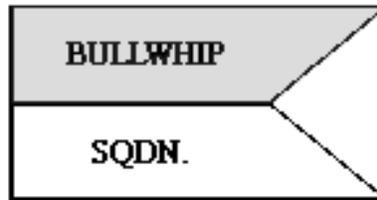


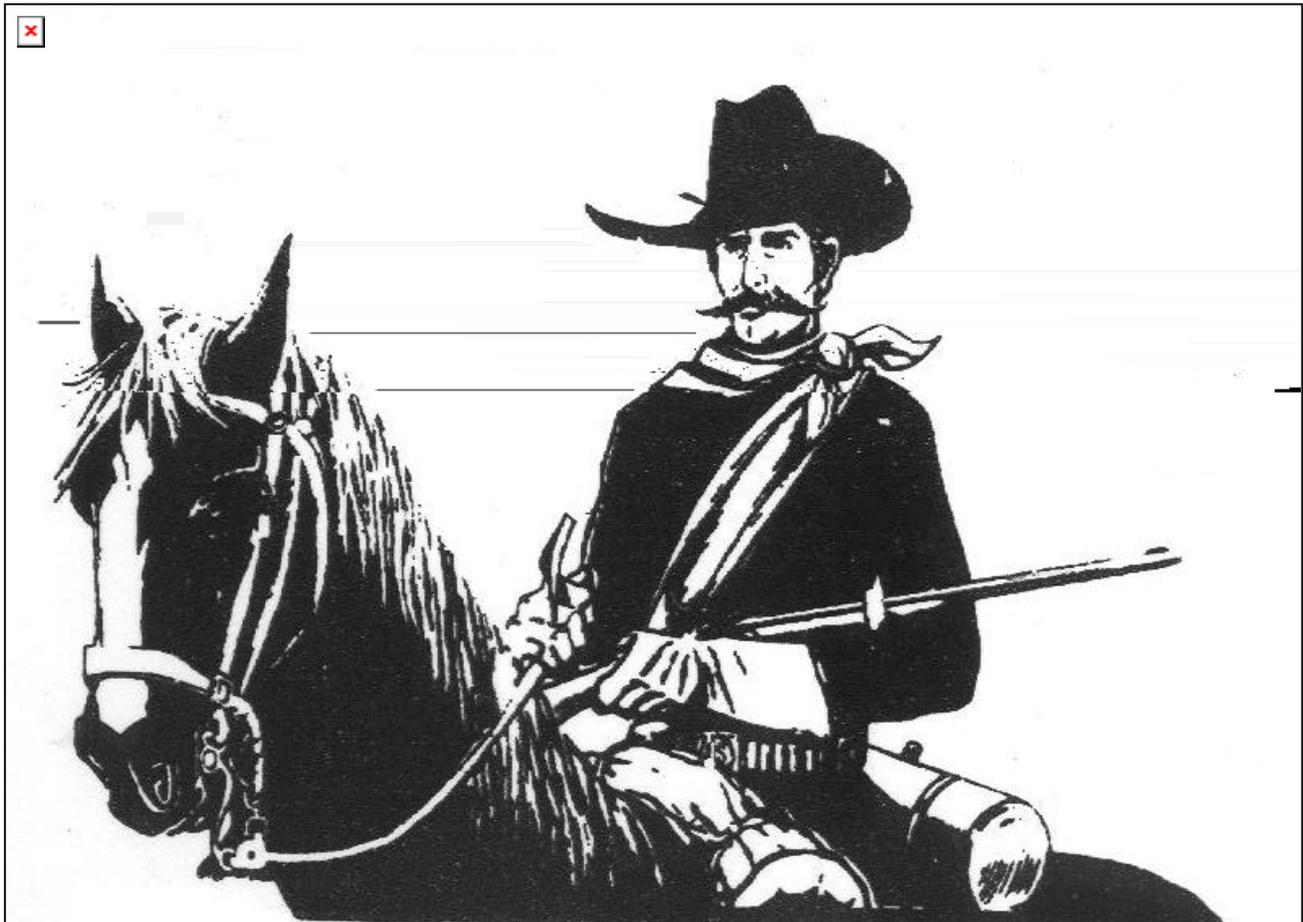
3rd/17th --- 1st/9th
Air Cavalry Squadron



THE BULLWHIP SQUADRON NEWS

The official Newsletter of the Bullwhip Squadron Association

March 2000



TRUE FRIENDS

**Many people will walk in and out of your life,
But only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.
To handle yourself, use your head;
To handle others, use your heart.
Anger is only one letter short of danger.
If someone betrays you once, it is his fault;
If he betrays you twice, it is your fault.
Great minds discuss ideas;
Average minds discuss events;
Small minds discuss people.
He who loses money, loses much;
He who loses a friend, loses much more;
He who loses faith, loses all.
Beautiful young people are accidents of nature,
But beautiful old people are works of art.
Learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.
Friends, you and me...
You brought another friend...
And then there were 3...
We started our group....
Our circle of friends...
And like that circle...
There is no beginning or end...
Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is mystery.
Today is a gift.**

Arthur unknown.



Adjutants Call

Attention to Orders

I feel sure that John B. would be the first to remind us that planning ahead is an important element of any successful CAV operation. Commanders, such as those who held the reins of the 1/9 from the early days at Benning through the trials in Vietnam, knew the importance of a good S-3 shop, S-4, as well as other members of the Bullwhip team in planning and expecting a Calvary action.

With this in mind it was good to receive the 4 Jan 2000 letter advising us one and all to not procrastinate with regard to our upcoming 2000 reunion at the Home of Army Aviation, Ft. Rucker.

All of us in the Bullwhip Squadron Association owe a great debt to the small cadre of devoted Troopers who work in the trenches planning for this great reunion. Loel Ewart, Al DeFleron and General Dave as well as others do a great deal for us all. We can help by sending in our registration forms and checks as soon as possible, along with our dues, if you are one of the procrastinators.

On a personal note, those of you who are AUSA members or have access to Army Magazine should take a moment or two to look over a story in the January 2000 edition which deals with The National Infantry Museum. Those of you who attended the first reunion at Ft. Benning may recall your visit to the museum. You will also see a reprint of a Jan. 1950 article titled "Flying Battalions". For some of us old Troopers, looks like we are soon to be a part of history.

FOR THE COMMANDER

DICK D GRUBE

POST SCRIPT

The articles in this newsletter from our fellow troopers are a reminder to all, of the integrity and honor of those who have served before us, with us and after us. The article by Bob Garrett especially indicates the problems as seen within our society today. While many of us are retired from the Army, and some from a second career, we cannot retire from our responsibilities of Duty, Honor, Country. It is still us, the old, seasoned Troopers that must lead and show the way for our new breed of troopers and for our civilian counterparts and neighbors. The Presidential and congressional elections are this year. Insure you do your duty and vote! Vote your mind, not your heart. Vote for what is best for this great country of ours. We must have a say in who will be our elected officials and voting is the only way we can. We must persevere or our beloved nation will fall.

We are who we are: AIR CAV TROOPERS.

BWS

TAPS

John E. Kilgallen
Ronald L. Chapman

May 30, 1998
October 7, 1999



FROM THE COMMANDER

From all in indications based on the number of hotel reservations we have received so far, the October BWS Reunion should be our largest ever. For those of you who have not sent in your reservations, I encourage you to do so as the Holiday Inn rooms are almost all gone; however, the other 2 local motels still have plenty of rooms available.

As you are probably aware, the BWS Association is a private non-profit organization. However, because the Association does collect dues and sells distinctive 9th Cav merchandise, along with other money collection activities (the Bullwhip horse), we have decided to legally protect ourselves from the IRS. Thanks to one of our members, Doug Ricks of Everett, Washington, who is a lawyer, the BWS Association is now legally chartered and registered in Washington. This action now protects us from paying any taxes to the IRS. The BWS Board of Directors (Allen, DeFleron, and the 2 Ewarts) greatly appreciate Doug's expert advice and guidance in this effort.

We have recently learned that LTC® Bert Chole has been selected to join the OCS Hall of Fame at Ft. Benning, GA. Bert will be inducted in April and those of us in the local area will attend. Bert's selection is most appropriate in that he is truly deserving of this recognition. He will join another 9th Cav member, Col® Stan Grett, who was inducted 2 years ago. Congratulations, Bert.

We have located several pictures of the H-13 scout helicopter that flew in Vietnam for the first few years. These pictures will allow the Atlanta based Army Aviation Heritage Foundation to paint the restored and flyable helicopter with the distinctive markings of the Real Cav, the 1/9th Cav. This aircraft will make its debut at the Armed Forces Day demonstration on 20 May at Ft. Rucker along with several other foundation aircraft (Caribou, OH6, UH1, Cobra, L4, L19, etc). The H13 will also be at our BWS Reunion in October – bring your cameras!

The First Lady of the BWS, Rita Stockton, is in the initial process of writing another book based on numerous pages she had found that John B. had filed away. One of the chapters will be devoted to the “Hospital” engagement and the Ia Drang battle. In that chapter will be a consolidation of first person accounts of what really took place that lead up to the relief of Bullwhip 6. She will be assisted in this effort by Joe Galloway, who along with LTG Hal Moore wrote, “We were Soldiers Once ... and Young”. Several of you have been or will be contacted by Rita to assist in this recreation of what really took place.

Our BWS historian Col® A.J. Welch has informed me that the 2005 1st Cav Reunion at Ft. Hood will mark the 40th anniversary of the First Teams deployment to Vietnam in 1965. It doesn't seem possible! Anyway, A.J., along with Col® Pete Booth has asked that we put that date on our calendars for another large Headhunter attendance.

While I was in Korea for 3 weeks in January, I located an engraving company that

has made memorable coins for many Korean based military units. I had seen several of his coins when I was in Korea last time and was impressed with the quality of his work. I solicited several ideas from the BWS staff, A.J. Welch and Bert Chole. Based on their input, I finalized the end product and had the engraver make the initial 500 coins for our members, to include the original dye cast, for future use. I believe you'll love the end result – a collector's piece. They'll be in your Reunion packet along with new BWS lapel pins which we also had redone.

Until the next newsletter.

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

Assess the advantages of taking advice, then structure your forces accordingly, to supplement extraordinary tactics. Forces are to be structured strategically, based on what is advantageous.

Sun Tzu

From the Chaplain:

Hello, fellow Bullwhip Veterans.

In my previous—and first—contribution to the newsletter, I apologized for not introducing myself as the honorary chaplain of the 9th Cavalry and Bullwhip Squadron. I will do that in this letter. But before boring you with those details, I will share with you an incident that introduced me for the first time to a member of the 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry.

The rainy—rainy monsoon—had arrived in earnest to central and northeast Vietnam, bringing the promise of cooler days and seemingly frigid nights in the highlands. Continuous torrential rain turned the camp to muck and low, moisture-laden clouds socked in the 1st Cavalry Division base camp on

Hong Cong Mountain was invisible at times from a hundred feet away.

At about 1630 hours on October 4, all available Medevac helicopters and all available doctors and medics were scrambled and headed for the top of the Mountain. A CV-2 Caribou, laden with sky troopers, including several wounded grunts, had crashed head-on into the side of the mountain. It had crashed while trying to land on the main runway (Golf Course), this despite redundant on-board and ground-based safety guidance systems. Fortunately, the Caribou could fly at the amazingly slow air speed of forty-miles per hour, which made the difference between life and death for several grunts, but not for the crew of the Caribou.

The mountainside was too steep for the rescue choppers to land at the crash site. So scores of rescuers—including medical personnel and Medevac crews--tore their way slipping and sliding down the very rugged, jungles-covered slope from the artificially flattened top of Hong Kong to the crash site. There, to everyone's amazement, more of the crash victims were alive than were dead.

All the survivors were injured, and many of them required immediate, operating room-quality medical attention. So the rescuers formed a human chain and moved the injured up the mountain to the waiting helicopters. Exerting superhuman strength, the rescuers defied gravity to keep each casualty-laden stretcher approximately level on the 50 to 80-degree incline of the mountainside. Though there was nothing funny about the situation, humor appeared, and from an unlikely source.

One of the rescuers on the human-chain wondered aloud why the doctors had bothered sending up one grunt. An M-16 rifle stuck straight upward out of the grunt's abdomen. The violence of the crash had driven the barrel of another grunt's M-16 rifle all the way through him.

Recalling repeated admonitions by drill sergeants and squad leaders, the wounded trooper looked over at his benefactors and said "They can't accuse me of not taking my weapon with me, can they?"

