

**7th Armored  
Squadron**

**1st Air  
Cavalry**

# HAWK TALK

1996 Fall Newsletter

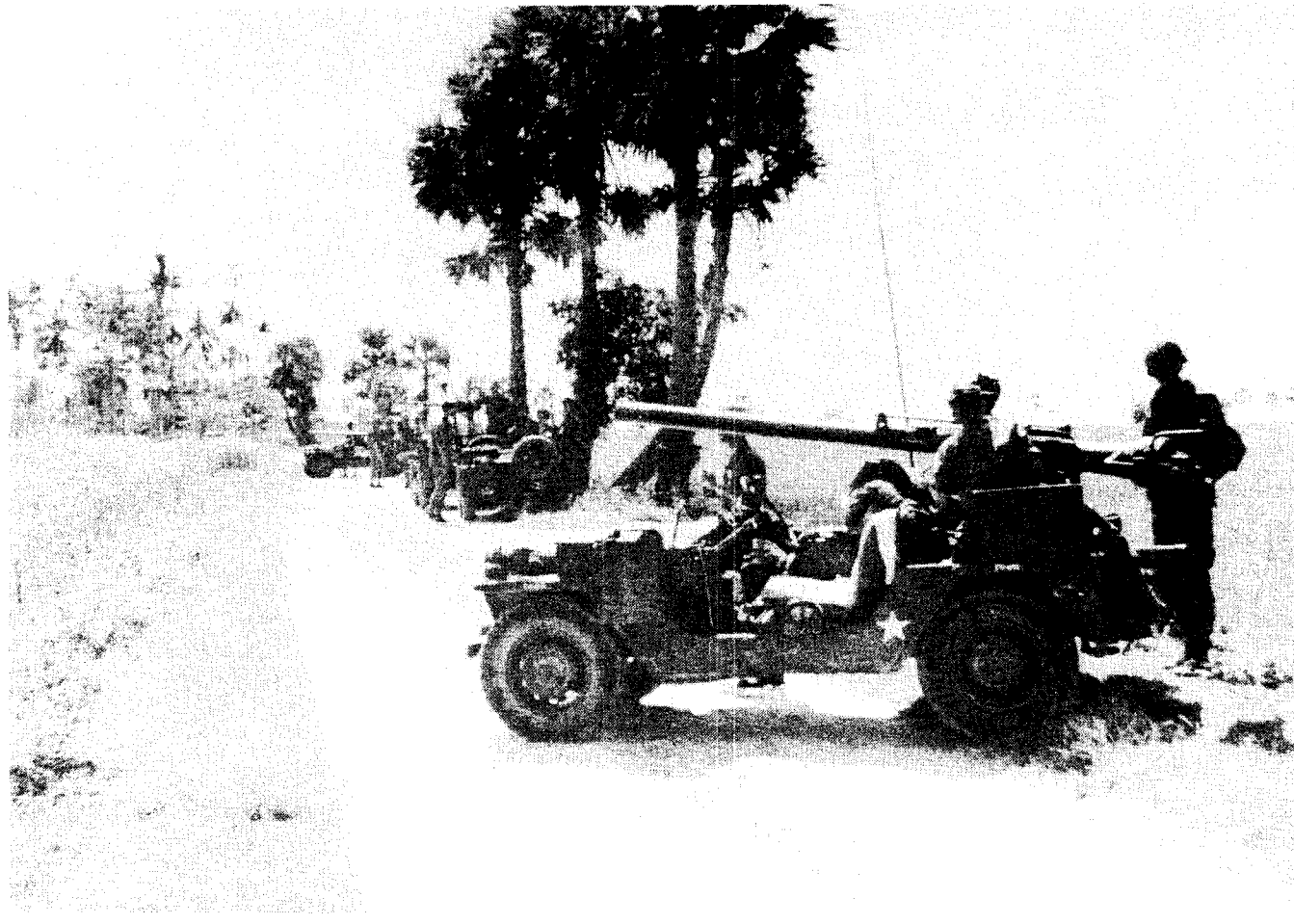
Mike O'Reilly Editor

Powder Valley

D/Troop

1968

Picture by Ken Marentette



Fellow Blackhawks:

Reunion 96 was once again a success. Since it was held in Las Vegas we had quite a few west coast guys that were first time attendees. It was great meeting them and their wives. The Hotel San Remo and our tour guide, Marie, did a great job with all our functions and tours. However I did get a little scared when Pat Hine told me that I didn't request beer and soda for the hospitality suite, but that was taken care of quickly. The food at the early-bird reception and banquet was excellent and there was plenty of it. Did I say Banquet, make that Banquet-Wedding reception! For those of you who did not attend the reunion, John Stewart and Diana tied the knot in Vegas. This is, as far as I know a first for one of our reunions. Best wishes and Good luck go out to John and Diana from all the Blackhawks and Hawkettes.

