them off so we could be medevaced.

"The NVA, my platoon, the Apache Scouts, and the Medevac crew kept up Intense firing while they hoisted us out. To this day I cannot believe how Medevac hovered up there just above the tree tops-right over the enemy bunkers,-and brought us up while firing those M60s to protect us. Anyhow, after they hoisted up Sanchez and McCreight using a cable or rope, I turned my platoon over to Platoon Sergeant George Busch and they started hoisting me out, but the cable was shot into or broke and dropped me back to the ground. Finally, somehow, they got me up and flew me to the hospital at Tay Ninh Base Camp.

"There, they got me on a gurney and cut my clothes off while rushing me to the OR. Top Sgt. Williamson was there to meet our Medevac...he visited several times. I was evacuated to Japan then to Fitzimmons Army Medical Center in Denver. Eighteen months-three months in traction, eight months in casts ov various types.

"I saw no anti-soldier behavior in Denver. I found the people were terrific, once I was able to get about on crutches-free movies and dinners and just lots of friendly people.

"I made captain there, which I didn't expect to do because I was ROTC and should have been out in two years instead of three. Finally, I went on to graduate school in Arizona, married, have three terrific sons and a great wife."

On December 8, 1969, I (Chaplain Newby) visited Sp4 Timothy McCreight at the hospital on the Tay Ninh base camp. As we visited, he sat up with his legs hanging over the side of the bed, while a nurse cauterized bleeding vessels in his abdomen. Timothy McCreight died on December 13, 1969, though his prognosis had been good.

As for Gary Qualley's avowed loss of faith just prior to Pearl Harbor Day 1969, he recently wrote:

"Later I became quite religious," for which I, for one, am very grateful.

Until next time.

Claude D. Newby
Chaplain
Lt. Col. (Ret.) United States Army

From the Sergeant Major:

The Cavalry Invasion

And invade the Wiregrass we did.

Our 5th reunion is now history, and will be remembered as our biggest and best to date. I will not dwell on the reunion in this article, as there are others that will, and are covering the events in other articles in this issue of the BWS magazine. However, there are a few points that I will cover.

Point #1. By now all members should have received their copies of the local newspapers that covered our reunion. If you attended the reunion you received the follow up issue, and if not, you received two issues of the newspaper.

The troopers that attended should have picked up a copy of the first issue at the registration desk when they registered. We bought 500 copies of each issue, and as of now, all of the first issues are gone. So if you failed to get your copy, I am sorry, as there aren't any left. There are a few spare copies of the last issue left.

I would like to add thanks to the efforts of Ken Bedsole as PAO. We received very good coverage from the local papers.

Point #2. Hopefully by now all that ordered shirts, caps and etc., have received same by now. If you have fallen through the cracks and not received your order, please let me know so it can be corrected. This is one of the areas that we are striving to improve.

Hopefully, very soon, we will have pictures of all of our merchandise on the BWS web site, where ordering will be made easier and also give you a chance to see what we have.

Walt Titchenell (C Trooper) will be handling this area of operations very shortly. More information on this will be forth coming.

Point#3. The successful growth of the BWS has increased as each reunion comes around every other year. From our First, an supposedly one time BWS reunion in 1994, to our Fifth BWS reunion in 2002, we have increased approximately one hundred attendee's each reunion. Therefore, they can only get bigger and better each time.

This brings me to the point to cover here. First, we would like to apologize to our troopers who had to get rooms in Dothan (our overflow) due to the fact that there were no more rooms available in Ozark. This, I am sure, hindered those having to travel back and forth, from spending more time in the reunion area with their friends and fellow troopers. This is a very important matter, that we are addressing. This, if at all possible, will be prevented in future reunions. You will be informed of all future developments regarding this subject.

Last, but not least, let us again say "Thank You" to the troopers, along with their wives that came early in order to assist in any way they could, to help make this reunion the success that it was. They came early, and worked late, and stayed last. Without them, it would not have been possible.

From the bottom of our hearts, here at BWS Headquarters, WE THANK YOU.

Bringing this to a close, I speak on behalf of the BWS staff, THANKS to all of you troopers for making this, our biggest and best reunion so far.

The holiday season is over and I sincerely hope all of you had the very best Christmas and the start of a fantastic New Year.

Now is the time to start planning for the reunion in 04.

As Ever,

Al DeFleron
SGM BWS ASSOC.

We can - We Will !- We Did!!!

Patriotism is not a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

Adlai E. Stevenson, Jr

From the Vice President:

The Association continues to find those troopers who do not know of the Association. We are presently seeing new members weekly. All our troopers are dedicated to carrying on and sustaining the CAV tradition.

Year 2002, definitely was a banner year for new members and we hope 2003 is another banner year.

Members are what make the Association. As of January 2003 our active membership is over 445 with 270+ of these being lifetime. We have increased by 50 new members since January 1, 2002. Well done! We could not have done this without your support.

A Very Warm “Welcome” to all of our new members You are the professionals who make the Bullwhip Squadron Association a success!

Thanks guys for joining and supporting our Association!

Take a look at the membership roster. How many of the names do you know? Notice the amount of * (270+) by troopers names. Think about becoming a lifetime member.

As you will notice, the * denotes a lifetime member and (h) denotes an honorary member. This says a lot for the caliber of our Bullwhip Squadron Association and the members themselves.

We have a greater percentage of lifetime members in our organization than probably any other organization either military or civilian!!

Look well at the list of members. These are the true hero’s of our military generation.

The sad part is that the list of those that have passed on to a higher cavalry status is growing. We are losing some of the best due to ravages of time. May they stand tall as Cav troopers and welcome us at Fiddlers Green, in Squadron formation.

We ask you to continue to look for those troopers who do not know of us and bring them back into the Squadron.

Please check your names for spelling. If any corrections are required, call me (Loel) and I will update as needed. Also check your certificates for spelling.

We have remade all the membership cards. If you have become a lifetime member, your membership card will say “lifetime”. The membership cards were passed out at the reunion and mailed to those not attending.

All work performed in the Squadron is strictly voluntary and the money taken into the Squadron through dues and merchandise is sufficient to pay for all operating expenses and help defray the bi-annual Squadron reunion expenses.

REMEMBER, Membership dues are due in January each year. If you join in the last 3 months of the calendar year, you will be given credit for the following years dues. If in doubt of paying dues, look at the mailing label. If it has a red stripe on it, you have not paid your dues.

Many of our troopers either move or change their e-mail addresses. Please let the Squadron Association know of any changes in address. This will keep your newsletter coming.

I have been asked by our troopers if they can pay their lifetime member status in installments. The answer is YES. Contact me if you would like to pay in installments. Also you can pay in more than one year (2,3,4, etc)

The Association does not sell or give away member’s addresses or phone numbers, except to other BWS Association members when they call in for a member’s individual number.

Until the next news mag.

Loel Ewart
LTC (Ret)
V.P.

From The Public Affairs Officer

Publicity for the Bullwhip Squadron’s 2002 reunion was focused on three outlets: online websites, national military oriented publications, and newspapers in Alabama and Georgia.

Online, we had notices on our own Bullwhip Squadron website, Military Connections, and TROA Locator Service. Notices on these websites should remain for some time and hopefully may turn up un-located troopers.

We published notices in three national military oriented publications: Army Times, The American Legion, and Army magazine. Some other magazines picked up our notices from these and published them also.

We had a good run on pre- and post-coverage for the October 2002 reunion from three local newspapers, which published articles prior to and after the reunion. Those newspapers were the Southern Star of Ozark, Southeast Sun, Enterprise, and the Daleville Sun-Courier. The biggest producer, however, was an article published in the Columbus (Georgia) Ledger-Enquirer on September 23, 2002. Following publication of the article, we received numerous inquiries from troopers in the Columbus/Ft. Benning area who had not been previously located. Additionally, there were several contacts from soldiers who had served in other 1st Cavalry Division units and from children whose fathers had been lost in Vietnam.

The Ledger has a website, www.ledger-enquirer.com, with an archived section where previous articles can be read. If you check the site, you also may want to locate a special section published on March 3, 2002 titled They Were Soldiers. All the articles in that special publication are great, but if you don't have time to read all of them, be sure to read the interviews of Gary Weatherhead's son (Gary was killed in Vietnam), and two of our current Bullwhip Squadron members, Doug Tucker and Al DeFleron.

We hope to expand our publicity effort and invite your ideas and participation in a coordinated publicity program. This effort will be on two fronts. The first will be to find lost troopers and second to let the world know more about our squadron and what its members have accomplished. To continue our trooper locating effort, I will be calling upon several of you who live in areas where we think we may have a large number of unlocated troopers to get your help in getting notices in your local news outlets. Additionally, you may contact me or any other members of the board with your ideas for getting the word out.

As the next reunion approaches, we will work with newspapers and other publications in areas outside the Ozark/Ft. Rucker area to get wider publicity for stories about the squadron. Again, your ideas are solicited.

Now to end this, if someone will explain to me what a PAO is, I would be grateful.

Ken Bedsole
305 Oakwood Dr, Enterprise, AL 36330/
dotken@juno.com

Keeper Of The Rock

It seems that at every Bullwhip Squadron reunion I am reunited with troopers that I've not seen since Vietnam. These are always friends whom we all wanted to see, but usually troopers whom no one had had contact with in recent years. This year's reunion in October was no exception. I had the pleasure of seeing again for the first time in 36 years Johnny Gower and Darwin "Hef" Hefner. During the year in Vietnam, I had come to know both of these gentlemen as men of great character and great courage.

On the afternoon of 16 November 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley, I watched from the air as Johnny Gower landed his H-13 at the wreckage of my wingman's aircraft. The North Vietnamese had several hours to set up an ambush and wait. When Johnny radioed that he was going in to check the wreckage, I said to myself, "There's no way he'll come out alive". After finding no one alive on the ground, he went back to his aircraft and made his take-off under fire. To this day, I don't know how he and his gunner got out alive. I was, and still am, in awe of Johnny's courage. To him it was just all in a day's work.

I last saw Darwin Hefner on the night of 15 July 1966 when he was so badly wounded in the leg and side that I thought he was going to bleed to death. It was great when we later heard that Hef had survived and recovered as much as one could from those kinds of wounds. Hef and Lt. Honeywell had both been wounded flying the same aircraft while attempting to extract one of our rifle squads. I could never figure out how they flew and landed the aircraft as badly shot up as they were. It took me 36 years to find out! Hef indicated that he had used his left arm to manipulate the collective and had also operated the pedals. Honeywell, who had been shot through the foot, used his right arm to control the cyclic. All things considered they made a pretty good landing!

In addition to being reunited with these two friends and fellow troopers, Anne and I had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know their wives. These are the kinds of things that make our Bullwhip Squadron reunions the very special events they are.

Keeper of the Rock,
Gene Smith

Troopers

We have a new column starting this issue by
Walker Jones. A warm welcome to Walker.

BWS

The 9TH CAV'S "SABER" Column

Among the relics of the few saved items from Vietnam that my Mom handed me a few years ago was a 1971 issue of the "SABER", evidently sent to my residence after DEROS. I had no idea that the 1st Cavalry Division Association has been continuing to publish the SABER, let alone that I would find myself as the current editor the 9th CAV column.

The SABER, "Published By and For the Veterans of the Famous 1st Cavalry Division", is a 24 page "newspaper" issued every two months. It is mostly composed of columns dedicated to current activities and history of former Cav units. As far as I know, the "9TH CAV News – FLYING POINT" column was first edited by Dave Bray followed by Chuck Wyngate who was followed by Kregg Jorgenson. I followed as Kregg's successor during summer, 2000. As the title implies, the column has always focused on Vietnam era 1/9th. However, due to persistent requests, I have expanded it to include the 9th Cav's service as the "DMZ Police" in Korea, as well as activities of the current 9th Cav at Ft. Hood, whenever someone gives me material to use. I have also encouraged dialog with former Rangers and Tracker teams that we supported in Vietnam.

For those who don't receive the SABER and are online, you can view the most recent "9thCAVNews– Flying Point" column at <<http://realcav.tripod.com/9thcavflyingpoint/>>. Some previous columns can also be found at Jack Schwartz' Charlie Troop website at <http://members.tripod.com/cavalier44/>> under "News and Views". The column depends completely on input from former Troopers and their friends and family, so don't hesitate to

contact me. A lot of folks outside the 1/9th Cav read our column. If you would like to receive a recent copy of the SABER, please let me know.
Thanks.

Walker Jones
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Harlingen, TX 78550
956-412-1545
RealCav@earthlink.net

Troopers

We have a second new column also starting this issue by Julie Kink. A warm welcome to Julie.

BWS

Julie

I was very honored when Al "D" called me in November and asked me to write a column for the BWS Newsletter, because of my tremendous esteem for the Squadron and my esteem for "D." My first contact with "D" was almost five years ago, March 19, 1998. I know the date because I make note of all my connections with veterans, perhaps because for so many years, I had no connection to them whatsoever. "D" is one of a very special group of people that I call my "new big brothers." I'll attempt to briefly explain this very special relationship. "I've only seen one aviator killed since I've been here," my brother wrote in his last letter home, July 14, 1969. He had been in Vietnam for 3 weeks. "You see, you're never alone on a mission. There's always somebody to protect you and get you out even before you hit the ground."

I know he was trying to reassure Mom, but what I've learned over the years about the history of Charlie Troop tells me that David also was probably trying to reassure himself. A mid-air collision that took the lives of Maj. Tom Felton, the troop commander, and four others, occurred the very day that David wrote. I wonder what he was thinking that day.

"I just don't want you to get upset because if you go down, you're only on the ground for about 3 minutes before they get you out of the area. We have what they call a downed bird alarm in all of the hotches. Whenever a bird goes down every bird here is airborne and en-route to provide assistance in less

than 2 minutes. So you see, there's really nothing to worry about."

A week after he wrote that, David was flying as observer in a light observation helicopter that was brought down by a secondary explosion. The pilot, WO1 John Anderson, and gunner, Sp4 Edward Denuff, were killed. David died 12 days later on August 3. He was 19.

I was seven the day that Mom, Dad and I said goodbye to David at Truax field in Madison, Wisconsin on the way to Vietnam. I have one black and white Polaroid from that day: my mom smiling, heroically grasping two of her kids, me resentful of her hand clamping my shoulder . . . and my brother David, tall and proud in his flight jacket.

A month later, my teenage sister called my oldest brother over to the house one night, and they talked in hushed voices in the dining room about a telegram until Mom got home from work. That night changed my family and my life.

My mom cried and fought hard to get more details from the Army, Dad grieved silently, and my older brother and sister never talked about it. I learned that the Vietnam War was a subject that brought out strong and frightening emotions, a subject better left alone.

So the years went by, and the name "David" came to mean a marker in a cemetery; a patch and some medals; the musty, overseas smell I'll never forget, associated forever with the strange words, "personal effects"; a box of military letters and papers; and a few photos. Each time I stared into the face in those photos, I tried so hard to remember the tone of his voice, how long his fingers were, how his jacket felt. But I couldn't.

For years, I wondered what it would be like to be 19 and flying a helicopter, 19 and fighting a war, 19 and dying. No one talked about David, and most of my best friends never knew I lost a brother in Vietnam. I wanted desperately to find out more about him. I just didn't know how.

Finally in 1993, I wrote to the President of the United States, asking for help obtaining information. I visited "The Moving Wall" and registered with the "In Touch" program. I spent hours going through the 1st Cavalry Association directory, looking for men who would have served with David. All without success.

At last, after searching for three years for someone who knew David, I was contacted by a buddy of his from flight school who had heard about me through

the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Jon Harris told me about learning to fly, teasing on the bus on the way to the flight line, and the jokes they played on each other. At last I was hearing the stories I never got a chance to hear.

Then, I heard from a man who was with David on his last mission, John Powell. He wrote, "It's difficult to lose friends because the guys in C troop were closer than that. The bonds formed in combat are in many ways stronger than family. The day your brother went down, I was flying Cobra cover and was there until he was recovered. I never knew what happened to him until now."

On August 3, 1997, 28 years to the day after David died, I received my first phone call from Bob Tredway, his troop commander, who had the humbling task of writing my family condolences back in 1969. I've met Luther Russell, who flew to the crash site and helped put David on the medevac. I've met Steve Karas, David's best friend from flight school and Charlie Troop. I've met John Anderson's birth daughter, Jeannie, who never got to meet her dad. And I've found other helicopter veterans who didn't know David but who became my "new big brothers."

There are mothers, and fathers, and sisters just like me, all around us. 58,000 stories waiting to be told.

I've been given many opportunities to help other family members trying to find people who knew their loved one who died in Vietnam. In 1997, I was allowed to join the Vietnam Helicopter Flight Crew Network, and the Family Contacts Committee was formed to help bring family members and friends of helicopter casualties together. As a committee, the 12 of us have helped with more than 300 cases. We draw on the VHPA, VHCMA, internet groups and other resources to find veterans willing to share their memories with the families and friends of the fallen.

A veteran once posed a question that made me think. What do you get out of these connections, going to the reunions, being at the Wall? My answer, always evolving, is that it allows David to grow up. For all those years before I ever knew what a Vietnam helicopter pilot looked like, talked like, felt like, my only reference what movies and the media told me. Now, you - my "new big brothers" - have shown me what David might be like today.

Being with you draws a parallel between then and now, for family members like me. You are the bridge. Please remember that. What you have shared with me, with each other and with family members of our

fallen brothers, will not be forgotten. By your remembering, the good times as well as the bad, you bring a part of our brothers, uncles, sons, husbands, dads back to us. Perhaps the greatest gift we families can give you, in return, is to say, "Welcome Home."

Little Sister,
Julie Kink
KINK100@aol.com
Sister of WO1 David R. Kink, C Troop 1st Squadron
9th Cavalry, 1st Cav. June to July 1969. Killed in
Action 8-3-69
Honorary Life Member Bullwhip Squadron
Honorary Life Member of VHPA
Honorary Member 9th Cavalry Regiment

The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were Treated and Appreciated by their Nation.

George Washington

From The Swamp

I have pulled an article from the Wall Street Journal that goes back to the past. An explanation of sorts, from the other side.

Vietnam Article - Sadly Read by Veterans and others.

In a recent interview published in The Wall Street Journal, former Colonel Bui Tin who served on the general staff of the North Vietnamese Army and received the unconditional surrender of South Vietnam on April 30,1975, confirmed the American Tet 1968 military victory: "Our loses were staggering and a complete surprise. Giap later told me that Tet had been a military defeat, though we had gained the planned political advantages when Johnson agreed to negotiate and did not run for reelection.

The second and third waves in May and September were, in retrospect, mistakes. Our forces in the South were nearly wiped out by all the fighting

in 1968. It took us until 1971 to reestablish our presence, but we had to use North Vietnamese troops as local guerrillas. If the American forces had not begun to withdraw under Nixon in 1969, they could have punished us severely. We suffered badly in 1969 and 1970 as it was."

On strategy: "If Johnson had granted Westmoreland's requests to enter Laos and block the Ho Chi Minh trail, Hanoi could not have won the war. It was the only way we could bring sufficient military power to bear on the fighting in the South.

Building and maintaining the trail was a huge effort involving tens of thousands of soldiers, drivers, repair teams, medical stations, communication units, etc. Our operations were never compromised by attacks on the trail. At times, accurate B-52 strikes would cause real damage, but we put so much in at the top of the trail that enough men and weapons to prolong the war always came out the bottom. If all the bombing had been concentrated at one time, it would have hurt our efforts. But the bombing was expanded in slow stages under Johnson and it didn't worry us. We had plenty of time to prepare alternative routes and facilities. We always had stockpiles of rice ready to feed the people for months if a harvest was damaged. The Soviets bought rice from Thailand for us.

