

VINH LONG OUTLAWS NEWS

VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION
(VLOA)

COMMENTS FROM OUR NEW DIRECTOR, JOE CLELAN

Greetings from Erlene and I, and hello to everyone who attended the great time we had at Pigeon Forge. It is an honor and privilege to be selected as your director for the next two years. I will do my best to support the organization through its constitution and by-laws. The following is a short summary of my life and positions after our tour of 1964-65.

From Vinh Long I returned to Ft. Rucker as a helicopter standardization instructor. Following that tour I attended Command and General Staff and returned to USARV as the UH-1 staff standardization officer. From Long Binh I commanded the 62nd Corps Aviation Company in Phu Bai. Returning to the US I served a couple of tours at the Pentagon. Ft. Bragg called to command the 1100 man 426th Signal Bn. after which I served with the Recruiting Command at New Cumberland Army Depot. Germany was the next location as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations with the 5th Signal Command during the Iranian uprising. A very interesting period with members of our command assigned in Iran. My final tour was the commander of the data organization that maintained the list of major items and their parts on computer and published them on microfiche for the Army and others.

Retiring in 1984, I accepted the position of Pennsylvania Deputy Adjutant General for Veteran Affairs and the President of the National Association of State Directors for 2 years.

Since 1995, I am now fully retired to golf, hunting and watching my eight grandchildren's sporting events.

I believe that because of the dedication of past officers of VINH LONG OUTLAWS ASSOCIATION, we, the new officers will be able to continue the trend and make our organization a great example to others.

Should you have any comments or questions about the organization, please contact me or other officers by phone or e-mail at www.VinhLongOutlaws.com

July - September
3rd Issue, 2006

(a bit late this time due to Roundup)

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Agent Orange

Al asked me to write a little about the VA and Agent Orange after I spoke to you guys about contacting the VA to have an Agent Orange exam.

One thing that really bothered me after I spoke was that two members approached me later and said they had gone to the VA and VA basically blew them off saying they made too much money and were not eligible for assistance. I contacted the State Veterans Services officer (VSO) at my local VA, he said that was completely wrong as any Vietnam veteran is eligible for assistance for agent orange related conditions. He was not completely surprised, even though VA has put out many directives. There are still many uninformed employees giving out bad information. If you doubt what an employee tells you ask another! Vietnam veterans are automatically placed in enrollment priority group 6 as a minimum depending upon your condition. So when you contact VA make sure they know you are a Vietnam vet.

Lets talk about the Agent Orange physical exam. The primary reason for the exam is for AOR (Agent Orange Review) so that VA can study and compile in a data base as much information related to the exposure, and possibly add more illnesses to the list as caused by Agent Orange. No, it is not absolutely necessary to have the exam. You can still be treated for an Agent Orange condition at the VA. However the exam may expose some conditions that you don't know you have, and why turn down an excellent FREE physical? It's a win win situation. They will also put you on the mailing list to receive the Agent Orange Review newsletter that is published periodically. After the exam the examiner will talk with you, schedule any necessary appointments and follow up with a letter detailing the results of the exam. If they discover any conditions that warrant a disability rating you must apply for it. It is not automatic just because you had the exam, I made that mistake. That's where the VSO comes in handy.

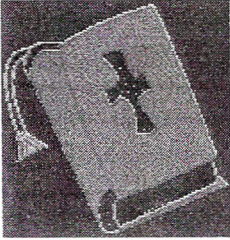
Now that you've had the exam the guy to see is the VSO. You can find him or her at your county government complex or at any VA hospital or clinic. These people are very knowledgeable on veterans affairs and will provide counseling and give you the necessary forms and even fill them out and file them for you. I found the best one to see is at the VA hospital, I feel they more knowledgeable on these subjects as they work with them every day.

How do you schedule an appointment? Easy-- just contact your county Veterans Services Office or your nearest VA Clinic or hospital. Explain that you are a Vietnam veteran and you want an agent orange physical. They will fill out the paper work and file it for you. In a few weeks you will receive a letter from the VA with your appointment time and what documentation to bring with you. Make a list of your problems and bring it to the exam and above all "ask questions"!! I feel there is a lot of "don't ask don't tell" in the VA.

VA has a web site that will provide a world of information. Go to www.va.gov/AgentOrange. Check out the new handbook 1302.01 9/5/06 it details the exam process. For all VA information go to www.VA.gov. I found the site is not very user friendly as you need MS Office to view much of the information and I don't have MS Office on my computer.

