



Thunder Run

Vol. 21 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2006

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

Riding With the Blackhorse in Iraq



Troopers from 2/11 ACR, FOB KALSU sweep area that mortars and rockets came from. This young man was held for interrogation after we came in hot on his farm house and someone ran. (J.W.)

This is Part 3 in a series of accounts of a three-week ride with the “Blackhorse Regiment” by two former members of the “Blackhorse” that served in Vietnam.

Part 3

By Eric Newton, 11th ACVVC PAO

It has now been several months since I went to Iraq and my life seems to have returned to normal. I remember the day several months later, I was very relaxed and letting my mind drift and the thought came thundering in, “Did I really do that? Could I

be hallucinating.....dreaming? Did I really go to Iraq and I am sitting here now like it never happened? No, just a minute, it was real because I have photos with someone in them that looks like me in combat uniform. Wow! Unbelievable! I called fellow Vietnam vet Gerald Williamson who accompanied me and asked the same question. I remembered that each time we geared up to go on a mission; Jerry would look at me and repeat the same phrase. “This is another fine mess you’ve gotten me into!”

Please turn to **IRAQ** on page 6

Poindexter to be Featured Speaker at Reunion Banquet

By Chuck Schmidt

John B.Poindexter (A Troop, ’70-’71) has graciously accepted our invitation to address the 11thACVVC Troopers, families and friends as the featured speaker at the Saturday evening banquet in Kansas City, MO. Poindexter was commissioned an Armor Officer upon graduation from Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Fort Benning, GA in July 1967. After serving as President of his OCS Class and President of the Brigade Student Council, his first duty assignment was as a Platoon Leader, L Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) Kaiserslautern, Germany.

He subsequently served as Executive Officer and then as Troop Commander of L Troop following the Regiment’s move to Fort Lewis, WA. Deployed to Vietnam in 1970, Captain Poindexter was first assigned as Commander of Headquarters Troop (HHT), and then as Commander of A Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Destined to command troops in combat, Captain Poindexter flourished under the stress of battle earning the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action, the Soldiers Medal, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal and the

Please turn to **POINDEXTER** on page 4

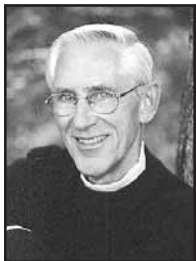
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From The Command Track

By Chuck Schmidt, President



Chuck Schmidt,
President, 11th ACVVC

By the time you get this issue of “Thunder Run” the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) will have a new Commanding Officer. After more than two years in command, COL Peter C. Bayer Jr. relinquished command to the 62nd COL of the Regiment, COL Mark E. Calvert, during a Change-of-Command ceremony at Fort Irwin, California on 1 August. We congratulate COL Bayer on a successful challenging command tour that included an abrupt change in mission from OPFOR at the Army Training Center at Fort Irwin to a deployed Regiment fighting in the global war against terrorism in Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Although the Regiment did not operate as a unit during the yearlong commitment, the 1st and 2nd Squadrons distinguished themselves in combat operations as part of the Combat Commands to which they were assigned. The Regimental Headquarters, meanwhile, provided the core of a 2-Star Command-and-Control Headquarters. The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia welcome COL Calvert and pledge our continued support of the “Best Damned Regiment” in the U. S. Army. ALLONS!

Our Reunion Chairman, Steve Page (B Trp, 1/11 '66-'67), has been working diligently on getting everything set up and arranged for the XXI reunion in Kansas City, MO. The location in downtown Kansas City is a fantastic venue for our annual get-together. In addition to all the Reunion activities that are outlined in Steve’s article there are numerous things to do in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. It appears at this juncture that we will have an outstanding turnout again. We initially “blocked” 300 rooms for Friday and Saturday nights, but realized early on that we needed more. We immediately “blocked” the other 100 rooms that were an option on our contract, and it looks like we can use still more. We are currently working to increase the number or get a comparable “overflow” hotel nearby. If you have not yet made your reservation, I rec-

Membership is way up for the year. Allen also chairs the Membership Committee and through some innovative search techniques has located many “lost” Troopers resulting in well over 200 new members so far this year!

ommend that you do so now while some space may still be available. We will have a unique experience this year as we honor eight of our “Brothers” with awards for courage and valor earned some 36 years ago, but were never received for various reasons. These Troopers, all from A Troop, 1st Squadron (two were KIAs), are congratulated for this belated recognition. John Poindexter (Commander, A Trp, '70) worked over the past three years to get the recognition these soldiers so richly deserve. John will make the main address at the Banquet at which we will present the medals. Our reunions continue to make our motto alive—“Together Then, Together Again”.

Occasionally we find out about one of our Troopers who has never attended a Reunion because he simply cannot afford the airfare and hotel costs. Each year during our business meeting we “pass the hat” for contributions to help these Troopers out. The Trooper Reunion Assistance Fund is available solely for that purpose. Many of our veterans are reluctant, however, to admit they need help so if you are aware of anyone in need of assistance to attend the reunion, please let us know and we will work with the Trooper to help him get to his first reunion.

We are announcing the winners of the 2006 scholarships in this issue. We congratulate all awardees. Again this year, there were more highly qualified candidates than scholarships available. We are currently in the middle of our fundraising efforts, and we ask all members to be generous in donations for the annual raffle, and in sending quality items for the Silent Auction. Thanks to all who have already contributed. The 2006 Calendar fund drive resulted in almost \$32,000 to date, and if you mislaid or forgot to send in a contribution, it is not too late. Only about twenty five percent of our members participate in our three fundraising efforts. If we could simply double that to fifty percent, we would be able to award scholarship grants to all qualified candidates

and open the program to our grandchildren. We have already granted more than \$375,000 and adding this year’s awards of about \$81,000, we will be over \$460,000 since 1995. Again, thanks to your generosity, we have a tremendously successful scholarship program!

Allen Hathaway (HHT Regt, '66-'67), chairman of the KIA Issues and Monument Restoration Committees, has, after hundreds of hours of research, verified all 11th ACR Troopers who were KIAs while assigned to the Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia. The next step in this endeavor will be to make appropriate corrections to the monument at the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, Kentucky and do whatever is necessary to preserve this edifice in perpetuity. At the reunion in Kansas City this year, the membership will decide on further changes/additions to the monument site and on ways to fund the restoration and preservation. We plan for a rededication during the 2007 Reunion in Louisville, Kentucky.

Membership is way up for the year. Allen also chairs the Membership Committee and through some innovative search techniques has located many “lost” Troopers resulting in well over 200 new members so far this year! Unfortunately, we continue to lose members to various illnesses, many as the result of exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. Please refer to the “Welcome Aboard”, and “Fiddlers Green” sections of the newsletter. We mourn every loss from our ranks, and extend our deepest sympathies to the families of our comrades who have passed away.

Barb Moreno (Bob, G Trp, 2/11 '68-'69) has been the Women’s Group coordinator since its inception. She has been a tremendous asset for our organization, and this year has worked with a few other volunteers to assemble an 11thACVVC cookbook of unique recipes covering everything you need to present meals for the next couple of years. The book will be sold at the reunion in

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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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Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15

Second Quarter.....Apr 15

Third QuarterJul 15

Fourth QuarterOct 15

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

COMING SOON ON DVD!

Blackhorse Productions presents the new movie
"COMBAT REPORTS" – VIETNAM – CAMBODIA
BONUS- The 11th ACR's latest tour to Iraq.

More information available at
www.11thcavnam.com

COMMAND from page 2

Kansas City and subsequently through the QM Store, over the Internet, and through *Thunder Run*. This distinctive publication will be a collector's item and will make excellent Christmas or wedding shower gifts. Get your copies early to make sure you have them in time for the Holidays. Thanks Barb for another job well done.

Five years ago, Blackhorse Productions of California produced a video of interviews documenting our service in Vietnam. Some 1,500 have been sold to members, families, and friends. At the time it was produced, many of you asked if we could do another in the future focusing on combat action accounts. We are pleased to announce that the follow on video is currently in production and will be available for sale at the reunion through the QM Store. We will also be selling copies over our web site and in future issues of "Thunder Run". The DVD will be entitled "Combat Reports" and in addition to interviews will contain war footage and a bonus addition of interviews with Iraq veterans and scenes from Operation Iraqi Freedom III. Proceeds from the sale of this video will be used for operating funds and any excess will go to the Scholarship Fund. The price has been held at \$30 each, the same as the first edition. A "trailer" will be available soon on the web site, so continue to check out the latest news at www.11thcavnam.com. Speaking of the web site, Otis Carey (F Trp, 2/11 '71-'72) and Pete Echon (F Trp, 2/11 '69-'70) continue their outstanding support of the organization. The site has had over 750,000 hits since inception—that is a lot of visitors!

As always, I will close with a reminder to honor our Troops. We have a superb Army of volunteers. They and their families deserve our support and encouragement in mission accomplishment as they place themselves in harm's way in service of this great country. Whenever you see a soldier, airman, sailor, coastguardsman, or marine, thank them for their selfless service. Sometime this year the population of the United States will reach 300 million. Our Armed Forces, active and reserve total less than 3 million, so less than 1% of our citizens have 100% of the responsibility for the defense of our freedoms. We owe them our debt of gratitude!

POINDEXTER from page 1

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star. Poindexter also was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his service before completing his duties and returning to civilian life.

John's outstanding leadership qualifications resulted in his commanding three consecutive Troops starting in the 3rd Cavalry and culminating with command of A Troop, 11th Cavalry in some of the heaviest combat of the Vietnam War. It was during March of 1970 when he led his Troopers in what has become known as the "Anonymous Battle". Reviewing this battlefield action in War Zone "C" for a presentation to the Regiment at Fort Irwin, Captain Poindexter used an old manuscript of his, originally submitted to *Armor* magazine and never published, to form the basis of his talk with our young Troopers. Upon further research, he discovered that many of the recommendations for awards submitted for A Troop soldiers for actions in this battle were never approved, and in some cases, never properly submitted or followed up through the chain-of-command. Attributing this oversight of his Troopers valorous actions to the "Fog of War", and faulting no one, Captain Poindexter set out to work to remedy the situation. Through dedicated research, dogged determination, and the use of all resources as his disposal, he successfully obtained the necessary eye witness statements to resubmit recommendations so long forgotten. The outstanding results have resulted in the belated recognition of a number of actions on the part of the soldiers of A Troop, three of whom received awards of the Bronze Star with "V" Device at last year's Reunion in Colorado Springs, and eight Troopers who will be recognized in Kansas City this year. Troopers honored last year were Bill Daniels, Francis "Bud" Solich, and Donald Dush. This year's awardees are: SP5 Walter Andrews (Posthumous Award), SGT Donnie Colwell, SP4 Brian Cupp, 1st LT Robert Henderson (Posthumous Award), SGT Dennis Jabbusch, SP4 Angel Pagan, SGT Ronald Vaughan, and SP5 Craig Wright. For his unselfish efforts and dedication, the 11thACVVC presented John Poindexter with our annual "Trooper of the Year"

award last year.