And the left: "Support for the war from our rear was completely secure while the American rear was vulnerable. Every day our leadership would listen to world news over the radio at 9AM to follow the growth of the antiwar movement. Visits to Hanoi by Jane Fonda and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and ministers gave us confidence that we should hold on in the face of battlefield reverses. We were elated when Jane Fonda, wearing a red Vietnamese dress, said at a press conference that she was ashamed of American actions in the war and would struggle along with us ... those people represented the conscience of Americapart of it's war-making capability, and we were turning that power in our favor."

Bui Tin went on to serve as the editor of the People's Daily, the Official newspaper of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Disillusioned with the reality of Vietnamese communism Bui Tin now lives in Paris.

The interview of Bui Tin was conducted by Stephen Young for his article "How North Vietnam Won the War." It was in the Wall Street Journal, August 3, 1995,

We Can, We Will! We Did!!

A.J. Welch
SwampFox

SMOKY

Smokey has done an excellent job of compiling and editing tapes about the Bullwhip Squadron, the 9th 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 go towards the Squadron General Fund.

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 Squadron 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 Squadron Fund).

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

These tapes talk about our heritage and is for the Squadron troopers to see their past and the honor of seeing true Cav Troopers in action.

The latest taping is the FT. HOOD (1st Cav Reunion) VIDEO TAPE. The tape of last years 2000, 1st CAV Division reunion at Fort hood with the Bullwhip Horse presentation to the 1st Cav Div Horse Detachment is ready. Here is what it will have and it's over 2 hours long.

1). COL STOCKTON & CSM KENNEDY speak about how the 1/9 Cav was put together prior to shipping out to Vietnam. Also they explain how the Stetson Hats that we wear today got started and now everyone else that is Cav wears. Plus about how the saddle bags and crossed sabers were started by troopers who were in the unit at that time. Also they talk about the Ia Drang campaign, the hospital battle started by B Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Jack

Oliver, on Nov 1, 65, that 1/9 was involved in. Also the ambush sight that 1/9 was involved, started by C Troop Blues Platoon Leader, CPT Chuck Knowlen. A, B, C Troops were all involved in it together.

2). Presentation of "Bullwhip" Horse to the 1st Cav Div Horse Detachment

3). C Co dedication ceremony for the SGT Gary Lee McKiddy Hall.

4). Flight Surgeon Hal (Doc) Kushner who speaks of his capture by the VC after his chopper crashed.

5). Retreat ceremony for the award of the Air Medal for Valor to six members of the 1/9 CAV.

6). The presentation to the division which our former squadron commander MG James Smith rode "Bullwhip".

7). Also updated the KIA list that runs through 1972. This tape is \$20.

SEND CHECKS TO:

Jerry Schmotolocha
23 Congressional PKWY
Livingston, N.J. 07039
Phone: (973) 535-3926

In order to receive the tape, you must be a member of the Squadron Association. It has the most informative newsletter that explains what's happening with the 1/9 CAV troopers that served in the Vietnam

These tapes are a part of our heritage and Smoky has gone to much effort to compile and edit them. I feel that as fellow troopers, we need to support his efforts.

Much thanks, Smoky.

BWS

"Can the liberties of a nation be secure, when we have removed the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Thomas Jefferson

Legally Speaking

Correcting Your Military Records

In March 2000, the Bronze Star Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Japan), and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation were awarded to Myron Ellis, Sergeant, for his services in the Pacific Theater from 13 July 1944 through 11 November 1945 while assigned to the 123rd Infantry Regiment, Company D, 33rd Infantry Division.

The long-overdue award of these decorations and the correction to the military record were a result of a institution that many veterans or their families and heirs may be unaware of - the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). This Board was established by the Secretary of the Army after World War II when Congress gave the military services broad powers to establish methods to correct military records. The ABCMR allows current and former service members or their families to receive an impartial review of information that is or is not contained in their military records so that an error or injustice may be corrected. This Board is frequently referred to as the soldier's last resort to get his or her official record "fixed."

When an individual identifies an error or injustice in their record and the request is validated by the Board, the record is corrected and any other applicable action is taken. Examples include the award of medals and citations that veterans earned but never received, and the correction of errors in birth dates, service dates, promotions, and military qualifications. This is the situation with many requests. However, not all requests for review are determined to be justified. In these situations, the board cannot provide remedy, however, applicants can be assured that they will receive a fair and impartial review and an explanation of why the request cannot be granted.

For more information about the ABCMR and the application process, please visit their website at <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/abcmr.htm>. The site contains the procedures on applying for a correction and provides the form that must be submitted to obtain a military record review: DD Form 149, "Application for Correction of Military Record." The application form is self-explanatory, but the following additional information and documentation will help ensure that a thorough and timely review will be conducted:

* Include copies of all relevant records such as the Enlisted Record and Report of Separation Form, Separation Qualification Record Form, Discharge Certificate, medical record of injuries/treatment, Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility and Entitlement

* Include copies of articles, telegrams, letters, etc. from the time of action that may support a request, especially when no other records exist.

* Provide references of official and/or unit histories And publications that may provide further description of company actions and personal service. For example, 33rd Infantry Division veterans might include supporting information from " The Golden Cross, A History of the 33d Infantry Division in World War II, 1946" or "A Pictorial History of the 123rd Infantry Regiment," 1946, by Stan W. Carlson.

Other useful works and references include:

* Center of Military History United States Army, by Robert Ross Smith on the War in the Pacific:

* "The Approach to the Philippines" (1984) and "Triumph in the Philippines" (1984)

* "Infantry Regiments of the U.S. Army" (1981) by James A. Sawicki

* "Order of Battle, U.S. Army in WWII" (1984) by Shelby L. Stanton

*"Eagle Against the Sun" (1985) by Ronald H. Spector

Retired Military Almanac – Free Download Now

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EDITOR's NOTE: Downloading the entire handbook may take several minutes. The file is 3,033KB. This handbook may be viewed by using Adobe Acrobat Reader. (You may get your free copy of Acrobat Reader on the same website page).

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Email; editor@militaryhandbooks.com

VA Would Handle Veterans Employment

The following article is provided courtesy of Armed Forces News. To sign up for a free subscription, visit the [Armed Forces News Website](#).

The White House has asked Congress to authorize a new, comprehensive employment program for veterans that would consolidate federal job-search efforts for former service members within the Department of Veterans Affairs. "Employment is the only major program in the continuum of service for which VA does not have responsibility," said VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi. "Just as education, home loans, insurance and health care for veterans are entrusted to VA, so should employment." If approved by Congress, the new program, called the Veterans Employment, Business Opportunity and Training (VEBOT) program, would begin in 2003. Highlights: a system for state governors or public or private organizations to receive grants to provide employment programs for veterans; transfer to the VA of the current functions of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment and Training; and a shift of the transition assistance program and the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project from the Labor Department to the VA.

Prisoner Of War Compensation Bill Introduced

Idaho Chairman of the House Veterans Benefits Subcommittee Congressman Mike Simpson has authored legislation to increase the compensation of POWs. H.R. 5235, the Former Prisoners of War Special Compensation Act of 2002 establishes a three-tiered special monthly pension. In the past the Department of Defense has offered some compensation to POWs but it was not levied across the board. Simpson's bill would create a new compensation system delivered through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under Simpson's legislation, POWs detained 30 to 120 days would receive \$150 per month, those detained 121 to 540 days would receive \$300 per month, and those detained for 540 or more days would receive \$450 per month. Currently there are an estimated 42,781 living American ex-POWS. More than 39,700 are World War II survivors, 2,400 from the Korea War, 601 are from the Vietnam War, one from Somalia and three from Kosovo. Approximately 10 former American POWs die each day.

Online Job Listing An ID Theft Scam

Background check' used to steal full slate of personal info. Those who responded to a job listing for a marketing manager position were asked to fill out this form. The data was actually stolen by an ID thief.

It was just the job lead Jim needed: a marketing manager position with Arthur Gallagher, a leading international insurance broker. And only days after Jim responded to the job posting on Monster.com, a human resources director sent along a promising e-mail. We're interested in you, the note said. The salary is negotiable, the clients big. In fact, the clients are so valuable and sensitive that you'll have to submit to a background check as part of the interview process. Eager for work, Jim complied — and sent off just about every key to his digital identity, including his age, height, weight, Social Security number, bank account numbers, even his mother's maiden name.

IT WAS ALL JUST an elaborate identity theft scam designed to prey on the most vulnerable potential victims — the increasing ranks of the unemployed.

Job seekers don't have a lot of leverage when they are asked to jump through hoops by prospective employers — not now, anyway, with unemployment continuing to rise at a menacingly slow, steady rate. October saw the highest rate of job cuts since January, and the national unemployment rate now sits at 5.7 percent.

Online job classifieds seem the like the perfect antidote for those in the job market, like Jim, who began his search in August after he learned his company is involved in a big-ticket merger, with layoffs likely.

So Jim didn't really consider rejecting a request for a background check from William T. Levinski, who identified himself as Arthur Gallagher's human resource director. After all, Arthur Gallagher is a billion-dollar-a-year insurance firm with locations in eight countries.

"I'm sure they have a lot of sensitive client information, so it made sense," he said. Plus, it was a great opportunity. Jim, who requested his identity be withheld for this story, filled out the extensive background check form.

SINISTER SCAM

The scam is thorough, and sinister. The form Jim showed MSNBC.com even asked applicants to supply a four-digit number that would act as a password, promising access to a special Web site full of potential company projects. The request sounds innocent enough, but it's clearly designed to take advantage of the fact that most people use the same passwords for all their personal accounts, so any 4-digit number supplied by an applicant would likely double as the PIN attached to their debit card.

Jim is no fool: He was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, and has nearly 20 years of management experience. But it all happened so fast. He responded to the Monster.com job listing the weekend of Oct. 12. By Monday, he'd received the alleged response from Arthur Gallagher. Levinski's note suggested urgency, music to any job-seeker's ears.

"The position will start in 3 weeks," the letter read, so please start the background check process immediately. "They usually take a few days to get them done, so if you could get it done by Wednesday I would appreciate it."

Naturally, Jim submitted the form almost immediately. But by Wednesday, he hadn't heard anything, so he called Levinski and left a message. The call was a bit unnerving; Levinski's voice-mail

message was bare-boned and impersonal: "Leave a message and I'll call you back."

A day later, the phone line had been disconnected and the job listing on Monster.com had been withdrawn. So Jim called Arthur Gallagher headquarters. No one with the name Levinski works here, he was told. Finally, a sympathetic human resources employee told Jim that the job posting was a fraud.

"IT'S ALL OUT THERE NOW"

"I feel so stupid," he said. "I spent the rest of the afternoon canceling all my credit cards and setting up fraud watches with the credit bureaus. ... I'm checking my account balances every day.

"But it's all out there now. They've got everything, down to my height and weight. I'm just telling you about it so no one else falls for this."

It's not clear how many victims there are, but Jim is not the only one. An employee at Arthur Gallagher told Jim that the firm had gotten a number of calls from other victims who were also looking for Levinski. The company did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

And in a note to Jim, Monster.com said it was "currently working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in several jurisdictions and several state law enforcement authorities which are investigating certain parties who have placed fraudulent job postings on the Monster Job Database."

Company spokesman Kevin Mullins wouldn't comment on the incident or the investigation, saying only that incidents of fraud are "very, very infrequent" on the site. He said the firm quickly removes suspicious job postings when it receives complaints from users.

"Protecting job seekers is a top priority for us and we devote resources to that," he said.

But Jim complained that he didn't receive any warning from Monster.com when it removed the job listing.

"They withdrew the listing because they knew there was a problem, but they didn't notify me," he said. "When I talked to them, I said 'I think you have a responsibility to do a little better checking on the people (who post jobs),' but their response was that their terms of service say 'We're not responsible.' "

DON'T GIVE OUT SSN

On the "frequently asked questions" section of its Web site, Monster.com does warn users not to "give your Social Security number to any prospective employer even if they suggest that it is for a "routine

background check.” The same section also advises users not to give out credit card numbers or bank account numbers. “Monster’s Terms of Use prohibit job postings which require job seekers to pay any funds prior to employment,” the note says. But the advice is listed on a page with nearly 50 other questions and answers, and Jim didn’t get the warning until it was too late.

This is not the first time that the privacy perils of online job-seeking have been exposed. Putting a resume online can expose critical personal data such as former employers, date of birth, even Social Security numbers. Experts recommend leaving personal information off a resume that’s posted online — even omitting detailed work history — to protect against identity thieves who use resume Web sites to mine data.

Monster.com is the 800-pound gorilla of the online classified business, claiming a database of 17 million resumes and a promising list of 800,000 jobs. But that means it’s also the subject of additional scrutiny. A year ago, the Privacy Foundation issued a report critical of Monster.com’s privacy practices. The report, written by Pam Dixon, indicated Monster.com had considered selling its vast reams of private data to marketers and stored resume information even after job seekers removed their listings. The company rejected both claims and vowed it would never sell customer data to marketers.

SPOTTING THE SCAM

Like many online scams, bad spelling, grammar mistakes, and awkward sentence structures are often a tip that something is amiss. The note Jim received is fairly well crafted, but there are several sentences with missing words, and in some cases, the name “Arthur Gallagher” is misspelled. The scam artists also requested communication at a private e-mail address, rthurgalagherhrdir@safe-mail.net — outside of company e-mail. A real human resources employee would never do that. In retrospect, Jim realized that the area code for the fax number where he sent his background check information actually pointed to a Las Vegas location, contradicting the address atop the form, which suggested a Washington D.C. address. That should have raised red flags.

TEXT OF THE SCAM LETTER:

Thank you for applying for the Marketing Manager position with Arthur Galagher.

I just had a chance to review your resume and am going to send your application through for hiring. If you are not interested in the job please let me know

no later than Wednesday so I can look at other candidates.

The position will start in 3 weeks, and pay is negotiable so you will need to start thinking about your salary requirements so we can discuss them later this week. I would like to give you a call, what’s the best time to reach you and at what number? You can email me at my personal account, which is arthurgalagherhrdir@safe-mail.net. My office line is 1-310-388-5791.

The position will require a background check because of the nature of the high level of security that we have with several of our clients. I am attaching the form in this email. Just open it up, fill it out, and fax it back to 1-775-923-7229, that’s a secured fax line to the company that handles all the screening. They usually take a few days to get them done, so if you could get it done by Wednesday I would appreciate it. Email me when you’re through, and we can go from there.

The payment code, which goes on, the application is: 2545-2251-3629-8907. If you don’t put that on there they wont process it, or maybe they will get in touch with you and try to get you to pay for the screening, so make sure you don’t forget to put the payment info on there so they can bill us for it.

I will need to also set up an in person interview with you, and would like to get it done by Friday. Are there any days that don’t/ won’t work for you? If there are any problems email them to me, and either me or my assistant, Hanna Andrews will get back with you.

I look forward to meeting you and I will talk to you early next week.

Sincerely,

*William T. Levinski
Human Resources Director
Arthur Galagher Insurance*

PS. I am going to set up an account for you on our secure server so you can access our site and projects. Email me a four digit (have to be numbers no letters) so I can set it as your pass code. Your username will be your first middle and last name. You can change it once I set the account up. Email that to me as well if you would. Thanks again and have a great week.

Identity Theft

A corporate attorney sent the following out to the employees in his company. I pass it along, for your information.

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box use your work address. Never have your SS# printed on your checks -- you can add it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief(s) ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know:

We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important: (I never even thought to do this)

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit.

By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are:

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742

Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line):
1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes; we pass along just about everything. Do think about passing this information along. It could really help someone you care about.

Possible Changes To Law Protecting Former Military Spouses

The Department of Defense has sent a report to Congress with several recommended amendments to the controversial Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act. Veterans and former-spouse advocacy groups have battled for years over the 1982 law. As part of the fiscal year 1998 Defense Authorization Act, Congress directed the DoD to study the issue and make recommendations. One major change that veterans groups have sought is for divorce courts to compute payments to the former spouse based on the date of separation or divorce rather than retirement. The DoD has recommended Congress amend the law appropriately. Another DOD change would end the so-called 10/10/10 rule that governs when the Defense Finance and Accounting Service pays former spouses their portion of retired pay directly. Direct payments are allowed if the member served at least 10 years, the marriage lasted at least 10 years and 10 years of the marriage coincided with the member's service on active duty.

The DOD report recommends former spouses receive direct payments from DFAS whenever they're awarded any portion of retired pay. Among other things, ending the rule would help ensure that income tax reporting is done correctly.

On Oct. 3, 1789, from the capital of New York City, President George Washington issued the first Proclamation of a National Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer. There was reason to rejoice as just one week earlier, the first session of the United States Congress approved the first Ten Amendments, better known as the Bill of Rights, thereby limiting the power and scope of the federal government. Washington wrote: *"Now, therefore, I do recommend ... the People of these United States to the service of the great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be."*

Military News Report

1. 2003 Retired Military Personnel Handbook

Dear Armed Forces News Reader:

For 2003, The Retired Military Personnel Handbook has been COMPLETELY REVISED AND EXPANDED AND IS STILL ONLY \$9.95!

The Retired Military Personnel Handbook is now in its fourth year and has been distributed to military installations and federal government agencies all over the world! It is specifically written for all military personnel and retirees and their families and is designed to guide you through every aspect of your retirement, explaining what benefits you may qualify for and how to get them, as well as providing a context for making many of the important decisions that lie ahead. Here's a look at just some of what's NEW in the 2003 edition:

* TRICARE Plus program-A complete, down-to-earth explanation of the eligibility requirements and the covered benefits.

* Federal LTC Insurance program-Contains the eligibility, benefit choices, and premium considerations, including how the program differs for active employees versus retirees, tax considerations and other aspects of the program.

* Tax Policies-The latest information affecting your retirement accounts, estate tax treatment and long-term care premiums.

* New Retirement Lifestyle Information-Including how to evaluate continuing care communities and nursing homes.

* Incapacity Planning-New important information on protecting your heirs.

* Pay and Benefit Policies-The latest on COLAs, health and life insurance, Medicare and Social Security, Veterans Affairs and Defense Department programs, and a look at key legislative initiatives affecting retirees.

* Important Points of Contacts-Just updated points of contact, benefit rates, addresses, tax treatment of annuities, status of important legislation and other vital material.

* The new SGLI family coverage option-What it will cost you and what it will provide.

* Survivor Benefits-The latest information on survivor benefit policies and rates

* Moving in Retirement-Special considerations for those moving in retirement.

COMPLETELY REVISED INFORMATION ON.

* Retired pay and benefits-how the latest changes affect you and your family.

* Disability retirement-qualifying, compensation, implications.

* Medicare and Social Security benefits-eligibility and requirements.

* Re-employment with the Government-the veterans' advantage.

* Financial planning-maximizing your military retirement income.

* Taxes in retirement-minimizing your tax burden.

* A plain-English explanation of TRICARE for Life-what it does and doesn't cover, eligibility rules and how to make in prescription drug policies.

* The new Senior Pharmacy Program-who is eligible, and how you can use it to save money on your prescription drugs.

* Tricare dental benefits-what's covered and what's not.

* VA health benefits-eligibility and facilities.

* Survivor benefits-spouses and family members, divorce.

* VA retirement compensation-types and how much Life insurance-USGLI, VSLI and other Government plans.

* Other VA programs-assistance with loans, income, education, etc. And much, much more!

"The 2003 Retired Military Personnel Handbook gives you the absolute latest information available on your military retirement and is a perfect tool to be used as a reference guide whether you are just nearing retirement or are already retired."

The 2003 Retired Military Personnel Handbook is only \$9.95 (plus \$3.75 s&h) and you can place your order online at

<http://www.fedweek.com/Publications/default.asp> under our Military Interests section. You may also call our 24 hour toll-free order line at (888) 333-9335 and place your order or send your order with payment (\$13.70) to: FEDweek, PO Box 5519, Glen Allen, VA 23058.

