



# Blackhawk Bulletin

## 2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

*January 2010/Reunion Edition*

## Reunion Schedule Is Firming Up

It's finally starting to come together for us, my Friends. After long periods with no news concerning our questions in any of the venues, from hotels to airports and buses; the answers we have been seeking are beginning to shape up. And they're shaping up into a great time in our Nation's Capital, a locale that contains much more to do and see than can possibly be covered in the three days we'll have together. The sights and sounds of Washington, D.C. are spectacular so bring lots of comfortable shoes 'cuz you're going to need them. And REMEMBER THIS ... most of these places are FREE! You know, FREE; like in 'NO CHARGE; ... you just walk in and walk out; see what you want and move on down the road. What a great concept! I am extremely happy about returning to D.C. and hope you will be able to join us. The next couple of paragraphs contain the outline for you on what we are planning for Thursday through Sunday. You will readily see that this daily agenda gives you a good deal of free time to explore as you wish.

Thursday, the 2nd of September, will be Registration Day for most of us. Once you've made it through the paperwork and received your orientation folder, you will have most of the afternoon to spend as you wish. Go see some of the sights or just spend some time in the

Hospitality Room catching up with old friends and meeting some new. The Metro Subway is a good way to get around to many of the D.C. sights and our Hotel will provide free shuttle service to the nearest Metro station. At 7:00 pm we will have an informational meeting in the Hospitality Room that is designed to familiarize you with what's on tap for Friday through Sunday, let you in on any changes that have been made to our schedule and answer any questions you may have. The Association Annual Business Meeting will immediately follow the informational meeting. At that time, the ladies will have an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and forge new ones while the men conduct their business meeting, hold elections and address any other topics of interest to the Association. Please note that this format does not include any scheduled periods for individual troop meetings. That does not preclude any Troop from having a meeting at some time on Thursday afternoon. And, if you have something to bring to the Squadron, you'll want to have your rep contact me so I may add that subject to our agenda.

Friday, the 3rd, will be our busiest day so don't stay out too long Thursday evening. The first shuttle of the day will leave the hotel at 9:00 a.m. bound for the Lincoln Memorial. We have allowed 90

minutes for these buses to transport every Blackhawk and their guests to that area for our Memorial Service at the 'Wall', the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The outline of that ceremony will be consistent with past programs featuring a guest speaker, the reading of our KIA list, the construction of a floral crest and the presentation of that Blackhawk emblem at the center of the Wall. I anticipate this remembrance tribute will conclude around noon, leaving you several hours for exploration around the Reflecting Pool and the memorials that surround it. The final shuttle of the day will head for the barn at 4:30 p.m., but I wouldn't advise you to wait for that one unless you enjoy the 'sardine shuffle'. Take an earlier one, get some rest, enjoy the local food choices and hit the town again. There are plenty of places to go ... so Do It! You can't get much closer to history than this.

Saturday, the 4th, is an open day until the dinner bell calls for us at 6:00 p.m. Happy hour at our banquet will provide us all with some 'wind-down' time and the chance to settle into our seats before we begin the raffles and silent auctions to follow. And, Oh, Yes! There will be a surprise speaker in attendance, but I am not at liberty to reveal this one's identity yet. So, I guess we'll all be surprised when this person arrives.

*Continued on page 2*

# Schedule Recap

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 2ND

9 am – midnight

*Hospitality Room Open*

9 am – 5 pm

*Registration*

7 pm

*Informational Meeting with  
Association Business to follow*

8 pm

*Ladies Social*

## FRIDAY, SEPT. 3RD

9 am – 10:30 am

*Shuttle Buses Leave for  
Memorials*

11 am

*Memorial Program at the Wall*

Noon – Midnight

*Free Time, Hospitality Room  
Open*

Noon – 4:30 pm

*Shuttle Bus makes Return Trips  
to Hotel*

*(Note – you may wish to remain in the  
downtown DC area and return to the Hotel  
by subway)*