After being discharged from the Army, Captain Poindexter returned to school earning advanced degrees before launching his career as an entrepreneurial businessman applying skills acquired from leading men in battle. Today, he is CEO/Chairman of J. B. Poindexter & Company, Houston, Texas. J. B. Poindexter & Company is a diversified United States based slightly above \$800 million revenue company with 4500 employees. Poindexter is also deeply involved in civic and educational institutions, using his outstanding leadership attributes to serve his city, state, and country. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Big Bend Museum and Chairman of its Development Committee and the Restoration and Renewal Capital Campaign. He is also a member of the Board of Visitors of the McDonald Observatory, an affiliate of the University of Texas located in Big Bend. Captain Poindexter serves on the Council of Overseers of the Jones School of Management at Rice University and was a Director of the YMCA of the Greater Houston Area where he also was Chairman of the Financial Development Committee. He was a Trustee of the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research Foundation and is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Alpha Kappa Psi, both honorary scholastic institutions.

He has served as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Treasurer of the Texas Education Reform Caucus and Foundation, and as a member of the Board of Directors of Crime Stoppers of Houston. He served as a Trustee of the Blackhorse Association, an affiliate of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. He is also a frequent supporter of the 11thACVVC organization and our scholarship program's Silent Auction Fundraiser.

Captain Poindexter is the author of privately published works on historical, military, genealogical and economic subjects. He currently resides in Houston, TX and spends as much time possible hunting and developing his large spread known as Cibolo Creek Ranch near Marfa, TX.

Update

11th ACR Memorial Restoration

By Allen Hathaway

The 11th ACR Vietnam memorial sits on the grounds of the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, KY. The memorial is a tribute to those Blackhorse Troopers who gave their lives in Vietnam in the service of our country.

The memorial has a unique history that begins in Vietnam. It was there that the memorial was constructed by members of the 919th Engineer Company using material found locally at the Gia Ray quarry site. As the Regiment suffered a casualty, a brass name tag was added to the memorial. When the Regiment relocated to other base camps so did the memorial, always remembering those men and their sacrifice.

When the Regimental Headquarters stood down in 1971 the memorial was carefully packed up and shipped to Fort Knox. The individual name tags were replaced with four bronze panels listing the names of fallen Blackhorse Troopers. In early 1990, it was relocated to a very prominent location at the Armor Unit Memorial Park on the grounds of the Patton Museum.

Because of the type of material used and the affects of the weather over the years, minor repairs have been made to the memorial. There have also been reports that some names are missing, misspelled, or dates needing correction.

In 2003 a committee was formed to:

- Research and verify all names to ensure all Blackhorse Troopers are accounted for. Also determine the specific troop, company, battery or detachment of each individual.
- Consider options to repair and preserve the memorial.

The research phase is complete and we are entering the repair and preservation phase. A number of necessary changes were noted during the research. Among them are spelling and date corrections, adding 7 new names and removing 11 names of soldiers who were never assigned to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The four panels will be replaced listing all names by unit.

We are also extremely pleased to announce for the first time in this issue a proposal that the memorial site be expanded to

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Jim Griffiths, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

While thinking about this quarter's 'Editor's Corner' article my mind floated back to July 4, 1968 somewhere in War Zone D (I think). We had been busting jungle all day and as evening approached we set up a perimeter in the middle of the jungle. Thankfully, we had a couple of H Company tanks with us that circled the perimeter to clear a field of fire for us of about 50 meters by knocking down the jungle. Chow was chopped in and I headed up to get something to eat when I came across a group of troopers standing around something. It turned out to be a 12 foot long snake (constrictor of some sort) that had been run over and crushed by the tanks. Its mouth was wide open and the size of it indicated it most likely could swallow a massive amount.

I returned to my track and heard guys jabbering about wondering who had LP that night and how much "fun" it might be out there if there were more of these snakes around. (For those not familiar with the jargon, LP stands for listening post. Four guys would go about 25 meters outside the established perimeter to serve as advanced warning of enemy activity. It was dangerous, among other reasons, because there was potential to get caught in crossfire between the enemy and your own troops. There also was no way to take cover except to hug the ground.) Well, I had been assigned LP and was just "thrilled" at the thought of 12 foot snakes sharing my LP ground around me.

I went out with the other guys on the LP and we could hardly find a bare spot due to knocked down trees. We set up and readied ourselves for a long, uncomfortable night.

"Luckily" a couple of hours later our night out there was shortened. We were rocketed by the enemy and as I remember it was indirect fire not RPG's. It still amazes me how they were able to use indirect fire on an NDP that had just been set up. I guess they weren't that great though, because they didn't really hit anything and just made a great deal of noise. I used the word "luckily" earlier because we were pulled in from our LP and nobody was hurt by the rockets, so all was well. My nostalgic thinking the other day morphed into the song "And the rocket's red glare," which I finished with my own version saying "Eliminated the snake's ugly stare." The small chance for a run in with a snake was evaded and certainly a set of circumstances surrounded the fireworks for that 4th of July that have never been matched since.

The reunion is coming and I hope all of you have the greatest reunion ever. I especially want to assure you first timers that it will be a fabulous experience. This issue of *Thunder Run* contains an article about the keynote speaker, John Poindexter, and a plethora amount of information about reunion activities from A to Z.

We also have the 3rd and last article by Eric Newton concerning himself and Jerry Williamson riding with the 11th ACR in Iraq. Frank Cambria has written a must read article for you on veterans benefits and Allen Hathaway will also update you on the progress of our memorial restoration at Ft. Knox as well.

A full list of 2006 Scholarship awardees as well as pictures and responses from some are contained in this issue. All this and our stellar lineup of regular contributors should make "your" *Thunder Run* highly enjoyable to you.

Have a great and safe trip to Kansas City!

Show Your Pride

Danny Kreger (F Troop, 68-69) has a 23 Ford "T" Bucket for his "Big Boy Toy"



Iraq from page 1

When I reflect back on that time I wonder how I was so lucky to be surrounded by all that violence and still be standing here today. The close calls. Incoming mortar rounds at FOB Kalsu. A bridge checkpoint you just visited hit by mortars within minutes after you moved on. A rocket found beside the road you just went down aimed to hit and destroy a vehicle on the road. Walking the streets and market in Diyarrah and brushing elbows with the Iraqi people, any one of which could have detonated a bomb and ended your life and those around you. Riding the highway looking for roadside bombs hour after hour. A suicide car bomber ramming one of our Humvees and detonating it on a busy street.

We experienced this and more in about three weeks time. Imagine how much our fellow 11th ACR troopers went through in a year. Their daily duty time is in twelve hour shifts with equipment and personal maintenance after that. It was no picnic but I didn't hear our troopers complaining. They were always ready to go and anxious to get into any action that would make a difference in Iraq. By the time we arrived at our final stop in Mosul we had seen everything but a gunfight. We did hear the familiar AK crack very close a few times while on foot patrol in downtown Diyarrah but could not determine if the rounds were headed at us.

MOSUL, Iraq. THE FINAL WEEK

My good friend Jerry mentioned the fact that we hadn't seen a firefight yet when asked

by CSM Ricky Pring how the tour had been so far. With that, the CSM said he would personally see to it that he found us one. So the next morning we mounted up with Regimental HQ's and hit the streets of Mosul. Thanks a lot Jerry! What seemed to be more of the same we had just been through the past several weeks was just a calm in the storm. We later overheard someone saying that the CSM took us to the very worst places in Mosul for two days and couldn't get a firefight started. A common saying among the troopers was that, "all the dumb ones are dead and the rest won't stand and fight."

CIVIC ACTIONS

Without a formal functioning government in Iraq, very little would get done for the people if not for the management efforts of our own military. Therefore not only are the Coalition Forces charged with fighting terrorists, they must act as civil servants. Their additional duties task them with the management of schools and power plants while overseeing and maintaining the Iraqi infrastructure. Most of the newscasts you see show devastation throughout the film clips which leave the viewer with the impression that the country was destroyed in the war. The real story is that very little damage was done to civilian buildings. The urban decay is from the years of neglect at the hands of a ruthless dictator who cared only to live a lavish lifestyle at the expense of his people. Remember that the vast majority of Saddam's military cut and ran as Coalition Forces rumbled across Iraq. Therefore there were no

running battles that tore up the cities. It would have also been foolish to indiscriminately level buildings knowing we would have to rebuild them. The plan was to keep as much infrastructure intact to aid in the speedy recovery after the war.

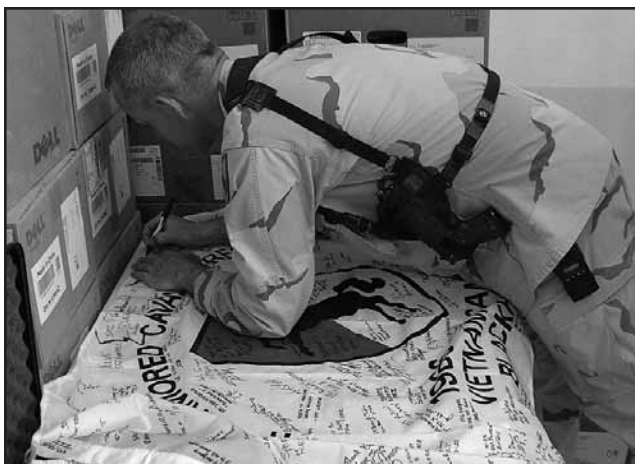
We went on many trips to check on power plants, police departments, military training facilities and schools. Our troops were even in charge of overseeing contracts for improving schools with ceiling fans and electric outlets being installed in each classroom.

On one trip our troops worked jointly with the Iraqi army to pass out school supplies and toys to the students. Medical teams regularly visit schools and communities to treat the sick. Winning the Hearts and Minds is at work and working in Iraq. This is evidenced by the increased number of reports from civilians who now feel comfortable with our presence and are reporting terrorist activities on a regular basis.

Each and every interview we did with our 11th ACR troopers was positive. Each warrior expressed a deep commitment and belief that they were making a difference in Iraq. None wanted to cut and run. Most commented that as much as they missed their loved ones back home, they would return for an additional tour if that's what it took to finish the job.

THE MOVIE

While in Iraq I shot 18 cassettes of high quality movie film. The film was turned over to Blackhorse Productions in Beverly Hills, Ca. to be made into a documentary. This is the same producer that made the documentary, *The Blackhorse in Vietnam, In the Words of the Men Who Fought*. The new



ABOVE: MOSUL, IRAQ. Jerry took an 11th ACVVC flag to every location for our fellow warriors to sign. (J.W.). RIGHT: 2/11 ACR D Co. South of Baghdad, Iraq. Troops display D Co flag and 11th ACVVC Flag. (J.W.)





▲ FOB Kalsu, Iraq. 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Guard briefs team prior to patrol in the streets of Diyarah. 2/11 ACR Attached. These guys were tough warriors. (J.W.)

Diyarah, Iraq. Foot patrol through the streets with the 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Guard, attached 2/11 ACR. Can you spot the terrorist? Neither could we. ➤



▲ Diyarah, Iraq. Patrol through the market where it would soon be elbow to elbow with the town's people and a possible terrorist ready to detonate himself at any moment. The crowd would soon close in on you as you dodged shoppers. (J.W.)