2. Army Stop-Loss Freezes Mobilized Reservists

A new Army stop-loss measure will keep all mobilized Reserve and National Guard soldiers in the Army until at least 90 days after their unit demobilizes. This will keep mobilized reservists from leaving their unit and the Army in the middle of a mission, said program officials. The measure takes effect the day their units are alerted for mobilization. Mobilized reservists affected by previous stop-loss announcements must remain in the Army in a Ready-Reserve status for 90 days after their unit demobilizes or for one year after their skill was identified as critical by a Stop-Loss message, whichever is later.

Stop-Loss does not impact involuntary separations or mandatory retirements. Implementing instructions are in Military Personnel messages 03-040 and 03-041.

3. Federal Protections Extended to State Guard

The Veterans Benefits Act of 2002 has extended protections of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Relief Act to certain national guardsmen who are called to active duty but remain under state authority. The provisions, which include legal measures such as limitations on interest rates, will kick in for those who are activated for more than 30 consecutive days in national emergencies.

4. Some Emergency Leaves Becoming Freebies

Congress has directed the Defense Department to establish procedures authorizing service members with personal emergencies or hardships up to 14 days of emergency leave if they use up their regular leave days. Members may get the free emergency leave only once and only to keep from entering into unearned- or excess-leave status. Each service is

expected to put procedures in place sometime next year.

5. Federal Long Term Care Insurance Update

As of last month the Office of Personnel and Management had received 104,000 applications for the new Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program during its first open season. FLTCIP is available to qualifying service members, military retirees, federal employees, federal annuitants, their immediate spouses and survivors, and certain other family members. Current federal employees, active duty service members, drilling reservists, and their spouses, merit abbreviated underwriting, which entails answering only seven questions about their health or nine about their spouses' health. After the open season closes on Jan. 1, they will face the 40 or more health questions that retirees and their spouses undergo. According to an OPM spokesman, 23 percent of the 104,000 applications received were from military retirees or their families, whereas only 1.5 percent were from active duty members or their spouses. For more information, visit <http://www.ltcfeds.com> or call 1-800-LTC-FEDS.

6. SBP Election

Retirees should note that changing an SBP election does not automatically change beneficiary information for arrears of pay [AOP]. The arrears of pay are any unpaid monies due the retiree up to the date of death. Complete a Change of Beneficiary form to update your AOP beneficiary(ies). You may request these forms by contacting the Retired and Annuity Pay Contact Center at the phone number listed above.[Source: Air Force Retiree News 10 DEC 02]

7. VALUABLE DISCOUNTS AND COUPONS FOR ALL MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Militarylifestyle.com was created exclusively for America's military men and women-active duty and retired, Reserve and Guard, and their families. They publish the latest military news, original articles, what's on sale at commissaries and exchanges, valuable coupons, special offers, and resource information just for you. This service is FREE to all military members and their families. To register FREE, go to <http://www.militarylifestyle.com>.

8. Congress Nixes Abayas

A measure in the fiscal 2003 defense authorization act prohibits commanders or others in positions of military authority to "require or encourage" any U.S. service member "to wear the abaya garment or any

part of the abaya garment while the member is in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia." Further, the act requires commanders to give oral and written instructions to all service members within 48 hours of their arrival in Saudi Arabia, to include reading the full text of the provision. This ends policies that began in the early '90s when servicewomen stationed in Saudi Arabia were first ordered to wear the Muslim religious garb off base, and later were "highly encouraged" to wear the black head-to-toe robe. The provision became effective when the President signed the bill into law this month.

9. Army Tightens Tattoo Regs

Army Regulation 670-1 now forbids tattoos or brands that can be seen when wearing the Army green Class A uniform with slacks or trousers. This is a change from the previous policy, which prohibited tattoos on the face, neck or head, but not on the hands. Recruits who enlisted prior to July 2, 2002, may keep hand tattoos, except that tattoos on any part of the body that are extremist, indecent, sexist or racist are barred.

Don Mace

Publisher, Armed Forces News

10. Veterans Benefit Bill S.2237: The Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 2002, will:

- * Continue VA health insurance coverage for eligible surviving spouses who remarry after attaining age 55
- * Establish a presumption of service-connection for hearing loss associated with certain military skills (to be determined by the VA in consultation with the National Academy of Sciences) and authorize compensation for servicemembers who have a rated hearing loss in both ears.
- * Clarify the entitlement to special monthly compensation for female veterans who have service-connected mastectomies.
- * Increase the Medal of Honor stipend from \$600 to \$1000 per month, authorize an annual adjustment to the stipend, and authorize a lump-sum payment of the stipend retroactive to the date of the act of valor.
- * Authorize economic protections for National Guard servicemembers under the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act when called by a governor to state active duty (Title 32) in support of a federal national emergency.
- * Permit the construction of a privately funded memorial to the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge at Arlington National Cemetery.
- * Allow the VA to offer adjustable rate home loans to veterans.

11. VA Franchise Program [VetFran]

Owning a franchise operation is now more affordable for veterans, thanks to a program recently announced by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. The Veterans Transition Franchise Initiative, commonly known as "VetFran," allows veterans to acquire a franchise with a down payment of 10 percent or less of the initial franchise cost, which generally ranges from \$45,000 to \$150,000 for a small business. Franchising companies absorb the difference.

International Franchise Association (IFA), the program's sponsor, first introduced VetFran in the early 1990s as a way for franchisers to express gratitude to military members for their service during the Gulf War. In the last several years, the program had all but been forgotten. The current war against terrorism has rekindled interest in extending franchise opportunities to military veterans. A Hawaii veteran recently became the first to acquire a franchise under the revitalized VetFran program, obtaining a franchise for Expectec Technology Services, a technology supplier headquartered in Garden Grove, Calif. He paid \$40,000 instead of the \$60,000 he would have paid without VetFran.

Currently, VetFran is limited to franchises with initial investments up to \$150,000, the maximum loan amount on which the SBA offers 85 percent loan guarantees. So far, nearly 75 franchisers are participating. VetFran may expand later to include franchises costing over \$150,000, for which the SBA offers 75 percent loan guarantees. Additional information is available on VA's Web page at <<http://www.vetbiz.gov/>>.

12. Area Code 809 Scam

DON'T EVER DIAL AREA CODE 809. This one is being distributed all over the US! . This is pretty scary, especially given the way they try to get you to call. Be sure you read this and pass it on to all your friends and family so they don't get scammed! MAJOR SCAM: Don't respond to Emails, phone calls, or web pages which tell you to call an "809" Phone Number. This is a very important issue of Scam Busters because it alerts you to a scam that is spreading *extremely* quickly can easily cost you \$2400 or more, and is difficult to avoid unless you are aware of it. We'd like to thank Verizon for bringing this scam to our attention. This scam has also been identified by the National Fraud Information Center and is costing victims a lots of

money. There are lots of different permutations of this scam.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: You will receive a message on your answering machine or your pager, which asks you to call a number beginning with area code 809. The reason you're asked to call varies. It can be to receive information about a family member who has been ill, to tell you someone has been arrested, died, to let you know you have won a wonderful prize, etc. In each case, you are told to call the 809 number right away. Since there are so many new area codes these days, people unknowingly return these calls.

If you call from the US, you will apparently be charged \$2425 per-minute. Or, you'll get a long recorded message. The point is, they will try to keep you on the phone as long as possible to increase the charges. Unfortunately, when you get your phone bill, you'll often be charged more than \$24,100.00.

WHY IT WORKS: The 809 area code is located in the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. The 809 area code can be used as a "pay-per-call" number, similar to 900 numbers in the US. Since 809 is not in the US, it is not covered by U.S. regulations of 900 numbers, which require that you be notified and warned of charges and rates involved when you call a "pay-per-call" number.

There is also no requirement that the company provide a time period during which you may terminate the call without being charged. Further, whereas many U.S. homes that have 900 number blocking to avoid these kinds of charges, do not work in preventing calls to the 809 area code. We recommend that no matter how you get the message, if you are asked to call a number with an 809 area code that you don't recognize just disregard the message. Be wary of email or calls asking you to call an 809 area code

number. It's important to prevent becoming a victim of this scam, since trying to fight the charges afterwards can become a real nightmare. That's because you did actually make the call. If you complain, both your local phone company and your long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing the billing for the foreign company. You'll end up dealing with a foreign company that argues they have done nothing wrong. !

Sandi Van Handel
AT&T Field Service Manager
(920) 687-904

"The right of a nation to kill a tyrant in case of necessity can no more be doubted than to hang a robber, or kill a flea."

John Adams

Health

1. Conditions Not Related to Herbicide Exposure

From time to time, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs gets reports from the National Academy of Sciences on current research as to what conditions may or may not be related to herbicide exposure. In the latest report, published in the Federal Register on June 24, 2002, the findings include only a list of conditions that do not show a relationship between exposure and incurrence. They are:

- * Hepatobiliary (liver duct) cancer
- * Nasal and nasopharyngeal cancer
- * Bone cancer
- * Breast cancer
- * Cancers of the female reproductive system
- * Urinary bladder cancer
- * Renal cancer
- * Testicular cancer
- * Leukemia
- * Reproductive effects (sperm cell counts and form)
- * Parkinson's disease
- * Chronic, persistent neuropathy
- * Lipid and lipoprotein disorders
- * Gastrointestinal and digestive disease (except type 2 diabetes)
- * Immune system disorders
- * Circulatory disorders
- * Respiratory disorders (other than certain respiratory cancers)
- * Skin cancers
- * Cognitive and neuropsychiatric effects
- * Gastrointestinal tract tumors
- * Brain tumors
- * Amyloidosis (bone marrow disease)

This does not mean that these conditions cannot be service connected secondary to herbicide exposure, it just means that there is no presumption under VA law. However, you will need very strong medical evidence to overcome the VA's decision that these conditions are not related to herbicide exposure.

JOHN SOLDIVIERI

Tim Ivers

Director, B&A

FDVA Service

2. Lasik Eye Surgery Is Acceptable To The FAA

The FAA currently accepts lasik, photorefractive keratectomy (PRK), or radial keratotomy (RK) for all classes of medical certification. Following the procedure, when the treating physician is satisfied that visual acuity has stabilized and there are no other post-operative symptoms, the FAA requests that the pilot submit a brief report from the ophthalmologist to the Aeromedical Certification Division in Oklahoma City. No other action is required until the time of the next scheduled FAA physical examination, when a completed report of eye evaluation, FAA Form 8500-7, should be submitted with the medical application. If the visual acuity meets the standard for the class of medical applied for and there are no significant persistent complications (glare and compromised night vision), the aviation medical examiner may issue the certificate at the time of examination.

3. Combat Disabled Special Payments Update

The fiscal '03 defense act established special payments to begin on June 1 for certain combat and combat-related disabled veterans. In preparation, representatives from The Military Coalition, the National Association for Uniformed Services and the National Military Veterans Alliance have met with pay officials from the Defense Department. During the meeting, representatives presented issues for DoD to include in planning for the program. All agreed that many details must be worked out to ensure that payments are consistent between the services and for members who have retired.

4. Concurrent Receipt Update

President Bush signed the \$391 billion FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act into law December 2nd, which included a new compensation benefit for certain 20-year retirees with combat-related disabilities. DoD is responsible for determining details on eligibility and the new benefit will become effective in six months. Disabled military retirees wounded in combat and awarded the Purple Heart will receive the new special pay if disabilities from the wounds are rated 10 percent or higher. Amounts will match retired pay being forfeited under the concurrent receipt law for disability compensation tied to their war wounds. In other words, if you are 60 percent

disabled, but only 10 percent of your disability can be attributed to a combat injury for which you received a Purple Heart, you will receive compensation for that 10 percent

disability. Retirees will also be eligible if they have other "combat-related disability" ratings of 60 percent or higher. Qualifying disabilities might result from four sources:

Direct combat including a war, expedition, occupation of an area or territory, battle, skirmish, raid, invasion, rebellion, insurrection, guerrilla action, riot or any other action in which service members are engaged with a hostile or belligerent nation, faction, force, or terrorist group.

Hazardous duties including, but not limited to, aerial flight duty, parachute duty, demolition duty, experimental stress duty, and diving duty.

Combat-related training such as airborne operations, war games, hand-to-hand combat training or injuries on obstacle courses. Disabilities from normal training like jogging, calisthenics or supervised sports would not qualify.

"An instrumentality of war" such as accidental gunfire, exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange, accidents in military vehicles, Gulf War Syndrome or accidental falls aboard ship if the operation of the ship, not

the service member, was responsible for the fall. DoD provides the example that an injury resulting from a fall on the deck of a ship while participating in sports would not normally be covered, since the sport activity, not the ship, caused the fall.

5. How to File Tricare Hospital Claims

When your in the hospital you get two kinds of bills. One is the bill for things the hospital provides. These include room and board, special diets, nursing services, gases, fluids, use of operating room, laboratory, X-ray services and the like. You also get bills from the individual professional providers such as your attending doctor, the radiologist who reads the X-rays, the pathologist who examined the laboratory specimens the hospital collected, and the surgeon. It's easy to confuse all this and refer to it all as your hospital bill. But they are two distinct types of billings. For Tricare, they must be filed separately and are paid differently.

You need to tell the hospital upon admission that you have Tricare as your secondary payer assuming you have other health insurance [OHI] or are enrolled in TFL. When the hospital files a claim for its services, it will file first with your commercial insurer

[OHI] and/or Medicare. After that insurer pays its share, the hospital will file a claim with Tricare for the balance. Either you or the doctor must file a claim for each doctor's services. File first with your commercial plan [OTH] if it pays on doctor's bills. After that claim is processed and you receive an Explanation of Benefits [EOB] (payment statement) you may file exactly the same bills for that medical care provider with Tricare.

You must complete a Tricare claim Form 2642, which can be downloaded from the Tricare web site www.tricare.osd.mil/claimforms. Attach copies of exactly the same bills that were sent to your OHI and a copy of their EOB showing its processing of those bills. You must file a separate claim for each doctor with your OHI and a separate claim for each doctor with Tricare. If a doctor sends you more than one bill, you may file several bills for that doctor on one claim form. If you have no OHI or it does not pay for doctor's bills you may file your doctor's bills directly with Tricare. Be sure to indicate on the claim form under the OHI section in red marker that your OHI does not pay for doctor's bills if applicable. If still denied and you must refile, try attaching to each claim form a copy of the cover page and the page from the OHI benefit booklet showing it does not cover doctor's bills.

File first with Tricare if you have a Tricare supplemental policy. Upon receipt of your EOB from Tricare submit it along with copies of all Tricare covered bills to your Tricare supplemental carrier. [Source: Navy Times 25 NOV 02]

6. Medical Notice of Ephedra Risks

Air Force Print News reports that the Air Force's surgeon general has issued a notice to airmen on the potential risks associated with dietary supplements that contain ephedra, following the death of a young Air Force member in early November. "What we know is that this young man took dietary supplements, including ephedra," said Royal Air Force Wing Commander (Dr.) Victor Wallace, of the aerospace medicine division at the Air Force Medical Operations Agency. "Although there was insufficient evidence to be causal, the changes seen in this young man's cardiovascular system can be associated with ephedra use."

Air Force Surgeon General officials have repeatedly "strongly advised" people to contact their physicians or health-care providers before taking dietary supplements containing ma huang, ephedra or ephedra alkaloids. "Consultation is especially

necessary if an individual has pre-existing medical problems, is taking other medications or exercises vigorously as part of (his or her) occupation or fitness program," Wallace said. Such supplements, which include so-called energy boosters, over-the-counter diet pills and bodybuilding drinks or mixes, may pose health and occupational risks even for those not taking other prescribed drugs, Wallace said. Today, at least 20 states and the National Football League are among those who have banned or restricted use of ephedrine products.

7. TRICARE Adding Safeguards To Protect Patients' Medical Privacy

Stars and Stripes reports that health care records for service members now are becoming privileged information. On April 13, TRICARE, the U.S. military's health insurance program, will implement a new set of safeguards that ensures patients' right to medical privacy. Confidentiality release forms are to arrive soon in TRICARE beneficiaries' mailboxes. The new safeguards are part of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, legislation passed in 1996. The privacy initiative establishes patients' rights to obtain copies of their medical records, file a grievance about when unauthorized information might have been released and seek changes to their health care documentation. Insurers and lawyers will be unable to view a patient's records unless that patient grants permission. If a patient's doctor brings in another doctor to consult, however, that patient's records may be shared without his or her knowledge.

8. DEERS Disenrollment

If a military sponsor's family member's eligibility has not been individually verified within the last 4 years (normally in conjunction with ID card renewal), that family member is disenrolled and is no longer eligible for TRICARE health and pharmacy benefits. The military sponsor is responsible for disenrolling his or her family members from DEERS when they are no longer eligible for TRICARE (because of the marriage of a minor child, divorce of a spouse who is not eligible for continued TRICARE benefits, enlistment of a child in the military, etc.). TRICARE contractors check DEERS before processing claims to make sure patients are eligible for TRICARE benefits. A claim may be paid in error because there was no record in DEERS of a divorce, death, or dropping/declining Medicare Part B. For claims paid by mistake, the government is required by law to retrieve the money from the person to whom it was incorrectly paid regardless of who was responsible

for the mistake. Improperly receiving care may also be considered fraud. [Source: THEMS Newsletter NOV 02]

9. **Tricare National Mail Order Pharmacy Program**

Express Scripts, Inc. has been contracted by DoD to replace Medco Health Managed Care in servicing the Tricare National Mail Order Pharmacy Program (NMOP). The shift from one contractor to another will occur on 1 MAR 03. Detailed info and directions will be provided in adequate time for all to adjust to the new contractor. In early January, current users should receive a post card announcing the new services.

Additional details will be sent by Express Scripts in February as to the transfer of prescriptions in progress, etc. A mailing that will include a registration form, a description of benefits and a brochure covering the TRICARE program will follow that. Beneficiaries who have refills remaining on prescriptions on March 1 will be transferred to Express Scripts so they can continue ordering medications on time, with a few exceptions. Narcotics or other controlled substance prescriptions and compounded prescriptions -- those that are physically prepared by the pharmacy cannot be transferred. Medications that requires refrigeration are shipped through priority mail or a courier service, such as FedEx but cannot be sent to APO and FPO addresses overseas. TRICARE beneficiaries living and working overseas can use the mail order pharmacy if they have an APO, FPO or a U.S. Embassy address. However, a provider licensed to practice in the United States must write the prescription.

Those eligible to use the current mail order program or the retail benefit are eligible to use the new TRICARE mail order program. New customers have to register for the program. Information will be provided through the TRICARE service centers, military treatment facilities pharmacy as well as their marketing points of contact. The usual delivery time for medication is five to seven days. The easiest way for patients to ensure they do not run out of their medication is to have the provider write for up to a 90-day supply with up to three refills. The beneficiary can request a refill once 75 percent of the medication has been used which is about day 70. All medication is screened for potential drug interactions or therapeutic overlaps that could produce an adverse drug reaction. Patients' complete beneficiary profiles

are entered into the Pharmacy Data Transition Service, which enhances patient safety by keeping their medication records current, on file and readily available. Patients can fill prescriptions three ways: by direct care at military treatment facilities, or the retail pharmacy network or the mail order program. The direct care system serves the bulk of the beneficiary population. About 2.5 million beneficiaries use the retail pharmacy network because they don't have access to a military facility. Most of the 400,000 beneficiaries who use the mail order program do so for chronic medication or maintenance medication needs. For more information, including a complete section on the co-pay structure, visit the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil. Reservists can check the site for details of their benefits under the program. Beneficiaries can also use the Express Scripts Inc. Web site by clicking on the DoD seal at www.express-scripts.com after the site debuts on Jan. 15, 2003. [Source: American Forces Press Service msg. 12 DEC 02]

10. **Military Treatment Facilities**

Col Chuck Gant brought some information to me about revisions to the way Tricare For Life eligible persons will be received in military treatment facilities(MTF). I posed the question to Col. Moloff, Fort Rucker Hospital commander. Here is what he said.

The contractor who provided civilian contract doctors to the hospital looked closely at his contract and realized that they did not have to treat TFL eligible patients as part of the contract.

