



Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

Winter/Spring 2015

President's Corner

— Tom Fey

It's been a wild time at the Fey House since our Milwaukee reunion. I wasn't able to attend Firebase Barker because I had to meet with the Colorado State Forest Service to have my 2014 forest work inspected so our property can remain in the tax base for forest agriculture, a big reduction on Colorado property taxes. I know I missed a great time at Firebase Barker.

At the suggestion of our reunion speaker, Major David Fulton, I started (with the help of our daughter-in-law) a 2/1 Cavalry Association Facebook page. It is a closed group, open only to those associated with the 2/1 Cavalry, past and present. Please check it out and sign up if you haven't already done so. We now have over 150 members, many troopers from the current squadron as well as we from the old guard and those in-between. It is a great place to stay abreast with those currently serving as well as with our friends. Please post pictures and comments.

We've begun the process of planning our 2016 reunion in the Colorado Springs area in proximity to Fort Carson. James Littau (A-Troop 70) and I spent two days looking at locations and discussing the pros and cons of each. We tried to find something for late September early October as several troopers had suggested in the after-action report, but there wasn't anything available. So, start making your plans, the **2/1 Cavalry Association 2016 Reunion will be 25-28 August**. More information will be in our next *Blackhawk Bulletin*.

I continue to be in contact with the current 2/1 Squadron at Ft. Carson, Richard Harper, Richard Bruce and I attended the reflagging ceremony and dinner as I reported in Milwaukee and I also attended the Blackhawk Ball in October. It was a unique experience the Viet Nam era troopers missed. Unfortunately, a night training exercise resulted in an accident that took the life of SSG Justin Holt. I will attend the memorial service the week of Feb 23rd.

As a REMINDER, you need to start thinking about serving the association as the next president. I believe we need to think about having a vice president that will serve that will serve two terms, the second as president-elect with the intent of moving into the presidency so there is a rotation to this job. I will assist as Past President as we prepare for continuity in our leadership. Scouts Out.

Vice President's Report

— Lance Lake

Can you believe it is February? I hope all of you had a great Christmas and wish you all the best for 2015. I still think about our reunion in Milwaukee a lot. It was one of the best. I am so glad the sisters of Harold (Buddy) Cox joined us and were able to learn more about their brother and for us to get to know them. I want to encourage them to come again. Also, Jo and I both want to thank all of you that donated food, gifts and time to make it a great reunion. I cannot even begin to name all of you but you know who you are. God blesses a cheerful giver and I know he will bless you all.

Jo really enjoyed the ladies social and I hope all of you did also. I think they have a lot more fun than we do in our business meeting. I know this is a time for them to really talk bad about us guys, but we also know most of it is true. She cannot wait for the next reunion she said and has big plans for it.

Because of our new grand-baby we were unable to make it to Firebase Barker but are looking forward to that this year.

I am privileged to still serve as your Vice President for another term and thank you all for the honor. Please feel free to call, text or send email if you need anything. Start making your plans now to be in Colorado in 2016.

Troop Reports

A Troop

By *Brian Kosteck*

February in the Midwest what could be better than this? Several other places come to mind and they all have one thing in common; warmer weather. President, Tom Fey has requested an update from each troop and has informed us that he is on the way to Colorado Springs, CO to look into hotels, potential dates, etc. For those of you who did not make the last reunion at Colorado Springs/Fort Carson; I can only say do not miss this opportunity. The views of the surrounding countryside are extremely picturesque and Fort Carson really went all out to make the experience a memorable one.

Hopefully, the dates will provide all of you the chance to once again share some time and memories. So, don't put this newsletter down until you have jotted down dates and times for this reunion.

Again, I welcome any and all advice and commentary you may have. If you have any ideas or suggestions for things to be included in the Blackhawk Bulletin, you can call me; e-mail me, snail mail or any combination. I am not the greatest person for timely reviewing e-mails so if you send something, don't be afraid to call me to let me know you have sent me something. My contact information is on the back page.