### 1997 Reunion / 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Our 1997 Reunion, July 31- August 3, will be held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, in Louisville, KY. It will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the activation of the 7/1 for duty in Vietnam. We are expecting a very large turnout for the 1997 reunion. So mark those dates on your calendar now! The 114<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company, Knights of the Air, will be holding their reunion in Louisville on the same dates. The 114<sup>th</sup> was based at Vinh Long and quite a few of our senior officers served their first tour with 114<sup>th</sup>, including our First Squadron Commander, Lt. Col. Charles Canedy. We will be planning at least one event together, probably a lunch or dinner cruise. I will work that out with their Reunion Chairman. There will be complete details on the reunion in the next newsletter. I would like to thank George Young of the 114<sup>th</sup>, George has helped our Association over and over again supplying me with potential members and articles. George, I look forward to meeting you!

### Business Meeting

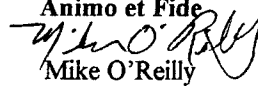
A Business meeting was held at the reunion. A new President, Vice President were elected and new legal council was appointed. Our new President is Curt Childree C/67-69, Vice President, Matt Serlectic C/67-69 and our new Legal Council is Doug Ricks A/ 67-69. Doug is currently working on paperwork to get us incorporated as a non-profit organization. Thanks Doug. It was decided at the business meeting that this newsletter will only be mailed to those members that are current with their dues. We have over 800 names on our roster and less than 400 are current with their dues. However members who are not current with their dues will receive one newsletter, about 2 months prior to an upcoming reunion. This will give them a chance to pay their dues and /or sign up for the reunion.

### TAPS

I regret to inform you of the passing of two of our members.

Ted Miller 7/1 G Troop 1975-1978. Ted passed away one week after the reunion, after a long battle with cancer. As Paul Hanson wrote me in one of his e-mail letters, "Ted had one last mission to complete, to attend the reunion he organized." Ted accomplished that mission like the trooper that he was.

James Morrison 7/1 HHT 1968. Jim passed away on July 26, 1996. I had the opportunity to talk to Jim and his wife Shelia on the phone. Jim died of cancer suspected to be related to agent orange. I wish I found Jim sooner. I know he would have loved to have met and talked to some of his former buddies. Please read Shelia's letter in this newsletter, and keep Ted and Jim in your prayers.

Animo et Fide  
  
Mike O'Reilly  
C/67-68

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **Joe Iona C/67-68 writes:**

Just got the Summer Hawk Talk and it is a really terrific newsletter. Keep up the good work. I couldn't recognize all the guys in the Playboy picture except for Jensen, Holmes and Bill Bonk. However, when you sent the copy of Bill La Casse's picture, there was no doubt about it. It was as if he was standing here today next to me. I always thought we had the best lift section in Army Aviation bar none. Talk about memories. Thanks! Take care Mike and Pat.

### **Bob Mills HHT/67-68 writes**

I send my compliments and thanks for your tremendous efforts in keeping the Blackhawk Association alive and growing. "Hawk Talk is a superb newsletter and I enjoy reading about news and experiences of others. My thanks for seeking and bringing in new members. Keep up the good work!

Due to a previous commitment I regret I will not be able to attend Reunion-96. A year ago before I moved to Colorado from San Antonio I agreed to accompany the San Antonio German fold dance group to Germany for two weeks of performance during August 1996. That commitment still holds and we will be in Germany from 3 through 19 August. The performances by the way will be at village festivals in Gefrees near Bayreuth and Fischen near Oberstdorf by the Austrian border. With beef prices for ranchers at a five year low, this is not the best time to be raising beef cattle. But it is interesting and fun. Life in the mountains is great.

Hope to see you in Louisville in '97.

