



Thunder Run

Vol. 24 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2009

The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

Project 425

L-R Curt Rich, (398th Trans. Det., 69-70), Mike Carroll, & Bill Jeczalik with Project 425 Huey helicopter



By Curt Rich, (398th Trans. Det., 69-70)

During my tour in Vietnam I served with the 398th Trans. Det., 11th ACR from March 69-March 70. In the early going I was stationed at Blackhorse Basecamp until it was turned over to the ARVN’s. At that point we moved to a base named Redcatcher near Long Binh and at times flew to Quan Loi to deliver parts and repair helicopters. I was a Huey Helicopter mechanic (67N20) and we kept them flying for the Air Cav that supported the 11th ACR. I finished out my last year as a crew chief on a Huey for the 2nd Armored Division/1st Cav, stationed at Ft. Hood, TX.

Fast forward to 2007. That was the year I was reunited with Huey helicopters when I joined with other military veterans in rescuing (for a nominal fee) from a Palm Beach, Florida Sheriff’s Office gun range, Helicopter UH-1H 68-16425. This rescue developed into Project 425 (named after the chopper’s last three numbers on its tail section) whereby we restored the helicopter into “static display” condition for numerous veteran’s events, parades, and other local shows.

The helicopter was in bad shape. It was missing lots of parts, windows, trans-

Please turn to **PROJECT 425** on page 6

2d Squadron History Project

By Bill Stokes, (HHT, 2/11, 1971-1972)

Over the past year former members of the 2d Squadron have been preparing a written history of Squadron’s final year in Vietnam, April 1971 – March 1972. Thanks to the help of many Troopers the project is about complete.

Troopers who served with the Squadron during its final year will be able to obtain, at no cost, the manuscript (or DVD), bibliography, and slide show, as long as the project piggy bank permits.

The final product consists of a manuscript, bibliography, and slide show. The manuscript describes the organization, command relationships, and disposition of the independent Squadron in April 1971, and then moves to Fire Support Base

Warrior for discussions of the heavy fighting in the spring, reconnaissance missions, and land-clearing operations. The story continues with a description of the reconnaissance and security tasks conducted from Fire Support Base Andrews later in 1971, to include the Loc Ninh and Katum excursions. The final section on ground operations addresses

Please turn to **HISTORY** on page 6

From the Command Track.....	2
Joining the Brotherhood	4
Thunder Run: Our Editorial Policy	6
Editor’s Corner	7
‘A’ Troop Awarded The Presidential Unit Citation	7
Meet Our 2008 Scholarship Winners.....	8
Incoming	9
11th Armored Cavalry Memorial Restoration Donations	9
11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV, Santa Clara, CA	10
Santa Clara Reunion	10
11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV: Registration Form.....	11
Great Activities Available For Santa Clara Reunion.....	12
Reunion Activities Registration	12
Reunion Schedule of Events	13
Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund Revisited..	13

Inside
2nd Quarter
2009

Election Update	14
Move the 11th Cavalry Memorial?.....	14
About the 63rd Colonel	15
Chaplain’s Corner.....	16
Blackhorse Hoofbeats.....	17
A Trip to the Beach	18
V.A. Acknowledges Traumatic Brain Injuries in Vietnam Vets....	20
Women’s Corner	21
What the Blackhorse Taught Me	22
11th ACVVC Donations.....	23
Journey to Fiddler’s Green	24
From the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment.....	25
Letters From Home.....	26
Welcome Aboard	27
From the Quartermaster	32

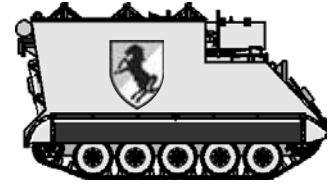




Allen Hathaway,
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Elections will be held this year for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer to serve a two year term beginning Jan 1, 2010

Details are being finalized for the 24th Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC in Santa Clara, CA, on September 9-13. The Hyatt Regency Santa Clara is a great location for this year's reunion. Although folks travel from all over the county to attend our reunions, this is an excellent opportunity for those who live on the west coast to attend.

We are pleased to announce that John E. Longhouser (MG, USA RET) will be our guest speaker this year. General Longhouser completed 33 years in the Army in 1977, with experience in Armor and Systems Acquisition. As a captain, he commanded K Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th ACR from February – June 1968. He has attended several of our reunions in recent years and is a strong supporter of all Blackhorse troops. We are pleased to have him as our guest speaker.

A tentative reunion schedule is printed in this issue of *Thunder Run*. We are seeing more people arriving at the reunion a day or so early. Bob and Barb Moreno will open the reunion registration desk on Wednesday to accommodate those early arrivals.

We have arranged optional daytime activities for Thursday and Friday to give attendees an opportunity to take advantage of some of the sights in the local area as well as nearby San Francisco and Monterey. Link up with old friends and plan one of these activities together. There will also be plenty of time in the evenings to meet and visit with old friends. Please see the activities descriptions and sign-up sheet in this issue and on our website. This promises to be another outstanding reunion.

The Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning. Elections will be held this year for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer to serve a two year term beginning Jan 1, 2010. One board member will be elected to serve a three year term beginning Jan 1, 2010. The Women's Meeting is also scheduled for Saturday morning.

We will top off the day's activities with our Saturday evening banquet, program and Blackhorse Salute.

We have a great group of volunteers who have stepped forward to help with the reunion. All of these volunteers work hard in the months before as well as during the reunion. If you are interested in helping during the reunion for just a few hours please contact Steve Page before the reunion.

At the time of this writing (April 1) some airlines are offering great airfares. Nearby airports include San Jose International Airport (SJC), only 5 miles from the hotel and San Francisco International (SFO) about one hour from the hotel.

Every year we hear "first timers" comment that they should have attended a reunion sooner. This is your opportunity to attend. You can help make this another successful reunion by keeping a few things in mind: Mail your registration early and avoid the late registration fee. Reserve your hotel room early. Finally, contact old friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend. Dig out your old pictures. Come prepared to enjoy yourself!

Our fundraising activities this year are going well. The first activity is our ever popular calendar mailed to members in December. Members always look forward to the calendar. Printing and mailing costs associated with the calendar are paid directly from your donations. Membership dues are not used for the calendar. We want to continue to mail you a calendar, so we ask that you make a donation. Every donation counts.

The second part of our fund raising activities is our annual raffle. Jim Holt (How, 1/11, 1967-68) will be heading up the raffle again this year. This is our 21st year for the raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 each

with the chance to win: 1st prize of \$1,000, 2nd prize of \$750, 3rd prize of \$500 or 4th prize of \$250. Drawing will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the annual reunion. Winners need not be present to claim prizes. Tickets will be mailed to all members in May. All proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

The third part of our fund raising is our silent auction. Rod George (How, 3/11, 1966-67) will head up the silent auction again this year. This is always a fun and interesting activity at our annual reunion. Last year was a record breaking year in the number of items auctioned and total proceeds collected. Memorabilia with the 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand, but any item of value and good taste is welcome. Please see Rod's separate article on the Silent Auction in this issue.

Through the generosity of our members in 2008 we were able to award 32 scholarships of \$3,000 each. We are confident that with the continued support of our members we will again have a very successful year. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during the year. Let's make 2009 another outstanding year.

Following the last issue of *Thunder Run* we received a number of phone calls and e-mails from members who recognized names in the "New Members" section or the donations list. If you are looking for an old friend, please feel free to contact me or any board member and we'll try to put you in contact with them.

The 58th Engineer Company recently returned from their third deployment. We welcome them home and congratulate them on a successful deployment. We are extremely proud of these fine soldiers and all Blackhorse troopers. As always, I ask that you continue to support the young men and women of our Armed Forces. The next time you see soldiers in

Continued on page 4



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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uniform, take a minute to shake their hands and thank them for their service.

Memorial Day is May 25 this year. Blackhorse troopers, family and friends are invited to join us at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on that day as we honor our fallen comrades. For over 20 years Blackhorse troopers have met and placed the ever familiar Blackhorse wreath at the wall. Plan to join us if you're in the DC area or attend a local memorial service in your area. ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".

Show Your Pride



Ron Brundage (C Trp., 68-69) is proud to receive his mail in his specially hand made Blackhorse Mailbox



Quint Goodner, (How, 3/11, 67-68) shows pride with his tournament boat that he says also is in honor of those who served

Joining the Brotherhood

By Blandin Karabinos
HHT, 2/11, (71-72)

No one is born a Black Horse Trooper. We all had to acquire the title, the skill, the esprit. Each of us, at one time was a replacement. We all felt the anxiety as to when will I be accepted — when will I feel part of the team, the regiment, the brotherhood. For many of us, it was when we were “christened” with a nickname. Every Troop seemingly had a “Doc,” a “Cookie,” a “Chief,” or a “Rusty.” Some names are still etched in my memory such as “Short Round,” and “Fat Belly” or “P-Daddy.” A number had nick-names that today are unacceptable and deemed an ethnic insult. But we served in a different time, when it was possible among friends to speak such insults in jest, with no malice intended because we respected and learned to even love our comrades-in-arms. But no matter how and when we were accepted as a fellow trooper, it was an important moment in our lives.

You may have forgotten that period of apprehension; but if you think back, you can probably recall the moment that the “light bulb” went on and you realized: “I am a Black Horse Trooper.” My genesis came in October, 1971. For most of you it came much earlier.

At Fort Knox, I was assigned to the 194th Armored Brigade, a unit made up mostly of returning Vietnam Veterans. That unit supported the Armor School and I got to know General Patton, former Colonel of the Regiment. He wore the Black Horse patch proudly and when

I received orders for Vietnam, the General asked me which unit I would like to serve with. I took one look at that black horse on the red and white shield and answered promptly: “Why your unit Sir, the 11th Armored Cavalry.”

As fate would have it, when I got off the plane at Bien Hoa, a helicopter arrived within an hour to take me to the 11th ACR at Phu Loi.

A clear recollection of my arrival at the 2nd Squadron headquarters has faded, I barely remember being greeted by Major Paul Foley, Deputy Commander and taken to meet Lt. Colonel William Stokes, the Commanding Officer. From there to Personnel, then the Mess tent where I met a plethora of officers including Chaplains Jerry Webb and Lyman T. Sale.

After breakfast those two chaplains led me to the sandbagged chapel that was to serve as my “hooch.” There was a small room with a cement floor and screens for windows, designed as a sacristy that was to serve as my sleeping quarters. My Chaplain Assistant already had papers in hand to go home and there was to be no replacement. The chaplains got me outfitted with fatigues, jungle boots, and other items, pointed to the location of the latrine, my assigned bunker and explained the weekly schedule. That same afternoon, a helicopter took me to Long Binh to meet the USARV Chaplain, and in less than an hour I was on my way back to Phu Loi.

I spent the next two days traveling by



Joe Rehyansky (HHT 1/11, 68-69) shows his Blackhorse and Army pride around Chattanooga, Tennessee.

jeep: to the Air Cav location, around the base camp perimeter, down the highway with armed escort to Cu Chi, on a MED-CAP to An Loc and even another road trip to the hospital in Long Binh. I had services on Saturday and Sunday in the Chapel where I lived, half way around the post at a Transportation Unit, in the Air Cav Club and in a dusty field for an Engineer outfit.

Come Monday morning the Protestant Chaplains were at my door to take me to the field and begin our weekly routine. We boarded a Huey and were off before sunrise to Firebase Andrews. Never in all my days did I imagine that American troops would be living in such squalid surroundings. Mud and water was almost knee deep with only an occasional knob of high ground. Even the mess tent had water over your ankles. That night I bunked with a three sergeants, only because I could play Pinochle. That was next to the eight-inch guns that fired all night. After a day and night at the firebase, we were off again the next morning to visit one of the Troops in the field.

Flying over jungle, pock marked by giant craters identifying B-52 strikes, we found a Troop in a wide clearing, tanks and ACAV's arranged in a circle with a few ACAV's in the center that served as the Command Post, Communications link, mortars, medical and mess. I stepped off the chopper with bright green unfaded fatigues that immediately identify me as a "newbie" and knew I had an uphill battle to win the respect of these proven combat veterans. I was apprehensive as to how they would greet me: in fact, I was scared. When we landed and started to walk from the chopper landing zone to the Troop perimeter, I heard a familiar voice shouting from the top of a tank and a clear: "Well, I'll be damned!"

Lt. Machute, former football star from Ohio State and a lad I had served with at Fort Knox, jumped off the tank (or HOG) and ran to greet me. My fears brightened to smiles with Machute's greeting and my anxiety disappeared. I can't remember how long it took after that field encounter, but soon I felt comfortable with all the troopers. The day one of the troopers gave me a faded

Blackhorse Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (The Wall)

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall

- **When:** 10:00 AM, Monday, 25 May 2009
- **Where:** Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.
- **Who:** All Blackhorse Troopers (all eras), family and friends
- **What:** We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall (Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30). Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating. Allons!



