



# BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

## 2nd Squadron, 1st Armored Cavalry Assn

### JULY 2008

#### **DON'T GIVE UP!** ... Dennis Scott

During my conversations with some of you these past few weeks, we have almost always touched on the cost of gas and other rising prices that might lead you to make a decision against attending this reunion. It kinda reminds me of that charge card commercial. You know the one (adapted for our purposes)!

*Regular gas ... \$4.25 per gallon.*

*One gallon of milk ... \$4.00*

*Motel 6 ... \$90 per night ... and they don't leave the light on for you!*

*The opportunity to see the best people you've ever known? PRICELESS!!*

That's the kind of thinking we need to take with us to Kansas this year. Think about how great your last reunion experience was. Or, for you first-timers ... Well, I guess you just won't have any idea of the sweetness and joy you'll be giving up. So call or email someone you know on our roster and talk about it. I believe you will then share the zeal that we all have for our reunions. Or any other Blackhawk gathering we can get to.

Keep in mind, also, that the 'next' reunion will be two years after Fort Riley. That's 2010 for all you math majors out there. I don't know what kind of shape you're in, but I'm 62 now with Type II diabetes and a couple other health issues. None of us can be certain of what our health situation will be like in 2010. Many of you are struggling with these kinds of problems now. And, unfortunately, we have all lost some of our own since the Gettysburg reunion in 2006. Their absence in Kansas will be hurtful for us. And there will be fewer of us in 2010 than there are now.

So don't give up! Don't let the oil barons scare you off. Or the beef, pork and poultry growers. Or the so-called 'experts' on our economy. Or the fluctuations in the DOW and foreign exchanges. So stick to the plan, trooper, and get ready to meet us at the Courtyard Marriott. We WILL leave the light on!

#### **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION** ...

Dennis Scott

Well Troopers, by the time you get this edition of the 'Bulletin', we'll be down to approximately eight weeks before it's time to gather in Kansas and enjoy another Blackhawk reunion. The program

promises to be a good one, from registration day on Thursday, through our visit to Ft. Riley on Friday, our dinner dance on Saturday evening and Sunday's closing ceremonies. If you've been to one of our reunions in the past, you'll already know that this experience is worth repeating. If this is going to be your first one, many of us will envy you the range of emotion that each of us had at our initial reunion. From the apprehension that comes from seeing friends who have been lost to you for 40 years, to the nearly immediate recognition of a track-mate, the "time machine" quality that transports you back to 'Nam in an instant and the joy you get from just being together again. These are the reasons that we have so many returnees to every reunion. It's also the reason we will use any type of excuse to justify another assembly whenever we have the opportunity. (See Jerry Barker's article on the Indiana All-Veterans Reunion scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>.)

With those reminders in place, however; I can move on to the real reason for this article. Have you made your reservation at the Courtyard Marriott yet? The last time I checked on our 110 unit room block was in early June. At that time 96 rooms had been reserved by 89 troopers, family and friends. This newsletter will be your last reminder to get that reservation made as soon as possible. While we do have a backup plan with some other hotels in close vicinity to our headquarters hotel, you'll want to help us fill the Marriott first, I'm sure. After all, that's where the Convention Center is and that translates into 'where the action' is.

Our discounted price for the Marriott is set at \$85 per night plus taxes. The hotel is located at 310 Hammons Drive, Junction City, Kansas, 66441. Their direct line is 785-210-1500 and their fax is 785-210-2711. You can look them over on the web at [www.junctioncitycourtyard.com](http://www.junctioncitycourtyard.com) also.

PLEASE don't wait too long to register. **THE DEADLINE FOR A MARIOTT REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2008.** After that, the standard price of \$119 per night will take effect.

If you don't succeed in getting a room at the Marriott, we have made arrangements with the Holiday Inn Express, 785-762-4200; Quality Inn, 785-238-5106; Motel 6, 785-462-2216; Candlewood 785-238-1454; and the Days Inn, 785-462-2727; to serve as our fall-back positions.