B Troop

By *Warren Roach*

Hey Troopers, we made it another year and it will not be long and we will be together again. The Association did an outstanding job in Milwaukee, WI and worked diligently to put together the best reunion, as

always. Rose and I are looking forward to Fort Carson. I have been wintering in Surprise, AZ with Jim and Cathleen Jordan in my RV — it's nice to have such a great friends as them. I talked to Bill Fergusons a week ago he's hanging in there. Also out of the blue received a call from Ben Tschetter, had great conversation renewing our friendship. In a sad note B-Trooper Rolf Vobelt is in a fight for his life and needs our support. Rolf has stage 4 cancer and is just finishing up radiation and getting ready to start chemotherapy. Talked to Kaylene, she said that Rolf's doing OK but has lost a lot of weight. If you like would to send a card to Rolf & Kaylene their address is: PO Box 433, Downsville, NY 13755. I know they would like to hear from everybody and please pray for them. OK troopers, I need your feedback, STAY IN TOUCH! Anyways, hope you all have a nice and safe spring and summer. Scouts Out!!

C Troop

By *Wayne (Hooker) Hook*

Hope everyone had a great Holiday season. I would like to thank everyone who donated items for the silent auction and raffle. I think it was a success. Also hope all had a good time in Milwaukee and Firebase Barker. Jerry and Elaine always do a bang up job. Please keep Jim Sherrick, Rolf Vobelt, Bob Davis, and John Mclaughlin in your thoughts as they recover from health issues. Please let me know if you have any updates or news.

D Troop

By *Raymond Marple*

Well fellow D Troopers, it's time for me to send a few words of encouragement and pleas for you all to get ready for the reunion in 2016. But before that I would like to

encourage anyone that can make it to meet at Firebase Barker this Sept for our business meeting. There is always the anticipation for the convoy to the VVA convention in Kokomo Indiana. There is always a lot of good brotherhood going around that weekend. There is also the opportunity to get on a flight with one of the restored Viet Nam era Hueys that are always there. Besides that there is always the good food that Sgt Barker and his wife Sergeant Major Elaine Barker have arranged to keep our bellies satisfied. If you haven't been there yet you've got to check it out.

With this said I think I'll sign out for now. Remember you can call me with inquiries, and if I haven't the answer I'll get it for you as soon as I can. SCOUTS OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!

HHT Troop

By *Oscar Olson*

I hope this finds everyone recovered from the holiday season. It was a quiet one here in Minnesota but it gave one time to reflect. I was unable to make the reunion, but maybe next time. I was able to get a few of my pictures scanned, transferred to disc and sent to Fred Lohr for possible posting to the web site. The pictures are all from the fall of 1967 and are of "faces and places" from our stay at the An Khe pass. I have yet to go through the disc and assign captions to the photos but some of you may recognize some of the faces.

I did make contact with a few troopers and was able to send them copies of pictures that I had of them. I visited quite a while with Frank Martinez Jr. who now lives in New Mexico. Frank (then SFC Martinez) was the replacement for SFC Doyt E. Lusby and served as PSNCO. It seems that Frank was putting

together a sort of “career history” for his family and was glad to get the pictures. Tom Fey had sent me a roster of enrollees for the bulletin and I was able to recognize a number of the names. I called a few and was able to leave a message for Mirdeath Wiley. I received a call from his widow just before Christmas. It seems that Mirdeath had passed some four years previously (he had served in the transportation section as a heavy truck driver). We did have a nice conversation in which she fleshed out his life after the army. I was able to send her a picture which she enjoyed getting.

During the football season, I, like many others, viewed the PSA’s for the armed services. While watching the soldiers deploying with HUD’s, Computers, Sat Phones and Laser sights, I recalled PRC-19’s, Teletype machines and note books (not to mention peep sights).

The trivia question is: Who was the only trooper to shake hands with President Lyndon Johnson and what was the occasion? Till next time (*my son is a language arts teacher and I am sure he would love to critique my usage and sentence structure*).

