



# Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

Summer 2011

## Firebase Barker 2011 "VET" Offensive

By Jerry Barker

Troopers, mark your short-timer calendars for September 16-18, 2011. This off-year Firebase promises to be a major operation, so plan **now!**

Once again we will road march, early Saturday morning to the nation's oldest, "29th annual Viet Nam and All Veterans Reunion" in Kokomo, Indiana. Immediately following, we will return to HQ Elaine for major hot rations distribution, a short business meeting featuring our new officers, and CAVALRY COMMUNION.

**Minor SANFU:** The usual hotel accommodations nearby may be limited due to competition from a close NHRA race scheduled for the same weekend. If you haven't booked a room yet, you had better "git 'er done". If you need help finding reservations or alternate arrangements call me at 317-607-8015.

For returning Vets, be advised that Firebase Barker looks a little different this year, so look sharp. HQ is configured differently and has a new camouflaged color scheme that I lovingly call "PTSD GREEN". Please help us make this year's bivouac a success by letting us know your plans (you know who you are)! This includes when you expect to arrive and how many support personnel will be with you. You can imagine the logistics required in hosting an event this large, we want to have plenty for everyone.

See you in September, but beware – it's a jungle out there!

## New Armor and Cavalry Museum

The Week of June 13, 2011 in a ribbon cutting ceremony, Fort Benning was recently designated the site of the future National Armor and Cavalry Museum. The location sits near Access Control Point 2. The project is in the fundraising stage right now, and an opening date for the new museum has not been announced. The Armor museum has had six homes in its history. This will mark a second time at Fort Benning, where the Army Tank School operated from 1932 to 1938. For more information, visit the National Armor and Cavalry Museum Foundation website [www.armorcavalrymuseum.org](http://www.armorcavalrymuseum.org).

**From Ron West:** More on move to Ft. Benning. My wife and I attended to uncasing of the colors ceremony on Monday. Wore my yellow Blackhawks in Vietnam hat from the Fort Knox reunion, with all the appropriate crests, including the VUC Trip A received for Kontum during TET. Stuck out like a sore thumb among all the Stetsons and patrol caps, but what the hell...

Missed the article in the paper, but took pics and will send along shortly. For those familiar with Ft. Benning, the area they've built for the Armor School in Harmony Church will absolutely knock your socks off as well as other places around the post. Thank you tax payers! – Ron



## Armor Equipment Rolls into Fort Benning

Read more: [www.ledger-enquirer.com/2011/06/22/1628445/armor-equipment-rolls-into-benning.html?story\\_link=email\\_msg#ixzz1QgitNNr6](http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2011/06/22/1628445/armor-equipment-rolls-into-benning.html?story_link=email_msg#ixzz1QgitNNr6)

# 2012 Reunion

**We have a reunion site!** Make plans to attend the 2012 2/1 CAV Reunion August 16-19, 2012 at the Wyndham Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Gettysburg area is a great vacation location with many interesting and historical places to visit. We have three days prior and three days after the reunion at the same room rate so you can expand your vacation. Room reservations will be available this fall; after Firebase Barker. Full details will follow in the next *Blackhawk Bulletin*.



## Troop Representatives

### A Troop

By John Mavon

Healing prayers go out to Terry Franklin who is recovering from a stroke, and to Rick "Reverend" Hines who took a nasty fall that resulted in a broken neck. He has been in a neck brace for the last few months. All are waiting to hear the schedule and dates for 2012 reunion. Sal Huerta (call sign Chicano 1-2) just had a big birthday bash for his 60th.

For all you avid readers out there, Jack Conway (A Troop Boat Guy) informed me there is a new book out by Nolan titled *Search and Destroy* which is the story of 1/1 CAV (sister unit of 2/1 CAV) in Vietnam. It covers the training at Fort Hood and the trip over for both squadrons on the troopship, Walker. Can be purchased from Amazon or downloaded on most E-Readers.