### **Sheila R. Morrision wife of the late James Morrision writes:**

Thanks for your help. James passed away on Sunday, July 21, 1996. I have sent the following letter to the organizations you suggested as well as senators and congressman in California. I am writing this letter because my husband did not have the opportunity to advocate his condition which he felt was due to his exposure to Agent Orange while on duty in Vietnam in the

late 60's. The Duodenal cancer suddenly took his life on July 21, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. A statement in support of claim, stating this was filed on September 19, 1995 with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Prior to May 24, 1995 my husband was 46 at the time, was a healthy individual with no known medical problems. On May 24, 1995 he was seen at the V.A. Clinic in Oakland. He went there because he thought he was experiencing flu symptoms. After some tests they asked him to return on the following day May 25, 1995 for additional tests. He arrived at the V.A. Clinic in Oakland the next morning and after further testing they told him that he would have to be transferred to the V.A. Medical Center in San Francisco at Fort Miley for more tests. They were unable to determine the cause of his condition with the tests which were done in Oakland. Upon arriving at the V.A. Medical Center in San Francisco, he had to undergo numerous tests from May 25, 1995 to May 30, 1995. It was determined that his condition was caused by a tumor located in the duodenum (small intestine). He was released on May 30, 1995 and surgery to remove the tumor was scheduled for June 7, 1995. Dr. Lygia Stewart performed a Whipple procedure, the surgery took approximately 10 hours. Following the surgery he had to undergo chemotherapy from August 1995 to December 1995 and a second surgery performed in March 1996 to remove metastatic lesions from his liver. Following the surgery his condition seemed to improve but in May 1996, the disease seemed to regress and he died July 21, 1996.

My concern is that we were self employed and during the time my husband was sick he was unable to work. His condition was not one in which he recovered. My family (myself and our two children ages 20 and 14) was dependent on him and because of his illness and demise he was not and will not be able to care for us and I am now concerned about how we will survive in the future. Before his death on September 19, 1995 he submitted a statement in support of claim which stated that he believed his disability was service connected due to his exposure to agent orange. And he also asked that the claim be expedited because it was likely we would lose our home because of his disability. It is now imminent because of his death that we will lose our house which we have had for almost ten years and our business as well will be lost which we started in January 1991.

My husband was last seen on July 9, 1996 at the V. A. Center at Fort Miley. The doctor told him that the cancer was spreading and the treatments available were not guaranteed to work, however they would probably make him sicker than he already was. They also arranged for hospice service to begin. His next appointment was scheduled for July 23, 1996. He passed on July 21, 1996.

He had given power of attorney to the Veterans of Foreign War. We were told that the only way to get the type of cancer he had listed on the list of cancers caused by Agent Orange was that he must attend meetings and advocate his case. He was unable to attend such meetings because of his condition and the chemotherapy treatments, and now because of his demise cannot advocate his case.

My concern is that now because of his death his case will be canceled and the cancer which caused his death will never be recognized as once caused by agent orange. My husband's illness has had a devastating effect on our immediate family both mentally, physically as well as economically. It is my concern to find out what if anything can be done to help a family which has gone through a lot of suffering, hurt and pain over the past year and at this point is at the point of financial ruin because the breadwinner of our family has been taken away suddenly and unexpectedly by circumstances beyond our control which we and other family members, friends and his doctor believe was due to his exposure to agent orange while serving his country in Vietnam.

I am in desperate need of answers relating to this and would like for you to provide me with any advice or assistance.

Mike I don't know what will become of our concern, but his doctor has seen three cases so far over the past two years of this rare cancer and each person served in Vietnam around the same time James was there.

Again thanks for your help.

**Editors note:**

If any of our members can help Sheila or have any advice for her, please contact her at: 1225 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, CA 94607 or call 510-451-0816. James her late husband was a former Blackhawk who I found doing a Social Security search.

**Earl Shepherd HHT/67-69 writes**

I am dropping you this short note to let you know we will not be able to attend the reunion in Vegas.

The primary reason is the wife's "heart" Doctor has told her not to fly again. And that is because on our return from Halifax, Nova Scotia at Christmas time last year, she had a "heart attack" on the airplane en route to Detroit. We got her home and she spent a week in the hospital here. She recovered from that event, but the Doctor says hold off on air travel. She has recovered very well from the knee operation. She had another knee operation in May to have the metal taken out of her knee.

We both will be very sad to miss all the events in Vegas. As that is the one place we have always wanted to go to.

Mike you and Pat are doing a beautiful job on the newsletter. Enclosed is my 97 dues.

We definitely plan on the Louisville trip in 97.

We went to a wedding in Louisville a few weeks ago and drove through Ft. Knox.

Our best to you two and all the Blackhawks who make it to Vegas.

**Walt Bammann C/68-69 writes:**

Sorry my dues are slow in coming. Your newsletter is terrific, the memories come flooding back.

I had a terrific visit with Eric Bundy, Dave Hall and Mike Quigley at the VHPA convention in Santa Clara earlier this month.

