



Vinh Long Outlaws News

Reunion 2000 (R2K)

July 2000

R2K BRANSON

R2K Reservations Deadline Extended!

Since the last newsletter we have added more names to our "Confirmed" list of Outlaws. To preclude the possibility of excluding any "late comers" the opportunity to make reservations for R2K our Branson tour coordinator has allowed us to extend the cut-off date for reservations to 15 August 2000. The 15 August date is the absolute final date that we can accept reservations with final total payment. Any who may have been hesitant to commit earlier for R2K now have one final chance to join the group in Branson to enjoy a great time with old comrades, their wives and guests. Our total attendee count now stands at 110! SEE INCLOSED RESERVATION FORM.

Branson Arrival

All things being equal and no real SNAFUs, this is how we anticipate your journey should go once you arrive somewhere in Missouri. Whether you are driving or flying in, come to Branson by the most direct means, most usually either south on Hwy 65 or North on Hwy 65 until reaching the famous Hwy "76" (at Branson) where you will then head west on Hwy 76. Depending on the time of day anticipate some traffic on Hwy 176 a three lane road (one of which serves as a left turn lane). During heavy traffic it may be slow going: However, most drivers are courteous and will allow you to either enter the traffic lane or make a left turn on to a cross road. Continue west several miles to the stop light at the intersection of Hwy 76 with Hwy 165. The stop light there will allow a left turn (south) on Hwy 165, so turn left on Hwy 165 and proceed to the next stop light at the intersection of Hwy 165 and green Mountain Drive, take another left (east) on Green Mountain Drive and continue for about ¼ mile and look for the Settle Inn on your right. Once parked, enter the lobby and follow the signs to the Outlaws Welcome Table located in the Stonehenge Room. There you will secure your keys and room number. You will not need to register at the Settle Inn desk. NOTE: Those arriving prior to the 15 September 2000 will need to register at the Settle Inn front desk.

A Quick Preview of R2K Branson

After your registration (15 Sep 00) at the Outlaws Welcome table and you have had opportunity to "rest and refresh" the doors will open at the Stonehenge Room (conference center) at 5:00 PM for a welcome mixer (cash bar). Following the mixer, the buffet dinner line will open at 6:30 PM. A short program will follow the dinner.

Next morning (16 Sep 00) a continental breakfast will be served from 6:00 AM until 10:00 AM in the Stonehenge Room. A short business meeting will follow from 10:30 to 11:00 AM in the Knights of the Round Table Room (Outlaws Hospitality Room 16-18 Sep 00). From then until 6:45 PM you have free time on your own to just visit in the Outlaws hospitality Room, see the Branson sights, shop (3 shopping malls!), golf, see other music shows, or whatever your choice. Your choice of eateries for lunch and dinner. There are a variety of excellent restaurants in the area to fit just about every taste. Jack's Sports Bar, located in the Settle Inn, is open from 3 PM to 1 AM. At 6:45 PM we will board busses at the Settle Inn for a short trip to the Shoji Tabuchi Theater. Shoji's show runs about 2 hours starting at 8:00 PM. No, this is not an oriental music show! Shoji is one terrific violin player and puts on one of the most acclaimed music variety shows in Branson. After the show we will again board our busses for a return trip to Settle Inn. Jack's Sports Bar will be open until 1:00 AM for those who may want a late night snack or some sort of thirst quencher.

