



Thunder Run

Vol. 27 – NO. 3

“Together Then – Together Again”

3rd Quarter, 2012

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

Countdown To Orlando

By Steve Page,
Reunion Committee Chairman

It is hard to believe that is just a few weeks the 11th ACVVC will again meet, this time in Orlando FL. The planning for your 27th annual Reunion is complete. The time has come to put all the plans into action.

It is not too late to make your hotel reservations. All information is printed in this issue. Hotel reservations must be made no later than August 29. The Reunion registration needs to be mailed now and no later than August 29. The information on the registration form is vital for a smooth running reunion. We need that information.

Orlando has much to offer. There are

many restaurants, shopping outlets and plenty of entertainment. The best news is that all of this is near The Rosen Centre Hotel. The “I Ride Trolley” will take you up and down International Drive at a very reasonable cost. Complementary shuttle service to Sea World, Wet ‘n Wild and Universal Studios is available from the hotel. Transportation to all Disney parks can be arranged at the hotel ticket counter. These are a few websites to help you plan your stay:

www.visitorlando.com/
www.iridetrolley.com/
www.visitflorida.com/

We are looking forward to seeing all of you again this year. Please travel safely. We will see you very soon.

Honoring a Leader...



U.S. Army Gen. Robert W. Cone, left, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command commanding general, and Karen Starry, unveil the dedication plaque at Ft. Eustis’ Starry Hall, June 8, 2012.

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Bad Vibrations

By: Mark S. Crist
Air Cav Troop, 398th Trans, 68/70



The Huey (Bell UH-1 Iroquois)

I’ve heard it been said a helicopter is a collection of rotating parts flying in formation. The word “flying” being somewhat of misnomer because a helicopter isn’t supposed to fly. I heard that one too. Having been around them for over forty years I can dispel that misconception. Lift overcomes weight and drag and up you go. Unlike a fixed wing though, let go of the controls without an automatic control system and you’ll be earthbound in any number of unusual attitudes, none of them good for the occupants.

I spent most of my maintenance time working on the Huey. Yes, the Huey had its share of rotating parts; all packed together is something that was called the “power train.” It began with its turbine

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Allen Hathaway
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



The 11th ACVVC and Blackhorse Association are working together on a project to move the entire 11th Cavalry Memorial complex to Fort Benning, Georgia.

This issue of *Thunder Run* will arrive just a few weeks before the 27th annual reunion in Orlando, Florida, on September 12-16. As of this writing (July 1) we are approaching 1,100 people who have registered for the reunion.

We are pleased to announce that Sewall Menzel will be our guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and program. Sewall has an impressive 25 year career in the United States Army, with over four years spent in Vietnam. As a captain in 1970 he served as troop Commander of first E Troop then G Troop, 2nd Squadron. While in command of G Troop, Captain Menzel led the unit across the border into Cambodia as part of the American invasion on May 1, 1970. Sewall Menzel wrote of his experiences in Vietnam in the book called *Battle Captain*. (The main title for the book was derived from the 2nd Squadron, 11th ACR call sign "Battle".)

Ron Krueger and Paul Gissible are heading up the silent auction again this year along with the help of Greg Mason. Donations of items or "in-kind" services for the auction are always appreciated. Items with an 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand, but any item of value and good taste is welcome. You can bring items with you to the reunion, or you can mail them. Please see the separate article in this issue for the mailing address and donation form. If you plan to mail items, please ensure they are mailed so they arrive prior to September 10.

Tickets for our 24th annual raffle were mailed in June. Mike "Doc" Rafferty is once again heading up this activity. We encourage you to return your ticket stubs to Mike as soon as possible. Tickets are \$1.00 each with the chance to win any one of 15 prizes. The total prize pool again this year is \$2,500. Please contact Mike if you need additional tickets.

In April I took the opportunity to visit the 11th ACR at Fort Irwin for the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony hosted by the National Training Center (NTC). Hundreds of Vietnam veterans from all branches of the armed

forces attended the ceremony. Many Blackhorse troopers were spotted among the crowd.

Veterans were treated to a BBQ lunch as part of the day long activities. The 11th ACR also set up a static display of much of the equipment used as the OPFOR and their training in the desert. This was an excellent opportunity to get a first hand look at the equipment used by today's soldiers. We crawled over, in, and through (with a little help sometimes) every piece of equipment on display. We talked with many of the Blackhorse troopers throughout the day. They were eager to explain everything they could about their equipment and the mission they have at Fort Irwin. Many have had multiple tours in Iraq or Afghanistan. They are well trained, well disciplined and they are all proud to serve in the Blackhorse regiment. It was a perfect opportunity to thank them for their service. It was an enjoyable day.

The 11th ACVVC and Blackhorse Association are working together on a project to move the entire 11th Cavalry Memorial complex to Fort Benning, Georgia. Fort Benning is now the new home of the Armor School and future home of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum. Initial plans are being discussed

for the move. There are still many details to resolve however we estimate the memorial will be moved within the next 18 to 24 months. We will again be offering the opportunity to purchase engraved granite bricks which will become a permanent part of the memorial. More information will follow in future issues of *Thunder Run*.

The Women's Group will be offering a new cookbook just in time for the annual reunion. *Party With The Blackhorse* contains recipes for desserts, breads, beverages and party snacks. This is the second book of recipes offered by the Women's Group. The first book, *What's Cookin' With The Blackhorse* was a huge hit with many interesting and delicious recipes. Some have become favorites at our house. The new book will be available at the reunion in September and by mail in the next issue of *Thunder Run*.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome COL John Lanier Ward as the 65th Colonel of the Blackhorse Regiment. COL Ward assumed command of the regiment from COL Antonio (Tony) Aguto, 64th Colonel, in a change of command ceremony held on June 26, 2012, at Fort Irwin, CA. We would also like to thank

Continued on page 4

MOVING?

We want you to get your copy of *Thunder Run* without a lot of trouble. Complete this form and mail it to: 11th ACVVC Membership Update, Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112.



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr., 421 Fallen Leaf Dr., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577.

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General Starry Honored at Fort Eustis



Starry Picture 3 — U.S. Army Gen. Robert W. Cone, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, joins family members of the late Gen. Donn Starry in cutting the ribbon to ceremonially reopen Ft. Eustis' Building 611 as "Starry Hall," June 8, 2012. The building was renamed for General Starry, a prolific commanding general of TRADOC and the architect of the Army doctrine FM-100-5, "AirLand Battle," which modernized the Army's warfighting concepts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Wesley Farnsworth/Released)

*By Senior Airman Jason J. Brown,
633rd Air Base Wing Public Affairs*

FORT EUSTIS, Va. — The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) honored its second commanding general, the late Gen. Donn A. Starry, in a building dedication ceremony at Ft. Eustis June 8.

The command renamed Building 661 "Starry Hall" in honor of the general, who is credited with revolutionizing the Army in the post-Vietnam era through his doctrinal renaissance and intuitive leadership concepts.

The command renamed Building 661 "Starry Hall" in honor of the general, who is credited with revolutionizing the Army in the post-Vietnam era through his doctrinal renaissance and intuitive leadership concepts.

Gen. Robert Cone, TRADOC's commanding general, addressed the audience before joining Starry's wife, Karen, and his son, Michael, to unveil a bronze plaque at the entrance to the building and ceremonially cut a ribbon to "reopen" the building under its new name.

"For me, having been exposed to the military my entire life, this is a big deal," said Michael Starry, who serves as TRADOC's deputy director of concepts development and leadership. "My siblings and I grew up as kids in an Army family, and we recognize the effort, energy, and commitment it took from TRADOC to have the building named after our father.

"We're so very proud to experience this," he continued. "It's an incredible honor."

From 1977 through 1981, Starry commanded TRADOC, and was credited with formulating the Army's AirLand Battle doctrine. That doctrine better prepared the Army for modern-day warfare in the 1980s, 1990s and into the early 21st century.

COMMAND from page 2

COL Aguto for his excellent leadership of the Blackhorse Regiment during the past two years and for the support he and the entire regiment have given to all Blackhorse veterans. We extend our very best wishes to both on their new assignments.

Finally, as always, I ask that you keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. Reach out to those who wear the uniform and contribute daily to the security of our country, offer your hand, and thank them for their selfless service. ALLONS! — It's good to be "Together Again".

Through his AirLand Battle doctrine, Starry headed modernization initiatives that eventually led to procurement of weapons systems still in use by the Army today, including the M1 Abrams tank and the M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Starry's maneuver-based warfighting vision proved itself in defeating the Iraqi army in 1991 and 2003.

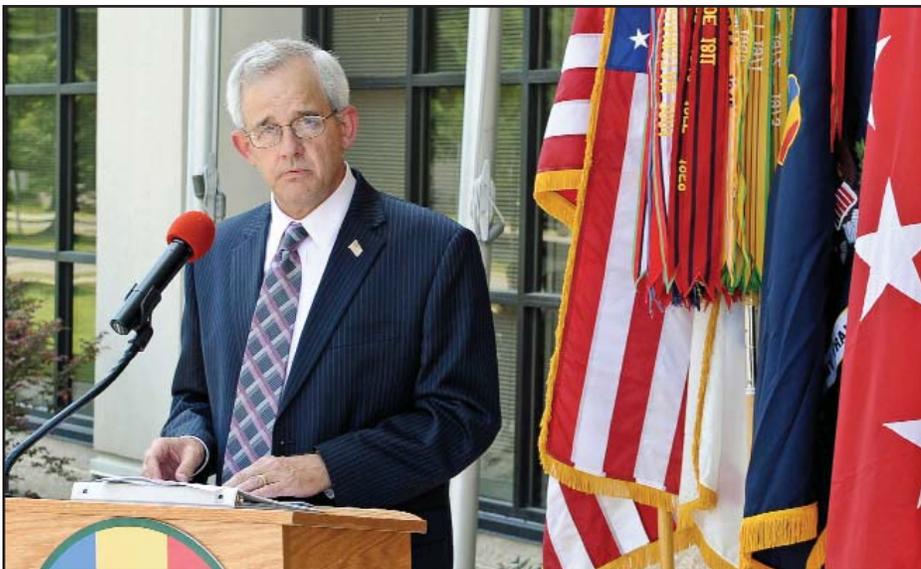
The general capped his 40-year career as commander-in-chief of the U.S. Readiness Command, retiring in 1983. He passed away in August 2011, and was interred at Arlington National Cemetery the following January.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Army News Service's J.P. Leipold contributed to this report.