Sorry we can't attend the Las Vegas shindig in August but my wife, Jody, and I will be floating the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. We hope to make future reunions when possible. Keep up the good work.

**Andrew Canizares B/69-70 writes:**

I apologize for the delay in writing, but I have been kind of busy with the family (baby) she is already 27 months old and she takes a lot of our time lately. We are enjoying her dearly.

I want to congratulate you and your staff for the outstanding job you are doing for us in keeping our past a part of the present. I read Hawk Talk almost every day. I like to go back in time and remember the most exciting time of my life. The action, the ups and downs all of my Blackhawk colleagues.

I attended the first 2 reunions but was unable to attend the Virginia reunion due to a conflict at

work. This time we have made plans to attend the Las Vegas reunion. I hope to see you all there. So much to talk about, to remember and to laugh and cry.

Until then hope to hear from you soon, take care and regards to the family.

**Editors note:**

Andrew and his wife attended the reunion in Vegas. Andy's wife must be his lucky charm because he won the grand prize raffle at the reunion, A saber. Plus he won two other raffle prizes.

**Paul Hanson D/68-69 writes:**

Congratulations Mike and Pat. Your work and dedication has resulted in a truly outstanding reunion.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

This was one of the most enjoyable reunions I have attended.... I talked to more men. Saw more sites and actually relaxed.....

The relaxing part was only possible due to the hard work of others.

CSM Carter returned my call when I got back from the reunion. He wanted to know how everything went, I told him it was a great gathering.

His doctor would not let him attend and his sister was critical with her open heart surgery. Seems to run in the family, Tom says.

I told him next August would be at Knox and he said he would be there with bells on. Bells or not it will be good to see him again.

It looked to me that C Troop pretty much dominated the reunion this year. What were the numbers anyway. I think there must have been close to 50 Blackhawks this time!

In any case Mike and Pat I just wanted to express my sincere thanks to both of you for your continuing efforts and wonderful results on the reunion.

**Editors note:**

As I have said in the past, If it wasn't for Paul Hanson there would not be a Blackhawk Association! It was a great gathering in Vegas. I hope that the reunion in KY will be bigger and better

**Mike Lewis HHT/73-74 writes:**

It been awhile since I have spoken to you or written to you. I felt like sending you a letter since I have just taken a "trip down memory

lane". My job allows me to travel and Kentucky is my sales territory. I had a need to be in Elizabethtown last week so I took a self-guided tour through Ft. Knox. It has been several years since I last saw the Fort. The last time was when I found out Henry Riddly, MSG-Ret. passed away in 1988. Many things have changed, as they always do.

Gone is the motor pool that was located behind Ireland Army Hospital. They are restoring the old brick barracks. Godman Airfield looks a little bare...but a squadron of Apache helicopters is on station along with some Blackhawks. ( I wonder if they named them for us???.....I know it is a tradition of naming helicopters after Indians...).They still have some Armor units, but military cut-backs have taken their toll on post. I did not have the honor of serving with the 7/1 in Vietnam. As a "newbie " in the unit early in 1973, I felt the specter of the 'Nam, since not very many of the junior enlisted guys would have anything to do with me. ( the reasons were explained by the senior NCOs). I still have many fond memories of serving with the unit at Fort Knox, We were involved with the TOW/COBRA project and helped to clean up Brandenburg after devastating tornadoes ripped up the area on April 3, 1974. The storms are still talked about in the region. I often wonder what happened to the people I served with in the motor pool and HHT. As I recall, in 1974 our unit was being downsized or disbanded. It seems most of us who had not been on an overseas tour, got one. I went to Korea...where I ran into Captain Copeland, the former Commander of HHT. Copeland was a Snake-driver. As I recall. He was in the Cav until ROK and tried to get me transferred in-country. Others were being reassigned to other units at Ft. Knox or elsewhere. I remembering hearing the 7/1 was going to Fort Stewart, GA. Since that always annoyed me, I looked into it at the resource center at the Patton Museum. The curator tells me the unit is now part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, as it was in WWII. I hope at the reunion in 1997 at Ft. Knox, I will find out.

**Lonnie Wise A/70-71 writes:**

Thanks for the updated list! Since you have the computer telephone listing, I will send you more names if you like.

I have enclosed a check for \$50.00 to update my dues. If possible I would like to send this amount

every month or so until my Life Membership is paid up. If this is not possible use the extra for postage/supplies.

Thanks again for your efforts in helping keep this organization alive.

I will see you all in July '97.