Showing great Blackhorse pride and brotherhood placing the wreath at the Vietnam Wall on Veterans Day 08 were (L to R) Roger Cross, Fred Sheetz, and Jim Bland from the 919th Engrs.

Show Your Pride



Bart "Doc" Fabian, (A Trp., 68-69) proudly displays his Mercedes with his Silver Star license plate and Blackhorse bumper sticker.

green "boonie" hat to replace my stiff baseball cap and I was soon sharing meals with the lads, exchanging cigarettes, helping with track maintenance, going on dismounted patrols and of course, saying Mass with an altar cloth stretched across ammunition crates, a jeep hood and even over cases of beer. My new jungle fatigues faded toward gray, were often washed on my back in monsoon downpours, covered with dust as we busted jungle and smelt of diesel fuel. I had my "christening" with Machute's hug.

2009 11th ACVVC REUNION SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2009

**HYATT REGENCY SANTA CLARA
5101 GREAT AMERICA PARKWAY
SANTA CLARA, CA 95054**

RESERVATIONS: 408-200-1234 or
800-233-1234

ROOM RATE: \$125.00 SO/DO

RATES ARE GOOD THREE DAYS PRIOR TO AND THREE DAYS AFTER EVENT.

PLEASE MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS EARLY.

PROJECT 425 from page 1

mission mast, rotor blades, and radios. It has now been completely reconditioned, repainted, and all decals installed in their proper places. The mast had to be shortened 1 foot in order to get under power and telephone lines as well as underpasses while towing it to events on Mike Carroll's aluminum trailer pulled by his 4x4.

Mike was a Chinook crew chief out of Vung Tau who along with Bill Jeczalik, a Chinook pilot out of Chu Lai, and me makes the core three of Project 425 which at times boasts a crew of nine. This crew consists of eight veteran officers and enlisted men as well one as one woman, Chris Noel, the well known Armed Forces Radio host and performer in Saigon. Chris now owns several Vet Ceasefire Houses in our local area in Florida.

The "425" is open for the kids and adults alike to get inside the seats and behind the guns for pictures. A lot of vets come up to us and say "this baby saved my life". We have had a few break down when they see it and just want to touch it. It makes us all proud to show this chopper to vets, children, and other people again and let them know that there was a war that was fought by Americans in a place called Vietnam and over 50,000 men died there.

We went to almost twenty events and shows last year and as word gets out, more and more requests are made for our appearances. We don't charge admission; only accept donations in an ammo can on the deck floor.

As a result of our activities we got the thrill of being allowed to fly with the Florida NG Chinook Co. at Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida Oct. 15 2008. We did sling loading exercises with Canadian pilots training to go to Afghanistan in early November. We received a VIP tour of all the facilities and a great flight in a state of the art Chinook that will never be forgotten. We also were able to brief the Canadian pilots concerning our combat experiences of yesteryear in Vietnam that might be extrapolated to and valuable lessons for application in Afghanistan for them.

Thunder Run

Our Editorial Policy

When submitting written items or photos to us, please keep in mind:

Thunder Run is a publication of the 11thACVVC used to communicate events, ideas, nostalgia, helpful information, and entertainment to our members. The 11th ACVVC is a non-profit, non-political, corporation organized and operated within the provisions of 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code and is limited in activity by that charter.

Thunder Run will consider all submissions but does not guarantee their publication. All submissions are subject to editing, including adaptation to our publications style.

Thunder Run will not advertise except to promote our organization and to promote items for sale through the 11thACVVC Quartermaster Store.

Photos must be sent as at least a medium-size .jpg or .tif file at 300dpi. Digital photos are preferred, but "hard copy" is acceptable. Photos for "Show Pride" are expected to contain a highly visible Blackhorse or 11th ACVVC indicators or

symbols. The viewer should be able to note a link to Blackhorse or the 11th ACVVC. (please indicate if you want any photo returned and enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope).

Thunder Run will accept poetry and short fictional articles, although personal experiences in Vietnam or Cambodia or with the 11thACVVC are preferred. It is expected that submission be formatted in Word or some type of acceptable word processing program on a disk or as an email attachment. Very short, typed hard copy can be sent.

Thunder Run accepts articles from members and occasionally others. Request inputs be limited to 1000 words or less. Longer articles will be considered, but shorter are preferred. Publication of any submission is not guaranteed. Again, it is expected that submission be formatted in Word or some type of acceptable word processing program on a floppy disk or as an email attachment. Very short, typed hard copy can be sent.

Hard Copy items (pictures or written) should contain an email address or telephone number so the Editor may contact

Continued on page 22

HISTORY from page 1

activities conducted from Fire Support Base Fiddler's Green through which the Squadron protected major installations at Long Binh and Bien Hoa.

In addition to discussing ground operations, the manuscript presents segments on the Air Cavalry Troop and the Squadron's aviation maintenance, medical, and engineer detachments. In a section entitled "Rest of the Story," the manuscript addresses night defensive positions, non-aviation maintenance, communications, civic action, chaplain activity, Cu Chi functions, and the Squadron Rear. There is also a section, "At Ease - Hierarchy of Diversion," which touches upon diversion from the combat focus. The introduction to this segment states: "A person's sense of what constitutes relaxation and recreation is, of course, a very personal matter. At the most basic level, the concept of Trooper-diversion in a combat zone may be the absence of an enemy trying to kill you that day — or the absence of insects at that moment. Given the require-

ment to be in the garden spots of Military Region III, the Blackhorse Troopers had a very primitive recreation program. At the most basic level, good humor went a long way toward reducing tension after a hard day."

Official military documents were the major source of data used in the historical survey. As fresh input arrived from Troopers, anecdotes inevitably surfaced. Some anecdotes, mostly light in nature, were added to the manuscript. The slide show has been designed to track the sequence in the manuscript as closely as possible.

Troopers who served with the Squadron during its final year will be able to obtain, at no cost, the manuscript (or DVD), bibliography, and slide show, as long as the project piggy bank permits. Troopers interested in obtaining the materials will need to provide their names, units, addresses, and a phone number or e-mail address. For further information, contact Bill Stokes by e-mail at billstokes@mac.com or phone at 910-295-5002.



Jim Griffiths, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

In our 1st Quarter Issue of *Thunder Run* it was related to you that Blackhorse Gold Star Judith Dietz (Daughter of Blackhorse KIA, H Company PSGT Glenn E. Nicholson) was pursuing the establishment of Gold Star Family license plates in the State of Kansas. To let you know how the effort is coming along I will pass on an update to you. Judith ran into a bump in the road as her State Representative balked at introducing legislation to establish Gold Star Family plates and wanted to just allow for a Gold Star decal sticker to be affixed to an already existent military plate.

From the beginning Judith didn't think that this did justice for Gold Star families honoring their KIA loved ones. She resolutely sought out a State Senator, Dick Kelsey, and a different State Representative in Kansas, Gary Hayzlett, lobbied them, and secured their support for her version of a proper Gold Star Family Plate in Kansas.

Judith attended a scheduled meeting with Senator Dick Kelsey on Monday, March 30, 2009 and took along with her to the meeting another Blackhorse Gold Star Daughter, Antoinette Ortiz-Colon. She is the daughter of another Blackhorse KIA from H Company, SSG John Ortiz, who had served in H Company with PSGT Glenn E. Nicholson in 1968! SSG Ortiz was KIA January 17, 1968. Also attending the meeting with the Senator were Rob W. Matthews (Gold Star Brother of PFC William Clay Mathews, KIA February 29, 1969), Ashley Dietz (Gold Star Granddaughter of Glenn E. Nicholson,) and Harvey Nicholson, a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The meeting lasted an hour and Senator Kelsey was agreeable to sending an acceptable version of the Gold Star Family License Plate through the legislative process.

Judith Dietz has appointed Antoinette Ortiz-Colon as Co-Chairman of the Gold Star Family Committee. Judith told

Antoinette "Our Dads are looking down on us. How odd, our Dads fought together in combat and we are fighting now to have a way to honor them. Like the Blackhorse saying goes, 'Together Then - Together Again.'"

Judith Dietz and Antoinette Ortiz-Colon continue to need the support of the Blackhorse Brotherhood and community. She can be contacted at jadietz@cox.net. Judith would also appreciate anybody that can tell her the tank number that her father was on when he was KIA

Bill Stokes, who was 2nd Squadron Commander April 1971-March 1972 and other former members of the Squadron have been working on a project compiling a history of that Squadron during that time period when the 2nd was the only part of the Blackhorse remaining in Vietnam. Bill and the others are to be commended in this effort as it will be a valuable legacy to those who served during this time of which very little has been delineated heretofore. I have read a draft of the manuscript and know that it will be a treasure to those of that era. Bill has an important article in this issue concerning the project.

We also have our regular contributors, many of whom have a great deal of valuable information concerning the upcoming Santa Clara Reunion, as well as informative, interesting, and entertaining personal articles by individual talented troopers and others. I hope you enjoy your 2nd Quarter *Thunder Run*.

2009 Newsletter Deadlines

The following are the due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

First Quarter 2009Jan 15

Second Quarter 2009Mar 25

Third Quarter 2009.....Jun 25

Fourth Quarter 2009.....Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106. Email: JGriff11@aol.com.

'A' Troop Awarded The Presidential Unit Citation

Secretary of the Army Pete Geren recently approved the award of the Presidential Unit Citation to A Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. This rare and prestigious citation was conferred in January 2009 upon A Troop for service in the Republic of South Vietnam.

The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of a Distinguished Service Cross to an individual

Summary background is that in 1970, in War Zone C, the Republic of South Vietnam, A Troop, 1/11 ACR distinguished itself in an exemplary manner through a series of serious combat missions over a period of several months. Consequently, the Department of Defense, after an exhaustive, five year review, has recommended this small unit for the PUC. As the name implies, this is an award that originates with the President himself.

Researching the history of the PUC since its inception in 1941, reveals that it has been awarded less than 100 times to include the entire Second World War, the Korean War, the Cold War, the war in Vietnam, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan. This figure encompasses the entirety of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and foreign recipients. The overwhelming majority of the combatants receiving the award were in battalion or larger sized military units (including a number of full divisions), many times the size of A Troop. In fact, there are only about five ground military units and perhaps several naval vessels among all PUC recipients that appear to approach the miniscule dimension of A Troop. To be singled out in this manner is a distinct honor.

The formal criteria for the PUC includes the following text: "The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing

Continued on page 22

Meet Our 2008 Scholarship Winners

This issue contains brief statements from the final 6 Scholarship Winners for 2008



Troy Stuedemann
Son of Robert Stuedemann, K Troop, 67-68

Thank you for awarding me an 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia scholarship in the amount of \$3000. This is a tremendous honor to be awarded such a generous amount from an organization that I am extremely proud to say that my family and I are associated with.

Scholarship dedicated to Staff SGT THOMAS VICTOR PILSON; H Company 2/11ACR; KIA February 26, 1969; Age 26; Single



Deborah Terry
Daughter of Gary Terry, HHT Regt., 69-70

Receiving the 11th ACVVC Scholarship not only meant a lot to me but my whole family as well. I would also like to thank my grandmother. It is because of her that not only my dad is a member of the 11th ACVVC but two of his older brothers are members as well.

I was really worried about college expenses and did not know how my family would be able to pay for it all since I will not be able to work my first semester. Thanks to this scholarship, this semester and half of next semester are paid for. Thank you to everyone who helped raise money for the Scholarships.

Scholarship dedicated to SP/4 ERNEST REGINALD LASHER JR; HOW 2/11ACR; KIA May 3, 1970; Age 21; Single



Tamera Thompson
Daughter of Jerry Furr, D Co., 67-68

I am honored to be a 2008 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia Scholarship recipient. After raising my daughters, I have returned to college to finish my degree. It is a rewarding experience every time I finish another class, knowing I am that much closer to completing my degree.

This scholarship will allow me to complete my degree much faster than anticipated. The most important aspect of this scholarship is the recognition by the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans. Additionally, having received this scholarship has served as a positive example to both of my daughters to work hard at obtaining their own scholarships and to further their education. I would like to thank all of the donors who make this scholarship possible and thank the scholarship committee for their hard work and dedication and a special thank you to all for serving our country.

Scholarship dedicated to SP/4 ORLANDO SILAS ROACH; 919th Engineer 11ACR; KIA October 27, 1966; Age 25; Single



Kelsey Weaver
Daughter of William Weaver, HHT Regt, 69-70

I want to thank you for the scholarship you awarded me. The scholarship money will be a great help toward achieving my goal of becoming a child psychologist. Thanks again, your generosity is much appreciated.