Received the following letter from Charlie Smith via email: if anyone can help, please contact Charlie at [cwsmith@paulbunyan.net](mailto:cwsmith@paulbunyan.net).

*"John, I was trying to find someone that remembered the action in which I was wounded and contacted the number in the roster for Sgt. Gary Buckley. He was also wounded and treated the same day. I reached his wife and was told he passed away about*

*five years ago from cancer. I had talked to him on and off for a few years after he rotated back and then lost contact. He was a track commander. You might want to include this in the next update. The address in the roster, 180 Luray Circle, Luray, TN 38352 is accurate. He and his brother owned and ran a machine shop until his death.*

*I am looking for a "Buddy" letter that only verifies that I was wounded, really a gimme, because I received a Purple Heart. I have a claim I am appealing for problems from that incident. However, there are no medical records from either the squadron medical station or the Cam Rahn Bay Hospital where I was sent for X-rays to my shoulder and elbows.*

*The date of the action was 12 Jun 69. We were with C Troop and it happened just after we relocated to Firebase Panzer. I remember that because Gary was fighting his track with one M-60. They had held quite a number when we were on the stand down because they had cracked bolts and receivers and the replacements had not caught up with us."*

*I have never seen a request for this in the **Blackhawk Newsletter** and don't know if it is something that could be accommodated. Thanks, Charlie Smith*

### B Troop

By Warren Roach

Well Troopers, it will not be too much longer and it will be time for Firebase Barker. I met with Tom Fey at Arlington National Cemetery to say farewell to Lt. Col. Robert G. Bond with a Military ceremony; my condolences to his family. The family of Lt. Col. Bond welcomed Tom and I with hospitality and love. We enjoyed some brief remembrances of our common love that he had for the 2-1 CAV. It was a visit I shall always treasure. Tom will be reporting more on Lt. Col. Robert G. Bond.

OK troopers, I need your feedback about what is going on in your world, and with your fellow troopers. STAY IN TOUCH. I hope you all had a nice 4th of July. Scouts Out!!!

### C Troop

By Wayne (Hooker) Hook

Frank Woulf is recovering from his stroke he had earlier. He no longer has occupational therapy according to his sister, and he has the greatest looking lawn around as he is able to do that. He is living on his own and has lots of help from family and friends. Fred and Glenda Pugh had some limbs down when the tornado

hit Joplin. When I talked to Fred, they were out of electricity, but no major damage. As for myself, I had numbness in my left arm and not a lot of control of it. Went to the Dr. and ended up having a MRI, CATSCAN, EKG and an ultra sound. The artery in my neck was 95 to 99% blocked so on Friday, June 29th I had surgery. Everything seems to be a lot better and I have a lot more feeling in my arm and can control it a lot better. I go back to the Doctor on July 7th and will know more then. I'm looking forward to Firebase Barker which is only about 10 weeks till then. Hope to see a lot of you there.

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## D Troop

*By Ray Marple*

Greetings to all of my Brother "D Troopers." Well, it's almost that time of year again. Time to start thinking about firing up the old Charlie model and making the trip down to "Firebase Barker." Those of you, who have never attended, ought to give it a thought. Besides the Barker's great hospitality there's the trek to the VVA Convention in Kokomo, The Association's business meeting Saturday evening, great food, and camaraderie.

This also would give you a chance for some heads up info on the upcoming reunion in 2012. I recently had the privilege of sitting in on a phone conference with the hotel, what a learning experience. It also made me appreciate the Administrations endeavors more.

If I can help anyone, in any way, please drop me a line or give me a call. Till then ... "SCOUTS OUT".

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## HHT Troop

*By Lloyd Wirkkala*

Calling all HHT troopers, let's see how good a showing we can make at Gettysburg in 2012. Time to start

planning is now. I also would like to thank all troopers who have helped in locating our lost troops. Every little bit of info helps, and if anyone has any old orders, don't be afraid to share them with me. There still are many to find.

