



# HAWK TALK

7TH ARMORED SQUADRON 1ST AIR CAVALRY

**BLACKHAWKS**



Director  
Jim Breisch  
jsbreisch@sbcglobal.net  
Assistant Director



Treasurer Roland Leeds  
rleeds@dapcoind.com  
Secretary Don Sharp  
Dsharp939@earthlink.net  
Directors at large  
Eddie G. Walker eddwalker1@comcast.net  
Richard E. Thompson  
dmmajil@yahoo.com  
Edward Jones ejones6@austin.rr.com  
Quartermaster  
Richie Kloepfer AtrpGrunt@aol.com  
Membership  
John Little little71671@sbcglobal.net  
Webmaster  
Lou "Sandy" Sanders lou@sandersusa.com  
Historian  
Edward Thomas thomasfamily@clear-wire.net  
Editor  
Dave "spot" Lemieux d.lemieux@snet.net

Article II From the Constitution:  
The 7/1 ACS Blackhawk Association is dedicated to the following objectives:  
A. To renew and preserve the camaraderie and esprit de corps among members of the Association and to honor our fallen comrades  
B. To locate all current and former members of the 7/1 ACS and attached units.  
C. To encourage all current and former members of the 7/1 ACS and attached units to become affiliated with the Association.  
D. To gather data and material of an historical nature and to compile an accurate and detailed history of the Association.  
E. To engage in such other activities as deemed appropriate for the Association.

## BLACKHAWK REUNION

SEPT 27, 28, 29, 30

RENO NEVADA

## CIRCUS CIRCUS HOTEL-CASINO

Dear Fellow Blackhawks & Families,

It has been a beautiful spring day here in Ohio, a day to enjoy the outdoors and have fun with family and friends. I wish the same for each of you. While we are celebrating spring and new growth, it is also a time to think of fall and our next reunion September 26-30, 2007. I hope each of you are making plans to be at the Blackhawk Reunion in Reno, Nevada. It will be held at Circus Circus which is offering great rates, and good accommodations. Our organizers John and Susan Malowney have done a lot of pre-planning to make this a great reunion.

Sue and I enjoy visiting with good friends and making new friends at each reunion. It is also a time to visit places we have never been before. Living east of the Mississippi, we do not get west often, so Reno and Lake Tahoe will be a new tourist attraction for us. We are making our reservations this week to attend the September reunion, and we hope each of you will make reservations soon. Remember airfares are usually cheaper earlier rather than at last minute. Please check out the Blackhawk website for more information.

I also encourage each of you to make at least one contact to a buddy, who you may not have seen for a while, and ask them to join you at the reunion in Reno. A personal invitation and word of mouth is often the best way to get positive results and enlist new members.

James E. Breisch  
National Director

## Spring Edition May 07

Subject: A letter from Dutchmaster 17 (70-71)

Hello Jim, my name is Lynn Higgins, I wrote you a couple of years ago when I was in Nicaragua doing New Horizons 05. I am still in the guard but the deployment local has changed and I thought I would let you know there are still a few old Blackhawks flying the line in combat. I am now and have been in Iraq for the last six months flying, of all things, Blackhawks. I was a 19 year old scout pilot for B troop in 1970 and am now a 56 year old fart flying UH-60s. Some of us just don't know when to quit I guess. I wanted to tell you that even though there are incredibly brave folks here trying to do the right thing, it is nothing compared to what we went through in Viet Nam. If there are any old Blackhawks that feel the urge or some sense of loss for not being here doing their part they need to let go of that. They MORE than gave what was needed and put up with so much more than we do here. I don't wish to demean any of the sacrifices that we troops go through here, or the dangers, but it can't even compare to Viet Nam in so many ways. I just want to say "well done" to all those that served in the past and please, enjoy your lives for you have earned every good and happy thing. I can't talk alot about what I am doing here due to who our unit's customer is other than to say that Air Assault is the order of the day and we help take the fight to the bad guys, just like the Blackhawks did. As much as I love flying the UH-60 I have to say, I would rather have an OH-6 with some 19 year old in the left seat with an M-60 and a bag of frags instead of doing what Loaches did best. Oh well, such are things. My best regards and wishes go to all the Blackhawks out there, keep the faith and stand proud. Lynn CW5 Lynn S. Higgins (Formerly Dutchmaster 17, Sep 70 to Sep 71. A Co, 2-135th GSAB, 36th CAB LSA Anaconda APO AE 09391