I expected him to die, despite his sense of humor. But I learned differently in 1969. A

sergeant, who was on a second or third tour with the 1-9 Cav, told me the rest of the story. "Yeah, that was Sergeant [I forget the name]. He was wounded earlier that day during a 'blue-team' operation . . . He's stationed now at Fort..."

Perhaps Readers Digest had it right, that Laughter is the Best Medicine. And perhaps some of you remember who this Blue trooper was/is. I'd surely like to like to hear from you if you do. And I hasten to add that laughter can be no better than the second-best medicine. The best medicine comes from a highly spiritual source, which source I highly recommend to each of us.

Now to the threatened, hopefully not too boring introduction of "yours truly." A native of East Tennessee, I joined the Army in 1952 at the age of 16 years and two days. I trained as an infantryman but was made an instant—not even shake-and-bake—medic upon arriving overseas. Nine months later I transferred to the military police and for two years I rode with a horse-mounted platoon—at the time, the last of the historic old horse cavalry in the active Army. After five and half years, the last two in Brooklyn, New York, I separated from the Army. Over the next few years I did "time" at Alcatraz, served as a police officer for four years and taught school for a year. In January 1966 I returned to active duty as an Army chaplain. Two combat tours with the 1st Cav highlighted the next 27 years. During my first combat tour (Sep to Sep, 1966-67) I spent almost three months with the medics and nine with the 2-8 Cav. Between March and September March 1969, I was with the 1-5 Cav (while also supporting the 2-12 Cav). Finally—too late to be a founding member of the Bullwhip Squadron—I served from September 1969 to March 1970 with the famous 1-9 Cav (which included the LRRP Rangers and a tracker-dog detachment). After 27 years as a chaplain, I retired in 1993 with 33 years active duty stretching over 40 years.

I completed high school via the GED program while serving as an enlisted man, and subsequently acquired a bachelor degree and two masters degrees.

I am the great-grandson of four Civil War veterans, husband of the former Helga M. A.

Raasch of Berlin, Germany, father of seven (three sons, four daughters), the grandfather of 29 and great-grandfather of two.

The Good Conduct Medal is one of my decorations, which seems appropriate for a former chaplain, don't you think (though I got it as an enlisted man for going three years without getting caught).

Sincerely,

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

ALL GAVE SOME , SOME GAVE ALL

At times we forget that we are all veterans regardless of what war we fought and we forget to listen, and say thank you.

Read and understand.

BWS

Our Future

The following story was sent by the author, Rob Glazier, a Vietnam Helicopter Pilot just like a lot of us. I hope you find it as poignant as I did. The story in its entirety follows:

I like to go to the library at lunchtime sometimes, and today was one of those times. While walking amongst the books, I saw a small bent-over old man, hobbling along with a cane, ear piece, and assorted other body appendages visible beneath his shirt.

He had on a "World War II Veteran" baseball cap, so I asked him which branch he was in. "Army Air Force", was the reply. "Were you ever in the service?", he asked "Yes, I was a helicopter pilot in Vietnam", I replied. "Where were you stationed?", I asked. "Europe" he said.

"What did you do?" He points to the tie-tac he was wearing, "Recognize this?" It was a B-24 Liberator.

"Sure, my Dad was in the Pacific. Who were with you with?" He pulls a business card out of his decrepit old wallet. It says:

John F. Barnacle
450th "COTTONTAILS" Bomb Group,
15th A.F
Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society
Air Forces Gunners Association
D.A.V - AM. LEG. - V.F.W.
2207 Barrywood Rd.
Huntsville, AL 35810
256-852-4126

I asked John, "So, what did you do?" He replied, "Ball Turret Gunner. I don't want to bore you, but, would you like to hear my story?" "I sure would." He then regaled me with his story, of how he enlisted in the Guard in '38, and got called to active duty in October. '40. He started out in B-25s as a waste gunner. He was still in the States, out drinking with a bunch of guys one night, and one of them got drunk and told him about this special unit that Col. Jimmy Doolittle was forming up down at Eglin.

John bummed a flight down to Eglin. He reported to the operations Major, and told him wanted to volunteer for the special unit he heard about. The Major told him he had to wait for the Col. to come back. Later that afternoon Doolittle landed, in his own personal P-40 that he flew. John reported to Doolittle and told him that he wanted to join his outfit. Doolittle told him to get the Hell out his office. He already had more guys wanting to commit suicide than he needed. That's how John missed the Tokyo raid.

So, John returned back to his base, only to get disciplined with 120 days of KP and guard duty for running off to Jimmy.

He then volunteered to train as part of the first two Heavy Bomber crews for the 450th. He was the small guy, so he got the ball turret. John then told me; of the day -one of many days - in which he personally shot down 5 German fighters, a mixture of Me-109s and FW-190s; of how he was wounded three times; of the day his B-24 got shot down over Yugoslavia, and he spent 30 days in E&E with Tito's partisans before he was repatriated to the Allies; of how they refused to let him return to combat because of the rule that shot

down and returned airman might reveal info about the resistance; of about how he went back to the States, and trained new crewmen for the B-29; and how they refused to let him volunteer to be B-29 crewman in the Pacific - they said he had had too much already. He then showed me his beat-up old "Caterpillar Club" card, that he received for having his life saved by a parachute in March 1944.

He had a gleam in his eyes, and that faraway look that warriors get when remembering. I know the look. I was silent, a little dumbstruck.

He then hooked his cane on his arm, and took my hand in both of his. He started shaking my hand vigorously, and with tears in his eyes said, "Thank you for listening to my story."

I was getting a little misty eyed too. I thanked him profusely for sharing it.

This just happened with in the past hour. I wrote this as memorial to this great, and aged warrior. They are dying off fast.

I also wrote it because I saw myself - all of us - a few years down the road, as old men, (I mean really old men) forgotten by everybody. I hope somebody wants to hear my story someday. I hope somebody will stop and care.

I am a little misty eyed again.

Rob Glasier
Maddog 19
Greyhound 19
240th AHC RVN

From The Command Sergeant Major

Old Soldiers, just around the corner, just this coming October, will see the Bullwhip Squadron's 4th reunion. This reunion will be one to remember and will be the biggest one yet, with many new members.

We have seen the Army cut down to almost nothing in size and now some of our leaders want to hold another round of base closures with a further reduction in force structure. Will this happen? Yes, unless all of us start to give the good fight to support our active

forces. Remember, what rolls downhill doesn't stop until it hits the retirees.

It's time we had a trooper roll call to battle, the battle for the good of our great country. Each of us can do his part by voting in the upcoming elections. Vote with your mind. Find out what the candidates really will do for the country. Your vote counts and the man that is the next president will guide this great country for the next 4 years. Vote carefully!

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.

Our association continues to grow and all of you troopers who make up the 1st/9th Air CAV Squadron make this old soldier proud.

Let no soldier ever forget that it is the Air Cav Squadron troopers that is always first in battle, always first in friendship, always first for our country.

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

Loel Ewart
Rt. 2 Box 158
Ozark, Al. 36360
Ph. # 334-774-0328
e-mail lewart@snowhill.com

Or

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

I am looking forward to seeing all my old soldiers this October at the reunion.

SGM Kennedy
Bullwhip 7

"So if you know the place and time of battle, you can join the fight from a thousand miles away ."

Sun Tzu

From the Sergeant Major:

Well Troopers!

The anticipation is over! As the Y2K scare has come and gone with little or no effects falling on us. Very much like the old "Chicken Little" story of the sky falling, only to find that it was an acorn. The only falling around the Bullwhip Squadron Assn. was and is we dropped from approx. 350 paid members to 205. But that is starting to pick back up. We have at this writing 90 lifetime members and that too is picking up weekly. We are starting to pick up some of those who dropped out (failed to pay dues) last year. That along with the new members we're getting (almost daily), brings our membership rolls over the 400 mark. Now if our procrastinating members will just pay their dues, we would have over 400 active members!

After many hours of combining lists and rosters with A.J. Welch (the swamp fox) we've come up with approximately 2000 1/9 troopers names. We have addresses and dates on at least 2/3rds of them. Unfortunately some of our addresses are not good addresses. We have just finished mailing out 785 invitations to join from this list and are starting to get some response. The last huge mail out (approx 1000) right after the 98 reunion brought us approximately 100 new members, with a steady growth of new members. These are the results from you the troopers, getting in touch with other troopers who served with the Squadron. This is also probably one of our best sources of correct and up to date address & locations.

After these huge mail outs the old anticipation starts. First we get a lot of bad address returns along with some that are forwarding changes. Then the beauty comes with those return replies with new members.

We also get a lot of phone calls with the response of the mail out. Thanks to our bulk mailing it does not cost near what it used to. We are hoping for better and bigger results with this effort than before.

But like our reunions, no sooner than it's over we get started on the next mail out!

And now speaking of reunions! October isn't that far away. The outlook is very promising and looks to be our biggest to date, Room reservations are strong with most at the near full Holiday Inn and the other motels ready to pick up the overflow. **If you have been lagging on making your reservation I would advise you to do so now.** There will be some good surprises awaiting you here in October.

We will have quite a few troopers making their first Squadron Reunion to see troopers they haven't seen in over thirty years or more. I Love It!! (A thing of beauty).

I'll bring this to a close by once again asking you all to please keep getting those names and addresses to us of those lost troopers. Let them know that we are here for them. I received a call the other evening by a trooper who had passed on to a lost trooper my name address and phone #. The trooper called me about sending him an invite to join. Lo and behold he only lives around 7 miles or less from me. We have found 5 troopers here in the Wiregrass area in the last month who did not know about the Squadron and us being here until their names were passed on to the Association. Thus far 3 have joined and we are hoping the other 2 will also. And if not, for whatever reason, at least they'll know that we are here.

We still have quite a few shirts, caps, jackets, Bullwhip stickers, Headhunter bumper stickers and statues. Also the shirts and jackets can be personalized with name on the right breast and small Cav patch on the right sleeve (can't put the Cav patch on the jackets).

We would really like to sell as much of this merchandise as possible. It's paid for and the money would go back into the Squadron fund to help defray our October reunion expenses.

I hope to see all of you at the Oct. Reunion.

As Ever,

L.A. (D) DeFleron

SGM

Bullwhip Squadron Association

Keeper Of The Rock

We all remember the anti-military sentiments prevalent in this country in the 1970's. One indication of how this feeling has diminished since then has been the dramatic increase in the number of high school JROTC units in the United States. Due to the efforts of Gen. Colin Powell and others in the 1990's, Congress dramatically raised the ceiling on the numbers of JROTC programs. As a JROTC instructor myself for the past four years, I can attest to the success of the program.

The mission of JROTC is not, as some think, to train students for college ROTC or to prepare them for enlistment in the military, although many of our graduates are motivated to take one of these routes. The mission of JROTC, as set forth by Congress, to "motivate young Americans to be better citizens" and additionally to teach leadership.

All JROTC instructors are retired officers and NCOs. In the classroom, we teach a wide variety of units of study such as citizenship, leadership, first aid, military history, map reading, drill and ceremony, financial planning, career guidance and substance abuse prevention. We engage in such adventure activities as land navigation, marksmanship, repelling and running obstacle courses. JROTC provides extra-curricular activities for a large segment of the student body that otherwise would not participate in such activities.

Each summer we take selected cadets to a one-week summer camp, generally

located on army posts. These camps are an excellent opportunity for the cadets to come together for a week of concentrated leadership training and adventure activities.

As a veteran like all of you, it is very rewarding to teach leadership to these young people, put them in leadership positions and mentor them. It is also rewarding to teach them patriotism, love of country and respect for the flag---ideals they might not be taught otherwise. In our mission of molding these young lives, we receive a great deal of support from veteran's organizations like the American Legion, Retired Officer's Association, Association of the United States Army and the Military Order of the World Wars. If any of you are members of these groups, I can assure you that your support in these organizations for JROTC is well-founded.

Gene Smith
Keeper of the Rock

We continue to have a lot of calls about the videotapes that Jerry has for sale, especially by our many new members. So for all of you that are interested, the following article is again being reprinted, for all of our new Brotherhood members.

Troopers, I introduce, SMOKY.

SMOKY

For those of you who do not know Smoky, we, in the Bullwhip Squadron, have a fantastic asset in the person of Jerry 'Smoky' Schmotolocha. Smokey has done an excellent job of compiling and editing tapes about the Bullwhip Squadron, the 7th Cav and the Air Cav in general. In addition to these tapes being of great interest to us, some of the proceeds from the sales will go toward the Squadron 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).

This is a very worthy cause and is for the Squadron troopers to see their past and the honor of seeing true Cav Troopers in action.

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

Jerry Schmotolocha
23 Congressional Parkway
Livingston, NJ 07039
Phone: (973) 535-3926

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.