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## Vice President – Lance Lake

Happy Summertime. Well, it is a hot one here in Georgia. I hope all of you are enjoying yourself with the kids and grandkids as I am. It is a really great time right now for me; I had back surgery in April and I'm pain free for the first time in years. I found this really great Orthopedic Doctor and hospital in Columbus, Georgia and would recommend it highly to anyone having orthopedic problems. Don't listen to all the horror stories as I did for so long and not do something about the

problem. There are many new procedures that make these kinds of problem fixable. I should have had it done a long time ago.

Hope all of you are planning now for the 2012 Reunion. Everything I know about it, at this time, it will be the biggest and best ever. For all of you who have never attended a Reunion I would personally like to invite you to make this one your first. There is nothing like the fellowship, and after one, I guarantee you will be hooked. So start the ROAD MARCH.

Please make sure you bring your kids and grandkids, as so many of our troopers already do. It is a great learning experience for them and it is a way to make sure they keep the memory alive for generations to come.

Remember to contact me, at anytime, if you have any questions about your association.

## President's Corner

Well being president has been interesting, "not bad" just interesting. I went to Gettysburg to locate our 2012 Reunion site and had a great visit with Warren Roach while in the area. Warren and I represented the 2/1 CAV at the funeral of our former Squadron Commander, Colonel Robert Bond on 06 June. From listening to his family, he was always a 2/1 CAV'er as his home office was decorated with 2/1 CAV items. The small 2/1 guide-on that had been in his office was entombed with his ashes. Warren and I were treated as an important part of their family, which was much appreciated. Their loss is our loss and we grieve for our lost leader.

I got a phone call from William Reynolds that he's in the VA Hospital in St. Louis, MO. I've been trying to get the "new squadron" members to join our association and have been in touch with the S-3 and the CSM trying to set a date to visit the squadron stationed at Ft. Lewis-McCord in Washington; nothing yet, but still working.

I had a great visit over coffee with our "Old" CO, Captain Hartman and his wife, Bridget. It turns out their son lives just a couple of miles from me on the other side of the mountain. For those of you "non-boat" troopers, Captain Hartman was our Charlie Troop CO when we went across the pond in 1967. Capt. Hartman is now Brigadier General Hartman, Retired.

– Tom

# End of an Era

*This is the speech given at Ft Rucker when they retired the last Huey: CW4  
Lawrence Castagneto, 17 May 2011*

“As a Vietnam Veteran Army Aviator, I would like to thank everyone for coming to this special occasion, on this to be honest ... very sad day, the end of an era. An era that has spanned over 50 years. The retirement of this grand old lady “OUR MOTHER” ... the Huey.

I would like to thank, MG Crutchfield for allowing me to speak at this event and try to convey in my own inadequate, meager way ... what this aircraft means to me and to so many other Vietnam veterans.

First a few facts: It was 48 years ago this month that the first Huey arrived in Vietnam with units that were to become part of the 145th and the 13th Combat Aviation Battalions; both units assigned here at Ft Rucker today. While in Vietnam, the Huey flew approximately 7,457,000 combat assault sorties; 3,952,000 attack or gunship sorties and 3,548,000 cargo supply sorties. That comes to over 15 million sorties flown over the paddies and jungles of Nam, not to include the millions of sorties flown all over the world and other combat zones since then ... what an amazing journey ... I am honored and humbled to have been a small part of that journey.

To those in the crowd that have had the honor to fly, crew, or ride this magnificent machine in combat, we are the chosen few, the lucky ones. They understand what this aircraft means, and how hard it is for me to describe my feelings about her as a Vietnam combat pilot ... for she is alive ... has a life of her own, and has been a lifelong friend.

How do I break down in a few minutes, a 42 year love affair? She is as much a part of me, and to so

many others ... as the blood that flows through our veins. Try to imagine all those touched over the years ... by the shadow of her blades.