## THIS SPACE FOR RENT

## KIA LIST

***Blackhawk Association Web Site***  
*Louis E. Sanders Webmaster*  
***www.blackhawk6.com***  
*Comments to:*  
***webmaster@blackhawk6.com***

PFC Roy W. Duncan	February 28, 1968	Kingbird	WO1 Fred E Carrington	February 11, 1970	Dutchmaster
WO1 Vernon L Leuning	March 4, 1968	Apache	PFC Lopez Jose Santos	March 11, 1970	Powder Valley
PFC Richard Allen Rathburn	March 16, 1968	Dutchmaster	PFC Donnie S Bartlett	March 11, 1970	Powder Valley
SP4 Carl L Hill Jr	April 4, 1968	Comanche	SP4 John W Luttrell	March 11, 1970	Powder Valley
SP4 John R Hendrix	April 5, 1968	Dutchmaster	PFC Lester P Saba	March 11, 1970	Powder Valley
SP4 Robert E Lea	April 26, 1968	Comanche	SP4 Albert W Haslam	March 15, 1970	3rd/5th
SSG Franklin R Du Long	April 28, 1968	Dutchmaster	E4 Charles Dewann Slayton	May 09, 1970	3rd/5th
SP4 Lebron Rodriguez	May 4, 1968	Powder Valley	SP4 William Joseph Golden	May 10, 1970	Dutchmaster
SP4 Arthur T Krammer	May 4, 1968	Powder Valley	SP4 Gary A Turnbull	May 10, 1970	Comanche
SP4 Donald E Nipper	May 4, 1968	Dutchmaster	SP4 John W Merschman	May 10, 1970	Comanche
CPT William D Nixon	May 8, 1968	Comanche	CPT Eddie Molino Jr	May 10, 1970	Comanche
SP4 Carl R Huttula	May 16, 1968	Comanche	MAJ Allan L Smith	May 10, 1970	Comanche
1LT William C Ahouse	June 8, 1968	Powder Valley	SP4 William J Golden	May 10, 1970	Dutchmaster
SFC Bennie E Hodges	June 27, 1968	Dutchmaster	CW1 Albert B Crouch	May 18, 1970	Dutchmaster
CWO Melvin R White	June 27, 1968	Dutchmaster	WO1 Donald G Lukens	May 25, 1970	Dutchmaster
SGT Michael Allen Beals	July 15, 1968	Dutchmaster	1LT Wiltse L Weber	July 24, 1970	Dutchmaster
CPT Robert H Hering	August 19, 1968	Comanche	CPT William J Hodges Sr	September 21, 1970	Dutchmaster
SGT Robert B Purtell	August 19, 1968	Comanche	CW2 Robert W Grebby	September 21, 1970	Dutchmaster
SP4 James E Marlow	September 17, 1968	Powder Valley	SP5 John Martinez	December 18, 1970	Dutchmaster
PV2 Jose J Ortiz-Negron	November 24, 1968	Powder Valley	CPT Floyd D Solomon	December 18, 1970	Dutchmaster
WO1 William W Breece	December 5, 1968	Apache	CW1 Gary Leslie Bartels	December 18, 1970	Dutchmaster
SP4 Steven J Perry	December 28, 1968	Kingbird	PFC Paul Darby	January 16, 1971	Powder Valley
SP4 Gary D Falk	January 4, 1969	Dutchmaster	CPT David N Fox	February 8, 1971	Dutchmaster
WO1 Freddie Nicllys Chase	March 14, 1069	Dutchmaster	SP4 Joseph W Miley	February 8, 1971	Dutchmaster
CPT John P Lyon	April 18, 1969	Dutchmaster	1LT Babcock Ronald Lester	February 27, 1971	Dutchmaster
WO2 Keith Dobson Allen JR	April 13, 1969	Apache	SFC Mooney, Fred	February 27, 1971	Dutchmaster
WO1 Wilfred F Schmidt JR	April 13, 1969	Apache	SP5 Thomas H Ratliff	March 29, 1971	Apache
CPT Robert G Boucher	April 20, 1969	Apache	SP4 Joseph L Armstrong	April 7, 1971	Comanche
SP5 Gerald Thomas Breeno JR	October 10 1969	3rd/5th	CW2 Billie J Wilson	April 7, 1971	Comanche
WO1 Conrad Jack Wheeler	October 10 1969	3rd/5th	CPT Philip D Sharp	May 23, 1971	Dutchmaster
SP4 Mark J Hansen	April 26, 1969	Apache	SP4 Henry D Adkins	May 23, 1971	Dutchmaster
SP4 Duane C Bowen	May 28, 1969	Powder Valley	WO1 Allan J Dyer	July 17, 1971	Apache
WO1 Stokkerman Jon William	November 2, 1969	Dutchmaster	SP4 Allen E Noble	July 17, 1971	Apache
SP4 Saunders Keith Frank	November 2, 1969	Dutchmaster	SP4 John H Lopochohnsky	July 17, 1971	Apache
PFV Williams Johnny	November 2, 1969	Dutchmaster	SP4 Nelson Curtis Lee	August 28, 1971	Dutchmaster
SP5 Wilton Padier JR	November 25, 1969	3rd/5th	1LT Rueppel Ronald Benton	September 27, 1971	Dutchmaster
SP4 Ranson John Norment	December 22, 1969	Dutchmaster	CPT Bruce Alton Cannon	September 7, 1971	3/5
CPT Wtewart Robbins Moody	January 02, 1970	3rd/5th	SP4 Jimmie David Hinton	September 7, 1971	3/5
WO1 Richard Terrance Derosier	January 03, 1970	3rd/5th	1LT Welch Michael John	January 25, 1972	Dutchmaster
SP4 Nathaniel Thomas	January 24, 1970	Apache	CW0 Hummel John Floyd	November 13, 1978	Dutchmaster
SGT Michael D Puetz	February 11, 1970	Dutchmaster	CW0 Milliner William Patrick	December 6, 1978	Dutchmaster