Firebase Barker

I hope you plan on attending Firebase Barker on the 3rd weekend of September (18-20 September) for a fun gathering of Troopers. We’ll have a road march to Kokomo for the large gathering of VN vets and go back to a great dinner and short business meeting.

Chaplain’s Comments

— Dennis Scott

Located elsewhere in this issue of your *Blackhawk Bulletin* is a story of Love, Grief, Loss, Confusion and, eventually; acceptance of a Blackhawk’s fate 47 years ago. It is also the story of a journey undertaken by the family of that soldier, seeking any bit of information that they might find relating to the death of this Blackhawk and his five track-mates. And the role played by members of the 2/1 Cavalry that welcomed two sisters into the Blackhawk Family through the sharing of memories at our 2014 Milwaukee Reunion.

But for Barbara (Cox) Cardano and Patricia (Cox) Owen, their story begins on July 12, 1969, with their notification by Army officials that their brother, Harold (Buddy) Cox, had been reported missing in action since July 7th. His death was confirmed five days later and his remains were shipped home on July 28th of 1969. Few facts were provided by the Army and, due to fact that his casket was sealed, Buddy’s family had no choice but to “believe that what we had been told was true”. But “every time the news showed footage from Vietnam we searched the faces looking for him”.

In July of 1971, the sisters were forced to seek closure with the radio newscast that announced the release of POW’s. Their unresolved closure turned to rage and anger that turned into a “sea of tears” as they were forced to accept “the false hope that there had been a horrible mistake”. For the next “forty years, Barbara and I wove a protective, but isolating cocoon around our sorrow” noted Pat.

Fittingly, it would be on Memorial Day of 2011 that the sisters discovered a picture and several messages had been posted to Buddy’s web page on the virtual wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The two-year old posting by Bruce Farder was the most recent message on the site, but the email address was still valid. Pat was amazed when Bruce’s return message suggested that she might get more information if she contacted Bill Farrell, Buddy’s lieutenant. That contact led to Gary and Jeanne Simon. “Gary and Buddy had been best friends” said Pat, and the next two years they shared “memories, information and love. We became family” noted Pat.

When the 2014 Milwaukee reunion details were announced it was Jeanne Simon that told the sisters “You have to go!” And ‘go’ they did. Pat’s report on the reception that she and Barbara received cannot be stated any better than this writer can fathom. All I can do is encourage you, Brother, to read on. And don’t be surprised if a tear slips silently down your cheek. Buddy and his fellow ‘Hawks; Don Bonesteel, James Knowles, Ronnie Newall, James Bedell and Curtis Stephens may be calling their sit-reps in to an Almighty Commander now. But their memories and sacrifices will live on for as long as a single Blackhawk still draws breath.

Two Sister's Journey

— By Patricia (Cox) Owen



THE BACKGROUND

On July 12, 1969 our family received notification from the Army that our brother/son, Harold (Buddy) Cox, had been reported missing in action since July 7, 1969. His death was confirmed five days later and his remains sent home on July 28th. We didn't know the details surrounding his death

and naturally wanted to see his body, but we were told the casket had been sealed and could not be opened. We never received any information as to what had happened the night he died. In the end, we had to believe that what we had been told was true, but every time the news showed footage from Vietnam we searched the faces looking for him.

Then in July 1971, I was driving home from work and the news item on the radio was momentous. The POW's had been released and were on their way home. My immediate reaction was deep anger. I couldn't imagine why I was feeling that way. I was confused and ashamed. Then it dawned on me. If the POW's were freed and Buddy wasn't among them, that meant his death was real. My rage dissolved into a sea of tears. My sister, Barbara had the same reaction when Saigon fell. Neither of us was even aware that we had been holding on to the false hope that there had been a horrible mistake.

For the next forty years, Barbara and I wove a protective, but isolating cocoon around our sorrow. We built a sturdy wall against our grief and never dared to peek over it... Until Memorial Day, 2011. That evening I went to my computer and the virtual wall on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website. Several messages and a picture had been posted to Buddy's page. I had seen the page before, but for reasons I can't explain I never reached out to the men who left those messages. So that night, I e-mailed the person who had left the most recent posting, which was two years old. I didn't even know if the address was still valid. To my amazement Bruce Farder wrote back and a most profound journey began. Bruce suggested that I get in touch with Bill Farrell who had been their lieutenant and had posted the picture of Buddy taken on highway 19 in February 1969.