## SATURDAY, SEPT. 4TH

9 am – 4 pm

*Free Time, Hospitality Room  
Open*

4 pm

*Hospitality Room Closes*

6 pm

*Doors Open for Dinner*

7 pm

*Dinner and Raffle*

## SUNDAY, SEPT. 5TH

10 am

*Farewell Meeting in Hospitality  
Room*

# Reunion Schedule Is Firming Up

*(Continued from page 1)*

And the next thing you know it will be Sunday and time for the “Farewell’s to be said, the tears to flow and the hugs to be shared with one another. We will meet in the Hospitality Room at 10 a.m. For many, this is the hardest part of our time together. I have even had a couple of troopers admit to leaving early just so they wouldn’t have to say ‘Good Bye’ and risk the chance that someone might see the moisture in their eyes. Whatever method works for you is just fine, but remember this as you choose your get-away plan. None of us are getting any younger and a large number are suffering through some type of illness or worse. Don’t let them wonder where you went. Give them a ‘Scouts Out’ at the least.

## Headquarters Hotel Facts

Our selection of the Holiday Inn National Airport as our headquarters location is already testifying to the fact that we made the correct decision. Within the time that our 75-room block was opened to us, this Holiday Inn has already registered 30-plus room rentals. At that pace we should see the need for additional rooms in a very short period of time. So, if you’re still trying to find the time to make that reservation or you have some kind of uncertainty regarding your ability to attend, I have this suggestion for you. **MAKE** your reservations **NOW** ... before it becomes too late to do so. Our cutoff date for making reservations is August 17, 2010. If something of greater importance does get in your way, it’s always much easier to cancel a registration than find one. And, although this newly renovated hotel now offers a total of 280 rooms, we’ve already reserved 75 of them. Don’t take the chance of trying to register later. They may not have any of the remaining rooms available.

**IMPORTANT:** Don’t forget to make your reservations in the block reserved for the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Association or you may not get the discounted price of \$89.00 per night plus tax ... a total of \$98.12 each night. This is an extremely sweet deal when you stop to consider that these prices are within a \$5.00 bill of what we paid 10 years ago. And the parking is **FREE!!** This discounted room rate will apply for the three days before and two days after our reunion so you may want to consider extending your stay. If you’re not driving to Washington, you will find that our hotel is just a short distance from the Ronald Reagan International Airport and is serviced on the half-hour by Holiday Inn shuttle buses.

This facility is located at 2650 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington, Virginia; for those of us that must still advise our children, parents and other family members of where we’ll be or if you want to plug this information into your GPS. The telephone number is 703-684-7200 and this is the number you will want to use in making your reservations. They also have FAX service available at 703-684-3217 and their website is **www.hinationalairport.com**. Give them a good looking over via the web and I’m sure you will see the many advantages waiting for you at the Holiday Inn National Airport.



# Troop Reports

## HHT Troop Report

By Lloyd Wirkkala

We now have 423 HHT troopers located, 30 new this year. I urge all of you HHT troopers to try your best to attend the Washington, D.C. reunion. It will be a good time to get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones. Also a lot to do and see. Hope to see many of you there.

## A Troop Report

By John Mavon

Please keep Lauren Drummond (daughter of Chris and Larry Drummond) in your thoughts and prayers as she is recovering from what was to have been a routine gall bladder surgery. They accidentally severed the bile duct which has caused her much pain and a slow recovery. Twenty five percent (25%) recover fully from this type of mistake and we are hoping she will be in that 25%. She also plans to attend Kansas University next Fall. Lauren has attended many of our reunions in the past with her parents and we hope to see her in D.C. in 2010.

A hearty "welcome back" goes out to Tony Dodson as evidenced by his comment in the guestbook dated 9/10/09. He's back in the A-O with a positive sit-rep to all his CAV doggies. We missed Tony's infectious smile and personality at Fort Riley and look forward to seeing him in D.C. in September. Also, a "welcome back" to Vic Reyes who has been dealing with some health issues and made an entry on the guest book dated 11/21/09.

Big news and a big decision by Randy Teal who has decided to return to Vietnam for a month from early February to early March of this year. He plans to visit Song Mao and

## B Troop Report

By Warren Roach

I am sorry to inform you that CSM, Mike Basozki has passed on to 'Fiddler's Green'. He was a great supporter of the 2-1 CAV Association and will be missed. The only information we have is that he passed away on December 31, 2009; in Washington State.