## THE DRAGOON UNIFORM: FANCY vs. FACT

by George Stammerjohan and Will Gorenfeld

The 1850's presents a confusing picture of the Dragoon image. On the one hand, the Regulations of 1851 gave a neat picture of what a suitably uniformed, dashing Dragoon should look like: dark blue frock coat, "flower pot" shako, and grey-blue trousers.

The frock coat had orange collars and cuffs. For troopers of the First Dragoons, a brass number, "1", was placed on each side of the collar.

The first model (1851) shako bore a brass eagle, orange facing, and orange pompom.

The long-tailed frock coat was heavy, and generally scorned by the troops because it impaired the Dragoon when he mounted or dismounted. The shako was stiff, hot, and hard to balance while riding at a fast gait. The orange facings of the coat and shako faded rapidly beneath a bright California sun, creating in anything but a uniformed appearance to a line of troopers. No matter to the Dragoon troopers in California, for it would take years before this uniform would be delivered to them.

Army storehouses were filled to the brim with old-style uniforms left over from the Mexican-American War. An economy-driven Quartermaster Department wished to use these until stores were exhausted. In 1852, it was decreed that mounted troops would receive yearly allotments of two jackets--the first would be of the dark blue 1833 pattern, while the second would be of the sky-blue variety, reportedly stripped of its infantry or artillery piping. Indeed, some Dragoon com-

panies received nothing but the sky-blue jackets.