As a result they are billing the local MTF for treatment provided. This is an unbudgeted expense. What this means is that the Fort Rucker MTF will still allow TFL patients to see contract doctors but at a much reduced rate. How much the reduction will be is unknown.

We were also told that this is country wide and not something that is only in the local area. Those who do not live in Lower Alabama might want to check if you have been using contract doctors at a local MTF.

“War is an ugly thing but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feelings which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is

more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

John Stuart Mill

Sick Call

Our troopers need our thoughts and concerns through their illness.

Jesse Glance
Blake McIlwain
Gordon Fisher

With Gods help, may you have a full and speedy recovery. Our prayers are with you.

BWS

Note to all. James Conner continues with a very hard medical time and would appreciate a letter or card. You can write him at;

James Conner
1304 15th Av.
Decatur, AL 35601-4321

BWS

1st/9th Bullwhip Squadron Cookbook

By the next 1/9th reunion, October, 2004, we want to put together a great cookbook to have for the reunion.

Between now and May, 2003, I will need each and every one of you troopers or wives/other family members to send me 1-5 of your favorite recipes.

Any category of recipe is fine; I'll catalog and get them into the right chapters. Also, I'd like some little vignettes about "how you spiced up or made edible the sea rations" in a combat area. And, I would like a couple of sentences about the recipe and where you got it, or how it was developed---and another couple of sentences about who is submitting, when you served with 1/9th, what unit, and an interesting note about you.

If you're a wife, please say something about where you were stateside/or elsewhere and what you were doing when he was in Vietnam. Or, if you served before or after Vietnam, give me a little blurb that would be interesting. I'm sure you get the idea.

You can email recipes to me, Liz Zemke, at lzemke@mail.intracorp.com, or can send recipes via snail mail to me at Liz Zemke, 233 E. Portland Ave., Fresno, CA 93720.

We'll highlight some of the incoming recipes in the newsletter and then, hopefully, I'll get this all put together in time for the next reunion.

I think this will be a fun project!

P.S. I'd rather have you send me more than we can use, than less, or nothing----and I'd like to have recipes from all 450 of you. I'd love to see regional, family, special holiday, wild game and fish recipes, recipes for 1-2 or recipes for 100-----

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Liz

Well Troopers, you now have your marching orders! Lets make this one, one to remember.

BWS

Veterans Sound Off

Articles from our members and those who support us. You will note several articles on terrorist problems. If you disagree, sound off.

BWS

At the Veterans Day program Monday, Mayor Bob Bunting made the following remarks. These were printed in the Southern Star, Wednesday, November 13, 2002. They are reprinted here with permission from the Southern Star and Mayor Bunting.

BWS

SOLDIERS ARE SPECIAL

I was recently challenged with the question and statement- what is so special about soldiers and why should we treat them different or give them any kind of special consideration? Having served nearly 30

years in the military with two combat tours, I was in total shock that someone would think such thoughts!

It is a good question, however, and deserves an answer. So why are soldiers special and why should we give special consideration to soldiers serving at Fort Rucker, and living in our community, Ozark, Alabama, the Home of Fort Rucker, or for that matter, soldiers serving anywhere?

I could talk to many reasons-most would be considered by some as self-serving, but to me they are reasons of pure economics – the cliché “It’s the Economy Stupid”. I hope we are all aware that Fort Rucker and soldiers serving there are the engine that drives our city’s economic machine. It is the largest industry of the Wiregrass. For Rucker’s military industrial complex is just not a provider of a few jobs, but several thousand jobs that equates to nearly a billion – not a million – but a billion with a CAPITAL B to our economy. So, very simply put, without those soldiers, there would be no reason for the civilians at Fort Rucker and I would think we would be in a hurt here in Ozark.

Again, why are soldiers special? Yes the dollars they bring here are important to our very survival, but in my heart of hearts, there is one bell that rings. It’s the bell of freedom. The freedom to vote, the freedom to protest, speak and write freely, freedom to travel anywhere in the United States, the freedom to go to court, the freedom to appeal decisions, the right to work, the freedom to worship, and I could go on and on. Our soldiers serve all over the world, they are the first to be placed in harm’s way, they are the first to charge the hill and machine gun nest, and the ones who die for their country so we can live in a nation called America – the home of the free and the land of the brave.

Soldiers are why we are here today – they fought at Valley Forge to place a mark on America’s earth to establish our independence, they reaffirmed their love for country in 1812, brother against brother in 1862, and on the plains of this country as we moved westward expanding this great nation. From Bunker Hill, San Juan Hill, the War to End all Wars, World War II, the Forgotten War, Vietnam, Panama, Haiti, Bosnia, and today – the war against terrorism and its Enduring Freedom – soldiers have left their mark, have left their limbs, their blood and have given their all for us.

We are here today, Veterans Day, because you raised your right hand that you would defend the constitution and that you would give your all, make

the supreme sacrifice if called upon as many right here in this great resting place have given their all. We fly our flag today at half-staff to honor each of you. That flag with its 50 stars and 13 stripes is looked upon by all people of the world as a symbol of power and freedom. So today we are honoring all those who have served and are saying thank you for all that you have given and thank you for answering when your country called upon you to defend America’s freedom. You did it not for self, but for country. That is why soldiers are special.

Well said, Mayor Bunting.

BWS

The following is a speech from the former ACC commander, General Dick Hawley (now retired and not restricted to being politically correct).

For those of you who don't know who General Hawley is, he is a newly retired 4-star general who commanded Air Combat Command. These are good words and true.

BWS

USAF 4 Star Speaks Out

"Since the attack, I have seen, heard, and read thoughts of such surpassing stupidity that they must be addressed. You've heard them too.

Here they are:

1) "We're not good, they're not evil, everything is relative." Listen carefully: We're good, they're evil, nothing is relative. Say it with me now and free yourselves. You see, folks, saying "We're good" doesn't mean, We're perfect." Okay? The only perfect being is the bearded guy on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel.

The plain fact is that our country has, with all our mistakes and blunders, always been and always will be the greatest beacon of freedom, charity, opportunity, and affection in history. If you need proof, open all the borders on Earth and see what happens. In about half a day, the entire world would be a ghost town, and the United States would look like one giant line to see "The Producers.

" 2) "Violence only leads to more violence." This one is so stupid you usually have to be the president of an Ivy League university to say it. Here's the truth, which you know in your heads and hearts already: Ineffective, unfocused violence leads to more

violence. Limp, panicky, half-measures lead to more violence.

However, complete, fully thought-through, professional, well-executed violence never leads to more violence because, you see, afterwards, the other guys are all dead. That's right, dead. Not "on trial," not "reeducated," not "nurtured back into the bosom of love." Dead. D-E --Well, you get the idea.

3) "The CIA and the rest of our intelligence community has failed us." For 25 years we have chained our spies like dogs to a stake in the ground, and now that the house has been robbed, we yell at them for not protecting us.

Starting in the late seventies, under Carter appointee Stansfield Turner, the giant brains who get these giant ideas decided that the best way to gather international intelligence was to use spy satellites. "After all," they reasoned, "you can see a license plate from 200 miles away." This is very helpful if you've been attacked by a license plate. Unfortunately, we were attacked by humans. Finding humans is not possible with satellites. You have to use other humans.

When we bought all our satellites, we fired all our humans, and here's the really stupid part. It takes years, decades to infiltrate new humans into the worst places of the world. You can't just have a guy who looks like Gary Busey in a Spring Break'93 sweatshirt plop himself down in a coffee shop in Kabul and say "Hiya, boys. Gee, I sure would like to meet that bin Laden fella. "Well, you can, but all you'd be doing is giving the bad guys a story they'll be telling for years.

4) "These people are poor and helpless, and that's why they're angry at us." Uh-huh, and Jeffrey Dahmer's frozen head collection was just a desperate cry for help. The terrorists and their backers are richer than Elton John and, ironically, a good deal less annoying. The poor helpless people, you see, are the villagers they tortured and murdered to stay in power.

Mohammed Atta, one of the evil scumbags who steered those planes into the killing grounds (I'm sorry, one of the "alleged hijackers," according to CNN-they stopped using the word "terrorist," you know), is the son of a Cairo surgeon. But you knew this, too.

In the sixties and seventies, all the pinheads marching against the war were upper-middle-class college kids who grabbed any cause they could think of to get out of their final papers and spend more time drinking. At least, that was my excuse. It's the same

today. Take the Anti-Global-Warming (or is it World Trade? Oh-who-knows-what-the-hell-they-want demonstrators) They all charged their black outfits and plane tickets on dad's credit card before driving to the airport in their SUV's.

5) "Any profiling is racial profiling." Who's killing us here, the Norwegians? Just days after the attack, the New York Times had an article saying dozens of extended members of the gazillionaire bin Laden family living in America were afraid of reprisals and left in a huff, never to return to studying at Harvard and using too much Drakkar. I'm crushed. I think we're all crushed. Please come back. With a cherry on top? Why don't they just change their names, anyway? It's happened in the past.

Think about it. How many Adolfs do you run into these days? Shortly after that, I remember watching TV with my jaw on the floor as a government official actually said, "That little old grandmother from Sioux City could be carrying something." Okay, how about this: No, she couldn't. It would never be the grandmother from Sioux City. Is it even possible? What are the odds? Winning a hundred Powerball lotteries in a row? A thousand? A million?

And now a Secret Service guy has been tossed off a plane and we're all supposed to cry about it because he's an Arab? Didn't it have the tiniest bit to do with the fact that he filled out his forms incorrectly - - three times? And then left an Arab history book on his seat as he strolled off the plane? And came back? Armed? Let's please all stop singing "We Are the World" for a minute and think practically. I don't want to be sitting on the floor in the back of a plane four seconds away from hitting Mt. Rushmore and turn, grinning, to the guy next to me to say, "Well, at least we didn't offend them."

SO HERE'S what I resolve for the New Year: Never to forget our murdered brothers and sisters. Never to let the relativists get away with their immoral thinking. After all, no matter what your daughter's political science professor says, we didn't start this. Have you seen that bumper sticker that says, "No More Hiroshimas"? I wish I had one that says, "You First. No More Pearl Harbors."

Dick Hawley

It Is Our Obligation

It is my belief, as it is of many who served in Southeast Asia; that if everyone does not make it back, then there is a little part of each of us left behind. For this reason, I think it is critically important to each one of us, men and women alike, to understand the obligation we all have to those that did not return with us, their families, our families, our country and ourselves.

Many would look at us or hear our stories of war and death and say we need to quit living in the past and get on with our lives, and, you know, they are right! In fact, we have a debt to pay that requires us to live in the present. Yes, maybe our memories do carry us back a way, but these memories also remind us of who we really are, what we are made of, and, most of all, it gives us the ability to do creative things for the benefit of everyone today and the many tomorrows to come.

There's a philosophy that believes that the almost indiscernible impact of a single raindrop in a lake somewhere on this planet inevitably has an impact on the level of the oceans of the world. Let me take you mentally through time for a few moments to show you the meaning that exists within this statement.

Over a thousand years ago in Europe, a small child was playing outside the family hut. Just as he was about to smash a small caterpillar with a rock, his mother calls him to come eat and the caterpillar lived to make a cocoon and later a butterfly. The butterfly is later caught by a mother bird, which carries the butterfly back to her nest to feed her young.

That single butterfly, that spring, was just enough food to keep the small birds from starving. They eventually grew and left the nest. One day they flew over a man that watched as they flew by and began to wonder if a man were to try to duplicate the wings of a bird, might the man be able to fly through the air, as well.

Well, Mr. Leonardo Da Vinci thought about the possibilities watching these little birds swoop and soar in the sky above him and he drew diagrams and built models and later full size "gliding wings." Many years later other men of vision and scientific thought began building, designing and actually flying machines that from, in part, originated with some of Da Vinci's concepts. Later, a man by the name of Igor Sikorsky invented the helicopter, again not too unlike some of Da Vinci's more basic designs.

Well, as time passed there were other ideas of a more political nature forming within different countries that often would breed conflict to the point of war. As one country would strive to overcome other countries militarily, the invention of the airplane, and much later, that of the helicopter took on a whole new meaning. As these weapons of war became perfected and far more sophisticated, there were those, as in our great Country, that were called to serve.

It was in Southeast Asia, that the helicopter came into it's own. First it served as a troop transport. Later a more aggressive concept was developed which involved arming the helicopters and eventually taking them to the level of flying gun platforms. All the while, the need for information involving the movement and location of the enemy became ever more important. The smaller, lighter helicopters seemed to fill this need very well.

Those that were trained to fly the various types of helicopters during these conflicts were known as Combat Helicopter Pilots, just like you and me. Stop, though, and think with me for just a moment. What might have been the case if that little boy's mother over in Europe had called him to eat just one second later? He would have smashed that caterpillar and the little birds not getting that food would have died. Later, when Mr. Da Vinci looked up in the sky and did not see those birds flying high overhead, he may have walked back into his house and painted Mona Lisa's twin sister, instead of thinking up designs that would allow men years later to invent and perfect actual aircraft that would fly.

Maybe countries would still be sending their young men and women to war, but on the ground and at sea, but not in the air unless it would have been in balloons. So, there would not have been a need for that expertise that you and I, and so many others, learned and developed to such a well-defined skill that we could become part of that unusual breed known as helicopter pilots, and all because a small boy killed a caterpillar over a thousand years ago.

Yes, I know you think this idea is really out in left field, but truly, it's not that far-fetched. We know that the thoughts and actions of everyone carry an equal and reflective action be it in a personal relationship, a community action, or an international incident.

If each of us has the opportunity to create one positive action a day that aids someone else, no matter how seemingly trivial or small that action may appear to be, it will have a positive effect on another's

life and will, in fact, start a chain reaction in usually a positive direction that will effect many others, as well. As an example, and this actually occurred, a friend's wife had been given an inspirational book some years ago. When her husband lost his job, she gave him a copy to read.

When he heard I had lost my job a couple of years later, he sent me a copy to read. I liked it so much, that I gave a copy to my wife's cousin. He, in turn, let his wife read it as well. She liked it so much, she gave a copy to her sister who stuck it in a drawer by her bed and never opened it. Several months went by and the sister's husband walked out on her. Being hurt and distraught she reached into the drawer next to her bed for some sleeping pills that she had planned to take her own life with. Fortunately, her hand fell upon the book rather than the pill bottle and something caused her to dry her tears and open the book. She read the entire book that night and never opened the pill bottle.

So someone giving a friend's wife a copy of a book she thought was inspirational and helpful to her, eventually saved the life of a woman that she will never even meet or get to know. That's, actually, not the important part of this story. The importance lies in the fact that this particular book was written by two anonymous women in England in the early 1800's. It had to be read by so many people and passed from one to another to cover at least two continents, well over one hundred years, and an untold number of people before it saved this one woman's life.

What would have occurred if any of the events hadn't happened? It may still have taken place but through different channels. Once a positive or a negative action occurs it seeks the path of least resistance, but it seldom stops before all that can be accomplished is accomplished.

So, our obligation to those who didn't return with us "to the world," is to do not only the good we would have done anyway, but do a little extra for our comrade-in-arms that didn't make it. Maybe, somehow, this will help his family, either now or down the road and just maybe yours and my grandchildren won't have to do what you and I had to do to keep freedom free!

Finally, the past is only useful and productive when kept in a perspective that will enable us to create peace, prosperity and a greater good for everyone tomorrow. May God Bless us all!

Edd Hogeboom, CAV 16

C Troop, 1st of the 9th, Air Cav
RVN 69-70

Our D Troop

The Red Patrol

For a unit that was best known for it's road patrols and convoy security escort duties D troop, like it's sisters troops, A, B, and C Troops, had accumulated several awards that included a Presidential Unit Citation by the 1st Platoon, 27 Dec 66, a Valorous Unit Award-27 & 28 June 68. This does not include Medal of Honor recipient, reconnaissance section leader, Sergeant Donald S. Skidgel.

Of course I wasn't aware of this when I was assign to D troop in the mid-1970 being totally unaware of the troops accomplishments or duties. On the second day of my new assignment as platoon sergeant of one of the Red Patrol, Lt. Hill, (he had just got a field commission and I was his replacement) came running up to me and said that one of the platoons that was on reconnaissance had been ambushed. An RPG had been fired at one of the jeeps hitting the radiator and luckily had failed to explode. "Want to come along?" he asked.

Having been in the infantry for nine years, with a little more than three months before I was to rotation back to the states and not knowing how the unit operated nor the men, I respectfully declined. I had gotten used to operating with the Air Assault Blues where we, while on recon, we walked very softly and talked with hand signals and whispers. The idea of riding around on wheels to recon didn't quite appeal to me. I was wrong, of course, since D Troop had gained it's reputation long before I was transferred. I just didn't know it at the time. Although their mission was different, it would sometimes overlapped with the air assault sky troopers from A, B and C Troop.

"D" Troop was composed of three identical platoons, known as the Red Patrol, with four machine-gun jeeps, a mortar squad with a quarter ton truck and the truck mounted infantry. This is the unit that assumed many duties in its seven years in Vietnam. They opened roads that had been held by the enemy for many years and would at times be inserted to rescue or assist a Blue Platoon or the LLRP's, reinforce other infantry units, set up ambushes, and even do air assaults or repel into the

jungle to do reconnaissance if the Blues were busy elsewhere.

They were a separate Squadron Infantry Company who took part on opening the roads to Khe Sanh and defeat the NVA that had surrounded the camp, thus saving the Marines. They spent many hours and even days in the field with one or two meals a day with little or no complaints. Whether they rode, flew or walked it was not unusual for them to come up against enemy forces too large to handle, thus a battle would ensue. The men were usually untrained for their job, yet, they were far superior to any other soldiers in Vietnam and they knew it. Maybe that's why they swaggered when they walked.

I have been told that for 7 years the 1/9th went about every day doing their task above and beyond the call of duty. They also claimed that the 1st Cavalry Division had a tough problem on whom to award medals because their actions that was considered above and beyond was a routine matter in the 1/9th. This may be true considering what each and everyone of you in the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry were up against was definitely beyond the call of duty. This is also true of a sergeant with D Troop that went above the 1/9th call of duty.

Sergeant Donald Sidney Skidgel, D Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for action near Song Be on September 14, 1969.

The citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Sergeant Skidgel distinguished himself while serving as a reconnaissance section leader in Troop D. On a road near Song Be in Binh Long Province, Sergeant Skidgel and his section with other elements of his troop were acting as a convoy security and screening force when contact occurred with an estimated enemy battalion concealed in tall grass and in bunkers bordering the road. Sergeant Skidgel maneuvered off the road and began placing effective machinegun fire on the enemy automatic weapons and rocket-propelled-grenade positions. After silencing at least 1 position, he ran with his machinegun across 60 meters of bullet swept ground to another location from which he continued to rake the enemy positions. Running low on ammunition, he returned to his vehicle over the same terrain. Moments later he was alerted that the command element was receiving intense automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenade and mortar fire. Although he knew the road was

saturated with enemy fire, Sergeant Skidgel calmly mounted his vehicle and with his driver advanced toward the command group in an effort to draw enemy fire onto himself. Despite the hostile fire concentrated on him, he succeeded in silencing several enemy positions with his machinegun. Moments later Sergeant Skidgel was knocked down onto the rear fender by the explosion of an enemy rocket-propelled grenade. Ignoring his extremely painful wounds, he staggered back to his feet and placed effective fire on several other enemy positions until he was mortally wounded by hostile small arms fire. His selfless action enabled the command group to withdraw to a better position without casualties and inspired the rest of his soldiers to gain fire superiority and defeat the enemy. Sergeant Skidgel's gallantry at the cost of his life were in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Note: Today, November 14, 2002, I received a phone call from William (Bill) McCurtis from somewhere near Fort Hood, Texas. He was close to tears and choking as he described what happened when he arrived and met the officers and men of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. He was awed at the spirit and moral of the 1/9 troops. He claimed that, knowing the history of the 9th Cavalry, the troopers swaggered when they walk. He also claims he was told that the 9th Cavalry is not only considered the most decorated unit in Vietnam, but possible the most decorated unit in the U. S. Army! Considering that the 9th Cavalry spent nearly 30 years in the Western Frontier and later participated in the assault on San Juan hill and later in the Philippines, it could be possible. Of course several months ago, when I tried to get information from the 9th Cavalry in Fort Hood and later from the Department of Defense those facts wasn't true. DOD informed me that they had to check it out and I'm still waiting for the results.