**Editors note:**

I see no problem with having a payment plan for Life Membership. So Lonnie you only have four payments left to make.

**Bill Sewell A/69-70 writes:**

Appreciate your work. It is good to see the names show up! If anyone is looking for Dennis Haugen he is in North Pole, Alaska. Also one of the Scouts from the original group who first went over in 1968 lives in North Pole, can't remember his name (old age I guess) or to many quick turns in a Loach. I have been off work and disabled a bit for 5 years, but I am back to work and if you need extra money to help send newsletters just drop me a note and I will be glad to help out. If anyone gets to Alaska I live in the interior 45 miles south of Fairbanks.

By the way, Cort Stark should have been piloting a huey during the time they tried to rescue the prisoners.

Sorry no August or September reunions for me. Hunting Season.

**Editors note:**

Guess what Bill! The next reunion is scheduled for July 31-August 3, 1997. You can make it if you and the only 9 guys in Alaska try.

**Pat Hines of the Hotel San Remo writes:**

Thank you Mike, for holding your Reunion at the Hotel San Remo.

We enjoyed serving you and your group and look forward to seeing you in the near future.

You have a real fun group-grow, grow, grow.

**Editors note:**

Thanks Pat!

Pat Hines went out of her way to make our reunion a success in Vegas. A big thank you to Pat and to the rest of the staff at the Hotel San Remo.

**Marie our tour guide for the reunion writes:**

Thank you so much for letting me be a part of your reunion. Your whole group was just

wonderful. You can take a bow for a job well done. If they didn't have a good time it was their own fault. Say a special "thank you" from me in your next newsletter.

**Editors note:**

Marie was a wonderful tour guide. She went out of her way to help our group in anyway she could. She had a wonderful sense of humor. I know a lot of us laughed at her jokes.

**David Tomlison C/68-69 and his wife**

**Anne write:**

Just to note a reflection or two about the reunion. It was wonderful seeing old friends again—several David had not seen or heard from since leaving Vietnam in 1969. We enjoyed Las Vegas and thank you Pat and a posthumous "thanks" to our good friend, Ted Miller—for all your efforts in preparing for the reunion and maintaining that it could run so smoothly.

It is with a profound sense of sadness that we bid farewell to Ted. He was such a fighter with a great determination to live. He gave it all he had to the very end.

Time may be running out for all of us! So, that is why it is so important for everybody who served with the 7/1 to come out to the next years reunion at Ft. Knox.

We are certainly look forward to 1997 in Ft. Knox. Take care and God bless.

**Earl "Owen" Hamiel C/68-69 writes:**

Here is the list of names from my address book that I promised to send you. Sorry it took so long. We had a great time at the reunion in Las Vegas. Thanks again!

**Mike Quigley A/67-68 writes:**

It was great seeing and meeting you and the rest of the 7/1 gang. I am finally getting around to catching up with August and Septembers activities. The support of the ladies was very nice to see and they were better to look at then you guys.

I will try to make the next reunion in KY. In the meantime, here are my dues as promised.

If I could get an updated directory that I could search for names, etc. it would be most appreciated. If it costs let me know. El Paso is MDT time and I got a one line phone/fax 915-

751-0228, if that is a help. Thanks again for the fun.

**Editors note:**

Thanks Mike. I really enjoyed talking to you about the old sod and our relatives.

**Kenneth M. Quinn**  
**In Vietnam, a Soldier's Bond**

**When Americans needed rescue  
race became irrelevant**

Phnom Penh-In December 1993 I stood on the tarmac at an airfield outside Hanoi as part of a U.S. delegation about to receive the remains of eight American servicemen. As I waited, my mind drifted back 25 years to my time as an adviser in the Mekong Delta.

There was a special, unstated bond I felt existed among most Americans when they were engaged in combat. Simply put, it was: If you were wounded, under heavy enemy fire or your life was in danger, you would not be abandoned by your fellow Americans. Americans would always come to the rescue of other Americans in trouble. These bonds might break down later back at base camp or when the danger was over, but as long as we were in combat, they held us together.

I saw my first example of this phenomenon while I was an adviser in the Mekong Delta in 1969 and 1970. We were the only Americans around for miles and were dependent on the Vietnamese for our defense. But when we got in serious trouble, all we had to do was put out a radio call that a "Uniform Sierra" (the military phonetic substitute for United States) was wounded or under heavy fire, and the response from the Army and Navy bases was instantaneous.

I remember one night when a near-by village was overrun by a Viet Cong unit. Three of my team, members were trapped in there in a small mud fort, surrounded and under heavy mortar fire. I put out the call to the Vinh Long Army Air Field and almost immediately two helicopters gunships were "on station" and in communication with our men, ready to put in air strikes if needed.