BWS

Legal Advice

Legal advice will appear again in our next newsletter.

Food for Thought. Especially if you have a Doctor's appointment.

A recent article appeared in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer concerning accidental deaths caused by physicians, from research of Laura Key USA. This triggered a chain of thought that resulted in the person cruising the

web finding some statistics and doing a few calculations.

Number of physicians in the US = 700,000
Accidental deaths caused per year = 120,000
Accidental deaths/physician = 0.171
Number of gun owners in the US = 80,000,000
Number of accidental gun deaths/year (all age groups) = 1,500
Accidental deaths/gun owner = 0.00001875
Ratio 0.171 / 0.00001875 = 9,120

Therefore, Doctors are approximately 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners.

BWS

Military News Report

Highlights from the Military Report.

GI BILL PROPOSAL DIES - AGAIN

A series of improvements to the GI Bill, already passed by the Senate has been killed as a result of negotiations with the House. This marks the third time this year that improvements to GI benefits have died and strongly suggests that no improvements will come out of this Congress. While academic at this point, the latest bill would have made improvements to GI benefits in areas including increased payments for those who have served and for dependents, access to the Montgomery GI Bill, opportunities for extra benefits, payment for certain pre-college training, and relaxed eligibility for enlisted who become officers. At this point no one in the Congress is predicting when, or even if, a GI Bill can be passed.

GAO FAULTS ANTHRAX PROGRAM

GAO has recently released a report pointing out certain problems with the anthrax program. The report pointed out concerns with supply of the vaccine, record keeping, monitoring vaccine reactions, education of service members, and studying long-term effects to the health of those inoculated. The

GAO report was not focused on the efficacy of the anthrax vaccine itself.

ARMY GUARD AND RESERVES FACE MORE LOSSES

As a result of manpower cuts contained in the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review, the Army National Guard and Army Reserves together will face a loss of some 17,500 service members, with the Guard losing 12,500 and the Reserves 5,000. An additional cutback of 7,500 positions is still to be scheduled. Military advocates are strongly against these reductions primarily due to the enhanced role these units have played in recent conflicts, and fears that units will be unable to meet future mission demands. The next Quadrennial Defense Review is not scheduled until 2001.

NEW HEALTH PANEL MEETS

The Healthcare Quality Initiatives Review Panel, a new advisory panel to measure how well the quality of health care provided by DoD is improving has been meeting regularly, most recently on November 16, 1999. Objectives being reviewed include: Better education and training programs for health care providers; Establishing "centers of excellence" for complicated surgical procedures; Reporting malpractice and credential issues to the National Practitioner Data Bank; Providing comprehensive health care information to beneficiaries; Ensuring laboratory standards are met; and Ensuring the accuracy of patient information. The panel is expected to meet several more times and deliver a report to Defense Secretary Cohen in March or April 2000.

SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT AGE TO INCREASE

Those of our readers who will eventually qualify for Social Security benefits may not be aware that beginning next year, the retirement age to qualify for full benefits will gradually increase from 65 to 67 years old. Following is a simple chart to allow you to check what your retirement age under current Social Security law will be:

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Full Retirement Age</u>
1937 or earlier	65
1938	65 and 2 mos.
1939	65 and 4 mos.

1940	65 and 6 mos.
1941	65 and 8 mos.
1942	65 and 10 mos.
1943-1954	66
1955	66 and 2 mos.
1956	66 and 4 mos.
1957	66 and 6 mos.
1958	66 and 8 mos.
1959	66 and 10 mos.
1960 and later	67

CENSUS JOBS AVAILABLE

The Census Bureau is looking to hire several hundred thousand people to fill its short term, temporary need for staff to conduct the 2000 census. Current federal employees, as well as retired federal employees, are being encouraged to apply for the positions. Typically, federal agencies will allow part-time employment with the Census Bureau for current employees. To get more information about these positions, call toll-free at 1-888-325-7733, or check the Census Bureau website: <http://www.census.gov>.

WHY OFFICERS ARE LEAVING THE SERVICE

The Pentagon has suggested that the main reason officers leave the service is to pursue careers in the private sector that offer higher paying jobs. A recent Army survey suggests that pay may not be the main reason after all. The survey revealed that morale and military readiness may have more to do with the decision. Factors cited included dissatisfaction with peacekeeping missions, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, over management by superiors and not enough time and equipment for effective combat training.

RETIREMENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE

As part of the comprehensive changes in this year's military pay bill, changes to military retirement were made. To give just one example, those entering the service after August 1, 1986 will have a decision to make at the 15 year mark concerning their retirement path. Army members planning for retirement can visit the Army Retirement Services website at <http://www.odcsper.army.mil/retire/retire1.asp> or visit the Retirement Services Officer

(RSO) at the nearest Army installation for more information.

LEGALLY SPEAKING

(General legal discussions for the military community-by the Law Firm of Shaw, Bransford, Veilleux & Roth)

Despite the DoD Inspector General's on-going climate assessment of the treatment of homosexuals and perceived homosexuals in the military, the military's "don't ask, don't tell" homosexual policy has been modified to "don't ask, don't tell, don't harass." To implement this modification of the policy, the services have been tasked to incorporate stronger language against harassment in their training. In addition, the services will be directing commanders to take prompt, appropriate action against individuals involved in homosexual harassment, without taking an adverse action against the complaining military member. "You cannot take a complaint from a soldier about harassment to be evidence of homosexuality. In fact, what the commander should do is investigate the harasser, the person who is harassing the soldier or making the complaint," said Pentagon spokesperson Ken Bacon. In the past, according to the Pentagon, individuals have complained that if they reported harassment to a commander, the commander then used this report as a "statement" establishing their homosexuality. In fiscal 1998, the most recent statistics available, the services discharged 1,145 service members under its homosexual policy, with more than 85 percent of those discharged being "statement" cases. If the "don't harass" modification to the policy is followed, complaints of harassment should no longer be used to establish such "statement" cases.

PENTAGON TARGETS 3.7% RAISE FOR 2001

Early indications are that the fiscal 2001 defense budget will call for a 3.7 percent across-the-board pay raise for service members to take effect on January 1, 2001. The increase was derived using a formula set by Congress last Fall that the raise be 1/2% greater than the average salary increase in the private sector. According to Labor Department statistics, that increase was 3.2% last year.

The recommended raise will be part of the budget that the Pentagon sends to Congress in February and will likely be acceptable to lawmakers. Despite the continuing existence of a wage gap between military and private-sector wages, only a single pay raise is expected next year.

LOOK FOR VETERAN BENEFITS TO IMPROVE

Under a new law, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefit Act, veterans should see improvements in several areas. VA is supposed to improve access to long-term care for disabled veterans, along with other health care, educational and burial benefits. VA will also be looking into ways to provide a range of nursing and related care and to help families. Some of the specific provisions of the new law would extend the housing loan program for certain reserve members; let veterans to use their Montgomery GI Bill money for certain test prep courses; let VA pay emergency care costs for veterans receiving medical care from VA and will have VA look into establishing six new national cemeteries.

DEFENSE HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENTS

One of the issues likely to become politicized in Congress this year is improved military health care. As part of his \$300 Billion plus budget request for DoD, the President will likely call for improvements to existing programs. It is also expected that Republicans in Congress will seek improvements in health care for both active-duty and retired military personnel. The Administration's program is expected to be smaller than the FEHB for military retirees being considered by Republicans. Both sides want to be seen as working to improve military life. One problem to be faced will be paying for any benefit increase, particularly in light of the across-the-board budget cut which must be implemented this year and budget cap mandates. While it is very early in the budget process, the net result of this election year political maneuvering may well turn out to a boost in military health care in the next budget.

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE

Currently there are several bills in Congress addressing the issue of life time health care benefits for military retirees. The first is H.R. 2966, the Keep our Promises to America's Military Retirees Act, which would require the government to provide lifetime medical care to military retirees. The bill would attempt to pay for the health care by tapping into the projected federal budget surplus and is considered unlikely to come to a vote for that reason. In the Senate, a companion bill to H.R. 2966 was introduced in late January and other approaches have also been introduced offering different options. One effort that may get attention is that of the Republican leadership's work on a military health-care bill similar to the bill they passed in the 1999 session. We will continue to monitor this issue for future developments

TRICARE TO BE A 2000 FOCUS FOR DOD

At the recent 2000 TRICARE Conference held in Washington, Pentagon officials indicated that healthcare will be DoD's next quality-of-life issue. Last year, pay and compensation, retirement benefits and housing were all addressed in the military budget bill. This year healthcare will be addressed. Generally, TRICARE beneficiaries are satisfied with their quality of care; but complaints revolve around issues dealing with delivery of that care such as appointments, claims and enrollment - usually attributable to poor customer relations and bad business practices. Other issues likely to be addressed include differences in benefits between those overseas and those stateside. A plan and a schedule to fix these issues was presented to the Joint Chiefs in January. Specific areas of improvement to be focused on are: Full funding and more emphasis on the Defense Health Program; Providing a TRICARE hot line in every installation; Increasing retirees' health benefits including increased pharmacy benefits and expanded TRICARE Senior Prime; Establishing an effective easy to use healthcare network for all beneficiaries; and, Making the system customer-focused and easy to use.

MORE BASE CLOSINGS TO BE SOUGHT

Another expected provision in the Administration's 2001 budget proposal will be a DoD request of Congress for authority to close more military bases, starting in 2003. Three previous attempts by DoD to get authority for more base closings have been rejected by Congress. No word yet on the expected fate of this latest request.

These items were extracted from the Military Report. You may subscribe to the Military Report by e-mail at: subscriptions@militaryreport.com

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Website: <http://www.militaryreport.com>

Do your fellow troopers and friends a favor by passing them the e-mail addresses above.

BWS

Quote for the Day!

"This year will go down in history. For the first time a civilized nation has full gun registration. Our streets will be safer, our police more efficient, and the world will follow our lead into the future."

Adolph Hitler, 1935

The following was sent in by Walker Jones, with the question, "Is this the way Taps began?" Well Troopers, can any of you shed any light on this story?

BWS

"TAPS"

It all began in 1862, during the Civil War when a union army captain, Robert Elliscombe, was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army

was on the other side of this narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Elliscombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a union or confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring back the stricken man for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the soldier and began pulling him back toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead

The Captain lit a lantern, suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light of the lantern he saw the face of the soldier.. It was his own son! The young man had been studying music in the south when the war broke out, and without telling his father, he had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, the heart broker father asked permission of his supervisors to give his son a full military burial, despite the young man's enemy status. The Captain's request was partially granted.

He asked if he could have a group of army band members play a dirge for his son at the funeral. His request was refused since the soldier was confederate. Out of respect for the Captain, they said they could loan him one musician. He chose the bugler.

The Captain asked him to play a series of musical notes found in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. That music was the haunting bugle melody we know as "TAPS".

Walker Jones
Harlingen, TX
C-1/9 '70-71
www.RealCav.org

In battle, confrontation is done directly, victory is gained by surprise.

Sun Tzu

From the Swamp

Well the old Swamp Fox has decided to once again crawl out of the swamp to ask you Troopers for HELP. As you remember, I have always said that history is made up of stories of people who were in a certain place at a certain time. In order to insure we of the 9th Cav have access to the complete history of our time in Viet Nam, we need to find as many brothers as possible.

As the Keeper of the 9th Cavalry Trooper data base, I need your help in finding Troopers who are wandering lost and alone in the swamp. Therefore, in each future issue, I intend to publish the names of Troopers I have in the data base without addresses. If you know these troopers and their addresses, I hope you will let me know so that we can return them to the Bullwhip Base Camp. In some cases, I even have their Social Security Numbers. If anyone out there has access to a place to find out addresses based on SSN's, please contact me and I will give out this information. I have not included the SSN because of privacy concerns. Following is a partial list.

Aberle, James T.; Adkins, Donald V.; Agustin, William; Ahrens, Dennis M; Alexander, Ronald E.; Almojuela, Thomas N; Amarante, Jerome J.; Ames, Charles B.; Anderson, Clifford M; Anderson, Ted W.; Armstrong, Donald; Arnold, Lawrence E.; Artimeisy, Arthur; Ashline, Paul; Atkins Jr., John W.; Austin, Victor L.; Baker, Jack W.; Ball, Eldon "Keith"; Ball, John W.I.; Balmer, Robert P; Barnes, Luther D.

One last thing. I know a number of you are packrats like me. If you have any paperwork relating to the time you were in NAM (orders, rosters, awards, citations, etc.), please copy them and send them to me. It is my intent to get copies of every piece of paperwork associated with the 9's time in Nam. This will assist in developing our history.

