



Thunder Run

Vol. 20 – NO. 4 “Together Then – Together Again” 4th Quarter, 2005

The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Riding With the Blackhorse in Iraq



BAND OF BROTHERS, GENERATIONS. Vietnam Vet, Eric Newton, left, rides with attached Mississippi Guard of the 155 Brigade Combat Team near Forward Operating Base KALSU. FOB Kalsu was named for the only professional NFL football player killed in Vietnam.

By Eric Newton, 11thACVVC PAO
On September 20th 2005, I boarded a flight to Kuwait with the final destination being Iraq. Since no commercial flights take civilians into Iraq, Kuwait is the point of entry for civilians. The purpose of this trip was to gather historical information on the Army’s 11th

Armored Cavalry Regiment for a future documentary movie. The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, also known as the 11th ACR for short, was the U.S. Army’s premier training unit while at Fort Irwin,

Welcome our troopers home!
...see page 5

This is PART 1 in a series of accounts of a three-week ride with the “Blackhorse Regiment” by two former members of the “Blackhorse” that served in Vietnam. I am proud to say that our “Blackhorse” brothers and sisters in Iraq are fighting just as hard every day as we did back in Vietnam. I have witnessed it in person and can attest to their dedication and caring for their fellow man. As much as I praised them as our heroes, I heard over and over from them how hard we Vietnam vets had it. They truly appreciated our service.

California. Another objective of my trip was to check on our Trooper’s morale and well-being and provide mentoring as a veteran of previous combat experience with the 11th ACR in Vietnam.

I was fortunate to have another combat veteran accompany me, Gerald Williamson, who also served with the Blackhorse in Vietnam with D Company. Jerry had tried to get permission to visit the troops earlier but was unsuccessful in getting approval from the military. Jerry’s wish was fulfilled only when the movie

Please turn to Iraq on page 6

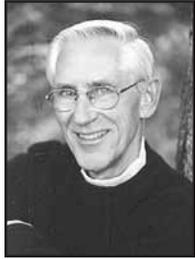
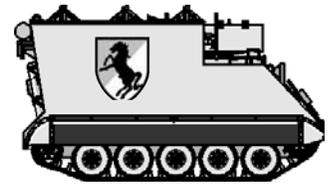
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From The Command Track

By Chuck Schmidt, President



Chuck Schmidt,
President, 11th ACVVC

A very Happy Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and New Year holidays to all 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia! We also wish the same holiday greetings to

Blackhorse Troopers everywhere, especially those currently deployed and fighting in operation Iraqi Freedom. May you all have a healthy, prosperous and safe 2006!

As I write this quarterly article, our Public Affairs Officer (PAO), **Eric Newton**, and member, **Gerald Williamson**, have just recently returned from visiting our Troopers in Iraq. Eric's reports make all of us proud of the outstanding work our Regiment is doing under some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable. The years spent as the Opposing Forces (OPFOR) in the desert at Fort Irwin conducting Brigade and larger size training operations for both active and reserve forces have made the 11th Armored Cavalry's soldiers the best trainers and fighters in the U. S. Army today. The Fort Irwin experience fits perfectly with their current mission of conducting combat operations and at the same time training the new Iraqi Army to be able to defend and secure what we all hope to be the democratic Iraq of the future. Their mission is clear, and we support their continued success in accomplishing that task. The recent vote on the proposed Constitution in that country is one more step in the right direction for all freedom loving Iraqis. More than 63% of registered voters turned out to the polls to cast their ballot under the threat of injury or even death. Contrast that to our own measly voter turnout under much safer conditions. *We support our Troops and the successful completion of their mission!!*

The 11thACVVC and the Blackhorse Association (BHA), along with Fort Irwin, the cities of Barstow, CA, and Odessa, TX and other sponsors are planning a gala "Welcome Home" party for our Troopers after they return from their

To date, more than \$375,000 has been awarded to ensure the next generation has the skills to lead our country through the myriad challenges of the 21st century.

year in Iraq. You will find information, a donor request, and registration data elsewhere in this issue of *Thunder Run*. All 11thACVVC members are invited and welcome to share in this experience. It is our opportunity to show these young soldiers who have carried on our proud legacy that we appreciate their sacrifices. This is especially important coming from us because we all remember being ignored, the lack of appreciation, and the disdain with which many returning Vietnam veterans (including many of us in 11th ACR) were treated. Let's all turn out and thank our returning heroes for a job well done! Today's Troopers look up to us and admire all that we did during our service. Let's return the favor.

The outstanding generosity many of you have demonstrated in your support of the Scholarship Program is astounding. Every year, our membership exceeds previous donation records. The fundraisers of 2005 have concluded and enabled us to award 25 of our children \$3,000 each for studies this year. In all, you and our supporters donated over \$68,000 through the 11thACVVC Calendar, the annual Raffle, and the Silent Auction last year. To date, more than \$375,000 has been awarded to ensure the next generation has the skills to lead our country through the myriad challenges of the 21st century. The first leg of our 2006 campaign is currently in process. The 2006-11thACVVC Calendar is being assembled with the goal of having your copy in the mail prior to Thanksgiving. Watch your mailbox, and when you get your copy, please be generous and return your *tax-deductible* donation in the envelope provided as soon as possible. Follow-on projects will again include the Raffle which will be conducted in the May/June time frame and the Silent Auction at the 2006 11thACVVC Reunion in Kansas City, MO.

Next year's reunion will be held in

September instead of the traditional first week in August. The reason for the change is that we can negotiate better rates for the hotel and all services in off-peak months and since almost all our children are through school, there is no need to continue with the peak summer tourist period. So, *mark your calendars* and plan now to take your vacation in late September. The dates are September 21-24, 2006, which should allow pleasant weather in that part of the country. The location is in the heart of downtown Kansas City, in the renowned "Crown Plaza" area, which has numerous high-end hotels, restaurants, and other activities. More information is elsewhere in this issue and will be expanded as reunion time approaches.

With this issue, we welcome **Jim Griffiths**, our new Editor. We look forward to a lengthy tenure with Jim at the helm of the newsletter. With our previous issue, we decided to expand *Thunder Run* from 16 to 24 pages so we can accommodate more of your articles and still cover the news and information that needs to be disseminated each quarter. So, keep your articles coming in—this is your newsletter and we anticipate great articles, poems and stories in future editions. We are a non-profit organization, so we ask that input be nonpolitical but still reflecting your life experiences that you would like to share with your fellow veterans. If you do not submit, we cannot print your thoughts, and we will cut back to our previous 16 pages. Again, I want to express our thanks to **Bill Gregory** for the past four years of outstanding service as Editor as well as those who preceded him in this volunteer task which never goes away.

Our new Quartermaster, **Jerry Beamon**, is also fully on board as of this issue. He and his wife, **Jan**, have volun-

Continued ➤

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. All correspondence or inquiries should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," James M. "Jim" Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 <Jgriff11@aol.com>

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COMMAND TRACK from page 1

teered to run the store for the foreseeable future. Check out the Quartermaster page to see our new items and Holiday Sale items. We need to clear our inventory of merchandise that reflect past reunions, and reduce inventory on some additional overstock. Hurry with your order since these limited stock items will go fast and when they are gone, they are gone. We will not restock these items. This is a great opportunity to do some early

Christmas shopping and to pick up reunion shirts that you may have overlooked during the busy reunion schedule. We thank **Rod George** for the many years that he and **Elida** were at the helm, making our QM Store one of the best in the business.

As we close out 2005, I again wish all of you the very best for the New Year—you earned it and deserve every blessing of good health, prosperity, and happi-

ness. Take care of yourselves and your families—after all, they are the most important people you know! And finally, whenever you see a serviceman or woman in uniform, thank them for their service. Whether Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserves all are contributing to the security of our country and our families — *they deserve our gratitude!*

ALLONS!

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

Approximately nine years ago I submitted for publication in our Blackhorse History Book, *The Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam*, an article that described Vietnam as a series of firsts. These firsts included the first night in Vietnam, first night at Blackhorse Base Camp, and finally the first night in the field, which was the subject of the article.

Those of us that were there are well aware that many other firsts occurred in Vietnam after our first night in the field. They are so numerous that it would be difficult to enumerate them. Firsts related to Vietnam did not end with our tour of duty there either. A duo of post Vietnam positive firsts for me were joining the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia, an organization of such high quality that superlatives do not give an adequate description, and attending my first reunion of that organization. If you have not attended a reunion please avail yourself of this opportunity to experience the "ride of your life" by doing so.

The 11th ACVVC's quarterly publication, *Thunder Run*, has evolved into a publication of unsurpassed quality. The highest accolades should be proffered on those people that have developed this quarterly into the superb item that it has become. It is with this in mind that I, with great humility, want to thank President Chuck Schmidt for having the confidence in me to offer me the editorship position of the publication with the departure of Bill Gregory as Editor. I would also like to thank Bill for his excellent and selfless efforts in producing and improving such a preeminent product.

The 4th Quarter, 2005 issue will be my debut as Editor and my most recent post Vietnam related first. Special thanks again to Bill for mentoring me and educating me in the process of putting out our fine periodical. I intend to maintain the highest quality product possible.

It is an exciting and very active time for both the 11th ACVVC and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment itself in Iraq. Our 4th Quarter issue reflects that activity to a great degree.

In addition to our regular contributor's sections we have features concerning 11th

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ACVVC troopers as embedded reporters in Iraq with the Active Regiment. This activity, most likely is an unprecedented trans-generational link between an active military unit in a war zone and members of a particular organization based on previous war service of that same unit. It also forges a stronger link between the two related groups. This issue also contains comments from 11th ACR commanders in the field in Iraq and other news items from the action in Iraq.

For your perusal this quarter we also offer articles with information pertaining to the gala Welcome Home celebration planned next spring at Ft. Irwin upon the return of the Active Regiment from Iraq as well as a variety of articles submitted by 11th ACVVC Troopers. These articles, of varying types, forms, and subjects submitted by you individual troopers truly make *Thunder Run* a membership publication. The Welcome Home celebration, of course, is an example of the mission most of us share to prohibit a repeat of the pathetic reception and treatment we received upon returning from serving our country in "our war."

As Editor, I encourage you to continue submitting articles and poems, as well as short notes for items like "Incoming," "Journey to Fiddlers Green," and "Show Your Pride." Hand written notes and typed hard copy are acceptable for brief writings of up to a paragraph. If you desire to send a long article please, if at all possible, send it formatted in *Word* on a floppy disk or as an email attachment. Pictures can be sent as attachments unless there is small writing necessary to read. In that case, it might be better to send the photo itself. These items should be sent to this address only:

Jim Griffiths, 3784 Michigan Ave.,
Bridgman, MI 49106-9345
Email: JGriff11@aol.com

I hope my ride as Editor of your publication, my latest Vietnam related first, is a successful one.