Scholarship dedicated to SP/4 JOHN MICHAEL HOGUE; HHT 2/11ACR; KIA July 23, 1968; Age 21; Single



Morgan Williams
Son of Terry Williams, F Trp., 68-69

To begin, I would like to thank you and the members of the 11th Armored Cavalry for the generous scholarship you have presented me with. I would like to emphasize how much it means to both my family and I and what it represents. My father never thought that the time he spent in Vietnam would ever

be appreciated in this manner and the fact that it has been is a blessing to my entire family. With this scholarship, some of the financial burden has been lifted off my family, which is a relief for me. I feel they give so much of themselves already. It will allow me more opportunities to excel in my educational field of study

I'm grateful for all the men and women who have served and are currently serving our country. Without them, all this would be unattainable and I am extremely thankful.

Scholarship dedicated to SP/4 SAM STEPHEN ALLISON; Medic in E Troop 2/11ACR; KIA July 9, 1968; Age 19; Married



Jonathan Worthey
Son of Kenneth Worthey, B Troop, 69-70

As a child, I remember my father telling me stories about the friends that became brothers and the undying name of the Blackhorse, never in much detail, but enough so that I could comprehend the sacrifice and heroism of his troop.

Receiving this award not only gives me a great sense of pride to honor the Blackhorse, but also my father, his "brothers", and everything they did to ensure our freedom. Once again, thank you for choosing me as a recipient of one of the 11th Cavalry scholarships. I am greatly honored to accept this award and carry on the proud name of the Blackhorse in my studies at Illinois State University.

Scholarship dedicated to PFC HARRY LEE POWERS; C Troop 1/11ACR; KIA November 21, 1966; Age 20; Single

From A Troop, 1/11.....This year is the 40th Anniversary of the January 11, 1969 counter ambush on Highway 13 by A Troop led by 1LT Harold Fritz (which resulted in his award of the Medal of Honor) and is the subject of the Dietz Print titled "Find the Bastards, Then Pile On. 2nd Platoon medic, **Bart "Doc" Fabian**, is reaching out to all A Troopers involved in this action inviting them to reunite at the Santa Clara Reunion in September. Please contact Doc Fabian at bart11acr@aol.com or Joe Coopet at (651) 246-8009 for more information

From Adrian Vaaler.....The 6th Annual Eugene **Blackhorse Picnic** will be held, Saturday, October 3rd from Noon to 5pm. For further information and directions please contact Adrian Vaaler (HHT, 69-70) at adrianvaaler@gmail.com. Or call 541-543-3967(cell)

From Dan Stroia.....for an update on "**Thunder Run Pizza Run**" and to see several photos and read about this program please go to-> ktroop.com, then look to the left of the

Information provided by and for our Troopers

screen, (now click on) – contributors, scroll down (click on Dan Stroia) or use the following link http://ktroop.com/cc_stroia.htm.

From Ron Krueger.....The 19th Annual Northern California **Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ**, Saturday, June 20, 2009, 1100 - ???, Slidehill Park, Davis, CA. 95618.....Everyone is welcome to join us for a casual lunch in the park. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice. Directions: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take 1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left --or-- I-5 to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection - Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go 1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left. Watch for balloons and signs. RSVP: Ron Krueger @ 530-758-0351: ronkrue@hotmail.com

11th ARMORED CAVALRY MEMORIAL RESTORATION DONATIONS

The memorial restoration at Fort Knox, KY, is still ongoing. There are granite bricks available for purchase and we encourage your continued support of this worthwhile project. Troopers and their families have purchased bricks to honor the service of family members and friends. The next group of bricks will be placed at the memorial in late Summer 2009. Approximately 200 bricks are available for purchase. Order forms can be found on our website under "Brick Order Form."

The 11th ACVVC gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals and groups, to include B Troop and Air Cavalry Troop, who have purchased bricks between January 12 and March 28, 2009.

- James M. Angelini
- Donald P. Barrett
- Jim E. Darson
- Mike Denote
- Bobby Feick
- Orvil D Fouts
- John A. Hamm
- Stanley W Hauser
- Matt D. McKnight
- William I. Morey
- Arthur Roberts
- Alvin L. Sather
- Charles F. Schopp
- Albert T. Sigler
- Dale E. Smith
- Robert J. Sunell
- Donald Weathington
- Charles W. Whitmore
- Fredrick L. Wolfe
- William R Wolfenden
- Maureen Davis in honor of Richard E Davis
- Richard Langley in honor of Steve Hughes
- Joanne H. Patton in memory of George S Patton
- Robert Tamburri in memory of John R Tamburri
- Theodore H. Vann in memory of Bryan Vann
- James M. Angelini, Mike Denote and Charles F. Schopp in memory of Dennis L Vonella
- Members of B Troop, 2nd Platoon, 1966-67 (3 bricks) in memory of Alvin R. Badgett, David F. Livingston and Thomas R Swindler
- Members of LRRP, ARP and Air Cavalry Troop (21 bricks) • in memory of George Hartwell Adams, James Mitchell Atchison, Joseph W Blickenstaff, James Allen Crowley II, Otis James Darden, Jeffery Arnold Harvey, Walter Wesley Hutton, Ronald Lester Huxtable, Fred Orr Jackson, Robert Edmund Koonce, Ronald Anthony Longfellow, John Daniel Malcolm, Hollis Gregory Miller, Joseph Anthony Oreto, Frank De Paul Saracino, Roger Lee Scott, Lorne Jay Sipperley, Jerrold Louis Vesey, Robin Kirmeyer Wetzler, Grover C Wright, Rodney James Takashi Yano

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email: 11thcav1966@comcast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV, Santa Clara, CA

Reunion Registration

The Reunion is less than five months away and now is the time that we will be receiving your registration forms. We recently received from the hotel a room registration list. From it we can see that about 80 folks have locked down their registration with the hotel. So from that I can see that I can be expecting at least 80 registration forms before long.

The name tags have gone into production as have the meal tickets. All the name tag holders and ribbons have been assembled so we are a bit ahead of the game. Of course it's helped that Barb hasn't been able to go anywhere this winter so she has had the time to work on it.

If you don't pre-register and just show up to the reunion, you will be paying an additional amount.

If you have received your *Thunder Run* or checked the website you see that the registration form is there. So why wait, register NOW and be ready for an exciting week-

end in Santa Clara. It is important that you register as early as possible. By doing so not only are you making things easier for us but you will be avoiding paying any late fees. Late fees? Yes there are late fees. If you don't pre-register and just show up to the reunion, you will be paying an additional amount. Remember when you pay early and something happens that you have to cancel, most often you will receive a refund or at the very least part of the fees.

When you do fill out that form, read it very carefully and follow the directions. Little things like printing the information and using address labels make our job so much easier and quicker.

If you have any questions concerning this or anything about the reunion itself be sure to e-mail or call me and I will help you out. Hope to see you all there.

*Bob Moreno, G troop 68/69
Reunion Registration Chairman*

Santa Clara Reunion

Planning for Santa Clara is right on track. We have set up tours (description and prices along with a reservation sheet are in this publication). As in the past it will be first come. We will add extra coaches as it becomes necessary. You should make your tour reservations as soon as possible. All tour information destinations are listed and the schedule of events is posted on our website. ***If you have not reserved your room, now is the time.*** It is also time to send in your reunion registration form.

We are working on discount at local restaurants and shops. This is still a

work in progress. More information will be published at a future date.

Santa Clara is shaping up to be another great event. Remember, we will be voting on the 2011 reunion at our membership meeting. A listing of the sites proposed with all the particulars will be published in the next *Thunder Run*. We have a diligent group of workers on the ground in the Santa Clara area to help make things run like clockwork. It will soon be time to be together again

Steve Page

Reunion Committee Chairman

2009 Silent Auction, Santa Clara

Greetings to all: We are shaking off the last vestiges of winter here in Montana and it is time to come out of our dens and start the preparations for our upcoming reunion. As you know, one of our fund-raisers for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship fund is the annual silent auction held at the reunion site. It is time to take my hat in my hand and once again ask you to put your imagination and your talent to work for the organization! I was amazed by the impressive array of items that you provided for last years SA. I hope that we can match or surpass the beautiful items and the amount that those items brought in for our scholarships. Remember, if you want to donate an item purchased for

the auction we gladly accept them also. Items that have military significance, tools and especially Cav related items always go well. If you wish to donate an item please make sure that it is accompanied by a Silent Auction Donors Form so that I have all the appropriate information on that item. You can bring items to the reunion or mail them in advance to: **2009 Silent Auction, c/o Ron Krueger, 1819 Raintree Place, Davis, CA 95618**

Thanks in advance for all that you do to keep this the best organization ever.

*Rodney H. George
Silent Auction Chairman*

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

DONATED ITEM INFORMATION FORM

Please provide the following information with your donated item. It is important for our records. If you wish to donate anonymously there will be a section to make that request.

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

Value of item donated: \$ _____ I wish to remain anonymous: (check box)

REGISTRATION FORM



**11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV, Santa Clara, CA
Wednesday, 9 Sept. thru Sunday, 13 Sept. 2009**



**PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara, 5101 Great American Parkway
Santa Clara, CA 95054
408-200-1234 800-233-1234**

Registration fee is \$85.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.

Please register early. **Deadline for registrations is August 20, 2009.** The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations postmarked after August 20, 2009

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION (print clearly or use mailing label)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____ Telephone No: _____

Unit Assignment _____ Years in Country _____
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

Attendees

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Registration Fee Total	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken _____ Beef _____ Veggie _____

Special Dietary Needs: Yes No (Please indicate needs) _____

Is this your first reunion? Yes No KIA Relative? Yes _____

Visa MasterCard Card No _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

**11th ACVVC TREASURER
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL
571 DITCHLEY RD
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482**

Great Activities Available For Santa Clara Reunion

Final arrangements have been made for some great activities for you to enjoy during the 2009 reunion in Santa Clara. These activities are being offered so you can take advantage of some of the sights in and around the Santa Clara area.

Thursday, September 10

San Francisco/Fisherman's Wharf/Pier 39: Spend the day in San Francisco and enjoy some of the sights in the "city by the bay". Tour includes round trip transportation between the Hyatt and Fisherman's Wharf. From Fisherman's Wharf you can go at your own pace to enjoy a ride on the famous cable cars, take one of the "city tours" or "bay tours" offered, see the Golden Gate Bridge, and enjoy some of the many restaurants and shops in the area. Departs Hyatt at 9:45 am and returns at 8:00 pm. \$30.00 per person. More information at: www.pier39.com www.fishermanswharf.org www.visitfishermanswharf.com

Golf Tournament: For the golfers there's the 18th Annual Marty Ognibene Golf Tournament. This is always a fun day. Fee includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes. The outing is opened to men and women. See the separate sign-up sheet in this issue.

Friday, September 11

Monterey Bay: Spend the day in beautiful Monterey. You can choose to visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Aquarium fee is \$30.00 per person paid at the door. Visit the Presidio of Monterey Museum. The 11th Cavalry was stationed in Monterey from 1919 to 1939. The museum has several 11th Cavalry exhibits

from that period. There is no entry fee to the museum – donations are welcome. Also enjoy the many restaurants and shops in Monterey. Tour includes round trip transportation between the Hyatt and Monterey. Departs Hyatt at 9:45 am and returns at 6:00 pm. \$30.00 per person. More information at: www.monterey.org/museum/pom/ www.montereybayaquarium.org

Military Vehicle Museum: Visit the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation Museum in Portola Valley, CA, the largest privately owned military vehicle museum. See vintage military vehicles of all types, weapons and uniforms. There is no entry fee – donations are welcome. Tour includes round trip transportation between the Hyatt and the museum. Departs Hyatt at 8:45 am and returns at 2:45 pm. \$18.00 per person. More information at: www.milvehtechfound.com

Transportation for all tours (except golf tournament) is 55 passenger air-conditioned motor coaches.

Make your plans today to take advantage of these activities. Seats for the tour activities are limited. Tickets are on a first come basis and they will be filling fast. Tickets for all activities must be purchased in advance. Tickets will NOT be sold at the hotel. Reserved tickets can be picked up in the reunion registration area beginning on Wednesday, September 9.

Tour Contact: Paul Gissible, 209-577-5819, gissible@msn.com

Golf Contact: Joe Coopet, 651-578-2857

We hope you take advantage of these exciting offers. We're looking forward to another great reunion!