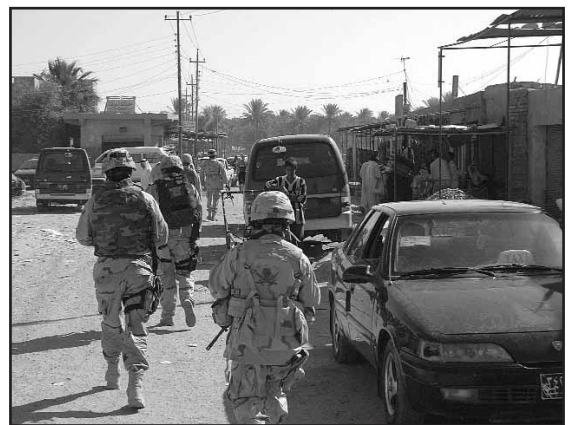


◀ **DUSTOFF** Wounded soldier carried by his buddies to waiting helicopter following mortar and rocket attack at FOB KALSU, 2/11 ACR (J.W.)

Bagdad, Iraq 1/11ACR. Suicide car bomber drives car into Humvee then detonates himself. What the American soldier is all about. The wounded gunner was on the ground assisting wounded civilians before being treated for the burns he received in the flash fire. (J.W.) ➤

DVD is to be released in time to be distributed at this year's reunion in September. Talk of a television series is also being tossed around. With that, I was asked if I would lead a team of three combat photographers back into Iraq to capture additional footage. I want you to know that I was at ease when in the presence of our own 11th ACR troopers in a country that is listed as the most dangerous in the world for journalists. Our troopers are without question the best in the world. I was so proud of each and every soldier I met that I can't express my feelings in words. The thought of going back and being with any unit other than the great Blackhorse Regiment is no doubt very scary.

*Eric Newton
11th ACVVC Public Affairs Officer*



▲ Diyarah, Iraq. 155th Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Guard, 2/11 ACR attached patrol the busy streets. Eric Newton, 11th ACVVC left. (J.W.)



◀ Mosul, Iraq. New recruits arriving for training. (E.N.)

Photos by Eric Newton (E.N.) and Jerry Williamson (J.W.)

Meet Our 2006 Scholarship Winners

Joseph	N	Cardinelli Jr	Son of	Joseph	Cardinelli	L Trp 3/11	69-71
Valerie	M	Donohoe	Daughter of	Gary	J Donohoe	A Trp 1/11	68-69
Kayla	A	Drozd	Daughter of	Andrew	P Drozd	HHT Reg	69-70
Kristi	N	Esposito	Daughter of	Carmine	C Esposito	G 2/11	70-71
Katherine	L	Foreman	Daughter of	James	T Foreman	F Trp 2/11	66-67
Adam	M	Foulks	Son of	Michael	H Foulks	HHT 1/11	70-71
Robert	J	Hagen	Son of	Waldo	A Hagen	B Trp 1/11	68-69
Dustin	J	Hall	Son of	Roger	D Russel	E 2/11	71-72
Emily	L	Henry	Daughter of	Phillip	M Henry	HOW 1/11	70-70
Shane	R	Hinson	Son of	Ray	L Hinson	H Co 2/11	69-70
Katelyn		Hoover	Daughter of	Lawrence	P Hoover	HOW 3/11	70-71
Katrinka	M	Jack	Daughter of	Frederick	D Jack Sr	HHT 3/11	68-69
Aaron		Johnson	Son of	Thomas	Johnson	HHT 1/11	70-70
Sarah	A	Johnson	Daughter of	Thomas	Johnson	HHT 1/11	70-70
Sarah	E	Krueger	Daughter of	Ronald	L Krueger	HHT Reg	66-67
Patrick	J	Magnarelli	Son of	John	J Magnarelli	F Trp 2/11	69-70
Julie	A	McKelvey	Daughter of	Jack	W McKelvey	L Trp 3/11	70-71
Kyle	P	Millea	Son of	Keith	L Millea	K Trp 3/11	68-69
Allison	E	Perrin	Daughter of	Craig	T Perrin	C Trp 1/11	70-71
Geoffrey	T	Perrin	Son of	Craig	T Perrin	C Trp 1/11	70-71
Mindy	M	Seaton	Daughter of	James	W Seaton	A Trp 1/11	69-70
Carrie	A	Sobus	Daughter of	Timothy	S Sobus	G Trp, 2/11	69-70
Rebekah	L	Stanford	Daughter of	David	J Stanford	HHT Reg	72-73
Shelly	C	Towe	Daughter of	Danny	C Towe	E 2/11	69-70
Audrey	E	Van Nus	Daughter of	John	R Van Nus III	D Co 1/11	68-69
Veronica	E	Washington	Daughter of	Benjamin	F Washington	G 2/11	71-72
Michael	L	Weynand	Son of	Michael	A Weynand	HOW 1/11	67-67
Brianna	L	Wing	Daughter of	Douglas	A Wing	A Trp 1/11	68-69

This issue contains brief statements from 9 of our 2006 scholarship winners.



Kayla Anne Drozd is the daughter of Andrew P. Drozd, (HHT Regt, 69-70) she stated "Thank you so much for the recognition and scholarship. It will be a huge help in my freshman year in college." She will be studying business and added, "I have been very involved with non-profits that benefit children and wish to continue my involvement as a manager rather than a volunteer.... I will continue my contribution to better our society."



Allons."

Emily Lively Henry is the daughter of Phillip M. Henry (How Battery, 1/11, 70-70) and plans on studying language education. She stated "Thank you very much for awarding to me this scholarship from the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. I am truly grateful for this very generous and considerate gift! Your award will do very much in helping me continue my education.



Katherine L. Foreman is the daughter of James T. Foreman (F Troop, 2/11, 66-67) is planning on studying computer graphics. , "I appreciate my father's efforts...he taught me to set goals for my career and my life....I am motivated to travel...and will be studying abroad in Hong Kong and Beijing." Katherine added "Thank you so much for the scholarship! My family really appreciates this committee for not only my scholarship, but also my two older brothers Jim and Tom."



me to attend college and pursue my goal of becoming a minister. It is also of great emotional value to me – coming from those who served and fought with my father in Vietnam. It is a tribute

Shane R. Hinson, the son of Ray L. Hinson,(H Co., 2/11, 69-70) is studying religion at seminary and says, "I want to serve God by rendering support and guidance to those who seek it ...to people in need. My goal is to graduate...serve mankind as a minister. I have worked hard in school and will continue to do so." Shane added "Thank you so very, very much for the scholarship. It will not only be of great financial assistance – allowing

to your integrity and generosity. My heart felt thanks to you.
 May God Bless You All.”



Katrinka M. Jack, the daughter of Frederick Jack Sr., (HHT 3/11, 68-69) says, “Hello. This is Katrinka Jack. I would like to say Thank You!!!! I am so happy to be going back to school this fall and I feel very privileged to receive this scholarship. Thank you!!!!” She is studying to be a medical assistant and added, “I want to help people through the physical and business aspects of the medical field.”



Mindy M. Seaton is the daughter of James W. Seaton, (A Troop 1/11, 69-70). “Hello, this is Mindy Seaton and I recently received a letter stating that I am going to receive the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veteran’s Scholarship for my schooling. That is such great news and I am so excited. Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient, the help is much greatly appreciated.” Studying nursing Mindy added “I want a career where I can help

people, better the community, and change people’s lives forever...when I graduate...my goal is to become a nurse in a VA facility. I want to ...care for the men and women who have risked losing their lives for this country.”



Brianna L. Wing, the daughter of Douglas A. Wing, (A Troop, 1/11, 68-69) is studying music composition and performance. She says, “After graduate school, I would like to teach and ... while getting my doctorate...establish myself as a leading composer.”

She also said “Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient; this will aid my schooling greatly.”



Allison E Perrin, the daughter of Craig T. Perrin, (C Trp, 1/11, 70-71) who is studying communications stated “I recently decided that I would like to pursue a major in communications studies...I would like to go into marketing or public relations.” She also added, “Thank you for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. This is quite an honor and the assistance will be greatly appreciated.”



Julie A. McKelvey, the daughter of Jack McKelvey, (L Trp, 3/11, 70-71) is studying marketing and says, “I enjoy working with others to come up with new ideas...my grades have become more important during my high school years...I have been active in my community, school and church...I believe I will make the most of this scholarship and represent your organization well.” In addition she

also stated, “I am so excited and thankful for this scholarship. (My mom and Dad are pretty excited too!) This scholarship will be a big help in achieving my educational goals. I am looking forward to starting the next chapter of my life as a college student. Again, I most sincerely appreciate this honor and scholarship. You and your organization can be assured that I will do my very best.

Scholarship Fundraiser

Trooper plans 500 Mile March to Raise Funds

By Bill Gould, MD

The minister pronounced, “You may kiss the bride.” It was 1968, and I, a newly minted twenty-three year-old second lieutenant, snapped to attention. My fellow saber bearers and I brought our blades into salute, forming an arch of tooled silver over the newlyweds. As the only non-West Point graduate in the complement, I scrutinized the lieutenant to my left, mirroring his practiced movements, unwilling to inform my seven compatriots that I had never before touched a real sword.

I closed my eyes, beaming with pride, as we saber-bearers formed a canopy of gleaming blades over the bride and groom. Then I opened them, eager to savor the gratification of the years of work that had gone into my commission, but the image I was greeted with was of my sword drooping ever so slightly, the tip of the long knife managing to pierce the bride’s lace headpiece, hurling her crown and veil to the polished mahogany floor. Then I saw the contorted stares and heard the gasps. Even the groom’s eyes rolled upwards. Three nights later, so did mine as my surprise assignment to the United States Army Ranger School arrived by Western Union Telegram.

Escape became my priority. I besieged friends and friends of friends, some the sons of judges and congressmen, to intervene on my behalf. I petitioned the Pentagon for the more pleasant and, from what I’d heard, safer alternative – please reissue my orders to serve with the 11th Cavalry in Viet Nam. I moaned to the duty officer at Armor Branch that the reputation of the commando school was so hideous that graduates could not share what they had undergone. Even dropouts blanched at the word Ranger. I implored him to send me to the short course instead. “Short course? What are you talking about, Lieutenant?” “Sir, that’s where you jump off a foot locker and eat a worm.”

For nearly forty years the fleeting thought of setting foot on Fort Benning triggered a nightmare in which the dread of being back in

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE XXI ANNUAL 11ACVVC REUNION!

Continued on page 15

Scholarship Donations Set Records!

By Chuck Schmidt (1 Trp, 3/11, 67-68)
Committee Member

The members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11thACVVC) have continued their generous support of the Scholarship Program. There are three distinct fundraisers conducted annually starting in November with the 11thACVVC Calendar, followed by the Annual Raffle with the drawing conducted at the Reunion, and culminating with the Silent Auction which also takes place at the Reunion Site. In support of the scholarship program in 2005, Troopers opened their wallets to over \$26,000, \$33,000, and \$5,000 for the Calendar, Raffle, and Silent Auction. As a result we were able to award a record 25 grants in the amount of \$3,000 each. Money raised and scholarships awarded were record amounts for the organization. As a result of those successes, we set goals for 2006 at \$30,000 for the Calendar, \$35,000 for the Raffle, and \$6,000 for the Silent Auction.