In addition, the 1/9 has been credited with 50% of the casualties that the 1st Cavalry Division inflicted on the enemy, but the bulk of air assaults by the Squadron Blue Platoon and specially the Scouts, might have something to do with that.

I estimated, through my own experience, that the 1/9 , and 200 air assaults per troop, per year. Multiple that by 12 months per year, by 3 Troops and 7 years in the field. It's a staggering figure. Remember, these are my figures and most likely underestimated. Many of these assaults were into HOT LZ's to engage the enemy, rescue LRRPs,

recover down ships, and crews, reinforce other infantry units, etc....

I have, for the past year, been clamoring that I should ride with the "9th Memorial Cavalry" wearing my Vietnam Era jungle fatigues, instead of the Buffalo Soldiers Cavalry uniform, to represent the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry as we ride on horses in parades or as Honor Guards.

Bill McCurtis 9th Memorial Cavalry is horseback riding from Phoenix, Arizona to New Orleans, Louisiana carrying with him vials of dirt from the graves of Buffalo Soldiers trooper that are buried in Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana. These vials are to be placed in a cemetery near New Orleans, the birth place of the 9th Cavalry. He expects to arrive in New Orleans sometime on December 4, 2002. If I can squeeze my finances, I'll be there.

Lionel DeLa Rosa, SFC
U. S. Army Infantry, Ret

US Army Infantryman

The average age of the Infantryman is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's; but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or jazz or swing and 155mm Howitzers. He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional. He can march until he is told to stop or stop until he is told to march. He obeys orders

instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity.

He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low. He has learned to use his hands like weapons and his weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life -- or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime. He has stood atop mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years. He has asked nothing in return, except our friendship and understanding. Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood. He is an INFANTRYMAN!

Source unknown but right on target.

BWS

Troopers

We now have a point of contact for all D Troop.

**He is;
Harold Campbell (65-66)
6595 Frank Reeded Rd.
Pensacola, FL. 32526-4189
Ph.# (850-944-1576**

BWS

The article that follows gives insight of our squadron and the last days in Vietnam. By this way we learn more about our squadron, our troopers.

BWS

The Very Last Guidon

The recent article "Last Guidon" was well written and heart warming, however, the facts are a little outdated.

H troop 16 Cav was re-designated F troop 1/9 Cav in 1972 and remained until 1973. We were a fully constituted Air Cav troop with a Blue, White, and Red platoon. We also had an infantry platoon of Vietnamese and Cambodians who served us well since Americans were not permitted to participate in ground combat. The infantry platoon conducted ground reconnaissance and secured downed aircraft when necessary.

The only difference between A, B, C, and D troop and F troop is, we did not have a squadron to support us. We sweated the same type of sweat and bled the same type blood.

Our mission during 72 - 73 was reconnaissance in III Corps and anywhere else we were needed. Primarily we were tasked to find infiltration routes from Cambodia into the area around Loc Ninh and areas.

F troop may be the bastard child but we did have a 1/9 Cav Guidon and it didn't leave Vietnam until 1973.

George P. Hewlett
Commander F troop 1/9 Cav

We can, We will! We Did !!

Hand Salute

To all Troopers:

Many of you may not know me. I had a short tour about 5 1/2 months in Charlie Troop 1/9. I'm asking each of you to present a hand salute to honor the passing of a truly innovative and dedicated pilot. You certainly would not have known the individual I'm about to discuss unless he instructed you in flying nap of the earth at night after you returned to "the world". He did have several years as a flight instructor at Rucker after most of us were back from the exotic Far East.

What everyone of us that ever flew an OH-6A, any of the UH-1 series, the OH-58 series, the CH-47 series or the AH-1G would probably not have known was that he was the experimental test pilot at the

Army Aviation Test Board at Cairns Field, Ft. Rucker, AL that convinced the Hughes engineers that there was a such a thing called "the Hughes tailspin." He developed a device that cost 38 cents to manufacture that simulated electronically a rocket being fired from a pod on a Cobra without a rocket ever being loaded into the pod (that invention saved the Army over 30 million per year in armament costs). He was the Test pilot that helped develop and perfect the mounting of a 30 cal and higher on an OH-58 (during initial testing, the hard points on the mountings broke and he took 5 rounds into the cockpit).

He was awarded a special accommodation by the U.S. Army for 27,000 flight hours accident free. Prior to that, he received two "Broken Wing" awards from the Army for saving his crew in two Huey crashes due to mechanical malfunction. He finished his career as a Civil Service pilot by teaching Nap of the earth flying at night. He received numerous additional accommodations and awards from the Army for inventions and perfection of flying techniques that would enable Army pilots to function both in bad weather and at night.

All of this came after 27 years as a U.S. Navy Aviator. Navy historians rated his Naval career as Superior. He is listed in the Pensacola Navy Museum for many of his accomplishments. He was one of the last 300 "Mustangs" to take a commission and give up their enlisted status as a Naval Aviator.

During his Naval career he was one of two pilots that during the early 60's devised and perfected the Air/Sea Search and Rescue Procedures for the 10th Naval District (South Florida and the Caribbean) that are still in use today. He helped perfect many of the techniques that are still in use today for Sonar devices being used from helicopters to detect enemy submarines.

Having taught aerobatics as a Naval Instructor Pilot, he was asked at one point in his career to join the Blue Angel Organization. He did not feel it would have been fair to his family due the required time away from home.

He was rated and qualified to fly all single and multiple rotor (all of the Chinook series) helicopters, both jet and recip, that were in the Army's inventory up through 1986. He also was rated in all Army fixed wing including multi-engine heavy transport and all multi-engine turbo prop (including the Mohawk) and single engine as well. He was one of two pilots that were qualified to fly two P51 Mustangs owned by the

Army and he taught the other pilot how to fly it and gave him his check ride. His ratings in the Navy were just as impressive. He was rated in all rotary-wing, multi-engine and heavy transport, all single fixed wing to include several series of jets. He was both land a carrier based qualified and served on extended cruises in various places from the Far East, Europe, Antarctica, Newfoundland and Argentina.

He received numerous decorations, awards and accommodations during his 27 years in the Navy for difficult rough sea rescues, rescues at night (insertions and extractions of Seals at night in hostile waters), air sea rescues during full blown hurricanes as well as flying aid into Haiti immediately after a devastating hurricane had gone through. His accomplishments and service to his country go on and on. Let it suffice to say that he retired with over 37,000 documented hours in the air and was rated in all types of aircraft except lighter than air. He gave over 40 years of service to his country and broke his back three times in plane crashes along the way. He was known to Admirals and Generals alike as the man that could "get it done the right way!"

I ask you to quietly give this Aviator a hand salute for he has taken his last and most important flight on August 26, 2002. His destination and final mission-to be with his Lord! I ask you to respect a fellow Aviator

whom I've known and loved for 58 years, my Dad, Edward L. Hogeboom, Jr.

We can, We will, We Did!

Edd Hogeboom
Cav 16 "C" Troop, 1/9, AirCav
eddhogeboom@cox.net
1-800-407-7225

Brian Shul crash-landed a fighter plane in Vietnam and had extreme burns over 90% of his body and spent years in the hospital. He rehab'ed to the point that he was able to fly again and finished his AF career.

**A FIGHTER PILOT'S VIEWPOINT
CHICO RALLY ADDRESS**

Thank you for the opportunity to address this rally today. It is not often that a fighter pilot is asked to

be the keynote speaker. There is a rumor that they are unable to put two sentences together coherently.

I'd like to dispel that rumor today by saying that I can do that, and in fact that I have written several books. I always wanted to be an author, and I ARE one now.

I'm a pretty lucky person really. I'm like the little boy who tells his father that when he grows up he wants to be a jet pilot, and his father replies, "Sorry son, you can't do both". I made that choice a long time ago and flew the jets. I was fortunate to live my dream, and then some. I survived something I shouldn't have, and today, tell people that I am 28 years old, as it has been that long since I was released from the hospital. It was like I received a second life, and in the past 28 years, I have gotten to see and do much, so much that I would not have thought possible. Returning to fly jets in the Air Force, flying the SR-71 on spy missions, spending a year with the Blue Angels, running my own photo studio, and so much more. And now, seeing our country attacked in such a heinous way.

Some of you here today have heard me speak before, and know that I enjoy sharing my aviation slide show. I have brought no slides to show you, as I feel compelled today, to address different issues concerning this very difficult time in our nation's history.

I stand before you today, not as some famous person, or war hero. I am far from that. You know, they say a good landing is one you can walk away from, and a really great one is when you can use the airplane again. Well, I did neither...and I speak to you to today as simply a fellow American citizen.

Like you, I was horrified at the events of September 11th. But I was not totally surprised that such a thing could happen, or that there were people in the world who would perpetrate such deeds, willingly, against us.

Having sat through many classified briefings while in the Air Force, I was all too aware of the threat, and I can assure you, it has always been there in one form or another. And those of you who have served in the defense of this nation, know all too well the response that is needed.

In every fighter squadron I was in, there was a saying that we knew to be true, that said, when there was a true enemy, you negotiate with that enemy with your knee in his chest and your knife at his throat.

Many people are unfamiliar with this way of thinking, and shrink from its ramifications. War is

such a messy business, and there are many who want no part of it, but rush to bask in the security blanket of its victory.

I spent an entire military career fighting Communism, and was very proud to do so. We won that war, we beat one of the worst scourges to humankind the world has known. But it took a great effort, over many years of sustained vigilance and much sacrifice by so many whose names you will never know.

And perhaps our nation, so weary from so long a cold war, relaxed too much and felt the world was a safer place with the demise of the Soviet Union.

We indulged ourselves in our own lives, and gave little thought to the threats to our national security.

You know, normally my talks are laced with numerous jokes as I share my stories, but I have very few jokes to tell this afternoon. These murdering fanatics came into our land, lived amongst our people, flew on our planes, crashed them into our buildings, and killed thousands of our citizens.

And nowhere along their gruesome path were they questioned or stopped. The joke is on us. We allowed this country to become soft.

We shouldn't really be too surprised that this could happen. Did we really think that we could keep electing officials who put self above nation and this would make us stronger? Did we really think that a strong economy adequately replaced a strong intelligence community?

Did we imagine that a President who practically gave away the store on his watch, was insuring national security? While our country was mired in the wasted excess of a White House sex scandal, the drums of war beat loudly in foreign lands, and we were deaf. Our response was to give the man two terms in office, and even then barely half the American public exercised their right to vote. We have only ourselves to blame. Our elected officials are merely a reflection of our own values and what we deem important.

Did we not realize that America had become a laughing stock around the world? We had lost credibility, even amongst our allies. To our enemies we had no resolve. We made a lot of money, watched a lot of TV, and understood little about what was happening beyond our shores. We were, simply, an easy target.

But we are a country awakened now. We have been attacked in our homeland. We have now felt the reality of what an unstable and dangerous world it

truly is. And still, in the face of this unprecedented carnage in our most prominent city, there are those who choose to take this opportunity to protest, and even burn the flag.

If I were the regents or alumni of certain large universities in this county, I would be embarrassed to be producing students of such ignorance and naïve notions. Like mindless sheep, they march with painted faces and trite sayings on signs, blissfully ignorant of the world they live in, and the system that protects them, hoping maybe to make the evening news.

Perhaps if they had spent more time in class they would have learned that those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. They might have learned that all it takes for evil to succeed in the world, is for good people to stand by and do nothing. If they had simply gone back in history as recently as the Viet Nam War, they would have learned that an enemy that knows it can never defeat us militarily, will persist as long as there is dissention and disruption in our land. Their ignorance can be understood, as their young empty minds have been filled with the re-written history tripe that tenured leftist professors can spew out with no fear of removal. But the unwitting aid they provide the enemy, in disrupting the national resolve, is unforgivable.

I think this is a wonderful country, though, that gives everyone their voice of dissention. I am all for people expressing their views publicly because it makes it much easier for us to identify the truly foolish, and to know who cannot be counted on in times of crisis. These are the weak and cowardly who, when the enemy is crashing through the front door, will cower in the back room, counting on better men than themselves to make and keep them free. Well, the enemy is at our front door, and isn't it interesting those who cry loudest and most often for their rights, are usually those least willing to defend it.

I heard a student on TV the other day say that this war just wasn't in his plans and he would simply head to Canada if a draft occurred. Just wasn't in his plans. I wonder what plans the young men at the beaches of Normandy had that they never got to live. I wonder if it was in the plans of 19-year-old boys in Viet Nam to lie dying in a jungle far from home.

I guess the men and women at Pearl Harbor one morning had their plans slightly rearranged too. Gee, I hope we haven't inconvenienced this student. Those people in the World Trade Center have no more

plans. It is up to us to have a plan now. And it isn't going to be easy. Who ever said it would? Just what part of our history spoke of how easy it was to form a free nation? It has never been easy and has always required vigilance and sacrifice, and sometimes war, to preserved this union. If it were easy, everyone would have done it. But no one else has, and we stand alone as the most unique country on earth.

And isn't it amazing that we have spent a generation stamping God out of our schools and government, and now as a nation, have collectively turned to God in memorial services, prayer vigils and churches around this country.

I am also very disturbed to hear that there are people in this country, at this particular time, who feel it inappropriate to wear the flag on their lapel because they are on the news or in a public job, and school officials who want to remove pro-American stickers so as not to offend foreign students. Well I am offended that these people call themselves Americans. I am offended that innocent people were killed in a mass attack of unthinkable proportions. And I am offended at listening to TV broadcasters speak to me condescendingly, with a bias that screams of their drowning in a cesspool of political correctness. I pity the person who thinks they are going to remove this flag from my lapel.

This flag of ours is the symbol of all that is good about this country. America is an idea. It is an idea lived, and fought for, by a people.

We are America, and this is our symbol. We are imperfect in many ways, but we continue to strive toward the ideal our forefathers laid down for us over 225 years ago. I could never imagine desecrating that symbol.

Perhaps there are many people in this nation who have never been abroad, or in harms way, and seen the flag upon their return. Those poor souls can never know the deep pride and honor one feels to see it wave, to know that there is still a good ol' USA. With all our warts we are still the greatest nation on earth, and the flag is the most powerful symbol of that greatness.

When I was in grade school, we used to say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. It is something I never forgot. I wonder how many children even know that pledge today.

This flag is our history, our dreams, our accomplishments, indelibly expressed in bright red, white, and blue. This flag was carried in our Revolutionary War, although it had many less stars.

But it persevered and evolved throughout a war we had no right to believe we could win. But we did, and built a country around it. This flag, tattered and battle worn, waved proudly from the mast, as John Paul Jones showed the enemy was true resolve was. This banner was raised by the hands of brave men on a godforsaken island called Iwo Jima, and became a part of the most famous photo of the 20th Century. Those men are all dead now, but their legacy lives on in the Marine Memorial in Washington, DC. Those of you who have seen it will recall that inscribed within the stone monument are the words - When Uncommon Valor, Was A Common Virtue - I don't believe you'll see the words, "it was easy", anywhere on it. This flag has even been to the moon, planted there for all time by men with a vision, and the courage to see it through.

I personally know what it is to see the flag, and feel something deep inside that makes you feel you are a part of something much bigger than yourself. Laying in a hospital bed, I can vividly recall looking out the only window in the room and on Sundays, seeing that big garrison flag flying proudly in the breeze. It filled the entire window, and filled my heart with a motivation that helped me leave that bed, and enabled me to be standing here today. And many years later, while fighting another terrorist over Libya, my backseater and I outraced Khaddafi's missiles in our SR-71 as we headed for the Mediterranean, and I can still clearly see that American flag patch on the shoulder of my space suit, staring at me in the rear view mirror as we headed west, and it was a good feeling.

Now don't ask me why we had rear view mirrors in the world's fastest jet, I can assure you, no one was gaining on us that day.

I am so happy to see so many flags out here today. Long may it wave. History will judge us. How we confront this chapter of American history will be important for the future of this great nation. This will be a war like none other we have endured. The combatants will not just be the soldier on the battlefield, but will be fought by us the citizens. We are on the battlefield now; the war has been brought to us. We will determine the outcome of this war by how well we remain vigilant, how patient we are with tightened security, how well we support the economy, and most importantly, in the resolve we show the enemy. There are some things worth fighting for, and this country is one of them.

I pray for our leaders at this time. In the Pacific, during WW II, Admiral Bull Halsey said, "There are no great men, just great circumstances, and how they handle those circumstances will determine the outcome of history." Our future and the future of coming generations are in our hands. Wars are not won just on military fronts, but by the resolve of the people. We must remain tenaciously strong in the pursuit of this enemy that threatens free people everywhere.

I am encouraged that we will win this war. Even before the first shot was finished being fired, there were brave Americans on Flight 93, fighting back. These people were the first true heroes of this conflict, and gave their lives to save their fellow countrymen.

This nation, this melting pot of humanity, this free republic, must be preserved. This idea that is America is important enough to be defended. Fought for. Even die for. The enemy fears what you have, for if their people ever become liberated into a free society, tyrannical dictatorships will cease and will lose power.

How can they ever understand this country of ours, so self-indulgent and diverse, yet when attacked, so united in the defense of its principals.

This is the greatest country in the world because brave people sacrificed to make it that way. We are a collective mix of greatness and greed, hi-tech and heartland. We are the country of Mickey Mouse and Mickey Mantle; from John Smith and Pocahontas to John Glen and an Atlas booster; from Charles Lindbergh to Charley Brown; from Moby Dick to Microsoft; we are a nation that went from Kitty Hawk to Tranquility Base in less than 70 years; we are rock and roll, and the Bill of Rights; we are where everyone else wants to be, the greatest nation in the world.

The enemy does not understand the dichotomy of our society, but they should understand this; we will bandage our wounds, we will bury our dead; and then we will come for you... and we will destroy you and all you stand for.

I read this quote recently and would like to share it with you:

We are pressed on every side, but not crushed,
Perplexed, but not in despair,
Persecuted, but not abandoned,
Struck down, but not destroyed.

That is from II Corinthians.

Not too long ago it would have been politically incorrect to quote from the Bible. I am so happy to be politically INCORRECT. And I am so proud to be an American.

Thank you all for coming out today and showing your support for your government, and your nation. You are the true patriots, you are the soldiers of this war. You are the strength of America.

Brian Shul
Chico, CA
October 3, 2001

Bob's last flight and I thought you may like to read what he had to say about his day.

Reflections on Brotherhood

Refuelers are not the least of our lot.
When choppers approach, to their tankers they trot.
They fill our old birds with Uncle Sam's gas,
While pilots and others just sit on the grass.
Their actions are worthy, their tribute is high,
For without their fine effort, we're not able to fly!

Crew chiefs are special, to us up in front,
They climb up all over with nary a grunt.
They clean and they fix, so we can go fly,
And answer dumb questions with a slightly raised eye.
Their work is superb, many things that they do,
For if THEIR butt gets there, so will mine too!

Skinned knuckles and curses mark the maintenance man,
Wipe rag, tool box, and the slimy drip pan.
And sergeants all swearing, O-R rate to compete,
Day and night working, repairs to complete.
They work without ceasing, all pushing and strife,
But on their great skill, I depend for my life.

The medics are special because of their skill,
But in their strong minds, they refuse to kill.
"That's not what we do, in the heat of the war,
We bind up the wounds, not add to the score."
So I'll get you there through my skill in flying,
For only you can give comfort to the wounded and dying.