Sunday morning (17 Sep 00) a repeat continental breakfast will be available (6-10 AM). An Outlaws Chapel Service will be held in the Outlaws Hospitality Room from 9:00 to 9:45 AM officiated by our own Outlaws Chaplain, John (The Old Sarge) Doyle. We encourage all faiths to attend. At 10:15 AM we will again board our tour buses for a trip to Big Cedar Lodge. A short hour later we will arrive at Big Cedar Lodge for luncheon. Lunch will be served in their conference center beginning at 11:45 AM. Following lunch we will depart Big Cedar Lodge by tour bus at Approximately 12:45 PM for a short journey to Dogwood Canyon. Arriving Dogwood Canyon at 1:15PM, we will be taken on a conducted tour by tram of an Ozark nature and wilderness area developed by Big Bass Pro Shops. At the conclusion of the tour we will board buses at approximately 3:30 PM for the return trip to Settle Inn arriving there at 4:30 PM

for a period to relax and refresh. We will again board our busses for a 6:15 PM departure to Landry's Restaurant and our farewell dinner scheduled for 7:00 PM to ???. A cash bar will be available. Our chairman is keeping the planned program following the dinner closely guarded, so be prepared for some fun!

Your last day (18 Sep 00) will again feature the continental breakfast at the Settle Inn (6-10 AM), Stonehenge Room. The Outlaws hospitality room will be open for a last visit with old comrades and friends before our parting and farewell. Checkout time NLT 12:00 PM (Noon). Checkout at hotel desk and the only individual settlement that is required will be for telephone charges and other personal room service.

Attention Golfers

Located just a short mile from the Settle Inn is the Thousand Hills Public Golf Course. They have offered us a group rate of \$48.00/person (including cart). For those interested, contact Barry Storie 417-334-4553 or Email: bstorie@ThousandHills.com within 45 days prior for tee reservations 16 Sep 00 beginning 12:30 PM. Other times, individual reservations same phone number and Email, individual price A\$64.00/person.

Branson Brochure

For your information and convenience, a Branson Chamber of Commerce welcome package is being sent to you which includes information on the area, attractions, entertainment, activities, etc.

Other Music Show Reservations

For those that may want to take advantage of their stay in Branson and see other music shows during the open free time scheduled from 11:30 AM to 6:45 PM, Saturday 16 Sep 00, or before and after the reunion. We suggest you call Great Southern Travel at 1-800-725-7111 ask for Mr. Brian Garrison and indicate you are with the Vinh Long Outlaws tour group. Great Southern Travel may avail to you discounted show tickets.

Photos, Slides and Mementoes

We anticipate a display of photos, slides and mementoes of the '64-'65 VN years will be available for viewing in our hospitality room at the Settle Inn. Feel free to bring your personal items along that you wish to share with the others and they will be added to the display.

Weather

September in Branson is usually a comfortable month. A light jacket or sweater is suggested in the event of cool evenings. As with all activities in Branson CASUAL is the byword!

Important Info

Emergency Point of Contact while in Branson:
Settle Inn 800-677-6906 or 417-335-4700

Great Response to R2K Call!!!

Tom Anderson - Outlaw 6

It's hard to believe there are now over 110 people registered for the **ONE-AND-ONLY** "Outlaw" Reunion 2000 (R2K)!!! And, the Reunion Committee reports that those who are coming represent a great mix of enlisted, WO and officers who were with the company and it's attached units any time from activation at Fort Benning to departure from Vietnam in August 1965.

If you pass up being in Branson, MO during September 15-18th, there won't be another chance... .. Ever!!! This is intended to be a "once in a lifetime" reunion of people who had a memorable year together 35 years ago and who want to visit with each other just one more time.

If you have even briefly considered coming to R2K, I URGE you to send in your registration form now!!!! The final tally of attendees will be provided to the reunion planners within the next 30 days. It is important that we have firm numbers by that time so that the agenda can be completed.

YOUR attendance is important. You will never regret coming.... . You'll only regret **NOT** having come. Hope to see you in Branson!!!!

A Synopsis of the 150th Transportation Detachment (CHFM) 1964-1965

Therman Farley a.k.a. "Shorty"

On August 8, 1964, there was a rebirth of the 150th. Transportation Detachment (CHFM) at Fort Eustis, Virginia. During August and September 1964, seventy-seven (77) men were assembled for a "Tour" to the Republic of Vietnam. Captain Frederick R. "Tim" Bisch was assigned as Commanding Officer. CWO John C. "Jack" Moodt, was assigned as Maintenance Officer. Seventy-five (75) enlisted personnel, with various job skills, represented the balance authorized. The intended destination was classified but was assumed to be consistent with the apparent knowledge of the local civilian population. CWO Moodt was the advance man.