Allons

The 11th ACVVC 21st Annual Reunion

■ To be held in September 2006

The 11th ACVVC will venture into The Show Me State for our 21st Annual Reunion. Kansas City, Missouri will be Our Host City. Planning is well under way and we feel that all of you who visit this great city will enjoy yourselves. Our contract with The Hyatt Regency Crown Center has been signed for some time. This is one of the best properties in KC. Convenient location to downtown and linked to Hallmark's Crown Center shops, restaurants, theatres, Union Station and minutes away from Country Club Plaza, Westport, 18th and Vine and River Market. *This will be our first time going in the month of September; plan accordingly.* The cooler weather should make for a very comfortable visit.

21st Annual Reunion Kansas City, MO
Sept. 21, 2006 thru Sept. 24, 2006
Hyatt Regency Crown Center
2345 McGee Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 421-1234

Tour packages are still in the planning stages, as are Air and Rental Car discounts. Kansas City Airport is not a hub for any airline therefore air fare is more reasonable. Reservations can be made direct with the hotel. Room rates are \$89.00 so/do. Please make your Hotel Reservations early. The reunion registration form is still being put together and will be posted on The Web Site ASAP. The form will also be published in the next issue of *Thunder Run*.

Steve Page
Reunion Committee Chairman

Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15
Second Quarter.....Apr 15
Third Quarter.....Jul 15
Fourth Quarter.....Oct 15

Do not send submissions to the return address on the last page of "Thunder Run." **All submissions for publication must be sent to:** Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106. Email: JGriff11@aol.com.

Welcome Home Celebration Planned for Blackhorse Troopers Serving in Iraq

Welcome Home Celebration for Blackhorse Troopers Serving in Iraq

The Odessa Chuck wagon Gang, the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11th ACVVC), the Blackhorse Association (BHA), the City of Barstow, the Regimental Support Squadron (RSS), the Fort Irwin Commanding General and all the people of Fort Irwin have set up a gala "Welcome Home" party for the soldiers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment when they return from Iraq. Brigadier General Robert Cone, Fort Irwin's post commander, has set the dates for the celebration to be March 16th, 17th and 18th.

11th Armored Cavalry's Regimental Headquarters and 1st and 2nd Squadrons are still deployed to Iraq. They are expected to return to Fort Irwin by mid January 2006. The 58th Engineer Company returned to Fort Irwin in July. The Regimental Support Squadron and the Activated Wildhorse Squadron are at Fort Irwin performing the Opposing Forces Mission of training units to fight in Iraq.

All units should have returned to Fort Irwin by mid March, and have had time for recovery operations and maximum leave to be with their families. The celebration is planned before many of the returning Troopers are reassigned or are discharged.

The Chuck Wagon Gang, of Midland and Odessa Texas will provide food for all. Cost of the BBQ at Fort Irwin should be less than \$10.00 per Veteran and per Guest. Donations are being made by Businesses in Texas and Barstow California. Members of 11ACVVC have donated \$15,000 for this purpose. Additionally, many Veterans of specific units have donated funds to pay for Iraqi War Veterans and their Families who have served in the Troops and Companies in which that veteran or group of veterans served. For everyone who has made pledge to help support our Regiment's Troopers, it is time to send in those funds. For all of you who have already sent in monies, thank you very much

All of the rooms at Fort Irwin are being used during the Welcome Home Celebration event.

Apparently it will be necessary for us to transport veterans and Blackhorse members

from Las Vegas to Ft. Irwin early on Saturday, March 18, spend the day, and return that evening. There are not enough rooms at Ft. Irwin and over nighting in Barstow would require us keeping the buses for two days.

The following is a list of Hotels in Barstow California that can be contacted for rooms during the celebration.

Be sure to reference "11th Cavalry Welcome Home Celebration"

- Holiday Inn Express: 760 253 9200 Lenwood Exit
- Holiday Inn Express: 760 256 1300 Main Street Exit
- Ramada Inn: 760 256 5673 Main Street

Schedule of Events changes may appear in 1st quarter 2006 Thunder Run

It is intended that the entire affair be free to the Iraq Veterans of the Blackhorse and their families. Even if you can't attend, please donate.

Please indicate your intent to attend and/or **make a donation** using the form below.

Points of Contact are: Jack Stoddard, (702) 459 4233, e-mail: jscb@cox.net

At Fort Irwin: Major Michael Martel (760) 380 3365

Additionally, a Regimental Ball for attendance by active duty and veterans with family and guest's is being planned for March 25, 2006, in Las Vegas

Information about the Ball will be published as it becomes available

Blackhorse Welcome Home Week Calendar

Thursday 16-Mar

- Morning • Arrival Barstow Hotel.
- Afternoon • Arrival Barstow Hotel.
- Evening • BHA-led Dinner@ No-host dinner at Barstow Hotel. • Review plans for the weekend. • RCO briefing – Attendees: BHA & SR.-NTC/Reg Ldr

Friday 17-Mar

- Morning: • Ft.Irwin Tour • New Operations Group Building. • Training Brief
- Afternoon • Equipment displays. New housing tour. 312 Billets tour.
- Evening • Volunteer Recognition Lunch. • No-host dinner at Reggie's • Concert

Saturday 18-Mar

- Morning • Breakfast with the city. • Parade in Barstow.
- Afternoon • Chuck Wagon Gang-BBQ
- Evening: • Concert

Blackhorse Trooper Celebration Sign Up Form..

Name _____ E-Mail: _____

Address _____ Phone Number (____) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

Blackhorse Veteran? Yes No Unit: _____

Will attend Welcome Home Celebration? Yes No Interested in bus transportation from Las Vegas to Barstow and Fort Irwin? Yes No

Make checks out to : **11th Cavalry Welcome Home Celebration**

Please mail this form with your donation to: **11th Cavalry Welcome Home Celebration, 5397 E Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89110**

IRAQ from page 1

producer's cameraman got a case of regret as the date for the trip neared and he continued to see the news of car bombings and other acts of terrorism.

For those viewing photos with this article, please take note that members of the media are not permitted to bring weapons. The unloaded weapon which you see me carrying in the photo was strictly for familiarization and to get the feel of the equipment the soldiers carried. It was also an exercise of blending in with the troops so as not to attract the attention of a sniper to a celebrity target.

The 11th ACR's mission in the Mojave Desert in California was to train other U.S. Army fighting forces in desert warfare, and that is just what it did for the last ten years. Week after week of simulated battles on the scorching desert floor gave the soldiers of the 11th ACR the experience no other fighting force in the world had ever received. The standards set became the yardstick other units used to gauge their own effectiveness and has made the soldiers of the 11th ACR the best in the world.

The 11th ACR wasn't always a training unit. In the early 1900's the cavalymen defended our borders here at home and chased Poncho Villa's men back in Mexico after they raided and killed civilians inside our border. Because most rode black horses,

they became known as the "Blackhorse Regiment". As a tank outfit they fought in the historic Battle of the Bulge during World War II. Vietnam was also on the list of defining moments for the troopers who were now riding with the "Blackhorse" on heavy metal behemoths of war such as tanks and Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAV's). Their awesome firepower brought fear into the hearts of the enemy. It was in Vietnam that most of the unit's battle streamers were awarded along with numerous citations for valor and three Medals of Honor to individual Troopers, two posthumously.

After Vietnam the Regiment was deployed to Germany to patrol the borders it had once patrolled on horseback immediately after WW II. When the Cold War ended, the 11th Armored Cavalry was recalled to become the teacher of other Army units and was known as the Opposing Force (OPFOR).

The 11th ACR has been serving our nation since 1901 when it began as a horse cavalry regiment. These men began serving on horses, but as technology changed and revolutionized the world, the men and women of the 11th Armored Cavalry adapted and put that technology to use defending our nation.

I originally thought that we were not



allowing enough time to really get into some action in the three weeks we would be in country. Was I wrong! Within fourteen hours of arrival in Baghdad with the 1st Squadron, 11th ACR, we were hitting the streets conducting night raids on homes of suspected terrorists. On day four we were photographing the second largest weapons cache since their arrival in January. After a grueling non-stop schedule we finally thought we were about to catch our breath on a civic action mission to pass out school supplies jointly with the Iraqi army. As we waited to link up with our Iraqi counterparts, Troop B, 11ACR was approaching our location about a half-mile down the road when the last HMMWV was hit by a suicide bomber who rammed the HMMWV with his car, then detonated it.

We mounted up and sped to the location where we found debris scattered over a hundred meters from the point of impact. The bomber's car was unrecognizable. The largest part of the car was the engine and front wheel frame that was still burning. Everything else could fit into a grocery sack. The HMMWV came to stop on the opposite side of the road. With the exception of the gunner, the crew escaped injury and was busy helping injured civilians. We could not find the gunner because he was also busy caring for an injured schoolboy that was hit with a piece of flying shrapnel.



2nd largest Weapons Cache found to date by Troop B 1/11ACR on our 4th day in country. You would swear this was an old Vietnam photo. (09-25-05 near Abu Ghraib Prison.)



A VBIED (Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device) explodes against a B-Troop 1/11 ACR HUMMWV near Baghdad damaging nearby vehicles and injuring civilians. 11th ACR troops frantically work to save an Iraqi civilian in the background who died later. Although the HUMMWV gunner was burned on the face and wrist, he gave aid to the wounded before being treated himself. A schoolboy was rushed to the Hospital at Abu Ghraib Prison where he was treated for a shrapnel wound to the head and released the following day. (11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. 09-26-05)

doubt about why we are in Iraq could see the reality of this carnage, they would curl up in a corner in gut wrenching fear. They would cheer our military and give them the shirt off their back to not let this happen to their family. The news accounts sugarcoat too many things, but a dose of reality will change even the most conservative opinion.

Prior to leaving for Iraq my friends asked the same question after the first, which was, "Are you crazy?" They wanted to know how long we might have troops there and how long it would continue. My answer was standard. I can't give an opinion until I see it in person. All I have to go on is what we all see in the news and that is how someone else sees things from their perspective. As we all know from Vietnam news reporting, many reporters were never in the field. They would sit in some air-conditioned hotel in Saigon and write stories from press releases from the military information officers based on field reports. I believe this is also the case in Iraq. Reporters are in Baghdad in the Green Zone where it is relatively safe embellishing stories from the field level military Public Affairs Officers (PAO's) as if they were on the scene. I personally witnessed this when the 1/11 ACR found the large weapons cache on September 25th, 2005. I was there and photographed it. There were no other reporters there. The PAO filed the report with the 3rd Infantry and their PAO forwarded it. It appeared the next few days in several publications. It was even picked up by a newspaper in Spain.