Two items of clothing which would remain in constant use by the Dragoons were the off-white wool flannel shirt and old-pattern 1839 forage cap. The shirt was long in the tails, with a fairly full body and tight sleeves. The neck was a shallow "V" with a single button at the throat. (The dark grey salt-and-pepper woolen shirt, seen in some illustrations, was not issued until 1875.) On August 10, 1854, a detachment of Company A of the First Dragoons arrived at Camp Canada de las Uvas. Although not located in Tejon Pass, the post soon was designated Fort Tejon. Upon arrival, these rowdy recruits and former infantrymen were put to work in the construction of the post.

These Dragoons were dressed in a bewildering kaleidoscopic array of colors. The former infantrymen, who had recently marched overland from New Mexico, wore the light blue infantry jackets. The recruits were wearing old pattern 1833 dark blue jackets. The original members of Company A--all nine of them--wore a mixture of dark blue and sky blue jackets; all the worse for wear. This elite regiment would resemble rag pickers--or even worse, mounted infantry.

1st Lt. Thomas Castor begged departmental headquarters to either send new clothing or else allow him to purchase civilian attire for the ragged troops. The next month, a shipment of 1851 pattern clothing arrived at the fort.

The popular image of the Dragoon depicts him in tall boots and brass spurs. This is wrong. The Dragoon generally wore infantry-style brogans. When mounted, the Dragoon

wore low-shank bootees with brass stud spurs. The spurs were commonly lost and the unfortunate trooper was charged \$1.10 per set to replace them.

In 1854, the regulations did away with the frock coat. In its place was a short shell jacket trimmed with orange piping and brass shoulder scales. This uniform did not reach Fort Tejon until the fall of 1856. The old-style surplus jackets in sky blue or dark blue were continued to be issued to the troops--two per year. If Company A troopers wore out their yearly issue, which was often the case, they had to purchase a sky blue jackets, making them appear as worn-out infantrymen. The men of Company F, arriving at Ft. Tejon in 1857, were issued Mexican War surplus sky blue jackets. This troop would not receive the proper Dragoon pattern uniform until it reached Fort Crook, California, in 1858.

Companies B and K arrived at Fort Tejon on July 7, 1858. Brevet Major (Captain) James Carleton, the commanding officer of Company K, was furious when he learned that the Quartermaster Department had mistakenly sent his unit artillery trousers. He demanded that the Quartermaster take them back and send him proper trousers for Dragoons. The quartermaster officer, temperamental Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, refused to exchange the trousers. This led to a private feud between the future generals Hancock and Carleton. Company B, under the sickly and more easygoing command of Captain John Davidson, still wore the 1850 white buff belt and carried the Model 1833 Ames saber. It was said that the saber would wrap

"rubber-like around a man's head and was only good for cutting warm butter."

In 1858, a new uniform was designated for the Dragoons: a refined version of the 1854 jacket, dark blue trousers, and the new, so-called Hardee hat of stiff black felt with a folded brim, ostrich feather, orange cord and brass company letter. Of this hat Major Albert Brackett wrote, "If the whole earth had been ransacked, it is difficult to tell

where a more ungainly piece of furniture could have been found."

Company K was, perhaps, the best company in the 1st Regiment. Carleton wished his troop to be correctly dressed and requested the new hats. The Quartermaster Depot in Benicia sent him just ten hats for a company of eighty men. When Carleton demanded to be sent the new fatigue flannel sack coat for these men, he received just forty. Carleton was not the kind to sur-

render without a fight. He lodged some stinging complaints but was each time rebuffed with the reply that the new clothing was "experimental" and that he should be happy with what he had already received. Only the fact that Lt. Col. Benjamin "Old Ben" Beall of the 1st Dragoons was serving as acting commander of the Department of California saved Carleton from being court-martialed.

JOHN W. HUNT, CPT, US ARMY, Operations Officer, Bagram Afghanistan

Hi everyone. I'm still alive but freezing my tail off. We got 8 inches of snow last week and it reached 5 degrees below zero that night. That's not why I'm e-mailing though.

You may have heard about a suicide car bomb attack in Kabul last Thursday. It was at one of our FOB's (Forward Observation Bases) about 27 miles from here.