Please let me know either by E-Mail or Snail Mail if you have any information about the above Troopers. The addresses are:

A.J. Welch
1505 Tally Ho Ct.
Kokomo, IN 46902-4446

E-Mail:
gamecock@netusa1.net
Or
a.j.wwelch@delphiauto.com

Looking forward to hearing from you, so now it's back into the swamp to find more lost brothers.

A.J. Welch
SwampFox
B 1/9, H/16, F/9 CAV, 1st Cav Div
RVN: 71-72
ORWAC 70-44

Troopers, A.J. needs your help.

BWS

Veterans Sound Off

These views are the views of veterans and may be different than yours. Send in your views or rebuttals and they will be printed.

BWS

February 21, 2000

VICTIMS

Hello Loel.

You and I have had several discussions over the years about the moral and ethical problems within our society. Who hasn't?

While the ice and snow of winter have encased us here in Illinois, I have decided to write down for you some of my thoughts.

Too many people want to be victims. Too many people are unwilling to accept any responsibility for their own actions and most are too eager to blame others for their problems.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the courtroom.. Lawyers and a growing number of therapists have attempted to redefine areas of life as medical problems instead of moral issues. How many cases of moral degeneration have been blamed on being abused as a child? How many times can laziness or ineptitude be blamed on neurotic compulsion? How often and for how long will the courts allow lawyers to file suits against manufacturers and operators for acts of negligence or sheer stupidity on the part of their clients? These claims of victimization have been validated over and over again by awards of huge compensation for damages, thus creating incentives for even more “victims”.

Fortunately, there remain many Americans who value character – that old fashioned notion that we are accountable for our behavior and responsible for our actions. However, that number seems to be shrinking. Certainly it is a minority at this point.

While Ethnic minorities are true victims in many cases, there is a trend toward so-called “victim groups”, vying with each other for title of “most oppressed”. And further, they have shifted from demanding equality of opportunity, to demanding equality of results. U.S. hiring policies are a good example of this. Civil Rights advocates insist that we judge people by the color of their skin. Judging individuals on their own merit is considered reactionary. This allows ethnic minorities to cling to their “victim” status.

But why would we want to cling to victim status? One answer, simply, is that’s where the money is. Another reason – Americans have decided that we are entitled to happiness. It is something we are owed rather than something to be pursued or sacrificed for. Then there is the rights revolution. We have demanded every right we possibly could and never tied those rights to personal responsibility.

We once were among the world’s most self-reliant people. Things would go wrong, but we could rise to the occasion and overcome adversity. It made us stronger. Today at the first hint of adversity we complain, we sue, we go to self-help therapy. We are substituting therapies for moral values and the therapies aren’t working. I think it is absurd to rationalize self-indulgence by having a therapist tell you it is an illness over which you have no power.

Once self-esteem came as a result of accomplishment, of doing something well. Now, many think self-esteem comes first, that they can accomplish goals whether they have learned the basic skills or not., Then, when failure occurs, they see themselves as victims rather than admitting to personal failings.

It is time to restore the old fashioned notions of character, personal responsibility and accountability. It can be done my friend and when we start – society will change for the better.

That is enough for now, I think. Keep your powder dry.

Bob Garrett

Bob you have stated a position that is not popular with the liberal element of our society. Unfortunately we will continue to have victims as long as we have politicians who cater to “groups” and promise them anything just to get their vote. An article well thought out and well written.

Loel

This next article is by LLCHIEF, a retiree who teaches ROTC.

DoD Week in JROTC

I spend my retirement days now in a high school classroom teaching ROTC. Last week I had a DoD week. That's where all the Services plus the Coast Guard come in to my classroom - one each day. The idea is for them to teach high school kids about their branch of the Service and what it might have to offer. I

don't mean to start a debate about which Service has the best training or "deals", but here are my observations. I thought you might find them interesting.

The Coast Guard - two Petty Officers. Showed up late for the first class both wearing class B uniforms. Their pitch consisted of about 10 minutes of showing pictures of boats and helicopters and a few minutes of a canned recruiting video - students slept. After that came this is how much money we can give you -bonuses - college, etc. They struggled to keep the attention of the students.

The Army - One Staff Sergeant recruiter in class B accompanied by two soldiers from the 101st Aviation in Class A. I thought this should be better. The recruiter showed his canned "Be all you can be" video - students slept- and then got into this is how much money I can give you spiel. The two 101st soldiers then had their opportunity to sell the Army. The first thing out of the Private First Class's mouth was how great it was, that the Army was paying off his loans, how much more education he was getting, and how he would retire from the Army almost a millionaire because he had been taught about investing his money early - all good things of course. The Staff Sergeant had much the same speech. The recruiter did add that basic training was tough 18 years ago when he went through, but it's easy now.

The Navy - one Petty Officer class B. Ditto. Watch the video -student's slept - here's the money deal.

The Air Force - stood us up.

The Marine Corps - One Sergeant in Marine Corps dress blue. His pitch - I know all the other recruiters have told you about the money they can offer. Every Service can give you the same college money deal, and we all get paid from the same bank. An E-5 makes the same money in every branch of the Service. That's all I have to say about that. We want you in the Marine Corps because you want to be one of us not because you're looking for college money. He talked about Marine Corps Values and how proud he was to be a Marine. He then showed a "no holds barred" video of Marine Corps Boot Camp. It showed Marine Corps Drill Instructors chasing

people off the bus (you could see the sweat on the faces of the recruits while they stood on those little yellow feet), in their face - yelling, running the crap out of them, dogging them out on confidence courses and in PT. It showed them the "Crucible" - recruits literally ran into the ground for 50 some hours straight. He then showed the ceremony at the end of the crucible where each marine that completed received his or her anchor and globe. These kids were proud and the looks on their faces couldn't be faked. The students stayed awake. The students kept this recruiter busy talking about what it meant to be a Marine - not about the college fund. The last time I checked, the Marine Corps was the only Service that met its accession goals - maybe we need to think about what it is we're trying to sell.

From: LLCHIEF@aol.com

AMEN!!!!

A good indication why the army cannot meet its recruitment goals.

The BWS Staff wholly agrees with his comments. What are your views?

BWS

SUMMARY: The author comments on the Chief of Staff's comments on "quitters." Let's see who these "quitters" are.

WE CAME HERE TO BE SOLDIERS, SIR

I read General Reimer's comments about departing mid-grade officers being "quitters" with great interest and concern. As one of those mid-grade officers who has done and continues to do a great deal of soul searching about today's Army and the future of "my" Army, I find it very distressing that those that elect to leave are viewed as "quitters" by the Chief of Staff of the Army. That particular choice of words implies an unwillingness to see something through; to do one's part; or a breaking of faith on the part of those who elect to leave or those of us that wrestle with the decision. I would contend that those implications are exactly what many of those

departing officers feel the Army has done to them.

By all accounts, my career opportunities and future are bright. So, why do I have doubts? Who are my peers and I? We are the Lieutenants of the late eighties and early nineties who elected to join the Army at the height of the Reagan defense build-up and entered active federal service at the point of time when our nation's military spending was physically entering service army-wide. We learned our trade from the last of the Vietnam veterans who stayed after the administrative bloodletting of the mid-seventies, many of whom made personal vows to see that another Vietnam never happened again. We learned from Senior Noncommissioned Officers, who didn't have a college degree and didn't need one to be successful in the Army. We had Captains who had the time, money and freedom of maneuver to train their units; they led and mentored us. We learned that our word was our bond; that bad news never gets better with age; and that failure to prepare our subordinates and ourselves for war was a mortal sin.

Sure, there were always too few soldiers, too little money, and too little time. There certainly were a lot of administrative burdens that had to be managed. But through it all, preparing for war was our first, last, and most important focus. We talked the talk and walked the walk despite our limits and distractions. We carried that sense of mission and ethic from Panama to Kuwait to Somalia and on to Haiti.

This group of "quitters" were the smaller unit leader of Desert Storm and Just Cause; the platoon leaders, executive officers, company-level commanders and battalion staff officers in those crucibles that established the reputation of today's Army. We stepped up to the plate when called upon and won the game one hit at a time and one catch at a time. When the brigade and division commanders up in the booth called the play, these "quitters" down in the trenches gave everything they had and made it happen. They kept the faith and removed the ghost of Vietnam from the minds of friends and foes alike.

The officers who have stayed on are diehard soldiers who see the Army as a calling akin to a religious vocation, who love the Army like a wife or sweetheart, and who truly bleed OD green. However, somewhere during this recent draw-down period, things have begun to change in our beloved Army. With a 300% increase in OPTEMPO, we didn't notice it at first because we were too busy shooting 25 meter targets. Somewhere in the mid-nineties, we began to sense a change in our Army. It was something bigger than more missions. That simply gave us focus. It was something different from lower funding for training, maintenance, and soldier care. That simply challenged us and made us more efficient, innovative, and determined. It was something different from the fact that our friends from college and those that left during the draw-down earned more money. We knew coming into this business that we would never be monetarily rich but would instead be enriched by our chosen lifestyle and our accomplishments.

What we began to notice was a subtle change in the atmosphere, culture, and attitudes in our Army. Command has lost its luster for many. We've seen whole groups of battalion and brigade commanders who aren't having fun in command. These battalion and brigade commanders were our company-level commanders, S-3s and XO's in the Gulf and during the early nineties. We see them forced to choose between training and "adminutia" and watch them find that it's now more dangerous to their careers to choose training. In talking to them, we learn that they now talk less about war-fighting and more about tasking. We hear them talk less about guidance and more about directives. We see them harried, moving from one event to the next without pause, and without time to digest the lessons learned and the time to correct the problems.

We perceive a divorce rate in our peer group and in our peer NCOs that seems to be skyrocketing. We talk to our replacements in company-level command (and those Lieutenants we mentored) and hear them talk about micro-management at levels we cannot imagine. We see a whole generation of junior

officers who are not trained on training and not given the opportunity or command climate to learn how to train their units. In sum, we see war-fighting marginalized.

This shakes us to the core of our being. We know personally the unforgiving nature of war and the price of failure. We made our nation's enemies pay that price. We fear that we may one day have to write letters to the mothers and wives of American soldiers who died under our command. We knew years ago that those letters may be required but we were sure that we had done everything in our power to prepare those soldiers for the conflict they died for and found solace in that confidence. We are beginning to lose that confidence and find ourselves unwilling to risk writing those letters under those conditions. And the chances of us having to write those letters increases every day.

We see the organizational culture of our beloved Army subtly changing. We see technology being placed ahead of people. We see units and their leaders that are not the same tight-knit "bands of brothers" that we grew up in. We see leaders focused on something else and we don't know why.

We have, in short, a crisis in confidence. This is the reason for the exodus for so many of us. Those that remain wrestle with that decision regularly. We see our Army in crisis and fear for its future. We don't want to leave but we don't see a way to fix it and leaving our Army the way it currently stands is unacceptable. Its not pay, its not retirement, and its not the OPTEMPO.

To paraphrase President Clinton's 1992 campaign slogan, "**It's the command climate, Sir!**"

By Major Brooke H. Janney, USA

Just a Symbol

Does the First Amendment give us the right to desecrate the American flag? Or is the flag a sacred symbol of our nation, deserving protection by law?

Tough call? Well, I propose a solution.

For those who want to light Old Glory on fire, stomp all over it, or spit on it to make some sort of "statement," I say let them do it. But under one condition: they **MUST** get permission from three sponsors.

First, you need permission of a war veteran...perhaps a Marine who fought at Iwo Jima? The American flag was raised over Mount Surabachi upon the bodies of thousands of dead buddies. Each night spent on Iwo Jima meant half of everyone you knew would be dead tomorrow, a coin flip away from a bloody end upon a patch of sand your mother couldn't find on a map.

Or maybe ask a Vietnam vet who spent years tortured in a small, filthy cell unfit for a cockroach. Or a Korean War soldier who helped rescue half a nation from Communism, or a Desert Storm warrior who repulsed a bloody dictator from raping and pillaging an innocent country. That flag represented your mother and father, your sister and brother, your friends, neighbors, and everyone at home. I wonder what they would say if someone asked them permission to burn the American flag?

Next, you need a signature from an immigrant. Their brothers and sisters may still languish in their native land, often under tyranny, poverty and misery. Or maybe they died on the way here, never to touch our shores. Some have seen friends and family get tortured and murdered by their own government for daring to do things we take for granted every day. For those who risked everything simply for the chance to become an American, what kind of feelings do they have for the flag when they Pledge Allegiance the first time? Go to a naturalization ceremony and see for yourself, the tears of pride, the thanks, the love and respect of this nation, as they finally embrace the American flag as their own. Ask one of them if it would be OK to burn the flag or spit on it.

