

Vinh Long Outlaws News

Reunion 2000 (R2K)

March 2000

PLAN TODAY TO ATTEND R2K!

NOW is the time!

Tom Anderson.....Outlaw 6

Webster defines "nostalgia" as"A wistful or sentimental longing for places, acquaintances or conditions belonging to the past".

Everyone who has ever been in a combat environment has SOME form of nostalgia for those days, whether or not they remember them fondly. And, your Reunion committee for the Vinh Long Outlaws Association is betting that you will be more than curious about what all those "young soldiers" are like now that we're all 35 years older.

That's why we are planning a **ONE TIME ONLY** reunion of every enlisted, warrant officer and officer that we can locate who belonged to ANY OF THE UNITS affiliated with the 62d Aviation company or A/502d at any time during that first year in Viet Nam.

Maybe you were part of the group that formed at Ft. Benning or Ft. Eustis and deployed to RVN in September 1964. Maybe you were transferred OUT of the unit shortly after arriving in RVN.... you're still considered part of the Outlaws. Maybe you transferred INTO the unit sometime before August 1965.... you'll remember lots of the people you were with. We want to have you join the rest of the group!

Everyone remembers how hectic those first weeks were, how hard we trained prior to going "operational" in RVN, the daily risks everyone faced regardless of their job, the camaraderie enjoyed during long evenings at the Vinh Long airfield, the anxieties that built up as the month progressed..... All those things, and many more, bring back hundreds of memories and a nostalgia for our year together at Vinh Long.

The reunion is a **ONE TIME EVENT!** There won't be another reunion of the group... ever! Now is the time to make your decision to come and join up with those old friends you knew so many years ago. We know that the decision to come to

the reunion is major trip for most of us. Even if you think you won't know ANYONE, I'll guarantee that within 15 minutes you'll be saying, "I'm sure glad I came". And, I'll also guarantee that , if you don't come, you'll say, "I sure wish I'd made a little effort to see some of those guys one more time." We're urging everyone to come and join us for a few days of great companionship.

Fill out the Registration Form TODAY and send it in!!!!
NOW IS THE TIME!

150TH Transportation Detachment (CHFM)

Tim Bisch

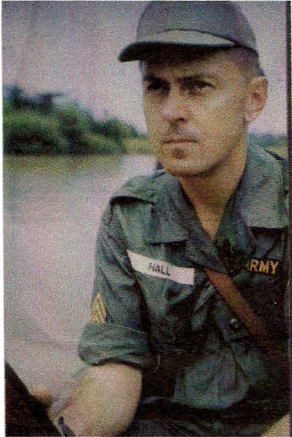
Thanks to the Internet and networking, contact has been made with many former members who plan on attending the R2K reunion. These former 150th members include: Bisch, Moodt, Jacobs, Hoff, Frontera, Osterland, Theriot, Harris, Voisin, Bouton. Letters to fifteen other members have been distributed with R2K information and instructions for attendance. Unfortunately, it has been learned that Ike Beger, Alvie Harger, and Norman Dobrzanski will be included with other deceased members on the Outlaw Honor Roll. Ike died in 1994 at Lawton, OK, Alvie in 1987 at Camden, AR, and Norman in 1999 at Utica, NY.

Efforts are continuing towards locating and inviting additional members. If anyone knows of any 150th Trans Det member who served during period 1964 - 65, please send name and address to : Frederick R. (Tim) Bisch, 8604 Esslinger Ct., Huntsville, AL 35802, Telephone: (256) 881-3043, e-mail: bischfr@aol.com.



“...deja vu all over again”

Yogi Berra



All of us served one tour in VN, most a second and some a third. Even some of us returned to the same unit, but how many of us returned to the same place, same unit and same job assignment? Well, we have at least one in our corral of Outlaws, MSG (Ret) Raymond E. Hall. You may remember him as first our Ops Sgt, and then, shortly after our arrival in VN, as our First Shirt for the remainder of his tour.

A little background on Ray's career. Enlisted in 1946, basic training then stationed in Japan with the 8th Army Occupational forces. The next fifteen plus years a variety of AG assignments followed in CONUS and Korea. Late in his career 1964 time frame, Ray was sent to Ft. Rucker for a crash two month aircraft maintenance course followed by assignment to the 11th Air assault Division (Test) at Ft. Benning, GA. Evidently not satisfied with his aircraft maintenance experience (why did they send an AG guy to Rucker aircraft maintenance course anyway?) Ray attended an in house 11th AAD Flt Ops Training Course for 3 months then, a short stint with HQ 11th AAD. Well within 3-4 Years before eligible for retirement he was "volunteered" for the 62nd Avn Co (Later Co A, 502d Avn Bn), a unit organized from 11th AAD assets slated for deployment to VN in Sep 64, and assigned as the Ops Sgt. The rest is history as they say, well almost. Shortly after arrival in VN, as senior SFC in the company, he was bucked up to the 1SGT position. Through some quirk of luck an E8 promotion soon followed with Ray filling the 1SGT position until DEROS in sep 65. As might be expected, return to CONUS found him assigned to a WOC Co at Ft. Rucker. In Aug 66, guess what? Now, just with over a year before eligible for retirement, ORDERS FOR VN! Most would have fought the system, but our dedicated 1SGT saluted the flag pole and was on his way by Sep66. Landing at Tonsonhut, Gateway to the exotic Orient, he soon found out he was to be assigned to the 114th Avn Co as 1SGT. "Hey wait a minute", someone must have said, this guy has been here before why not send him back to his old unit the Outlaws (about now the 175th AHC)? As you might expect, that is exactly what happened with Ray Back at his same old desk, same old unit and same old place Vinh Long, as Yogi Berra once said, "...deja vu all over again".