Departing Fort Eustis, Virginia, on September 26, 1964, by first class air transportation requiring ear plugs, with stops in scenic places, such as Guam and Wake Island, without side tours, the remaining seventy six (76) arrived in Vinh Long on September 30, 1964, to a "Welcome Vinh Long, 150th Trans. Det."

The compound was located just 60 miles southwest of Saigon, in the heart of the Mekong Delta, only two scenic miles from the sprawling town of Vinh Long, where you could enjoy an EM club, NCO Club, Officers Club, a Post Exchange, a Theater/Chapel, with free movies shown nightly, (many movies having no beginning while others had no end, but a vivid imagination could and did fill in what the broken tapes left out) tennis court, volleyball court, basketball court, tape recording van, and in the rainy season a natural swimming area. The multifaceted industries of Vinh Long

were rice farming and wood carving and sustained a population for 40,000. The airfield, where most of your time will be spent, was situated on the banks of the beautiful Mekong River.

The five star Hutch accommodations were well-suited to the climate of Hot and Hotter with a year round humidity of some 85%. They were of open bay construction, cement floors, and screened side-walls and of course, wired for electricity. Gourmet food, of the variety style, to which we had become accustomed, with the exception of Milk, would be served seven days a week. Vinh Long, no cows, no dairies, no milk.

After arriving at our destination, Vinh long, Republic of Vietnam, scenic tours of rice fields and jungle were available by UH-1B Helicopters as well as Fixed Wing planes. Jack Moodt has described his unexpected aerobatics maneuvers as "showing people a good time". We remember it as Mr. Moodt scaring the Hell out of us.

In the spirit of the Guidon, the very soul of a military unit is symbolized by the colors under which it fights, for it records the glories of the past, stands guardian over its present destiny, and ensures inspiration for it's future. If a commander falls, someone should rally to the colors and assume the position of leadership. On June 16, 1965, Captain Frederick R. "Tim" Bisch sustained sufficient injury to require medical evacuation. This was a day full of sadness as we said farewell to our gallant leader. Captain Arthur J. Pool led the rally for the colors, consequently, they did not fall and the outstanding record of the past continued on as an inspiration for the future.

During the search to locate former members, most if no all, have commented the "the 150th Trans Det, is the best experience of their Army career". That is a testament to the professional leadership qualities of the 150th Transportation Detachment in the persons of Frederick R. "Tim" Bisch and John C. "Jack" Moodt.

An opportunity to relax, enjoy and be in the company of those who helped make your experience in the 150th the best of your Army career awaits you in Branson, MO. Should your work schedule, or other personal obligations, preclude your attendance, please keep in touch. Remember, you contributed to our memories and you will be missed.

We want to remind everyone that their R2K Final Payments are due NLT August 18th!!! Also we still have Patches for sale; 5 Outlaw patches for \$20.00.

We also want to remind you to bring your 35mm slides, as we will have two 35mm slide projectors set up. Also if any one wants to send us their still pictures (be sure to put your name & address and comments on them) we will try to scan them into the computer and put together a Power Point presentation.

150th Transportation Detachment (CHFM) The Ordinary Yet Extraordinary

Therman "Shorty" Farley

The sole responsibility of the 150th Transportation Detachment (CHFM) was to provide aircraft maintenance. Upon arrival in the Republic of Vietnam the 150th became a part of the US Army Support Command, Vietnam, under USARYIS and USARPAC. It was placed in the Delta Aviation Battalion (Provisional) and was further attached, for administrative support, to the 62nd Aviation Company (AML) Air Mobile Light, under the command of Thomas. E. Anderson, Major, Infantry. On December 14, 1964, the 62nd was inactivated and all personnel, equipment and support units were assigned to Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion.