ABOVE: U.S. Army Gen. Robert W. Cone, commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, shares remarks with the audience at the Building 661 rededication ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Wesley Farnsworth/Released)

BELOW: Michael Starry, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command deputy director of concepts development and leadership, shares remarks with the audience at the Building 661 rededication ceremony. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Wesley Farnsworth/Released)



Show Your Pride



John "Carb" Carabetta (1st Platoon, D Company, 1/11, 1968 – 1969) showed his pride and respect on Memorial Day 2012 with this display at his home in Meriden, CT. (Note the P-38 on the Dog Tags)



If you are near Myrtle Beach, SC it will be hard to miss Mike Kathman's (L Troop, 3/11) truck, he has a Blackhorse patch painted on the door, an 11th ACR tag on the front and "Blackhorse" painted on the rear bumper

Show Your Pride



Former K Troop 3/11 (1967-1968) Motor Sergeant Errol Brumm shows his pride every time he enters a race.



Robert L. O'Neal (K Troop, 3/11, 1967 – 1968) shows his pride "all over Indy . . ." on his Chrysler 300



Bill Gregory, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory

I thought when I first heard about monsoon season, that we would get a break from the dust....Wrong – very wrong, all that happened during monsoon was that it got more miserable.

Summertime is upon us with a Svengeance, almost reminds me of my time in that big live fire exercise over the great waters some forty odd years ago. As a tanker (and I bet it was much the same in the recon troops) I remember the humidity, and the dust. Dust is a constant companion for armor. Dust on the road, off the road, in the firebase, and the night defensive position (NDP). Dust in your food, your bed, messing up all your weapons systems, in your hair, your mouth, ears and all other body parts. I thought when I first heard about monsoon season, that we would get a break from the dust. Makes sense, I thought, the rain would keep the dust down and all we would have to breathe in a column would be diesel fumes instead of diesel fumes mixed with dust.

Wrong – very wrong, All that happened during monsoon was that it got more miserable. You see, it would rain (pour down) then it would quit and the sun would come back out, it would take ten minutes or so, it was so hot and the dust was back! So, you would be up to your road wheel hubs in mud, sticky, slushy mud, stinking goes all over everything mud; then ten minutes later you are back in dust. It was not just that it changed; it was that it changed so amazingly fast. Monsoon brought no relief; it just

brought extra humidity, and dusty mud!

As I write this, it is barely two and a half months until the beginning of the 27th Annual Reunion in Orlando, and by the time you get this in the mail there will likely be less than two months left. This issue contains all the information you need to make arrangements for your trip. The leaders of the 11th ACVVC have been working hard to put together another great celebration for you and I know it will be good because after twenty-six reunions, they are well practiced. I will not belabor the point any more – you know what you have to do!

In this issue we offer some really good articles from Frank Church, Leo Deege, Mark Crist, and Chaplain Blandon Karabinos. Kathy Tandberg announces another soon to be legendary cookbook that will be for sale at the reunion put together by our ladies. We also have articles by our regular columnists that are informative or entertaining - hopefully both. Chaplain Haworth has again taken an artifact from military service and used it to make an entertaining and inspirational point. Bob and Barb Moreno have been busy getting your registration system ready and Jerry Beamon is getting you Quartermaster Store ready to serve you. When you see these folks at the reunion, take a second to say thanks for all their hard work – better yet – volunteer to help!

Whether you go to Orlando or not, be careful, have fun in life and may God bless.

2012 Newsletter Deadlines

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

- First Quarter 2012Jan 15
- Second Quarter 2012Mar 25
- Third Quarter 2012.....Jun 25
- Fourth Quarter 2012.....Oct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Editor, 421 Fallen Leaf Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577. E-mail: Battle46A@epbf.com

Membership is Our Strength

It's not the price you pay to belong, It's the price you paid to become eligible to join

Veterans Day — Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

November 11, 2012, marks the 30th Anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Many activities are planned to mark the occasion.

As part of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of The Wall, there will be a continuous reading of all names listed on The Wall. Beginning on November 7th, The Reading of the Names is a four-day event where all 58,272 names inscribed on The Wall are read aloud by volunteers.

The reading will begin following a ceremony at the Memorial at 3:00 p.m. on November 7. The event will span 65 hours over a four-day period, during which nearly 2,000 volunteers will read the 58,272 names inscribed on The Wall. The names will be read in the order they were taken from us.

This is only the fifth time in The Wall's 30-year history that all of the names have been read in Washington, D.C. The first time was at the National Cathedral in 1982 as part of the Memorial's original dedication. For the 10th, 20th and 25th anniversaries, the names were read at The Wall.

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Veterans Day wreath laying at the Wall.

When: 9:45AM, Sunday, November 11, 2012

Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Who: All Blackhorse Troopers (all eras), family and friends

What: We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall

(Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30).

Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

REUNION REGISTRATION

By: Bob Moreno
Director, 11th ACVVC

Greetings everyone. Our reunion in Orlando, Florida will soon be here and I must say that I am a little surprised at how few registrations have arrived so far. I have received a list from our host hotel showing how many rooms have been reserved and it nowhere near matches what I have.

Folks don't put this off to much longer or many things can happen. Just to name a few: 1 - you miss the deadline and it's going to cost you more. 2- we have to turn in our meal count on the 11th and if we don't have your registration yet, then I'm afraid you won't be fed, or even seated with us in the banquet hall, and finally 3 - we (Barb and I) are leaving on the 3rd of September for our drive to Orlando and we won't have Internet (or printer) capabilities until we arrive at the hotel in Florida. So don't wait any longer - send it in NOW! If you find you need to cancel we can handle that. Better safe than sorry.

For those that we are still waiting for, if you are going to use the form that is in the *Thunder Run* please send in the 'whole' page. You see I keep them all in a folder and if you send in only part of the page then they don't fit properly or worse rip and fall out. That can cause our counts to be way off.

Remember "everyone" attending (from age 1 to ???) must register and pay. We have had several who have sent in their registrations stating that they are coming and bringing a youngster with them, and have even chosen a meal for that youngster but then are only paying for themselves. If you contact me we may be able to give a little bit of a discount for toddlers. But remember if they are coming to the banquet and eating anything, we do

Remember "everyone" attending (from age 1 to ???) must register and pay. We have had several who have sent in their registrations stating that they are coming and bringing a youngster with them, and have even chosen a meal for that youngster but then are only paying for themselves.

have to pay for that meal. So if you aren't sure, call me. We also need to know how many seats we need to have set up in the ball room Saturday night.

Speaking of seats, Steve has a rotation chart as to who sits where. He uses this so no one ever has to sit in the kitchen and everyone eventually gets to sit in the front of the room. This chart is very precise so, if for example, you served with E troop, then please DO NOT sit with someone from K troop. That really messes things up and a lot of folks get upset because they can't sit with their unit or sometimes even with a family member. You have plenty of time both before and after the banquet to visit. In fact if you want to, after eating you can move before the program begins. So don't be that person who ruins it for everyone.

I have received many calls about names not appearing right away on the web site. Please be patient as I have to put these in after, I first get your form (and that can take a week or more for those that are mailed), name tags are made, packets are put together and most importantly after I get home from work.

Well I can't think of anything else. Just get those registrations in and we will all have a great time in sunny Florida.

Annual Veterans Seminar

We are once again pleased to have Dr. Candace Drake as the guest speaker for the Veterans Seminar on Friday morning during the annual reunion in Orlando, FL.

The subject of the seminar will be - PTSD and Vietnam Veterans: What You and Your Family Need to Know About What It Is, How It Affects You and Your Loved Ones, and How To Get Help.

Dr. Drake will discuss how Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is acquired, the symptoms of PTSD, and how it can impact your life and the lives of those close to you. Additionally, she will speak about evidence-based psychotherapy treatments for PTSD. Evidence-based treatments are treatments that have been shown through scientific research to have a significant impact on decreasing PTSD symptoms. She will also discuss the impact of PTSD on families and what the spouses of Veterans with PTSD should know to help

understand their Veteran, as well as how to care for themselves. This presentation is open to all Veterans and family members!

NOTE: Dr. Drake is a clinical psychologist who has trained and worked at the VA for 4 years. Currently, she is employed at the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Pensacola, FL. She is the PTSD Psychologist in the PCT Clinic, a specialty clinic treating Veterans with a diagnosis of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Dr. Drake works exclusively with Veterans who have been diagnosed with PTSD, using Evidenced Based Treatments to help Veterans regain the life they had before trauma. She works with Veterans of all combat eras, from WWII to the current Gulf Wars. Besides treating combat trauma, Dr. Drake also treats Veterans who may have experienced or witnessed non-combat related traumas that occurred during a Veteran's military service.



Meet the 64th Colonel of the Regiment

On June 26, 2012, at Fort Irwin, California, COL John “Lanier” Ward assumed command and became the 65th Colonel of our beloved regiment. Take a moment to meet Colonel Ward.

COL Lanier Ward is a native of Metter, Georgia. He was commissioned as an Armor/Cavalry officer from the United States Military Academy in 1988.

COL Ward has served as a Tank, Scout, and Support Platoon Leader; a Tank and Headquarters Company Commander; a Training/Plans, Operations and Exercise Officer at the Brigade, Regiment, Division and 3d Army levels; a Senior Military Fellow at the National Defense University; 2/16th Cavalry’s Squadron Commander; a Director for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; and a Division ACofS, G3. COL Ward has deployed and conducted multiple tours to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Germany, and Macedonia.

In Macedonia, he served as a 1-63 Armor Tank Company Commander dur-



COL John “Lanier” Ward

ing OPERATION ABLE SENTRY. In three deployments to Iraq, he served as 4-37 Armor’s Scout Platoon Leader in DESERT STORM; the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment’s RS3 in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF1) where he was

wounded in Baghdad and spent a year recovering at the Brooke Army Medical Center; and as 1st Armored Division’s ACofS, G3 during OIF 10-11 and OPERATION NEW DAWN.