The gunner was burned on the face and wrist in the initial blast but put his own injury second in line to assisting the injured civilians. This type of self-sacrifice was the norm throughout our experience with the troopers of the 11th ACR.

Our reaction force added more muscle to the perimeter to guard against a possible secondary attack. The scene of the explosion was grizzly. As I got out of the back seat with the video camera rolling, I had paid no attention to where I was stepping. What little remained of the car was burning. Oil and tire smoke filled my lungs. The pavement was blackened with debris sent out in a sunburst pattern. The street was clear of civilians. Before proceeding closer I paused to look down to be sure I wasn't stepping on anything hazardous. I had almost stepped in body parts of the car bomber. I was taken aback for a moment but regained my composure and started the camera rolling again. When I finished I began to walk through the debris field and could identify more human remains.

I had not seen anything like this in over thirty years, and in comparison, this

seemed to be much worse. My thoughts quickly went to wishing that this type of thing never happens in my town and thank God we are drawing the line here in Iraq or it could happen in the United States.

Unexplained thoughts were rolling around in my mind. One of the most vivid was if the people back home who have any



Troop B 1/11 ACR takes hit from Suicide Car Bomb (09-26-05)

Meet Our 2005 Scholarship Winners

This Issue contains brief statements from 13 more of our 2005 scholarship winners. The last issue of *Thunder Run* featured the first 12 of our scholarship recipients.



Andrew Vollbrecht is the son of Kenneth Vollbrecht (HHT Regt, 70-71). He is planning on studying Business Management/Mathematics. Andrew stated

“Thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the 11ACVVC Scholarship. It is an honor to be chosen for this award. I am sure there were many worthy candidates. I appreciate your helping me to obtain the education I need to reach my career goals.”

.....



Bonnie Woodward is the daughter of Richard Russel Jr. (K Troop, 3/11, 69-69). “Just a little note of thanks from the heart. Thank you very much for choosing me as a recipient

for the 11ACVVC scholarship. It will help me to achieve my dreams of becoming a teacher” were her words to us. She will be going into the field of Elementary Education/ Psychology

.....



Charlie Melo is the son of Salvador Melo (G Troop, 2/11, 70-71) and has chosen Underwater Welding and Rescue Diving as his field of study. He said, “11ACVVC

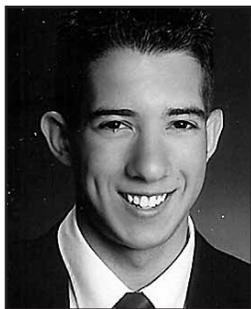
Scholarship Committee, Thank you for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. If there is anything else I can do please let me know.”



Karolynn Szczepanowski is the daughter of Joseph Switck (B Troop, 1/11, 68-69). She will pursue a Masters/ Doctorate in Biomedical Sciences-Medical

Doctor. Her reaction to winning a Blackhorse Scholarship, “That is great news! Thanks again for everything.”

.....



Stephen Bligh is the son of Stephen Bligh (K Troop, 3/11, 70-71). He said to us, “Thank you very much. I am honored to receive this scholarship and my parents are

Ecstatic!” He will study Visual Communications-Photography Television.

.....



Sarah Atchison is the daughter of Daniel Atchison (541 MI) and will pursue a Masters in Social Work or possibly Public Administration and Certificate in Gerontology.

Sarah’s words are, “Thank you for this scholarship and this opportunity. I am extremely thankful.”

The application deadline for Scholarships is May 15; the application forms are available from two sources for those who meet the qualifications: On our web site at, www.11thCavNam.com or from me at 11thACVVC Scholarship Chairman, Gene Johnson, PO Box 296, Milam, TX 75959. Email: gene677@aol.com



William Boswell, the son of Virgil Boswell (How Battery, 3/11, 67-68) stated, “Hello. I would just like to say thanks once again. Thank you for your time.”

William is pursuing a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice.

.....



Natalie Terleckey, the daughter of Slofko Terlecky (How Battery, 1/11, 70-71) said, “I would like to thank you and the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veteran’s

Vietnam and Cambodia for giving me this scholarship. Thank you once again.” She will be studying Political Science and then enter Law School.

.....



Nickie Kranz is the daughter of Robert Kelly (HHT, 3/11, 66-67) and has chosen Literature and Speech Communications as her field of study. She communicated to us

“I received my scholarship acceptance letter yesterday, and I want to express to you my gratitude. I will be unable to attend the Colorado Springs reunion. I hope that my inability to attend will not give you the impression that I am ungrateful, for I am grateful beyond words. Thank you so much. I am honored to be a recipient.”



Lesley Christian is the daughter of Gus Christian (E Troop, 2/11, 69-70). She is pursuing a Masters Degree in Public Administration. Lesley commented, "Thank you

(and the committee) so much for allowing me the honor of receiving this scholarship."

.....



Courtney Rosel is the daughter of Frederick Rosel (How Battery, 2/11, 69-70) and plans to pursue study in Accounting and Finance. She said to us 'I would like

to take this opportunity to thank you for your benevolent support of my continuing education. Without your scholarship, getting an education would be extremely difficult. There are no words to express my gratitude for allowing me to have this wonderful helping hand. ... When I opened my letter from you, a gigantic weight was lifted off my shoulders and so much stress dissipated. ... I will do my best to make the scholarship committee proud by always giving 110% effort in all my studies. ... Thank You again for your generosity. It is greatly appreciated."

.....



Chaylene Kriegh is the daughter of John Stanley (409 RR, 66-67). She plans on studying Radiology. She told us "I appreciate your consideration of me to win this

scholarship award. It means a great deal to me to win something my father is a huge part of. You guys do a wonderful job for these men who so proudly served our country. Thank you."

.....



Joseph Messick, the son of Ronald Caldwell (D Company, 1/11, 69-70) will be studying Kinesiology. He communicated to us "I understand and appreciate the value of hard

work to reach my goals. With this scholarship I will reach and go beyond my goals. Thank You."

Scholarship Fundraiser

2006 11thACVVC Calendar

By Chuck Schmidt

For the third consecutive year, I am privileged to have the job of assembling and distributing the 11thACVVC Calendar as a fundraising activity for our Scholarship Program. Your generosity has resulted in this leg of the fundraising program going from just over \$17,000 in 2003 to more than \$27,000 in 2005! This increase allowed us to present three more of our children \$3,000 one-time scholarship assistance for them to further their post secondary education.

In addition to the calendar, we annually conduct the Raffle before the Annual Reunion at which the winning tickets are drawn, and the Silent Auction of donated items at the Reunion. Each of these activities have also flourished in the past three years with the Raffle going from about \$25,000 to over \$35,000 last year and the Silent Auction raising more than \$5,000 each year. These totals along with the residual in the Fund allowed us to award twenty-five (25) scholarships in 2005, up from sixteen (16) in 2003! Your donations to the 11thACVVC Scholarship Fund since

Watch your mail in late November, and when your calendar arrives please make a generous donation to the scholarship fund. Our goal this year is \$30,000 and will be attained only with greater participation. Thanks for your support!

1996 have exceeded \$375,000 and enabled your organization to assist 142 eligible recipients to attend college or other training after high school graduation!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Although the past few years have been tremendous, we cannot live in the past and need to look to the future. Past success does not necessarily translate into future donations. It is up to each of you to annually decide among many legitimate charitable appeals by churches, other veteran organizations, United Way, and many, many others. The 11thACVVC, however, is the only organization that directly benefits you

and your "brothers" with whom you sacrificed so much. 100% of all the money you donate to the 11thACVVC Scholarship Program goes to help a deserving family member realize their educational dreams. Since we only use volunteers to run our programs, our overhead expenses are minimal and are covered from our General Revenue Funds generated through memberships, QM sales, and donations to the general fund.

We are not in the business of "Selling" calendars. The 11thACVVC 2006 calendar is yours to use whether you chose to make a donation or not. We do, however, ask you to generously give to this worthwhile cause. Of the more than 5,000 calendars that we mail to members, only some 1,000 make some sort of donation to the Scholarship Fund. If we can double that figure, we can award more scholarships and start to open the eligibility to include our Grandchildren in the near future. Although we did award 25 scholarships last year, we had to turn down another 25 qualified applicants due to lack of funds!

In the Words of the Field Commanders

From the 61st Colonel and Command Sergeant Major of the Regiment

Blackhorse Troopers Help Enable Historic Voting Day

■ Mosul, Iraq, October 15, 2005

As I write this millions of Iraqi's are exercising their right as free citizens to vote for their future. The sight literally right outside our window from Saddam's old "Spearhead" Palace here in Mosul is amazing, democracy is at work! A people who are free are determining their future, the future of their children and more importantly of their nation through the ballot box. Through their valiant efforts fighting insurgents and training Iraqi Army and Police forces, Blackhorse Troopers in North Babil, Baghdad and here in Mosul have helped make this historic day a reality.

The 16th Command Sergeant Major and 61st Colonel of our great Blackhorse Regiment could not be more proud of our Regiment today. The performance of our Troopers here in Iraq helping the Iraqi people win the fight for their freedom and back at Fort Irwin training our Army to fight and win makes both of us feel incredibly honored and blessed to wear the famous Blackhorse patch of our Regiment.

The service of these great young American heroes today continues to epitomize the Warrior Ethos of our Army in the tradition of excellence forged by the Troopers who have gone before us serving under the colors of our Regiment in the Philippines, Cuba, Germany, Vietnam, Cambodia, Germany, Kuwait and Afghanistan among other places. We salute their efforts with great pride.

To our veterans and our families we pass on a heartfelt thank you for your continued support. Rest assured, we could not execute our mission here and at Fort Irwin without your constant encouragement and support. Thank you.

We look forward to the day we can join with you once again at Fort Irwin.

ALLONS!

Ricky A. Pring,
16th Command Sergeant Major

Peter C. Bayer Jr
61st Colonel

From Ironhorse

The Ironhorse Squadron continues to push the terrorists into the hinterland of irrelevancy while pulling the locals off the fence and into the future. Since our last update in May, 1/11th ACR has moved to a new area of operations in the western part of Abu Ghraib. We immediately got to work and have continued to build on the superb legacy that you made in Vietnam. Every second, our Troopers continue to take the fight to enemy's doorstep.