Other aircraft can fly overhead and some will look up and some may not; or even recognize what they see, but when a Huey flies over everyone looks up and everyone knows who she is ... young or old all over the world she connects with all.

To those that rode her into combat ... the sound of those blades causes our heart beat to rise ... and breaths to quicken... in anticipation of seeing that beautiful machine fly overhead and the feeling of comfort she brings. No other aircraft in the history of aviation evokes the emotional response the Huey does ... combat veteran's or not ... she is recognized all around the world by young and old, she is the ICON of the Vietnam war, U.S. Army Aviation, and the U.S. Army. Over five decades of service she carried Army Aviation on her back, from bird dogs and piston powered helicopters with a secondary support mission, to the force multiplier combat arm that Army Aviation is today.

Even the young aviators of today, that are mainly Apache pilot's, Blackhawk pilot's, etc., that have had a chance to fly her will tell you there is no greater feeling, honor, or thrill then to be blessed with the opportunity to ride her through the sky ... they may love there Apaches and Blackhawks, but they will say there is no aircraft like flying the Huey “it is special”. There are two kinds of helicopter pilots: those that have flown the Huey, and those that wish they could have.

The intense feelings generated for

this aircraft are not just from the flight crews, but also from those who rode in back ... into and out of the “devils caldron”. As paraphrased here from “Gods own lunatics”, Joe Galloway's tribute to the Huey and her flight crews and other Infantry veteran's comments: Is there anyone here today who does not thrill to the sound of those Huey blades?? That familiar whop-whop-whop is the soundtrack of our war ... the lullaby of our younger days it is burned in to our brains and our hearts. To those who spent their time in Nam as a grunt, know that noise was always a great comfort ... Even today when I hear it, I stop ... catch my breath ... and search the sky for a glimpse of the mighty eagle.

To the pilots and crews of that wonderful machine ... we loved you, we loved that machine. No matter how bad things were ... if we called ... you came ... down through the hail of green tracers and other visible signs of a real bad day off to a bad start. I can still hear the sound of those blades churning the fiery sky ... To us you seemed beyond brave and fearless ... Down you would come to us in the middle of battle in those flimsy thin skin-chariots ... into the storm of fire and hell ... we feared for you, we were awed by you. We thought of you and that beautiful bird as “God's own lunatics” ... and wondered ...who are these men, and this machine, and where do they come from? ... Have to be “God's Angels”.

So with that I say to her, that beautiful lady sitting out there, from me and all my lucky brothers, that were given the honor to serve their country, and the privilege of flying this great lady in skies of Vietnam –

Thank you for the memories  
...Thank you for always being there  
... Thank you for always bringing us  
home regardless of how beat up and  
shot up you were ... Thank You!!!!.

You will never be forgotten, we  
loved you then ... we love you now

... and will love you till our last  
breath ...

And as the sun sets today, if you  
listen quietly and closely, you will  
hear that faint whop-whop-whop of  
our mother speaking to all her  
children, past and present, who rode

her into history in a blaze of glory ...  
she will be saying to them: I am here  
... I will always be here with you. I  
am at peace and so should you be ...  
and so should you be."

# From the Veterans Of Foreign Wars magazine January 2011

Identified Army Units Awarded The Valorous Unit Award For Gallantry in 1991 Armor/Armored Cavalry, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment: FEB 23-26. Includes all elements of the Dragoon Battle Group. Over a 96-hour period, including the Battle of 73 Easting, 2nd ACR components "decisively defeated" Republican Guard (The Tawakalna Division) elements, displaying "intrepidity" in combat that clearly set them apart from other combat units in the VII Corps. Largest tank battle since WWII. ...WELL DONE BLACKHAWKS...

## 2nd Sqdn, 1st Cav Joins Division



### Unit Has 70 Streamers From Pre - RVN Battles

CAMP ENARI—The 4th Infantry Division was recently beefed up with the addition of the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry which arrived at Quin Nhon from the United States.