Last, you should get the signature of a mother. Not just any mother. You need a mother of someone who gave their life for America. It doesn't even have to be from a war. It could be a cop. Or a firefighter. Maybe a Secret Service or NSA agent. Then again, it could be a common foot soldier as well.

When that son or daughter is laid to rest, their family is given one gift by the American people; an American flag.

Go on. I dare you! Ask that mother if you can spit on her flag. Away from family, away from the precious shores of home, in the face of overwhelming odds and often in the face of death, the American flag inspires those who believe in the American dream, the American promise, the American vision... Americans who don't appreciate the flag don't appreciate this nation. And those who appreciate this nation appreciate the American flag.

So if you want to desecrate the American flag, before you spit on it or before you burn it, I have a simple request. Just ask permission. Not from the Constitution. Not from some obscure law. Not from the politicians or the pundits. Instead, ask those who have defended our nation so that we may be free today. Ask those who struggled to reach our shores so that they may join us in the American dream. And ask those who clutch a flag in place of their sacrificed sons and daughters, given to this nation so that others may be free. For we cannot ask permission from those who died wishing they could, just once ... or once again ... see, touch or kiss the flag that stands for our nation, the United States of America.

Go ahead. Ask.

Author unknown

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

BWS

Army Aviation Today?

Army Aviation In 'Crisis', General Riggs Says

Army aviation is sick, and a senior general says he hopes the patient lives long enough for the cure. "We're in a crisis," Lt. Gen. Johnny Riggs, commander of the First United States Army, said last week at an aviation

symposium organized by the Association of the U. S. Army.

The Army's helicopter forces-a symbol of U.S. power to friends and foes from Vietnam to Iraq to Kosovo-are suffering from several problems, Riggs said: budget shortfalls that are delaying the fielding of new systems, aging equipment that is expensive and difficult to maintain and an inadequately trained generation of young officers who lack the flying experience to grow into leadership roles.

"If we continue the course we're on now, I'm concerned we won't be able to fulfill the tactical and strategic vision the Army has for us," Riggs said, adding that he hopes Army leaders don't do "too little too late."

Many of the problems are a function of inadequate resources, said Riggs, but he added that some money could be saved if the Army would more effectively administer its logistics and maintenance services to field units. Riggs said it is critical to develop a budget plan that will guide the aviation branch into the near future: "We don't have an end state in sight."

The Army is currently working to finalize a long-awaited aviation modernization plan that it expects to submit to Congress by spring. Issues demanding prompt attention, said Riggs, include improving aircrew training all the way from flight schools to combat units, training young officers in the combat arms instead of allowing them to climb through the ranks as staff officers, and modernizing aircraft.

"I am appalled that the nose of the Apache helicopter has not been upgraded," Riggs said, referring to the night-vision system on the front of the Army's premier attack helicopter. That equipment still relies on first generation FLIR (forward looking infrared) technology, which is inadequate for ground-hugging maneuvers in rugged terrain such as that in Albania.

The Army has spent as much money studying the problem as it would have taken to fix it, Riggs said. It is well-known, he added, that the risk of accidents jumps every time helicopter units have to shift on short notice from peace-time operations to war-time footing.

That was illustrated tragically in Albania when two Apache pilots were killed during a series of extra training missions while they prepared to take part in NATO's Yugoslav war. Senior Army aviators have said the Apache's inadequate night-vision systems were the main reason for the training. Apache pilots do not routinely fly with the night-vision goggles that were substituted in Albania for the unfielded second-generation FLIR systems.

By Ron Laurenzo

BWS

If your advance is going well, you're walking into an ambush.

Murphy's Military Law

This came to me as a "forward" from Jerry Atkinson, I think you will find it to be of interest. The "I" is Atkinson.

Fellow Americans,

I attended the annual Joint Services Conference on Professional Ethics (JSCOPE) on 27-28 January. GEN Krulak gave the keynote speech. It was a 'keeper.' He received a full-house standing ovation at the end. The text is transcribed below. The Question & Answer session was also superb. You should have heard him defend his Marine Corps' 'no mixed-gender' basic training policy before a gaggle of young 'girls,' USMA cadets and USNA midshipmen, after the Q&A session. The guy is absolutely magnetic. He charmed them while defending his position with enthusiasm, reason, and integrity. Even those who disagreed with him were positively impressed by his openness, sincerity, and honesty.

During the Q&A, Krulak came out and said that every one of the Joint Chiefs, in private, agreed with a 'no mixed-gender' basic training

policy but none were willing to stand up to their civilian bosses to defend their professional military judgment-sad. He said that it had become known within the Pentagon that 56 Marine General Officers would 'turn in their suits' if mixed-gender training were imposed on the Marine Corps, against their best military judgment.

The Marines drew a line in the sand, and the opposition folded. Too bad there are so few at the top with such integrity. During the Q&A session, GEN Krulak also expressed dismay that not a single member of the Joint Chiefs publicly defended the Constitution over the issue of whether or not a prominent political figure would 'make his views on homosexuals serving openly in the military' a 'litmus test' for the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

When this kind of stuff starts becoming public, either by a book, speeches, articles, or other means, GEN Krulak's view is going to start taking hold with the 'grass roots' and we'll be surprised at how fast he will start picking up steam for his position.

Take heart. We are starting to turn the tide. Shortly, I will give you a summary of my impression of what I learned from my first attendance at the JSCOPE conference on 'military ethics,'-both POSITIVE and NEGATIVE.

Best Regards,
Jerry Atkinson

GEN Krulak and JCOPE

REMARKS AT JSCOPE 2000, JANUARY 27, 2000

WE STUDY AND WE DISCUSS ETHICAL PRINCIPLES BECAUSE IT SERVES TO STRENGTHEN AND VALIDATE OUR OWN INNER VALUE SYSTEM ... IT GIVES DIRECTION TO WHAT I CALL OUR MORAL COMPASS. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF ETHICS THAT BECOMES THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH WE CAN DELIBERATELY COMMIT TO INVIOLEATE PRINCIPLES.

IT BECOMES THE BASIS OF WHAT WE ARE ... OF WHAT WE INCLUDE IN OUR CHARACTER. BASED ON IT, WE COMMIT TO DOING WHAT IS RIGHT. WE EXPECT SUCH COMMITMENT FROM OUR LEADERS. BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST DEMAND IT OF OURSELVES.

SOUND MORALS AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED OR CREATED IN A DAY, A SEMESTER ... OR A YEAR. THEY MUST BE INSTITUTIONALIZED WITHIN OUR CHARACTER OVER TIME ... THEY MUST BECOME A WAY OF LIFE. THEY GO BEYOND OUR INDIVIDUAL SERVICES AND BEYOND OUR RANKS OR POSITIONS; THEY CUT TO THE HEART AND TO THE SOUL OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE MUST BE...MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARACTER. THEY ARM US FOR THE CHALLENGES TO COME AND THEY IMPART TO US A SENSE OF WHOLENESS. THEY UNITE US IN THE CALLING WE NOW KNOW AS THE PROFESSION OF ARMS.

OF ALL THE MORAL AND ETHICAL GUIDEPOSTS THAT WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP TO RECOGNIZE, THE ONE THAT, FOR ME, STANDS ABOVE THE REST ... THE ONE THAT I HAVE KEPT IN THE FOREFRONT OF MY MIND ... IS INTEGRITY. IT IS MY ETHICAL AND PERSONAL TOUCHSTONE. INTEGRITY AS WE KNOW IT TODAY, STANDS FOR SOUNDNESS OF MORAL PRINCIPLE AND CHARACTER - UPRIGHTNESS - HONESTY. YET THERE IS MORE. INTEGRITY IS ALSO AN IDEAL ... A GOAL TO STRIVE FOR ... AND FOR A MAN OR WOMAN TO "WALK IN THEIR INTEGRITY" IS TO REQUIRE CONSTANT DISCIPLINE AND USAGE. THE WORD INTEGRITY ITSELF IS A MARTIAL WORD THAT COMES TO US FROM AN ANCIENT ROMAN ARMY TRADITION.

DURING THE TIME OF THE 12 CAESARS, THE ROMAN ARMY WOULD CONDUCT MORNING INSPECTIONS. AS THE INSPECTING CENTURION WOULD

COME IN FRONT OF EACH LEGIONNAIRE, THE SOLDIER WOULD STRIKE WITH HIS RIGHT FIST THE ARMOR BREASTPLATE THAT COVERED HIS HEART. THE ARMOR HAD TO BE STRONGEST THERE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE HEART FROM THE SWORD THRUSTS AND FROM ARROW STRIKES. AS THE SOLDIER STRUCK HIS ARMOR, HE WOULD SHOUT "INTEGRITAS", (IN-TEG-RI-TAS) WHICH IN LATIN MEANS MATERIAL WHOLENESS, COMPLETENESS, AND ENTIRETY.

THE INSPECTING CENTURION WOULD LISTEN CLOSELY FOR THIS AFFIRMATION AND ALSO FOR THE RING THAT WELL KEPT ARMOR WOULD GIVE OFF. SATISFIED THAT THE ARMOR WAS SOUND AND THAT THE SOLDIER BENEATH IT WAS PROTECTED, HE WOULD THEN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT MAN.

AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, THE PRAETORIANS OR IMPERIAL BODYGUARD WERE ASCENDING INTO POWER AND INFLUENCE. DRAWN FROM THE BEST "POLITICALLY CORRECT" SOLDIERS OF THE LEGIONS, THEY RECEIVED THE FINEST EQUIPMENT AND ARMOR. THEY NO LONGER HAD TO SHOUT "INTEGRITAS" (IN-TEG-RI-TAS) TO SIGNIFY THAT THEIR ARMOR WAS SOUND. INSTEAD, AS THEY STRUCK THEIR BREASTPLATE, THEY WOULD SHOUT "HAIL CAESAR", TO SIGNIFY THAT THEIR HEART BELONGED TO THE IMPERIAL PERSONAGE- NOT TO THEIR UNIT - NOT TO AN INSTITUTION - NOT TO A CODE OF IDEALS. THEY ARMORED THEMSELVES TO SERVE THE CAUSE OF A SINGLE MAN.

A CENTURY PASSED AND THE RIFT BETWEEN THE LEGION AND THE IMPERIAL BODYGUARD AND ITS EXCESSES GREW LARGER. TO SIGNIFY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS, THE LEGIONNAIRE, UPON STRIKING HIS ARMOR WOULD NO LONGER SHOUT "INTEGRITAS", (IN-

TEG-RI-TAS) BUT INSTEAD WOULD SHOUT "INTEGER" (IN-TE-GER). INTEGER (IN-TE-GER) MEANS UNDIMINISHED - COMPLETE - PERFECT. IT NOT ONLY INDICATED THAT THE ARMOR WAS SOUND, IT ALSO INDICATED THAT THE SOLDIER WEARING THE ARMOR WAS SOUND OF CHARACTER. HE WAS COMPLETE IN HIS INTEGRITY ... HIS HEART WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE ... HIS STANDARDS AND MORALS WERE HIGH. HE WAS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE IMMORAL CONDUCT THAT WAS RAPIDLY BECOMING THE SIGNATURE OF THE PRAETORIAN GUARDS.

THE ARMOR OF INTEGRITY CONTINUED TO SERVE THE LEGION WELL. FOR OVER FOUR CENTURIES THEY HELD THE LINE AGAINST THE MARAUDING GOTHs AND VANDALS BUT BY 383 AD, THE SOCIAL DECLINE THAT INFECTED THE REPUBLIC AND THE PRAETORIAN GUARD HAD ITS EFFECTS UPON THE LEGION. AS A 4TH CENTURY ROMAN GENERAL WROTE, "WHEN, BECAUSE OF NEGLIGENCE AND LAZINESS, PARADE GROUND DRILLS WERE ABANDONED, THE CUSTOMARY ARMOR BEGAN TO FEEL HEAVY SINCE THE SOLDIERS RARELY, IF EVER, WORE IT.

THEREFORE, THEY FIRST ASKED THE EMPEROR TO SET ASIDE THE BREASTPLATES AND MAIL AND THEN THE HELMETS. SO OUR SOLDIERS FOUGHT THE GOTHs WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION FOR THE HEART AND HEAD AND WERE OFTEN BEATEN BY ARCHERS.

ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MANY DISASTERS, WHICH LEAD TO THE LOSS OF GREAT CITIES, NO ONE TRIED TO RESTORE THE ARMOR TO THE INFANTRY. THEY TOOK THEIR ARMOR OFF, AND WHEN THE ARMOR CAME OFF - SO TOO CAME THEIR INTEGRITY" IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF A FEW YEARS UNTIL THE LEGION ROTTED FROM WITHIN AND WAS UNABLE TO

HOLD THE FRONTIERS ...THE BARBARIANS WERE AT THE GATES.