Partial receipt of equipment shipped from Fort Eustis, Va., Arrived on October 7, 1964, and included two (2) mechanics tool boxes. Desperate for tools but steep in determination the 150th Maintenance Detachment set out to accomplish their assigned mission. Technical inspectors, Fred Jacobs, Norman Jennings and Skip Frontera, were collectively and individually responsible for quality assurance. Their job performance was paramount to insure a safe and airworthy aircraft.

Between October 6, 1964, and October 8, 1964, and prior to the receipt of any tools or equipment shipped from Fort Eustis, twelve (12) new UH-1B;s were issued from Saigon. Between October 9, 1964, and October 11, 1964, four (4) UH-1B aircraft were re-assigned from units at Bein Hoa, and three (3) others from units in and around Saigon. Another eight were re-assigned from already established units throughout South Vietnam between October 15, 1964, and October 20, 1964.

Mechanics armed with a minimum of tools (Many on loan from a sister company.) Combined with the always present Technical Inspectors, manual in hand, the aircraft were made ready for flight to Vinh Long by Captain Bisch and CWO Moodt, the units only qualified Aviators. Upon their arrival in Vinh Long, additional maintenance was performed to enable their availability to the 62nd Avn Co. By October 21, 1964, we were fully operational.

It is my recollection that twenty seven (27) helicopters and five (5) fixed-wing airplanes were the full compliment of authorized aircraft. Additionally, a single helicopter dubbed the "Road Runner" was assigned to the 150th Trans Det. It's principle use was the delivery of aircraft parts but was also used to accompany the 62nd on it's combat support missions. A maintenance crew normally consisting of Pat Theriot, Chester Voisin and Rossie Harris (fondly referred to as the three (3) cajuns) made up the crew

VLOA Income & Expenses As of 07/13/00

Ernie & Linda Isbell

Income:		
Beginning Balance		11,448.03
Dues	30.00	
Seed Money	60.00	
Patches	200.00	
R2K Reservations	16,538.50	
Total Income		16,538.50
Expenses:		
Stamps	55.00	
Newsletter	140.63	
R2K Refunds	517.00	
Embroidered Images	533.20	
Hotel Deposit	2,000.00	
Total Expenses		3,244.83
Current Balance		24,741.70

that provided emergency on the spot repairs and aided with the recovery of any downed aircraft.

The unit was skilled, though and ready with two shifts seven days a week to satisfy a full time maintenance requirement. The day shift worked from 0700 until 1730 and the night shift worked from 1700 until 0130. Unexpected maintenance requirements would require all necessary skills to begin at can and end at can't. Precluded from submitting requisitions for repair parts until October 15, 1964, and no authorization to bring any with us, we had to resort to cannibalization of aircraft, an unsatisfactory practice that served as a temporary stop gap measure while the supply lines filled. Jack Konopka, was instrumental in obtaining (scrounging) many needed repair parts and was rewarded with his first Helicopter experience in the beautiful Mekong Delta with Tim Bisch at the stick.

A Critical area of maintenance was sheet metal repair. Leon Osterland, who fortunately for us, dumped the Air Force for the Army, was a sure fire specialist in this field. Many of his friends, at his insistence, volunteered to enter the hot tail boom to buck rivets for him. Jackie Lane and Gary Gilbert appeared to be his favored choices but none escaped the power of his persuasion. Other exhibits of his work were prominently displayed throughout the company and commonly called refreshment bins or better known as "beer" coolers. A welcomed piece of hardware and the namesake of John Doyle was the "Doyle Pole". It dramatically reduced the volume of sheet metal work generated by crew chiefs and gunners.

Components outside the area of authorized maintenance was always a target of repair by Virg Hoff. Believing that no better maintenance was available anywhere else, his curiosity unbridled, he experimented. Virg, by example, inspired many of us to become better at whatever we do. Virg retired from the Army as a CWO W-r and resides, in Fountain, CO with his lovely wife, Lori.