REUNION ACTIVITIES

11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV, Santa Clara, CA
Wednesday, 9 September thru Sunday, 13 September 2009

	# Tickets	Price	Total
Thursday, September 10, 2009			
San Francisco / Fisherman's Wharf.....	_____ X\$30.00 Ea =	_____
Friday, September 11, 2009			
Monterey Bay: Museum - Aquarium	_____ X\$30.00 Ea =	_____
Friday, September 11, 2009			
Jacques Littlefield Military Vehicle Museum.....	_____ X\$18.00 Ea =	_____

Handicapped Coach Required? Yes No

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Make checks payable to **11th ACVVC**. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

Paul Gissible, 509 Castle St, Modesto, CA 95350-6013

11th ACVVC Reunion XXIV, Santa Clara, CA

Schedule of Events – September 9-13, 2009

Wednesday, September 9

10:00am - 4:00pm

Registration Open

Thursday, September 10

7:00am- ????

18th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament

9:00am - 6:00pm

Registration Open

9:00am - 5:00pm

Quartermaster Store Open

9:45am - 8:00pm

San Francisco/Fisherman's Wharf (optional \$30 charge)

2:00pm - 12:00am

Bunker Open

Friday, September 11

9:00am - 6:00pm

Registration Open

9:00am - 5:00pm

Quartermaster Store Open

8:45am - 1:45pm

Military Vehicle Museum (optional \$17 charge)

9:45am - 6:00pm

Monterey Bay (optional \$30 charge)

10:00am -12:00pm

Veterans Seminar

12:00pm -12:00am

Bunker Open

5:00pm - 9:00pm

Silent Auction

Saturday, September 12

9:00am - 12:00pm

Annual General Membership Meeting (Members Only)

9:00am - 12:00pm

Women's Group Meeting

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Memorial Service

2:00pm - 5:00pm

Registration Open for Late Arrivals

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Quartermaster Store Open

5:45pm - 6:45pm

Cocktail Hour

7:00pm - 9:30pm

Banquet, Presentations, Raffle Drawing, and "Blackhorse Salute"

9:30pm - 1:00am

Dancing

Sunday, September 13

10:00am - 11:00am

Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)

10:00am - 2:00pm

Quartermaster Store Open All Day

Farewells and Departures

NOTE: This is a tentative schedule. Times may vary as the reunion draws closer. Locations of all activities will be posted at the reunion registration desk.

Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund Revisited

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary

During the 2008 Reunion Members Business Meeting, the Board of Directors proposed and the membership passed Motion 2008-0823A to modify the definition and name of the fund to include immediate family members (Parents, siblings, children, widows) of our KIAs.

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist, if requested, Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia, and *Survivors of our Troopers Killed in Action* in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
2. Funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare.
3. Registration fees.
4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting and are

accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer includes the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report.

To be considered for financial assistance from the fund to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows) making the request must...

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, *and*
2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA.

You can find the complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund on the website www.11thcavnam.com.

2009 Reunion

Election Update

By Secretary Frank R. Cambria

We have five positions on our Board of Directors up for election by our members attending the General Meeting on Saturday morning at the 2009 Reunion. The following is an update of the Ballot listed under each position as of this writing. The incumbents are listed with their respective total years serving on our Board of Directors in various capacities.

President: currently Allen Hathaway – 16 years

- Incumbent Allen – 16 years on 11ACVVC
- Craig Thomson – Years of volunteer work helping fellow veterans

Vice President: currently Pete Walter – 9 years

- Incumbent Pete – Also on Board of Directors of the Blackhorse Association

Secretary: currently Frank R. Cambria – 15 years

- Incumbent is not seeking re-election
- Adrian Vaaler: Past Secretary VVA Chapter 130; Past Secretary Eugene Symphony Band; Current Secretary Eugene Brass Society; Past Treasurer VVA Chapter 114; played Taps at 11ACVVC reunions since 1996 + Co-Chairman of 2003 Reunion; 3 College Degrees.

Treasurer: currently Ollie Pickral – 23 years

- Incumbent Ollie – 11th ACVVC Founding Father

Director: currently Rod George – 4 years

- Incumbent is not seeking re-election

- Steve Page – 11ACVVC Reunion Chairman – 10 years; 2 x Recipient of Trooper Of The Year Award; College Degree.

Leonard I. McFarling: 11ACVVC Secretary Pro-Tem 1998 & Recipient of Jack Quilter Award and Trooper Of The Year Award
Mike “Doc” Rafferty: 11ACVVC Scholarship Co-Chairman; Recipient of Outstanding Trooper Award – 2008; College Graduate; Former Teacher

- Lauren Tandberg – Fund raising experience; member of several associations and VP of one Chapter

Additional nominations may also be made by email to Secretary Frank Cambria Captain.Frank@covad.net or from the floor at the General Meeting. All eligible candidates will have an equal opportunity to state his full qualifications and experience for the positions at the General Meeting. Applicants may apply for more than one position.

All members of the Board of Directors must be able to attend the Reunions and two Board meetings each year of his elected term, and to be in regular email communication with the Board of Directors regarding a multitude of ongoing association projects and business requiring decisions and oversight by the Board. Furthermore, each member of the Board of Directors must be able to commit themselves to “specific areas of interest“ (committees, projects, etc.) within the 11th ACVVC as directed by the President. Board members must have excellent communication skills and should be highly organized individuals capable of communicating via email and using MS Word, as well as any specialized skills any of the positions may require.

Move the 11th Cavalry Memorial?

By Allen Hathaway, President

A crucial situation has arisen regarding the future location our Blackhorse Vietnam Memorial currently located at Fort Knox. Do we move with the Armor Center to Fort Benning or do we remain at Fort Knox? The 11th ACVVC Board of Directors needs your help, your feedback, and your opinions to determine the best course for the Board to pursue on behalf of our members. We are working closely with the Blackhorse Association on this issue. We must provide a final decision to Major General Donald M. Campbell, CG of the Armor Center, Fort Knox, by October 2009. Any move would not take place until 2011 or 2012.

We received a copy of the following letter from MG Campbell through the Blackhorse Association regarding the move of the Armor Center and School from Fort Knox to Fort Benning, GA. This move is part of Base Realignment And Closing (BRAC).

“The US Army Armor Center and School will be relocating to Fort Benning to combine with the Infantry Center to form the Maneuver Center of Excellence. This move will improve both the training and cohesion of our already preeminent ground combat forces.

“Fort Benning will soon transition from being the Home of Infantry to becoming the Home of Maneuver, as well as the Home of Armor with construction having already begun on

Do we move with the Armor Center to Fort Benning or do we remain at Fort Knox?

world class facilities to train future Armor and Cavalry Soldiers. As part of that construction effort a state-of-the-art climate controlled facility, which will serve as the nucleus of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum, will be built to house one of the largest and most varied collection of armor vehicles in the world. Our facility will be co-located with the new National Infantry Museum, a collection of World War II era training buildings once occupied by the 2d Armored Division, the Maneuver Center Parade Field, and a monument park honoring our Infantry, Armor, and Cavalry forces past and present.

“The bulk of the armored vehicle collection presently on Fort Knox will move into this new museum, forming the backbone of the collection that will represent our historic lineage. Some of the current collection, along with the General George S. Patton, Jr. collection, will remain at Fort Knox. I would like to move all the Armor and Cavalry unit monuments presently on Fort Knox to the new monument park planned for Fort Benning to serve as

Continued on page 24

About the 63rd Colonel

Colonel Paul J. Laughlin is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a 1985 graduate of Springfield College, Massachusetts.

As a Lieutenant and junior Captain, he served as a Tank Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader and Adjutant with 1st Battalion, 67th Armor Regiment at Fort Hood, Texas. Over the next four years (1990-1994) Colonel Laughlin served the Battalion S3 Air for 3rd Battalion 35th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Bamberg, Germany and Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He then commanded D Company, 1st Battalion 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Vilseck, Germany and later served in Vilseck as Brigade Assistant S3 (Plans/Training) and as HHC Commander for 3rd Brigade 3rd Infantry Division.

From 1995-1997, COL Laughlin served as a Secretary of Defense Intern in Washington DC and then served at Armor Branch, PERSCOM in Alexandria, VA. Following CGSC attendance in 1998, he was assigned as the I Corps Field Grade Assignment Officer, Executive Officer for the 1st Battalion, 32nd Armor Regiment 2nd Infantry Division, and as the S3 of 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (IBCT-Stryker) at Fort Lewis, Washington. During this tour, he was temporarily attached to 1st Cavalry Division and served as the Division's Liaison and Military Advisor to Ambassador Farrand of Brcko, Bosnia.

From 2001-2003, COL Laughlin served as the NTC's Operations Group Chief of Plans at Fort Irwin, California before assuming command of 1st Battalion (CAB), 72nd Armor Regiment on 29 May 2003 in the Republic of Korea. He then served as the G3 of the 2nd Infantry Division from 2005-2006. From July 2006 to July 2007, COL Laughlin served as the Armor Branch Chief, Maneuver, Fire and Effects Division at the Human Resources Command in Alexandria VA.

He is a 2008 graduate of the National War College at Fort McNair, Washington D.C. Additional military schoolings include the Combined Arms and Service Staff School, Armor Officer Advanced and Basic Courses. Additional civilian schooling includes a Master's Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (5 OLC), the Joint

Continued on page 17

THE 18TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Summit Pointe Golf Club

Cassi Kreft
Tournament Director

1500 Country Club Drive
Milpitas, CA 95035
Phone 408-262-8813



Scenic Vistas on a Championship Golf Course

\$80 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$80 per golfer (payable to Joe Cooper). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 27, 2009 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!

18TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Mail Checks To: **Joe Cooper, Golf Tournament Director,**
9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 27, 2009. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in the Santa Clara area. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3), Soft spike only facility. Tee times will be in the 7:30-8:30 am range with lunch between 12:30 and 1:30. The golf course is a short 15 minute ride from our hotel. Rental clubs are available.



Spending Money

These days money is prominent on our minds. The other day the subject of Vietnamese money came up. I have no idea why. I don't even remember who I was talking to (maybe myself). It got me to realizing that I couldn't remember what Vietnamese money was called. You might remember, but you're probably younger than me and have a better memory. When I came home from Viet Nam I brought some of their money as a souvenir. Later I remembered what it's called. It's called piasters for the small and dong for the big denominations. It came in paper or coins, didn't it? Maybe you brought some home, too.

I started thinking about how we spent money in those days in Viet Nam. Naturally, there was a lot of variety because different people were in different situations. Some troops were stationed at places like Long Binh or Da Nang where they had PX's and clubs where you could spend freely. Others were out in the bush where there wasn't much to buy except maybe gadgets or rice bread from the village mama-sans or the "services" of the you-know-who girls that rode out on the back of the red Honda 50s to give you an opportunity to spend a quick five bucks. (Chaplains aren't supposed to know about boom-boom, but what can I say?) Fortunately, it wasn't every trooper who blew his bucks that way, but life was what it was and not something else. You know what I mean.

I just remembered MPC. You'll recall that we had those US government issued wallet size certificates that substituted for American cash. They were called script in WWII. Is my memory serving me well? You decide. MPC meant Military Payment Certificate, right? I think the military didn't want us to scatter green-backs around Southeast Asia so we had MPC which the Vietnamese people weren't supposed to have. To make sure, the military would expire the MPC occasionally to make them harder to pass along to the Vietnamese people. If the people had MPC's they became worthless at the expiration date and they'd have to start all over getting more from the GIs. On the other hand, GIs could get some of their pay in piasters or dong and spend it

A different angle about money in Viet Nam was most GIs didn't give it a whole lot of thought. Some did, of course. We had a great savings program that Uncle Sam was wise enough to provide.

that way. It must have worked OK because troopers always had whatever the mama-sans sold and the red Honda 50s kept coming, especially around pay-day.

That leads me to another American money substitute: C Rations. "Whaaat!," you say? I say, "That's right." C's were like money. Not exactly money, but something to barter with, which means to trade, in case you don't recognize "barter." If you're Cav, you'll recall that we had mucho C Rations. If you're a grunt, you won't know this but you can take my word for it as I make it routine to tell the truth. Cav (armored cavalry) troopers usually had C's by the case on board their tanks and ACAV's. Also, on board their M548s, M578s, M88s and other assorted armored vehicles. I'll remind you now, not that you forgot, that it was common for troopers to trade Cs that they didn't want for things that they did want which the mama-sans, baby-sans and other sans had for sale. You traded C rations, especially ham and eggs, for rice bread or a mirror. I'm sure you remember because how could you forget?