COL Ward received a Master of Arts in Administration degree from Central Michigan University in 2000 and was awarded a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the Air War College in 2012.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Purple Heart, the Joint Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (three oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (with “Valor” device and two oak leaf clusters), and the Joint Commendation Medal; the Combat Action Badge and the Air Assault Badge.

COL Ward met his wife, Heather, during his first duty assignment at Fort Riley, Kansas. She is from Smithville, Missouri. They are the very proud parents of a twelve year old daughter, Allie.

Show Your Pride



Steve Earl (37th Med, 1968 - 1969) showed his respect and pride on Memorial Day 2012 outside his home north of Seaside, Oregon as he displayed two kinds of American Iron. The tractor is a 1941 Farmall H.



TOP: Bob Kickenweitz (HQ Regiment 66 – 67) shows his pride with his Ford Edge, in the Garden State of New Jersey.

BELOW: Robert (Bob) LaRocque (HHT, 3/11, 1967 – 1968) once known as “Burlap4a” shows his pride with both an 11th CAV patch and plate frame.

VIBRATIONS from page 1

engine which drove a shaft to the main transmission. The incoming RPM's were reduced to turn the main rotor. A separate gear in the transmission, thru a lengthy driveshaft, powered the tail rotor, at roughly 3 times the RPM of the main. All of these rotating gizmos and whatsits had fine tolerances. Just think of the wheels on your car. Get the front end out of alignment or throw a weight and you know what I mean. Multiply them times ten in a helicopter. I lost count how many times I heard, "those damn things will shake the fillings out of your teeth!"

Perhaps there was a balance problem above your head. Those 2 rotor blades had to fly together as a team. None of this "bigger is better" stuff. Get one blade heavier than the other or some pitch problem and you as a passenger would catch the flack. So how did we in maintenance act as mediators? In the old days I think it took some skill. It was called "tracking and balancing." The negotiations began in Prop and Rotor. As with most rotating parts on a helicopter there are term limits, even the nuts and bolts. Let's face it, there's a lot of stress at the top! The main man is actually called The Hub. The two rotor blades were attached to him. This trio had to work together to provide a smooth ride. Prop and Rotor were the consultants. They joined them together. There had to be balance. Enter the blade pins which held the blades to the hub and were hollow. No two blades weighed the same. There is a special tool called the Marvel Balancer named after the company. And think of a see-saw while the hub and blades were on this tool.

The rotor had to be level. Lead weight was either added or subtracted in the blade pins. And the blades had to march together. None of this best foot forward stuff. Dress right, dress! The hub also had 2 drag braces to adjust the sweep of the blade. The balancer actually has a rifle scope to insure things were on the straight and narrow along the span. All of this was called Chord and Spanwise balancing. Once the negotiations were on track, and no pun intended, either the main or tailrotor was released for further arbitration and fine tuning, us mechanics on the flightline.

At the old Blackhorse basecamp with

I've heard many stories in my Aviation career. One involved a Huey that had a foot of one blade shot off from a .51 Cal. The vibration was shall we say, excessive. That crew landed and surveyed their options. They had to get out of there. The crew chief supposedly got his toolbox out and sawed a foot off the other blade with a hacksaw.

Air Cav, and later with the 398th at Redcatcher, the hub and blades were set on the mast using a "wrecker." I know that may sound ominous, but it was a crane mounted on a 5 ton truck chassis. The operator required some finesse. No dings and dents allowed in doing this maneuver. Once in place the "Jesus" nut was screwed on top. Ya, ever know that one big nut held the main rotor in place? Then all the other tubes were bolted on, to include what's called the "pitch change" links. All these subordinate employees were a requirement for a smooth operation of the company. No layoffs here!

Once all of this was accomplished, time for the test pilot, the internal affairs guy. He'd get that ol' Huey up to 100% on the turbine and rotor. "Let's see how the company is doing?" Our main tool was the "tracking flag." It was a piece of pipe about 10 feet long. Two smaller pieces of pipe were welded to it giving it the look of the letter "F." Between those 2 pipes masking tape was wound. On the tip off each rotor blade was an attachment with a hole for not only the main rotor tiedown, but also the application of grease pencils, black and red. With the rotor turning the tracking flag was slowly pushed into it. And I do mean slowly. Push it in to fast and the blades might sever the tape.

The purpose of the grease pencils was to see if the blades were flying together up and down. If the black was below the red or vice versa then some adjustment was needed on those pitch change links. The two colors had to be on top of each other. For the tailrotor a broom handle was used. Just a black grease pencil was taped to the end. While the helicopter was running it was "slowly" pushed into the blades. One had to make sure they did this facing aft. Facing forward and they stuck the broom handle in to far; they might be missing some teeth. If both blades on the tail rotor

were showing grease pencil on shutdown we were good to go. If not, the tail rotor had its own pitch change links. If the tailrotor was out of whack the helicopter might have a high frequency vibration in the pedals. It's been said it could put a pilot's feet to sleep.

However, there might still be vibrations. The most common was what's called a 1 to 1. That is, for every rotation of the main rotor there'd be a shuffle either up and down or sideways. Sideways, or lateral, was a weight problem, time to add or subtract weight from those blade pins. This was usually a rare occurrence. Up and down was a vertical. In flight, time to either adjust the pitch change links again or bend the trim tabs that each blade had. It was more or less a fly by the seat of your pants thing. Most pilots at that time were fairly young and had tight asses. That didn't sound right. If any test pilots read this I didn't think you were a tight ass! Now that I got that straightened out, vertical vibrations came in at certain airspeeds depending how bad they were. A test pilot might tell me, "it's in at 60 knots, put 1 degree of tab in the black blade!" We'd make the adjustment, on the ground and shutdown of course, and go back up. I might hear, "it's coming in at 80 knots, add another quarter degree. We did have a special tool for this. The goal was to get her up to cruise airspeed and be smooth as silk. Well, better than sandpaper!

I've heard many stories in my Aviation career. One involved a Huey that had a foot of one blade shot off from a .51 Cal. The vibration was shall we say, excessive. That crew landed and surveyed their options. They had to get out of there. The crew chief supposedly got his toolbox out and sawed a foot off the other blade with a hacksaw. True story, I don't know, maybe some legend.

OPERATION GLEN BURNIE¹

VIETNAM, JANUARY 1967

By: Leo Deege
How, 3/11, 1965-67

As our Huey gunship rises above the Regimental base camp it creates a vortex of red dust. Red dust is always everywhere, in base camp, on the road marches, in our C rations and now in the helicopter. I can taste the dust in my mouth and clear my throat. This morning a few 3rd Squadron officers are flying about ten miles north to Xuan Loc to meet with some artillery officers. As we gain altitude, we see the lush green jungle underneath us stretching out as far as the eye can see. Right now the jungle looks quite peaceful...It always does in the day time. We are all dressed in olive green uniforms, camouflaged helmets and flak jackets. The right door gunner adjusts his .50 cal machine gun and looks around for signs of trouble. I sit in the rear of the chopper adjusting my pistol out of habit. My mind is fully occupied with tonight's mission. The immediate task is to coordinate our artillery plan with the commanders of the 8 inch and 175 MM batteries at Xuan Loc.

Tonight we plan to surprise a communist occupied hamlet, Binh Loc. Intelligence indicated that the hamlet is used as a VC supply center and a rest and recuperation center for VC soldiers and politicians. Before dawn, the 3rd Squadron will surround the hamlet and kill or capture any VC. My job is to orchestrate the firing of a ten minute barrage in a large rectangular area just east of the hamlet and to ensure additional artillery support when needed. Each battery has its own unique characteristics. The guns can fire at a much longer range, but use a flat trajectory, which makes them less accurate. The 175MM gun is known to be somewhat erratic. The 8 inch is the most accurate weapon, but because of its heavier and larger projectile will explode in a larger fragmentation pattern. I will need to seek assurances that each battery will explode its rounds accurately within the rectangle and will cease firing at precisely the same time to ensure that helicopters landing within the rectangle will not be accidentally hit. The helicopters will carry Republic of Vietnam

[ARVN] rangers and accidents would be highly costly and embarrassing. [Artillery batteries in Vietnam often fired close in to friendly troops, but we found that not every unit commander had the same level of tolerance. In our first field operation, the calls for "cease firing" had actually made my hair turn partially grey overnight.]

Both of my batteries² are well trained and experienced. In camp Picket and AP Hill Howitzer battery had trained longer and harder than any other unit in the Regiment. Our crews can do "hip shoots"³ in their dreams.

(Col Boyer⁴, One of Patton's lead tank commanders in the Battle of the Bulge excitedly observed our final battery tests. After the scores were tallied, he called our battery together and emotionally praised us for our performance.) But today I have no idea yet of what the other artillery units are like. A lot must be learned in this visit.

As we arrive in the artillery compound of Xuan Loc, we once again create the dust vortex on landing. Through the red cloud we can see quonset huts and sandbagged installations that are protecting ammunition, supplies and the artillery pieces. As we dismount from the chopper, we exchange greetings with the two battery commanders. I am pleasantly surprised to recognize an OCS classmate. He excitedly briefs us in front of his 8 inch howitzer. The CO swears by its accuracy stating that he could direct

a 200 lbs high explosive round into a bucket anywhere within a 10 mile radius. The 175MM gun CO is also reassuring and I have my concerns addressed. Our artillery plan is practical. Target information, radio frequencies and call signs are exchanged and we return to base camp the same way that we came.