"Mike was a great soldier," said Col. Donald W. Moreau (Ret.). "As the Command Sgt. Major, he was my right hand. I leaned on him during my tour. A friend as well as a soldier, he will be remembered as being a great leader. My condolences to his family."

A memorial service was held for CSM Basozki on January 14, 2010; and he was buried with full military honors at Tahoma National Cemetery.

John Mavon, A Troop Rep, was well acquainted with the Command Sgt. Major, too. "...I am very sorry to hear the news about your Dad's passing," commented Mavon to Joyce Wennbeg, Sgt. Basozki's daughter. "He was a great guy and I enjoyed spending time with him at the 2/1 Cavalry ceremonies," remarked Mavon.



Picture of CSM Basozki (left) receiving orders from Col. John Fairey.

also the site of the major contact 1st Platoon engaged in on August 1, 1970. He will have plenty of pictures and stories which he plans to bring to D.C. in September.

Sal Huerta (call sign, 1-2 Chicano) attended a 1/1 CAV reunion in Las Vegas last Fall.

And George Webster (former CO, A Troop) will be vying for a shot at the National Championship in

horseback riding competition. He is shopping for a new horse to help him accomplish this goal. Now there is a true CAV man!

*Editor's Note: John has a new email address and other contact information. Snail mail goes to 119 Heltonville Road East, Bedford, IN 47421. Phone is 253-951-8780 and email is indymavons@gmail.com.*

# Troop Reports

## C Troop Report

By Wayne Hook

To all Charlie troopers! I hope the holidays were good for everyone. Looking forward to seeing everyone in D.C. Before Firebase Barker, I received a call from Gene (Hardlin or Hanolin) but we got cut off before I could get his phone number. I think he was originally from Clear Lake, Wisconsin. And I believe he got my name (I think) from our website or he had seen a BB somewhere. I hope he will try (to contact) us again if he sees this. Thanks to Lloyd for a lot of information. The balance of this report will deal with many changes, membership-wise, so check out each section for names you recognize, telephone numbers and a number of our brothers who passed away.

Our 'new founds' are the largest list of the previous statement and we have additional information on each of them should you want to contact me for a phone number or mailing address. "Welcome Home" wishes go out to: William Tobias, Spring Green, WI; Randy Powell of Christmas, FL; Larry Whickman of Oklahoma, OK; Micheal Colasurdo of PA; Gary L. Branham of Pikesville, KY; Patrick Frischmon, Minneapolis, MN; Robert R. Meek of Fall River, MA; Charles D. Mitchell, Niles, MI; George W. Travis, Sayville, NY; John G. Weiser of Buena Park, CA; John E. Jowell, Dumas, TX; Glen A. Wafer of Lynwood, CA; and Robert S. Dambrojio, Copiacue, NY.

We also experienced the 'loss' of the following Blackhawks, we suspect through a number of reasons; but if you've been in contact with these members, please get them to call me with their mailing information and telephone numbers. They are: Thomas DeVille, Daytona, TX;

Micheal Bowles, Echola, AL; Thomas S. Hill, Runnemedede, NJ; Thomas Geathers, New York, NY; John G. Spray, Louisville, KY; and Dale C. Giese, Rancho Cucmonga, CA.

Lastly, we have just heard of the deaths of two C-Troopers. Larry A. Davis of Kokomo, IN; passed on August 16, 2009; and Carlos P. Cuizon of Anaheim, CA; died on October 26, 2005.

AND I repeat, see you in Washington, D.C. in September to welcome and remember all these 'Hawks.

*Editor's Note: We just received from Tom Schluchter a report on a new found brother, James Wolfe. "I had the pleasure of meeting one of our new found, James Wolfe. James served with C-Troop September 1968 to August 1969 on 27 tank. He would like to hear from anyone who may recall serving with him. He went over as an E4 and became a Sergeant during his tour. James was wounded in one of the actions on January 27, 1969. Since James is recovering from a stroke and heart attack that has put him in a nursing home, it would be best if you forwarded your letter to me, Tom Schluchter, 5644*

*Cortland Circle, Bay City, MI 48706. I would be honored to deliver your letter to him on your behalf. His wife is also having difficulties in getting VA benefits that he deserves. I know he'd appreciate hearing from you."* Tom

## D Troop Report

By Ray Marple

To all my fellow D Troopers:

There isn't really too much to report on for this Bulletin except that we are slowly growing in numbers. If anyone knows someone from the troop, please encourage them to join our ranks.