During the past five months, 1/11th ACR has successfully integrated our non-lethal fight to complement what the Regiment is used to doing best – "Find the Bastards And Piling On!" In doing so, we have conducted five Medical Civilian Assistance Program (MED-CAP) visits treating over 1,200 patients, distributed over 40,000 pieces of humanitarian assistance such as chickens, toys, school supplies, hygiene projects and medical supplies to the local populace.

These efforts have "broken the ice" with many local nationals who are now more comfortable giving our Troopers actionable intelligence.

Additionally, we have been working with an Iraqi Army Battalion that had limited combat experience in Fallujah with the United States Marine Corps. Under our steady hand, they have developed into a force that is now capable of operating in their own battle space. Their introduction into the urban centers of Abu Ghraib has made significant strides in accomplishing our mission. Our combined operations with the Iraqi Army have resulted in the detention of 175 individuals and the capture of over 25 weapons caches by TF 1/11th ACR Troopers.

Finally, I wanted to thank Blackhorse Production's own Gerry Williamson and Eric Newton for their visit to 1st Squadron earlier this month. We appreciate their efforts to preserve the fine history of the Blackhorse's actions in Iraq. While here, they saw some of the daily contact that our Troopers have experienced over the past nine months. Their visit had a significant impact on the Troopers morale as they shared their stories of Vietnam with the newest generation of Blackhorse Veterans. I am truly honored to be serving in with these fine Troopers and proud to participate in the writing of the next chapter of Blackhorse history!

Allons!

Jim Blackburn
Bengal 6

Building a Free Iraq With Eaglehorse

Task Force 2nd Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment based out of Fort Irwin California deployed to Iraq in January of 2005. Their sector of responsibility known as Area of Operations (AO) "Battle" is located in southern Iraq and was one of the areas with the highest insurgency. Task Force 2-11's mission was to return that area to the people of the Babil Province and stop further atrocities towards innocent civilians.

Task Force 2-11 coordinated with the local Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to seek out insurgents in their area. The combined efforts of the Coalition Forces and Iraqi Security Forces pushed insurgent cells out of AO Battle and brought a much needed relief to the people of that area. To keep the insurgent take over out of AO Battle, Task Force 2-11 trained countless local citizens that chose to join the ranks of the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army to keep their cities safe.

While the performing their combat missions the Task Force also performed humanitarian aid missions for the civilians of their AO. To help improve the standard of living in this area, the Task Force implemented several reconstruction projects. Task Force 2-11 Soldiers along side local civilians repaired and reconstructed sewage and water facilities, roadways, schools, and power plants all to better the lives of the Iraqi people.

The citizens of the southern Iraq thank the Soldiers of Task Force 2-11 on a daily basis for allowing them the freedom and opportunity to walk in the light once again. Though 12 Task Force soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice, it was not in vain. Iraq is a step closer in the

search of peace, and for many Iraqis, Task Force 2-11 has provided them with a leap towards freedom.

LTC. Bill Simrill
Squadron Commander

The Role of Hellhorse

Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop's role as the cornerstone from which Task Force Freedom, Multi National Forces Northwest, was built has brought an interesting perspective to the Hellhorse Trooper's. Most of our Troopers are working in positions at least one or two levels above their experience as the Regimental Headquarters serves as essentially a Division Headquarters for 15,000 US Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines, Coalition Forces and 30,000 Iraqi Security Forces. Our current home is Forward Operating Base Courage in the city of Mosul, home to over 2 million people from all ethnicities and currently a hotly contested battlefield in out war against terror. You will be proud to hear that the Hellhorse Troopers have stepped up and accepted the challenge in true Blackhorse fashion.

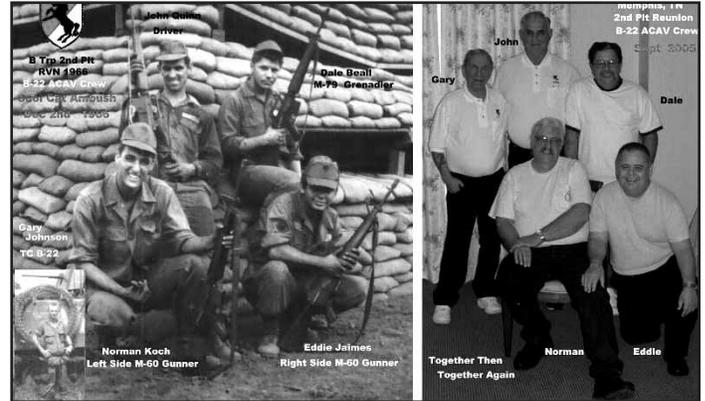
One of the more interesting missions Hellhorse Troopers have been asked to execute over the last few months has been the formation of five Personal Security Detachments (PSD's) tasked with securing the safety of key Task Force Freedom leaders (e.g., the Commanding General, Deputy Commander, etc...). In essence these PSD are combat platoons with the mission of securing VIPs during convoys and while conducting battlefield circulation. One of our PSD's has even been equipped with the new Stryker Combat Vehicles and serves as the Deputy Commander's Forward Combat Command Post. They played a key role in OPERATION RESTORE RIGHTS, a recent major combat operation in the city of Tal Afar and western Nineveh Province that liberated the Iraqi citizens from the oppression of an Anti-Iraqi Force insurgent safe haven. It can truly be said the in today's fight, RHHT boast potential combat power that rivals your average motorized infantry company.

In current events, RHHT continues the fight to bring democracy and representative government to Northern Iraq. For the last 30 days the focus of Peter C. Bayer Jr of RHHT and Task Force Freedom has been the Constitutional Referendum Election scheduled for 15 October 2005. By the time you read this, the election will be over and I am sure it will have been a success due, in small measure, to the efforts of Hellhorse soldiers.

We were also fortunate to have recently received a visit by two distinguished members of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), Mr. Eric Newton and Mr. Gerald Williamson from 08-11 OCT 05. We received them here in Mosul after they spent the better part of three weeks visiting with 1/11 ACR and 2/11 ACR to our South. After several days of shadowing Command Sergeant Major Pring around the Mosul battlefield, interviewing Hellhorse Troopers, swapping stories about their combat experiences and sampling the mess hall chow of FOB Courage, the Regiment presented each Veteran the 11th ACR's Gold Combat Spur (2nd Award). The Troop thanks both gentlemen for stopping in and looks forward to seeing them again upon our return to Fort Irwin.

ALLONS
HELLHORSE 6
CPT. Bryan Harris

Together Then Together Again



During a recent Bravo Troop 2nd Platoon Mini Reunion in Memphis, the crew of B22 presented a plaque to then track commander SSG Gary Johnson. This award was for the actions he took during the Dec. 2nd ambush at Soui Cat. The plaque read.

With Respect, Admiration and Appreciation. We thank You for Your Leadership on 2 Dec. 1966. This Plaque was presented by John (Cowboy) Quinn, Dale Beal, Norman Koch and Eddie (Bean Bandit) Jaimes.

Poetic Reunion Musing

Colorado Springs, Colorado Aug. 2003-08-11

We've enjoyed this reunion so very much...

I think it is wonderful the veterans keep in touch...

To remember the good times along with the bad...

Most times they're laughing; sometimes they're sad...

It's hard for us wives to understand...

What our men went through in a foreign land...

Mail time was happy if they called your name...

To go away without was a crying shame...

They depended so much on each other...

They bonded closer than biological brothers!

Always on the lookout for "Charlie"...

In a dark old jungle where the bushes were snarly...

There were great big snakes and giant ants...

Sometimes they'd get right in their pants...

The food was crappy and of home they'd dream...

At times so frustrated they wanted to scream!

Every soldier lost something; but at that time they didn't think twice...

Too many good men paid the ultimate price...

They were just boys...so very young...

Serving their country..."heroes" unsung...

I'd like to thank each one of you...

For being soldiers and serving...

Our great

Red,

White,

and Blue!

*Dedicated to all Vietnam Veterans; Especially my husband,
Richard McQueen (F Troop, 2/11 66-67)*

Judy McQueen

Moonlight Madness

By Charles W. Abbey

It was prior to Junction City II, during March of 1967, while Second Squadron was performing basecamp security and running convoy duty that the “Battle” Squadron (2-11) developed a mission to conduct a “round-up” of Viet Cong in a small hamlet several clicks east of Blackhorse Basecamp.

Ltc. Kibbey Horne and his staff crafted a plan in which elements of the Squadron would road march to the hamlet by day, conduct a Medcap and retire to the west in late afternoon. The troops would actually move several clicks out of sight of the occupants of the ville, laager until early morning, hereafter they would return, encircle the site and shake-down the residents in a quest for members of the Viet Cong, weapons, or other contraband.

A mission for C&C with the Squadron CO was passed down to the Squadron Air Section, the receipt of which was quickly followed by a heart-to-heart chat between the Squadron S-3 and the Section Commander – me.

Summarized it went something like this: “WHAT?? You want me to take the Colonel where?? After dark?? Hold on here; the OH23 has no instruments! Night flying at a reasonably low level is hazardous! There are no lights in the area for ground reference!” ...pregnant pause... ”Yes, of course the OH23 can fly at night...”

“WHAT?? You want me to take the Colonel where?? After dark?? Hold on here; the OH23 has no instruments! Night flying at a reasonably low level is hazardous! There are no lights in the area for ground reference!” ...pregnant pause... ”Yes, of course the OH23 can fly at night...”

Our chat seemed to be going nowhere and not being born too stupid, I soon offered a “Roger Out” and was on my way back to the Air Section.

And so it was that preparations were made for this flight. Take-off had been scheduled for 0330 on the next morning. Our “best” helicopter was preflight checked, red lens flashlights were freshened-up, maps were marked and studied and the crew selection was announced... Me again.

It was pretty obvious that, as Chief, I was the most experienced aviator and this could be a tricky mission; ergo, I was the best choice. “Madness.”

Decision made, I ate and retired to the sack early to ensure that I would be rested and sharp. “This was going to be stressful; there are really tall trees out there! It will be hugely dark! All the little hamlets look alike by day, let alone at night! Are the ACAVs all broke? Does the Colonel know how challenging this may be?”

The few hours until the mission rocket-

ed by and no sleep as I mentally flew the sortie. Too soon it was 0300 and time to make final preparations at the heliport. And what to my wondering eyes should appear as I stepped out of our tent? A brilliant full moon with not a cloud in the sky! “This might, just possibly not, be too bad after all...,” I mumbled to myself.