That afternoon, a Chinook helicopter airlifts a section of bulk bridging to a critical junction across a creek that our tanks will need to traverse. A concealed Navy seal team stays behind to prevent mining and tampering with the bridge. In the middle of the night, Tank Company guided by Howitzer Battery's white phosphorous air bursts moves towards the western side of the hamlet. The puffs of smoke leave a pungent smell in the air. To the east, our barrage goes off as planned. The sound of 18 artillery pieces exploding rounds at the same time, remind me of a time when as a boy I watched the German V-1's flying overhead in occupied Holland. Those rockets were extremely loud and also lit up the night sky. After ten minutes the explosions suddenly cease and are replaced by the swishing sound of many gunships mixed with machine gun fires



From a tactical standpoint, Glen Burnie stands out in my mind as an example of the outstanding leadership that the 3rd Squadron enjoyed.

directed at the edge of the landing zone. The rangers jump from the hovering helicopters and quickly seal the eastern approach to the hamlet. Armored cavalry assault vehicles [ACAVs] are crashing in from southern approaches to complete the cordon. Except for some sporadic fires and an exploding claymore mine that injures 2 US and 6 ARVN soldiers, little resistance is encountered. The village is searched and one tunnel destroyed. Interrogation of the villagers leads to the detainment and further questioning of 29 suspected VC. As is often the case, enemy casualties are unknown because the VC is expert in finding ways to hide and flee. Some of us are disappointed.

From a tactical standpoint, Glen Burnie stands out in my mind as an example of the outstanding leadership that the 3rd Squadron enjoyed. Flawless execution by the combined arms teams of tanks, ACAVs, howitzers, guns, helicopters, ARVN rangers and Navy seals showed that even in jungle warfare where the enemy has natural advantages, the 11th Cavalry was a superior and innovative fighting force. From then on notice was served that there were no longer any safe havens for the VC.

¹ Undoubtedly named after the village close to Fort Meade, Maryland, which was our US home base.

² Nine 4.2 inch SP mortars, and six 155MM SP howitzers.

³ I emphasized the hip shoot [rapid deployment from the march] in training after reading up on cavalry tactics.

⁴ The 11th Cavalry Regimental Commander before Col Cobb.

⁵ LTC Peterson, LTC Cochran and Major Doyle.

Second Fundraising Cookbook on the Way!

“Party with the Blackhorse” has approximately 200 delicious Blackhorse family recipes that will tempt your sweet tooth or salty palate. We have included recipes that are dedicated to beverages, cakes, cookies, pies, bars, crunchy snacks, dips, salads and soups.

By: *Kathy Tandberg*
Women’s Fundraising Chairperson

As we all know from attending the annual 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia reunions, no one can party like the Blackhorse can! To help with your party food needs at home, the troopers, along with family and friends, have once again shared their recipes with the Blackhorse Women’s Group for a second cookbook entitled “Party with the Blackhorse”.

The cookbook is the Women’s Group annual fundraising project for the upcoming 2012 reunion to be held September 12 - 16 in Orlando, Florida. Whether you like to have a cup of coffee and some goodies after church, gather for a social evening of beverages and hor d’oeuvres with family or friends, or celebrate the holidays with your family, this second cookbook has wonderful recipes for you from coast to coast.

“Party with the Blackhorse” has approximately 200 delicious Blackhorse family recipes that will tempt your sweet tooth or salty palate. We have included recipes that are dedicated to beverages, cakes, cookies, pies, bars, crunchy snacks, dips, salads and soups. You need it, this cookbook has it. The cookbook will be hot off the press right before the reunion kicks off and will be ready for



your kitchen for the mere cost of \$15 per cookbook. Just one more bargain that should be on every one’s shopping list for the perfect Blackhorse souvenir.

The Women ask that you keep this cookbook in mind as you prepare your gift lists for the year. “Party with the Blackhorse” is ideal for birthdays and the holidays, especially with Christmas and Hanukkah being just a few months away. Proceeds from the sale of this

cookbook will be given to the Troopers Scholarship Fund, the Prayer Shawl project, Arlington Cemetery Fund, and a very small amount being kept by the Women’s Group to be used as seed money for next year’s fund raising project.

A big “Thank You” goes out to each and everyone of you who shared your recipes with us. This project could not have been accomplished without you. It also would not have happened without the gracious assistance of the 11th ACVVC Board of Directors, who approved and supported this book. The Women express their greatest gratitude to all of them.

Lastly, this fundraising project would not be a success without you, the Troopers and their families who support the Women’s Group projects each year. Remember, “Party with the Blackhorse” will make a great gift on its own or as a stocking stuffer. So when making out your holiday shopping list, be sure to check it twice and include a few of the Blackhorse cookbooks.

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 2nd Quarter 2011 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49
<p>Trooper Assistance Fund</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Embrey, James Greany, Paul</p> <p>Scholarship</p> <p>Platinum Level</p> <p>Romero Silvio Bonnie Schmidt In Memory of Chuck Schmidt</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Cartwright, Waverly Robert R., McCormick Foundation Gregg, Stephen Johnson, Billy Ray Prattas, James In Memory of Bob Stuedemann Sinksen, Dennis Stuedemann, Mary Ann</p>	<p>In Memory of Pete Echon Walter, Pete Yocum, Kenneth</p> <p>Silver Level</p> <p>Silver Level Kircher, Paula Walter, Pete In Memory of, Bob Stuedemann Kirk, Harold Monzingo, Robert Rabuffetti, Francis</p> <p>Bronze Level</p> <p>Chambers, Michael Devera, John Dibbs, David Gilmore, Ronald Gyger, Robert Lynch, James Martin, Reginald Meyers, Gary Myers, J. William Plagge, Richard</p>	<p>Powell, Marvin Qualteri, James Rigney, Roy Scott, George Villa, Justice Watkins, David Harris, Majorie Brisch, Stephanie In Memory of Bob Stuedemann</p> <p>Calendar</p> <p>Platinum Level</p> <p>Buening, Edward Dennis, Steve Hammers, William Watkins, Michael</p> <p>Gold Level</p> <p>Beauford, Richard Brumm, Errol Dunn, John Fancher, George Keator, John Kern, Paul</p>	<p>Papp, Raymond Patch, Buzz Quinn, John Smit, Arthur Sobus, Timothy Sowell, Jerry Tomchick, James Turner, Edward</p> <p>Silver Level</p> <p>Brown, Ken Ballantyne, John Banks, Mason Beas, John Brown, Ken Buttice, Joseph Cambria, Frank Ferrill, G. Wayne Grier, William King, Dennis Kirkpatrick, Michael Murphy, Patrick Nuckols, Keith Parker, C.R. Rieth, Gary Snedeker, Donald</p>	<p>Thurstin, Gerald Woertz, Arthur</p> <p>Bronze Level</p> <p>Barton, Ronald Beckenhaupt, Groucho Bennett, Carl Bennett, Ronald Bonanno, Alfred Brown, Danny Bryan, Allen Bustos, John Caswell, Jonathan Cefhear, Caunto Demont, Robert Dye, Donald Evans, Steven Foulks, Michael Garloch, Dale Giesler, Donald Grulke, Wayne Gunn, Dennis Hebert, Donald Henderson, Thomas Hofflander, Paul Jensen, Robert</p> <p>Jones, F. Edward Keirns, Tommy Lathrope, Edward Lee, Larry Marsden, Gary McCollum, Charles McKenna, Thomas Montague, Harry Oliver, John Orozco, Joseph Penrod, Terry Reeves, Clinton Refshauge, Charles Rensland, Craig Rush, Robert Searcy, Rufus Shebelut, Kent Shimel, Dale Skiera, Ronald Smith, Thomas Steele, Dennis Story, M.F. Swanson, James Todd, Michael Wallech, Joseph Wiggins, Erwin</p>

There Are Brothers – Then There Are Brothers

Ed “Shag” Shegogue (A Troop, 1/11, 64-67) had never met Ed Morgan (506 S & S Company, 66-67) even though they both served at Blackhorse Base Camp (Xuan Loc) in 1966 to 1967, until they met at a Vietnam Veterans of America meeting. Now this is a little unusual, but in and of its’ self, not that unusual; many if not most of us have meet people since the war that we served in the same place with, and wondered why we never met. Ed S. and Ed M. have a lot more than that in common. Here goes:

- They share the same first name.
- They both belong to the 11th ACVVC
- They belong to the same VVA Post.
- They belong to the same VFW Post.
- They belong to the same American Legion Post.
- They belong to the same DAV Post.
- They both live in Millsboro, Delaware.
- They both are retired from the U.S. Army.
- They both moved from Maryland to Delaware.
- They are both 100% disabled veterans.
- They both attend veteran’s functions with their spouses.
- They both have learned to hide their ugliness behind white beards.

There is one more thing that they have in common; the two Ed’s plan to be in Orlando for the 11th ACVVC Reunion. Come and meet these two guys, then they will have one more thing in common – they will both be friends with you!



Ed Morgan (L) and Ed Shegogue (R)

Fat Belly

By: Blandon Karabinos
HHT, 2/11 ACR, '71-'72

We are in the second year of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. This year the battles on the Peninsula, at Shiloh, and Antietam have special significance.

This year is also the 70th anniversary of Guadalcanal; a few veterans still survive. To put that date in perspective, a surviving 19 year old Marine from that 1942 pivotal battle, is now 89 and one of our fast diminishing national treasures.

Wanting to visit the battlefield at Shiloh, I drove across the southern tier of Tennessee and the beautiful Deer Valley. It was a beautiful early spring day and my brother-in-law and traveling companion, Joe Rizzo, pointed out the many Tennessee state flags displayed all across our route. Joe reminded me that Tennessee was "The Volunteer State," and I began to recall some of the lads from Tennessee who served with the 11th Cav in Vietnam.

This March was also the 40th anniversary of the "Stand-down" and the casing of the 11th Armored Cavalry colors in Vietnam.

The more we talked, the more I remembered, and I blurted out the nick-name of a tank driver: "Fat Belly." Never knew his first or last name, but do remember him wearing a flak jacket over his bare chest and easing – or squeezing himself into the turret. We laughed about "Fat Belly" because of the name, yet I smiled as I remembered a really good guy.

Every week, as Chaplain, I visited each Troop in the field, spent the day and then sought a night's lodging where ever I could find a safe place. Several times I slept under a tarp attached to the back of Fat Belly's Sheridan. He was ever hospitable, shared rations and sometimes even beers. He had a bright smile, a lot of optimism, a firm handshake, laughed easily and had an unruly lock of sun bleached brown hair on his forehead. But, I can't give you a name or a village; all I can remember is that he was from Tennessee.