It didn't bother the pilot that he was exposed to enemy ground fire that could bring down his ship. It also didn't matter that he had probably never met any of the Americans down below or even knew their names. All that mattered was that they were Americans and needed help.

Shortly after the helicopters arrived, we received word that Navy boats were on their way to the village, even though they had to risk possible enemy ambushes on the narrow canals that wended their way there. The men on them never had met any of my advisers, either. Then two "Black Pony" Navy planes contacted us, volunteering to put in air strikes. At one point, so many American aircraft were around that I was worried about midair collision than the enemy threat on the ground.

This instantaneous show of force worked. The Viet Cong retreated, and the only casualty was the team's mascot-a dog killed by incoming mortar round. As the various American elements departed the scene, there was a final parting word of thanks from those of us on the ground to the pilots and the boat commanders-people we might never see.

Strict radio procedures usually fell by the wayside at the moment and emotions took over when the people on the ground, who realized they probably wouldn't be alive except for the quick response, would say something like "hey" You guys really saved our tails tonight." And the understated reply would come " All in a night's work" or "Just doing our job."

These special bonds between Americans could overcome even the strongest feelings and animosities, such as racial prejudice. One of the greatest ironies of the war is that, while it caused so much division at home, perhaps more than anything else in our national experience, combat in Vietnam obscured, and occasionally even erased, racial barrier between blacks and whites. This phenomenon might have for only a few hours or a few minutes, and it usually came at the height of a battle, but the important thing was that it happened. I remember well the time a black soldier-the radio man of his squad-became separated from the rest of his unit, all of who he believed had been killed. He was alone, in the middle of the jungle on a dark night, surrounded by the enemy.

After he informed us what happened, we quickly called a helicopter unit to come to the rescue. I can remember to this day listening to the conversation between the white pilot and black soldier. The pilot began by assuring him he wouldn't leave him and would stay there until he got him out alive. Then, by a series of stealthy maneuvers, the radio man signaled his position on the ground. The Pilot then flew close to the ground exposing himself to enemy fire but also

coming dangerously close to the trees, which he could barely see in the darkness. Finally, after guiding the radio man to a clearing in the woods, the pilot landed and picked up the radio man. At that moment, all that seemed to matter to both men was that they were Americans.

There many such acts in which an American of one race came to the rescue of another. I remember another one well, because it happened to me first time out on patrol in the delta.

Exhausted by the muddy going, I fell behind, slumped and exhausted on the bank of a canal, and realized I was alone, with no one around except maybe the enemy, whom I imagined behind every tree. It was at that moment that the hand of Sgt. Bobby Chase appeared: he came back to get me.

Now, 25 years later standing at the rear of our C-141 Air Force plane in Hanoi, we Americans held a brief ceremony as we received the bodies of our fallen comrades. Placing an American flag on top of one of the coffins, I felt as never before that special bond that existed between Americans engaged in combat in Vietnam. We had all lived by the maxim that even in death we would not abandon one another. And here on a gray, overcast day in our wartime enemy's stronghold, we were keeping faith with men we had never known in life. No one asked if they black or white, rich or poor, Christian, Muslim or Jew. The simple fact that they were Americans was all we needed to know.

**Editors note:**

George Young, National Director of the 114<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company Association sent me this article. Kenneth M. Quinn is the Ambassador to Cambodia. I am reprinting the following letter that Kenneth Quinn sent to George Young.

Dear Mr. Young

Let me begin by apologizing for the delay in responding to your letter. I was very flattered by your kind words about my article, "In Vietnam, a Soldier's Bond." You certainly have my permission to reprint it in your quarterly newsletter.

I regret to report that I do not believe it was the 114<sup>th</sup> Cobras that responded on the night of the particular incident referred to in my article.

Rather, if memory serves me correctly, it was helicopters from the 7/1 CAV which, I am sure you will recall, was also based at Vinh Long.

I do want to add, however, that is was my great honor to be involved with the Knights on several

other occasions. As District Senior Advisor in Duc Toh District of Sasec Province (just west of the airfield on Highway 8), I regularly joined my Vietnamese counterpart in the back of the C-in-C helicopter while we inserted troops and/or scouted for VC units in the "Y" base area or "DeGaulle's nose." I distinctly recall one afternoon when flying with the 114<sup>th</sup>, I was stunned to see the Cobra gunships flying only a few feet above the treetops searching for VC Bunkers and trying to draw enemy fire. The courage these pilots displayed left me almost speechless. I finally told the pilot how "incredible" I thought it was. I will never forget his reply: "YOU'RE FLYING WITH THE KNIGHTS, SIR." That said it all. Those Knights in flight were indeed a wonderful sight.