Our captains stand tall in the midst of the fight,
Fearing their failures as humans they might.
Obedience you get, because of your rank,
But respect must be earned, its not "in the bank".
But we're right beside you, in all of the game,
"Cause commissioned or warrant, in the air we're the same."

The commander stands alone, his shoulders must bear,
All responsibility is his, he cannot share.
He takes and he gives each in its turn,
Especially when our actions cause his bosses to burn.
Let your mind be at ease, sir, erase your dark frown,
You are our leader, and we won't let you down.

Gunnies are a strange bunch, aggressive and rough,
There when you need them, don't shirk, they are tough.
Diving and firing, killing the foe,
Guns all a-blazing, rockets a-glow.
For there's nothing a slick pilot does more desire,
Than the welcome sight of good suppressive fire.

Scouts are just crazy, in my estimation,
Weaving and ducking in the dark vegetation.
They're deliberately looking for the bad guy,
To draw his fire they believe they can't die.
And when they get hit, the air is alive,
With their shouts for salvation, but why such surprise?

Hookers are something in my contemplation,
Flying two rotors in such close formation.
A BIG target there, lots of stuff hanging,
From hooks and slings, twisting and banging.
But they're critical for success in any campaign,
They bring EVERYTHING in from TP to champagne.

And last but not least to my brothers in skill,
Indulge me once more a brief doggerel.
We've all seen the fear some time in our lives,
Of enemy bullets or some trial in the skies.
Our skills are well proven, we've been put to the test,
And we'll fly good together till God gives us rest.

As we all approach the twilight of life,
We look back carefully at the years of our strife.
Guts churning, bowels yearning, we never did run,
Scared men, truly, but cowards, nay, none.
Our lives have been lived by a privileged few,
Brothers remember, we were brave and we FLEW!

The full story ...

It was 0730, the phone rang. It was Ted, the CW5 State Standards Pilot. "We've got to push up your last flight to about an hour from now. Got to use the aircraft later. Any problem?" "Nope," I answered, "see you in an hour." Oh, well, had plans for the morning, expecting the flight this afternoon. No problem, get the flight suit on. Hmm, seems to have shrunk over the years. Haven't done this in nearly two years, I wonder if I can still hover the thing. Well, I'll find out soon.

Out to the flight facility. Sun is hot already, but not too hot. Sky looks a little wispy like maybe the humidity will bring on some thunderstorms later today. Good to get this done now. A little preparation then out to pre-flight. Climb all over the Huey, feels good, even the greasy head and control tubes. Check the battery / radio compartment, skids, engine, tail rotor. Floods of memories wash over me. Remembering the post-flights to check for bullet holes, half a life time ago. Same aircraft, same components, updated, but they don't look any different than 30 years ago. Time to strap in; into the seat, armored but without the sliding side panel. Adjust the pedals, fit the restraint system, check the inertia reel. Been doing this now 30 plus years. Hands seem to move by themselves, accurately following the checklist without seeming conscious action. Getting hot, sun coming in the greenhouse panel.

Get the check list, hand flits over the pedestal, the overhead, the instrument panel. Same switches, same positions, everything the same over and over for years. The only difference is now this check list is the fifth different sequence we've had to learn to put the same switches in the same position to start the Huey. Remember asking a DES evaluator once, why the change. "It's a more efficient way to do it," he replied. "Our GS-105 anthro-psychologist developed it." "Was he a pilot?" I asked. "No, she was not." Interesting reply, but the switches somehow get efficiently put in the same pre-start positions that I once memorized for blindfold cockpit checks long ago. Dash doesn't look any different, really. Some new stuff, some new fangled gages, but mostly the same.

Electric hats on, FUEL-on, KEY-on, START/GEN in START position, THROTTLE-set, TRIGGER-pull. The familiar whine of the turbine penetrates the HGU-59P (almost brand new) helmet with the form fitting ear cups, TP liner to conform to the head for maximum comfort. (Looks a little like the Empire Strikes Back drivers of the "walker" weapon.) Even the chin strap didn't chafe. Winding up, trigger released at 40%, on the detent, N1 stable at 69%. Good start, cool, no problems. Electrics on, radios squawk to life and everything settles down to a memorable flight idle rocking.

Radio calls complete, pre-take off checks complete, off to Pad 5 for HIT check. OK, moment of truth, bringing the old girl up to a hover. Remember the Huey rides a little nose high and left

skid low. Increase the collective, left pedal, cyclic seems to be moving on its own. I don't have any real sense of conscious control. My hands and feet are on automatic, the automatic of 4,000 plus hours, three quarters of which in this aircraft. Up, up she rises, gently, evenly about three degrees nose up. Just "sitting" on the heels of the skids. Hold there for a moment, savoring it. Continue a miniscule increase in collective and she breaks ground, left skid low and up to three feet. Damn, that felt good, not a wiggle, not a burble. The flight could have ended right there - hell, I can still HOVER!!

Take off clearance, forward cyclic and a little power to maintain altitude, The Huey moves forward slowly, gaining speed. There it is, slight nose pitch up as we pass through translational lift, a touch forward cyclic keeps everything OK. Airspeed at 40 kts, increase to 5 psi above hover and up we go gaining airspeed and altitude, smoothly accelerating to climb airspeed and a stable 500 fpm rate of climb. Love this! Level off at 1500 MSL.

The rest of the ride was neat, reacquainting myself with aerial landmarks I hadn't seen for a while. Out to the tactical area, back to the homestead, look at the house from the air. But back to the airfield, an hour passes so fast. Well, enter into right traffic for Runway 23. "What are you gonna do?" prompts the IP. "Normal approach to the ground," I reply. "Going for the hard one right off," he chides. Base leg down to 700 MSL and 70 Kts, turn final, pick up the sight picture and begin the approach. Got the runway numbers nailed to the windscreen all the way down; flare, decelerate, add a little power and she stops ... 6 inches above the runway. Damn tri-focal glasses!!! Another take off and another landing and this time, a little hot at the bottom but right to the ground. Heh, heh!

Next one is a shallow approach to a running landing. Good position on final, nice shallow approach. Airspeed is good; cross the threshold at one foot and 40 kts, decel slightly and touch down, nice and easy and straight. Good, feels good, the touch is still there. Well, time to go back to the ramp. Air taxi down the two mile runway to the ramp, turn off ,what is the fire truck doing there? Lots of people around, and a FIRE truck!! Expecting a crash?? Touch down, flight idle for 2 minutes they're unrolling the hose hmm wonder if it is a drill. Oh well, finish the shut down. Unstrap, get out. Look, there's my wife and my son with cameras. That's

nice, hope they got a good picture. What's with the hose?

WHAM!! The water hits with some force, darn near knocks off my glasses. But it IS cool on a hot day. Can't see anyone anymore, they've got it on the fog setting. Nomex flight suit soaks up water like a sponge and I'm soaked down to my skivvies. Helmet is filling with water, the ALSE tech is going to be pissed!! But that's the tradition for "last flights." Funny, my mind flits back to that cold January day over 35 years ago when my first solo was celebrated in a cattle pond somewhere in north Texas. Baptized in the beginning and sprinkled at the end. Then it's over . Thirty-five years of helicopter flight have come to their logical conclusion. But its been thirty five good years, no major accidents or incidents, no broken bones, no holes in me during peace or war. Can't say that for Old #281 way back when. A part of my life has now concluded and it's time to move on.

Wife is smiling, son is proud, friends are beaming, shaking hand all around, life is good.

CW5(R) Bob Skiba, Army Helicopter Pilot

Brings back memories from the past. All good.

BWS

Here is an interesting piece from Dr. Tony Kern, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) Former Director of Military History, USAF Academy. While it was written just after the Twin Towers, it remains valid.

BWS

Dear friends and fellow Americans

Like everyone else in this great country, I am reeling from last week's attack on our sovereignty. But unlike some, I am not reeling from surprise. As a career soldier and a student and teacher of military history, I have a different perspective and I think you should hear it. This war will be won or lost by the American citizens, not diplomats, politicians or soldiers. Let me briefly explain.

In spite of what the media, and even our own government is telling us, this act was not committed by a group of mentally deranged fanatics. To dismiss them as such would be among the gravest of mistakes. This attack was committed by a ferocious, intelligent and dedicated adversary. Don't take this

the wrong way. I don't admire these men and I deplore their tactics, but I respect their capabilities.

The many parallels that have been made with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor are apropos. Not only because it was a brilliant sneak attack against a complacent America, but also because we may well be pulling our new adversaries out of caves 30 years after we think this war is over, just like my father's generation had to do with the formidable Japanese in the years following WW II.

These men hate the United States with all of their being, and we must not underestimate the power of their moral commitment. Napoleon, perhaps the world's greatest combination of soldier and statesman, stated "the moral is to the physical as three is to one." Patton thought the Frenchman underestimated its importance and said moral conviction was five times more important in battle than physical strength. Our enemies are willing - better said anxious -- to give their lives for their cause. How committed are we America? And for how long?

In addition to demonstrating great moral conviction, the recent attack demonstrated a mastery of some of the basic fundamentals of warfare taught to most military officers worldwide, namely simplicity, security and surprise.

When I first heard rumors that some of these men may have been trained at our own Air War College, it made perfect sense to me. This was not a random act of violence, and we can expect the same sort of military competence to be displayed in the battle to come. This war will escalate, with a good portion of it happening right here in the good ol' U.S. of A. These men will not go easily into the night. They do not fear us. We must not fear them.

In spite of our overwhelming conventional strength as the world's only "superpower" (a truly silly term), we are the underdog in this fight. As you listen to the carefully scripted rhetoric designed to prepare us for the march for war, please realize that America is not equipped or seriously trained for the battle ahead.

To be certain, our soldiers are much better than the enemy, and we have some excellent "counter-terrorist" organizations, but they are mostly trained for hostage rescues, airfield seizures, or the occasional "body snatch," (which may come in handy). We will be fighting a war of annihilation, because if their early efforts are any indication, our enemy is ready and willing to die to the last man.

Eradicating the enemy will be costly and time consuming. They have already deployed their forces in as many as 20 countries, and are likely living the lives of everyday citizens. Simply put, our soldiers will be tasked with a search and destroy mission on multiple foreign landscapes, and the public must be patient and supportive until the strategy and tactics can be worked out.

For the most part, our military is still in the process of redefining itself and presided over by men and women who grew up with - and were promoted because they excelled in - Cold War doctrine, strategy and tactics. This will not be linear warfare, there will be no clear "centers of gravity" to strike with high technology weapons.

Our vast technological edge will certainly be helpful, but it will not be decisive. Perhaps the perfect metaphor for the coming battle was introduced by the terrorists themselves aboard the hijacked aircraft -- this will be a knife fight, and it will be won or lost by the ingenuity and will of citizens and soldiers, not by software or smart bombs. We must also be patient with our military leaders.

Unlike Americans who are eager to put this messy time behind us, our adversaries have time on their side, and they will use it. They plan to fight a battle of attrition, hoping to drag the battle out until the American public loses its will to fight. This might be difficult to believe in this euphoric time of flag waving and patriotism, but it is generally acknowledged that America lacks the stomach for a long fight. We need only look as far back as Vietnam, when North Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap (also a military history teacher) defeated the United States of America without ever winning a major tactical battle.

American soldiers who marched to war cheered on by flag waving Americans in 1965 were reviled and spat upon less than three years later when they returned. Although we hope that Usama Bin Laden is no Giap, he is certain to understand and employ the concept. We can expect not only large doses of pain like the recent attacks, but also less audacious "sand in the gears" tactics, ranging from livestock infestations to attacks at water supplies and power distribution facilities.

These attacks are designed to hit us in our "comfort zone" forcing the average American to "pay more and play less" and eventually eroding our resolve. But it can only work if we let it.

It is clear to me that the will of the American citizenry - you and I - is the center of gravity the enemy has targeted. It will be the fulcrum upon which victory or defeat will turn. He believes us to be soft, impatient, and self-centered. He may be right, but if so, we must change. The Prussian general Carl von Clausewitz, (the most often quoted and least read military theorist in history), says that there is a "remarkable trinity of war" that is composed of the (1) will of the people, (2) the political leadership of the government, and (3) the chance and probability that plays out on the field of battle, in that order.

Every American citizen was in the crosshairs of last Tuesday's attack, not just those that were unfortunate enough to be in the World Trade Center or Pentagon. The will of the American people will decide this war. If we are to win, it will be because we have what it takes to persevere through a few more hits, learn from our mistakes, improvise, and adapt. If we can do that, we will eventually prevail.

Everyone I've talked to in the past few days has shared a common frustration, saying in one form or another "I just wish I could do something!" You are already doing it. Just keep faith in America, and continue to support your President and military, and the outcome is certain.

If we fail to do so, the outcome is equally certain.

God Bless America

Don't Let Us Come Full Circle

When I was a teenager, my father was the commander of an infantry battalion. He formed the battalion and then he took the battalion to combat in Viet Nam in 1966. I don't recall a departure ceremony for the unit although I'm sure something was done down in the unit area. I do remember saying goodbye to my father for the second time in three years as he again went off to war. I remember being afraid that something would happen to him in combat, but of course, we didn't talk of such things. My dad's departure was surely noted within the tight knit Army community within Fort Riley, but it was absolutely ignored by the local town. The war in Viet Nam was not important to the average American unless they were personally involved. When my father came home a year later, nobody cared or noted but his family and the Army. He hadn't died so he

didn't even qualify for notice as a statistic reported on the nightly news.

Years later I was an infantry battalion commander and as fate and chance would have it, I was taking my battalion overseas to a war. I remembered my father's experiences of departing three different times to Viet Nam without his fellow citizens supporting him or even caring if he went or if he came back. I will admit that when I formed the battalion up that hot August day in 1990 to depart for the Gulf, I wasn't sure what would happen. I told my troops in a short speech prior to getting on the buses that what they were doing was noble and worthy because they were setting out to set other men free in Kuwait. I told the families tearfully gathered that I did not know when we would be home but that they had my solemn promise to take care of their husbands, sons or brothers to the utmost of my ability. I promised to bring them all home again safely if that was humanly possible to do. We had already said our individual farewells so I called the battalion to attention and released the company commanders to load their troops on the waiting buses for the long bus ride across Georgia to our port of debarkation near Savannah.

I was preoccupied as I got on my bus and took a seat up front. I was in the lead bus just as I would have been on the lead airplane when I was a paratrooper. The troops were subdued as they got on the buses. The usual pranks and grab ass committed by young men when put in groups like gym class was not happening. We were all a little preoccupied I guess. The buses closed their doors and we swung down the road leading to the interstate that bisects the post and the town of Columbus, Georgia. As we got on the interstate, we finally exited the gate from Fort Benning and headed into Columbus. By this time there was some chatter on the bus as the troops settled in for the long bus ride. We headed up the highway and the first overpass on St Mary's Road came into view. We were stunned into silence as we saw literally hundreds if not thousands of Americans packed on the causeway waving American flags and cheering us as we left for war. They had banners wishing us well, blessing us and thanking us for going to war for them. They electrified my soldiers. All the windows in the busses came down and the troops cheered back and waved and screamed until they were hoarse. They should have saved some of their voices for later, because every overpass and crossroad across the entire State of Georgia had well

wishers standing by to see us off! There had to be over fifty thousand people who had come out to see us off across the entire state. Some groups had as few as three people, but every single one had an American flag and a simple message conveyed by their presence: We are behind you. We are proud of you.

I saw a young boy of about ten with a sign on the first overpass that said "Thank you for giving me a **FUTURE**. God Bless you!" My troops loved that sign and cheered him to the echoes. He knew they were cheering him and kept grinning and waving until all the buses had passed. The sobriety of his message was not lost on us. Fortunately, we had a laugh on my bus a few minutes later as one of the well known girl friends of one of the soldier's on the bus was spotted in one of the groups with her new beau! (Hey! Jonesy, ain't that Lucille? Who the hell's that guy she's hangin' on already? Man, you ain't even out of town yet and she's got a new boyfriend! Hope to hell you didn't leave your life insurance to her!) The whole ride across Georgia was electrifying. We felt like heroes. We reveled in the warmth offered by our fellow citizens. What they thought about us was (and is) important and we were so relieved to know that they were behind us 100%.

I coincidentally came back to Fort Benning recently and heard that my old unit had again shipped out. The unit has a new number designation, but it's the same unit and some of the sergeants were in the unit as privates in my day. I wish I had been able to send them off. I asked several of the people that I was working with how the send off for the unit went, and particularly, how had the town sent them off? I was stunned to learn that there was no real send off other than in the unit area. There was local news coverage of the last unit to deploy, but it was because it was a slow news day as I watched the news, and it was lacking in information. Nobody was on the overpasses as the buses departed. There were no signs, no banners, no noticeable interest.

I feel like we have failed as citizens. We failed our soldiers. We didn't turn out, but maybe it's because some of the departures occurred around dinner time and it was already dark. Maybe it's because people are worried about the economy and jobs. Maybe it's because people just didn't know they were leaving. (4000 soldier's left and nobody noticed??) Maybe

going to war is a routine event and not terribly noteworthy in the minds of our citizenry. Regardless of why it has happened, we have sent our young men and women off to probable war without telling them we support them, we're proud of them and we pray for them. As we learned to our infinite national sorrow from the Viet Nam War and to our unlimited joy in the Gulf War, the support of the American people is a critical component for a successful war. I can only hope that we have not come full circle to my father's time. God help us if we have.

Colonel E.W. Chamberlain III (USA, Ret)

Return To Vietnam

Dear Friends,

In February of 2002, Jere Anderson, a former scout pilot, invited me to join himself and Bob Zahn, a former guns pilot, on a two-week trip back to Vietnam. At first, I refused with "why the hell would I want to go back there?" However, after a few long distance phone calls from Jere and Bob, I changed my mind. I'm glad I did. We had a great time.

Briefly, this is what we did.

We left Los Angeles for Seoul, Korea, then to Saigon. We spent three or four nights in Saigon. Our hotel was as nice as any I've ever stayed at. Lots of sightseeing, shopping, good food, and cold beer. We had a guide, a van, and a driver.

Next, we flew from Saigon to Pleiku. As soon as the plane touched down, I recognized old Camp Holloway and the flight line. Yea, I'd been here before.

We spent that day traveling to An Khe with a van, guide and driver. We had lunch and a couple of beers in An Khe and, on the way back to Pleiku, we stopped at a mountain-yard (Montagnard) village and witnessed a special ceremony where the village elders were showing the younger boys how to sacrifice a pig for a celebration. We spent a couple of hours there and drove back to our Pleiku hotel. This hotel was not as nice as the one in Saigon, but I've stayed in a lot worse. Hey, it's Pleiku! The next day we drove to Kontum and visited an old church, the city, an orphanage, and again stopped to visit a mountain-yard (Montagnard) village on our return to Pleiku.

As a former ground recon team member, these village visits brought back fond memories. Upon

returning to our hotel, we enjoyed a nice dinner and pulled some chairs out of the hotel and sat out on the sidewalk to enjoy the local color and, of course, drank a few cold tiger beers. Hey, I even fell asleep in my chair sitting between Anderson and Zahn.

The next morning, we boarded an early flight and flew to DaNang. We toured DaNang by van with a guide and driver and followed China Beach south about 15 km to the historic city of Hoa An. We stayed at the Hoa An Beach Resort, which is a five star resort. It was wonderful. At the resort, we had great food, walked on the beach, took a swim in the South China Sea, and enjoyed great shopping, restaurants, and art galleries. We also toured pagodas, silk garment factories, and famous lacquer art factories. The five nights went by quickly.

Finally we flew back to Saigon for a day of shopping for final gifts, souvenirs, and the long flight home.

I've told this story often and, every time, people respond by saying, "I'd like to go for a return trip but only with the right people and under the right circumstances."