Ray's story doesn't end here. On his return in Sep 67 to CONUS from the second VN go around, he found himself assigned to an ordinance company at Ft. Hood, TX (Hmmm????????). He retired from the US Army in Oct 67. Ray

didn't go fishing following his retirement; first employed as a foreman at cannery company for a short period he applied and was selected for a position with the Missouri Department of Labor. He continued a career in that department until his real retirement in Mar 91. Ray settled down in Bridgeton, MO after his retirement from the USA and continues to live in the same house. Ray and his wife, Shirley, whose teaching career covered some twenty years, recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have four children and nine grand children. The airlines are benefitting from the Hall's travels in the US and abroad. A short postscript to this story. For months the search for Ray wandered down many avenues only to reach dead ends. Finally, we resorted to using some horsepower and with the kind auspices of a retired three star we found him! We are looking forward to seeing Ray and Shirley in Branson, MO September 15-18 for R2Kk.

GOD'S MAVERICK

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



It's a long way from gun ships to the pulpit. Vinh Long in 1964 and 1965 seems like a lifetime ago. In a sense, it was. After two more tours in RVN, and an assignment in Alaska, I found myself standing in civies with a HS GED in one hand and a medical retirement in the other. The job market was tight and I couldn't find a gun ship CE position anywhere.

In 1971, I entered Austin Peay State University and received my degree in 1974. After working in hospitals as Director of Environmental Services a few years, I got back to church and the Lord. In 1978, I answered God's call to ministry. I enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, NC. Following graduation, I pastored churches in North Carolina, spent a few years as a vocational Evangelist, and finally returned to the pastorate until 1997 when I retired and moved to Florida. Since retirement, I have made mission trips to England and Wales each year.

In December of last year, I accepted an invitation from the First International Baptist Church, Copenhagen, Denmark, to serve as interim pastor for a six month period. Ruth and I are in Denmark now. We left Florida on February 28th and will return on August 28th. Just in time for R2K in Branson. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

R2K BRANSON, MISSOURI VINH LONG OUTLAWS ROUNDUP

Our last newsletter outlined the planning for the VLOA Reunion 15 to 18 September 2000 (R2K). With this issue we have a firming up the schedule of events and activities. As with our last newsletter, a R2K registration form is included. You will note on the enclosed form you will be able to indicate whether you desire a "smoking" or "non-smoking" room accommodations. This was inadvertently left off the registration form accompanying the last newsletter. For those who have already sent in their registrations and desire "smoking" room accommodations please send a card, Email or call Ernie and Linda Isbell (see enclosed roster) indicating such, all others will be considered "non-smoking". For those requiring special dietary needs or handicapped accommodations please so indicate on the reverse side of the registration form.

SCHEDULE R2K BRANSON 15 - 18 September 2000

Day 1 - Friday, 15 September 2000

- 3:00 PM - Check In at Settle Inn and Outlaws Registration (Hospitality Room)
- 5:00 PM - Welcome Mixer (Cash Bar) Settle Inn Conference Room
- 6:30 PM - Welcome Dinner Buffet, Settle Inn Conference Room

Day 2 - Saturday, 16 September 2000

- 6:00 to 10:00 AM - Continental Breakfast, Settle Inn Conference Room/Hospitality Room
OR
Restaurant of Choice
- 10:30 to 11:00 AM - VLOA Business Meeting, Settle Inn Hospitality Room
- 11:30 AM to 6:45 PM - Open Free Time (Golf, Shopping, Sightseeing, Music Shows etc.)
Lunch and Dinner on Your Own
- 6:45 PM - Motorcoach Pick-up Settle Inn
- 7:00 PM - Depart Via Motorcoach for Music Show
- 8:00 to 10:00 PM - Shoji Tabuchi Music Show
- 10:30 PM - Depart Via Motorcoach for Settle Inn

Day 3 - Sunday, 17 September 2000

- 6:00 to 10:00 AM - Continental Breakfast, Settle Inn Conference Room/Hospitality Room
- 9:00 to 9:45 AM - Outlaws Chapel Service (Non-Denominational), Settle Inn Hospitality Room
- 11:15 AM - Motorcoach Pick-up Settle Inn
- 11:30 AM - Depart Via Motorcoach for Dogwood Canyon
- 12:30 to 3:30 PM - Dogwood Canyon Tour and Chuckwagon BBQ
- 3:30 PM - Depart Via Motorcoach for Settle Inn
- 4:30 to 6:00 PM - Relax and Refresh
- 6:30 PM - Depart Via Motorcoach for Dinner