Sometimes you could get to the rear to hit the PX (unless you, for some reason, were stuck in the bush without a break). PX's in those days had some wonderful bargains. I know because I took advantage from time to time. Two of the best bargains I've ever purchased in my life were in those PX's. Once I bought a great Seiko watch for \$17.00. That's right, seventeen buckaroos! That watch was great! I wore it for a couple of years and gave it to my brother. When I went back for my second tour I bought another Seiko. This time it cost me \$47.00, a lot more money but it had an alarm. I wore that one for years. Have you priced a Seiko lately? The main huge bargain I took a pass on was Noritake china. I was a bachelor and thought I didn't need fancy dishes. What a dumb thing to think. They were selling a service for eight (or was it twelve?) for less than \$100.00. That's one hundred dollars,

green backs, American money, not dong or piasters. I've been sorry ever since for that financial blunder. Oh well, at least you know what I'm talking about. Whether or not you bought any bargains, like maybe a camera, I don't know.

A different angle about money in Viet Nam was most GIs didn't give it a whole lot of thought. Some did, of course. We had a great savings program that Uncle Sam was wise enough to provide. That was where we could put as much of our pay as we wanted into a savings account and they'd pay ten percent interest as long as we were in country. You have to admit, that was a pretty good investment, even for those days. I took advantage of it. I hope you did too. After all, where else were you going to put your pay, not that it was so much. I know some of you sent money home to help your family. That was more important, of course.

I also recall that many troopers didn't really care much about whatever money they actually had. After all, no one knew what tomorrow would bring considering the circumstances. Once when I was at Quan Loi, our forward support base, I was in our helicopter pilots' hootch. They were always friendly and let me sleep on someone's cot whenever I came through overnight. Some of our pilots were playing their regular poker game and having a bit of relaxation. One hand got kinda out of control. The pot got so big that it made them nervous. It was really funny, at least I thought so, when they all decided to stop the hand and give everyone their cash back because the hand had gotten "out of hand." There was just too much money in the pot. So they made everybody happy by starting over. They might not have put a lot of value on money over there in the circumstances, but they were still friends, wanted to remain friends after the game was over, and they weren't stupid.

We all learned about life in Viet Nam where life was basic and money was not first

Continued ➤

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

From the Regimental Operational Report for the period from 1 November 1966 to 31 January 1967: "In the Regiment's never ending quest of the Viet Cong and his installations, terrain of all types has been experienced. From the dense, almost impenetrable jungle of the HAT DICH area in the southwest portion of the Blackhorse TAOR [Tactical Area of Responsibility] to the rice paddies of the 'Rice Bowl' area northeast of VO DAT. Maneuver elements have not confined their operations to the roads and trails but in many

CHAPLAIN from page 16

priority. Surviving, looking out for buddies, remembering family at home, and taking care of hurting people, and such matters were more important. I won't go on because you know. But I'll point out that in the Holy Bible God has something to say about money too: "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. (Isaiah 55:1-2, 6-7)

Someday I'll get out my old piasters, dong and MPC souvenir collection again. It brings back significant memories for me. Mostly memories about what's really important. Does it for you?

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.
Chaplain Larry Haworth
San Antonio, TX 78239
LEHaworth@aol.com

63RD COLONEL from page 15

Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (4 OLC), and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

He is married to the former Judi Connolly of Boston, Massachusetts.

cases forged their own paths through the mass of tropical flora to root the enemy from his jungle lair." Prose worthy of Rudyard Kipling – and who said that military reports are boring?

In 1967, the Regiment started a "Candy Wagon" program in the hamlets around Blackhorse Base Camp. The program was intended to encourage the Vietnamese people – especially the kids – to stay off the roads when military convoys were passing through the villages and countryside. Here's how it worked. The Revolutionary Development Teams and Vietnamese Information Service (VIS) personnel would go into a village or hamlet and meet with the headman and elders, talking about ongoing self-help and government assistance programs. Then the VIS personnel would gather all of the villagers and stress that soldiers would no longer be throwing candy from their passing vehicles. Then a truck would show up with candy [probably mostly John Wayne bars], soap, and milk donated by the Blackhorse Troopers from their sundry packs (SPs). The village headman would distribute the candy to the kids and tell them to stay away from the roads. The official report does not say how well the Candy Wagon program worked.

On 1 May 1969, Charlie Troop and Mike Company (under the operational control of First Squadron), along with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), were clearing a base camp following a fierce firefight two days earlier. During the sweep, Mike Company tankers found a cache containing almost ten tons of rice. First Cavalry Division standard operating procedure was to take as much away as possible and to destroy the rest. But, how do you destroy 10,000 pounds of rice? The Division suggested the following solution. Dig a large hole (or find a nearby bomb crater) and fill it partially with MOGAS, then alternate layers of bags of rice and trees, brush, or anything else that will burn. This field expedient "oven" would then be set alight using a trip flare (thrown into the heap by a fast

runner), turning the white rice into black ash in 6 to 12 hours. If there was no time available for cooking, contaminating the rice with persistent CS crystals was Betty Crocker's other suggestion. Neither recipe seemed to appeal to Charlie's taste buds.

From the March 1970 edition of the Blackhorse Newspaper: "Second Squadron was working in War zone C on Feb 19 when a forward air controller spotted several NVA soldiers moving down a trail. He called in artillery and a 'Pink Team' [a team from Air Cavalry Troop consisting of a light observation helicopter – an OH-6 Loach – and a helicopter gunship – an AH-1G Cobra] triggering a contact that resulted in the capture of enemy documents. The squadron S-3 officer, Major Frederick M. Franks, received a report of the action and flew to the area. 'No one had worked that particular area in a while,' Maj. Franks said, 'and we wanted to get some intelligence information.' While circling the area Maj. Franks spotted an NVA pack. He decided to land and pick it up, but just as the crew chief, Specialist Five Johnny Lamontia, was about to jump off the LOH, an enemy soldier ran from a bunker. 'We did everything we could to capture him,' Maj. Franks said. 'We waved to him and got between him and the tree line but it was obvious he wouldn't surrender.' When he started running toward what appeared to be an occupied bunker the crew chief shot him. After circling the area they landed again. Lamontia picked up the pack and noticed another just as he spotted an enemy soldier in a bunker. He shot the NVA soldier, grabbed the second pack and ran back to the helicopter. 'We weren't aware of anyone shooting at us,' Maj. Franks said, 'but with the Cobra firing we wouldn't have noticed it anyway.' The Cobra pilot of the 'Pink Team,' Captain Carl B. Marshall, reported hitting five enemy soldiers."

[If you were part of or remember any of these actions, please send your memories to the 11th ACVVC Historian at blackhorse4@verizon.net]

A TRIP TO THE BEACH

By Mike O'farrell, M Co., (1966-1967)

Around early November of 1966, we secured Highway 15 for the newly arrived 4th Infantry Division. A tank-heavy troop consisting of two tank platoons from M Company and two line troop platoons, was to drive south from Blackhorse on dreaded Route 2 for about ten kilometers, and then hook a hard right and bust jungle due west.

We rolled out of Blackhorse about an hour before dawn. We hit no mines, and no one shot at us. The only incident was when one of the tanks passed a water buffalo cart and accidentally caught one of the buffalos' tails in the track, snapping it off, and flipping the cart and the driver.

Right at the ten-kilometer point, an overhead chopper told us to make our right turn and head west, into the jungle. We had busted jungle before, but nothing this dense. It was slow going. We never stopped and seldom slowed down. We rotated the lead tank often as it was hard and exhausting to be in the lead. The Huey kept us pointed in the right direction. Finally, after about three hours, the lead tank broke out of the jungle and into rubber trees. It was like moving directly from Hell and into Heaven.

The way the trees were planted, we had a wide boulevard as far as you could see. It seemed cooler. The rubber trees were in blossom, and the sunlight shining through the white blossoms created a pink hue in the air. The blossoms fell like snowflakes. There was a pleasant, sweet, perfume that penetrated the smell of exhaust fumes. Radio chatter slowed to a few awestruck comments.

Though dumbstruck, we remembered our mission and picked up the pace. We noticed that some of the trees had gashes in them, and little pots hanging to collect the sap, so someone was working the plantation. We rolled on at a brisk pace for about half an hour until we started to get occasional glimpses of a large plantation house through the trees. It was big and ornate, and looked as

The Huey kept us pointed in the right direction. Finally, after about three hours, the lead tank broke out of the jungle and into rubber trees. It was like moving directly from Hell and into Heaven.

though it had been lifted right out of a scene from "Gone with the Wind." I expected to see Scarlet O'Hara walk out and greet us at any minute. Soon we could see that it was abandoned and in a sad state of disrepair, with bullet holes in the walls and the roof partially fallen in. There was even a large swimming pool full of debris and dirty, green water. This had once been a grand place, but something bad had happened here. I wanted to stop and get out and explore, but we had our mission.

Eventually there was no more jungle, just heavy brush. We crossed a dirt road going north/south, and off to our left I spotted a burned-out tank. It had a number of penetrations in the armor, holes ranging from the size of a quarter to that of a baseball. One of the tracks was gone. I could not see any markings to identify what unit it was from but noticed a mount for a 50 caliber machine gun on top of the cupola like the 4th Cavalry tanks. I wondered if anyone had survived.

Another half hour and the chopper told us that Highway 15 was only about a kilometer away. A sense of euphoria came over us all. The first part of the operation was over, and we had done what they wanted us to do, in record time, and no one had gotten hurt, except, of course, the old water buffalo.

What a difference a few hours make. Now we were heading south on a paved highway, passing hooches and even a Shell gasoline station mingling with civilian and military traffic. Since it is traditional in US Cavalry that we own the road, my lead tank commander stands tall in his cupola and motions to oncoming traffic, and traffic in front of us, to move over, and they do. The landscape changes, and there is now sand on the side of the highway and you can smell the ocean. The column pulls off

the road to refuel. We are immediately surrounded by civilian vendors of all sorts. Everyone gets into a holiday mood. C-rations are broken out and washed down with cokes and even beers, hidden away inside the vehicles in coolers. Pound cake and cans of peaches are the most sought after items, especially those that had been in a cooler. The order finally comes to roll again, and we are heading south once more.

We lead the column at a steady 20 MPH, about 50 feet apart. My driver gets sleepy and swaps positions with my gunner while we are moving. The tank never misses a beat. My driver sits behind me on the bustle rack for a while, content and smiling with his hair blowing in the breeze.

Now everyone starts feeling sleepy. The breeze in our faces, the smell of the sea, and the monotonous sound of the track thumping on the pavement makes you think of dozing off in the back seat of your parent's car at some long ago family outing. We are revived when we receive radio instructions to look for an MP jeep on the left side of the road. He is supposed to direct us into our bivouac area. We are here.

We spot the MP's and they direct us into a large sandy area off to the east side of the road. We follow the lead tank in a wide circle until it finally closes and we are "laagered."

What a lark. We are bivouacked in a really pretty and secure area, close to the beach. The C. O. tells us that some 2 ½ ton trucks are en route from Vung Tau to take half of our guys to the ocean to swim. They will be allowed to stay for an hour or so, and then will be brought back for the other half to go. That evening, the re-supply choppers will bring us hot, prepared food, steak in gravy. We are warned to keep our hel-

mets and flak jackets on because there is a lot of “Brass” wandering around the area.

The men can't believe their good luck. Hell, war isn't all that bad after all. We get our 50% ready to go to the beach, and they walk up to the road to climb on the trucks. Of course, they carry their individual weapons, and wear their flak jackets and helmets, but they are definitely in a holiday mood, jostling each other and laughing.

After they are gone, my platoon Sgt. Mitchell approaches me about an idea that he has. “Sir, you see the white rocks on those hills over there?” he says pointing at the high points. “Well sir, Sgt. Harper and I were thinking that we ought to have a little turkey shoot with the main guns.”

Sgt. Harper is the platoon Sgt. for the 1st tank platoon. He and Sgt., Mitchell, though close friends, are both highly competitive, and are always trying to outdo each other. Both men are “lifers,” professionals who take great pride in their tanks, their crews, and their ability to handle them. Tank gun marksmanship is high on each man's priority list. I inquire as to how far away he thinks that the white outcropping of rocks are, and he responds that he figures them to be about a mile and a half away. I speak to the C. O. about it, and he likes the idea and tells me to set it up for around 1800 hours. Two tanks will fire.

By 1800 hours the word has spread. There are even jeeps up at the road carrying “Brass” from other units that are involved in securing the highway. Many are sporting binoculars. The crews of every vehicle in our laager are standing up on the decks. Everyone's eyes are fixed on the white rocks, their binoculars held steady. Sgt. Mitchell's 34 tank and Sgt. Harper's 14 tank have moved out of the laager and stand side by side a few hundred feet away. WP rounds are to be fired, because they are easy to spot. Both tank commanders take their positions in the cupolas, binoculars around their necks, and eyes glued to their range finders. They spin the little handle to bring the two images in the range finder together. Sgt Mitchell gets off the first shot.