The Colonel arrived, I fired-up the ‘bird’, and we strapped-in and were off! (He didn’t yet fully realize what a great feat of flying this truly was!) As we lifted clear of the trees I realized that the flying conditions were actually, and amazingly, superb. I began to “un-pucker” just a bit. All features on the ground were clearly visible in the moon’s vague light. Navigation to the ville was uncomplicated. Very tall trees and other obstacles to flight stood-out, complete with crisp shadows.

As we arrived in the area, elements of the assigned Troop were reaching their line of departure. This seemed to make Ltc. Horne very happy; I began to relax and enjoy this flight. While we circled, the Troop closed around the hamlet and search lights came on. No fire was observed as the mounted and dismounted cavalry entered the ville. Shortly, the Colonel wanted to land so that he could be close to the scene, and so we did. At last, he was beginning to appreciate the superior airmanship of his Air Section Leader!

“Go on back to Fort Apache, get refueled and come back for me at 1300”, he directed. All smiles, I am out of there and back to basecamp. And now, with full knowledge of the situation, I felt comfortable with the idea of sharing this mission with another of my intrepid pilots. And so, the pick-up mission, this time in full light, went to my number two man - while I caught a few, well deserved Z’ s...

Show Your Pride

RIGHT: Submitted by Harold “Beau” Mann, F Troop, 2/11 ‘69-’70.

BELOW: Submitted by Ollie Pickral, K Troop, 3/11 ‘68-’69, includes a Guidon on back window.





Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVC Women's Coordinator

Autumn has finally arrived here in the Midwest and with it comes the cool crisp nights and frosty mornings. We can smell the burning wood from the campfires in the campgrounds down the road. What a wonderful time of year. This is perhaps my most favorite time of year.

It's a time to sit back and reflect on the past year(s) gone by. To think of those we know and see often, those we see but once a year and of course those who have sadly left us.

When I sit on the back porch and look at how the leaves are turning and beginning to fall, I am reminded of when I was a child and we would rake all the leaves together, then jump in them watching and shouting with laughter as they once again scattered all over the yard. How I sometimes long again for those carefree days.

Days when bill paying, gas prices and most of all war were just things we read or heard about. Not things we had to deal with everyday.

I think the worst thing we had to worry about was when the ice cream man was coming down our street again or when the first snow flake would fall. Oh to be young again and not have a care in the world.

We took a ride today, thru the country side to see the changing leaves and to search for that perfect pumpkin for the front yard. The leaves were all a palate of beautiful colors. The cranberry bogs are all a spectacular shade of red as the owners begin to do their harvest. We never did find that pumpkin. So alas the Styrofoam ones from last year will have to do.

With all the colors, coolness and smells of autumn it is once again time to start thinking about bringing supplies in for the holiday cooking that goes on around here. What a good time to bring up our cookbook.

Thank you to all of you who have sent in so many wonderful and interesting recipes. My family has tried many of them already. They are great. Some that I want to try but haven't had time to, have been tried out by those I work with. It sure seems like we always have some

kind of food at work.

Of course we are nowhere near done with the book, and are still accepting more recipes. The categories I have chosen for the book include: Appetizers, Beverages, Salads, Breads, Casseroles, Meat and Poultry, Desserts and Miscellaneous (to include: fun stuff for kids to make, or be made by kids, measurements and substitutions.).

So we need many more. The more we have the bigger the book, the better our printing cost and that means the more profits we can make from the sale of it. Remember ALL the proceeds go to the scholarship fund. So let's make a lot of money from it.

Come on everyone (board of directors - this means you too) get out those favorite recipes that Grandma has passed down to you and share them with us. Remember when you send them to me to include your name and unit.

Ask some of your co-workers and friends and family members for some recipes. They'll be happy to help for such a good cause. I have several that my boss and the owner of the hotel I'm at have donated. I am also writing to several of our past Host hotels for reunions, and asking them to donate one or two. So you see they can come from anyone, anywhere.

Well, until next time. God bless and happy autumn.

Barb (puppytoes@charter.net)

Show Your Pride



Pete Walter, (How, 3/11, 70), Mt. Holly, NJ shows his pride--on the course and driving to it!

2005 CALENDAR SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

The 11th ACVC wishes to gratefully acknowledge these generous donations that have not been previously published to the Scholarship Fund in support of the 2005 Calendar Fundraiser as of November 4, 2005

Platinum Level Donors

Donations from \$100 to \$199

- James & Avinell Pennington

Gold Level Donors

Donations from \$50 to \$99

- 1SG USA (Ret) Thomas A. Godfrey
- Jim H. Ritter
- John & Patricia Ruscher
- Brenner & Lenora Sayers
- Larry & Linda Swartz
- Stephen V. Vasey
- Thomas & Victoria Barrett-Wheelock

Silver Level Donors

Donations from \$25 to \$49

- Roy A. Lingle
- Joan Freyholtz
- Gary Jacobs
- Raymond L. Larson
- Craig T. Perrin
- Steven & Janice Spriggs
- Thomas & Arleen Stastny
- LTC Stephen & Linda Tracy

Bronze Level Donors

Donations from \$1 to \$24

- Chuck & Sharon Nute
- Gary Southerland
- Roger & Eleanor Cooper
- Stanley Meeks
- Donald & Connie Middleton
- David & Shirley Polk
- Bobby & Joyce Ward
- Jeffery & Deeann Weis
- Lucien & Deborah Young



Family

When I was in Viet Nam I had a family at home, a dad, mom, brother, and sister. I wasn't married so I didn't have a wife and kids. I married at 50 - how's that for late? Some of you had wives and some of you didn't. Almost everyone I knew had a family, either the one they were born into, adopted into, or the one where got they married and had kids. Every family was different. A few were Ozzie and Harriet types - harmonious and almost faultless. My family wasn't like that. I think we were pretty typical, which meant we weren't perfect, but we were OK. How was your family?

I'll use my own family as an example of whatever typical is. I'd use someone else's family but that'd be telling on them and anyway, I know my own better. Over in the jungles of Viet Nam many guys got "care packages." Did you? My mother, God rest her soul, was wonderful at sending me chocolate chip cookies and great things like Kool-Aid and candy. It didn't matter that the cookies were crumbs and the candy was soggy. I remember Christmas of '69. We were out along the Cambodian border where Mom sent my Christmas care package. In it was one of my favorite things - fruit cake. You don't like fruit cake? Great! I'll take it! Never mind that when I opened my care package, the fruit cake was under a layer of mold. I cut the "penicillin" off and ate the rest except for what I shared with other fruit cake eaters. This was a small example of family support. It was comforting to know that my family cared.

On the other hand, some weren't so fortunate. I told you before about the GI who came to me in the jungles around Loc Ninh. He showed me the letter his "beloved" fiancé at home had sent. It had his engagement ring taped inside. She'd found someone else. That's an example of non-support from family. When I was at Fort Ord between Viet Nam tours we had situations where wives were running around with other soldiers while their husbands were in the 'Nam. My heart bled for the men under fire who couldn't even count on their families at home to

This subject isn't easy to talk about here because we all come from so many different kinds of families and backgrounds. Many of us have been divorced. Some are separated from family and living in the woods. Some have kids and some don't. Some are still living in the past and making life hard on their families.

stand by them. On the other hand, there were some in Nam who were messing around too which didn't help anything. One more negative, then I'll move on. I felt bad for the trooper who came home and no one met him at the airport or wherever he came in. I guess it wasn't all that unusual. Too bad, because it was sure reassuring to be met by a family who cared. With this trooper, when he walked in the front door his dad was reading the paper and didn't even get up to say hello. He just sort of grunted. That was that trooper's family welcome home.

If these negative family stories are depressing, take heart! All is not hopeless. Let's move on, because my story of "typical" family doesn't describe all families, anyway. You can tell your own family story. Don't limit yourself to just the family you were born into. For another example, I never had children. (Getting married at age 50 isn't conducive to having kids.) However, I've always been very close to my nieces and nephews. They love me and I love them. We support each other in family ways which we need. Also, a couple of my life-time friends have kids too. They call me "Uncle Larry." I like that. I think it's cool. See what I mean by having your own family stories to tell? You have one. So tell it.

As Viet Nam vets we understand family in a very special way. (At least I hope you do). Think of how tight you got with your brothers over there in that time and situation, namely war and depending on each other for your survival and support. You remember how, during the long nights in the jungle or pulling perimeter guard, you'd talk about your family back home, about your car or girl friend, about what you'd do when you got home, and things like that. I know many guys who still say they were tighter than brothers

then. A few still are. That's a family type relationship. You know what I mean. These tight relationships got you through hard times. It was a family sort of matter.

This subject isn't easy to talk about here because we all come from so many different kinds of families and backgrounds. Many of us have been divorced. Some are separated from family and living in the woods. Some have kids and some don't. Some are still living in the past and making life hard on their families. Some are healed and doing just fine. So it's hard to generalize and make one size fit all. That's why you need to think for yourself about your own family. Just the same, I wanted to talk to you about family because it's so important. It's very important for you to be OK with your family, regardless. If healing is needed, face it and take the lead to make it happen. Do what you can. If all is fine, be glad. You are a role model for your family, so be a good one.

We've been talking about family in several ways. I don't want to go on and on even though there's more to say. You can go on for yourself, though, which I encourage you to do. There's one more family to talk about before I close off. It's a family we all can be a member of. It's a family that will never fail and which will always support you, including now. The family I'm talking about is the family of God. You say, "What?" I say, "That's right, the family of God." You can be a part. Many of us are. Many GIs were part of the family of God even in Viet Nam. Others have become members since those days. It isn't automatic, however, as some people seem to think. And no one else can join for you like in a physical birth family. It's a family you're born into spiritually when you accept and commit to it. No one, not even God him-

Continued ➤

A Hero's Story

(Condensed by Joe J. O'Leary, A Trp. 1/11 66-67, from an article in the Barre Gazette, by Lester W. Paquin)

Eddie Cormier was as ordinary as they come, the very essence of a small-town boy. He is remarkable to us today because of that honesty, simplicity and steadfast devotion to his beliefs and principles.

He lived in a time before the influences of his generation changed the course of history. His childhood was filled with imagination and play,

Heroes make us feel better. They make us feel protected; they are the men and women we all want to be, and to be with. Being a hero is no more than that, and it is the hardest job in the world. Eddie Cormier' would not claim to be a hero – and he would be wrong.

respect for elders, creative energy and boundless ambition. He treasured time spent outdoors, warm summer days, going fishing, climbing trees and helping out around the house. He watched black and white television, talked on a telephone attached to a wall and never heard of a computer. He was 20 years old when he died half a world away.