7:00 to 9:00 PM - Farewell Dinner, Landry's Restaurant (Or TBA)
?? - Depart Via Motorcoach for Settle Inn

Day 4 - Monday, 18 September, 2000

6:00 to 10:00 AM - Continental Breakfast, Settle Inn Conference Room/Hospitality Room
OR

Restaurant of Choice

12:00 PM - NLT Check Out Settle Inn

Please note, as with all planning schedules we may need to adjust times depending on the number of attendees. Whenever this becomes necessary we will make every effort to insure everyone is informed in ample time. The actual events/activities are as stated and have been confirmed with those providing the services. For your further planning purposes, NO formal or coat and tie event is scheduled ! Branson is strictly casual, and we do mean CASUAL !!!

VLOA ROSTER

With this newsletter a complete new VLOA roster of those with whom confirmed contact has been made. To date, the roster includes 132 individuals. Our best estimate is that somewhere in the vicinity of 450 troops may have cycled through our company and attached units during the period 8/64-9/65. Based on that estimate we have located, or determined those KIA or since deceased, roughly 34% of our target group. We encourage anyone having any leads or knowledge on the whereabouts or status of ANY former member or members who served with our company and attached units anytime 8/64-9/65 to please send that information on to either Tom Anderson, John Doyle, Tony Clemente, Ernie Isbell or Al Iller. We will make every effort to follow up and locate those former comrades.

VLOA 01/09/00 - 03/09/00**Income & Expenses**
Ernie & Linda Isbell

Income:	
Beginning Balance	\$1,102.63
Dues	80.00
Seed Money	10.00
Patches	160.00
R2K	1,396.50
Total Income	\$5,749.13
Expenses:	
Postage & Envelopes for Patches	\$25.26
Newsletter Supplies	59.07
Total Expenses	\$84.33
We currently have had the following since inception:	
a) New Member - 42 @ \$10 = \$420	
b) Seed Money = \$1,151	
c) Patches - 17 sets @ \$20 = \$340	
d) R2K Reservations - 8 couples: ½ & full payments = \$4,376.50	
Current Balance	\$5,664.80

A note from the editor**Tony Clemente**

Well it looks as though the steering committee has things well in hand. I guess it is decision time for everyone now. This a great ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY for meeting and renewing old friendships, with guys that literally held your life in their hands. I can assure you that you will have a great time!

Al Iller is outstanding at organizing this type of event. Now we need your help to really keep the ball rolling. We need every one to get their reservations in so that Al can finalize his arrangements with Branson. Remember that time is running out, if you aren't there, you will be missed, and you will be very disappointed if you let this opportunity slip away. I'm looking forward to seeing each of you in Branson September 15 - 18.

A word about the newsletter, I know that so many of you went on and have done very interesting things since we last saw each other, and I hope that you would like to share some of your stories. We would love to hear from you. If you are interested in having a little article in the newsletter, please let me hear from you. You can e-mail me at tonyclem@freewwwweb.com or if you would rather write, my address is Tony Clemente, 318 SW 40th Street, Gainesville, FL 32607, telephone: 352-373-7372. I would like to hear from you.

Also, I'd like to remind you that membership is still open, and it's not too late for you to become an official member of VLOA and

receive your membership card. We had a good response after our last newsletter, keep it up. So send in your dues and bring your card to Branson with you.

NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE VLOA**IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOU TO GET ON THE LIST:**

34. Richard P. Donahue
35. Raymond Hall
36. Mike Madigan
37. Hal L. Scott
38. Jimmie J. Kirkley
39. John W. Sedam
40. George S. Prescott
41. Therman A. Farley
42. Joe Moffit

FLYING WEST**Captain E. Hamilton Lee**

I hope there's a place, way up in the sky,
Where pilots can go, when they have to die.
A place where a guy can buy a cold beer,
For a friend and a comrade, whose memory is dear;
A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread,
Nor a management type would ere be caught dead;
Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, full of smoke,
Where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke;
The kind of a place where a lady could go
And feel safe and protected, by the men she would know.
There must be a place where old pilots go,
When their paining is finished, and their airspeed gets low,
Where the whiskey is old, and the women are young,
And songs about flying and dying are sung.
Where you'd see all the fellows who'd flown west before,
And they'd call out your name, as you came through the door.
Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be bad,
And relate to the others, "He was quite a good lad!"
And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy
You had not seen in years, through he taught you to fly.
He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear,
And say, "Welcome, my son, I'm pleased that you're here."
"For this is the place where true flyers come,"
"When their journey is over, and the war has been won."
"They've come here at last to be safe and alone"
"from the government clerks and the management clone,"
"Politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise,"
"Where all hours are happy, and these good ole boys"
"Can relax with a cool one, and a well deserved rest,"
"This is heaven, my son.....You've passed your last test!"