But the real story is why no one was killed. We employ several thousand Afghans on our various bases. Not to mention the economy that is fed by the money these locals are making. Some are laborers and builders, but some are skilled workers. We even have one Afghan that just became OSHA qualified, the first ever. Some are skilled HVAC workers. Anyway, there is this one Afghan that we call Rambo. We have actually given him a couple of sets of the new ACU uniforms (the new Army digital camouflage) with the name tag RAMBO on it. His entire family was killed by the Taliban and his home was where our base currently resides. So this guy really had nowhere else to go. He has reached such a level of trust with US Forces that his job is to stand at the front gate and basically be the first security screening. Since he can't have a weapon, he found a big red pipe. So he stands there at the front gate in his US Army ACU uniform with his red pipe. If a vehicle approaches the gate too fast or fails to stop he slams his pipe down on their hood. Then once the gate is lifted the vehicle moves on the

2nd gate where the US Army MP's are. So he's like the first line of defense. Last Thursday at 0930 hrs a Toyota Corolla packed with explosives and some Jack Ass that thinks he has 72 Virgins waiting for him approached the gate. When he saw Rambo he must have recognized him and known the gig was up. But he needed to get to that 2nd gate to detonate and take American lives. So he slams his foot on the gas which almost causes the metal gate to go up but mostly catches on the now broken windshield. Rambo fearlessly ran to the vehicle, reached thru the window and jerked the suicide bomber out of the vehicle before he could detonate and commenced to putting some red pipe to his heathen ass. He detained the guy until the MP got there. The vehicle only exploded when they tried to push it off base with a robot but no one was hurt. I'm still waiting for someone to give this guy a medal or something. Nothing less than instant US citizenship or something. A hat was passed around and a lot of money was given to him in thanks by both soldiers and civilians that are working over here.

I guess I just wanted to share this because I want people to know that it's working over here. They have tasted freedom. This makes it worth it to me.  
john.w.hunt@baf.afgn.army.mil

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"BLACKHAWK ASSOCIATION"

Hendon, Bill & Elizabeth A. Stewart	Dunne/St. Martin's (640 pp.)
AN ENORMOUS CRIME:	\$29.95
The Definitive Account of	Jun. 1, 2007
American POWs Abandoned in	ISBN: 978-0-312-37126-5
Southeast Asia	

Publisher's Weekly says of "An Enormous Crime":

An Enormous Crime: The Definitive Account of American POWs Abandoned in Southeast Asia Bill Hendon and Elizabeth Stewart. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$29.95 (640p) ISBN 978-0-312-37126-8

Controversial former North Carolina congressman Hendon and attorney Stewart make the case that the U.S. knowingly left hundreds of POWs in Vietnam and Laos in 1973, and that every presidential administration since then has covered it up. The main reason for the secrecy, say the authors, is the billions in war reparations demanded by the Vietnamese and promised by Henry Kissinger and Richard Nixon at the Paris Peace talks. Hendon and Stewart provide a mountain of evidence, mainly intelligence reports of live sightings of American prisoners in Vietnam and Laos that make for less-than-scintillating reading. But riveting sections describe Hendon's crusade on this issue in the early 1980s, including two meetings with President Reagan, pleading his case that the government free the live POWs. Hendon and Stewart directly accuse a long list of government officials of the coverup. Among the most culpable: Kissinger, President George H.W. Bush, Senators John McCain and John Kerry, Gen. Colin Powell, former secretary of state George Schultz and former defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld. It's a chore wading through the live-sighting reports and the massive, detailed endnotes, but the descriptions of Hendon's unsuccessful personal mission provide an intriguing story—and carry the ring of truth. 36 b&w photos not seen by PW. (June 1)

2007 BLACKHAWK REUNION  
 CIRCUS CIRCUS RENO, NV.  
 Res. # 1-800-648-5010  
 Sept. 26 – 30

You are responsible for making your own reservation at the hotel. Make sure you mention Blackhawk Association Reunion when making the reservation. If you want to play golf on Thursday, contact John Malowney at 727-375-5303.

Listed below are all registration , event and banquet costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people are participating at each event and total the amount.