I visited Jerry at "Fire Base Barker" this September for his off-year reunion, all I can say is that it is an experience that you have to experience for yourself. My wife and I will attest to the generous hospitality presented by Jerry and his beautiful wife, Elaine. I am committed to attending again.

I'm hoping to see more of my pals from the aviation troop of the Squadron this September in Washington, D.C. If anyone has any ideas or questions, please feel free to contact me any time. Scouts Out!!!

### Order Your Challenge Coin

The front is red and white with our crest

The back is green with a gold tank and sabers



Yes, I want \_\_\_\_\_ Coin(s) at a cost of \$12 each, (shipping and handling included).  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# To Fiddler's Green

## Hudzinski, Sp4 Ronald R.



SP4 Ronald R. Hudzinski, 62, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2009; surrounded by his family at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, WI. A lifelong resident of Rio, Wisconsin, Ron retired from Oscar Mayer after 30 years of service and was currently working at Hampden Recycling in North Leeds. He is survived by

his wife of 40 years, Sharon, three daughters and five grandchildren.

"He always liked getting the Blackhawk Bulletin," noted Sharon in the notification letter mailed to his brothers-in-arms. Ron was one of the original 'boat people' that went to Vietnam aboard the troopship USS Nelson Walker. A Blackhawk forever, his affiliation with our Association was never in doubt and led his wife to send this message to his fellow troopers. "...I thought I would write this letter to you all", said Sharon. "Please take care of yourself," she said, in closing. "Ron always said (it was) Agent Orange."

## Masters, PFC Ron

Nathaniel (Ron) Masters, 58, was searching for inner peace when he died on September 19, 2009. His sister, Iona Masters, notified the Association recently "that my brother is finally at rest from the Viet Nam War." A member of the 'Mini Platoon' in 1969-70, his memories of that conflict were with him on a daily basis; as they are with most of us. He recently wrote to the Association of his future plans "to travel and see some of the USA." and he was very much looking forward to attending the next reunion. Now, we Blackhawks should take our cue from his sister Iona in wishing him to "rest well...".

## Smith, Gregory John (Capt.)

Captain John Smith died on Sunday, January 25, 2009; at his home in Rochester, N.Y. He was born on July 14, 1948; in Rochester, a son of the late Albert L. and Eleanor (Swartzlander) Smith. He was a 1967 graduate of Mifflinburg Area High School, a 1975 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Studies and a 1989 graduate of Indiana University, where he attained a Master's degree in health and safety. He worked as a health and safety consultant for the U.S. Navy and Veterans Administration. A highly decorated Cobra pilot in the U.S. Army, he attained the rank of Captain before leaving the military.

A memorial service and celebration of Greg's life was held on February 2nd at the Waring Baptist Church.

## The Reunion

By Rachel Firth

*Autumn leaves rustling, together to the appointed place,  
the old warriors come.*

*Pilgrims, drifting across the land they fought to preserve.*

*Where they meet is not important anymore.*

*Greetings echo across a lobby.*

*Hands reach out and arms draw buddies close.*

*Embraces, that as young men they were too uncomfortable  
to give, too shy to accept so lovingly.*

*But deep within these Indian Summer days, they have  
reached greater understanding of life and love.*

*The shells holding their souls are weaker now,  
but hearts and minds grow vigorous, remembering.*

*On the table someone spreads old photographs,  
a test of recollection.*

*And friendly laughter echos at shocks of hair gone gray or  
white, or merely gone.*

*The rugged slender bodies lost forever.*

*Yet they no longer need to prove their strength.*

*Some are now sustained by one of "medicine's miracles,"  
and even in this fact, they manage to find humor.*

*The women, all those that waited, all those who loved  
them, have watched the changes take place.*

*Now, they observe and listen, and smile at each other, as  
glad to be together as the men.*