Growing up in the Paul and Clarice Mann household in Barre, MA, where he came to live within days of his birth on Jan. 31, 1949 as one of the many foster children the Manns raised over the years, Eddie enjoyed going camping with his family. More than that, he loved to fish. When the Manns lived on School Street (North), he could be found at all hours fishing from the little brook behind the house. "He seldom caught anything," says his sister Janice Panaccione, "but he liked trying."

As Eddie Cormier grew into his teenage years, he met the woman who would become the love of his life. "We met in Center School – he was 13, I was 12," says Jeannie (Farish) (Cormier) Raymond. "He sat in back of me in

homeroom and pulled my hair." Jeannie and Eddie remained friends through high school, though they saw each other infrequently, due to the fact that after eighth grade, Eddie attended Boys Trade in Worcester, while Jeannie went to Barre High School. "Eddie often said that he chased me until I caught him," Jeannie says. On Jeannie's 18th birthday in 1968, Eddie gave her a pearl pre-engagement ring. The diamond followed the day Jeannie graduated from high school. At the time, Eddie was working as a painter. Eddie Cormier and Jeannie Farish were married on February 15, 1969.

The couple honeymooned in Florida and while they were gone, Eddie's draft orders arrived. The irony is that Eddie Cormier didn't have to be drafted at all. He was his family's sole surviving son, and thus eligible for deferment. But not going was not an option for Eddie. "He wanted to go. It was what he believed in," Jeannie says. "This country, its flag everything it stood for – it was his duty to go. I told him it was a decision only he could make. I was too young to know

Continued on page 17

CHAPLAIN *continued*

self, will force it on you. Now I'll quit my talking and quote the word of God. That's where the information comes from and it's reliable. After all, it's the word of God: "...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory." (Romans 8:14-17 NIV)

I don't know your personal family situation. I don't know what your relationships were in Viet Nam, either. I hope both were tight then and I hope they're tight now. If they are, be glad and keep them that way. If they're not, I encourage you to do your part to heal the breaches. Beyond that, I encourage you to join the family of God. I did. I hope you will too, brother or sister. Check *Romans 10:9-10*. OK?

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth
176 Rainbow Drive, #176
Livingston, Texas 77399
LEHaworth@aol.com

Helpful Phone Numbers

Dept. of Veterans Affairs

VA Benefits1-800-827-1000
VA Life Insurance1-800-829-8477
VA Office of Memorial Programs
(Cemetery Headstones and Markers)
.....1-800-697-6947
Hospital Records1-800-497-6261
Social Security Help ..1-800-772-1213
Alzheimer's Help1-800-438-4380
Life Insurance:.....1-800-669-8477
Health Care Benefits: ..1-877-222-8387
Income Verification
and Means Testing: ..1-800-929-8387

Blackhorse Actions in Iraq

◆ Hunch Leads to Large Weapons Cache

*Blackanthem.com, Abu Ghraib, Iraq,
October 11, 2005*

**By Capt. Marc Pelini, 1/10 Mountain
Division**

Soldiers from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment discovered a very large weapons cache Oct. 10 in the Abu Ghraib district

The Unit had been conducting cordon-and-search operations in the neighborhood and was just about to leave, but –acting on a hunch—they remained at the site for another two hours, digging for buried munitions.

This is the seventh cache discovered in October by this unit.

The day began with the soldiers searching a residence suspected of harboring terrorist activity. Using metal detectors, the unit began to get positive detections and, after staying in the area, unearthed a large cache.

The cache included mortar rounds, five rocket-propelled grenade rounds, four rifle grenades, two RPG launchers, a mortar tube, a 55 gallon drum with explosives, six bundles of fuses, 67 RPG propellants, and 110 explosive timers.

“This is an example of how a soldier’s intuition and experiences have resulted in uncovering another cache, said Capt. Ryan Keys, B Troop commander. “I am proud of the hard work and dedication that every soldier has been putting into this mission here,” he said. “The terrorists are learning that it is just a matter of time before we find their next cache.”

◆ Citizen’s Tip Helps U.S. Soldiers Seize Weapons Cache

*Blackanthem.com, Baghdad, Iraq,
September 26, 2005-10-19*

**By 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain
Division PAO**

Task Force Baghdad soldiers acting, on a tip from an Iraqi citizen, seized a weapons cache hidden in West Baghdad at 11:30 a.m. September 25th.

A portion of a weapons cache is laid out for inventory. Soldiers from B Troop 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry uncovered its seventh weapons cache in October during cordon and search operations in West Baghdad. (U.S. Army photo)



The soldiers, from Bravo Company, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, discovered 85 mortar rounds, 14 rockets, two artillery rounds and three mortar tubes. The cache also contained eight rocket propelled grenade launchers with 144 RPG’s and 30 chargers, three anti-tank weapons, 20 hand grenades, two machine guns, two assault rifles, 23 recoilless rifle rounds and 75 pounds of ammunition. The patrol found bomb making materials and 100 feet of detonation cord at the site as well.

Task Force Baghdad leaders said they believe these devices were being used by anti-coalition forces to target Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces through conventional attacks and roadside bombings.

The soldiers secured the site to deny terrorists from returning and using the munitions in the future.

◆ Soldiers Destroy Four Bombs Before They Go Off

*Blackanthem.com, BAGHDAD, Iraq,
October 23, 2005*

By 1/10th Mountain Division PAO

During combat operations Oct. 22, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers found and destroyed four bombs before they could detonate and harm Iraqi civilians or Iraqi and U.S. military forces.

The first improvised explosive device, made from two 120-millimeter mortar rounds, was discovered by Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, and 10th Mountain Division in east Abu Ghraib in the early-morning hours. An explosive ordnance disposal team destroyed the

bomb through controlled-detonation procedures.

Another bomb was discovered by 2/22 Inf. in the same area several hours later. It was also destroyed by explosive experts.

About one hour later, Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry, attached to 1st BCT, 10th Mountain Div., and Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Iraqi Army Brigade discovered a 155-millimeter round in west Abu Ghraib which appeared to be an IED in the preliminary stages of construction. Bomb experts removed the ordnance from the area.

In the early afternoon, 1/11th ACR Soldiers came across a vehicle near the same area of Abu Ghraib which contained two 30-pound propane tanks and five 120-millimeter mortar rounds. After the area was cordoned off and secured, explosive experts destroyed the bomb, which was determined to be a vehicle-carried IED.

U.S. Soldiers Kill Terrorist Planting Bomb

*Blackanthem.com, BAGHDAD, Iraq,
October 30, 2005*

**By Staff Sgt. John Rozean
1/10th Mountain Division PAO**

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers shot and killed a terrorist Oct. 29 as he tried to emplace an improvised explosive device in an Abu Ghraib neighborhood. This individual is suspected to have emplaced and detonated other IED’s against Iraqi Army units in eastern Abu Ghraib.

The terrorist was observed by Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored

Cavalry Regiment as he rode up on a bicycle and emplaced what looked like a bag having suspicious wires coming out of it. The Soldiers, determining the suspicious bag was an IED, shot and killed the individual. The IED exploded moments after the terrorist was shot, but no damage or injuries were reported.

After sweeping the area, the Soldiers found another IED on the terrorist's bicycle. An explosives disposal team later destroyed the bomb through a controlled detonation.

◆ Terrorists Caught After Firing At U.S. Soldiers

Blackanthem.com, BAGHDAD, Iraq, November 01, 2005

By 1/10th Mountain Division PAO

Task Force Baghdad Soldiers detained four terrorists Oct. 31 during combat operations in western Abu Ghraib. The Soldiers from 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry had set up a tactical control point when a vehicle approached and opened fire on the 1/11th Soldiers. U.S. Soldiers returned fire and engaged the terrorists, detaining three and wounding one, who was immediately transported to the Abu Ghraib Internment Hospital for treatment. All four are currently in custody.

The terrorists were armed with one grease gun with two magazines, and one nine-millimeter pistol with a magazine. The Soldiers also discovered electrical equipment, tape, wires, and tools in the vehicle.

There were no injuries or damages to U.S. forces or equipment.

2005 DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the following generous donors whose contributions have not been previously acknowledged

Diamond Level Donors

Donations over \$500

- Robert Macon to the Scholarship Fund

Silver Level Donors

Donations from \$25 to \$49

- Curtis Bell to the General Fund

Bronze Level Donors

Donations from \$1 to \$24

- James Smith Jr.

HERO from page 15

any differently. Bad things don't happen to people in small-town Barre. He was my prince in shining armor. The romance – the wedding – it was like a fairy tale. I knew it then, and I know it now. I'd never known anyone who'd died in the service. I wanted whatever made him happy – whatever he believed he had to do. I knew that he'd come back, and our lives would go on from there."

Eddie and Jeannie Cormier enjoyed six short weeks of married life together before he was shipped off to become PFC Edward James Cormier, U.S.A. As the time grew closer for him to leave for Southeast Asia, Eddie bought his wife an artificial Christmas tree. "He told me to put all of our presents under that tree, and we'd celebrate Christmas when he got home," Jeannie says. On Sept. 2, 1969, Eddie Cormier kissed his young bride goodbye and boarded a plane for Vietnam. Their friend, Brother Jimmy Lent, had accompanied them to the airport. The moment Eddie disappeared into the plane's fuselage, Jeannie began to cry. When Jimmy tried to comfort her, she told him "He's not coming back."

In Vietnam, Eddie joined I Troop, 3rd Squadron. He wrote to Jeannie every day, and she to him. "He couldn't tell me very much, because of all the restrictions. But I could ramble on about life in Barre – about who was doing what to whom and everything else that was going on." They talked about their hopes and dreams, and what life would be like after he came home. As the days of November, 1969, moved along, people in Barre and beyond were making plans for Thanksgiving.

On Saturday of that weekend, Jeannie Cormier went roller-skating with friends. She felt unsettled all afternoon, eventually going home. She sat at the kitchen table, telling her mother that she couldn't understand why she felt the way she did. Before her mother could speak, Jeannie's father came in and told her "Someone from the Army was at the door earlier"; he had told the servicemen to come back that evening. As the

three of them sat there, not speaking, the knock on the door came again.

PFC Edward James Cormier was dead. He was Barre's first – and last – supreme sacrifice in the Vietnam War. He was just two months shy of his 21st birthday. He left behind a 19-year-old widow – a woman he'd been married to for only nine months – and a world of people who loved him.