Should the Marriott become full, you may call the other hotel(s) and make your own reservations, but please notify us of that location when you send in your registration form.

Should you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call me. Otherwise pick up the telephone and do something nice for yourself.

## **LOOK AT US NOW!** ... Dennis Scott

It was August of 1985 when we got together for our first reunion under that hot, Kansas sun. Hosted by 'Deacon' and Jody Indermuehle, none of us were quite sure of what to expect when we met with one another after nearly 20 years of silence. It was an exciting occasion mixed with equal parts of trepidation and uncertainty, but we were committed at this point and had no other direction but 'forward'. After all, how many of us would really show up for this reunion?

The Indermuehles' had invited anyone from C Troop of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry to participate. We ended up with 20-plus Blackhawks that, in many ways, felt like they had finally 'come home'. To say that our reunion was a success is a major understatement and, by the time we each turned toward our homes and families, we had already organized ourselves under the banner of "C Troop, 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry" and began to plan for 1987.

Through the following years leading up to 1998 we held reunions every other year, with the exception of one three-year span that we all felt was way, way to long to wait. Over the course of those years we began to pick up a few orphans from the other troops who were looking for their own brothers and friends. We slowly grew our numbers during that 14 years and decided to become Squadron-sized in 1998, re-naming our group the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> (Armored) Cavalry Association. At the same time we held our first reunion outside Kansas at Frankfort, Kentucky.

Our growth was steady but slow until Lloyd Wirkkala volunteered to take this challenge and make it his mission. When Lloyd took on this responsibility we had a membership of around 400 (give or take 50). He discovered a search program called Merlin that looked to be very promising and presented his request to the officers and troop reps. A \$300 trial period was authorized, Lloyd learned how to efficiently use Merlin's talents and our membership numbers sky-rocketed, doubling and re-doubling.

Through his dedication we now have over 1900 Blackhawks on our roster and Lloyd is continuing his search. In the past week, for instance, he added another 15 troopers to our roles and confirmed that three others had, unfortunately, passed away. That number now stands at 373. But, knowing who they

are, we can guarantee they will not be forgotten and their service to their Country will always carry the honor it deserves. The rest of us can be assured of the same thing as long as this Association continues to live in the hearts and minds of our comrades and families. Scouts, Out!

## **FIREBASE BARKER/KOKOMO**

... Jerry Barker

I got a call from a Brother of mine the other day. He asked if FB BARKER was still on, although National Base Camp, FT RILEY, is just the week before.

I replied, "Does Uncle Ho have chin whiskers?" Our AO will be up and running Sept. 19-21, 2008. I know diesel and MOGAS are at an all time high, but the chop-chop is free and the beer is warm...er cold. Cavalry Communion will be presented to the STEADFAST AND LOYAL. Remember...being there is being squared-away!

Mama-san still needs the numbers. There are "details" to organize and time is of the essence. So, give us your marching orders ASAP Troopers!!! Reach us at (317) 271-1271 or JB8555@aol.com Above all, be careful...IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!

## **TROOP REPORTS**

**HHT Troop Report** ... Robert Sparks

Have you made your reservation for the 2008 Reunion? If so, great! If not, please do it today. Your Association officers have a fantastic program for this year's reunion which you do not want to miss. Also, this reunion also happens to coincide with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of tour completion for our 'boat troopers' which makes this Reunion very special.

The active unit is on the way home after a very successful year in Iraq. This group of brave troopers participated in the "surge" operation which restored order to the country. We are glad to see that their mission there is accomplished and the unit is on there way home. (See related articles elsewhere in this issue.)

Lloyd Wirkkala, AKA 'Super Scout' has been at it again and he has found approximately 100 new troopers who had been missing. I am sure a few of these are making plans for this year's reunion. Lloyd, thanks for the work that you do in finding missing troopers.