The gun roars, sending concussion waves off to both sides and blowing sand up from the ground.

No explosion or white smoke could be seen anywhere. He has missed not just the target, but the mountain itself.

“Gunner, Willy Peter. White rocks on hill.”

His loader shoves a 90 mm WP round into the main gun and yells “Up.”

The turret of the tank moves slightly, the hydraulic engine moans, the main gun makes a slight upward adjustment, and the gunner yells “Identified.”

Sgt. Mitchell gives the command “Fire!”

The gun roars, sending concussion waves off to both sides and blowing sand up from the ground.

No explosion or white smoke could be seen anywhere. He has missed not just the target, but the mountain itself.

Sgt. Harper in 14 goes through the same procedure, with the same result.

At this point it must be explained that the calibration of the main gun of a tank is a delicate thing. Busting jungle has taken its toll. The blows from hundreds of thick branches and whole trees striking the main guns have destroyed their alignment. This was often not a problem in Vietnam, for the round most often used was a large, shotgun shell called “canister,” fired at close range. Pinpoint accuracy was not essential to hit the target. However, firing other rounds at long range was another matter.

Everyone is very embarrassed, especially our C.O.

Sgt. Mitchell gets off his tank, and moves around to the front with a piece of string hanging from his teeth. His gunner lowers the main gun. Sgt. Mitchell makes a cross over the open hole of the gun with the string. He then runs back to the tank and gets back in his cupola and begins the “bore sighting” process. Within minutes, Sgt. Harper is doing the same thing.

34's gun booms its final round. A puff of white smoke appears right in the middle of the white rocks. 14 fires his shot seconds later, and it too hits right in the middle of the target. Loud cheering is heard from everyone.

The excitement over, we proceed to settle down for the night. We send out our ambush patrol. It is pretty clear that they aren't too concerned that anything will happen. We receive a report that some people have purchased cokes doctored with battery acid from a street vendor. The word is radioed to all units not to purchase anything from street vendors.

The night is really uneventful. Someone reports to the communications track that he hears rock and roll music. In fact, he even names the song. The C. O. gets on the radio and after a few choice words the music stops. Everyone suspects the ambush patrol.

Around midnight, there are two explosions about in the same place as where 14 and 34 parked for the gun shooting competition. It turns out to be Australian H & I mortar fire. “Sorry about that, blokes.” The Aussies apologize, and promise to shoot somewhere else. I suspect that it puts the fear of God into our ambush patrol.

Stand-to is an hour before dawn, and the sun is just starting to make light in the sky when we form up and move to our designated areas to form the strong points.

I move my 31 tank north followed by one ACAV. By dawn we are in place. We cut our engines and settled in for the long wait. As the sun gets higher, it gets hotter. Both the tank and the ACAV are soon surrounded by very aggressive street vendors. Some even try to climb up on the vehicles. We purchase nothing from the vendors and keep them at bay. More time passes and it gets hotter. Both the tank and the ACAV rig up ponchos over the turrets to ward off the sun. The vendors get less aggressive.

Hours pass and it gets even hotter, and then finally the strong point furthest south warns everyone on the radio that the convoy is coming through. We straightened up our act and try to look as

combat ready as we can. After all, we are “veterans” and they are “new guys.” Each strong point reports the arrival of the convoy as it reaches them, so we know when to expect it. Finally we see an MP jeep, followed by a strange looking ARVN armored car, and then miles and miles of trucks and busses full of 4th Infantry Division soldiers.

It is like watching a parade. The new troops stare at us in awe. We stare back, pretending to be bored. Initially we give them the “thumbs-up” sign or the “peace” sign. After a while, that gets boring and we just watch. They just keep coming. It strikes me that we don’t look like we are from the same army. They are dressed in clean, states-side fatigues. We have on remnants of jungle fatigues, usually with no blouse, just a green t-shirt covered by a flak jacket, and sometimes without even a t-shirt. Everything we own is dyed reddish from the dust. We are filthy dirty, and being cavalry, we are smudged with oil and grease. We are covered with ant bites and slow healing cuts and scratches from the jungle. They look clean. To put it simply, we look very shabby, and feel embarrassed about it, wanting to explain, “Look man, you spend time in the bush and see what it does to you.” Their non-commissioned officers still have the stateside yellow chevrons on their sleeves, and their officers wear rank on their collars. All of our people look alike, with no rank showing for snipers to pick us out. I glance at my loader sitting there, wearing his flak jacket with no t-shirt and his steel pot, holding a grease gun. Around his neck hang two dog tags, a religious medal, a P-38 C-ration can opener and a 50 caliber machine gun spacing and timing tool.

It takes hours for them to pass. At one point, a busload of Red Cross girls, otherwise known as “doughnut dollies” come by waving at us, and that gets a rise out of the guys.

Our mission is complete. Our strong points join the convoy as it passes, and we crank up our engines and pull in behind the last vehicles. We follow it to Saigon, and then reform and drive back to Blackhorse.

The next time we see the 4th, they look just like us.

V.A. Acknowledges Traumatic Brain Injuries In Vietnam Vets

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary

As a result of an article I wrote on Traumatic Brain Injuries which was recently published in Thunder Run, I was contacted by several Blackhorse veterans who believed they may have experienced mTBI in Vietnam and have been suffering from the effects ever since. This week I received a copy of a letter from the V.A. to one of our own Troopers acknowledging that he received a disability rating for a service-connected TBI. He has given me permission to disclose some of the letter’s content to our membership in hopes that it may help some of our veterans receive appropriate care and compensation.

“Recent medical studies focusing on TBI now provide a more thorough understanding of this disability and the symptoms associated with it. [The] VA responded to these studies by developing new criteria for evaluating TBI disability levels and the compensation payments associated with them.”

“If you still have residual symptoms, you may be re-examined based on the new criteria.... You can request the examination through your local regional office on VA Form 21-4138, Statement in Support of Claim.”

In my previous *Thunder Run* article I quoted an official source, *“We didn’t know if mTBI was an issue in Vietnam or the first Gulf War because we weren’t looking for it and we weren’t methodically evaluating patients. We are highly suspicious that things like shell shock from World War II and some post traumatic stress complaints could have been closed mild brain injuries.”*

What is mTBI? Mild Traumatic Brain Injury is caused by blunt trauma to the head or acceleration/deceleration forces from explosions jogging the brain within the skull, which may or may not produce a period of unconsciousness. Mild TBI is defined as “an injury to the brain as a result of any

period of observed or self-reported: Confusion, disorientation, or impaired consciousness; Dysfunction of memory around the time of injury (amnesia); Loss of consciousness lasting less than 30 minutes. No other obvious neurological deficits, no intracranial complications, and normal CT findings should be present.”

In layman terms, mild TBI means your brains were rattled but your skull was not penetrated (no visible head wound) during the explosive impact of an AT mine or RPG-7 against your ACAV or tank. The accelerating force of the resulting explosions often slammed bodies of the crew against the metal interior of their armored vehicle, against a gun shield or against the inside of the track’s cupola. Their bodies were stopped cold by the violent impact against with vehicle’s armor, but their brains bounced around inside their heads.

A simple example to illustrate how mTBI occurs is to hold a half-full glass (representing your skull) of water (representing your brains) in one hand at your side, and extend your other hand in front of you. Keeping the hand and arm in front of you *firmly and rigidly in place*, quickly swing your other arm and hand holding the glass *from your side toward the rigid hand in front of you* so that your rigid hand *abruptly* stops the movement of the water glass. As you clean up the spilled water, imagine what an impact 1,000 times as violent would do to a trooper’s brain.

Mild TBI is the most difficult to diagnose because there usually are no physical signs of a head wound. The resulting “invisible” wound can be minor brain damage that impairs the brain’s ability to do many things to separate and interpret or distinguish sounds amid background noises, causes severe headaches, etc. Again in layman’s terms, something in the brain gets short-circuited.



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Slowly spring is making its way into our part of the country. The days are a little longer, the birds are returning, and the temperature is slowly rising. Today has been unseasonably warm with the temps hitting the mid sixties. Oh if only we could be assured that it would stay this nice. Things around our house are busy as usual. Even with my being laid up for a few months, we still seem to be busy all the time.

The down time for me has proved to be useful in the fact that I have been able to get a head start on putting together the name tag holders and preparing the name tags for printing and of course deciding what this years meal tags will look like.

All I can say at this time about the meal tags is that they will be different and larger than in the past. Personally I like them. Who knows maybe even I won't lose mine this year.

I check my e-mail box several times every day for news from all of you ladies, but alas there doesn't seem to be any. Where are all of you? How am I supposed to know how you are and what you are doing? Hearing from you my friends is one of the tools that I use when deciding who will be the recipient of the Women's Award. Besides e-mail, if any of you use face book, you can locate me there as I am on it also. So please stop by and say hi once in awhile.

Kathy Tandberg has been busy looking into various items for our fundraiser this year and I think you are going to be pleasantly surprised with our choice. While I am not yet going to tell you what it is, I will say that we think you will like it. It is also an item that is used in every household every day. So it will be a good holiday gift. And in our minds it does correspond with the location of the reunion this year.

Besides this new item we will also be discounting our remaining black horses as well as the magnetic address books. How much they will be discounted we have not yet decided. So be sure to check out the ladies booth when you get there. Speaking of the ladies booth, we really need several of you to help man it. Neither Kathy nor I can be there all the time. I also have to work in the registration area. Please volunteer just a couple of hours to help out. I know the Santa Clara area

We are beginning to accept recipes for the next cookbook. This one will deal with appetizers and desserts. So get out your favorite ones and send them...

is beautiful and full of great places to go and things to do and see but remember we decided as a group to do these fundraisers, so we all need to help. Besides it's a lot of fun as well as the fact that you get to see everyone who comes in.

We are beginning to accept recipes for the next cookbook. This one will deal with appetizers and desserts. So get out your favorite ones and send them to me or to Kathy. My e-mail can be found at the end of this article. My hope is to have this new book available for our reunion in DC, so I would say that all recipes need to be in to me by May 1st of 2010. Of course you can bring them to Santa Clara with you and give them to me. We are asking for at least 2 recipes in each category from everyone. This will make an awesome partner to the first cook book we produced, as well as a great gift.

I'm very curious as to how many of our ladies were also members of the armed forces. I was, so I still try to keep up with things concerning our veteran women. One of those things is the law that was passed not long ago concerning the saluting of the American flag. Although we who served are no longer in uniform or on duty, we are authorized to now present the military salute to the flag. Actually I learned of this about 2 years ago and so with pride I began making a conscious effort to start doing so. It just seems natural to me but to some others it

seems strange.

One of the first times I presented a military salute as a civilian, I was at home visiting my family and friends. We were attending a musical program at my old high school and not only did they present an awesome flag ceremony but they were also honoring those who had served in each of the branches of service. My sister gave me the oddest look and later made a comment about it. I explained that it was okay to do so and that in fact, I and many others consider it an honor to do so. I look at it as a way of saying thank you to all military personnel both past and present. I am proud of my time in service and want the whole world to know it. And to my sister and all my friends I do now and will continue to give a military salute to Old Glory. So, if at our banquet you see me saluting the flag do not think it wrong or strange, just an honor.

Well friends, I am going to end this now and get to work doing my exercises and trying to do a little bit to help get my house ready for my mom's visit next month.

See you all in California and please remember to get those registrations in early and to volunteer to help at the ladies booth and or the registration table.

*Barb Moreno
11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator
puppytoes@charter.net*

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of *Thunder Run* without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112.



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

CITATION from page 7

its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart and above other units participating in the same campaign. The degree of heroism required is the same as that which would warrant award of a Distinguished Service Cross to an individual." (The DSC is exceeded only by the Medal of Honor in ranking.)

More than a hundred persons collaborated, starting in 2004, to prepare the application for this distinguished award and many have worked on it until the final notification arrived recently. Many of the accounts of A Troop during this period are documented in the book "The Anonymous Battle", by John Poindexter. Congratulations to the members of A Troop.

(A summary of the lineage and decorations of the 11th Cavalry can be found on our website.

Select "Website Directory", then select "11th Armored Cavalry Lineage and Honors". Individual awards can be found by selecting "Medals".

POLICY from page 6

you for questions.

Letters To The Editor must be signed, contain the name and address of the writer along with a telephone number or e-mail address through which the editor may contact the author. Letters should be no more than 300 words to be considered for publication. The editor reserves the right to run longer letters, and we will notify letter writers in advance of any MAJOR editorial changes. Political letters will not be accepted. Formatting procedures are the same for letters as all other written material

The editorial page is an open forum and does not necessarily represent the official views of the 11thACVVC, its Officers/Directors, or any governmental agency.