Well, as "fates allow," we just stopped for gas, when pulling up to the opposite pump came a young lady on a Harley. When she took off her helmet and shook-out her flowing red hair, she turned and her smile could

That is a special privilege, a bond that few can understand unless they shared a smoke or swatted a mosquito off of another's back or used their little broom to sweep off red ants.

melt any hardened heart. Her jacket had "Sisterhood" stitched across the back, and so I asked her about it. The "Sisterhood" was one of women motorcycle riders, she explained. She was a teacher, at that time on Spring Break. [Never had such breaks when I went to school; or a teacher that lovely.] A friendly conversation ensued and since she was from Tennessee, I had to ask her if she knew "Fat Belly." After the laughter subsided, she said she knew a lot of fat-bellies, but that they didn't relish being called that name.

When I mentioned that we served together in Vietnam in 1971 and 72, she grew pensive and said: "that could have been my Daddy; he served in Vietnam about 40 years ago, because I was born 5 years after he got back, and I'm 35 now."

No, I don't have a positive ending to that story — just yet. But I did give her my card (to give him, of course) and just maybe, I'll hear from him someday.

We knew a lot of guys by first names or nicknames, but seldom found an opportunity to get their surname and address. Our loss. They were close then, could still be in touch now.

I respect and cherish those I served with, and some still call, write or e-mail. That is a special privilege, a bond that few can understand unless they shared a smoke or swatted a mosquito off of another's back or used their little broom to sweep off red ants.

Waking a buddy up in the middle of the night to take over guard duty is a fearful thing, that is, unless you can call him your "brother-in-arms." In the field you shared responsibilities, dirt, water, chow, and even mail. You shared pictures and memories, you lied and told wild stories, but most of all you shared reliance. You had reliable brothers, even if you didn't know their real names.

Thank you Tennessee, for sending your sons to the Cav.

Patton Estate Donated

About the first of June, we received a note from John Magnarelli (F Troop, 69 – 70) and a copy of an article published in the May 13, 2012 Boston Sunday Globe, Metro Edition. The article was by Globe staff writer Kathy McCabe and titled: "Patton's estate becomes part of his adopted hometown". John thought we might be interested in it as a follow-up to the article we ran in our last issue by Eric Newton about the late General that included some information about his beloved farm located in Hamilton, Massachusetts.

According to the article our Colonel Patton's father came to live on the farm in 1928 and it has been the family home since then. The property is valued at 1.9 million dollars and consists of 27 acres and a 21 room Colonial-style home, two barns with 10 stalls, a swimming pool, and a dock on the river. Major General George Smith Patton retired there in 1980, after a 34 year military career that included combat in Korea and Vietnam, where he commanded the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Mrs. Joanne Holbrook Patton (General Patton's widow) represented her family at the town meeting where she offered the estate in gratitude for the town's long embrace of the Patton family. The town of Hamilton voted to accept the gift, and a member of the task force that considered the gift was quoted as saying "This offer before us is not simply a gift of land and buildings, but they are symbolic of a deep military and national history." The home, which was built around 1786, contains memorabilia including over 100,000 artifacts from the lives of both the elder and younger Generals Patton.

According to the Globe article the town is considering building some athletic fields on some of the land, establishing a public river access, perhaps renting the stables out and maybe leasing the main house as a bed and breakfast, though no firm plans are yet in place.

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

*Don Snedeker,
Historian, 11th ACVVC*

General Abrams Visits the Blackhorse. On 23 July 1966, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, General Creighton Abrams, visited the Regiment at Fort Meade. According to the 2/11 Annual Historical Report for 1966, he “spoke to a representative body of the 2d Squadron. In his brief but pointed speech, he emphasized the importance of the non-commissioned officer, the need for independent action by the small unit commander, and the tremendous responsibility the troopers assumed as representatives of the first major Armor Command deployed in Vietnam.”

Thunder Run. The Regiment initiated the use of Thunder Runs (sometimes called Road Runner Operations) during Operation Attleboro in November 1966. The 1/11 Annual Historical Report for 1966 describes this tactical innovation in the following manner: “During ‘Attleboro’ the Squadron initiated ‘Thunder Runs’ during the hours of darkness which accounted for the significant absence of mining along Route 13. A ‘Thunder Run’ is night movement of a combined tank-ACAV force which fires H & I [harassment and interdiction] with 90mm canister, 7.62 machineguns and M79 HE [high explosive] into suspected enemy areas on both sides of a major route. The effectiveness has since been proven many times.”

Hello Dolly! On 29 October 1967, the “Hello Dolly” USO show with Martha Raye performed at Blackhorse Base Camp to an audience of over 4,000.

Mines. The 7th of January 1968 was “Mine Day” for 3/11. The Regiment was conducting Operation Fargo around Loc Ninh, and Third Squadron was operating west of Highway 13 in northern Tay Ninh Province. At 0925 hours, the 3rd Platoon of the 919th Engineers discovered and destroyed a 60 mm mortar round that had been rigged as a mine. Three and a half hours later an India Troop ACAV struck an 81 mm mortar round rigged as a mine – fortunately, there was only moderate damage to the vehicle and no Troopers were wounded. Three hours later – at 1500 – a Mike Company M-48 detonated a mine (light damage, no friendly casualties), followed less than an hour later by a K Troop ACAV hitting another mine (light damage, no friendly casualties). At 1630, India Troop found and destroyed four mines at two different locations. “Mine Day” ended at 1815 when Mike Company hit another mine – light damage to the tank and no casualties. All told, that was nine mines in nine hours – with no Troopers killed or wounded.

Test for Blackhorse Mechanics. From the II Field Force Vietnam after action report for the period May to July 1969: “During the period, ‘jungle busting’ operations and increased battle damage coupled with the mud of the rainy season strained the equipment of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, resulting in increased deadline rates of M48A3 tanks, M551 Sheridans, and M113 Armored Personnel Carriers. The problem was complicated by extended LOC’s [lines of communication] and lack of adequate maintenance areas. Close coordination with the 29th General Support Group resulted in the repositioning of repair parts, the employment of direct support contact teams with each squadron, and intensive efforts to move repair parts forward. The regiment established platoon standdown periods for intensified maintenance and closely monitored both preventive and corrective maintenance operations. At the close of

the reporting period the vehicle operational ready rate was improving.” The Regimental after action report focuses on the maintenance issues associated with the newly-acquired M551 Sheridans. By the middle of May 1969, the First Squadron had put over a thousand jungle-busting miles on their Sheridans. “The tremendous beating that vehicles take in the jungle was reflected by the high deadline rate of the M551, particularly for engines & power train components [e.g., transmissions and final drives] at the conclusion of MONTANA RAIDER. It took several weeks of intensified maintenance to increase the operational level after Operation MONTANA RAIDER.”

Distinguished Service Cross. From the June 1969 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: “Specialist Four Otis J. Bailey of Lyons, N.Y., an ‘I’ Troop Medic, was awarded the nation’s second highest valor award recently for crawling within two meters of an enemy machinegun nest to evacuate his wounded comrades. In a recent ceremony he was presented the Distinguished Service Cross by Lieutenant General Frank Mildren, USARV [US Army, Vietnam] Deputy Commanding General. Sp4 Bailey was cited for his actions on November 24, 1968, when his unit was ambushed while on a foot patrol through an enemy basecamp. ‘We were moving through thick jungle and searching for a suspected enemy platoon when we were hit by heavy enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire,’ the husky medic said. ‘I was struck helpless with fear for a moment. I knew what was happening but couldn’t do anything. I couldn’t react. I managed to hit the ground on the second volley, but there is no doubt in my mind that I was lucky. It should have been curtains.’ The first volley of enemy fire left a number of wounded huddled on the ground. Low-crawling to a wounded sergeant, Bailey pulled him to safety and administered first aid. He then returned to within two meters of the enemy position to assist the wounded point man. Braving a deluge of enemy gunfire and hand grenades, he dragged the man to the rear of the platoon. ‘It wasn’t until a month later when we finally talked about it that I found how close I had crawled to the enemy bunker,’ Bailey said. ‘It was concealed so well that only a few of the guys actually knew where the fire was coming from.’ Bailey then administered first aid to the wounded and helped them pull back for evacuation. He said that his action was easy to explain. ‘All you have to know is that a trooper is hit,’ he explained. ‘You hear them cry out. You are their ‘Doc’ and you realize they are relying on you for help. It doesn’t matter whether there is shooting or not. You have to go out and help those guys.’ Since November, Sp4 Bailey has come in from the field and now works at the provincial hospital at Xuan Loc with a medical team from the 37th Medical Company.”

What Buried Tank? In early April 1970, the 41st Colonel of the Regiment, COL Donn A. Starry, wrote the following: “There have been several instances recently wherein personnel of the Regiment have deliberately buried serviceable equipment, either to avoid being caught with excess equipment, or to avoid the sometimes difficult administrative process of turn-in. An official investigation is now underway with regard to a considerable amount of buried equipment recently uncovered at Blackhorse Base Camp near Long Giao. In the process of moving the Regimental Rear from Bien Hoa to Di An, it has been necessary to use mine detectors to locate equipment buried by units of the Regiment on Bien Hoa Army Base.”

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

by Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman



I received a total of 15 eligible scholarship applications by the May 15th deadline this year. This number of applicants is much lower than the 32 applications I received in 2011. All of the applicants are children of our members. 9 applicants are female and 6 are male. The youngest applicant is 17 years of age and the oldest is 38 (average age=23.5). Most of these students fall into the "traditional" college age bracket (17-23 years of age). The 15 applications come from 12 different States. Once again Florida was the source

of the most applications (three).

These students are majoring in a variety of fields including Criminal Justice, Business, Journalism, Veterinary Medicine, Physical Therapy, Nursing and Computer Science. The most popular major field is Physical Therapy.

Because of the low number of applications received this year, the 11ACVVC Board of Directors has decided to offer scholarships to the eligible applicants who did not receive scholarships last year in addition to all of this year's applicants. A complete list of scholarship winners will be published in the 4th Quarter issue of *Thunder Run*.

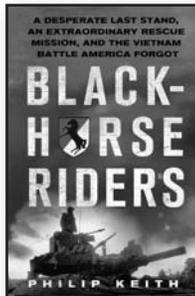
Scholarship Recipients - Where Are They Now?