2006 Calendar

As of this writing, more than 1,125 members have contributed \$31,750+ for the Calendar Program, well over the goal! A hearty "Thank You!" to all who were so generous. We received more \$100, \$50, and \$25 donations than ever before and the participation also exceeded all previous years. I am still trying to figure out how to get the other nearly 4,000 members to support this program which would enable us to provide financial assistance to all qualified applicants. If you have set your calendar aside hoping to get to it later, you can still pull the donation envelope and send it. If any readers have suggestions as to how we can improve our numbers, feel free to contact any on the scholarship committee.

2006 Raffle

Jim Holt (HOW 1/11, '67-'68), 11thACVVC Director, is once again "Honcho" for the annual raffle. As this issue of "Thunder Run" goes to press, all members should have received four packets of ten tickets each. Again we ask for your total support of this leg of our fundraising program. For the second consecutive year, we have increased the prize money. This year's grand prize remains at \$1,000 but we raised second, third, and fourth place awards to \$750, \$500,

and \$250 respectively! If you need more tickets, just let Jim know and more will be in the mail to you ASAP. Get your co-workers, friends, and neighbors involved by selling them a book for this worthy cause. Remember, all donations are tax deductible and every dollar contributed goes directly to the Scholarship Fund. Expenses are covered from the general revenue fund. Jim would like to remind you to PLEASE remove the staples prior to mailing the ticket stubs back along with your contribution.

Silent Auction

The last leg of our fundraising activities is the Silent Auction. This has become one of the most enjoyable ways to raise money, and many members and friends of the 11thACVVC have donated numerous quality gifts for this event in the past. Most are collector or one-of-a-kind items and many are 11th Armored Cavalry memorabilia. The auction will be run this year by Director, Rod George (HOW 3/11, '66-'67). You can either bring your item to the Reunion or, for items too large to carry in your car or on the plane, you can ship them in advance to: **Mike Rafferty, Silent Auction, 5504 N. Cypress Ave, Kansas City, MO 64119**

Mike has volunteered to collect all items sent and to bring them to the Reunion Hotel. We thank Mike and appreciate his help in making our program a success. So, start thinking now what you would like to donate. Make sure items are new or "like new" and No "White Elephants" please.

Scholarship Awardees

The Officers, Board of Directors, and the Scholarship Committee have determined that we will be able to award 26 or 27 scholarships this year, again record numbers! The final total will be based on initial returns of the raffle receipts. A number of identified winners are hi-lighted in this issue. Congratulations to all the awardees! It was again difficult to select the best because of so many truly qualified applicants and we encourage those not selected this year to try again. Every year, this one included, a number of awardees are applying for the second or third time, so do not get discouraged. A special thanks to Gene Johnson (E Trp, 2/11, 70-71) who is chairing the program again this year. ALLONS!

MEMORIAL from page 5

include an additional smaller memorial or memorials honoring all Blackhorse Troopers in all campaigns from the Philippine Insurrection in 1902 through Operation Iraq Freedom III in 2006. The Patton Museum curator has recently given verbal approval of the concept. The additional memorial or memorials would follow the same design as other unit memorials at the Patton Museum.

Replacement of the panels on the existing memorial and construction of any proposed new memorials must begin in the next few months. All work would be completed by August 2007. The memorials would then be dedicated during the 22nd annual reunion in Louisville, KY, in September 2007.

Details are still being finalized for several fundraising ideas. We should be able to announce those ideas in the next issue of *Thunder Run*. Each of us knows someone whose name is on the memorial. We're counting on you to support this project.

There have been many memorials dedicated to fallen soldiers, but the 11th ACR memorial truly has a unique history. The memorial is a part of each of us and part of the history of the Regiment. It is important to do all we can to preserve this memorial.

Honoring Fallen Comrades



Major Robbin Hafin (Active Regiment) rode his motorcycle from Ft. Irwin to Washington D.C. to participate in the Memorial Day Rolling Thunder Ride in honor of his fallen comrades, Capt. Stephen W. Frank and Capt. Ralph J. Harting III, who were KIA in Iraq. Major Hafin also participated in the 11th ACVVC's wreath laying ceremony at the apex of the Vietnam Wall in D.C.



Greetings Everyone:

I'm so excited to be writing this letter, this month. Bob bought me a new laptop computer for my birthday this year so I'm trying it out. So, if this all turns out looking a little strange, it's because I haven't figured it all out yet. Just bear with me.

Well, summer has officially hit us here in the Midwest, to include the heat, rain showers and of course "the bugs". Oh well, in a few short months we'll all be complaining again about the cold and the snow. So I say, enjoy this while we have it.

In just a couple of months we will all be heading out to reunion again, this time in Kansas City, Missouri. I get more and more excited as the time gets closer and closer. Bob likens me to a kid on Christmas morning. I just look forward so much to seeing all of our Blackhorse friends and catching up on everybody's lives.

Actually I think Bob is super excited this year too. A friend of ours from when we lived in Kentucky is attending his first 11thACVVC reunion. We just found out, after knowing him for many years, that he was in the 11th in Vietnam and that he was a member of G Troop. Which is the same unit that Bob was in?

Of course at this years reunion we will proudly be presenting our Blackhorse cookbook for purchase. They will be available in the Quartermaster Store. Not only does it contain some wonderful (and different) recipes but it is going to be affordably

And speaking of sending your registration in – Do it soon! The rooms at the hotel seem to be filling quickly but the actual registrations are coming in kind of slow.

priced. So you might want to think about picking up a few extras for your holiday gift giving.

Before I forget, I want to say a *huge* thank you to all who sent in recipes. Your support of this project has been overwhelming. And an even bigger thank you goes to Kathy Tandberg. If it wasn't for her, I'm not sure it would have been finished in time for this year. Her knowledge of writing, the publication industry and her dedication to this project have helped me so much. Kathy, you are truly a friend and I don't know what I would have done without you this year.

Also, thank you to Jackie Snapp. Jackie and her husband have accepted the task of receiving, at their home, the responsibility of having all the books shipped to them. Now that may not seem like a big deal to most of us, but everyone of those books needs to be counted and inspected when they arrive.

They also answered the call, when Bob and I started putting together all the Welcome Packets. I wrote them because they live in KC and I asked if they could

run a few errands for me of things we needed. Their answer? *No problem*, we'll take care of it.

Ladies, I love you both and I will always cherish you as dear, dear friends.

While on the subject of the cookbook, I'm thinking that maybe in a couple of years we might do another one. Perhaps this time it will be all dessert like bars, cookies, candies, cakes, pies and etc (oh the calories). What do you think? Think we could do it? Perhaps we could put in some interesting drinks as well. Food (no pun intended) for thought. Of course, first we have to see how this one sells.

Unfortunately, Rick is not going to be able to join us this year, for our ladies meeting, but hey, maybe next year. So come to the Ladies meeting (and bring a friend) for a mystery meeting. I'm sure we'll have a wonderful, silly, thought provoking, fun time. I've had several requests to play a game that we played a few years ago to help us all get acquainted. Maybe that will happen – and then again maybe it will be something entirely different. You'll just have to attend to find out. I am looking for suggestions for a fund raiser for next year. Any ideas?

Check-in at the reunion this year will go, I hope, smoother than ever before. Bob and I are getting a good head start on everything. I've pretty much been able to keep up with doing all the name tags as the registrations come in. We have had to call a few people because we weren't quite able to read some of the handwriting. So when you send your registration in please, for my sanity, be sure to *print* clearly.

And speaking of sending your registration in – *Do it soon!* The rooms at the hotel seem to be filling quickly but the actual registrations are coming in kind of slow.

Well, everyone that's it for this time. I need to e-mail Kathy and see if we are going to have another article concerning the cookbooks in this edition of the Thunder Run. So I guess I need to e-mail her. See you in September – Hey wait – wasn't that a song in the 60's?

Barb Moreno
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: _____



On Point

When you were in the 'Nam you may have walked point from time to time. You may have done it most of the time. You may have walked point all the time. Actually, not absolutely all the time because that "honor" usually got rotated around so someone else could do it too. No need for just one to get all the glory (just kidding, of course). Naturally, you could have been in Viet Nam and not walked point at all. Cav troopers riding with the great Blackhorse pulled point too - you did it mounted on your iron horse (except when you dismounted, naturally). Whether you were mounted or dismounted, point was point. On the other hand, you may not have ever had to pull point. Maybe you were a cannon cocker doing your share of combat, just not walking (or riding) point through the bush. You may have been in the rear. You may have been a family member or just an interested spectator by way of the TV. Either way, you know what point is. You learned, maybe the hard way, that point is going first, breaking the trail, being exposed to hostile fire first, being responsible for everyone coming behind you, having to have sensitive eyes, ears, nose, and very quiet feet. You had to see the trip wire, hear the crunch of enemy footsteps, and even smell the body odor of nearby Gooks who hadn't bathed lately - a Gook being the enemy who was trying to send you to your ancestors. Most Vietnamese weren't Gooks. They were Vietnamese.

One of my Viet Nam vet buddies picked up the handle "Wild Man." I'll call him Jim for the sake of this conversation. You and I have talked about handles a couple of times already. You'll recollect that many had handles given to them because they fit what kind of soldier he was in the circumstances. This was very common in Viet Nam. Was it common in other wars? I don't know. If you know, tell me - my email is at the bottom. Getting back to Jim "Wild Man," he was so good at walking point with the ground-pounders and terrorizing the enemy that his buddies gave him that handle. Being on point was

A lotta vets I know think they're still on point. For some it's a hold-over from Viet Nam days of walking/riding point. For some it's still a hold-over from Viet Nam days even if they didn't ride point.

not easy. Wild Man was a pro at breaking trail, sensing the presence of the enemy, smelling the Gooks, and all the other things that went with that touchy, dangerous job. He also had to have a strong and accurate sense of everything else in his surroundings. The only alternative was what no one wanted to think about. In my opinion, point men and tunnel rats had two of the most undesirable jobs in the bush. Not that any were desirable, as you would know, having been there.

Being a chaplain I never rode point. When I was riding with my troopers in the bush I rode farther back in the column. I wasn't on point for reasons you can figure out without too much effort. It took a lot of training and experience to ride point and do it right the first time. Usually, the first time was the only chance you got when an ambush or firefight was included in your days experiences. I've told you before about being on the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia with F Troop. The trail was very narrow and the jungle was very thick. Our guys were going along minding their own business which was to find Dinks and shoot them before they shot us, which they would be glad to do. (Dinks were the same as Gooks - enemy who were trying to make you as dead as your ancestors to whom they were trying to send you).

Our platoon came upon a convoy of NVA. I remind you that this jungle trail was only one way. No passing. Our guys were going one way. The NVA were coming the other way. This set up a very bad situation for the NVA because our guys were very alert, well trained, and knew how to ride point. Besides, our point vehicle was a Sheridan which had a 152 mm main gun on a turret. This posed a serious problem for the NVA which was quickly solved by our guys on the Sheridan when

they fired the main gun which hit the point man of the NVA and quickly sent him to join his ancestors. That was very good for our side, as you can easily imagine. So you see that walking or riding point was very important. I say, very, very important.