I owe an apology to Warren 'Skip' Fee and the members of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon, C Troop who attended last year's mini-reunion. I had the article written by Skip on the mini-reunion in plenty of time for publication in our last issue but did not remember to include it. That write-up is included in this issue. My sincerest apologies for the oversight.

### **A Troop Report** ... John Mavon

Not much news to report at this time other than many emails received indicating many A Troopers are in the process of making their travel plans to Fort Riley. We finally found it on the map.

Talked with Lloyd Wirkkala recently and we are planning to meet up at Fort Lewis on July 1 for the 'Welcome Home Ceremony.' Lloyd has contacted many Northwest Troopers to see if they can attend also Lloyd has also "found" many additional Troopers to add to the 2/1 CAV Roster.

### **B Troop Report** ... Warren Roach

It is good to see that the 2/1 Cav is carrying on our tradition in Iraq and will be back home in June. The VFW Post 1860 along with the Mrs. Robertson, Riverfront Christian School here in Front Royal, VA shipped about 280 lbs of snacks at the end of May. The Troops wrote back to the school and VFW and they seemed to be very happy and satisfied. We are getting ready to purchase, thanks to some donations, 32 new Streamers for our Regimental Flag. We still have 27 left to purchase. At a rate of two per year it will be somewhere around 13 or more years before we are complete in this process. This would include our active unit in Iraq if they receive Streamers which we are sure they will. So, to shorten the process we could use more donations to help us achieve our goal.

If you would like to make a donation, please send your check to the 2/1 Cav address in the newsletter and mark your donation for the Streamers so that we know it is part of the Flag and not the general fund.

In other news, I received a call from Harrell Neverson who was on my Track in '69. I had a nice conversation with him and Bill Ferguson and I hope to get together with him. I also heard from Jim Jordan who was at the Memorial Day Festivities in DC with three of his comrades. On their way back they stopped in Front Royal and had breakfast with Ellen and me. It was good to see Jim. Ellen and I will be seeing all at Ft. Riley, KS in September.

### **C Troop Report** ... Wayne Hook

We wish to thank Rocky for his past service as our C Troop Rep.

### **D Troop Report** ... Raymond Marples

First let me say that it is a great privilege to be allowed to represent you in the Association, and I will do it to my best of my ability.

Let me tell you a little about myself. I was a track mechanic in HHT when D Troop came over and arrived at Camp Enari, I volunteered to be a Door gunner, was accepted and spent most of my tour

with D Troop. I moved with the Troop to An-Khe, when they found out I was a mechanic they soon had me helping with the maintenance on the helicopter, (scary huh). I flew on one of the last Charlie Model gunships in the Troop with Specialist Fuller, we did a lot of Maintenance runs, beans and bullets, and worked a lot with the Special Forces out of Camp Holloway in Pleiku.

I served in country from March 68 to March 69. I had two 1/2 years left when I got back, and served them at Ft. Riley, KS. Fourteen years later I joined the Michigan National Guard and spent close to five years with Co F 425<sup>th</sup> Ranger Bn.

I hope to see more D Troopers at this reunion. We have been slowly growing in numbers. If anyone needs my help, with anything, please feel free to call, write, or e-mail me.

## **FIRST PLATOON, C TROOP**

### **MINI-REUNION** ... Skip Fee, C Troop & HHT

Nine members of the first platoon, C Troop, 1969-70 and one member of the 3d Platoon, 1968-69 met for a two-day mini reunion over the 2007 Labor Day Weekend at the Hampton Inn, Wake Forest, NC. It took all of three minutes for platoon members to revert to the roles and personalities they had as young soldiers (or have we ever really changed?) There were slides, photo albums, and dozens of questions, memories, and unbelievable-but-true stories, all were examined, discussed, answered and re-validated by the others. Several of those in attendance gave experience-based advice on dealing with the VA. On the second evening, pizza was brought in and a disc jockey played music from the sixties and early seventies. Richard (Skull) Robinson, Skip (LT) Fee and their wives hosted the event. The only down side was saying goodbye to each other when it was all over.