Congratulations to **Deanna Rae (Christensen) Settlemeyer** who was recently promoted to major. Deanna is the daughter of Arnold Christensen (Air Cavalry Troop 1971-1972). In 1998, Deanna received a scholarship from the 11th ACVVC. She is currently serving in the US Army in Afghanistan.

Congratulations to **Elizabeth Tankovich**, daughter of James (Jim) Tankovich (M Company, 3/11, 1968). Elizabeth was recently commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in the US Army after graduating from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA. Elizabeth's first assignment is Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Congratulations to **Emily Bell Severeid**, daughter of Ralph Severeid (409th RR, 1967-1969), who recently graduated from the University of Southern Indiana with a degree in Higher Education/Student's Affairs. She will be starting a master's degree program at Indiana State University this fall. Emily received an 11thACVVC scholarship in 2010.

NOTE: We would like to hear from any of our past scholarship recipients. If you have an update on your life, please contact Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Scholarship Chairman, at docrafferty36@sbcglobal.net



Blackhorse Riders - Book Signing

Phil Keith, author of *Blackhorse Riders*, will be available for a book signing during the Orlando reunion. The book signing will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2012, from noon to 1:00 pm. Books will be available for purchase from the 11th ACVVC Quartermaster.

Make Your Reservations Now For The 27th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion, Orlando Florida, 12-16 September, 2012

Bunk Buddies

By: C. E. "Bill" Gregory
H Company & HHT 2/11, 69-70

Have you ever been to hill 95 out in Tay Ninh Province in Vietnam? Well, you might know it by the nickname of Fort Defiance. Fort Defiance was the name that piece of real estate held while it was the fire support base of the 2nd Squadron, 11th ACR back in the spring of 1970. Many interesting things happened at Fort Defiance, some of them worthy of note in history books. That is for a later time, right now I am thinking about an incident that involved two of God's creatures in the middle of the night in March of 1970.

My biggest fear is a large snake curled up. I was trapped, everyone was asleep except the watch, and he was too far away to talk to. I couldn't yell, even if I wanted to,...

The mainstay of security at forward fire support bases in those days for the second squadron was the tank company (H Company). Now we were not alone on the perimeter, a lot of HHT vehicles were there along with any attached units and any vehicles from E, F, or G Troop who happened to be visiting. However, the tank company had the big guns and they were relied on heavily when they were not out on a mission. At night, we all took our turns manning the T C's copula behind the .50 cal machine gun to make sure the NVA could not sneak in on us. You would have to fire the appropriate weapon during "mad minutes" and answer a "sit rep" every half hour or so. That last item was to make sure most people were awake; the first woke a few napers up from time to time.

On that particular night in March of 1970, I had the second or third of the four 2 hour watches, so it was zero dark thirty and I was sound asleep in my field cot under the tarp next to tank H 11. (That is one - one not eleven for those civilians in the audience), I had a pillow I had bought from a Mama San

Continued on page 20



Dog Tags

Although my wife and I have settled in San Antonio we still enjoy visiting the Rio Grande Valley. Northerners come to the Valley in the winter to escape the snow. They're called Winter Texans or Snowbirds, having taken flight from northern snow. When we visit the Valley we become Snowbirds too, even though now we're legally adopted Texans. Snowbird is a fun name. It's reserved mostly for retired people who can live wherever they want, but choose winter in the South where the sun shines and the snow doesn't.

When in the Valley, it's mandatory to carry identification if you go into Mexico, which I do, the border being so close. I like Mexico; the Mexican food is real Mexican, things are cheap, the people are friendly, and my dentist is there. Now get this: when I walk across the border into Mexico no one takes notice except to collect a quarter for the bridge toll. But when I walk back, I have to do three things: I have to pay thirty cents toll, tell the border patrol officer that I'm a United States citizen, and show photo identification. Actually, a few years ago the border patrol started requiring a passport to get back into the USA. Seems to make sense. It's what every other country requires that I know of. Like when my wife and I took a cruise we had to carry a passport to every country in Central and South America that we visited. In the days of West and East Germany when I was stationed there, I had to carry a passport with photo to get into every European country that I went into, flying or driving. No problem there. No problem here either.

In the Army we had to carry identification. I don't suppose you still have your old ID card. Did they let you keep it when you ETSed (Army talk for Estimated Time of Separation out of the Army)? I didn't ETS because I retired instead, having served over twenty seven years. When I retired I traded my active duty ID card for the retired ID card I'll keep 'til I die for reasons you will quickly comprehend. Do you remember what else you had for iden-

I'll tell you something about dog tags that you probably never worried about and maybe didn't know. What I'm talking about was an urban legend back in Viet Nam days. It wasn't called urban legend then, but that's what it was. I'm talking about the notch in your dog tags.

tification? Of course you do. You had dog tags. Dog tags were a way of identifying yourself that was a whole lot more convenient than a passport or a photo ID. It was quick and easy. Of course, they were designed more for combat situations when people who needed to know who you were would know who you were when you couldn't tell them, like if you got hurt, or unconscious, or had become a serious casualty. Then they'd know who you were.

I'll tell you something about dog tags that you probably never worried about and maybe didn't know. What I'm talking about was an urban legend back in Viet Nam days. It wasn't called urban legend then, but that's what it was. I'm talking about the notch in your dog tags. I think they still make them with notches now. Back then we thought the notch was there so if you got whacked someone could push it between your teeth, smack it with their pistol butt or something hard like a rock, and it would lodge permanently between your teeth. Then anyone could tell who you were if they didn't already know. I believed that story for years. I expect you did too. When I learned what the notch was really for I felt like a kid when he finds out about Santa Claus. The notch was really there to help the machine make the dog tag. I suppose that's how the machine got a grip on it.

In the Nam if you went around the jungle much or were in any place where you needed to be very quiet, then what did you do with your dog tags? You probably got a couple of those little plastic dog tag holders and put your dog tags into those little holders. The reason is easy to explain. You already know, but you may want to explain to your grandkids, that the plastic holders would keep the dog tags from

banging against each other and making a jingling noise. If your grandkid wants to know what's the big deal about a little jingling noise, then you will have opportunity to explain that even a little noise went a long way out in the bush, which would help the enemy make you dead and in need of having dog tags lodged between your teeth. Those bad guys were out there and they had very good hearing, maybe from having big ears, which I never checked on. If your grandkid doesn't understand, either you're talking too quietly or grandkid isn't paying attention.

Of course, everyone remembers what was on the dog tags: Your full name, social security number, which the Army used as your serial (not cereal) number, your rank, and your religious preference. In those days, most soldiers had a religious preference. Whether they knew much about it, I couldn't say. We don't need to discuss that now. I guess "they" thought this was enough information on a dog tag to get you wherever you needed to go. At least they knew who you were. They also knew which chaplain to call because some troopers had to have certain things happen to satisfy their religion, so everyone tried hard to help out. I was a chaplain so I was one who needed to know your religious preference so I could help you and your next of kin if something bad happened.

Another question you may wonder is, "Why do they call them dog tags?" My reply is, "Your guess is as good as mine." I suppose they looked like the tags on dogs which were actually city dog licenses.

This reminds me of something else that soldiers wore in the olden days. In our day we rode on armored vehicles because we

were armored cavalry and had ACAVs, tanks, self-propelled howitzers, and such. In the days of knights and kings, some soldiers wore armor. They didn't have it to ride on because tanks and ACAVs hadn't been invented yet and wouldn't be for several more centuries. (You know enough history to know that.) There's a section of the Bible that talks about armor, which was body armor. The section is from Ephesians 6:10-20. You'll like it: "...Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may

be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert..."

I think that's great! I hope you think so too.

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth
6508 Bannocks Drive
San Antonio, TX 78239
LEHaworth@aol.com

So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194

Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email:

11thcav1966@comcast.net; for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

UNIT _____ DATES: FROM _____ TO _____
(Troop, Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$ _____

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**



**27th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Orlando, Florida**



Wednesday, 12 September thru Sunday, 16 September 2012
PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT
 Rosen Centre Hotel
 9840 International Drive
 Orlando, Florida 32819
 Reservations: 800-204-7234

Registration fee is \$90.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.
Please register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations post marked after AUGUST 29, 2012. All registrations must be received no later than Friday, SEPTEMBER 7, 2012.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION
 (print clearly or use mailing label)

Name _____ Telephone No: _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Unit Assignment _____ Years in Country _____
 (Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

ATTENDEES (please print)

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
Total Registration Fee	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken _____ Beef _____ Veggie _____

Is this your first reunion? Yes No Wheelchair or special needs seating? Yes No

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

Visa MasterCard Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

**11th ACVVC
 C/O OLLIE PICKRAL
 571 DITCHLEY RD
 KILMARNOCK, VA 22482**

Silent Auction

It's just a few more weeks until the Orlando reunion on September 12-16. The silent auction is one of the events held during the annual reunion.

The silent auction is always fun and entertaining. Ron Krueger and Paul Gissible will be coordinating the Silent Auction again this year along with the help of Gregory Mason. This is our 17th year for the silent auction. Each year we continue to see an impressive array of items being offered. Over 115 items were donated in 2011.

We once again ask our members to put their imagination and talent to work for the organization and ask for donations of items for the silent auction. Our membership has always come through with many unique and interesting items. Donations of items or services are welcomed. Any items with an 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand. Other items such as tools, books and any other military memorabilia are also very popular.

Items can be mailed prior to the reunion or they can be brought to the reunion and

dropped off at the reunion registration desk. If you would like to donate an item please make sure to fill out the Silent Auction Donor Form found in this issue. This gives us the information we need about the donor, a description of the item and an estimate of the starting bid.

All proceeds from the silent auction will be used to benefit the Scholarship Fund. We look forward to another successful silent auction. Thanks in advance for all that you do to keep this the best military reunion organization ever!

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. It is important for our records. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

Value of Item Donated \$ _____ I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to:
11th ACVVC
C/O Gregory Mason
4636 W Knights Griffin Rd.
Plant City, FL 33565

2012 Scholarship Raffle

One of the three fund raising activities which benefit the Scholarship Program is the annual raffle. This is the 24th year the 11th ACVVC has sponsored this raffle. Again this year we will be offering a total of 15 prizes, totaling \$2,500.