SFC James Proctor, the consummate professional, on whose judgement and experience we all relied was responsible for administrative matters. He was deliberate in his thought, careful with words, loyal to the cause and dedicated to excellence.

It was not all work and no play. Ike Beger, Harold Filo, and Mike Schillaci were always ready to provide entertainment at any parties, and there were many. Well deserved promotions set the tone for these informal get togethers. Their rendition of "I've Got a Tiger By The Tail" is engraved in my memory forever. Jack Moodt was likely to break out in song at any time with his version of "In The Shade Of The Old Apple Tree". Mike Schillaci went on to become the drummer for the Mickey Gilley Band and Jack Moodt's singing career was placed on hold in favor of a Military one.

These were "Ordinary" people from various social and economic backgrounds with an inner steel, the souls ally, forged in the refinery of adversity. They offered some of their life's most vital years in the service of our country, and may have sacrificed their ambitions so others may not have to sacrifice theirs. They were Soldiers. An "Extraordinary" people, who served beneath the flag, who saluted the flag, and whose coffins are draped by the flag.

I am honored to have served amongst them.

True Story of the "Doyle" Pole

John E. Doyle a.k.a. "The Old Sarge"

Here is the true story of the "Doyle Pole". It seems that in 1964 -1965 at Vinh Long in the Mekong Delta, there was a Maverick gunship CE that had a wee problem with target fixation. That is, once his hand held M-60 machine gun locked onto a target it stayed locked on said target until the target was dead, or the ammo was expended. Now as these things go, occasionally a target would be overflown by our trusty peter pilots. However, this was not cause for said Maverick CE to pull off target. The result being that this CE (whom I refuse to name) would often continue depressing the trigger even though the muzzle of his trusty M-60 was by this time inside the aircraft (oops!) Needless to say, this was of some concern amongst said peter pilots. Because of this little oversight by said CE, a litter pole (that for some reason we didn't use in gunships) was mounted in its proper position in each door of the helicopter. Now this was not all that good, since it often caused said Maverick CE to pull off target before the target was dead or the ammo expended. However, it pleased the chicken hearted peter pilots to no end. Needless to say, the dastardly pole was from that day on named the "Doyle Pole". One of which, dully mounted, complete with plaque is mounted on my "Look, I'm a Hero" wall. It is my understanding, that for some time thereafter throughout RVN these (highly unauthorized) modifications were made in ships that didn't use sissy mounts, and were identified by their proper name, "Doyle Poles".

A Note From the Editor

Tony Clemente

Well, we are down to the last Newsletter before THE R2K ROUND-UP.

Al Iler has sure put together a super program. He has really put forth a tremendous amount of time, energy, and money. We all owe him a great deal of thanks. We also need to thank those guys that spent a lot of time and money on the phone, locating everyone. I know that you talked to at least one of these guys, Tom Anderson, John Doyle, Al Iler, Tim Bisch and his cohort - Shorty Therman. What a great job they did.

Now for those that are still teetering on coming, let me remind you of what Tom Anderson said, this is the **ONE - AND - ONLY**, we are not going to have another Outlaw Reunion. If there is any way that you could possibly make it, be there! You will never regret it.

We know that there are some of you that won't be able to come because of work, other commitments, or illness, you guys will sorely be missed. For you we will have one last newsletter to give you some idea of the GREAT OUTLAW 2000 REUNION

See you in Branson!