## **EMAIL FROM 2-1 CAVALRY** **COMMANDER OFFICER**

Gentlemen: Wow, the time has flown by and we are fast approaching redeployment! We have accomplished amazing things in our area, and I am incredibly proud of the Blackhawk Troopers.

Here are a few important upcoming dates: We redeploy during June. On a date TBD in late June, we will have a Change of Responsibility Ceremony for CSM Pandy as he departs us to move to the next level and take a brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas. Our brigade redeployment / welcome home ceremony is scheduled for 1000 on 1 July at Fort Lewis. We have our 2-1 Cav Blackhawk Squadron Ball scheduled for 1833 hours on 21 August. We have tentatively set the Squadron Change of Command

Ceremony for 1000 on 11 September.

We would be honored to have you and the members of the 2-1 Cav Association at any or all of these events. We will keep you updated on the details as we work our way through redeployment.

Thanks for all your support! Blackhawks!

*Marshall K Dougherty LTC, CAVALRY Commander, 2nd Squadron, 1st Regiment of Dragoons, Baqubah, Iraq*

## **DATELINE - JUNE 10, 2008 -** **800 SOLDIERS COMING HOME** **TO FORT LEWIS** ... By MIKE BARBER, P-I

REPORTER, Source: Seattlepi.com EDITORS NOTE:  
*This is the parent unit of the 2-1 Cavalry.*

After 15 months in Iraq, the homecoming for Fort Lewis's 4th Stryker Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division will be nearly completed Tuesday when the main group arrives. At least 800 soldiers of the brigade's contingent of nearly 4,000 troops will return in three flights throughout the day, being met by families and friends in ceremonies on the base. After their arrival, most of the brigade's soldiers will be home except for 400 serving with the "trail party," who are expected to return by the end of June.

The brigade is returning from its first combat deployment and left for Iraq in April 2007 as part of an escalation of U.S. troops ordered by President Bush last year.

## **BLACKHAWKS PASSING**

Since our spring issue, we received word of two fallen brothers: EDWARD ADCOCK - A Troop 1968-69 from Holland, Ohio and WILLIAM C DENSON - HHT 1968-69 from Fairhope, AL.

William's spouse, Lorna Denson emailed, My husband passed away December 6, 2007 at age 78. He died in a VA Nursing Home and had a full military funeral. He loved his military. Just thought I would let you know.

## **WHERE TO IN 2010?**

Do you have a recommendation for our next Reunion location? If you would like to host our next reunion, please bring any literature or information you have to Kansas. We'd love to hear your proposal

If you are not able to attend our 2008 Reunion, but wish to propose a 2010 location, please contact an officer or troop rep so they may make your suggestion and ideas known for consideration.

## **MISSION ACCOMPLISHED**

**(ALMOST)** ... by William D. Whitmill (Capt.) HHT & A Troops, 1969-70

I departed Vietnam and the 2/1 Armored Cavalry in June, 1970. My last assignment had been as HHT's Commanding Officer. I retired from the Army in 1976 after 21 years of service. Since leaving the Squadron, I've had several regrets.

I was in the advance party that coordinated the Squadron's move up the coast by ship to Quinon and thru to Pleiku in May, 1970. My tour ended in June so I DEROS'd shortly after the Squadron left Pleiku. I regret never having the opportunity to thank the officers, NCO's and men who served with me in HHT. I would like to do so now.

Secondly, when I departed Song Mao, I passed command to my Executive Officer, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Warren (Skip) Fee. Over the years, I have thanked the war-gods for assigning Skip as my Executive Officer. He was 26, rail-thin, a dedicated and extremely loyal officer, who never let me or HHT down. I regretted never having the opportunity of personally shaking his hand and thanking him. Until 27 April, 2008 that is.