When I e-mailed Bill, he answered that he had "been waiting for years for the families to get in touch" with him. Barbara and I were stunned. There were actually

people out there somewhere who remembered Buddy. That thought never crossed our minds. Bill, in turn, directed me to Gary and Jeanne Simon. Gary and Buddy had been best friends living in track 19. We all kept in touch over the next two years sharing memories, information and love. We became family. When it was announced that the 2014 - 2/1 CAV reunion would be held in Milwaukee, a reasonable distance for all of us, Jeanne told us, "You have to go."

THE REUNION

Barbara and I boarded our flight to Milwaukee, having no idea what lay ahead of us. We were nervous but determined to do this — to meet Buddy's friends and to honor him. We had no expectations and decided to let things unfold as they were meant to. Nothing could have prepared us for the outpouring of love and support that was showered on us all weekend. Here, at last, were people who truly understood. For them as well as for us, the pain is always just beneath the surface. For all of us the tears come, oh, so easily when we remember the men who didn't come home. The horrors we all still live are different in detail, but similar in consequence. They shaped and continue to shape our lives. Vietnam changed us forever.

After checking in, Barbara and I went to register for the reunion. To our great surprise when we walked off the elevator, there were Bruce, Gary and Jeanne. The hugs could have lasted forever. We did it! We were all here.

By far, the most poignant, tender and loving event was the Memorial Service. We were asked to join the troopers in placing roses in the Wreath of Honor as the names of the fallen were read. The order in which the names were read had been changed so that we could honor the five men who also died on July 7, 1969, Dave Bonesteel, James Knowles, Ronnie Newell, James Bedell and Curtis Stephens. Our deepest thank you to whoever did that. That moment brought great peace and healing. After the Memorial Service, we were invited to take Buddy's place in the Troop B photo. That has become a family picture; the 2/1 CAV Blackhawks, our new family.



Throughout the weekend, we laughed more than we cried as we got to know brothers and sisters. We even partook of "CAV communion". Gary told us that Buddy would have wanted us to do that. Yuck! Thanks Buddy and Gary.

In the end, sharing this reunion with the men and the wives of the 2/1 CAV was so healing. When we got home, someone asked me if it brought closure. As you all know there will never be closure. Vietnam happened fifty years ago — but no, it happens every day. A sound, a look, an image can spark a memory that erupts from our very souls in sorrow and fear. It never goes away. Perhaps it shouldn't. Perhaps it is the price we pay for loving all of those men so dearly.

The words simply don't exist that could adequately express Barbara's and my gratitude to each and every one of you.

To paraphrase Ecclesiastes, there is a time and a place for everything. This was our time, our place. Thank you.



MILWAUKEE MEMORIAL DVD

The DVD of the Memorial Service just came. My husband and I sat down and watched it right away. Once again I am at a loss for words. How can I thank you? Being able to relive the Memorial Service is so moving. It brings our journey full circle. This will be a family treasure forever. Please extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who had any part in this. I am anxious to share it with the rest of our family.

— Gary Simon, Barbara Cox Cardano,
Patricia Cox Owen, Bruce Farder
B Troop Milwaukee Wisconsin

Sgt. Vobelt

To All Our 2/1 Cav Family:

I would like to bring everyone up-to-date on Rolf since we saw you all in Milwaukee and then some of you again at Fire Base Barker. While we were in Milwaukee Rolf was having trouble with his back and right leg when walking. He spent most of his time sitting in the hospitality room or in our room lying down. When we returned from Milwaukee his doctor started running different tests to see what the problem could be. Here in our area it takes forever to get any type of test taken, such as X-Rays, CT scans and MRI's. By the time we were able to get an MRI done it was December 19th. We had an afternoon appointment and when we got home there was a message to get Rolf to Emergency ASAP!! I needed to take him somewhere that there would be a neurosurgeon. The closest one would be in Cooperstown which is an hour and 45 minutes from us. After they got Rolf stabilized and ran several tests of their own the ER doctor got word that the neurosurgeon hadn't sign out but would be gone for several days. The next step was to take him by ambulance to the Albany Medical Center in Albany which was another hour away. After arriving in Albany they took more tests and by 10:30 PM he was admitted and in a room. The neurosurgeon was called and Rolf was going in for surgery at 6:30 AM, Saturday morning, December 20th. They found that Rolf had a mass on his spine and it had cracked one of his vertebrae. He now has about a 15" scar along his spine. They also found the he had a mass in his lung the size of an orange, another in his right groin and a spot on his liver. What it comes down to is that he has stage 4 lung cancer. He was in the hospital until December 26th. They started radiation on his groin on the 26th. They couldn't do anything with his back and lung until the staples were removed. Radiation was started on his back and lung on January 8th. All radiation ended on January 27th. Later that day a Chemo port was put in, getting ready for his Chemo on February 11th. We have been able to spend several days at home since Rolf's radiation has ended. He is very weak and has lost a lot of weight. (down to 197 lbs.) We will head back to Albany Medical for doctor's follow-up this week. Then the following week his Chemo starts. He is slated for 4 rounds of Chemo with three weeks in between each. I was so lucky to get a room at the Fisher House. It's a house where you can stay for no charge, if you're a veteran or family member. It was a Godsend since we are 117 miles from Albany. I have been there since December 23rd. Rolf joined me once he was released from the hospital. It's located 2 blocks from the Albany Medical Center so it makes it very handy for taking him to his treatments. When Rolf found out that he had cancer he told his doctor "them slanted eyes over in Vietnam didn't kick my ass and this friggen cancer isn't either". I am asking everyone to keep Rolf in your prayers.

Love you all, Kaylene Vobelt

Fiddler's Green



RICHARD CHABOT, age 67, of Coventry, passed away at home after a courageous three month battle with cancer, on Monday, August 25, 2014 surrounded by his loving family. Born in Woonsocket, he was a son of the late Louis and Cecile (Girard) Chabot. Richard loved life,

especially spending time with his family and friends. He was an avid sports fan and loved the NY Giants, Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins. He thoroughly enjoyed fishing, gardening and caring for his meticulous yard.

Richard is survived by his beloved wife of 44 years, Mary (Kilcline) Chabot. They were lifelong loves and high school sweethearts. He was the loving and devoted father of Jeffrey Chabot and his wife Amy of Cranston and Karen Correia and her husband Gregory of Warwick. Richard's proudest accomplishment was becoming a grandfather four times in two months to Landon Cooper and triplets Colin, Nathan and Peyton. They were his "little loves". He is also survived by his sister Lorraine Roberts and brother Robert Chabot.

Richard was a US Army combat veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Chapter 818 Vietnam Veterans James Michael Ray. He was a driver and salesman at My Bread Baking Co. for 25 years and later retired from the security department at Women & Infants Hospital. Interment with Military Honors were in the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery, Exeter.



SSG JUSTIN L. HOLT, age 31, Blackfoot Troop, 2nd Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry; 1st Stryker Brigade Combat team, 4th Infantry Division.

Staff Sergeant Justin L. Hilt was born in Paris, TX, raised in Bogata, TX and attended Pittsburg High School in

Pittsburg, TX. SSG Holt joined the U.S. Army in 2004 and attended One Station Unit Training at Ft. Knox, KY, graduating as a 19D, Cavalry Scout.

SSG Holt held positions as a Scout, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Operations NCO, and Section Leader. His assignments include 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment in Buedingen, Germany, 3rd Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment in Ft. Bragg, NC, and 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division in Ft. Bragg, NC.