The squadron will join the Ivy Division on Operation Francis Marion.

The squadron, one of the most battle-honored units in the Army, was greeted at dockside by Lieutenant General

William Rosson, I Field Force commander, Lieutenant General Vinh Loc, Vietnamese II Corps commander, and Major General William R. Peers, Ivy Division commander.

During the ceremonies, the generals welcomed the unit to Vietnam and wished it success in its future operations.

Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph M. Gay, Jr., the squadron traces its history to March 2, 1833 when it was organized as the United States Regiment of Dragoons with the mission of protecting the western frontier.

A dragoon, like the mechanized infantryman of today, fought primarily on foot, but rode to the place of battle on horseback. A cavalryman, on the other hand, rode to battle and generally fought on horseback. By 1861, the distinction was quite blurred and dragoon units were being designated as cavalry.

Throughout the several wars in which the regiment has fought, it has earned 70 battle streamers. The unit has been cited for actions in the Civil War, Indian War, Spanish-American War, World War II and the Korean War.

In July 1963, the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry was assigned to the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Tex., where it remained until detached for Vietnam duty.

Vol. 1, No. 44

CAMP ENARI, VIETNAM

September, 10, 1967



# Fiddler's Green



**LTC Robert G. Bond**

We are sad to inform you that former 2-1 Cavalry Squadron Commander LTC Robert G. Bond passed away on 28 January 2011 in Colorado Springs, CO at the age of 85. LTC Bond commanded our Squadron from December 1969 to July 1970. He was a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery on 06 June 2011. He is survived by his wife Gisela and four children, Robert Jr., Nicole Ludlum, Denise Opdyke, and Michael.

B Troop Representative, Warren Roach and President, Tom Fey attended the service. His family treated us as an important part of the family which was an honor. LTC Bond was a 2/1 Cavalryman all the way and a small 2/1 guide-on was put in the crypt with his ashes.

**Arthur E. "Bud" Cosgrove**

A Trooper Bud Cosgrove passed away on 08 January 2011. Bud served with A Troop (67-68) as a cook and brought hot meals out to the troopers in the field. Bud joined the Niagara Frontier transportation Authority in 1968 and worked his way up to supervisor retiring in 2005. He also served 41 years as a member of the Sheridan Park Volunteer Fire Company serving as chief and fire commissioner.

## New Plaque from John McLaughlin



I have a new plaque (shown above) and I'm trying to get an idea of how many I need to make for when we get together at "FIREBASE BARKER" in September. It will be black and white, and the price will be \$30. Let me know by the end of August if you would like one.

*Thanks, John*

## 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).

Enclosed is my check made payable to: 2-1 CAV in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Mail my order to:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# 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

## **Financial Support**

For those who are financially able, we suggest annual dues of \$10 to help operate the Association.

Your 2011 dues and donations are accepted anytime. Just make your check payable to *2/1 CAV* and mail it to:

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

*Thank you!*

## **Notes from Troopers**

Tom, I am a former 2/1 CAV Trooper who served in Vietnam. As you can see from the previous notes between Warren and myself, which includes a pretty good detail of what occurred to me on the morning of July 7, 1969, I am turning to you to see if you can escalate or find someone who can verify my request as I have described in my original note to Warren. I know it will be difficult after all these years but I have heard of cases where it was done. As previously stated, when I was recuperating in the military hospital I was interviewed by someone from the 2/1 CAV but do not recall his name. Like I said, he indicated that Vincent and I were being recommended for Bronze Stars, but for some reason the paperwork was either never filed or was lost. I checked with St. Louis and they have no record. My biggest problem is the fact that my track was located at a point on the perimeter that was away from the rest of the unit and there was only Vincent Guzzo and myself left on the track to fight after it was hit. Anything you can do for us will be greatly appreciated.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# Blackhawk Bulletin

2nd Squadron, 1st (Armored) Cavalry Association

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