Send letters or other input to: James M. Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI, 49106, or to jgriff11@aol.com.

Firm Deadlines for consideration in any specific issue of *Thunder Run* are: January 15; March 25; June 25; and October 1.

What the Blackhorse Taught Me

By Pattie Byrd (Wife of Ron Byrd, G Trp., 1970)

I am the wife of a Vietnam veteran. In 1969, the man I have loved since I was a teenager was 19 years old and drafted into a war and sent to the other side of the world. Not only was he a long way from home, but he was living in a hostile environment with terrible conditions. I wish that I could say that I understood what was happening to him at those precise moments, but I cannot because I was still living in my sheltered world in a small town going about my day-to-day routines.

We were married shortly after he was discharged from the service and started the business of living, having children, working, etc. My husband seldom spoke of his experiences in Vietnam, although I knew they had taken a toll on him. How could they not have? And not only the time spent there, but the lack of sensitivity shown by those in this country when he returned. It was a different time and climate for veterans during Vietnam than it has been lately in our more recent campaigns, so receptions at home were not as welcoming as they are today. His only reaction was anger at how so many veterans on television shows were portrayed as crazies and unable to function in the real world, when he and so many of his friends had adapted. It wasn't that there were people who had trouble readjusting, but it was not all of them.

Several years of marriage later, my husband came in from work and told of meeting someone who had served in the 11th Armored Cavalry (the Blackhorse) as he had served. He told me of an organization that the Blackhorse had founded for their members and how each year they held a reunion in different parts of the country. And so we decided to go.

Although I had expected this to be a good experience for my husband, surprisingly, I found myself in an interesting position. Although I had been there when my husband left, returned and with him so many years later, I think for the first time I truly understood what a traumatic experience Vietnam must have been for him. I listened to other veterans tell their stories, show their pictures, talk about the day-to-day events of living in a war zone. And for

It is not uncommon for [young service people] to see my husband's jacket and walk up to him, just to shake his hand and say "Thank you and welcome home."

the first time, I imagined how horrible it would be to be picked up from a small town in the South and dropped into a land where you depended on complete strangers to keep you safe. I had considered it a bad experience for both of us at the time, but I knew my part in this had been very minimal. While I had missed him deeply, I still had gone about my everyday activities with little break in the routine. Here were these people talking about sleeping outside listening intently for the sound of rustling as an enemy's feet creeping out of the dark night. They told of bombs accidentally being exploded and tanks taking enemy fire. This was their daily routine; mine were finishing high school and cruising with my friends.

We have been to several reunions since then and still I find it very emotional. Although you go into these meetings not knowing a lot of these people, you eventually find these veterans share a bond, one of patriotic loyalty and pride for their service for their country. They greet each other with familiar handshakes and end their time together with words of comfort and sincerity. I knew these reunions had been a good idea for my husband because he talks more now and he shares with these other veterans memories and thoughts that others cannot understand completely because they were not there.

One common statement is a mainstay for these reunion veterans and has been made to my husband, not only by many of them, but by many young service people we meet in our travels. It is not uncommon for one to see my husband's jacket proudly displaying the Blackhorse Vietnam Veteran information and walk up to him, just to shake his hand and say "Thank you and welcome home." For me, there is great pride in knowing him and loving him, not just because he's a wonderful person, but also because he cared enough.

(This article was originally published in Associated Content).

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 1st Quarter 2009 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels: Platinum Level \$500+ Gold Level \$100-\$499 Silver Level \$50-\$99 Bronze Level \$1-\$49

General Account

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Craig Taylor
Gary Terry
Michael Terry
Jay Thompson
Gerald Thurstin
Lawrence Totaro
Frank Varljen
Kenneth Vollbrecht
Harry Wallen
Bobby Ward
George West
Michael Weynand
Ken Wollschlaeger
Leon Woodruff
Raymond Wright
William Wright

Show Your Pride

Ron Krueger, (HHT, 1/11, 66-67) shows his pride with a variety of Vietnam and Blackhorse symbols and a great 11 ACR California license plate on his vehicle.





Journey to Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by listing their names here. Please Check Our Funeral Honor Guard daily at www.11thcavnam.com by selecting "Funeral Honor Guard, Please Check Daily" on the homepage. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend funerals

Cleve A. Gregory, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 30, 2008. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Winter Springs, FL.

Patrick Harbin, 409th RRD (1970-1971) passed away on March 16, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Stanley, NC. He was laid to rest in Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery, Black Mountain, NC.

Dennis R. Jabbusch, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 13, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vermilion, OH. He was laid to rest in Maple Grove Cemetery, Vermilion, OH.

Donald C. Jackson, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 12, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Riverside, CA. He was laid to rest in Riverside National Cemetery, Riverside, CA.

James Jurgens, HHT, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on November 8, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Frederick, MD. He was laid to rest in Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery, Flintstone, MD.

David F. Livingston, B Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on February 17, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tucson, AZ.

Walter P. Lynn Sr, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on July 4, 2008. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Leesburg, FL.

Richard A. McKenzie, HHT Regiment (1969) passed away on February 6, 2009. He resided in Dover, OH.

Jack W. Nielsen, HHT, 1/11 (Squadron Commander, 1968) passed away

on November 4, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Locust Grove, VA.

Charles M. Pennington, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on September 27, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Killeen, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX. Charles is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Mitchell W. Pryor, I Troop, 3/11 (1970) passed away on October 9, 2008. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Riverdale, GA. He was laid to rest in Greenlawn Memorial Park, Wilmington, NC.

Larry W. Rothwell, K Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968, 1st Plt) passed away on February 9, 2009. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Monroe, OH.

Robert E. Wallace, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on October 1, 2008. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bessemer, AL. He was laid to rest in Valhalla Cemetery, Birmingham, AL.



MEMORIAL from page 14

inspiration for future generations of Armor and Cavalry Soldiers. However, if you would rather that it stay at Fort Knox and be part of the Human Resource Center of Excellence, your monument will not be moved. Should you allow your monument's movement, rest assured that once at the new Home of Armor and Cavalry, it would be part of the largest museum complex in Georgia, visited and viewed by tens of thousands of Soldiers, their families, and civilian visitors annually.

"I look forward to hearing your organization's desire on this important matter as we build a wonderful new branch home post. Sincerely, Donald M. Campbell Jr., Major General, US Army, Commanding"

This proposed relocation of the Memorial is an emotional issue for 11th ACVVC because the centerpiece of the Memorial area is our Blackhorse Vietnam Memorial, dedicated to 730 Troopers who were killed in action while serving with the regi-

ment in Vietnam. Many of us know men who are listed on this memorial.

The Memorial as a whole entity is dedicated to all Blackhorse troopers who served in all campaigns beginning with the Philippine Insurrection in 1902-1904, through the latest deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III in 2005-2006.

There are many things we need to consider with either option. There are many questions to be asked, some of which cannot be answered at the time of this article. Those questions will be answered as quickly as possible. We intend to keep you informed through this newsletter and our website on all information regarding this proposal.

Please take time to read the above letter again and give careful consideration to both options. Please email any officer or board member listed on page 3 with any thoughts or questions.



From the 63rd Colonel of the Regiment

Paul J. Laughlin



Greetings again from the High Mojave Desert! March 2009 finds the Regiment supporting our 3rd back to back rotation – this time with the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team “Old Hickory” out of North Carolina as they prepare to serve in Iraq. The temperature is starting to climb as Blackhorse Troopers put Old Hickory through their paces and help them learn valuable lessons to help them survive and win in Iraq. Although many of our Troopers are the townspeople for our two “Iraqi Provinces” in the desert, we have increased the number of Troopers replicating Iraqi Army units for the rotational unit to partner with. To help us with this IA mission, we are being augmented by Soldiers of the 32nd Canadian Mounted Brigade and two Michigan National Guard units. This better replicates actions in theater, and allows for our Troopers to get more “warfighting” training, while our K Troop still provides the “professional insurgency” of the National Training Center. After this rotation, we get two weeks to focus on our own warfighter training before we welcome

the 3rd Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division for another Iraq based rotation at the end of April.

At the end of March, the Regiment will bid farewell to the 17th CSM – CSM Fred H. Morris after over 27 years of distinguished service. CSM Morris served in E Troop on the border in Germany as a Sergeant and wanted the honor of having the Blackhorse patch on his sleeve when he retired. He has been an incredible standard bearer of the Regiment’s colors. To recognize his stellar service in our Regiment, we took the Regimental Photo at the Horse Stables recently. We will miss him greatly, but another exceptionally professional NCO, CSM Martin Wilcox, comes up from 2nd Squadron to take the reigns as our 18th CSM. With the change of responsibility of our senior NCO, the Regiment honors our legacy of 108 years of proud, honorable, and faithful service to our Nation as we continue to train Soldiers, develop leaders, and stand ready to defend liberty as we have done throughout the history of this great

Regiment. One recent example of our proud service comes from our 58th Combat Engineer Company (Red Devils) who just returned from combat in Northern Iraq where they were executing critical route clearance missions. The 58th returned (all of them) to us in February for some well earned leave and time with their families before cycling back into rotational operations later this spring.

Our two National Guard units – 1st Squadron, 221st Cavalry (Wildhorse) from Las Vegas, Nevada; and 1st Battalion, 144th Field Artillery (Mustangs) from Burbank, California continue preparing to deploy. 1-221 CAV will execute a security mission in Afghanistan, and 1-144 FA will deploy on a peacekeeping mission to Kosovo later this year.

After activating on 16 October 2008, our 51st Translator Interpreter Company (the only one in the Army) is fully up and running in support of rotations and their own predeployment training. Six Troopers

Continued on page 30



Colonel Paul J. Laughlin, 63rd Colonel of the Regiment, proudly displays the Formation of the Regiment.

Letters From Home

By Charles W. Abbey, (HHT 1966-1967)

Serving as constant points during uncertain or difficult times, familiar icons seem to help calm and comfort us on some occasions. For me, during the early days of my first tour of duty with the Eleventh Cavalry in the Vietnam War, a bright red nylon mail bag was just such a calming image -more on this thought later.

The Second Squadron of the Eleventh Cavalry had arrived in Vietnam in September of 1966. Our small Squadron Air Section was quickly farmed-out to the First Infantry Division's Quarter Cav to learn the in-country ropes while 2/11 was being fitted-out and made ready for combat.

Eventually the Air Section moved, along with the Squadron to the vicinity of Long Giao, where we commenced to scratch out living space for the pilots, crew and aircraft. The Section was initially assigned a three acre patch of ground along the western perimeter of the Base Camp. The site was densely covered by a growth of 60 foot tall bamboo. Fortunately a helpful M-88 quickly flattened a temporary space behind the berm for our helicopters to roost while the crews burrowed into the weeds under canvas.

As the native vegetation was pushed aside and burned, the men of the Air Section fanned-out to find a suitable spot to handle the landings and maintenance of the Squadron fleet of four helicopters. Forthwith, a level and grassy opening was found and claim was made on the space. Directly, the area was thoroughly checked for unexpected vines, unexploded mines or termite castles. All existing turf was carefully trimmed by hand and PSP (perforated steel plating) was emplaced for parking pads, walkways and a "Big Letter H" landing spot.

NOTE: Ideally, a helicopter landing area is firm, flat ground, free of obstacles and free of dust. Dust is perhaps the most egregious environmental problem for helicopters; obscuring pilot's vision as well as forming an abrasive mix which wears away rotor blades and other mechanical parts, of which there are many! Hence, a thickly grassed operational surface was most desirable.

As the Squadron "heliport" took shape and actually almost resembled a flying field, we began to look at what had been accomplished and to feel pardonable pride. In the

words of one of the chiefs, considering how it had appeared just a few days before, "It ain't LAX, but it looks pretty good to me!"

Before long, as Squadron missions began to flow in, we commenced a first-light circuit of the base to detect any enemy presence. A few mornings later during the dawn-patrol, one of our intrepid aviators was performing the area reconnaissance with the Squadron Executive in the observer seat. They spotted and reported a "bright red cloth" in the jungle canopy some 200 feet above the forest floor. Exercising astute judgment akin to the navigation of the "Titanic" and hovering at the tree tops while the Exec stood on the skid, the relic was snatched from the surrounding branches. The prize happened to be a red nylon U.S. Mail bag - complete with water damaged and sun bleached mail. This bag had presumably once been enroute to some military destination but had accidentally fallen free of an aircraft and was lost. Again in safe hands, the tardy mail was returned to the local Army Post Office for delivery...the empty bag somehow became ours.