I think it's kinda cool how things about Viet Nam and other combat experiences can have a direct meaning for our lives today, many years later. A lotta vets I know think they're still on point. For some it's a hold-over from Viet Nam days of walking/riding point. For some it's still a hold-over from Viet Nam days even if they didn't ride point. Point wasn't where all the action was. There was plenty to go around. In some ways we're all walking or riding point throughout our whole life - all of us. When things get tough, when life deals us a tough hand, it's like we're still on point, even if we're just riding around in our pick-up truck with a rifle in the window and a dog in the rear, sitting around Denny's waiting for our fourth cuppa coffee, at work getting or giving much hassle, or just at home crashed on the couch.

I knew a vet a few years ago who was on the edge most of the time. He worked for the Post Office. They called him Crazy Norm (or whatever his real name was). When he was feeling pressured, when he felt like he was walking point again, he'd just tell the boss, "Hey, I'm feeling stressed, like I'm walking point, and I need some time off" - he'd get it). Norm didn't handle his stress too well, but he shows what I'm saying about some of us feeling like we're still out there on point, with the weight of the world on our shoulders walking into an ambush.

There's more to be said about walking or riding point. The fact is that we're all on point in life. Life sometimes is hard to handle. How we wind up depends on how

we handle being on point because that's where we are. I remind you that God is the source of strength we both need when we're out there bustin' the bush of life. Because through faith in the Son of God, Jesus Christ, strength is there to meet whatever being on point brings on us. The apostle Paul was in prison when he wrote this part of the Bible: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:12-13).

These days, when you're out there on point, in whatever comes your way remember the strength that comes from God Almighty through faith in Jesus as your Savior and the Lord of your life. In the part of the Bible we just read, Paul also wrote: "The peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7).

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.

Chaplain Larry Haworth
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627
Livingston, Texas 77399
LEHaworth@aol.com

What's Cookin' with the Blackhorse?

Cookbook Heading to Press

By Kathy Tandberg, co-editor and member of the Ladies of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse

"What's Cookin' with the Blackhorse?"

The Ladies of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse can tell you. The first leg of an important mission has been accomplished! A cookbook filled with recipes gathered from members of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse is headed to the printing press, proving that as always, when the Blackhorse takes on a mission, they lead the charge.

Earlier this year the Ladies called out, asking for your recipes to fill this cookbook. You answered that call and the recipes came pouring in, more than 400. That's 100 more than expected and each recipe will be in the cookbook, making it bigger and better than the Ladies even imagined. Your recipes came in from coast to coast, north to south, every corner of the country.

Inside this wonderful cookbook you will find recipes to satisfy any palate, with old-time family favorites from Grandma's kitchen, to the culinary delights of expert chefs. There are even a few recipes for the family dog or your backyard birds.

"What's Cookin' with the Blackhorse" will be ready and available for purchase just in time for the 21st Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC to be held in Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 20, 2006.

Now that the cookbook is filled with goodies like appetizers and beverages, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, breads and rolls, cookies and candy, desserts and a little of this and that, the second task to complete the mission is on the planning board – buyers are needed. Keep the cookbook in mind as you make your gift lists for the year. The cookbook is an ideal gift for birthdays and holidays and with Christmas and Hanukah just a few months away, the Ladies hope you'll buy several.

Remember mom, sisters, aunts, teachers, the family minister, friends, your boss, the secretary, a new bride, and kids heading off to college as well as the men in the family. They all need to cook and this would be an ideal gift - one that represents the men and women of an organization that is important to all of us.

Continued on page 21

THE 15TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Shoal Creek Golf Course
8905 Shoal Creek Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64157
Phone 1-816-407-7242

Rated top 10 Missouri golf course!

\$69 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 \$69 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by September 1, 2006 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!

15TH 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 651-578-2857 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by September 1, 2006. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of Missouri's best facilities. 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.



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	UNIT	DATES	NAME	UNIT	DATES
Aicklen, Charles F Jr	HHT, 2/11	71-71	Holmes, Leran E	E TRP, 2/11	69-70
Ancker, Clinton J Iii	G TRP, 2/11	71-72	Hoyt, Fred H	HHT, 1/11	68-69
Angle, Rodney L	506th S&S CO	67-68	Jamieson, Robert E	HHT, 1/11 & C TRP, 1/11	70-70
Arnett, Danny L	L TRP, 3/11	67-68	Jewell, Dana B	HHT, 1/11	70-70
Bailey, Alton P	AIR CAV TRP	71-72	Johnson, Raymond E	HHT, 1/11	70-70
Bakle, Walter V	I TRP, 3/11	68-68	Johnson, Robert W	B TRP, 1/11	68-69
Barnes, Wesley C	D CO, 1/11	69-69	Jones, James A	L TRP, 3/11	68-69
Barr, Edward E Jr	G TRP, 2/11	69-70	Jones, Timothy A	HHT, 1/11	69-70
Bathurst, John A	I TRP, 3/11	68-69	Jumper, Bobby J	D CO, 1/11	69-69
Bayley, William C	AIR CAV TRP	68-69	Kaiser, Paul M Jr	K TRP, 3/11	68-68
Baylosis, Joseph	C TRP, 1/11 & HHT, 1/11	67-68	Kaneg, Ronald E	HHT, 3/11 & M CO, 3/11	68-68
Beavers, Jim L	HHT, 3/11	69-69	Kaough, Wilfred	919th ENGR CO	66-67
Benham, John R	AIR CAV TRP	66-68	Klein, Earl J	L TRP, 3/11	67-68
Berg, Steven K	C TRP, 1/11	70-70	Kotzer, James	HOW, 2/11	70-70
Blankenship, Ronald P	398th TRANS	70-70	Krebs, Richard J	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Bloom, Ronald G	B TRP, 1/11	70-70	Kubena, William R	K TRP, 3/11	66-67
Boals, Paul V	G TRP, 2/11 & HHT, REGT	67-68	Kyle, Frederick A	E TRP, 2/11 & HHT, 2/11	69-70
Brinkman, John D	AIR CAV TRP	70-72	Lamkin, Bernard W	L TRP, 3/11	68-69
Brown, Ronald L	HHT, 3/11	68-69	Landt, George	506th S&S CO	67-68
Burnham, Stanley A	I TRP, 3/11	68-68	Laney, Richard H	HOW, 2/11	70-70
Burns, Allan E	HHT, 1/11	70-71	Lang, David L	L TRP, 3/11	67-67
Chandler, Roger A	L TRP, 3/11	67-68	Leighton, Charles S	H CO, 2/11	69-70
Charnoky, Fred P	HHT REGT	66-67	Lessord, Stephen	K TRP, 3/11	67-68
Coffey, Gary L	E TRP, 2/11	70-71	Lewis, Billy G	HHT, 1/11	70-70
Cofield, Austin L	A TRP, 1/11	69-70	List, Kenneth N	G TRP, 2/11 & C TRP, 1/11	70, 66-67
Conti, Carmine	AIR CAV TRP	69-69	Lockerby, David E	D CO, 1/11	70-70
Corbett, David L	HHT REGT	70-70	Lowe, Cardus	K TRP, 3/11	69-71
Daigle, Gilton L	L TRP, 3/11	69-70	Mahoney, Norman P	HHT, 2/11	69-70
Divincenzo, Gary A	AIR CAV TRP	66-67	Malick, Kenneth C	HHT, 1/11	68-68
Dixon, Stephen L	409th RRD	69-71	Manning, James T	HOW, 2/11	66-67
Doswell, Clifford L	2/11	68-68	Martin, Don Jr	HHT, 2/11	67-68
Drabek, Anthony J	AIR CAV TRP & HHT, REGT	67-68	Martin, Stanley B	HOW, 3/11	70-70
Dufford, Steven A	A TRP, 1/11 & HHT, 1/11	69-70	Masters, John W	I TRP, 3/11	70-70
Durham, Charlie T	HHT, 2/11	67-69	Mcdaniel, James	HOW, 3/11	66-67
Easterday, Arthur C	G TRP, 2/11	70-71	Mears, Roy A	HHT REGT	69-69
Elligan, Richard L	HHT REGT	70-70	Molstad, Steven G	G TRP, 2/11	70-71
Endres, Douglas G	K TRP, 3/11	66-67	Monaghan, John P	A TRP, 1/11	66-67
Fairchild, Joseph J	K TRP, 3/11	67-68	Moudry, James O	K TRP, 3/11	69-70
Farfel, Douglas W	HHT, 2/11	69-70	Mutchler, Charles L	I TRP, 3/11	69-70
Farrant, Marcus C Iii	C TRP, 1/11	68-68	Myers, Dennis L	HHT, 3/11	71-71
Fernandez, Alfredo Jr	HHT, 2/11	70-70	Narum, Larry M	HHT REGT	70-71
Fernstrom, Carl	HHT REGT	67-68	Nash, Steven A	L TRP, 3/11	69-70
Fertig, Gerald M	F TRP, 2/11	68-68	Nicholson, Clyde E	L TRP, 3/11 & I TRP, 3/11	65,66-67
Ficek, Eugene G	409th RRD	66-67	Norris, Danny L	G TRP, 2/11 & HHT, 2/11	70-71
Finch, William J	HHT, 1/11	68-68	Norton, Gerald M	I TRP, 3/11	67-69
Foley, Paul P	HHT, 2/11	71-72	Noyes, Peter M	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Followay, Richard G	F TRP, 2/11	67-68	O'Connell, David L	HHT, 2/11	71-72
Funk, Robert L	AIR CAV TRP	67-67	O'Rourke, Alfred A	E TRP, 2/11	68-69
Gelsomin, James V	AIR CAV TRP	69-70	Parks, Tommy J	HHT, 1/11	68-70
Glaser, Barry	HHT, 2/11	71-71	Paschke, David R	A TRP, 1/11	70-70
Goewey, Dennis L	HHT, 1/11	66-67	Peterson, Jon H	91ST FINANCE	67-68
Gorland, Ronald K	L TRP, 3/11	68-68	Pickering, Charles R	HHT, 2/11	68-68
Graney, Paul M	F TRP, 2/11 & G TRP, 2/11	71-71	Pickhardt, Paul G	C TRP, 1/11	67-68
Hahn, Michael R	G TRP, 2/11	68-69	Pizzulo, James B	F TRP, 2/11	65-67
Hall, David A	L TRP, 3/11 & G TRP, 2/11	70-71	Poore, Jerry L	HHT, 2/11	67-68
Halloran, Daniel T	HOW, 1/11	68-69	Purvis, Terry W	HOW, 1/11	70-70
Hansen, Paul D	AIR CAV TRP	71-71	Rankin, Robert E	G TRP, 2/11	71-71
Harrop, James	E TRP, 2/11	71-71	Reilly, Bernard J	919th ENGR CO	68-69
Haskett, William M	F TRP, 2/11 & H CO, 2/11	69-70, 68	Rhodes, Stephen M	HOW, 3/11	70-71
Haubrich, Robert W	H CO, 2/11	67-68	Ricciardelli, Michael A	HHT REGT	66-67
Heisey, Phillip J	HOW, 1/11	70-70	Rice, Robert E	HHT, 2/11	67-68
Hender, Raymond A Jr	E TRP, 2/11	68-68	Roberta, James R	K TRP, 3/11	70-70
Hoffman, Kenneth L	G TRP, 2/11	68-69	Robertson, Elmer L Jr	HHT, 1/11	69-69