After Eddie's death, Jeannie decided to pursue a career as a nurse, fulfilling a dream that both her father and husband had for her. She remains one today. When asked how she feels about sending a new generation of sons and husbands off to war, she is adamant: "It was the Vietnam veterans and their families who welcomed back the Gulf War vets with such enthusiasm," she says. "We've got to make sure that our children understand what we do – that you must support the people who defend this country, regardless of how you feel about the war itself. That's something we've learned at great pain, but it only lasts for one generation – unless you make those who follow understand."

On 21 May, 2005 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts named the Route 122 bridge that spans the Ware River and serves as the gateway to the Quabbin Reservoir in Eddie Cormier's memory. Amid fluttering of flags and a flyover by a U.S. Army helicopter, a dozen members of the Blackhorse joined in honoring Eddie including some, such as Thomas Flaherty, who were injured in the battle in which Eddie died.

Heroes do not play games on fields of green or parquet floors. They don't star in films, play guitars or make vast sums of money. A hero is much more than that. A hero is a man like Eddie Cormier, who served his country with pride, dignity and extreme, unflinching devotion. He has earned that honor. Heroes make us feel better. They make us feel protected; they are the men and women we all want to be, and to be with. Being a hero is no more than that, and it is the hardest job in the world. Eddie Cormier would not claim to be a hero – and he would be wrong.

VIETNAM: What Happened After Blackhorse Departed?

By Frank R. Cambria, Secretary, 11ACVVC

- February 1971. 1st and 3rd Squadrons depart Vietnam and are deactivated
- March 1972. 2nd Squadron departs Vietnam and is deactivated
- 30 March 1972. Major NVA offensive, the "Easter Offensive" begins when the NVA pours across the DMZ.
- April 1972. NVA and VC forces take Loc Ninh. NVA fails to take An Loc on QL13, beginning a 95-day siege.
- 7 April 1972. Massive bombing of North Vietnam renews with Operation Linebacker. "The bastards have never been bombed like they're going to be bombed this time," President Nixon said in reaction to NVA's Easter Offensive.
- July 1972. The NVA Easter Offensive effectively ends, with horrific losses to the communists NVA of over 100,000 casualties and half of its tanks. ARVN with USA airpower held its own.
- December 1972. North Vietnam is "bombed to negotiation," agreeing to sign the Paris Peace Accords on 27 January 1973 for a truce, and to release all American POWs if the U.S.A. will immediately stop the bombing and withdrew its few remaining troops from South Vietnam within 60 days. USA agrees.
- Summer, 1973. NVA violates the treaty and expands its hold on South Vietnam territory.
- 15 August 1973, U.S. Congress passes the Case-Church Amendment which prohibited any funds to "...be obligated or expended to finance directly or indirectly combat activities by U.S. military forces in or over or from off the shores of North Vietnam, South Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia." This action was what the North Vietnamese Communists were waiting for, as is sealed the fate of the other three States of Indochina: South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.
- May 1974. Still supplied, supported, and trained by the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, and Cuba, the NVA wage major attacks in northern South Vietnam.
- December 1974 —January 1975. The NVA tests the attitude of the U.S.A.. Bui Tin, former editor of Hanoi's People's Daily, wrote, "We tested [President] Ford's resolve by attacking Phuoc Long Province in January 1975. When Ford kept American B-52s in

their hangers, our leadership decided on a big offensive against South Vietnam."

- March 1975. The final NVA assaults begin across the DMZ and from sanctuaries in Laos, followed by assaults out of Cambodia with Loc Ninh as the NVA Command Post.
- 17 April 1975. NVA & Khmers take Phnom Penh, capitol of Cambodia.
- April 1975. ARVN forces in former Blackhorse Base Camp fought on to the bitter end, as one of the best-defended ARVN strongholds.
- 30 April 1975 NVA takes Saigon and conquers South Vietnam.
- May 1975. The Communist-backed Khmer Rouge began the mass murder of millions of Cambodians.
- August 1975. The Pathet Lao Communists captured the Laotian capital, Vientiane. A ruthless campaign was waged by the Pathet Lao against the Laotian people. Over ten percent of the population fled to other countries.
- After fall of Saigon, Vietnamese Population 49 million.
 - Over 300,000 Vietnamese sent to concentration camps
 - 2 million anti-communists Vietnamese

attempted to escape to freedom

- Estimated 250,000 died or were killed during escape attempts
- About 1 million accepted into the U.S.A. as war refugees
- 1975-1977. Poor economic policies of Vietnam's Communist Party (CVP) pushed the country into deep poverty. Millions of peasants were forced into large farming "collectives" which sapped their initiative and reduced production.
- 25 December 1978. Vietnam begins a full-scale invasion of Cambodia, unseating the Khmers and capturing Phnom Penh in January 1979.
- February 1979. The CVP achieved the reunification of the four States of Indochina, and proved that the Domino Theory was more than theoretical.
- 17 February 1979. After relations between the CVP and China deteriorated for several years of political disagreements, China sends an 85,000-man army into adjoining provinces of Vietnam as a punitive strike. China's force suffered 68% casualties against the now more experienced and modern Vietnamese war machine.

The Blackhorse in Iraq

Remember their sacrifice



Submitted by Bill Karabinos, HHT, '71-72

- In 1986, population increased to over 60 million. With the country at the verge of starvation, CVP began to dismantle collective farming and to encourage “small-scale” private enterprise.
- 1989. With pressure from the U.N., Vietnam withdraws from Cambodia.
- 1991. CVP declares that any anti-communist dissent, demonstration, or writings are a criminal offense.
- December 1991. The Soviet Union, Vietnam’s principal benefactor and primary supplier of military equipment and funds, disintegrates, ending the Cold War. Vietnam now desperate for revenue, funding and international trade.
- 1992. In need of foreign trade, Vietnam actively begins seeking relations with its former enemy, the U.S.A.
- 1993. Vietnam ranked with Bangladesh as among the world’s poorest nations. United Nations sponsor free elections in Cambodia.
- Early 1995. “Normal relations” between U.S.A. and Vietnam established by President Bill Clinton. Vietnam population reaches 74 million.
- Late 1995. Widespread business corruption followed almost immediately after trade with the U.S.A. begins.
- 1997. CVP begins a practice of executing corrupt businessmen and government officials by firing squad.
- 2001. Over 200 Christian Montagnards killed by CVP military police near Cambodian border in Central Highlands.
- 2001. U.S.A. and Vietnam signed Bilateral Trade Agreement effective 2002
- 2002. The Associated Press reports the CVP ordered the government controlled media to limit their coverage of increasing corruption scandals
- 2002. Transparency International ranked Vietnam as 11th of the 16 most corrupt nations in the world.
- 2003. United Nations Commission on Human Rights Special Report lists Vietnam as one of the world’s most repressive regimes.
- 2003. CVP formally banned receipt and distribution of anti-government email messages
- 2002-2004. Many Vietnamese “internet dissidents” arrested, with six sentenced to long prison terms
- 2000-2004. Scores of religious leaders and pro-democracy activists sentenced to long prison terms or executed. Starbucks begins importing premium Vietnamese coffees.
- January 2004. CVP issued a decree making the reporting of statistics on the use of the death penalty a “state secret.”

- 2004. Amnesty International reports, “...a high number of death sentences and executions are reported” of Montagnards and other ethnic minorities.
- January 2005. A Swedish report ranked Vietnam as #102 most corrupt out of 142 countries evaluated in 2004.
- The 2005 U.N. Commission on Human Rights Special Report includes Vietnam in the “WORST OF THE WORST” world’s most repressive societies.
- July 2005. Population is 83 million with 10 million in Saigon and 4 million in Hanoi. Over 50% under age 30.

‘Operation Hero Program’

Donated Miles For Wounded Troops

Operation Hero Miles, through a partnership with several major airlines and the Fisher House Foundation, offers Americans the opportunity to donate their unused airline sky miles to wounded troops and their families for visits to medical facilities and trips home. Every flight provided comes about only because a family or individual takes the time to donate frequent flier miles to the Hero Miles Program to make sure that the nearly 3 million miles needed each week are available. The program’s agreements with individual airlines only permit airline tickets for military (or DoD civilian employees) hospitalized as a result of their service in Iraq, Afghanistan, or surrounding areas, and their families.

These tickets cannot be used for R&R travel, ordinary leave, emergency leave, or other travel not related to a medical condition. Currently, participating airlines include Alaska Airlines, America West Airlines, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and Northwest Airlines.

For more information on the Operation Hero Miles program, including information on how to donate frequent flier miles to the program, visit the Hero Miles website at <http://www.fisherhouse.org/programs/heroMiles.shtml>.

Riding the Blackhorse

...on the golf course



Recently Dennis Wilson (left), 919th Engineers '66 to '67 and Joseph Gehring, 1 Troop '67 to '68 attended the American Legion #390 golf outing and sponsored a hole in honor of the 11th ACVVC.

REGISTRATION FORM



11thACVVC Reunion XXI Kansas City, MO
Thursday, September 21 thru Sunday, September 24th, 2007



Registration fees are \$68.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled program events including Thursday and Friday Bunker Parties and Saturday Banquet dinner. **The registration fee will be an additional \$10.00 to above price for registrations received after August 27th, 2007**

Please Print All Information:

Name: _____ Telephone No: _____

Address: _____ Email address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Unit Assignment: _____ Years in Country _____

list only **one** Troop/Company (ie B Troop 66/1967 or H Co 69/70)

(This will be your seating assignment for the Saturday night banquet dinner)

Attendees

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection:(choose one per attendee): _____ Chicken _____ Beef _____ Veggie

Special dietary needs: Yes No Please indicate needs: _____

Wheelchair requirements: Yes No Is this your first reunion Yes No

Send check/money order (no cash please) for the full amount, payable to: 11 ACVVC REUNION XXI, or complete information below for Visa or MasterCard.

Visa MasterCard (Check one) Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature (Required) _____

Mail To:

11 ACVVC Reunion XXI
c/o Ollie Pickral
15341 General Puller Hwy
Deltaville, VA 23043



Journey to Fiddler's Green

We're sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. Our deepfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends.

John R. Brookshire, who served as Platoon Leader with G Troop, 2/11 (1967) passed away September 21, 2005. John did three tours in Vietnam and retired with combat related casualties in 1971. He lived in Roanoke, Alabama.

Edgar John Colson Jr., who served as a motor Sgt. with HHT 3/11 (1970) passed away January 24, 2005. He lived in Salem, Alabama and was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC.