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
Reunion Year 2000 (R2K)
Branson, Missouri September 15-18, 2000
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Mail with Check or Money Order to:

VLOA
 2009 Tophill Drive
 Flower Mound, TX 75022

YOUR REUNION COSTS INCLUDE:

- * 3 Nights Accommodations at the Settle Inn (Continental Breakfast Included)
- * Welcome Dinner Buffet (Settle Inn)
- * Shoji Tabuchi Music Show
- * Dogwood Canyon Tour and BBQ Lunch
- * Farewell Dinner (Landry's Restaurant)
- * Motorcoach Transportation (Music Show, Dogwood Canyon & Farewell Dinner)
- * All Applicable Taxes and Gratuities

<u>REUNION FEES:</u>	<u>No. Persons</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Smoking</u>	<u>Non Smoking</u>
*Single (Per Person)	_____	X \$414.00 =	\$ _____	_____	_____
*Double (Per Person)	_____	X \$310.00 =	\$ _____	_____	_____
*Triple (Per Person)	_____	X \$275.00 =	\$ _____	_____	_____
*Quad (Per Person)	_____	X \$257.00 =	\$ _____	_____	_____
	<u>Number</u>			<u>Dates</u>	
**Additional Day(s) Settle Inn	_____	X \$ 63.00 =	\$ _____	_____	_____
Outlaw Patches (Pkg of 5)	_____	X \$ 20.00 =	\$ _____		
TOTAL-----			\$ _____		

Indicate: 2 Dbl beds _____ *OR* Queen Size Bed _____ *OR* King Size Bed _____

*Above accommodations are based on single room occupancy.

**Additional Day(s) Stay at Settle Inn at Group Rate Available. Additional Stay Must be Must be Contiguous with Reunion dates (Before and/or After).

PAYMENT: 50% Deposit No Later Than 1 June 2000. Balance/Final Payment Due No Later Than 15 August 2000.

ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: VLOA R2K

Name You Want on Name Tag: _____ Call Sign _____

Name of Wife/Guest: _____

Current Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

CANCELLATIONS: Must be made not later than 1 July 2000

REFUNDS: No refunds granted before reunion.

NOTE on the back of this form any special dietary needs or handicapped accommodations required.

Vinh Long Outlaws Association Oral History Project and Collection
At
The Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University

Dear Outlaws:

My name is Steve Maxner and I am the Oral Historian at the Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University. Texas Tech created The Vietnam Center and Archive in 1989 to help foster study of the Vietnam War and to promote the preservation of materials related to the war. One of our major projects is to collect and preserve materials belonging to the men and women who served during the Vietnam War. We receive collections large and small, from many boxes to a handful of letters and photographs. All collections are treated equally and are stored in acid free folders and boxes and in temperature and humidity controlled environments to ensure the materials are well preserved for future generations. In addition, we organize and create finding aids for all collections to aid researchers in locating specific materials in the archive. Most of our donors agree that this is better than the old footlocker in the attic, basement, or garage. As a result of our efforts, the Vietnam Archive is one of the largest Vietnam War archives outside of the National Archives system with millions of documents, photographs, slides, books, movies, and other materials. Students, scholars, and the general public are able to utilize these materials at our central location and donors and their family members are always welcome to visit the archive to see the collections.

Oral History Project

The Vietnam Archive has also undertaken to collect oral histories from Vietnam War participants. To this end, we have started the **Vinh Long Outlaws Association Oral History Project and Collection**. If you are interested in conducting an oral history interview or donating materials to the archive, please let me know. You can visit the following web page: <http://www.lib.ttu.edu/vietnam/oralhistory.htm>. Complete and submit the online form and you can expect to hear from me shortly thereafter. Or, if you prefer, you can email me directly at lismf@lib.ttu.edu, call me at **806-742-9010**, or complete the form below and mail it to me. And please feel free to contact me if you are only interested in donating materials to the Vietnam Archive.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to learning about your Vietnam service!

Respectfully Yours,

Steve Maxner
Oral Historian

The Vietnam Archive
Special Collections Library Room 108
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

Please mail completed form to the address above.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Briefly describe your Vietnam Service: (units, dates, positions, major events, awards, etc...):

Are you interested in: Oral History Interview Donating Materials Both

Vinh Long Outlaws Association Flyer