NAME	UNIT	DATES	NAME	UNIT	DATES
Rogers, Larry K	K TRP, 3/11	69-70	Thompson, Richard E	HHT, 2/11	69-70
Rose, Danny L	AIR CAV TRP	68-69	Thompson, Robert W	B TRP, 1/11	69-70
Rushing, Bernis D	M CO, 3/11	70-71	Todd, Charles	I TRP, 3/11	66-67
Saldana, Edelmiro	L TRP, 3/11	66-67	Todd, Richard T	AIR CAV TRP	68-69
Scharpf, Francis R	A TRP, 1/11 & HHT, 1/11	67-68	Transue, Jimmie W	F TRP, 2/11	69-69
Schmidt, Dennis D	G TRP, 2/11	71-71	Tredway, Robert N	AIR CAV TRP	66-67
Schumacher, Robert J	I TRP, 3/11	66-67	Trentman, Harry J	HOW, 1/11	69-69
Shelburne, John W Sr	K TRP, 3/11	68-69	Tyler, Gregory A	G TRP, 2/11	67-68
Simers, James G	G TRP, 2/11	69-70	Vanert, William J	HHT, 3/11	69-70
Slack, Ronald V	919th ENGR CO	71-72	Walker, Kenneth N	HHT REGT	70-71
Slaughter, Billy J	919th ENGR CO	67-68	Walters, Roy R	HHT, 1/11	69-70
Slayton, Alvin W	G TRP, 2/11	68-69	Weasenforth, Daniel L	C TRP, 1/11	69-70
Smith, Robert W	F TRP, 2/11	67-68	Webb, Kenneth W	L TRP, 3/11	69-70
Speelmon, Douglas M	E TRP, 2/11	68-68	Weber, Dale D	AIR CAV TRP & HHT, 1/11	68-69
Staffieri, Eustacchio	F TRP, 2/11	72-72	Westedt, Craig W	B TRP, 1/11	69-70
Stevens, Billy	L TRP, 3/11	66-67	Westry, Oliver B	HHT, REGT	66-67
Stines, Tommy C	HOW, 3/11	67-68	Wharton, Claude A	HHT, 2/11	71-72
Strehlow, Roy A	I TRP, 3/11	70-70	Willis, Lorenzo	G TRP, 2/11	69-69
Suminski, Raymond W	HOW, 1/11	69-69	Wilson, Arnold B	HHT, 1/11	70-70
Summers, Carl C	HOW, 2/11	71-72	Wolschleger, Gordon P	C TRP, 1/11	67-68
Swanson, Howard E Jr	L TRP, 3/11	66-67	Yahola, John R	B TRP, 1/11	69-70
Tavares, Michael D	M CO, 3/11	68-69	Young, Robert K	HHT, 2/11	68-69
Tear, Raymond	C TRP, 1/11	67-67			

MARCH from page 9

Ranger School left me sweating and my heart pounding. There was nothing in the world that would get me back there.

But a few months before my sixtieth birthday, I looked up and realized I was no longer a young man. I studied my life critically, accepting that, all in all, the years since Ranger School and my proud tour with the 11th Cavalry in Vietnam had been fulfilling and positive. I wondered if the lessons I'd learned during those disagreeable interludes, now just blips on the radarscope, had actually been instrumental in my achievement. And if they were, why not tell others? I decided to recount to the people of this nation we love, a country once again cleaving over a tragic war, that military service is not about the squandering of three years of a young person's life, but a venue in which the overwhelming majority of those who participate come away with life skills no university or job could ever dream of offering.

And so I awoke that day nearing my sixtieth, not with the mind set of a medical doctor, but of a proud soldier who wasn't quite done. I decided that going back to Ranger School, while impossible, was to be the next step in my life. I had kept myself in excellent physical condition, another priceless lesson of my military experience, and felt I could meet the demands of tagging along at Fort Benning for the first three weeks of the course. I did not know at the time, however, that as hard as I had tried to avoid Ranger School nearly forty years before, I would fight infinitely harder to be allowed to return.

Again I petitioned friends. This time I called former junior officers with whom I had served. They were now senior generals, the best men I know, but first and last, pragmatists. Despite my outlay for medical and psychiatric studies that attested to my physical and mental competence, the answer from the Pentagon came back negative each time. I had my entire family sign hold-harmless documents prepared by a prominent, and expensive, lawyer in Seattle. No soap.

As one of my friends at the Pentagon eventually e-mailed, "Bill,

let me put it to you this way - they're afraid you're gonna drop dead."

Now, almost 62, it was time to accept that the two years of dealing with the Pentagon were again just blips on the radarscope. For several hours, I gave thought to quitting. But then my daughter, a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, told me she was surprised that I had given up so easily. She quoted one of her naval heroes, "If there isn't a way, make one."

And so, I created one. On 20 Oct 06, I will set out on a "Ranger - Blackhorse Trek," a march that will retrace my steps of 1968, when I endured Ranger School. Just as in that none-too-agreeable, but priceless, experience, I will eat only what I carry on my back from the outset. I vow not to buy or accept anything but fluids. This means I will have to start off lugging seventy pounds, all the food, toiletries, batteries, uniforms, and shoes I will need as I make my way south, nearly 500 miles on foot, from the Ranger Mountain Training Camp at Dahlonga, Georgia, to the main Ranger training facility at Fort Benning, Georgia, and then on to the Ranger Jungle Training facility at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. I plan to arrive at Eglin on Veterans Day. I also vow to donate 100% of the money raised to Ranger and 11thACVVC Scholarship funds.

I am scheduled to speak at public schools along the route. I look forward to reminding our children that military training and service to our country is not an end in itself, but a journey along which young people develop personal pride and a perception of honor and dignity, all crucial life skills.

I will keep you informed. Please e-mail me with any thoughts or wisdom, or if we knew each other in the Cavalry. To catch up with old troopers would be a priceless added benefit of the march.

*Bill Gould, '68-'69
Regimental HHQ Troop XO
1st Squadron S-5 -
Holiday Inn Night Defensive Position
wsgouldmd@aol.com*



11thACVVC Reunion XXI Kansas City, MO

Thursday, September 21 thru Sunday, September 24th, 2006



By the time you receive this issue of "Thunder Run", the 21st Annual 11thACVVC Reunion will be less than two months away. If you have not made your Hotel Reservations and sent in your Reunion Registration Form, *now is the time!* Hotel Reservations are running ahead of schedule and more than 300 rooms have already been booked for Friday and Saturday nights. We have added extra rooms to our block, but the reunion hotel has other groups in house in addition to ours and cannot guarantee more rooms at the discounted rate.

Tours are listed in this issue of "Thunder Run" and on our web site: www.11thcavnam.com. **You must deal directly with the tour company** for reservations. We have tried to have a good selection of tours and are sure that you should be able find something for everyone. There will also be activities at the hotel if you are not interested in side trips with the tour company.

The numbers listed below for this year's reunion in Kansas City, MO are for your convenience. The Hyatt telephone number that I posted in a previous Thunder Run was wrong, my apologies. These are the correct numbers, I promise. Although the rental car and airline are offering a discount off regular prices, you often can do better by going on line to a travel site or directly to these or other carriers.

Hyatt Regency Crown Center
2345 McGee Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

Avis Car Rental
AWD J996875 (discount code)
Call Toll Free 1-800-331-1600
Call Direct 1-816-421-1234

American Airlines
A9396AC (discount code)
Toll Free 1-800-433 1790

We are expecting a very good turnout for this reunion. It has been two years in the planning. Barb and Bob Moreno are hard at work on the registrations as usual, and we are confident that aspect will go

without a hitch. As you know the Moreno's have this down to a science they are truly dedicated to getting you in, welcomed and registered quickly. We owe them a special *thank you* for their efforts.

Quartermaster will have a fine array of goods to purchase. Remember it's never too early for Christmas Shopping

We have some very special guests for our Banquet and we will honor them in a true "BLACKHORSE" style.

We will conduct our Annual Memorial Service on Saturday. We have a beautiful site nearby but weather will dictate its use. In case of inclement weather, the Service will be conducted in the hotel.

The Veterans Seminar will be on Friday, the Membership Meeting as well as the ever growing Women's Meeting will be held on Saturday. At this reunion you will be voting on the site for the 2008 reunion. At this time we have two sites to be presented. Information on these locales will be available at a later date.

We will also have our non-denominational Chapel Service on Sunday. A special thank you to our Chaplain, Larry Haworth.

The ever popular Silent Auction will once again be held with a preview on Friday and final bidding just before the banquet on Saturday evening. Your generosity has helped many 11thACVVC families make college more affordable. We again look forward to the unique and valuable donations. The members make this happen.

We have planned a very full weekend and still managed to leave free time to visit the local attractions, restaurants, and clubs which feature the famous Kansas City cuisine.

The Bunker will be open at convenient times as a gathering place to meet and reminisce with our old friends and Comrades-in-Arms.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Steve Page
Reunion Committee Chairman

2006 CALENDAR SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The 11th ACVVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge these generous donations to the Scholarship Fund. Donations listed are through July 1, 2006. We will publish donations received after that in a later issue

Gold Level Donors

Donations from \$100 to \$499

Richard A. Maloan, Jr.
Gene & Darlene Mourglea
Daniel & Shirley Mulcahey
Robert & Paula Rawson
Bruce Sinclair

Silver Level Donors

Donations from \$50 to \$99

Thomas & Euleta Carr
Jonathan E. Kerrick
David Bowman
Kenneth & Donna Garren
Thomas A. Godfrey

Bronze Level Donors

Donations from \$1 to \$49

Jerry & Alice Andrews
Eugene & Mattie Hallman
David A. Van Horn
Danny & Lillian Jo Wilderson
Frederic & Angelita Arana
Dennis & Carol Steele
Michael P. Jokinen
Robert A. Kaiser
Paul J. A. Lehnard
Terry & Kathy Mathias
Daniel T. Moeller
Charles & Mary Pennington
Charles J. Phillips
Phillip & Kathy Stephens
Carl Summers
Jose M. Vela, Jr.

Other Donations

Gold Level Donors

Donations from \$100-\$499

Robert Macon

Silver Level

Donations from \$50-\$99

Ronald Brown
Pete Cofield
Bryan Cupp
Clifford Doswell
Fred Hoyt
George Landt
Henry Price
Stephen Rhodes

Bronze Level

Donations from \$1-\$49

Eugene Collins
Righard Elligan
Dale Frank
Doyle Gonzales
William Kubena
Don Martin
Stanley Martin
David O'Connell
James Pizzulo
Harold Reinick
James Rogers
James Simmers
Raymond Suminski
Oliver Westry

REGISTRATION FORM



11thACVVC Reunion XXI Kansas City, MO
Thursday, September 21 thru Sunday, September 24th, 2006



Registration fees are \$68.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled program events including Thursday and Friday Bunker Parties and Saturday Banquet dinner. **The registration fee will be an additional \$10.00 to above price for registrations received after August 27th, 2006**

Please Print All Information:

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Unit Assignment: _____ Years in Country _____

list only **one** Troop/Company (ie B Troop 66/1967 or H Co 69/70)

(This will be your seating assignment for the Saturday night banquet dinner)

Attendees

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee): ___ Chicken ___ Beef ___ Veggie

Special dietary needs: Yes No Please indicate needs: _____

Wheelchair requirements: Yes No Is this your first reunion Yes No

Send check/money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to: 11 ACVVC REUNION XXI, or complete information below for Visa or MasterCard.