Rosalio "Monte" Montelongo, who served with C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away September 17, 2005. "Monte" was a resident of Crofton and had previously lived in Odenton, Maryland. "Monte" was a highly decorated veteran of WWII, Korea, and the Vietnam War. He served three

tours of duty in Vietnam in several armored cavalry units. Monte was Life Member and a true icon of the 11th ACVVC.

John "Red" Reel, who served with D Company, 1/11 (1969) passed away in April, 2005. "Red" had resided in DuQuoin, Illinois.

George Seignious, who was the 31st Colonel of the Regiment (1961-1963) passed away July 3, 2005. He also was the 14th President of the Citadel (1974-1979) and resided in Charleston, South Carolina.

Larry F. Eldredge, who served with E Troop, 2/11, (1968) passed away on September 17, 2005 after an extended illness. Larry was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and had resided in Birmingham, Alabama.



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Well, another Reunion has come and gone. This year we were saddened to learn that Rodney George, our Quartermaster, needed to give up his duties due to illness. For many years this great man has served us with an unyielding loyalty to our beloved Regiment and our association. Those who have not been on the front line of service will never know how much he has been at our beck and call for the items in the Quartermaster store. It will not be easy to fill Rodney's shoes.

As your new QM, I hope in the days ahead I might be able to take my place beside this great man. Thank you all for your understanding for the store being closed so long. Inventory was packed up and sent from Montana to Texas, and then along came the sisters Katrina and Rita delaying things. Preparing for the

We are offering a few new items in the QM Store with this quarterly edition of Thunder Run and have decided to have an "Inventory Reduction/Closeout Sale" for other selected items.

worst in both cases, we held off a little longer opening the store. As of 10/01/05 we finally opened for business. Again, we're sorry for the delay. We are up and charging forward; so pile on the orders we're ready.

We are offering a few new items in the QM Store with this quarterly edition of *Thunder Run* and have decided to have an "Inventory Reduction/Closeout Sale" for other selected items. This is the first time we have attempted to run a sale, so we ask you to bear with us as we work out the kinks. The items listed as "Sale" items are limited quantity and most of them are unique in that they were designed for specific reunions or events. When all "Sale" items are sold, that will be – **No rainchecks, and no backorders/ reorders! When they are gone, they are gone!** So, if you want a sale item, do not hesitate, order now.

We plan to carry the new items for the foreseeable future as we believe they will be in demand for some time to come.

ALLONS

Leadership

Why Western Armies Tend to Win

By Harold C. Hutchison (hchutch@ix.netcom.com)

This excerpt is from an article found on the web and submitted by Eric Newton characterizing it as a compliment to the 11th ACR

The other advantage that major powers have is in their training. Often, the major powers train a lot – and the exercises will be very tough. The United States uses places like the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California (home of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, or the OPFOR), Nellis Air Force Base (home of Red Flag). The result is that after combat, American troops have compared it to the National Training Center – "only the enemy wasn't as good". <http://www.strategy-page.com/htm/hilead/articles/20051028.aspx>



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*.

NAME	UNIT	DATES
Green, Jack	HHT, 3/11	67-68
Houzenga, Gary L	B TRP, 1/11	66-67
Lagravier, Jerry W	K TRP, 3/11	66-67
Liptak, James	B TRP, 1/11	66-67
Little, Otis D	A TRP, 1/11	70-71
Martin, Harry J	I TRP, 3/11	67-68
McCorkhill, Michael	919th ENGR	70-70
McQueen, Richard	F TRP, 2/11	66-67
McVay, Mark	HOW, 1/11	69-70
Navarro, John	D CO, 1/11	66-67
Noel, Dennis L	HHT REGT	67-68
Owens, Joseph C	I TRP, 3/11	66-68
Sands, Harry S Jr	HHT, 2/11	68-69
Schonberg, Earl B	HOW, 2/11	72-72
Tidwell, Alton R	I TRP, 3/11	69-70
Weatherwax, Eric A	I TRP, 3/11	70-70
Wellman, Harry B	I TRP, 3/11	69-71

QUARTERMASTER NEW & CLEARANCE ITEMS

The 11thACVVC Quartermaster Store has some new items to introduce and some items that are at reduced prices just in time for purchase as gifts for the upcoming Christmas Holiday Season.

New items include a couple of books by fellow 11thACVVC Troopers, a large full color magnetic "BLACKHORSE" patch and a magnetic "Support Our Troops" ribbon both of which adhere to any metal surface. The yellow ribbon has "11th ACR" printed on it as well as a full color "Blackhorse" patch and is available as a lapel pin as well. Both items were introduced at the XXth Reunion in Colorado Springs and were in high demand.

Clearance items include 12oz clear glass, faceted beer mugs with a convenient handle and etched with a "Blackhorse" patch "11thACVVC" and "ALLONS" on one side and a mountain scene and "Colorado Springs, CO" Twentieth Anniversary and the dates 1986 & 2005 on the reverse. The Quartermaster also has shirts from past reunions up for clearance at an attractive price. Shirts of limited

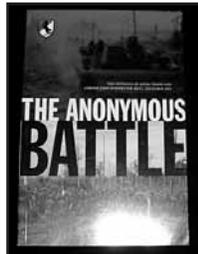
sizes for the 2001 Reunion in Wash, DC, the 2002 Nashville, TN reunion, the 2003 Eugene, OR reunion. (Unfortunately, photos of the shirts are not available for this issue of TR, but they are "Golf" style with site specific embroidery and are similar to shirts illustrated on the QM Web Site—go to www.11thcavnam.com and "click" on QM). Limited numbers of reunion pins from Indianapolis, Las Vegas, Appleton, San Diego, Eugene, Daytona, and Colorado Springs are also on sale as clearance items (most of these can also be seen on the Web Site). **ALL CLEARANCE ITEMS ARE LIMITED QUANTITY AND SIZES AND WILL NOT BE RESTOCKED SO IF YOU WANT ANY, ORDER ASAP! WHEN THEY ARE GONE—THEY ARE GONE!**

Although not on sale, the Quartermaster has available limited quantities of the scale model M-113 ACAV, M-106 Mortar Track, and M-48 Tank. These are not toys, but collector's models which have limited production runs. When this stock is gone, reorder cannot be guaranteed.

NEW QM ITEMS



Book "Fiddlers Green" by Jack Stoddard — \$16.00 (C)



Book "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter — \$12.00 (C)



Magnetic "Blackhorse"— \$5.00 (A)

Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon — \$4.00 (A)
"Support Our Troops" Lapel Pin — \$3.00 (A)



- Book, "At The Cutting Edge" by Sewall Menzel — \$22.50 (C) (No photo available)

QM CLEARANCE ITEMS



Beer Mug — \$5.00 each or 4 for \$18.00 (C)

- Golf Shirts (B) Originally \$30.00 — Sale \$20.00

Photo not available, see web site; Specify reunion, (e.g. Eugene, etc.), color, (e.g. Red, etc.), and size (e.g. XX large, etc.) See note below for availability.

Availability of Shirts: 2001, Washington, D.C. —Red; 2 Medium, 14 X-large, 22 XX-Large, 26 XXX-Large. White; 23 XX-Large, 25 XXX-Large. 2002 Nashville, TN—Red; 4 XX-Large, 4 XXX-Large. White; 5 Medium, 3 XX-Large, 5 XXX-Large. 2003 Eugene, OR—Red; 2 Small, 8 Medium, 12 Large, 8 X-Large, 11 XX-Large, 9 XXX-Large. White; 2 Small, 10 Medium, 6 Large, 12 X-Large, 1 XX-Large, 10 XXX-Large. Green; 3 XXX-Large."

- Reunion Pins (A) Originally \$1.00ea — Sale \$.50ea (Photos not available, see web site; (Specify Reunion, e.g. Eugene, etc.)

QM SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS



M-113 ACAV — \$42.50(C)



M-106 Mortar Track — \$46.50 (C)



M-48 Tank — \$50.00(C)

NOTE: ADD SHIPPING AND HANDLING CHARGES: CODE (A) ITEMS = \$3.00; CODE (B) = \$5.00; CODE (C) = \$7.50 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order so make it worthwhile and order multiple items for a single shipping)



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00		_____	_____
Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia.	B	10.00		_____	_____
Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00		_____	_____
Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00		_____	_____
Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00		_____	_____
History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00		_____	_____
Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Lary Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00		_____	_____
Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) Man's Woman's	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> colored <input type="checkbox"/> subdued	B	4.00		_____	_____
Coin, 11th ACVVC, BH insignia, crossed sabers, together then, together again	B	10.00		_____	_____
Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	20.00		_____	_____
Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00		_____	_____
Lighter, "Zippo" style brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	15.00		_____	_____
License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00		_____	_____
License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	6.00		_____	_____
Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00		_____	_____
Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Pin	A	4.00		_____	_____
11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Xuan Loc"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "Quan Loi"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Pin, "100 Year Anniversary of 11th Cav"	A	4.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, 10k gold w/full BH insignia	B	80.00		_____	_____
Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21).....	C	35.00		_____	_____
M-113 ACAV, 1/43 Scale Model	C	42.50		_____	_____
Men's Ring, 10k gold w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	275.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Patch Temporary Tattoo	A	3.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Video (based on book) (specify format) <input type="checkbox"/> VHS <input type="checkbox"/> DVD	A	30.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Tshirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	16.00		_____	_____
Henley Shirt, 100% cotton, short sleeve, round neck w/full color BH insignia and VN ribbon. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White	B	20.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Sweatshirt, 50% cotton, 50% acrylic w/full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Ash <input type="checkbox"/> Black (check one)	B	25.00		_____	_____
Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, snap front, quilted lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), crossed sabers (front right) and Allons insignia (front left)	B	75.00		_____	_____
Women's Sleeveless Shirt w/BH insignia. (available in size small also) Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Butter Yellow <input type="checkbox"/> White (check one)	B	20.00		_____	_____
Windbreaker, white w/snap front, crossed sabers w/11BH patch logo, VN Ribbon, Vietnam 66-72 on left brest. Sizes: Small thru 3X available	B	35.00		_____	_____
Subtotal					_____
Shipping and Handling					_____
Total					_____

Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL
Specify size and color preference of item requested.

Shipping Costs: A items = \$3.00; B items = \$5.00 (max shipping is \$7.50 per order); C items = \$7.50

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$7.50. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to "11th ACVVC." Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **Prices effective until 11/30/05. Previous price lists invalid.** Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757.**

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 ACV VC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 15341 General Puller Hwy, Deltaville, VA 23043**.

☆☆☆ **Membership is Our Strength** ☆☆☆
It's not the price you pay to belong,
It's the price you paid to become eligible to join



Thunder Run
13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800

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