*Talk turns to war and planes and foreign lands.*

*Stories are told and told again, reweaving the threadbare  
fabricate of the past.*

*Mending one more time the banner of their youth.*

*They hear the vibrations, feel the shudder of metal as the  
engines whine and whirl, and planes-tanks-jeeps come to life.*

*These birds with fractured wings can be seen beyond the  
mist of clouds, and they are in the air again, chasing the  
wind, feeling the exhilaration of flight close to the heavens.*

*Dead comrades, hearing their names spoken, wanting to share  
in this time, if only in spirit, move silently among them.*

*Their presence is felt and smiles appear beneath misty eyes!*

*Each, in his own way may wonder who will be  
absent in another year.*

*The room goes quiet for a time.*

*Suddenly an ember flames to life. Another memory burns.*

*The talk may turn to other wars and other men,  
and of futility.*

*So, this is how it goes. The past is so much the present.*

*In their ceremonies, the allegiances, the speeches and the  
prayers, one cannot help but hear the deep eternal love of  
country and comrades they will forever share.*

*Finally, it is time to leave.*

*Much too soon to set aside this little piece of yesterday, but  
the past cannot be held too long, for it is fragile.*

*They say "Farewell... See you another year, God willing."*

*Each keeps a little of the others with him forever.*

# Become a Freedom Team Member

By Dennis Scott, Pres.

Now that's got a nice sound to it, doesn't it? FREEDOM TEAM? Oh, yes, I like the relationship it denotes and the principles that it stands for. So what do we have to do to join up? There must be some kind of initiation program or something. Maybe it will be one of those Hell Nights that the frat guys are always taking part in. This doesn't sound like it's an easily attainable goal. But we're up for it aren't we, Guys?

Well, don't worry your little ole' head about it, Trooper. You are already in! As a veteran of the U.S. Army you have already paid your dues and been recommended for membership. All that's left to do is get your paperwork completed. That's the job of Jim Rudy and another 900 or so volunteers across this country. Rudy is a retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel who wants to make you part of the US Army's Freedom Team Salute Program.

This program was initiated by the Army in 2005 as an outreach effort to honor and recognize all Army veterans (Active Army, Guard or Reserve) for their service. It also recognizes those persons, businesses, etc; that support the Army Soldier. And there you have it ...a FREEDOM TEAM SALUTE commendation.

As a FTS recipient you will receive a Certificate of Appreciation addressed to you by name and signed by the Chief of Staff of the US Army, General George Casey, Jr. and the Secretary of the Army, John McHugh. You will also receive a letter of thanks addressed to you, individually; and signed by the same leaders as above. A lapel pin bearing the Army logo and two US Army decals are part of the package, as well.

So, Troopers! If you are planning to be with us in Washington D.C. this September, send me an email with your name, address and former Army rank. That address is: [denscott@gmail.com](mailto:denscott@gmail.com). I'll run the paperwork through for you and see you at the reunion. The program was expanded in 2008 to cover a multitude of other deserving and support personnel. If you have interest in learning more about these matters just let me know.

## Firebase Barker Bivouac

By Jerry Barker

Elaine and I wish to thank everyone who took part in the annual pilgrimage to Firebase Barker/Kokomo, 2009!

Seventy-four souls, including 25 Vietnam Vets and 49 support personnel were in attendance. There were many familiar faces and a few new ones. A hearty Cav welcome to the Ouellettes, who came the farthest, from Connecticut; the Goins, who attended their first reunion, ever; the Marples, proud owners of the M.A.S.H.-era medical plasma (vodka) drip bottle ...MEDIC!!!!

Let's not forget special guests Jody Indermuehle and Lee Baldrich from the great, chigger-ridden state of Kansas. The "Believe It or Not" award goes to Emmett "Goodie" Goodson. He had about 25 pretty women in tow. He claims they were his wife and daughters, but did you notice his "thousand yard stare"?

Special thanks to Lori and Alisha (Duck) Woodard who arrived early and decked the halls with copious camouflage. Good job hiding the portable latrine, Lori. Was that a drunk Trooper or a Sapper low-crawling around the AO looking for the thing?!