Visa MasterCard (Check one) Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature (Required) _____

Mail To:

11 ACVVC Reunion XXI
c/o Ollie Pickral
571 Ditchley Rd.
Kilmarnock, VA 22482



11thACVVC Reunion XXI Kansas City, MO

Thursday, September 21 thru Sunday, September 24th, 2006



OPTIONAL TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

GENERAL INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Participant Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Phone: (____) _____ Fax Number: (____) _____ Email Address: _____

TOUR INFORMATION

RESERVATION FORMS INCLUDING PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY September 1, 2006

Thurs., September 21, 2006

9:30 am – 2:30 pm	A Day With The President w/lunch (#1)	\$53.00 X _____ = _____
10:00 am – 12:30 pm	American Jazz/Negro Leagues Baseball Museums (#2)	\$32.00 X _____ = _____
10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Arabia Steamboat Museum (#3)	\$37.00 X _____ = _____

Fri., September 22, 2006

8:30 am – 12:00 noon	Harley Davidson Plant (#4)	\$27.00 X _____ = _____
10:30 am - 2:00 pm	Harley Davidson Plant (#5)	\$27.00 X _____ = _____
9:00 am - 3:00 pm	Ft. Leavenworth Tour w/lunch in Weston (#6)	\$53.00 X _____ = _____
11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Country Club Plaza Shopping (#7)	\$27.00 X _____ = _____

See website www.11thcavnam.com for tour descriptions

Total Amount Enclosed = \$ _____

PICK-UP OF TICKETS

Your tickets will not be mailed to you but will be included in your registration packet.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Tours are under the professional guidance of Blue Ribbon Arrangements & Tours. The listed tour descriptions are representative of the tenor of the tour. Blue Ribbon reserves the right to alter the order in which sites are visited and provide equitable substitutions when necessary as well as to cancel a tour if a minimum number is not met or if an attraction becomes unavailable for reasons beyond its control. Pre-registration is advised because a decision to cancel low-enrollment tours will be made by August 21, 2006. In the event a tour is cancelled you will receive a full refund by mail. There will be no other exchanges or refunds.

TOUR DEPARTURE INFORMATION

All tours will depart from the Lobby at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Please arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time to allow for boarding. Tours depart on time. There are no refunds for missed tours.

PAYMENT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

MASTERCARD VISA MONEY ORDER CHECK (payment enclosed)

CREDIT CARD# _____ Exp.Date: _____

I authorize Blue Ribbon Arrangements & Tours, Inc., to charge my credit card as indicated for these tickets.

NAME OF CARDHOLDER: _____ SIGNATURE: _____

**PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO: Blue Ribbon Arrangements & Tours, 5200 W. 94th Terr., Ste. 109, Prairie Village, KS 66207
 Phone 913.649.5111/Fax 913.649.3111**

LIABILITY WAIVER

I/we agree and acknowledge that I/we are undertaking such participation in tours, events and activities of my/our own free will and intentional act and I/we are aware that possible physical injury might occur to me/us as a result of my participation in these tours, events and activities. I/we give this acknowledgement freely and knowingly and certify that I/we are, as a result, able to participate in these tours, events and activities and do hereby assume responsibility for my/our own well-being. I/we also agree not to allow any other individual to participate in my/our place(s).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

The Veterans D.I.C. Survivor Benefit

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Are you familiar with the VA Survivor Benefits to which your spouse may be entitled? This article will focus on just one of those survivor benefits: **D**ependency and **I**ndemnity **C**ompensation (DIC). For an easy to follow summary chart of the various VA Survivor Benefits and applications for Surviving Spouses, please see webpage <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/spouse.htm>.

As a professional financial advisor for 32 years, I have become naturally inclined to evaluate estate, retirement, and survivor financial planning issues as I encounter them. During numerous discussions with our members regarding survivor benefits, I concluded that...

[1] Most but not all members understand that their Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability benefits will cease at their death.

[2] Most members *do not know* that their spouses *may* be able to receive a \$1,033 monthly income for life (adjusted for inflation) when a veteran dies who was rated as 100% disabled by the VA at time of death. This valuable survivor benefit could dramatically affect your widow's lifestyle, and may assist you in your estate and survivor financial planning for your family.

.....
The following is an unofficial abbreviated summary. The examples given are hypothetical. Your situation would be different. You should not make any decisions based upon the content of this unofficial summary. You should seek proper consultation from an authorized VA representative or your attorney before making financial planning decisions incorporating your eligibility for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

What Is DIC Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of...

- A Military service member who died while on active duty, OR
- A Veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- A Veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling (100% rating) 10 years immediately before death.

Examples for item # 2 above for death resulting from a service-related injury or disease may include death from a disease confirmed by the VA to be caused by Agent Orange exposure and even death from PTSD-related heart disease.

Many more Blackhorse veterans may qualify for DIC benefits under item # 3 above. *DIC survivor benefits may be paid for death resulting from a non service-related condition if the veteran was rated by the VA as totally disabled for at least 10 years immediately before death.*

Hypothetical Examples:

Qualified: Veteran dies in a motorcycle accident in 2007. The Veteran has been rated 100% disabled by the VA for PTSD since 1995. His eligible surviving spouse *COULD receive DIC* for this non service-

related accidental death because he was rated 100% disabled by the VA for at least 10 years immediately before death.

Non-Qualified: Veteran dies from a non service-related medical disorder in 2006. The Veteran has been rated 70% disabled by the VA for a combination of service-related hearing loss and PTSD since 1990. His eligible surviving spouse *could NOT receive DIC* for this non service-related death because he was rated less than 100% disabled by the VA

Non-Qualified: Veteran dies from a non service-related heart attack in 2006. The Veteran has been rated 100% disabled by the VA for a combination of service-related factors including back injury, hearing loss, and PTSD since 1990. His eligible surviving spouse *COULD receive DIC* for this non service-related death because he was rated 100% disabled by the VA for more than 10 years immediately before death.

Non-Qualified: Veteran dies from lung cancer in 2010. The Veteran has been rated 100% disabled by the VA for a combination of service-related factors including PTSD and combat wounds from Vietnam since he applied in 2003 (7 years total). His eligible surviving spouse *could NOT receive DIC* for this non service-related death because he was rated 100% disabled by the VA less than 10 years immediately before death.

Non-Qualified: Veteran dies from a heart attack in 2010. The Veteran was rated 100% disabled by the VA for a combination of service-related factors including PTSD-related heart disease* since 2006 (4 years). His eligible surviving spouse *COULD receive DIC* for this service-related death.

***Note:** "An evaluation of 100 percent disabling PTSD is assigned whenever there is evidence of total occupational and social impairment, due to symptoms of social isolation, increased anxiety and associated angina, anger, and depressed mood."

Who is Eligible to Receive DIC?

The **surviving spouse** if he or she:

- Was married to a service member who died on active duty, OR
- Married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- Was married to the veteran for at least one year, OR
- Had a child with the veteran, AND
- Cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- Is not currently remarried. *

***Note:** A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

- Certain surviving child(ren) may also qualify.

How Much Does the VA Pay for DIC*?

The **basic rate of DIC for 2006 is \$1,033 monthly** (\$12,396 annual) for an eligible surviving spouse. The rate is increased for each dependent child. Benefit rate tables can be found on the Internet at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates>, or call toll-free 1-800-827-1000.

***Note:** If the Veteran is retired from the military and has elected to pay into the SBP Survivor Benefit Plan, the surviving spouse is subject

to reduction or discontinuance of the SBP survivor annuity if the spouse becomes eligible for DIC. Basically, the spouse may receive only the greater benefit of either the DIC or the SBP.

How Should a Claimant Apply?

Claimants should complete VA Form 21-534 (Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child), and submit it to the VA regional office serving the claimant's area. Call 1-800-827-1000 for information about supporting materials that the VA may need to process a DIC claim. Visit VA's Web Site at www.va.gov.

I believe that scores, or perhaps hundreds, of 11ACVVC members would qualify for well deserved VA disability ratings and compensation if they would just apply today. Specifically, I know without a shadow of personal doubt that several of my close Vietnam veteran friends have moderate to severe cases of PTSD... and they have not filed for their well-deserved VA disability benefits.

Some of them do not believe they have PTSD symptoms, even though their friends and family believe they do. Perhaps a few guys have not applied because they felt like the benefits are "charity." The benefits are not charity in any definition or form! They are bona fide deserved benefits that are earned by veterans for enduring the risks and hardships associated with serving in the armed forces of the USA.

And some have not applied because they had frustrating experiences with the VA 30 years ago and decided to never go there again. I was one of those guys until 2002.

A cardiac condition that turned out to be service connected just about killed me in 2002, and pointed me to the VA after months of superb treatment therapy by two civilian hospitals. What a pleasant surprise I had from the VA when I finally made contact there. A compassionate Veterans Service Officer (VSO) assisted me with the paperwork, helped me obtain medical information, and all went smoothly. Fortunately, my VSO helped me with most of the paperwork each step of the way.

After a few months I was given a 30% rating by the VA. Over the next few months, the VA gave me a series of medical exams and my rating was increased each time. During my various appointments with the VA, I encountered only a few VA hospital personnel who were impatient, cold, or seemingly incompetent. I would say that 80% of the people I encountered at the VA were quite pleasant and helpful.

There are hundreds of our members who could qualify for higher VA disability ratings if they took the time and used one of the many VA advocates or VSOs to assist them in their claims filing. Don't try to do it yourself!

Many problems from our service in Vietnam are exacerbated with our natural aging process. Hearing loss, back injuries, combat wounds, PTSD, Agent Orange, and numerous other ailments bother us more at age 60 than they did at age 25 or 30. I hope that the knowledge of the potential DIC benefit for your future widows may be an added incentive for some of our members to follow through on the disability rating application process with the VA.



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..

John L. Childress, who served in I Troop (1966-1967), passed away on June 9, 2006. John was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in La Vergne, TN.

Terrence (Terry) L. Hodge, who served in Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1969-1970), passed away on May 2, 2006. Terry was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Galesburg, IL.

Doyle E. Lucas, who served in M Co, 3/11 (1967) passed away June 26, 2006. Doyle was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Prescott, AR

Cleo P. Odom, who served in HHT 1/11 (1969) and B Troop (1969), passed away on May 13, 2006. Odom was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pensacola, FL.

George W. Powers, who served as a platoon leader in L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968), passed away on June 11, 2006. George was a Life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lorida, FL.

Robert L. Thompson, who served in HHT, 1/11 (1968-1969), passed away on June 20, 2005. Robert was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Superior, WI.