1st prize	\$500
2nd prize	\$400
3rd prize	\$300
4th prize	\$200
5th-15th prizes	\$100 each

Raffle tickets (suggested price \$1.00 each) were mailed to all members in June. The drawing will be held on September 14, 2012, during the 27th annual reunion in Orlando, Florida. Winners will be notified and need not be present to claim their prizes. All tickets should be mailed no later than September 1, 2012, to ensure they are received in time for the drawing. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Scholarship Fund.

THE 21ST ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Shingle Creek Golf Club

Brian Kennedy, Golf Professional

9939 Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL 32819

Phone 407-996-1559



Veteran Friendly Championship Golf Club

\$75 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$75 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by September 1, 2012 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by September 1, 2012. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in central Florida. They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3) Soft spikes only facility. Tee times will be an 8:00 AM shotgun start with lunch buffet following golf.

The golf course is a short 5 minute ride from our hotel. Top line rental clubs are available. Let Joe know if you need them. This golf course is affiliated with our hotel and is taking great pride in hosting our event.

21ST ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____
 Address _____ Home Phone _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Name _____ Average Score _____
 Name _____ Average Score _____
 Name _____ Average Score _____

Mail Checks To: **Joe Coopet, Golf Tournament Director,**
 9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

BUDDIES from page 15

back at Loch Ninh under my head and my poncho liner laying over me. I was about as comfortable as a GI could get – considering the circumstances. Then I began to feel just a little uncomfortable, you know that feeling when you are mostly asleep but awake enough to sense something out of place. I began to wake up slowly, then felt a sensation of a weight on my sleeping chest. Was it one of the guys trying to wake me for my watch? No, they would shake me awake, not lay a weight on my chest. Am I dreaming? No, don't think so. More awake now. What could it be? It is not moving, neither am I. I am begin-

ning to fear what it might be.

My biggest fear is a large snake curled up. I was trapped, everyone was asleep except the watch, and he was too far away to talk to. I couldn't yell, even if I wanted to, that would not be what a soldier should do and I would never live it down. Besides, if I yell, this thing might panic and eat me or something. Well, I can't put it off any longer. I s-l-o-w-l-y raise my head while being as still as possible. There it is, as asleep as I had been – not my worst fear but certainly a close second – the largest field rat I could ever remember seeing! The poncho and rat went flying one

direction and I the other. Don't to this day know where the rat went and did not care as long as it left. I also don't know how I did not wake up the whole parameter, but I didn't. The rest of my hutch was still asleep and the guy on watch asked if everything was ok as I came out of the hutch, I told him it was. No need to wake the whole camp up at this point the enemy was gone. I guess the poor creature had got cold that night and to him I looked like a good bunkmate. I went on up and relieved the watch, told him I could not sleep, which was true. I finished the rest of the watches that night.



27th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion



Orlando, Florida

September 12 - 16, 2012

Schedule of Events

(Tentative Schedule as of June 30, 2012)

Wednesday, September 12

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

2:00 pm – 12:00 am

Thursday, September 13

7:00 am – ????

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

2:00 pm – 12:00 am

Friday, September 14

9:00 am – 6:00 pm

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

12:00 pm – 12:00 am

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

8:00 pm

Registration Open

Quartermaster Store Open

Bunker Open

21st Annual Marty
Ognibene Memorial Golf
Tournament (optional fee
per golfer)

Registration Open

Quartermaster Store Open

Bunker Open

Registration Open

Quartermaster Store Open

Veterans Seminar

Bunker Open

Silent Auction

Raffle Drawing

Saturday, September 15

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

5:45 pm – 6:45 pm

7:00 pm – 9:30 pm

9:30 pm – 1:00 am

Sunday, September 16

10:00 am – 11:00 am

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

All Day

Annual Membership
Meeting (Members Only)

Book Signing: "Blackhorse
Riders", Phil Keith

Women's Group Meeting

Memorial Service

Registration Open for Late
Arrivals

Quartermaster Store Open

Cocktail Hour

Banquet, Presentations and
"Blackhorse Salute"

Dancing

Chapel Worship Service
(Nondenominational)

Quartermaster Store Open

Farewells and
Departures

27th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2012

The Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, Florida 32819

www.rosencentre.com

RESERVATIONS: 800-204-7234

ROOM RATE: \$95.00 SINGLE - QUAD

- ◆ Room types are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.
- ◆ Rates are good three days prior to and three days after event based on availability.
- ◆ Complementary self parking.
- ◆ Complementary guest room internet.
- ◆ Complementary scheduled shuttles to Universal, Wet n Wild and Sea World Parks.
- ◆ Please make hotel reservations early.



RESERVATIONS MUST BE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 29, 2012



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*. Are you looking for an old friend? Please contact any Officer or Board Member listed on page 3 for help.

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		Ellis, Marshal H	69-70	B TROOP, 1/11		H COMPANY, 2/11	
Benson, John P	70-71			Beasley, Wayne	68-68	Johnson, Gary A	70-71
Brown, Robert R	69-70	409th RR DET		Hillabold, Harold I	66-67		
English, Alvin N	69-70	Gyger, Robert D	71-71			HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11	
Jewell, Thomas R	70-71	919th ENGINEER COMPANY		C TROOP, 1/11		Anderson, William F	65-67
Mcdonough, John F	67-68	Seeley, Martin H Jr	66-67	Fox, Roy E	70-70	Barnes, Douglas R	68-68
Stupek, Tom	67-68	Vest, Albert W	68-69	Harris, Michael D	69-69	Cunnagin, Kenneth L	67-67
Tallent, Larry K	70-71	UNKNOWN		D COMPANY, 1/11		Devera, John M	69-70
Telenko, George J	69-70	Lemieux, Eugene W	70-70	Birdwell, Jeff R	71-72	Mccarthy, Joseph B	69-70
				Eaton, Noyd G Jr	66-67	Morehouse, Bradley D	71-71
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		HHT, 1/11		Tuckman, Michael G	66-66	Sullivan, Michael L	70-71
Finnerty, John R	70-71	Gilmore, Ronald L	71-71	Vicario, Raymond F	69-70	Villa, Justus A Jr	66-67
Jewell, Thomas R	70-71	Minson, Dennis A	70-70	Vincent, Robert F	69-69	Williams, George E	71-71
Magsayo, Michael	71-72	Reeh, Dwight D	69-70			HHT, 3/11	
		Rexinger, Elwyn L	70-70	HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11		Beseman, Arthur C	69-70
37th MEDICAL COMPANY		Telenko, George J	70-70	Myers, John W	69-69	Rabuffetti, Francis A Jr	70-71
Boughter, William C	70-71	Zaiontz, Lee W	69-70	Radotic, Peter A	71-71		
		A TROOP, 1/11				I TROOP, 3/11	
124th CS MAINT		Fisher, Kenneth C	70-71	HHT, 2/11		Bowling, William F	66-67
Ellis, Marshal H	69-70			Gauthier, Robert E	68-68	Clark, Allen H	69-70
				Huber, Chester A	66-67	Cotroneo, Anthony P	69-70
398th TRANS DET				Martorana, Alfred T	71-72	Hasten, Raymond L	66-67
Bishop, Stanford L	71-71			Plagge, Richard J	65-67	Lauck, Larry L	69-70
				Rigney, Roy D	66-68	Moreno, Antonio R	69-70
				Scheitlin, Roy M Jr	67-68	Pitt, Michael A	70-70
				Scott, John T	69-69		
				Stephenson, Ronald A	70-71	K TROOP, 3/11	
				Wehrle, Hubert T	66-67	Black, Michael J	71-71
						Davis, Mike E	69-70
				E TROOP, 2/11		Insogna, Pietro	66-67
				Dorman, Darwin F	71-72	Kline, Paul E	70-71
				Garrett, Jack R	71-71	Siner, Gerald L	70-71
				Gimble, Charles R	70-71		
				Jackson, Otis	67-68	L TROOP, 3/11	
				Kinney, John E	68-69	Hill, Andrew B	69-70
				Shorter, Norman	67-68	Pitt, Michael A	70-70
				Walker, Dale E	71-71	Wilkins, Alfred R	67-67
				F TROOP, 2/11		M COMPANY, 3/11	
				Sanchez, Jessie L Jr	70-71	Gonzales, Paul S	69-70
				Schultz, David R	67-68	Rabuffetti, Francis A Jr	70-71
						Clark, Joe B	68-69
				G TROOP, 2/11		HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11	
				Harris, Michael J	71-72	Everett, William E	66-68
				Kostomiris, Harry J	71-72	Simon, Jerald H	66-67
				Licata, Paul A	70-71		
				Robertson, Randall	71-72		

Far Away

By: Frank Church
G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970

Mother, received a greeting from Uncle Sam,
said that I must fulfill my pledge to the flag
my country needs me in a land far away.

Mother, hope this letter finds you well,
hope to be home soon, my duty is almost complete,
say a prayer that I will return from this land far away.

Mother, you had a visitor today,
sad news, your son has given all,
he will not be coming home from this land far away.

Mother, think of me but do not cry,
look into the hearts of my brothers, you will find me there,
as long as they are near you I will not be far away.



Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

Marvin D. Bradley, HHT, 2/11 (1969) passed away on February 16, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dallas, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

Arthur D. Brown, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on May 27, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Washington, IN. He was laid to rest in Crown Hill Cemetery, New Washington, IN.

Roderick H. Cantey Jr, Air Cavalry Troop (1971-1972) passed away on February 20, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marietta, GA. He was laid to rest in Quaker Cemetery, Camden, SC.

John M. Close, A Troop, 1/11 (1967-1969) passed away on May 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pittsburgh, PA.

Warren L. Coey, 919th Engineer Company (1967-1968) passed away on May 19, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lac Du Flambeau, WI. He was laid to rest in Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Spooner, WI.

Bill J. Crabill, HHT, 3/11 (1970) passed away on May 14, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Rockport, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

Robert C. Darsnek, Air Cavalry Troop (1970-1971) passed away on October 28, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Beach Park, IL. He was laid to rest in Fort Sheridan Post Cemetery, Fort Sheridan, IL.

James S. Dougherty, B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 6, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ardmore, PA. He was laid to rest in St. Denis Cemetery, Haverton, PA.