INTEGRITY ... IT IS A COMBINATION OF THE WORDS, "INTEGRITAS" (IN-TEG-RI-TAS) AND "INTEGER" (IN-TE-GER). IT REFERS TO THE PUTTING ON OF ARMOR, OF BUILDING A COMPLETENESS ... A WHOLENESS ... A WHOLENESS IN CHARACTER.

HOW APPROPRIATE THAT THE WORD INTEGRITY IS A DERIVATIVE OF TWO WORDS DESCRIBING THE CHARACTER OF A MEMBER OF THE PROFESSION OF ARMS. THE MILITARY HAS A TRADITION OF PRODUCING GREAT LEADERS THAT POSSESS THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS AND INTEGRITY. IT PRODUCES MEN AND WOMEN OF CHARACTER ...CHARACTER THAT ALLOWS THEM TO DEAL ETHICALLY WITH THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND TO MAKE CONSCIOUS DECISIONS ABOUT HOW THEY WILL APPROACH TOMORROW.

HOWEVER, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THIS IS NOT DONE INSTANTLY. IT REQUIRES THAT INTEGRITY BECOMES A WAY OF LIFE ... IT MUST BE WOVEN INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR SOUL. JUST AS WAS TRUE IN THE DAYS OF IMPERIAL ROME, YOU EITHER WALK IN YOUR INTEGRITY DAILY, OR YOU TAKE OFF THE ARMOR OF THE "INTEGER" (IN-TE-GER) AND LEAVE YOUR HEART AND SOUL EXPOSED ... OPEN TO ATTACK.

MY CHALLENGE TO YOU IS SIMPLE BUT OFTEN VERY DIFFICULT ... WEAR YOUR ARMOR OF INTEGRITY ... TAKE FULL MEASURE OF ITS WEIGHT ... FIND COMFORT IN ITS PROTECTION ... DO NOT BECOME LAX. AND ALWAYS, ALWAYS, REMEMBER THAT NO ONE CAN TAKE YOUR INTEGRITY FROM YOU ... YOU AND ONLY YOU CAN GIVE IT AWAY!

THE BIBLICAL BOOK OF PRACTICAL ETHICS - BETTER KNOWN AS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS - SUMS IT UP VERY NICELY: "THE INTEGRITY OF THE UPRIGHT SHALL GUIDE THEM:

BUT THE PERVERSENESS OF
TRANSGRESSORS SHALL DESTROY
THEM". (PR 11:3)

THANK YOU.
GEN. KRULAK

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 Lionel Hebert
Enjoy.

BWS

Hi Loel:

In June 1966 I was assigned to Bravo Troop 1/9 as Platoon Sgt. I was told that the PSGT I was replacing was KIA a few weeks earlier. The 1/9 was at An Khe at this time. Shortly after my arrival the V.C. sent some rockets crashing into the golf course and put Bravo Troop out of business for a short time. They hit all our choppers and destroyed two. We did recon from An Khe for a while and then moved to Bong Song, finally ending at the Oasis.

In my short stay in Bravo Troop I had four platoon leaders, the last one I had was shot in the head, a bullet in the helmet crazed his skull. Around Dec. 66 I was medevaced from the Oasis with serious spinal disc problem and landed in Quin Nhon. They were expecting an attack on the hospital, so they took the most serious and flew us to the Philippines and then on to the 106th General Hospital in Japan for surgery and a long rehab. It ended my career and I was medically discharged in April 69.

While I was in the hospital in Japan one of my men was wounded and he visited me and told me that the Sgt that replaced me was killed. If anyone has any photos of this time period I would appreciate a few copies. If anyone knows SFC Howard C. Breedlove who

took the photo of a squad from Bravo troop in Chu Lai in the spring of 67 I'd like to get in touch with him. This photo has been made a stamp by the post office. Just another first for the 1/9 Cav and a very high honor indeed. This would be a very good sale item for 1/9 Cav.

Thanks,
Lionel J. Hebert
B troop 1/9 1966
978 425-4831

Troopers you have his phone number. Can any of you give him help with his request.

BWS

Loel:

Happy New Year!

Just want to tell you how much I look forward to October and tell you what a great job you and Al do. I know you put in a lot of time. I appreciate it.

See you in Oct,

Bob Thaxton

Dear Loel:

I haven't yet had the pleasure of making your acquaintance, but I will look forward to it at a future reunion. To tell you the truth I have never attended one basically because of unfounded apprehension. When I read through the association membership I don't know a soul so I guess the alone thing amongst strangers makes me feel uncomfortable, even though we are all past cavalry troops. I am working on this though, so maybe one of these days. Pretty silly given the fact that I publish scientific papers and make oral presentations internationally on a fairly regular basis concerning concrete technology.

I am writing to request your guidance on how to go about finding out names, date,

location, etc. concerning a combat incident just prior to my DEROS in mid-April 1972. It has long bothered me that I can't recall a good many of the specific details of this mission. It was the most traumatic combat event I experienced in my eighteen month tour as concerns loss of lives and it gives me a sense of loss and guilt because I cannot recall important details.

Following is a summary of the incident:

In either March or very early April 72, I was flying as a gunner in a LOH when we received orders to provide immediate assistance to a ranger patrol taking heavy fire. My unit was F Troop, 9th Cavalry and at that time we were flying out of Bien Hoa. We headed out accompanied by a couple of Cobra gunships and a Blue Team in one hell of a hurry to provide covering fire and to extract the team on the ground. Not long into the flight the Huey carrying the Blues suddenly had an on board explosion of some sort and crashed out of control into a river and immediately sank. We quickly turned and hovered over the river where the ship went down. I started removing my helmet and breast plate to dive in to see if I could help anybody, but my pilot was very concerned not knowing if the Huey was shot down or if the explosion was from and on board problem, so he directed me to stay put and on guard. In retrospect, his decision was the correct one as he would have been defenseless without me on my M60. Everybody on the ship was dead. One of the most disturbing sights I saw was one of the door gunners from the downed ship came very slowly floating towards the surface in a strange face down body position directly below my LOH. I still remember this exact mental image to this day and imagine I always will be able to. Evidently the door gunner had not yet put on his breastplate so he was light enough to rise in the water. Obviously, the Blue Team was loaded with gear and ammo, which kept them weighted down and on the bottom. In not too long of a period on station we were low on fuel so we headed back to Bien Hoa. We did not go back out, but I subsequently was told that Navy divers had to be employed to recover the remains the next day. I believe besides the ship's four crew

members there were six of our Blue Team and an observer from another unit also on board.

Do you have any advice on how I can gather the information I am seeking? Will the Army have an action report I could have access to? Any suggestions you could offer to help me recover these details would be sincerely appreciated.

I will look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for any assistance or advice you can provide to help me with this search.

Sincerely,
Peter Snow
1345 Royal Troon Dr. #30
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Email: pgsnow13@msn.com

Peter there are many in the Squadron that will assist you as best as they can. AL DeFleron will call you and assist in getting you to the right troopers and to the Unit Historian. Any other troopers that can help, you have his address and e-mail.

BWS

Loel

Here is the money for 2000 dues. Ron my son, had an article in the Squadron Paper about me being in the bloody one 46 to 49 which is true but the part of it that said it would always be #1 with me is not true. I am honored to have served with a great outfit like the Big Red One and always have respect for it but there was no one in any outfit that had made me more proud than the 1st Cav has. I feel great just to be a honorary member of the Squadron and the 1st Cav. I sorta feel like it should be #1 for me also although I never served with the outfit. Thank you for everything and excuse the bad spelling. Also in the magazine Bullwhip Squadron on page 48 above photo words "Gone but never forgotten SGT Gary McKiddy", who are the guys in the photo. I would like time out to say thanks to them for their time to have a photo taken by the memorial. Thank all of you wonderful people from LTC Edwards and

down to the last man in C Company and all the rest of the outfits that were there in Aug for the great honor they did for my Son. I will never forget any of you as long as I live. May God bless all of you and have a Merry Christmas and a real peaceful New Year though you may get this too late but here it is anyway.

As Ever,

Mr. & Mrs. Edgar McKiddy
Miamisburg, OH 4534

Troopers, we have another request for info. Mr. McKiddy would appreciate your help. Al DeFleron will head up this request.

BWS

Al:

I don't know who to send this to so you get it.

Returning Our Own!

I joined the Squadron in mid-November 1965. At the time I was told that I was the 1st replacement pilot the division had received. You didn't get much. A 35 year old wreck with 18 ½ years in service and never heard a shot fired in anger, 10 ½ years and infantry MRV, master parachute flocked. So old I got glider wins with my original parachute badge (Jan. 1948) while still 17 years old. Qualified to fly anything the Army had except the crane and the Caribou. So where did I end up? Scouts! When Bullwhip 6 told me at an interview that I would fly Oh13's (900-1000 hours in type from D to H) not HU1's (60-70 hours in type) it scared the shit (may be deleted) out of me. A single engine 2 place piece of the contractors salesmanship? Got to kind of like the old girls when I had flown them there for a while, Beaut! Really, old 0460 kept plugging even with 7.62 slugs in a jug (ask Jerry Ledabrand). The day before I got to B troop, the troop had lost WO1 Tally and WO1 Bayron. They had gone missing with their door gunner and crew chief down on the Drang at night.

In March 66, we were working the Pleiku-west area. By now I was sorta resigned to

scouting and got sorta good at it. Bruce Johnson and I were sent to the border North of Chu Pong to see what was going on. Specifically we were told to check the trails between Chu Pong and the river. I guess leaves were fewer then as it was 10 Nov & Dec. Because as we flew east following the river and trail I caught a glimpse of a crashed aircraft. We were only some 6 or 7 (?) clicks east of the border. If we had not been on that particular path no one would have seen the wreck. We couldn't see it from any other place around. We found a small clearing some 200 meters south of the place and Willie Bruce and Harry Butt kept us clear. Melvis Hall and I landed to see what we could find.

The aircraft was not Xed as an investigation wreck and we couldn't tell if it was a slick or a gunship, it was stripped to a shell and smashed to pieces. There were parts of bodies scattered around and over by the trail there were four skulls stuck on stakes for the admiration of infiltrating NVA troops. Everything was concealed from the air by an enormous banyan tree (200 – 300 feet across). Melvis and I were not about to leave the skulls there and also to help in identification we removed them and took them with us. We had no way to cover or carry them so Bruce landed & Melvis and Harry wrapped them in their fatigue or flight jackets and we returned. Sure-nuff the aircraft was the one in which Tally and Bayron's crew had vanished. Several days later we led Blue to the place. Being better prepared. They recovered all the remains they could find for graves registration, they gotta have 20 pounds of remains to constitute a body.

We had returned our own!

Fred Carl
CW3 USAR (Ret)
Rare Fixer White

Fred, outstanding work!

We Can, We Will !

BWS

Sick Call

JIM BARRETT: Had open heart surgery on 14 Feb. At home now and recovering nicely. Get well fast Jim. Wishing a speedy recovery.

BWS

CHARLES COVERT: Is recovering from cancer surgery. Get well fast Charles. With Gods help, may you have a speedy and full recovery.

BWS

As troopers age, we began to think about our health and what we need to do to stay as healthy as possible. Sometimes our occupation is not the most healthy. It always helps to know just what is causing our problems.

BWS

Health

The following is an article in the latest Publication from "The Army and Air Force Mutual Aid Association" that some of us may or may not be aware of.

Prostate cancer and Agent Orange

HERE ARE SEVERAL medical conditions that have been determined to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Congress has declared that any service member who served in Vietnam during the wartime era (28 Feb 1961 through 7 May 1975) was exposed to Agent Orange. It was further ruled that such exposure may have caused several types of cancer. There-fore, diagnosis of any of these conditions will be considered "service connected" by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans and survivors may be entitled to compensation for such diseases as lung cancer, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and, as of November 1996, prostate cancer. If a Vietnam veteran is ever diagnosed with prostate cancer, even if it is many years after service, it will be

considered a service-connected disability and compensation may be paid.

Survivors of Vietnam veterans who died of prostate cancer may also be entitled to benefits from the VA. An un-remarried surviving spouse may be entitled to a monthly payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The current rate is \$861. Dependants' Education Assistance may also be available for college attendance. The rate for full-time attendance is \$485 per month.

Please contact the Association if you have any questions about this or any other VA benefit.