Upon his arrival to Ft. Carson, CO in June 2011, SSG Holt was assigned to Bulldog Troop, 7th Squadron, 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team as a Section Leader. He immediately showcased his knowledge and

military expertise through rigorous, realistic training in preparation for the Squadron's National Training Center rotation in Ft. Irwin, CA and follow-on deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield/Enduring Freedom.

He deployed to multiple contingency operations including two Operation Iraqi Freedom tours and one Operation Spartan Shield/Enduring Freedom tour.

SSG Holt was an avid hunter and enjoyed riding his motorcycle, fishing, and training his dog Kipper. Most of all, he loved spending time with his son, Morgan and stepson, Kayden. He often brought Morgan to work wearing a Stetson and boots, the hallmarks of a true Cavalryman. He loved the Army and his fellow soldiers.

His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (4th OLC), Army Achievement Medal (2nd OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (3rd Award), National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (Numeral 3), Combat Action Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Driver Mechanic Badge — Tracked Vehicles.

SSG Holt is survived by his son, Morgan and mother, Judy Holt of Colorado Springs, CO, along with his father, Robert Holt of Leesburg, TX.

ROBERT C. LATELLA age 66, passed away at Newton Medical Center Sunday, June 8, 2014. Born in Newark, New Jersey, Mr. Latella was the son of the late Frank C. and Hannah (Decker) Latella. He had been a resident of Sussex County for the past 36 years and had previously resided in Lodi. Mr. Latella was a veteran of the United States Army, proudly serving his country during the Vietnam War in C-Troop 1967-68. For many years he was a salesman-driver of Hostess brand baked goods, retiring in 2002. He was a longtime member of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Highland Lakes, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister. He was a former Little League Baseball coach in Vernon.

Mr. Latella is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara (Irvolino) Latella, of Highland Lakes; his children, Janine Latella and Sean Brady, of Highland Lakes, Christopher Latella and his wife, Carmen, of Browns Mills, and Elyse Latella, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and three grandchildren.

Entombment was held June 14, at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Mausoleum, Totowa. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory would be preferred and may be made to the Disabled American Veterans Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301, www.dav.org.



2nd Squadron 1st Cavalry Association

Regiment of Dragoons

Trooper Registration/Change of Address

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

Spouse Name: (optional) _____

Service Dates (from/to) with 2/1 Cav: _____

Theater/Area of Operation (s): _____

Troop/Platoon: _____

Mail to:

2/1 CAV • PO Box 87 • Bay City, MI 48707-0087

WILLIAM JAMES HAMILL, Eastpointe resident, age 61, died Monday, Nov. 3, 2008, at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was born Aug. 5, 1947 in Highland Park, to Thomas Jean and Mildred Hamill. He was a graduate of Wayne State University and served as a sergeant in the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Hamill retired Nov. 1 as a supervisor in the automotive industry. He was an involved coordinator with the foreign exchange program with East Detroit High School and South Lake High School in St. Clair Shores. Mr. Hamill is survived by his wife, Barbara J.; sons, William James Hamill III and Thomas John Hamill; and his brother, Robert (Marion) Hamill. He also is survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law, John and Sherrill Cronin, Ken and Nancy Cronin and Alan and Peggy Fisk. He was the adopted brother of the McCarville Family. He was predeceased by his parents; and sister, Dorothy Schwindel.

Services were held at the Clyne & Sobocinski Funeral Home in Eastpointe with cremation at Meadowcrest Cemetery in Detroit. Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 30200 Telegraph, Suite 1, Bingham Farms, MI 48025.

Financial Support

For those financially able, we suggest an annual dues of \$10 to help operate the Association and to get the *Blackhawk Bulletin* printed, published, and mailed twice each year. 2014 dues and donations are accepted at any time during the year and your contributions are very much appreciated.

Please make your check or money order payable to:
2/1 CAV and mail it to **PO Box 87, Bay City, MI 48707-0087**.

Quarter Master's

— Jesse Paul and Diana Watson

The Watson's have reunion gear and anything you'd like to have made such as different shirts, jackets, etc. Their phone numbers are JP 660-537-5833 , Diana 573-298-8197 and email address is jpd_watson@hotmail.com

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

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