There are so many couples that want to travel and it is impossible to schedule one trip to suit everyone. I think it's best to keep the size of the tour group down to a manageable number. The more people, the more difficult to manage. Therefore, I recommend several tours of between five and ten couples each. During the stays in Saigon and Hoa An, side trips can be arranged. Some interesting day trips would be to tour the delta, visit the tunnels of Chu Chi outside Saigon, or visit the resort cities of Da Lat, Vung Tau, Nha Trang, and Cam Ranh Bay.

Here are some side notes. Don't take too many clothes as it will be warm and each hotel has same day laundry service. Take a camera but you can purchase plenty of film there. Remember it will take a few days to get over the jet lag and time change. The money exchange rate is great. Every hotel can accommodate your money exchange needs. All the hotels take credit cards. Your dollar goes a long way. I found it's best to look around Saigon for shopping, however it's a little cheaper to buy goods in Hoa An. Almost all places will ship for you but it is best to ask your guide to contact a local government shipping company. Remember the government owns 90% of all businesses, as this is a communist country. Keep all receipts and most of the bigger businesses will accept credit cards. Some places will barter with you on the price but not all.

On a recent trip there in October, I purchased 220 yards of high quality silk material for drapes for our home at a cost of \$2.00 per yard. The same quality silk would have cost over \$50.00 per yard in the U.S. It cost \$246 to ship it home. You'll find bargains on clothing, china, crystal, etc. It might be best to discuss this with your tour friends ahead of time to plan your shopping and buy products in bulk.

I work closely with Phoenix Travel, a local travel company in Grand Rapids. They have a close working relationship with Saigon travel and Hanoi resorts. Remember, this is a trip of a lifetime and not a hikers trip. You need to have confidence in your travel, accommodations, side trips, drivers, guides, food, etc. These professionals will make sure you can have a \$12 to \$15 buffet, a beautiful clean hotel room with air conditioning and a shower, nice restaurant accommodations, good water, etc. Don't try to skimp and take the lowest bid on this government job or you'll regret it.

Three two-week trips are being planned for April, July and October of 2003. The spaces will fill up very quickly, so contact me as quickly as possible.

Some people that have expressed a strong interest in the trip are: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Terrell, Mr. and Mrs. George Burrows, Mr. and Mrs. John Flanagan, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Platt, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Zahn, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rawl, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Loren McAnally, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Young, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Rochett, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Chole, Jere Anderson (no Mrs., he's too ugly), Bob Lackey (Elizabeth won't go, it's too hot), and Bob Nevins. I apologize because I'm sure I missed a few people.

The price is \$2,700 +/- \$200 based on double occupancy from Chicago and includes breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

You'll see the Vietnam countryside as you remember it. It's like a forty-year time warp. But you'll also see the real Vietnam that you missed. You'll see the cities, the culture, and the beauty of the land. You'll be pleased you went on this trip.

Why not contact a few couples that you'd like to travel with and decide on a date in April, July or October and then contact Phoung Trinh at Phoenix Travel at 4242 S. Division Avenue, Suite 8, Grand Rapids, MI 49548, (616) 257-0952 or (616) 403-9366.

Sincerely, Barry McAlpine

These views are the views of veterans, those who support veterans and those that disagree. Yours may be different.

Troopers, you have heard their views, now it is time to hear yours. If you agree or disagree, Sound Off!

BWS

Letters To The Editor

We have several letters for this newsletter and also several e-mails. These are from our troopers who have a desire to add to the Association and be a part of our "keeping in touch" philosophy.

Our first letter is from our own Ken Olson.

Enjoy.

BWS

9/2/02
Loel:

I don't know if this is a first for the 1/9th Air Cav, but I have been voted Vice President and Board Member or our brand new 1st Cav Chapter here in Minnesota! You may want to post this at your reunion.

Some good things are happening, up here and we have a lot of 1/9th guys here also, looks like 06 could be up here for the Cav Reunion stay tuned.

Ken Olson

Way to go Ken!! Congratulations!!! Loel

Loel:

Enjoyed the reunion very much, it was my first. Was good to see a lot of the people with whom I served with. Brought back a lot of memories good and bad.

Since returning home have done some digging thru old papers and found some things that might be of interest to you and the Squadron.

Am looking forward to 2004 and am hoping and praying we find more troopers who will join us.

Thank you for your time.

Msg (ret) William Clark

C-1-9 65-66

Weapons Door Gunner for Wulff on 738

15 Oct 02

Dear Loel:

I wanted to write you a note to say thanks for all that you did to make the Cav Reunion a tremendous success. This was my first and I was a little apprehensive, but it was worth it.

The one thing I would really like to have would be a list of all troopers and their addresses so that I can write people like George O'Grady, my old troop commander. Could you do that for an old Colonel. I'll be sixty in January!

Hopefully next time I can sign up early and be in the same motel and same town as everyone else. Being in the Best Western in Dothan was okay, but a little inconvenient.

Thanks so much again.

Bill Huff

P.S. I commanded the 2/1 Cav later in my military career.

Bill, You are still a young COL. I will turn 65 in June! Loel

Al:

Thank you for getting back to me so quickly. Enclosed, please find a check for the shirts and hats that I ordered from you through e-mail. I served with pride with the 1/9th Cav and want to continue to show my pride by wearing its colors more than 30 years later. I shared my experiences at the reunion with my family and they too want to show Our colors and so I ordered them shirts and hats also. For 30 years I tried to forget the bad things that happened to me and others in Vietnam but found myself enjoying the stories of days gone by at the reunion. I was extremely happy to see the other F troop members

that I served with at the reunion, especially George Hewlett, Bob Monette and Wally Lundwall who were all involved in my rescue, after being shot down with an SA-7 missile on December 3, 1972. George was flying the UH-1 that picked us up, Bob the other cobra and Wally the OH-6 scout. What a day!

Anyway, please send the order to the above address. Thanks for the wonderful reunion. I look forward to many more, no matter where they are.

Bruce McKenty
F Troop

November 14, 2002

Dear Loel:

While attending the 1/9 Cav Reunion back in Oct of this year, I got "I Know He Goes to War" by Barry L. McAlpine of the 1/9th in my registration packet.

After arriving home, I went to the American Legion, Post 28 and showed it to the Post Commander. He wanted a copy. He put it in the Post Script. About 2500 people have now read it. His copy has been framed and is now hanging on the wall of the Legion Post for all to see, read and remember. I hope this meets with your approval.

Sincerely
Robert Coombs
D Troop 1/9 Cav

For all that were not able to make the reunion, below is a reprint. If you desire a single sheet copy. Contact AL Defleron. BWS

"I Know He Goes to War"

I can't tell you of ever finding God in church; and I can't remember feeling He was near me when I went there. I do remember seeing a lot of friendly smiling 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; and the rain would return with majesty the very next day. He was there when I collected Sgt. Moore's body parts to put 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 Loe Valley. I caught a glimpse of God when I felt the heat of Napalm called on our own position, May 27, 1967. I felt Him around me when the Chaplain would hold field services for our dead. I was 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 "Lord's 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 to 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.

Barry L. McAlpine
First Squadron, Ninth (US) Cavalry

November 15, 2002

Dear Al:

Sorry about the delay, but I needed confirmation on the facts of the story, however short it may be. This is one of the reasons that I am having such a hard time with writing about the 9th in Cuba. However, I've gotten most of my facts correct on that article and should have it ready by December. Feel free to change it in any matter you see fit.

By the way, I'm seeing a lot of good things about the reunion and through my experience I totally agree that it was terrific. I did get to see Col. Shoemaker. Damn, it was great to see him again. Hell, although I never met Col. Stockton I can truly say that both Col. Shoemaker and Col. Smith were the best and greatest commanders I served with.

Just got some pictures from D troops taken during the reunion. They are great too. It tells me that I am privileged to be a member of Bullwhip Squadron.

Sincerely,
Lionel DeLa Rosa, SFC,
U.S. Army Infantry, Ret.

December 6, 2002

Dear Al:

Enclosed is my check for \$133.00. After one year and attending the reunion, I've decided that yours is an organization that I want to be a member for the rest of my life. Therefore, I wish to be upgraded to a Lifetime Member (\$100).

The remaining \$33 is for a 2nd black polo shirt that I received in today's mail. While at Ozark, I ordered and paid for one, which I received it last week. I guess in all the confusion of the reunion, a 2nd shirt got ordered in error. But, I think they are great. So I'm going to keep it and therefore must pay for it.

Earlier this week, I also received the ID card and newspaper. I guess now I'll get another ID card that notes "Lifetime".

Thanks for having a great reunion. You folks deserve a great round of applause. I am really looking forward to 2004.

Jim Hohman
C Troop 66-67

From: Michael Bogdue
To: Lowell Ewart
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2002 1:49 PM
Subject: Politics!

I strongly protest your use of Bullwhip Squadron resources such as the newsletter and email lists to promote your political feelings and/or opinions. When we started this organization, Col Stockton cautioned us to avoid any mention of racial, religious or political matters as many can and do hold other opinions (we still live in a democracy and people are free to have their own opinions). The Bullwhip Squadron was and should be a fraternal organization, dedicated to remembering our service and that of others that were fortunate enough to have served our country in such a unit

Several people at the last reunion tried to make that point but it would appear that you failed to "get the message".

I want this letter to be printed in the next newsletter in the event that you continue to misuse the resources that you have access to.

Mike Bogdue

Answer to Mike's e-mail.

Mike

I haven't the foggiest idea what you are talking about.

I don't remember anyone talking to me at the reunion about the newsletter. You definitely did not. I was too busy making the reunion a go, to talk to anyone more than a few seconds, about anything. Nor have any of the other Board Members mentioned anything about anyone talking to them at the reunion with complaints about the newsletter.

Please explain yourself and give examples and names.

As I recall, I have passed on to you very few articles. If you do not want me to pass on to you anything that is passed on to me from others, then by your request, I have removed you from my mailings.

You are the first that has made this accusation of me during my tenure as V.P. None of the BWS Board Members have ever received any detrimental comments on our newsletter that I am aware of. In fact just the opposite is true. The comments we have consistently received, from both members and non-members, is that this is the best military organization newsletter of any they have seen. The newsletter is staffed through all Board Members for approval and corrections before printing and is not just "my opinion". We have provided the best information as possible, have printed both pro and con when available, and have provided the authors names with the articles.

We cover many broad areas in our newsletter and select those articles that our members have expressed an interest or that we believe our members are interested in.

As stated in our newsletter, we are not a "politically correct" paper and will print all sides. Freedom of press and speech is still guaranteed under our constitution. In this day and age, with all the dangers to our great nation, it is time for all to take a stand, one way or the other.

Being "politically correct" today is just not acceptable for the safety and welfare of our nation. And that is, "my opinion", and I stand by it.

I do not accept your statement that I am misusing "resources". Nor have I used the BWS mailing list as a blanket mailing list for my personnel use. Again,

provide me the same common decency that you demand, and provide examples.

We have continuously asked for our members to provide articles for print, to recommend improvements/deletions, and to assist. Many have. However you have not supported this request.

Yes, I will print your comments in the newsletter, with my answer.

Note: This answer was e-mailed back to Mr. Bogdue, but was returned as "not accepted". It appears that he had blocked receiving any mail from me.

Loel Ewart

This is from one of our members that came to the US and joined the Army to go to RVN and fight with us.

Hi Al,

First would just like to say what a pleasure it was meeting you at the reunion. I truly looked forward to that day. For me Al the reunion was a trip of a lifetime, to see so many of my old B Troop troopers again was truly a dream come true. Howard Holland, David Johnson, Capt. Niles, Col. Toolson, Col. O'Grady (Just to name a few) all such wonderful proud men and each one a fine soldier. I especially look forward to being able to attend another reunion in the near future. Alabama is unequivocally one of the most beautiful states I have ever visited and do hope all the reunions of the future are held there.

Al, I have a favour to ask of you at this time. If you have it could you please send me Col. George O'Grady's E-Mail address.

Regards

Steve O'Grady,
Vancouver Canada
sabre35@post.com

Request done. BWS

October 27, 2002

Hi AL,

Many thanks for Johnny,s address. I met him at the Waffle House in Ozark and he wrote his address in my notebook but I must have lost the page, so

many notes I took, pages got loose. As I already told Loel, AL, you guys did a outstanding job putting the reunion together.

As we grow older and illness and time takes its toll on us, seeing the guys we served with in our youth makes us feel good . My brother, George, was very impressed with our Bullwhip Squadron. He spoke with many of our crewmates, and enjoyed speaking with Chuck Knowlen and Gen. Allen at the airport during the Huey flights.
God bless you al. thanks again.

Mike Kelley
Warriorsstory@aol.com

October 27, 2002

Hi Al,

I just wanted to write to say thanks to you, Loel and all the rest of the Troopers who worked so hard to put the Bullwhip 2002 Reunion together. Because of your dedication, hundreds of us thoroughly enjoyed our visit. You folks did a marvelous job and I just wanted you to know that I and everyone I spoke to really appreciated it. Please pass along my thanks to everyone. It going to be interesting to see how many more ex-troopers hear about Bullwhip over the next two years and want to attend the reunion in 2004.

Jim Hohman
7506 Tanbark Lane
Fort Wayne, IN 46835
tel: (260) 485-7506
email: jhohman1@comcast.net

PS.. I'm looking forward to getting my new black Bullwhip shirt.

October 15, 2002

Loel:

Another great job by you and Al and Dave and all the guys and gals of Bullwhip. I can't tell you in words how much our get together every 2 years means to me. It recharges my batteries and makes me look forward to the next reunion with even more anticipation. Thank you for all the hard work you guys put into this. God Bless you and God Bless America.

Bob Hurley Troop A, 66-67
Contractor@stricom.army.mil

Al,

Thank you for all the care and concern. The outcome looked bleak about three months ago. But now I am on a road to recovery. It was great to talk to you last night, being around the members of the Bullwhip Squadron is always a tonic for me. It takes great people to be great soldiers. Just thinking of the Squadron gives me that I can, I will attitude to not give up.

I didn't realize during the war how much this unit and its people would come to mean to me in later years.

At the VHPA regional meeting I had a wonderful time talking to Dick Hale and old B Trooper that I served with in 1966. We talked for hours about the men of the troop and how fortunate we were to be in the unit even though risks were high and could become a non-habit forming practice. But it was good to know that when we were shot down everyone in the unit would take any risk to get you out of harms way.

None of us realized at the time how fortunate we were to belong to such a unique unit, even though witnessed heroic acts by 9th Cavalry soldiers were daily occurrences. It certainly was not for awards and decorations which were handed out meagerly by the Squadron.

Bravery by our soldiers was so common place I guess it made awarding honors to our troopers required a higher threshold than in other units.

Thanks again for your concern for my well being, I had a lot of good people preying for me. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Respectfully,

Jess Glance

To all our Troopers

A very warm "thank you" from AL and myself for all the positive comments. We do our best to make the reunion one you want to come back to.

Remember the next reunion is in October 2004, so start planning now. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Loel Ewart

Lost and Found

Looking for information from anyone who might of served with my father in Vietnam. His name was Robert W. Hawkins (Bobby). He was a door gunner with A Troop 1/9th from NOV 67' to MAY 69'. I think he flew with guns, lift, and even maybe scouts! His chopper was shot down 19 FEB 69' while gunning on a lift bird, but he survived. A Troop took several casualties in a engagement that day. Some names I remember him mentioning are: Pearl Hope, Wayne C. Myers, Atkins, Flynn, and Rubenknacker (not sure on spelling). The last base camp I believe he worked out of was Tay Ninh. I would appreciate any information that anyone could provide. I also want to say thanks for the sacrifice you all made during that war, especially to a unit such as the 1/9th Air Cav. The stories I heard from my dad and that I read in several books had a great influence on me to serve my country as a Airborne Ranger. Again, thanks for what you all did!!!!

hawkmana227

If you have any information to pass on, contact AL TYRE at: tyre@snowhill.com

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

**Second Inaugural Address
President Lincoln**

Magazine Update

You will notice more of our troopers are writing articles for each magazine. If you have a story to tell, then write it and send it in. Don't worry about

spelling, grammar and the likes, just do the best a trooper can. You can send it in by e-mail or by regular mail to me.

Next articles are due to me by the first of April 03.

If you would like to see a specific subject in the magazine, let us know. This is your magazine and will only be as good as we, the troopers, make it.

May we all laugh a little, cry a little and all be proud of what we accomplished. We are a brotherhood both in trust and in spirit. May you enjoy the news magazine.

BWS

TROOPERS

Remember our next BWS Reunion Is October 2004

There will be many there for the first time. Many you haven't seen for 39 years.

Time flies and days get shorter. Plan on attending the reunion!

BWS

Bullwhip Squadron Web Site

Our Association Web site continues to grow under the hand of Ms. Loretta Stager, our Web Master. She is responsible for rebuilding and maintaining the site. Loretta asks for any ideas from our troopers as to what they would like to see on the site. If you have any particulars, give her a call at (909) 657-3014 or e-mail at Loretta@pe.net and discuss your ideas.

The web site address is

www.BullwhipSquadron.org

We are also looking for someone from each troop to maintain that portion of our site with articles and pictures. See Loretta.

Check the address from time to time to see how we are progressing. We hope to make our web site a showroom for the 1st Cav Division, Air Cav Troopers and the 1st/9th.

1st/9th Squadron Commanders list is reprinted by request.

1st/9th Squadron Commanders

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. John B. Stockton | July 64 – Dec 65 |
| 2. Robert M. Shoemaker | Dec 65 – May 66 |
| 3. James C. Smith | May 66 – Nov 66 |
| 4. A. T. Pumphrey | Nov 66 – Apr 67 |
| 5. Bob W. Nevins | Apr 67 – Dec 67 |
| 6. Richard W. Dillard | Dec 67 – July 68 |
| 7. William G. Rouse | July 68 – Jan 69 |
| 8. James M. Peterson | Jan 69 – Jun 69 |
| 9. James W. Booth | Jun 69 – Aug 69 |
| 10. Edward B. Covington III | Aug 69–Sept 69 |
| 11. James W. Booth | Sept 69 – Dec 69 |
| 12. Clark A. Burnett | Dec 69 – Aug 70 |
| 13. Bob Nevins | Aug 70 – Feb 71 |
| 14. Carl Putnam | Feb 71 - 1972 |
| 15. John Toolson Jr. | 1972 - 1973 |
| 16. George Burrows | 1973 - 1974 |

Commanded the finest military unit during the Vietnam involvement, and made history.