Gulf War, Brain Damage Linked

Brain scans of soldiers who believe they suffer from Gulf War illness indicate their brains were damaged by chemical exposure during the 1991 conflict, researchers reported today.

"This is the first time ever we have proof of brain damage in sick Gulf War veterans," said the lead researcher, Dr. James Fleckenstein, a professor of radiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. "There's hope, now that these guys have a disease," he said. "They can be believed -- they're not malingering, they're not depressed, they're not stressed. There's a hope for treatment and there's hope for being able to monitor the progress of the disease."

As many as 30,000 veterans of the war have complained of mysterious maladies, including fatigue, joint pain and memory loss, that they say are related to their service in the Gulf.

A presidential panel looking into Gulf War illnesses said in August that it can't pinpoint causes of the ailments and recommended further study into whether there are potential genetic reasons. In the new study, magnetic resonance spectroscopy, which uses radio waves to measure body chemistry, found that veterans who believe they have the illness have up to 25 percent lower levels of a certain brain chemical than healthy Gulf War veterans.

Lower-than-normal levels of the chemical, N-acetyl-aspartate, in the brain stem and basal

ganglia suggest a loss of neurons in those areas, said the researchers, who were to present their findings today at the 85th annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America. The brain stem controls some of the body's reflexes. The basal ganglia are switching stations for nerve impulses controlling movement, memory and emotion. The basal ganglia, for example, are where the malfunctioning occurs that causes Parkinson's disease.

Fleckenstein said treatments are being explored by his colleague, Dr. Robert Haley, an associate professor of internal medicine and Chief of Epidemiology at UT Southwestern. Haley helped define Gulf War syndromes and identify toxic exposures associated with the likelihood of having them. He also revealed enzyme abnormalities that may be linked to the disease. Fleckenstein said brain scans of 22 sick veterans revealed levels of N-acetyl-aspartate 10 percent to 25 percent lower than those in 18 healthy veterans. The finding held up in an additional six sick Gulf War veterans drawn from a different part of the military.

The study was blinded, meaning radiologists interpreting the results did not know which patients complained of symptoms and which were healthy. Researchers believe soldiers who became ill were those who had a genetic vulnerability to certain chemicals used in the war, including nerve gas, the insecticide DEET, pet flea collars some wore to repel pests and the drug pyridostigmine bromide. PB was administered to as many as 250,000 soldiers in the belief it would protect them from the toxic effects of nerve gas.

Last month, the Pentagon raised the possibility for the first time of a connection between Gulf War illness and PB. It said more scientific study is needed before it can confirm or rule out a connection. Lt. Col. Dian Lawhon, a spokeswoman for the Department of Defense's office for Gulf War illnesses, which helped fund Fleckenstein's study, said her office could not comment on the findings until it sees a complete report. Only an abstract was available. "This is part of our continuing effort to find out what might be making Gulf War veterans sick," she said.

"We haven't seen anything that would say that they found the smoking gun, though."

The brain scan study was reported on the same day as the release of a series of Pentagon-ordered reports that said focusing on the danger of traditional weapons could mask less-obvious, long-term hazards to troops. "Even in the absence of widespread acute casualties from battle, war takes its toll on human health and well-being long after the shooting or bombing stops," said one of the reports prepared by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.

The reports offered some criticism of past Pentagon strategies for protecting troops, citing a natural tendency to focus attention on known hazardous agents and saying that "too much attention on them may result in other hazards being overlooked."

BRENDA C. COLEMAN
AP Medical Writer, CHICAGO (AP)

Military Nostalgia

Having a weapon that works, the first time, every time.

A full clip and time to reload.

BWS

Announcements

Charlie Troop Reunion Planned for D.C.

Former C Troopers plan to have another big reunion this summer in Washington, D.C. Dates are 30 June – 4 July, held this year again in conjunction with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots' Association annual reunion. Last summer, nearly 40 fellow C Troopers met in Nashville during the annual VHPA reunion (see photos at www.RealCav.org). Among those showing up were pilots, doorgunners, observers, Cobra CEs, Blues, and families of our KIAs. It was mainly attended by guys

from the 1969-71eras, but there also were former C Troopers present from all eras.

Smaller C Troop reunions have previously taken place during the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Members' Association (VHCMA) meetings, first organized by former Scout gunner ('69-70) Dave "Ski" Dzwigalski, and thereafter by another former Scout gunner ('69-70) Nate Shaffer and wife Tiz (Nate named his Loach after Tiz, but with the letters reversed!). The Nashville get-together was super. Many, probably most, of us had never been in touch with our old buds from years ago. The tension of remembrance was replaced by the simple pleasure in sharing the same airspace once again. Older, maybe not wiser, but certainly comfortable being among each other once more.

That comforting spirit generated an immediate desire to do it again, and rope our other old buds into the fold. We expect a crowd of former Charlie Troopers and their families to take a vacation to Washington D.C. this summer. Special slide shows and videos made from old Super 8 movies are being prepared, too. We also plan a special honor for those brothers who sacrificed with their lives, and thus once again we are inviting those family members that have been located so far.

If you did not receive an announcement from Bob Tredway (CO '69-70), please contact one of the following for more information.

General:

Randy Zahn: ZAHNCLAN@compuserve.com

Nate Shaffer: (419) 647-0878;

nates@alpha.wcoil.com

D.C. Housing (book now!!):

Fred "Mother" Joles; (616) 879-4516;

jolesfb@gtii.com

Reunion Agenda:

Bob Tredway; Bobtredway@aol.com

Walker A. Jones

2206 Treasure Hills #2

Harlingen, TX 78550

(956) 412-1545

dashingcavalier@yahoo.com

C-1/9th '70-71

www.RealCav.org

Recipe Corner

To make this dish you'll need four pork cutlets; lean center-cut pork chops with the bone and fringe fat removed.

Pork with Apple Wedges in Cider Sauce

4 center-cut pork cutlets or chops

2 tablespoons bread crumbs

1 cup cider or apple juice

1 ½ cups water

1 tablespoon onion, minced

1 tablespoon garlic powder

salt & pepper to taste

Coat cutlets lightly with crumbs. Spray a non-stick skillet or dutch over with cooking spray until slick. Add cutlets in a single layer and brown over moderate heat with no fat added. Add remaining ingredients except apple. Cover tightly and simmer on low heat until chops are very tender about 1 hour. (Add more water if needed.) Uncover and continue to simmer until nearly all the liquid evaporates into a thick sauce. Meanwhile, quarter and core unpeeled apple (Very large or 2 small). Cut each quarter in half to form 8 thick wedges. Layer the apples on top of the pork; cover and cook 4 to 5 minutes only until apples are barely tender. Arrange pork and apple wedges on a serving plate and spoon the sauce on top. Makes 4 servings about 285 calories each.

Here's another way of combining pork with cider and apples. This quick and easy curry is a great way to recycle leftover pork roast and is a complete meal.

Speedy Curried Pork with Apples

2 cups cooked pork, diced

¾ cup cider or apple juice

¾ cup tomato juice

2 tablespoons soy sauce

1 teaspoon curry powder

- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 ribs celery, thinly sliced
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 2 tablespoons raisins
- 2 red apples, unpeeled, cored & diced

Use lean, fat trimmed leftover roast or ham or pork loin. Dice into 1 inch cubes and set aside. Combine cider, tomato juice, soy sauce, curry powder in a large non-stick skillet. Simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes. Stir in onion, bell pepper, celery, and raisins. Simmer, uncovered, stirring frequently until vegetables are tender-crisp, and nearly all the liquid has evaporated into a thick glaze. Stir in pork and apples, cook only until heated through. Apples should be tender and not mushy. Makes 4 servings 290 calories each.

Hummingbird Cake

- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, undrained
- 2 cups chopped bananas
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup flaked coconut

Sift flour, salt, baking soda, and cinnamon together. Cream oil and sugar. Add beaten eggs. Add flour mixture. Add pineapple, coconut, bananas, nuts and vanilla. Mix well.

Bake in three (9 inch) greased and floured cake pans at 350 for about 20 – 25 minutes.

Frosting:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick margarine, softened
- 1 box confectioners' sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup flaked coconut

Cream the cheese and margarine; add sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Add vanilla, nuts & coconut. Spread on cooled cake.

Dirt Cake

- 1 stick butter
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 (12 ounce) carton Cool Whip
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 cups milk
- 1 large box vanilla pudding mix
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 large bag Oreo cookies

Crush cookies. To be used later. Cream butter and cream cheese together. Set aside. Mix sugar and Cool Whip. Mix well. Combine milk, vanilla pudding and vanilla flavoring. Stir into Cool Whip mixture and let it thicken. When set, add this to the butter and cream cheese. Place one-half of cookie mixture (dirt) in a 9 x 13 inch pan. Pour filling mixture on top of dirt mixture. Top with remaining dirt. Chill for one hour. Try using a flower pot as a serving dish.

Troopers, that is all the recipes for this period. It's time for you and your spouses to send in your recipes for the next newsletter. As you can see, most of these are still from the South.

For the next newsletter, let's have some recipes from the northern and western part of the country. OK spouses, send in your recipes!

BWS

He is a gentleman on whom I built an absolute trust.

William Shakespeare,
Macbeth, Act 1 Scene 5

The same rationale is used to base trust in an Air Cav Trooper.

BWS

The Ohio Military Hall of Fame Medal

The purpose of the Ohio Military Hall of Fame is to recognize those Ohio individuals who served in the U. S. Military, and distinguished themselves, by displaying extraordinary heroism in action against an enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving combat with an opposing enemy force or while serving with friendly foreign forces.

Qualification Guidelines

1. Must have entered the armed forces from the State of Ohio or must have been born in the State of Ohio, and must be a citizen in good standing.
2. Military Medal for Valor qualifying individuals for OMHF
 - a. Medal of Honor
 - b. Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross
 - c. Silver Star
 - d. Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism
 - e. Bronze Star with "V" Device
 - f. Air Medal with "V" Device
 - g. Commendation Medal with Army "V" Device, Navy, USMC, Air Force or Coast Guard

NOTES;

1. Receiving a Purple Heart or having been a Prisoner of War (POW) does not necessarily qualify an individual into the OMHF. They must be a recipient of one of the above Medals for Valor.
2. Submitting false support documentation about one's achievements can be punishable by law.
3. Political persuasions are not relevant to qualifying for the OMHF.

4. All recipients will be verified through their DD-214 from St. Louis, MO Center for Personnel. Applicants should submit copy of DD-214 along with copy of Medal and Citation accompanying the award through the contact listed below, who will submit the documentation to the Board of Directors, OMHF for review and approval.
5. There will be no "Honorary" awards made. One must have received a Medal for Valor in combat – NO EXCEPTIONS

CONTACT;

Edward I. Arthur, (Ret USA)
1765 Coonpath Rd. NW
Lancaster, OH 43140
(740) 653-4721

or

Robert W. White, Sr. (Ret USA)
1706 Rocky Pine Loop North
Columbus, OH 43229-3616
(614) 431-2225

Troopers

Now is the time to get some long overdue recognition for past service. If you fit the requirements for this award, go for it. Two few times in the past, and probably in the future, will the Vietnam era military be given the credit due them. We are still remembered as the "Baby Killers" of Vietnam.

We know different !

It is our responsibility to tell the true story of the Vietnam war and leave a "lessons learned" for future troopers and hope they have the courage to study our tactics, procedures and operations. Only by doing this, can they hope to learn from our mistakes and not make the same mistakes. Lessons learned are lessons remembered, and fewer casualties.

May God give them the strength to endure.

BWS

The following list of Association members is as of 15 March 2000.