Skip and I made contact several years ago and had promised each other we would get together for a good visit. On that date, my wife Ellen and I, and Skip and his wife Stephannie, got together in Springfield, VA; where they live. I've wanted to visit the Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) and he and I did that together. For those of you who have made that journey, I need not explain the emotions that come over you; and you don't need to be ashamed. I'm age 72 and Skip's age 64 and it just poured out. I left there glad that I've lived long enough to pay tribute to our fallen comrades.

The final regret that I've had was not knowing what happened to the Squadron Commander's "gold fish". For those who never had the opportunity to serve or visit the Squadron's Hdq's in Song Mao and bask in the glow of higher command, you are probably not aware of the "goldfish" pond. It was located next to the offices. As HHT Commander, it was one of my duties to insure that the goldfish had plenty of clean water, food and re-stocked as needed. Also, I had to insure that no cigarettes, cans, and as little urine as possible got in the water. It reminded me of the "Ensign Pulver" situation. On our final night during dinner, I asked Skip if he knew what happened to the goldfish.

Without missing a bite of food, he replied, "There were no goldfish and I didn't kill them". He said this with a grin. I don't doubt his word as a former officer and gentleman. So, two out of three resolved regrets is fine. However, if anyone out there knows what happened to the goldfish, please let me know. Keep in mind, the statute of limitations has expired.

## **NEW C-TROOP REP**

Due to a variety of factors and some changes in his responsibilities, 'Rocky' Marino has requested that he be replaced as C Troop Representative. Needless to say, we discussed his decision for an extended period of time as I looked for any possible resolution that would keep him in his position. In the end, though, it was the type of decision that Rocky has always made when it involved the 'health and happiness' of C Troop or the Association.

He did what he thought would benefit our organization the most. We will miss his insight and dedication, but we won't have to worry about his attendance and participation. Although he doesn't know whether he'll be with us in Kansas, he's already making his plans for Firebase Barker. So give him a call Blackhawks and let him know how much you appreciate his past efforts. He'll be a hard act to follow as the raffle master. And I'm positive that he will give his young replacement all the help he needs.

Did I say "young"? Well, maybe I should have said young at heart. Whichever way you put it, though, 'Hooker' is a well-known Charlie-trooper and he has a history of getting things done. Wayne Hook was a boat person, like many of us, when the 2/1 was shipped to Vietnam as a unit. While he was in-country he gained a wealth of knowledge doing different kinds of work...mainly because he kept getting himself blown up or rocketed by some hot shot with a B-40 on his shoulder. But he tells the stories better than I can so plan to spend some time swapping tales with him.

Wayne and his wife, Jeanne, live in Oregon, Wisconsin. Their mailing address is 1386 Storytown Road, Oregon, WI; 53575-2547. His cell-phone number is 608-577-5715 and his home phone is 608-835-5530. You may email him at [waynebkup22@Yahoo.com](mailto:waynebkup22@Yahoo.com).

Congratulations, Hooker! I'm looking forward to working with you.

## **HARMEYER LEADS THE WAY**

*Excerpts from Armor Association Newsletter Article ... by Charletta Wilson, Special Writer for the "Turret"*

Major General George Harmeyer, Retired, is once again leading his troops; this time in a challenging effort to initiate major changes in The United States Armor Association. As reported in that organization's newsletter, "The Saber", the former Ft. Knox Commanding General has been named the association's Executive Director during a period of big changes. The 122-year old organization is based out of Fort Hood, Texas, and Gen. Harmeyer is anticipating a successful conclusion to this mission just as he did in Vietnam as a Blackhawk 'smoke bringer'.

"We have hit the ground running with our reorganization and have gained strong momentum in providing greater visibility and an overall better value to our members", commented the new Executive Director. Renowned for its expertise in mounted warfare, the association is also dedicated to promoting professional development of all cutting-edge information pertaining to the military arts and science through its bimonthly *Armor and Cavalry Journal*. "Now that the majority of (armor) moves have taken place", said the Blackhawk General, "we have plans to generate major interest in chapter development."