The following list of Association members is as of 20 January 2003

Bullwhip Squadron Association members

Honored Halls

COL J. B. Stockton (Deceased)
 Glenn Shumake (Deceased)
 Earl D. Thompson (Deceased)
 John Schlichter (Deceased)
 William Gilboy (Deceased)
 John E. Kilgallen (Deceased)
 Anthony Heinz (Deceased)
 John Valaer (Deceased)
 Les Holland (Deceased)
 Garry Massey (Deceased)
 Phil Foley (Deceased)
 Thomas Beadle (Deceased)
 John E. Kilgallen (Deceased)
 Ronald L. Chapman (Dec.)
 Ron Smith (Deceased)
 Les Holland (Deceased)
 Donald Chandler (Dec.)
 Charles Covert (Deceased)
 Charles Smith (Deceased)
 John Teel (Deceased)
 Marshall Wells (Deceased)
 Gary Hayes (Deceased)

Association Members

*Abernathy, George
 *Adams, Bobby
 *Adkinson, Charles
 *Allen, David
 *Allman, Darrell
 *Alverson Jr., Frank
 *Anderson, Jere
 *Anuskjewicz, Richard
 *Anzelmo, George
 Arthur, Edward
 *Avelar Jr, Jose
 *Bagnal, Charles
 Ballard, Stephen
 *Banks, Larry

*Barati, Stephen
 *Baron, Joe
 *Barrett, James
 Barton, Glenn
 Batcheller, Clinton
 *Beardsley Jr, Guy
 Bechberger, Paul
 Beck, Clyde
 Beckwith (h), Karen
 *Bedsole, Keneith
 *Berggren, Jerry
 *Betts, Tommy
 *Black, James
 *Blad, Hjalmer
 *Blankenburg, Mitch
 Blankenship, Nelson
 *Blouin, David
 *Bluestone-Eull, Mike
 *Bogdue, Mike
 *Boisseau, Mark
 *Boles, James
 Bond, Michael
 Booth (h), James
 *Bowen, Joseph
 Bowling, Billy
 Bowman, Robert
 Branard, Thomas
 *Bray, David
 Breski (h), Harry
 Brown Jr, Albert
 *Brown, Charlie
 *Brown, Larry
 *Bulkley, Morton
 Burgess, Ronald
 *Burke, Paul
 *Burnett, Clark
 *Burrow, George
 *Busch Jr, George
 *Bush, Pat
 Butt, Harry
 *Byrd, William
 Cable, Charles
 *Caine, Vaughn
 Cairns Jr, Ernest
 Cameron, Bruce
 *Campbell, Donald
 Campbell, Harold
 *Carll, Frederick
 *Cavalieri, Dominic
 *Chimoski Jr, Al
 *Chole, Bert

*Christopher, Mark
 *Christopher, Ronald
 Clark, William
 Coburn, Jeffrey
 *Conner, James
 Connor, Terrence
 *Coombs, Robert
 Copson II, Charles
 Cornwell, Robert
 *Coshey, Donald
 *Covey, Michael
 Cox (h), David
 *Cox, Robert
 Cox, Leonard
 *Crawford, George
 *Crispino, Joseph
 Cryster (h), James
 Curtis, Grant
 Davidson, Alva
 *Danielsen, Ted
 *Davis, Gary
 *Davis, Thomas
 Day Jr., James
 Deardorff, Ken
 *Defleron, Al
 Dehart, Bruce
 Dela Rosa, Lionel
 *DeMailo, Alfred
 *Denning, Richard
 *Derrick, Charles
 *DeSloover, David
 *Dettmer, Marion
 Dillbeck, William
 Diamond, Riley
 *Dinsmore, Delamere
 *Dishaw, Michael
 *Doslop, Joseph
 Drews, David
 *Dubois, Adam
 *Duckworth, Walter
 *Dula, Jones
 Dunning, David
 *Dupreast, Samuel
 *Dupree, Ronald
 Edmunds, John
 Egonis, Clement
 *Ellis, James
 Elloit Jerry
 Emery, Robert
 *Erway, Douglas
 *Ewart, Loel

*Featherston, Steven
*Ferrea, Albert
Fieg, John
*Fisher, Gordon
*Flanagan, John
Fournier, Albert
*Francis Jr, Jim
*Frank, Patrick
*Frazer, Bill
Frazier (h), Charles
*Frederick, Donald
Fullen (h), Barbara
*Funk, Paul
Gabel, Dennis
Galloway (h), Joe
Garnhart (h), Stan
*Garrett, Robert
Gavaria (h), Lillian
*Gee, James
Genetti, Thomas
*Ghere, John
*Gillette, William
*Glance, Jesse
*Glassford, Gary
Golden, Gerald
*Goldsberry, Jerry
Gooch, Donald
*Gower, Johnny
Greer, James
*Gregor, Charles
*Grett, Stanley
Gross, Albert
*Grube, Dick
*Gutsche, Walter
*Hale, Dick
*Harmon, Thomas
*Harnisher, Thomas
*Harris III, Lucious
*Hartin Jr, William
Hartley, Thomas
*Harvey Jr, Thomas
*Haslitt, James
Hawkins, Robert
*Hearron, Aussie
Heffner, Darwin
*Helms, Felix
Henry, Myles
Henson, Kenneth
*Herra, James
*Herron, Richard
*Hewlett, George

*Hill, Edwin
*Hill, Howard (Doug)
*Hilton, Mark
Hiser, Frank
*Hlywa, Nicholas
Hnizdill, James
*Hobbs, Earl
*Hockenbury, Jay
Hogeboom, Ed
*Hohman, James
Holcomb, Brian
Holland, Howard
Holt, Robert
Hope, Tim
Houser, Craig
*Hubler, Irwin
Huff II, William
Hughes, Billy
*Hulsey, Jim
*Hundley, Stephen
Hunter, Jerry
Hurley, Bob
Iler, George
Jackson, Donald
*Jahn, Ed
*James, Jesse
*Janes, Ray
Jarvis Sr, George
*Johnson, Bruce
*Johnson, David
*Johnson, Monte
*Johnson, Ricky
*Jones, Gordon
*Jones, Walker
Judson, Robert
*Kelbus, Joseph
Kelley, Michael
Kennedy, Lawrence
Kennerson (h), Ron
Kerns, John
*Kerns Jr, Raymond
*Kilcrease, Jack
*Kilgallen (h), Elizabeth
*King, Thomas
*Kink, (h) Julie
*Knowlen, Charles
*Knowles, Patrick
Kohler, James
*Kolar, Larry R.
*Kowalski, Henry
Krohlow, Kenton

Kuhnell, Harold
Kurtz, James
*Kushner, Harold
*Kuster, Robert
*La Vigne Sr, Barry
*Labak, Robert
*La-Bombard, Lloyd
*Lackey, Robert
Laidlaw, William
*Landor, Jamie
*Lanegan, Terrence
*Lanier, Michael
*Larensen, John
*Larose (h), James
Larson, Ed
*Lassiter, Norman
*Leadabrand, Jerry
*Lenker, Max
*Leonard, Thomas
*Lewis, Judd
Lewis, Rhett
*Leyda, Craig
Libby, Jeffrey
*Lindholm, Dale
*Lott, Claude
Lucas (h), Mrs. Beth
Lundwall, Robert
Lynch, William
Machnic, Jerry
*MacLeod, Richard
Madigan, Doug
*Maher, James
*Maldonado Jr, Paul
Marcum, Eugene
*Marks, Richard
*Marshall, Richard
Martin, Thomas
Matlock, Craig
Maude, Walter
*McAllister, Bo
*McAlpine, Barry
*McAnally, Loren
*McGee (h), Robert
McGowan, (h) Deirdre
McIlwain, Blake
*McKee, Orvel
McKenty, Bruce
McKiddy, (h) Edgar
McKiddy, (h) Ron
McKnight Jr., James
*McLaughlin, Davin

*McMullan, Robert
*McNinch, Jerry
*Metcalf, Marvin
Miller, Brian
Miller, John
*Mix, Robert
Monette, Bob
Monks, Elzner
Moore, Harold
*Moore, Marion
*Moser, Frank
*Mueller, Virgil
*Mundy Jr, G.G.
*Murphy, Maurice
Murtha, Paul
Nash, Stanley
*Nardotti Jr, Michael
Nash, Stanley
*Nelms, Douglas
Nevins Jr, Robert
*Newby, Claude
*Nicholas, George
*Nielsen, John
*Nii, Elmer
*Niles, Louis
O'Brien (h), Charlotte
O'Grady, George
*O'Grady, Steve
*Olenczuk, Anthony
*Oliver, Jack
*Olson, Frederick
*Olson, Kenneth
*O'Neill, John
Orifici, Tony
*Ortner, Anthony
*Oshiro, Clyde
*Owens, Ronald
Park, George
*Parnell, James
Patterson, Roger
Pelkey, David
*Peterson, Robert
*Pettit, Richard
*Phipps, Robert
Phipps, Wayne
*Poe, Robert
Polisky, Simon
Poos (h), Robert
*Potts, William
Powell, John
*Pratt, James

*Pressman, James
Pryce, David
*Pumphrey, A.T.
Qualley, Gary
*Quinn, Bill
*Racine, Maurice
*Rainwater, Ross
*Rawl, Joe
Regg, Harold
*Reid, Jim
*Retterer, John
*Rhoden, Joe
*Ribbeck, Rudolph
Rice, Charles
Richey, Roger
*Ricks, Douglas
Ridenour, Charles
Riney, Michael
Rittenhouse, Bill
*Robertson Jr, Joseph
Roble, Edwin
*Rochat III, Louis
Rodriguez, Fernando
Rose, Harold
*Rosebrough, James
*Roshier, Galen
Rudl, Roy
Russell Jr., Luther
Ryan, John
*Salmon, Gary
*Salomone, Joseph
*Salyer, James
Samuel, Lonnie
*Schellenberg, Woodrow
Schillereff, John
*Schlottman, Jim
*Schmotolocha, Jerry
*Schulberg, Michael
Schwarz, John
*Scott, Kenneth
Sedacca, Emanuel
*Sellers, Robert
Shafer, Paul
*Shaffer, Nate
*Shanklin, David
*Shields, Jack
*Shoemaker, Gen Robert
*Silva, Robert
*Smith, Rayburn Gene
Smith, Ben
*Smith, Cecil

*Smith, Jim
Smith (h), Kevin
*Snow, Peter
*Soltes, Charles
*Stager (h), Loretta
St. Laurent, Bruce
Stanfield, Neil
Stanley, William
*Steine, Joel
Stetter, John
*Stewart, Frank
*Stewart, Patrick
*Stockton (h), Rita
*Stockton (h), Wootsie
*Stone, Gordon
Stoverink, Robert
Sullivan (h), Dennis
Sundt, Richard
*Sutton, Lester
*Swain, Robert
Swanson (h), Sandee
Sweeney, Ronald
Tadlock, Robert
Talley, James
*Tasker, Larry
*Tassin, Paul
*Terry, Michael
*Thaxton, Bob
*Thomas, John
*Timmons, William
*Titchenell, Wallace
*Toolson Jr., John
Tromontano, Joseph
*Tredway, Robert
Treude, Harry
Trombley, Thomas
*Tucker, Douglas
*Turner, Barrie
Tuttle, Mike
*Tyler, James
Tyre, Allen
Tyrrell, Paul
*Van Winkle, James
*Vanasse, Eugene
Vaughan, Lad
*Walker, John
*Wallace, John
*Wardzala, Daniel
Washington, Royall
Weaver, Charles
*Weeks, Jimmy

*Weems, Neil
 *Welch, A.J.
 *Westfall, Ronald
 *Whigham, Charles
 *Whitehead III, John
 *Wilke, Charles
 Wilkins, Donald
 *Wilkinson, George
 *Williams, Billie
 *Williams, Frank
 Williams, Sammy
 *Wingate, Charles
 Wirz, Bruce
 *Wood, Doug
 *Woodward, Wallace
 *Wright, Larry
 *Wuensch, Marc
 Wulff, Richard
 Wulff, Roy
 Yarnell, Stephen

*York Jr (h), Jean
 *Young, Terry
 *Young, Robert
 *Zahn, Bob
 *Zemke, Phillip
 *Zion, Robert

h - Honorary
*** - Lifetime**

Notice the amount of * that denote lifetime membership.

You too can become a “lifetime” member by paying in installments.

Call Loel or AL as to the method and payment.

Items For Sale

The Bullwhip Squadron Association has the following items for sale. All the proceeds go into the Squadron fund, so as you buy, you help build the Bullwhip Squadron Association fund. All merchandising items for sale will be handled by Squadron member, Al Defleron.

You can call or write Al Defleron for any of the items we have. The items will be shipped to you after receiving the money. When you order, please state size. Also add \$5 for shipping. The items we have for sell are;

1. White or black, ball caps with the Squadron guidon insignia, \$10.
2. White or black polo shirts (golf), with Squadron guidon insignia, \$23 (add \$5 for personalized with name and 1st Cav patch).
3. Wind breaker jackets, lined, in colors, with Squadron guidon insignia, \$30.
4. ** Unit Guidon flags for all troops, “A through F”. These guidons are exactly like the troop originals, \$70 each.
5. Headhunter Bumper Stickers, \$2.00.
6. Original Bullwhip Squadron Bumper Stickers, \$1.50.

7. Bullwhip Squadron Bumper Stickers with Crossed Saber, \$1.75.
8. Sun Visors with Squadron Guidon, \$8.00.
9. Denim Shirts are available with Squadron guidon and personalized. \$38.00.
10. Statues (Reunion), a few left, \$25 each.
11. Golf Towels, black/white, with Sqdn. Logo, \$8.00
12. BWS Unit Coins, \$5.00 (\$2.50 mailing)
13. Book, 1/9 Historical Summary 65-72, \$15.00
14. BWS 1/9 Lapel Pins \$3.50
15. Troop Guidons, \$70.00 each. Note; We can order any troop guidon required.
16. Reunion Table Center Decoration (flags and coin with holder) \$25 each. We only have a few left.

Order your items now from AL and you will have them for the Next Reunion!! We will have very little to sell at the reunion, so order now!

2002 REUNION

Troopers

Our BWS 2002 reunion was a resounding success, thanks to the hard work by all the staff and the troopers that came in early to help set up, work the areas, and that worked in all the areas during the reunion.

Our Friday night Bar-B-Q was held in the Ozark Civic center and the Saturday night banquet was held at the Ft. Rucker Officers club.

Over 425 troopers and guests were in attendance at both events.

Special thanks go to Bill & Lila Jean Potts, Larry & Lynn Wright, Tiny Hubler, Lola Sullivan, Jerry & Nancy McNinch and Loretta Stager for the day to day work and support.

Special thanks also go to Jere Anderson, Bill Frazer, Jim Scholottman, Louis Rochat III and Ron Christopher for the items they donated for the Banquet Auction. These items helped make the auction a resounding success. A total of 14 items were auctioned. \$5000 + was realized from the banquet night auction and the raffles. This definitely helped defray the reunion expenses.

A very special thanks goes to all the troopers, spouses and members, the motels and Mayor Bob Bunting, the city of Ozark, that helped make this reunion the success it was.

Appreciation certificates were given to all for their support of the BWS reunion.

The three raffle drawings were very successful. Chuck Wingate won the Stetson, Dick Timmons won the Huey tail # 555, tail rotor sprocket, Joe Solomon won the computer system and Karren Tyrrell won the ladies necklace.

135 troopers were in attendance during the BWS Biannual Business Meeting on Saturday afternoon. On major actions, it was voted to hold the 2004 reunion again at Ft. Rucker, (and explore the feasibility of holding the reunion in Dothan, more motels) place a marble monument at the Ft. Rucker memorial, add 2 Board Members (one enlisted), look at the possibility of placing a 1/9 plaque at Ft. Benning, presenting a 1/9 B Troop guidon (last B Troop guidon in RVN) to the museum and offering President Bush an honorary membership (while in office).

Photos of the reunion are provided for your enjoyment.

Troopers,

The advertisements in this news magazine are from the local merchants and some of our own. They are supporting our Association by advertising. The funds generated by the advertisements help to defray printing and operations expenses and allow us to provide you, the members, with a quality newsletter.

The pages of advertisements from our supporters are well worth reading and knowing that their love for the Association is helping us to keep the cost of membership and the news magazine to a manageable level for all of us. When you are in their area, support them as they support us. While many are not active members, their beliefs and ideals match our own. The Association asks you to support the merchants that advertise in our news magazine when you are in their vicinity or at their location. Lower Alabama and the Wiregrass Area has truly become the home of the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

So to all our advertisers, a very heart felt, Thank You.

BWS

Charlie Troop Reunions

Our first mini-reunion in 2002 was in conjunction with the annual reunion of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association in Las Vegas, NV. The VHPA always hold their annual reunion the week of July 4th. We found out too late of the conflict with the reunion of the First Cavalry Division Association who held their Colorado Springs, CO reunion during the same week. Our Las Vegas stay was particularly enjoyable due to the terrific hospitality of former 1-9th troopers in Las Vegas, led by Lad Vaughn, A-1-9 and Mike Smith, C-1-9. Almost all veteran skills were represented, including Blues, crew chiefs, gunners, observers, operations, admin, avionics, maintenance, pilots and KIA families. Some were first-timers to attend any military reunion. Charlie Troopers are committed to including KIA families in all activities.

The second reunion was in conjunction with the Bullwhip Squadron in Ozark, AL in October. Again, a great turnout. Many thanks to the leaders of the gaggle: troopers Allen, Defleron and Ewart as well as a host of others. It is noteworthy that we continue to get first-timers. The big draw for this reunion is the meeting of troopers from other than our particular unit of assignment. Congratulations to the BWS leadership and alumni from all troops for making this the largest reunion ever.

A smaller annual reunion was on Veteran's Day in Washington, DC at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Many Bullwhip troopers are also members of the First Cavalry Division Association, the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members Association and the VHPA. This is perhaps the most emotional and personally rewarding of all reunions for many. There were ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and at the "Wall" itself. It is noteworthy that of the five color guards posted on the high ground above the VVM, our own First Cavalry color guard troopers had center stage! Another highlight was the annual Ia Drang dinner put together by troopers Hal Moore and Joe Galloway.

The reunion tradition will continue in 2003. We urge all troopers to attend the First Cavalry Division Association's reunion at Fort Hood. If you are not a member of the Association...you should be. Walker Jones is our resident editor of the 1-9th Cavalry column that is required reading for alumni. The word is that our horse "Bullwhip" continues to mature and contribute to the Horse Platoon. The platoon will be performing at the Fort Hood reunion next summer.

Alaska Cruise. While in Las Vegas, our own Randy Zahn suggested that a cruise would be a very nice reunion. There is no driving, motel-hopping or other distractions to disrupt sharing quality time with your comrades for seven full days. Some troopers believe that the free food and drinks will ensure success of this enterprise. Randy pulled it together and our first-ever cruise starts July 12th in Seattle and returns July 19th. Ports of call include Juneau, Tracy Arm, Ketchikan and Victoria, B.C. The ship will get up close and personal with glaciers. Bookings are now being processed. For information and details, contact our cruise coordinator, Maxine Rosenthal. Her e-mail is Cruisemax@aol.com. Her telephone number is 1-800-805-5666. Reference should be to "Charlie Troop 2003 cruise." All aboard!

Cavalier 6
Bob Tredway
bobtredway@aol.com
202-484-2981

BULLWHIP SQUADRON YEAR END REPORT

Beginning Balance January 1, 2002	\$ 5569.05
Total Income for 2002	<u>43168.25</u>
Total	48737.30
Expenses	<u>-41873.28</u>
Check Book Balance as Dec 31, 2002	6864.02
CD #1	2985.84
CD #2	9069.11
CD # 3	<u>22473.69</u>
Total Checkbook & Savings: Dec 31, 2002	\$41,392.66

Income 2002

Lifetime Dues	\$5595.00
2002 Dues	1785.00
2003 Dues	785.00
2004 Dues	75.00
Donations	2743.00
Merchandise & Postage	4384.39
Newsletter Ads	3200.00
Reg. Fee for reunion	7759.00
BBQ Fees	4332.00
Banquet Fees	6762.00
Golf Fees	674.00
Other Misc. Reunion	<u>5073.86</u>
Total Income 2002	\$43168.25

Income	\$43,168.25
Expense	<u>- \$41,873.28</u>
Net increase in bank	\$1,294.97

Expenses 2002

Office Supplies	\$ 469.36
Newsletter	2979.88
Merchandise	2253.78
Phone Bills	1483.22
Postage	582.77
Web Site	269.70
Misc.	2933.14
Reunion	20901.43
Added to CD #3	<u>10000.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$41,873.28

Prepared by Barbara Ewart
Treasurer

Recap

Yes troopers, we came out in the black by \$1,294.97 for the year, with a total dollar amount of \$41,392.66 in our accounts. The auctions during the banquet, and the raffles, insured we did not lose money during the reunion.

Many of you have asked "why the auctions"? As you can see the \$5000 + that the auctions and the raffles brought in helped to defray around \$4000 in expenses. This directly kept the reunion expense to you down to a manageable level.

We are a solvent organization and will remain so, with continued good management. We, the Board Members, will continue the frugal management as in the past.

We have come a long way from 1996, when, after the reunion, we were \$2500 dollars in the red, to 2002, where we are a very viable organization and solidly in the black with no outstanding bills.

Barbara Ewart

Reunion Photos

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