I might add one other fact about myself, which may add a small asterisk to your study. I was, at the time a civilian State Department Officer on loan to MACV. I flew over 250 hours of helicopter combat missions (doing Eagle Flights, K-bars, medavacs and Last Light operations) with the three helicopter companies at Vinh Long and still to this day consider it the best experience of my career and the best job I ever had.

Thank you and all the men of your command for the unique privilege of having served and flown with you. We probably never knew each other's names, but we knew you would always be there for us. You were Americans—that was all we needed to know.

## **Bell Helicopter News Cobra rescue...the rest of the story**

Nearly 28 years ago, Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. received a letter from an Air Force captain who described a combat mission he flew with his F-100 Super Saber fighter jet deep into Vietnam's Mekong Delta. He said that particular mission was one that "will be one of my most vivid memories of the war." This little known story surfaced during casual discussions at the Bell product display at the recent FIDE '96 air show in Santiago, Chile. The pilot, now a few years older but still a fighter pilot at heart, brought up the subject briefly to Bell officials who were attending.

By delving into old Bell news files, this letter was discovered in the Nov, 28 1969 issue. The

captain had high praise for Bell products, particularly the Cobra. It had saved his life. The story goes that as he and his aircraft were attacking enemy positions, his Super Saber sustained numerous hits. He was forced to eject. His descent carried him where he really didn't want to be-right into the middle of an enemy stronghold. His letter details what happened. "I was 80 miles from the nearest Air Force rescue facility," wrote the captain. "Although I was being pursued by enemy troops I managed to evade capture and continue talking to the fighters orbiting overhead. Just when my situation was beginning to look desperate and the enemy troops were again closing in and the weather had deteriorated to the point the jet fighters were of little value, a flight of Cobras working about 20 miles away offered to come to my aid." Then he found out how he was going to be saved. "I was told that I would have to ride out on the outside of the Cobra or wait until the Air Force chopper arrived." Since I had been on the ground for over an hour I would ride out any way I could. "Once the Cobras arrived in the area they suppressed the ground fire being constantly directed at the forward air controller and fighters," he continued. "The enemy troops seemed to have a great amount of respect for your gunships! It took only a few minutes to direct one of the Cobras into position near the treeline in which I was hiding. With the other Cobra orbiting overhead to suppress ground fire I made a run for it. The pilot motioned for me to move to the forward part of the helicopter and at his direction I opened the left gun bay door and layed (sic) down on it. I was carried 20 miles on his door before reaching the Army outpost at Cau Mau."

After the rescue, the captain said, he shared details of his rescue with survival experts and Air Force support people so this new rescue concept would be known by all combat pilots.

He believes that at the time, he was the first Air Force pilot to be rescued by a Cobra. Although not designed as a rescue helicopter, ingenuity by both the helicopter pilot and the Air Force captain made it possible.

The Young captain concluded his letter this way. "I haven't related this story to boast or evoke my adventure. Just want you to know how much I appreciate the aerospace products Bell corporation produces, especially the Cobra. Thank you. Ronald F. Fogleman, Captain, USAF."

Who could have predicted that the Sept. 12, 1968, rescue of that young Air Force captain from the grasp of an enemy would make such a significant difference in Air Force history. Captain Ronald F. Fogleman in 1968 is now General Ronald F. Fogleman U.S. Air Force chief of Staff and leader of the world's premier air force. An Army Cobra attack helicopter had made the difference between life and death, or freedom or capture for this Air Force fighter pilot destined to be the number one general in the United States Air Force.