Among those areas being pursued by the USAA are Fort Benning, Carson, Riley, Hood, Irwin, Stewart and Ft. Knox. "We are due to stand up a foundation by next spring for the development of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum," he stated. "It will be located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The organization's website will experience the same type of major overhaul that will affect the group's re-structuring. At present, visitors to the site can view and purchase 'esprit' items, sign up for membership, and receive information about the association's programs and awards.

## ***IF YOU AIN'T CAV ...***



## **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INFANTRY, ARMORED CAVALRY, AND ARTILLERY**

### **HAPPINESS IS ...**

Infantry: A good rifle  
Cavalry: A big tank  
Artillery: A loud boom

### **FAVORITE SONG ...**

Infantry: "Ballad of the Green Beret"  
Cavalry: "Purple Haze"  
Artillery: Anything, just play it LOUD!

### **BIGGEST LUXURY IN THE FIELD ...**

Infantry: Engineers blowing trenches for them with C4  
Cavalry: Grunts to dig their trenches for them  
Artillery: Cable

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## TROOP REPS

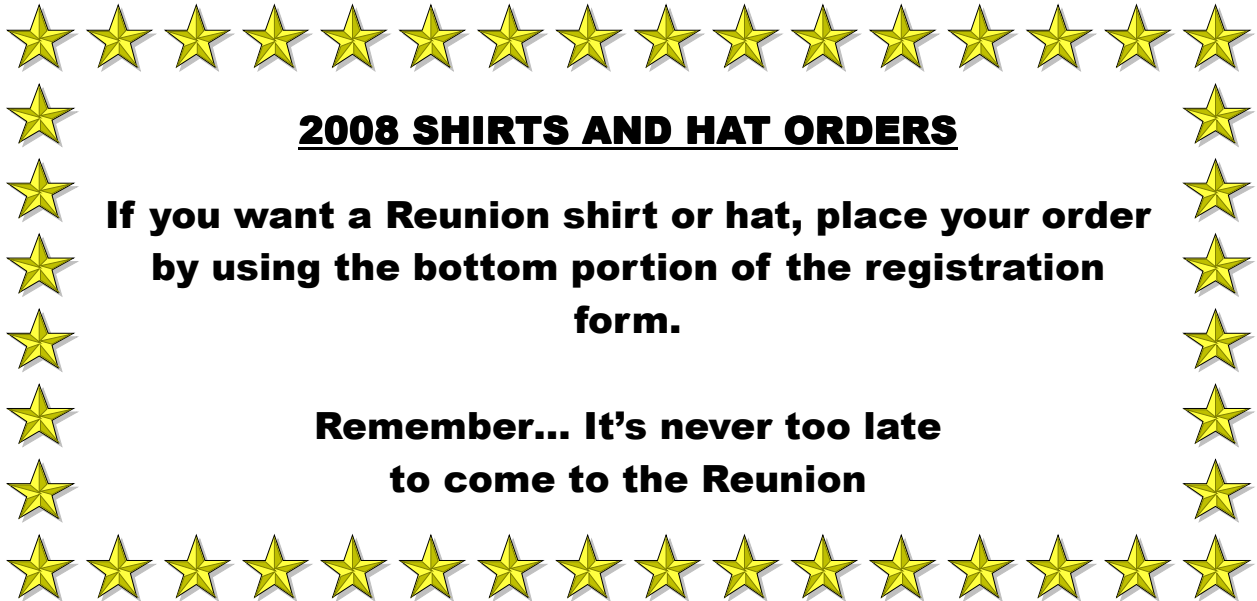
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### **2008 SHIRTS AND HAT ORDERS**

**If you want a Reunion shirt or hat, place your order by using the bottom portion of the registration form.**

**Remember... It's never too late to come to the Reunion**

### ***KEEP YOUR INFORMATION CURRENT***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Want your email on web page? Yes - No

Troop \_\_\_\_\_ Platoon \_\_\_\_\_ Nam Date \_\_\_\_\_

Comment \_\_\_\_\_

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