Send the completed form and check or money order payable to “Blackhawk Association” to:  
 Blackhawk Association Reunion  
 c/o Roland Leeds

1140Chestnut Street  
 Ann Arbor, MI. 48104

All registration forms and payments must be received by Sept. 1st, 2007. After that date reservations will be accepted on availability.

	per person		# of people		total
Registration Fee: ( covers administration & Hospitality room expenses)	\$ 25	X	_____	=	_____
Friday : Bus tour to Lake Tahoe & lunch cruise	\$ 64	X	_____	=	_____
Saturday Evening: Dinner	\$ 34	X	_____	=	_____
Total Amount =					_____

Name ( for nametag ): \_\_\_\_\_

Troop: \_\_\_\_\_ Year served (i.e. 68-69) \_\_\_\_\_

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City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Disability or dietary restrictions ?: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Are you staying at Circus Circus ? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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Long Sizes add _____	10.00	11.00	
Black Lightweight Jacket with emblem embroidered on back			
Sizes M____ L____ XL____ XXL____	55.00	61.00	
Black and Grey tweed polo, emblem embroidered on left / with pocket only			
Sizes M____ L____ XL____ XXL____	30.00	33.00	
Grey Polo with emblem embroidered on left / no pocket			
Sizes M____ L____ XL____ XXL____	27.00	30.00	
Add pocket	2.00	3.00	
T- Shirts with emblem embroidered on left			
Color --- Green____ Tan____ Black_____			
Sizes M____ L____ XL____ XXL____	13.00	15.00	
Black, Blackhawk Caps with helicopters & crossed sabers on front			
Mesh Back_____ Solid Back_____	12.00	15.00	
Grey Cap with helicopters , solid back only.	12.00	15.00	
Blackhawk coffee mugs with the Blackhawk emblem # _____	6.00	7.50	
Blackhawk OD patch (1 ea.) # _____	3.50	4.00	
Blackhawk OD patch ( 3 ea. ) # _____	9.00	10.00	
Blackhawk bumper sticker ( 1 ea. ) # _____	2.00	2.50	
Blackhawk bumper stickers ( 3 ea. ) # _____	5.00	6.00	
7th of the 1st Blackhawk crossed sabers, brass (pair) # _____	11.00	12.00	
Blackhawk crest ( pair ) # _____	9.00	10.00	
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**Hawktalk Contact Information**

James Breisch 898 Deerhurst Dr. Vandalia OH 46377-9406 JSBREISCH@SBCGLOBAL.NET

David Lemieux 81 Tollgate Rd. Middletown, CT 06457-5719 d.lemieux@snet.net

Richard Kloepfer 2 Manderley Ln. Ormond Beach, FL. 32174 Email ATrpGrunt@aol.com (386) 615-0635

Lou Sanders 14735 Wyrick Ave San Jose, Ca. 95124 lou@sandersusa.com (408) 371-8358

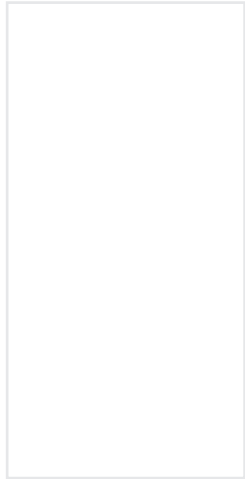
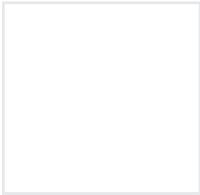
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Photographs should be no larger than 300dpi when sending thru emails and .jpg is the preferred file extension for photos. Articles maybe sent to any officer or board member for forwarding to Hawktalk

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Blackhawk Association Dues?***

We use the money from members dues to conduct searches for other members, send out newsletters, and more. To figure out your due's status, check the address label. The date above your name indicates your membership status as far as life membership, or when your dues expire.



BLACKHAWK ASSOCIATION  
7TH ARMORED SQUADRON 1ST AIR CAVALRY  
C/O Roland Leeds  
1140 Chestnut St  
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