Francis X. Gowrie, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) and 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on April 28, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dix Hills, NY. He was laid to rest in Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury, NY.

Alford R. Keener Jr, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 25, 2006. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK.

Neil L. Keltner, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 24, 2010. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Tustin, CA.

Diego M. Lucero, B Troop, 1/11 (1967) and 919th Engineer Company (1970) passed away on December 20, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Reno, NV. He was laid to rest in San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery, Gustine, CA.

Gerard M. Matelski, A Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 12, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lexington, SC.

Willie McNew, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on June 5, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Copperas Cove, TX. He was laid to rest in Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery, Killeen, TX.

Alvin D. Mensing, 919th Engineer Company (1968-1970) passed away on February 8, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Faribault, MN.

Ralph E. Osborne, B Troop, 1/11 (1968) passed away on August 13, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waynesville, MO.

Irvin F. Phillips, M Company, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 22, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Martinez Lake, AZ.

Gary Pinion, I Troop, 3/11 (1969) passed away on February 10, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Akron, OH.

Rodolfo Rios, E Troop, 2/11 (1970) and HHT, 3/11 (1970) passed away on May 30, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Houston, TX. He was laid to rest in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Corpus Christi, TX.

Fred D. Solmonson, 398th Transportation Detachment (1966-1968) passed away on May 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Essexville, MI. He was laid to rest in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Bay City, MI.

Paul M. Spivey, K Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) and I Troop, 3/11 (1968) passed away on May 12, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Archer, FL. He was laid to rest in Forest Meadows West Cemetery, Newberry, FL.

Hubert W. Sturgill, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on May 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Warsaw, IN. He was laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw, IN.

Allen D. Thomas, H Company, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 13, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Detroit, MI.

You might want to make copies of these dog tags, place one on your refrigerator and extra dog tags on your adult children's refrigerators



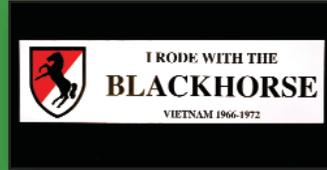
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#12 Lighter, \$18.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$325.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$380.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



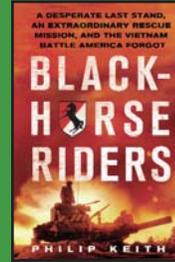
#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



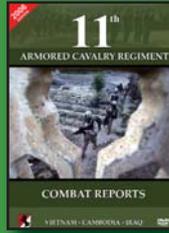
#31 Book: Blackhorse Riders \$25.00



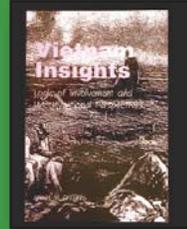
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



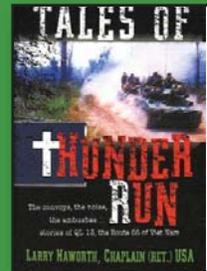
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



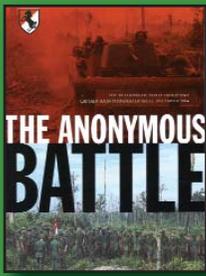
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



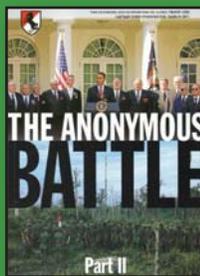
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



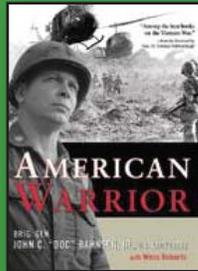
#33 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#32 Book: The Anonymous Battle : Part II \$16.00



#37 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen \$20.00



#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) \$20.00



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39a/b T-Shirt, gray/dark gray \$18.00



#40a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



#43 Windbreaker, black w/snap front & BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, \$35.00



#41 Denim Shirt (shown), w/BH & VN Ribbon, or Blue Dress Shirt (Mens) \$32.00 each



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





Hello All. Well it's that time again. Time for me to write an article for the new Thunder Run. This is an important one (but then they all are) as it's the last one before our reunion in wonderful Orlando.

Bob and I were recently riding home from Pennsylvania and we got to talking about and planning the next trip we would be taking. We realized it would probably be the one to Orlando. Besides talking about what we would like to stop and see on the way down and again on the way back home, we also talked about how we would like to compact all the supplies we would need to take with us. I absolutely refuse to take more than we need again. I mean, why would we need 20 pens? Or 15 rubber bands (we don't even use that many most years) or 2 boxes of push pins? Come on. Not this year, it's bare minimum and that's it! As the great Wizard of Oz says: "I have spoken!" Of course we also have to have room for my scooter, the women's supplies that we need, suitcases for three people, and a cooler. Oh yea, and the three of us too. Now we have a new van in which to travel this year but still, you only have just so much room. Why is it that some people just can't understand that?

As I said, we recently came back from Pennsylvania. We went home (mine) to see my mother for my birthday. It's the first time in 43 years that I have spent a birthday at home. I can't believe it's been that long since I left home, joined the Women's Army Corps and then married. We had such a good time with my 91 year old mother, as she delights in telling Bob stories about when I was younger. I also got the chance to revisit my old home town, saw the house I grew up in, and visited the graves of my beloved father, sister and aunt. We also went up to the lake where I spent so many hours every summer with my best girlfriends. Sure brought back some really good memories. The only thing I didn't get to do was visit with one of my best friends, as I was there during her work hours. Maybe next time we can spend a couple of days together.

While sitting on the beach wall at the lake, too cold to swim, I suddenly realized

Registrations are really coming in slowly this year. Ladies, please if your husband hasn't sent his registration in yet, get on him to get it done. It is so important to get them in before the deadline this year.

how quickly time had passed. Seems like it was just a few days ago that I was 16 and free to do what I wanted, when I wanted. I also realized while I was there that it had been 43 years since I had graduated from high school and that the kids that were graduating that very night were probably the grandchildren of some of the kids that I went to school with. Oh great I thought; now I do feel old. I also decided then and there that I needed to start recording things that I did and thought I knew back then as compared to now. Of course that may be silly to my kids and grand kids, but to me it makes perfect sense. I wonder is this a result of feeling so old or what?

Okay, time to stop going down memory lane and turn my attention to the reunion. Registrations are really coming in slowly this year. Ladies, please if your husband hasn't sent his registration in yet, get on him to get it done. It is so important to get them in before the deadline this year. Not only because you save having to pay that late fee you could end up paying, but because if you do just wait and do it really late or even worse waiting until you get there, there is a possibility that you will not be able to attend the banquet. We have to submit the food count to the hotel on Tuesday this year. Why so early? I don't honestly know but that's what I was told.

The ladies group will be working on an activity this year that when completed will be on next year's silent auction. Got your curiosity up? Good, 'cause we really need every one's help to make it look great. Okay, what we are doing is making a quilt. I am still kicking around a few different ideas in my head as to how this is going to be done. At one time I think; I'll have two or three work on one square and then I think; no I'll give each lady a square to do on her own. What I do know is that we will be using fabric paint so that they will all be done in the same medium. Now, don't worry about not being a great artist cause

neither am I, but that's what makes it so interesting. The design that you decide to do will be up to you. I can tell you that the center design is the Blackhorse logo. So start thinking about what you want to do on yours. You will be supplied with the fabric square and there will also be a variety of fabric pen colors available. They will not all be black, red, or white. So don't limit yourself to just those colors. The size of the quilt will depend on how many squares we have. Any questions you have about this please feel free to email me. I'll try to answer them.

We will also be giving out our Women's Award. Who will be this year's winner? Whoever has the treasure chest from the last reunion. Be sure to remember to fill it and bring it with you so we can pass it on. We also have several things to talk about. We have been given about an extra hour in our meeting room so we can get everything done and to let the squares dry a bit before I pack them up to bring home to put together.

As of this writing we are about to mail in the final draft of the cookbook for the printing to start. We can't seem to find who it was that volunteered to let us ship the books to them in Orlando. If it was you, PLEASE let me know ASAP! Selling cost of each book will be \$15 (which is the same as our first book sold for). We are not ordering as many as we had last time and we are not going to be offering any pre-sales so, be prepared to get yours when you arrive. We will be accepting cash or check ONLY this year. NO CREDIT CARDS. We will also have lanyards this year. This could possibly be the last year for them but we can discuss more about that at our meeting.

Well ladies, Bob just got home so it's time to start thinking about making dinner. I'll be looking for you all in Orlando in September. Until then have a wonderful summer.

Barb — puppytoes8@gmail.com



Quartermaster

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11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	10.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	3.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Blackhorse Belt - One size fits all	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	50.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	Lighter, brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	18.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	5.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	7.50	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	45.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	35.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	325.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	380.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book: "Blackhorse Riders"	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)	16.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	11.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	20.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> dark gray <input type="checkbox"/> gray	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim Shirt or Blue Dress Shirt (Mens)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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D)	\$61.00	—	and over	=	\$14.55

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Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$14.55. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid.

Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

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From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to All Blackhorse Troopers! It's that time again, REUNION Time!! Hope you have made your plans to attend. Jan & I were in Dallas this past weekend (as I write this article), a guy saw my wife's bumper sticker & yelled at me, he introduced himself; he also was a BLACKHORSE Trooper. As we talked for a few minutes I asked him if he was coming to the reunion. "Not sure he replied, I've only been to one or two." I urged him to come to another one.

As Quartermaster I've come across a lot of Troopers who have never been to one or who have attended one or two over the years. I know you would say as I do, "COME on in, we would like to see you

again." I know some just cannot, and I do understand why. But we all would encourage you to attend just one, and soon. We'll be looking for you.

Just a reminder we will be closing up shop at the end of August so we can pack up & get loaded up, to see you in Orlando.

On that note Jan & I are asking for volunteers to help us out in the Quartermaster Store. Any spare time you have will be greatly appreciated; it is looking like another great attendance for the REUNION this year.

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

Please fill out your desired clearance & featured items as OTHER on the QM Order form. Fill them in on the describe item line with your choice and fill in the blanks provided for \$ Amt., Size, Qty., and \$ Total.



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$32.00



#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L \$20.00