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)

Association Members

Abernathy, George
 Adams, Bobby *
 Allen, BG David *
 Amos, Richard
 Ashcraft, Al
 Ballard, Stephen
 Banks, Larry *
 Baron, Joseph *
 Barrett, James *
 Barton, Glenn
 Beckwith, Karen (h)
 Bedsole, Ken *
 Berggren, Gerald *
 Blankenburg, Mitch *
 Blankenship, Nelson
 Black, Jim
 Blouin, David
 Bowen, Joseph
 Bluestone, Bill (h)
 Boisseau, Mark
 Branard, Thomas
 Bray, David *
 Bressemer, David
 Brown Jr., Albert
 Brown, Larry *
 Bulkley, Morton
 Burnett, Clark *

Busch Jr, George *
 Bush, Pat *
 Cameron, Bruce
 Carll, Frederick
 Conner, James
 Copson II, Charles
 Cornwell, Robert
 Coshey, Donald *
 Covert, Charles
 Cox, Leonard
 Cox, Robert
 Crawford, George *
 Crispino, Joseph *
 Curtis, Grant
 Danielson, Ted (h)
 Defleron, Al *
 Dehart, Bruce
 Dela Rosa, Lionel
 Dettmer, Marion
 Dillbeck, William
 Doslop, Joseph *
 Dubois, Adam
 Dula, Jones R. *
 Dunning, David
 Dupreast, Samuel *
 Erway, Douglas
 Ewart, Loel *
 Ferrea, Albert *
 Fisher, Gordon *
 Flanagan, John
 Frank, Patrick
 Franks, Floyd
 Frazier, Charles (h)
 Frederick, Donald
 Gabel, Dennis
 Galloway, Joe (h)
 Garnhart, Stan (h)
 Garrett, Robert
 Gavaria, Lillian (h)
 Grett, Stanley
 Gutsche, Walter
 Hara-Eull, Michael
 Harmon, Thomas *
 Harris III, Lucious *
 Hartin, Thomas *
 Hartley, Thomas
 Haslitt, James
 Hearnon, Aussie *
 Henson, Kenneth
 Herra, James
 Hewlett, George
 Hilton, Mark
 Hlywa, Nicholas *
 Hobbs, Earl *
 Holt, Robert
 Hubler, Irwin *

Huff II, William
 Hughes, Billy
 Hulsey, Jim *
 Hundley, Stephen *
 Hunter, Jerry
 James, Jesse *
 Janes, Ray *
 Johnson, Bruce *
 Johnson, Monte
 Johnson, Ricky *
 Jones, Walker *
 Kelbus, Joseph *
 Kelley, Mike
 Kenerson, Ron (h)
 Kilgallen, Elizabeth (h)*
 Kowalski, Henry *
 Kilcrease, Jack *
 King, Thomas
 Kink, Julie (h)
 Knowles, Patrick *
 Krohlow, Kenton
 Kuhnell, Harold
 Kuster, Robert *
 La-Bombard, Lloyd *
 Lackey, Robert *
 Laidlaw, William
 Landor, Jaime
 Lanier, Michael *
 Larensen, John *
 Larson, Edward
 La Vigne Sr, Barry *
 Leadabrand, Jerry *
 Lenker, Max *
 Lentino, Michael
 Lott, Claude
 Lucas, Judson
 Machulsky, Michael
 Machnic, Jerry
 MacLeod, Richard *
 Maher, James
 Marcum, Eugene
 Marshall, Dick
 Matlock, Milton
 Matthews Jr, Allan
 McAllister, Bo *
 McCloud, Harry
 McKee, Orvel
 McKiddy, Edgar (h)
 McLaughlin, Davin *
 McMullan, Bob
 McNinch, Jerry *
 Moore, Arthur
 Moore, Harold (h)
 Moore, Marion *
 Moser, Frank *
 Nevins, Robert

Niles, Louis
 Oliver, Jack
 Olson, Kenneth
 Oshiro, Clyde
 Orifici, Tony
 Park, George
 Pettit, Richard
 Poe, Robert *
 Poos, Robert (h)
 Potts, William *
 Powell, John
 Preacher, William
 Pressman, James *
 Pryce, David
 Pumprey, A.T
 Quinn, William
 Racine, Maurice *
 Rawl, Joe
 Reid, Jim *
 Retterer, John *
 Rhoden, Joe *
 Ricks, Douglas
 Rittenhouse, William
 Rochat III, Louis *
 Rose, Harold
 Rosher, Galen *
 Ryan, John
 Salmon, Gary
 Salyer, James
 Schellenberg, Woodrow
 Schmotolocha, Jerry *
 Sellers, Robert
 Shalala, Mark
 Shanklin, David *
 Silva, Robert
 Sistek, John
 Sistrunk, Richard
 Smith, Cecil *
 Smith, Gene
 Smith, Jim *
 Snow, Peter
 Steine, Joel *
 Stewart, Frank *
 Stewart, Patrick *
 Stockton, Rita (h)
 Stockton, Wootsie (h)*
 Stone, Gordon
 Stoverink, Robert
 Sullivan, Dennis (h)
 Swain, Robert *
 Tadlock, Robert
 Tasker, Larry
 Terry, Michael *
 Thaxton, Bob
 Thomas, John

Timmons, William *
 Titchnell, Wallace *
 Tramontano, Joseph
 Trombley, Thomas
 Treude, Harry
 Tucker, Douglas *
 Tyrrell, Paul
 Vanasse, Eugene
 Volheim, James
 Waldron, Cowles
 Walker, John *
 Wallace, John
 Wardzala, Daniel
 Weatherspoon, Freddie
 Weems, Neil
 Wilke, Charles *
 Wilkins, Donald
 Wilkinson, George *
 Williams, Franklin *
 Williams, Billie *
 Wingate, Charles *
 Wuensch, Marc *
 Wulff, Richard
 Young, Robert *
 Young, Terry
 Zahn, Randy
 Zemke, Phillip *
 Zion, Bob *

h - Honorary
 * - Lifetime

Members are what makes the Association.

Dues paid on time is what keeps the Association running, allows us to print the newsletter and manage all Association expenses.

The Association has increased it's membership rolls by 42 new members since January 1. 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 our Association!

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. Let me know if they are wrong and we will correct and mail ASAP.

This list is up to date as of 15 March. Any dues received after this date will not show on this list.

And all you members that are not in good standing, stop procrastinating and please pay your dues. If you believe your dues are paid, call me for resolution.

Bullwhip Squadron **Web Site**

Our Association has finally come into the modern age! We are in the process of building a Bullwhip Squadron Web Site.

Our own, Joseph Bowen will be the Web Master for the Association's site and is responsible for building and maintaining the site.

Joe asks for any ideas from our troopers as to what they would like to see on the site. If you have any particulars, give Joe a call at (334) 774-1184 and discuss your ideas.

The web site address is www.BullwhipSquadron.org

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

Lost and Found

Hi,

I was just visiting one of your websites and reminiscing. I was not 1/9 but was with C227th, 1st Cav in Phuoc Vinh in '70. I am a VHPA member and have been trying to locate a couple of stickmates. Mike Powell graduated with me in class 70-21. We went over together, were assigned to the 1st Cav together, then parted ways. He was deathly afraid of being assigned to the 1/9 and had a death apparition. The last I heard was that he was a maniacal scout driver and loving it. Do you or any of your colleagues know of or about Mike? He was from Laurel, Mississippi and was about 20 or 21 at graduation in July '70. I remember that he bought a Corvette when we graduated because he figured he would not make it back. This feeling intensified when we were assigned to the Cav and became near-panic when he got orders for the 1/9. If you have any information that you could share I would appreciate it.

Another classmate that I have been unable to locate was a snake driver with a 1st Cav outfit, but not 1/9. I believe it was D227th or D229th, and their call sign was Blue somethingorother, but I am not sure. His name was/is Lew Truhan. Lew was from New Jersey and was of diminutive physical stature but was a giant of a friend. He bought a red TR-6 upon graduation. He took the Cobra transition course stateside before shipping over and so came over about 2 months after Mike and I did. We hit Long Binh in late August, 1970, so Lew arrived around Oct/Nov '70. I saw him once in Phuoc Vinh and then lost track of him. Do you or any of your guys know or know of Lew?

Any help you or your 1/9 bunch can provide would be greatly appreciated. Your website is very good. I try not to look back

too long or too often, but I enjoyed the trip down your site. Thanks.

Warren Piwetz
Masher 22
C227th AHB, B227th AHB, 1st Air Cav
wpiwetz@home.com

I was a CW II LOH pilot in Hunter Killer Team, and a OH-6 IP for E Troop from it's start until I was shot down and wounded on Oct 16, 1970. I would like to know who the Slick pilot was that picked me up, on Oct 16, 1970, just west of Laikae, VN. I was presented a DFC by a General at Laikae in Aug. or Sep. for the first kills of E troop. Is there any way to find out if these photos still exist? I didn't think I would live to see the photos, but here I am.

Richard Amos
PO Box 5564
So. Lake Tahoe, Nevada
30747

TROOPERS

Remember our next BWS Reunion will be 6,7,8 October 2000, at Fort Rucker, AL.

So start planning now to attend. This next BWS reunion will be better than the last.!!!

You received a special newsletter in January on the reunion with all reservation information. If you have misplaced your reservation forms and need another copy, call AL DeFleron and we will send a replacement.

Now is the time for all of you troopers who have never attended, to attend, and for all of the last attendees to re-attend!

You will find good fellowship and remaking of friendships, along with a very good time for all.

ATTEND!!!

**Patriotism means to stand by the country.
It does not mean to stand by the President.**

Theodore Roosevelt

From the Comptroller:

It was very gratifying to see all of the new members that became associated with the Bullwhip Squadron during 1999 and 2000.

To date we have seen our membership grow to 412 members with 90 of those lifetime members! We have increased by 40 members since January 1. We could not have done this without your support.

Thanks to all troopers!!!

Our members are what makes the Squadron.

Now for the bad news. **Unfortunately 190 members did not renew their membership for 2000.**

If you are in doubt if you have paid your dues, check for your name on the roster. If it is not there, you have procrastinated on paying your dues. We need your support. Prompt dues payment will insure continuation of the newsletter.

We are a non-profit organization. All work performed in the Squadron is strictly voluntary and the money taken into the Squadron by dues and merchandise sold, just is sufficient to pay for all operating expenses and help defray the Squadron reunion expenses.

Annual dues are still just \$15. Lifetime Memberships are available and the cost for a lifetime membership is just \$100. This is equivalent to only 6.5 years of dues. The Lifetime Membership means never having to pay dues again and the quarterly (almost) Squadron Newsletter comes with the Lifetime Membership.

You can send your Membership dues to;

Loel Ewart

Rt. 2, Box 158, Ozark, AL. 36360.

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

e-mail, lewart@snowhill.com

Membership runs from January through December regardless when dues are paid. This is the only way to keep our books straight with the least work.

Many of our troopers have a computer and an e-mail address. I am maintaining a Squadron e-mail address book of approximately 190 addresses. E-mail is essential for fast notification on actions that impact our members.

However, many of my e-mail addresses have been changed. Because of this I am asking for everyone who has an e-mail, to send me an e-mail as confirmation of address. Just put in heading "Confirmation", and in the body, your full name (and telephone number, optional). This will help me to regain a current listing.

For those of you that are concerned about your addresses getting out into the public domain, the Association does not sell or give away members addresses or phone numbers, except to other BWS Association members when they call in for a members individual number.

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

Now for something on the lighter side. The Association has Bullwhip Squadron items for sell. All the proceeds go into the Squadron fund, so as you buy, you help 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, \$65 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 (98 reunion), a few left, \$25 each.

The Association has gone all out to find those troopers who do not know of the Association. To date, over 3500 Invitation to Join letters have been sent out to those who carried on, and sustained, the CAV tradition.

While many letters were returned as undeliverable, we have been very pleased with the turnout of new members and hope to see many of you at the 2000 BULLWHIP REUNION in October at Ft. Rucker, Al.

Due to the number of troopers that have registered with the Holiday Inn, there are only 13 rooms left out of 90. Once the rooms fill up at the Holiday Inn, the reservations will go toward the other two standby motels. Call the Holiday Inn, NOW, for your reservations. Phone # (334) 774-7300. Secondly, fill out your Reunion Registration and send it in.

This reunion has the makings of being the largest for the Squadron yet.

SEE YOU AT THE REUNION

BWS

For the Vets

The other night, Jay Leno announced that Jane Fonda and Ted Turner were getting divorced. He said the relationship was a long run but now it "was time for Jane to go back to the people who love her...

the North Vietnamese"

Then he laughed and he said "I thought I'd get that one in for the Veterans".

DROP A NOTE OF THANKS TO JAY at; tonightshow@nbc.com

BULLWHIP SQUADRON CHARTER

The Squadron has recently received its official charter as a nonprofit Military Fraternal Organization.

Our own BWS, Douglas Ricks, attended to all the necessary paperwork for incorporation and writing the charter.

Rick many thanks from all of us. We could not have done it without you.

The initial charter shows the following board members.

- President – BG David Allen
- Vice President – Loel Ewart
- Secretary – AL DeFleron
- Treasurer – Barbara Ewart

A copy of the bylaws is available for any Squadron Member to view. Arrangements can be made to fax copies to a BWS member upon member request.

Final Note

You will see in this newsletter, paid advertisements from the local merchants. These merchants are supporting our Association by advertising. The funds generated by the advertisements help to defray printing expenses and allow us to provide you, the members, with a quality newsletter.

The Association asks you to support the merchants that advertise in our newsletter when you are in their vicinity or at their location. Lower Alabama has truly become the home of the Bullwhip Squadron Association.

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY

ADVERTISEMENTS