There was plenty to eat and drink. Unfortunately, I must report that soft drinks were consumed at twice the rate of beer this year (in spite of MY best efforts). Listen, Brothers, this is a disgrace. We have an image to maintain and protect!!!

BUT ... Stand by for a fantastic 2/1 Cavalry 2010! National Reunion in Washington DC ...September 2-5

Firebase Barker on September 17-18-19.

**LOOK FORWARD TO IT, TROOPERS, BUT REMEMBER .... IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE!**

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## The Difference Between Infantry, Armored Cavalry, and Artillery

### **Happiness is:**

Infantry: *A good rifle*

Cavalry: *A big tank*

Artillery: *A loud boom*

### **Upon hearing fireworks:**

Infantry: *Cool, just like a live fire exercise*

Cavalry: *Not loud enough*

Artillery: *Fireworks? What fireworks?*

### **Idea of fun:**

Infantry: *Not having to "pepper-pot" an entire grid square before the objective*

Cavalry: *Racing across a grid square on "full stab"*

Artillery: *Leveling a grid square*

### **Favorite song:**

Infantry: *"Ballad of the Green Beret"*

Cavalry: *"Purple Haze"*

Artillery: *Anything, just play it LOUD!*

# Armor & Cavalry on the Move

By Dennis Scott

In July of 2009 I was pleasantly surprised to get an email message from MG George Harmeyer (Ret.) notifying the Association about future plans to move the Armor Center at Ft. Knox to a new home at Ft. Benning, Georgia. For those of us that had the opportunity to spend a day at Ft. Knox during our 1998 Blackhawk Reunion, you will remember the VIP treatment we received during our tour of the post and our dedication of the unit's memorial among those of other legendary armored outfits. The planning of our agenda was closely supervised by MG Harmeyer and he pulled out all the stops in making this particular day one that we would never forget.

Who among us will ever forget the dedication ceremony when our marker was unveiled by General Harmeyer's words of pride and respect? With the waning notes of the Post Band, the roar of the artillery salute, the precise movements of the Honor Guard and the heartfelt swelling of our breasts as the Bugler sounded Taps to conclude the program, we remembered and paid homage to those of our brothers who gave their all during those bloody, fearful days in-country. And we vowed to cherish their memories and their bravery for as long as we could draw breath. Surrounded by so many other monuments which had distinguished themselves in much the same way as the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, we could almost feel their touch of welcome to a place of prominence that we had earned; just as they had.

In 2005, however; the Base Realignment and Consolidation (BRAC) members dictated that the Armor Center and School would move to Ft. Benning in 2011, taking



all the U.S. Army's artifacts and collections with them. The only Armor to remain at Ft. Knox would be those specific pieces belonging to the Patton Museum. What to do with the vast number of remaining artifacts, armored vehicles and collections was also included in the BRAC summary. They would move their equipment to Georgia and, re-named as the National Armor and Cavalry Museum (NACM); would join the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center already being established at Benning.

Recognizing the need to assist in this effort, the NACM was formed to raise an estimated \$42 million dollars, matching the amount of federal funds budgeted to BRAC in their move to Benning. An additional \$33 million dollars would consist of federal monies being used to construct a Climate Controlled Facility. Along with the re-structuring of the of the National Armor and

Cavalry Museum came the addition of the 'legalities' inherent in the term "Foundation". Its creation as an operating entity allowed the Foundation to take shelter under the nonprofit status of the United States Armor Association. This partnership will last until the NACMF is granted their own nonprofit status. Recently incorporated in the State of Georgia, the Foundation is expecting to win its own place under the nonprofit umbrella shortly.

And...Surprise, SURPRISE!! Our own MG George Harmeyer (Ret.) has accepted the role of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. The Foundation's main objective is to aid in the "creation and support of a permanent home for the Armor and Cavalry traditions, archives and historical antiquities..." As noted above, the Foundation is charged with procuring \$42 million dollars towards this effort and General Harmeyer's words to me were a simple request to share this news with our membership. This will become a world class museum devoted to teaching and operating armor and cavalry. A few of us have already sent or designated donations to help in the Foundation's fund-raising efforts. If you would like to join us, please make your donation out to the 2/1 Cavalry Association and we will see that your non-taxable gift gets to the United States Armor Association.



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# Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

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