Robert D. Thompson, who served in C Troop, 1/11 (1966) and HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967), passed away on June 9, 2006. Robert was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Mullica Hill, NJ.

Donald W. True, who served in F Troop, 2/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 5, 2006. Donald was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Vancouver, WA.

TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



M-8 Stuart #007 that 2/11 found in jungle surrounding Blackhorse by a construction detail. It was restored by HHT, 2/11 mechanics. Picture from Dale Newcomb (G Troop, 2/11, 66-67)



10 July 2006

Blackhorse Veterans;

The Troopers of our great Regiment continue to distinguish themselves in the finest traditions of the Blackhorse here in the hot and dusty Mohave Desert. We are now settled back in at Fort Irwin and fully involved in our dual missions to maintain combat readiness and train America's Army to fight and win.

First, Command Sergeant Major Pring and I would like to thank Blackhorse veterans world wide again for your remarkable support to the Regiment. In particular, your contributions and presence made our March 2006 welcome home weekend all the more meaningful. You guys are amazing!

The Blackhorse has completely returned to the desert and our training mission. The Eaglehorse team led the charge, transitioning with our Blackhorse brothers from the 1/221 Cavalry (Nevada National Guard) a mere 90 days after our return from combat. I can assure you this was no small feat to begin execution of a demanding collective mission so soon after redeployment from Iraq. As always, our Soldiers and NCO's made it look easy. The Regiment has immediately used our recent combat experience to build upon the great job that 1/221 Cav and the Regimental Support Squadron did in our absence in an effort to continue to improve the realism of the NTC battlefield. As you know, our training mission is vital to ensuring the Army is prepared for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Among the many changes since our return from Iraq is the recent decision by the Army to convert the Regiment to a Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT) MTOE. As an HBCT, the Regiment will be composed of units from both the active component and reserve components of our Army. During our transition we will grow in size as we gain additional capabilities and most importantly, we will retain the colors of the 11th ACR. We are still working detailed plans for the transition and expect it to occur over the next several years.

Time sure flies when you are serving with the "Best damned Regiment you will ever see!" Many of the senior leaders of the Regiment are changing this summer. On the 13th of June, LTC Tim Renshaw assumed command of 1st Squadron replacing LTC Jim

Those of us who have had the privilege to wear the famed Blackhorse patch know the unbelievable sense of pride that comes with being called a Blackhorse Trooper; there is no greater compliment.

Blackburn who remains at NTC and assumes duty as the senior Brigade Trainer in Operations Group. Tim is joined by newly arrived CSM Edd Watson, who comes to us from 3/7 Cav in the 3rd ID. LTC Frank Wenzel also gave up command of the RSS on 13 June as he heads over to Operations Group as the Senior Logistics Trainer at NTC. LTC Brent Barnes will arrive from Germany and assume command of the RSS on 29 August. On 14 July, LTC Bill Simril ends his three year command tour and turns over command of 2nd Squadron to LTC Chuck Hensley.

On the 1st of August, I will turn the reins over to Colonel Mark Calvert, who will

assume command of the Blackhorse as the 62nd Colonel. My ride with the Blackhorse has been the most profoundly rewarding experience of my career. I am honored and humbled to have served amongst such great Troopers, families and veterans. Those of us who have had the privilege to wear the famed Blackhorse patch know the unbelievable sense of pride that comes with being called a Blackhorse Trooper; there is no greater compliment. I am incredibly proud to serve with these warriors answering the call to fight those who threaten our way of life. I stand in awe of their daily service and sacrifice on behalf of our Army and our Nation.

As I ride off for duty at Fort Monroe Virginia, I ask for your continued support to our Troopers and our great Regiment. We would love to host you any time you are in the area.

ALLONS! ALLONS! THE PRIDE OF THE CAVALRY. THE BEST DAMN REGIMENT THAT YOU WILL EVER SEE!

*Peter C. Bayer Jr.
61st Colonel*

COOKBOOK from page 13

"What's Cookin' with the Blackhorse" will be ready and available for purchase just in time for the 21st Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC to be held in Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 20, 2006. Come with your shopping list ready because the Ladies will be offering a cash-and-carry special to introduce the first ever Blackhorse cookbook.

The cookbook is the first major project the Ladies have taken on. Work on the cookbook began last fall as an idea the Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator, had tucked away years before. Barb thought the cookbook would be a good way for the women's group to show their support to the cause that the men's group supports each year. A way to show their respect for all the "our heroes" have done and are continuing to do. "It has been a very gratifying feeling to see what began as just an idea stemming from a love of cooking, become a reality. The outpouring of love from all who contributed to this book is so overwhelming" said Barb. Profits from the book will be given to the scholar-

ship fund and the troopers' assistance fund, with a small percentage remaining with the women's group for future projects.

A big "Thank You" goes out to each and every one of you that sent in their recipes. This mission couldn't have been accomplished without you. It also wouldn't have happened without the assistance of Charles L. Schmidt, President, 11th ACVVC and the Board of Directors. The Ladies express their greatest gratitude to them as well.

For those who won't be able to attend the reunion in Kansas City, cookbooks will also be available after September through the mail.

For further information on this, contact Barb Moreno "Blackhorse Cookbook", 24284 Endeavor Ave., Tomah, WI 54660. Or email her at puppytoes@charter.net or blm51@charter.net with "Blackhorse Cookbook" in the subject line. In the meantime, help the Ladies accomplish this mission and buy this wonderful first ever 11th ACVVC Blackhorse cookbook.



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all of our “Blackhorse” family. I hope everyone had a nice 4th of July celebration. We are staying really busy with all the orders steadily coming in. Thanks so much and keep those orders coming. I encourage you to check out our Quartermaster page. I have worked hard to ensure items are restocked and updated, and am currently getting ready for the reunion. My Wife and I are really looking forward to putting faces to the names we see often on our order sheets. There will be a short period as I pack up to ship the inventory to Kansas City when orders will not be able to be filled, so if you desire shipment by the first week in September, order early. The Store will be down for about three weeks to be able to serve the reunion attendees. We

apologize to those Troopers who wanted to get one of the ACAV, M106 mortar, or M48 tank models. They are out of stock, and we will probably not be able to get any more unless the manufacturer, Gorgi, decides to recast and build more units. We still have a few clearance items to include the 15 oz beer mugs that were uniquely designed for the Colorado Springs XX Anniversary Reunion last year. **All the clearance items, once gone, will not be reordered**, so if you desire any of this merchandise, we recommend you order soon. We have had a lot of requests for the ceramic coffee mugs. They will be available at the Reunion. Please do not order any more Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tattoos as we are not stocking them any more. Hope to see you all there!!! Allons

QUARTERMASTER NEW & CLEARANCE ITEMS

The 11th ACVVC Quartermaster Store has two items to add to its “New Items” as well as continued items at reduced clearance prices. The newest items are the books “Into Cambodia” and “Vietnam Tracks”.

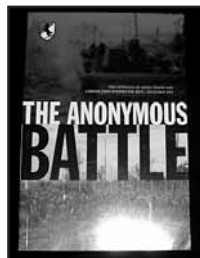
Clearance items include 12 oz. clear glass, faceted beer mugs with a convenient handle and etched Blackhorse patch “11th ACVVC” and “ALLONS” on one side and a mountain scene and “Colorado Springs, CO” Twentieth Anniversary and the dates 1986 & 2005 on the reverse.

The Quartermaster also has shirts from past reunions up for clearance at an attractive price. Shirts of limited sizes for the 2001 Reunion in Wash, DC, the 2002 Nashville, TN, and the 2003 Eugene, OR, are available. Limited numbers of Reunion pins from Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Eugene, Daytona and Colorado Springs are also available. Most items can be viewed and purchased at www.11thcavnam.com as well.

NEW QM ITEMS



Book “Fiddlers Green” by Jack Stoddard — \$16.00 (C)



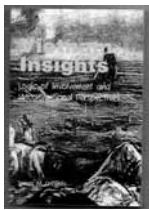
Book “The Anonymous Battle” by John Poindexter — \$12.00 (C)



Magnetic “Support Our Troops” Ribbon — \$4.00 (A)
“Support Our Troops” Lapel Pin — \$3.00 (A)

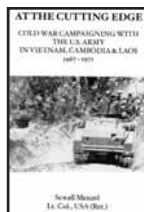


Magnetic “Blackhorse” — \$5.00 (A)

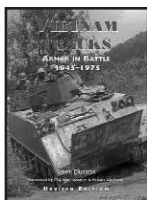


• Book, “Vietnam Insights” by James Griffiths — \$10.00 (C)

• Book, “At The Cutting Edge” by Sewall Menzel — \$20.00 (C)



• Book “Vietnam Tracks” \$26.95 (C)



• Book, “Into Cambodia” by Keith Nolan \$23.00 (C)

Photo not available

QM CLEARANCE ITEMS



Beer Mug — \$5.00 each or 4 for \$18.00 (C)

• Golf Shirts (B) Originally \$30.00 — Sale \$20.00

Photo not available, see web site; Specify reunion, (e.g. Eugene, etc.), color, (e.g. Red, etc), and size (e.g. XX large, etc.) See note below for availability.

Availability of Shirts: 2001, Washington, D.C. —Red; 2 Medium, 14 X-large, 22 XX-Large, 26 XXX-Large. White; 23 XX-Large, 25 XXX-Large. 2002 Nashville, TN—Red; 4 XX-Large, 4 XXX-Large. White; 5 Medium, 3 XX-Large, 5 XXX-Large. 2003 Eugene, OR—Red; 2 Small, 8 Medium, 12 Large, 8 X-Large, 11 XX-Large, 9 XXX-Large. White; 2 Small, 10 Medium, 6 Large, 12 X-Large, 1 XX-Large, 10 XXX-Large. Green; 3 XXX-Large.”

• Reunion Pins (A) Originally \$1.00ea — Sale \$.50ea

(Photos not available, see web site; (Specify Reunion, e.g. Eugene, etc.)

NOTE: ADD SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES: CODE (A) ITEMS = \$3.00; CODE (B) = \$5.00; CODE (C) = \$7.50 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order so make it worthwhile and order multiple items for a single shipping)



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00			
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia	B	10.00			
Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00			
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00			
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00			
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00			
Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Lary Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00			
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued	B	4.00			
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00			
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	20.00			
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00			
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00			
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00			
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	6.00			
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00			
Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00			
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	4.00			
Pin, "Xuan Loc"	A	4.00			
Pin, "Quan Loi"	A	4.00			
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav"	A	4.00			
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00			
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	80.00			
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00			
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	275.00			
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD	A	30.00			
Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00			
Book, "At The Cutting Edge" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00			
Book, "Vietnam Tracks"	C	26.95			
Book, "Into Cambodia" by Kieth Nolan	C	23.00			
Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00			
Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00			
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	16.00			
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	B	20.00			
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	25.00			
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			
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	B	20.00			
Windbreaker, white w/snap front, crossed sabers w/11BH patch logo, VN Ribbon, Vietnam 66-72 on left breast. Sizes: Small thru 3X available	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 = \$5.00 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order); C items = \$7.50

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 \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 12/30/06. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**

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 ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

☆☆☆ **Membership is Our Strength** ☆☆☆
It's not the price you pay to belong,
It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



Thunder Run
13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800

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