Wind vanes have always been elemental to aviation. Some form of wind direction disclosure has been conspicuously in-place since Kittyhawk. On the premise that proper equipment, well maintained, tends to

enhance safe operations, it quickly became apparent that "we" needed a wind vane for "our" Squadron heliport! The idea rapidly became a mission type order, succinctly passed to our ever resourceful crew chiefs; "turn this red bag into a wind sock, get a pole and put it up." By morning a very professional looking, brilliant red, 30 knot sock had been accomplished and hung proudly from a sturdy bamboo pole near the take-off pad. This sock, in its time the only such contrivance at Blackhorse Base Camp, accompanied the Battle Squadron for the rest of our tour and beyond. It caught the breeze as we located all over III Corps and later, on the beach at Chu Lai in I Corps. In a seemingly small way this icon signaled the presence of unquestionably civilized aviation to our small contingent of flyers and crew. It helped foster safe and professional flying where ever it swung.

Epilogue:

Sadly, I neglected to offer our appreciation in a more timely manner, but these forty-some years later, I extend collective thanks to the United States Postal Service for its enduring contribution to the safe and effective operation of US Army Aviation and the United States Cavalry in a combat zone.

Show Your Pride



Doug Haywood , Platoon Leader, (Air Cav Trp., 70-71) proudly displays Blackhorse regalia and a Purple Heart license plate on his Grand Am.



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*.

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		31ST ENGINEER BN		Gates, Duane W	66-67	Phelps, Charles C	68-68
Bieker, Lavern G	66-67	Garcia, Victor M	69-69	Hable, Edward L	67-67	HHT, 3/11	
Grim, Eugene E	68-69	33RD CHEMICAL DET		C TROOP, 1/11			
Gulley, Gerald	66-68	Carr, George L Jr	69-69	Anderton, Carl L	70-70	Fugate, Joe E	68-69
Helene, Alan B	69-69	37TH MEDICAL CO		McGhee, Tommy G	66-67	Hamric, Roxile D	68-70
Jones, Loman P	66-67	Edwards, Walter W	71-72	Mcgrail, Edmund T	66-67	Lipscomb, Ronald W	69-70
Jones, Thomas M	70-70	Lewis, Johnnie	68-69	Norris, George E	67-68	Nebergall, Allen V	67-67
Kolich, Thomas R	66-67	398TH TRANS DET		Pyrlik, Terrance A	69-70	Nunes, Melvin F	65-67
Krieg, Steven N	68-69	Conder, James C	67-68	Ritter, Richard W	70-70	I TRP, 3/11	
Moersch, Dennis R	67-68	919TH ENGINEER CO		Stanley, Gary D	66-67	Christman, Ralph H	66-67
Nebergall, Allen V	67-67	Dunahay, Leroy J	66-67	HOW BTRY, 1/11			
Newlin, Ronny H	66-67	Hammond, Bruce C	68-69	Dumdei, Larry	68-68	K TROOP, 3/11	
Slone, Theodore R	60-67	Koliba, Eugene J	66-67	HHT, 2/11			
Swanson, George I	66-67	Larsen, Jens C	67-68	Sipes, Robert V	65-67	L TROOP, 3/11	
Teper, Richard P	67-68	HHT, 1/11		E TROOP, 2/11			
Thor, Thomas R	69-70	Holt, James H	67-68	Gilbert, Jessie W	69-70	M COMPANY, 3/11	
Van Holsbeke, Leon A	69-70	Laird, Linn P	67-68	F TROOP, 2/11			
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		Rich, Harry Jr	66-67	Deleon, Pedro	66-70	Browning, Joe L	70-70
Neuman, Ronnie W	66-67	A TROOP, 1/11		Proctor, Arthur L	67-68	Green, Joseph S	68-69
Nunes, Melvin F	65-67	Aiken, Gerry J	66-67	Skelton, Elbridge E	68-68	Houle, Douglas A	65-67
Schankweiler, Thomas J	66-66	Arredondo, Mateo	66-67	Treadway, Theodore W	67-68	Lavasseur, Richard L	67-69
Sipes, Robert V	65-67	Hester, Donald L	70-71	G TROOP, 2/11			
Wanlass, Ray W	66-67	Reichley, Barry L	66-67	Kallensee, William L	66-67	HOW BTRY, 3/11	
7TH SURGICAL HOSPITAL		Young, Robert R	70-70	HOW BTRY, 2/11			
Jensen, Harold M	69-69	B TROOP, 1/11		Dobbs, John H	71-72	Blackman, Melvin C	66-67
27TH ENGINEER BN		Butler, Clyde R	68-69	Mashburn, Lewis A	67-68	Deege, Leonard	65-67
Ramos, Jorge	67-67					Dennis, Roger W	68-69

FREEDOM OF OUR COUNTRY

Submitted by Dale Austin (K Troop, 68-69)

This poem was written by my sister-in-law, Georgia Campbell Thienes, in 1970 during her 10th grade year in high school. It was written after I'd returned from Viet Nam. She and her husband, Mike accompanied my wife and I to last years 11th ACVVC Reunion XXIII in Chicago, which was enjoyed way beyond their expectations. After coming across her poem just lately I felt it would be quite fitting to submit her poem to the *Thunder Run*.

FREEDOM OF OUR COUNTRY

One flag of an independent land,
Sweeps over ocean, sea and sand.

It proves to each and every one,
this country is ours, independence won.

For so long we fought for our freedom,
Freedom, fore fathers had hoped one day would come.

We cry at night, "What will come to pass?
God Bless America, is it here to last?"

One after another, death upon sadness,
Each moment different, one person less.

What lies ahead in the years to come?

A question is asked, "Will we have our freedom?"

Or will it go back the way it used to be?

The answer is locked away, and only God has the key.

Time will tell, we can only guess,
Wonderful America, God Bless.

We must stay united and we must be strong.

To keep our freedom for our country's life long.

We live each moment, we take each breath,

Give us liberty or give us death.

Georgia Campbell Thienes 1970

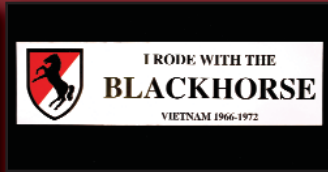
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#9 Coin, 11th ACVVC \$10.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band \$35.00

#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$25.50



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#12 Lighter, Zippo \$15.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$4.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



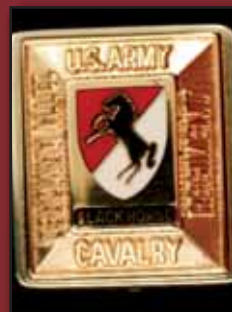
#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00



#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00

#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00





#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



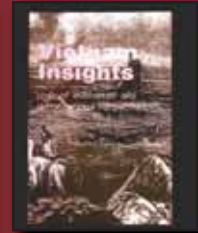
#29 Video Combo #1 \$50.00



#30 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



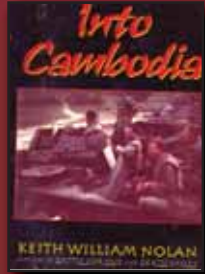
#31 Video (DVD): Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam \$30.00



#32 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#33 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



#34 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



#35 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



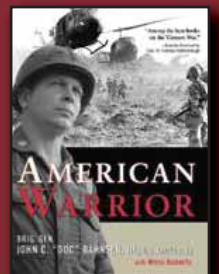
#36 Book: Fiddlers Green \$16.00



#37 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#38 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#39 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen-\$20.00



#44 Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$40.00



#41a/b T-Shirt, black/ash \$16.00



#40a Old Blackhorse Hat \$10.00



#40b New Blackhorse Hat \$10.00



#42a/b Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon \$30.00



#43 Golf Shirts, Crossed Saber, Women's gray only \$18.00



#47 Windbreaker, black w/snap front & BH



#46 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00



#45a/b Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$30.00; Womens \$18.00

63RD COLONEL from page 25

recently deployed to provide critical interpreter support to deployed units, and we expect more missions to continually come their way. The unit is up to over 90 Troopers who are native speakers of critical languages (Arabic, Pashtu, Dari, etc.) and have joined the US Army to support ongoing operations in key regions of the world.

We continue to update the training in "the box" here at NTC by replicating the Contemporary Operating Environment (COE). With the help of Hollywood set designers and special effects experts, it is truly amazing how realistic the training can be. Throw in several hundred Iraqi- or Afghan- Americans speaking in the native languages and playing key roles in the scenario and it is easy to forget that you are not

already deployed. We stress the leaders, systems, and Soldiers of rotational units each month through the realism and the expertise of our K Troop professional insurgents. Blackhorse Troopers also help train the rotational units by replicating the Iraqi or Afghan security forces that are becoming increasingly more professional each month, leading to a winning coalition in our ongoing fight against terrorism. We invite you to visit us here at the NTC as a Tour program has been recently developed which gives visitors an opportunity to see this realistic training and to visit our Museum. Please contact us if you are interested in the tour or if you just want to meet some of our current Troopers!

Lastly, we would like to publicly thank the Newport Beach American Legion

Harbor Post#291 for putting on a 'Blackhorse Hoedown' to help raise money for Trooper Family Scholarships. They raised over \$6,700 and about 35 of us enjoyed our time with veterans of the Regiment and other services. Thanks for all you've done, and all you continue to do in support of the legendary Blackhorse Regiment – we ride on the legacy of excellence established by the Troopers who served before us and are very proud of representing you.

Allons! 63

P.S. Our Canadian allies who are here training with us now have taken the music from "ALLONS" and transferred it into notes for the Bagpiper...Cpl Chambers from Canada does a great job with the Bagpipes and we are trying to get it copied!

☆☆ Membership is Our Strength ☆☆

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NL2Q 09

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

UNIT _____ DATES: FROM _____ TO _____
(Troop,Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$ _____

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 2nd QTR 2009

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00			
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00			
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00			
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00			
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00			
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's <input type="checkbox"/> Woman's	B	35.00			
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00			
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00			
9.	Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00			
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	25.50			
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00			
12.	Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00			
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00			
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	7.50			
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00			
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00			
17.	Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00			
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	5.00			
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00			
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	A	5.00			
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	B	45.00			
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00			
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00			
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	280.00			
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00			
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00			
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00			
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00			
29.	Video combo #1: "Combat Reports" & Blackhorse Video (DVD only)	C	50.00			
30.	Video combo #2: "Combat Reports" (DVD & Blackhorse Video (VHS)	C	40.00			
31.	Book, Video (DVD) Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam	C	30.00			
32.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00			
33.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00			
34.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan	C	23.00			
35.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00			
36.	Book, "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard	C	16.00			
37.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00			
38.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00			
39.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00			
40.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	10.00			
41.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	16.00			
42.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	B	30.00			
43.	Golf Shirt, crossed sabers, Women's gray	B	18.00			
44.	Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam	C	40.00			
45a.	Denim Shirt, Mens	B	30.00			
45b.	Denim Shirt, Womens	B	18.00			
46.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	B	75.00			
47.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	B	35.00			
			Subtotal			
			Shipping and Handling			
			Total			

Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL. Specify size and color preference of item requested.

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$6.00; C items = \$9.95 (max shipping is \$9.95 per order)

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$9.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**



11ACVVC
13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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 PERMIT NO. 3



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to All our Blackhorse troopers!

Well it is finally spring time and the *Thunder Run* came out. We were really surprised at the orders we have received. Thank you so much and keep those orders coming in!!

Jan and I are really looking forward to seeing everyone once again in Santa Clara. We are asking for volunteers to help us out in the store again this year. Your help is greatly appreciated, so please let us know if you have any spare time to give.

Hey guys once again would you *please* be sure to put the size on any shirt order and your phone number on the order form. We are still getting orders with no phone number or with no sizes. Also, please check your order form when sending your order in as it has changed. Due to rate increase at the Post Office we had

to once again raise our rates. *Please* help us out in this area of postage.

Sweatshirts are no longer available. We will be replacing this item later on so we can carry newer merchandise in the future.

Also we need to explain the process we go through when it comes to an order made by check (all checks are accepted). When I receive an order paid for by check, I have to send it to our Treasurer. When it clears the bank, and I get back an OK we then fill the order and mail it out. Sometimes it takes a while longer than it should. I know and am sorry for the inconvenience. Looking forward to seeing you all in California.

Allons, Jerry

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Past reunion golf shirts: Chicago 2008 in size large only and Louisville 2007 in x large and xx large, \$15.00. Ladies Gray Golf Shirts, all sizes, \$18.00. Ladies Denim Shirts in all sizes \$18.00. Combo: DVD and Book 'The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam' \$40.00; a \$15 savings when purchased together.



#45 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon Women's only \$18.00



#43 Golf Shirts, gray/bark, Crossed Sabers Womens only (gray) \$18.00



#44 Combo: DVD and Book The 11th Armored Cavalry in Vietnam \$40.00