**Editors note:**

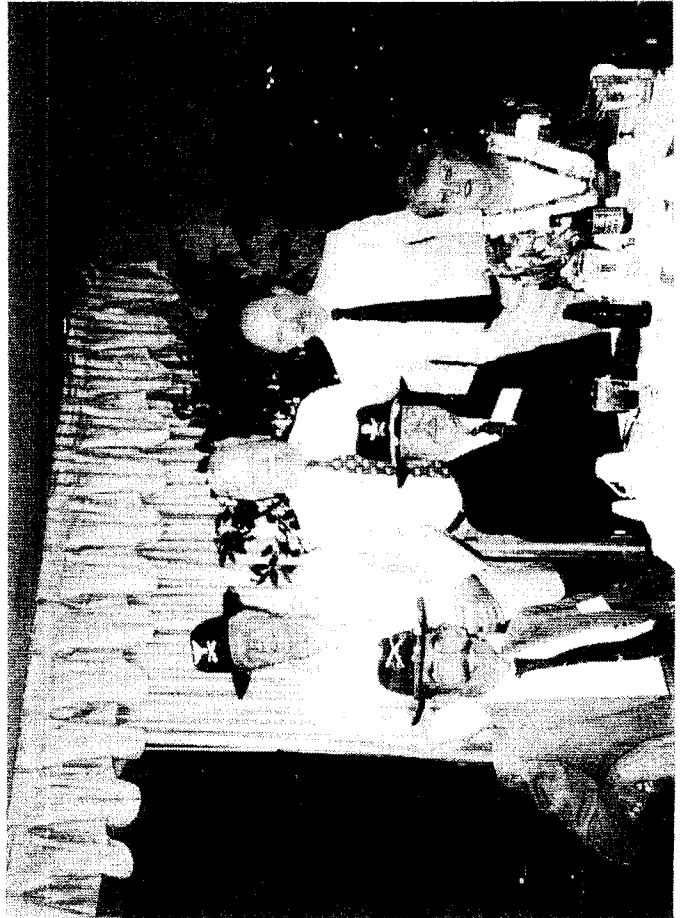
I am trying to find out if this rescue was made by a 7/1 Cobra. If anyone recalls this rescue please let me know. If it was the 7/1 that made this rescue, I will try to invite General Fogleman to the next reunion. It would be great if he could get together with his rescuers 29 years later.

**1996 Reunion Attendees**

Roberty Bailey C/68-69, Aloyoysius Britt B/68-69, James Brown A/68-69, Andrew Canizares B/69-70, Damon Cecil C/68-69, Curt Childree C/67-68, Robert Ferrell HHT-D 70-71, Bill Gillette HHT-B 69, Mike Givens D/68-69, Earl "Owen" Hamiel C/68-69, Clay Hanley B/68-69, Paul Hanson D/68-69, Gary Holmes C/67-69, Daniel Horger, John Humphrey A/71-72, Clint Hunter C/67-68, John Jenks C/67-68, Dennis Joyce D/68, Mike Kessler C/70-71, Richard Kloepfer A/68-69, Ralph Knapp B/68-69, Terrance Knowles A/67-68, Wayne Mazikowski B/69-70, Charles McLeroy A/68-69, Ted Miller HHT 235<sup>th</sup> G Troop 75-78, James Moffitt A/67-69, Ron Norwood B, Glenn O'Leary D/68-69, Mike O'Reilly C/67-68, Ralph Ostheller B/67-68, Charles Parkey B/68-69, Jim Popplewell B/69, Mike Quigley A/67-68, Rolf Raabe A/68, Doug Ricks A/67/69, Art Rogers D/68-69, Matt Serletic C/67-69, Don Sharp B/67-68, Michael Smith C/68-69, Cort Stark A/68-70, John Stewart D/68-69, Richard Thompson B/69-70, David Tomlinson C/68-69 and Boyd Yochum.HHT/67-69 And of course the wives, mothers, friends and children who attended the reunion. Thank you all for being there and making the Vegas reunion a success.

**Editors note:**

Check out Jim Popplewell's pictures, taken at the banquet on the next page of this newsletter.



**7/1 ACS Blackhawk Association**

The Blackhawk Association is a non-profit, non-political, Fraternal organization. The principal objective is to preserve our history, to bring old friends together, to make new friends and to remember those fellow Blackhawks who made the ultimate sacrifice.

**Have you Paid your Dues?**

In order for to keep on receiving a edition of our newsletter "Hawk Talk" and a Membership Roster you must be current with your dues. If your mailing label has a 96 on it, it means your dues are now due. Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check payable to: Blackhawk Association, 14 Northern Avenue Apt. G-6, Cold Spring NY, 10516-2702.

**Membership Application/Information Sheet**

Initial  Renewal  
 Change of Address  
 Annual Dues Enclosed \$25.00  
 Life Membership Enclosed \$250.00  
 Associate Membership Enclosed \$25.00

Name: _____		
Spouses Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip Code: _____
Home Phone Number (    ) _____	Work(    ) _____	
Troop: _____	Rank: _____	Years Served: _____
Other Units Served with: _____	Social Security Number _____	
Call sign: _____	Current Occupation: _____	

# 7th Squadron 1st Air Cavalry Blackhawk Association

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