Michael G. Madigan
Mijomad@comcast.net

Five Years and Five Days... In My Humble Opinion All right, I guess it's time for me to vent a little bit. In some senses, I'm almost a week late; in another sense, I'm a month early. Sit down for a minute or five and listen if you will. The only thing I would ask is that you come with an open mind and check your judgments at the door. Today is September 16th, 2006. Five years and five days ago, I was standing in front of my radio and listening to the early morning news while I got ready to begin my senior year of high school. I was sixteen years old and braiding my hair, thinking about the events of the past week and getting ready to meet my friends for our last year together as students, when I heard an announcement interrupting the news: Our nation had come under attack from an unknown enemy for reasons just as mysterious, and the death toll was still rising. In a state of shock and disbelief, I went to school and was greeted by my friends, some of whom were surprised that I was even alive and all as stunned as I was. We all sat in class and watched as the city that has spelled hope and opportunity for uncounted lives became a disaster area, and we did not know what to make of it at first. In case you haven't guessed it already, that day was what we now simply call 9/11. I, along with my parents, would have been on a return flight from Chicago on that day had my parents not acted on intuition and changed our flights to a day earlier. My older brother had graduated from basic training at Naval Station Great Lakes just four days earlier and would soon begin training at the Naval Gunnery School not too far away. The transformation he had undergone in two months was amazing; even though he was the same in essential personality, something else had been added that I would later understand to be discipline and pride, two elements that I'd never seen in great force beforehand. I will freely acknowledge that this change in him was what convinced me to sign an enlistment in the Navy as soon as I was allowed to, at the age of seventeen. The events of September 11th did have something to do with it, but it was more for personal improvement and a desire to be a part of something larger than myself that I signed myself away to the government for six years of active duty and two of reserve. While I went through basic training, I came to understand discipline and pride in oneself and one's cause. I came to believe that we are the World's Greatest Navy, that we started from almost nothing in October of 1775 and have continued going strong in the face of incredible foes. I learned the lessons of the fighting ships Forrestal, Indianapolis, and Cole, and how to learn from my mistakes. Graduating in October 2002, a little over a year after my brother, I believed that I could do anything with a little bit of willpower and a little bit of vision. I was selected to train as a linguist, learning the languages of Serbian, Croatian, and Bosnian. the languages of countries that have known the meaning of loss and struggle long before the United States. On October 16th, 2003, barely three months into class, I learned that my brother had shot himself onboard his ship in San Diego where he'd been serving as a Gunner's Mate. (While Justin DID pull the trigger, the underlying reason of WHY was labeled by the NCIS Agent as "Suspicious". Based on what his shipmates [and another source also] told his mom, I can only conclude that Justin was under some sort of "mind control". - Byron) Once again, my life was turned upside down as I and my family tried to make sense out of this, and we worked through the full range of emotions as we saw that his body was beyond saving and my parents decided to take him off of life support. But, as each person learns sometime in their life, I learned that tragedy is what you make of it, and I chose to continue my training and my career as a Sailor. Five years ago, I was an idealist. After seeing what I have, I can easily say that I am not as naive as I was then. Last December, I was in Bosnia and took a trip to the newly-dedicated memorial to the massacres of Srebrenica and Potocari, tragedies that claimed untold thousands of lives in the names of ethnic purity. (As of last month, bodies from those events are still being excavated from mass graves.) That was over ten years ago, and after seeing the memorial and the town of Srebrenica itself, not much has changed. I realize that it is a weak connection between the suffering of that country and that of ours, but we need to understand that change comes from the person, and not from a slogan or belief. Change comes from positive action, and is the only way we can mend the past. Sloganizing and martyrdom do nothing to heal wounds. Even if we acted in error in the past, we can do nothing to take it back; we must learn from our lessons and move on, not demonize those who we think are to blame. I was recently reminded of a prevalent attitude towards the military, as that of an evil oppressive force that maims the innocent and harms all that is good. In the same conversation, though, I was also reminded of all the good that the military has done and all of the hard work we as armed forces have put through in order to make the world a better place. Legends have it that the red on the American flag is for blood shed in the founding of our country, and where would we be without those who went before us? We would be in a decidedly different world. I speak this not as a red-blooded patriot, but as one who has studied history through the lens of military action or lack thereof. In my position, I have a rare opportunity. I have a chance to watch history as it unfolds, and a chance to be the first to warn of impending disaster. Do you who think the military is an evil institution think it easy to have that kind of responsibility at an age where most of my colleagues are still finishing so-called "higher education" and spending their weekends drunk and stupid? My job at 21 years of age is to save lives, and who knows, some day I might just save yours. So, before you call us 'babykillers' or whatever epithet you so choose, remember that you would not be living the life you do without the sacrifices of myself or others like me who have served you and this country. The life you live has been bought and paid for by the lives of others who have chosen to do what you think to be evil, and many have even died for you. Even though it has not been easy, I've made it this far and intend to continue until either I grow tired of it or it grows tired of me. I have seen actions that I might question in my heart but have no place to argue aloud. To paraphrase Tennyson: mine is not to make reply, mine is not to reason why, mine is but to do or die. I have been in the military for four years, and I am proudly defending your right to be an asshole. To the many that have thanked myself and my colleagues for our work, I would return the thanks to you in this time of remembrance and tell you that it's you that makes tiresome and seemingly pointless work worthwhile. To any others that would rebuff my work and that of my colleagues, stop wasting oxygen. The only living things benefiting are the trees and plants that use the carbon dioxide you toss back out into the atmosphere. Take positive, constructive action to make this world into one that you would want you and generations after you to live in, but don't make villains out of the people that must do the dirty work. Regards, Shelby Miksch, Petty Officer Second Class, US Navy



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Back Pew"

From our VLOA Chaplain: John Doyle

BACK PEW

It was that time between Sunday School and the Morning Worship Service when I usually had a few minutes to talk to people.

The Chairman of Deacons and his twin daughters, age about five, were sitting in a back pew. The twin sisters, Mary and Sarah, were a joy to be around. Each Sunday, prior to my sermon, I would have a Children's Sermon in which I would relate a Bible Truth to daily life. I could always depend on the sisters to add some lively comments. When they would be on the verge of taking control away from me, I would smile and tell them, "If you don't behave, I'll rip your face off!" They knew I was joking with them.

This day, one of the girls informed me, "I can preach." The church sanctuary was empty except for us, so I said, "OK. Let's go up in the pulpit and you preach for me." She was more than ready.

when we got to the pulpit, (her sister had stayed with her father), she informed me that I was to be the choir. I agreed, (Thank you Lord, I didn't have to actually sing). She got a pulpit chair, slid it behind the pulpit, stood on it, and started her "sermon": "Moses built an ark and David brought cows, goats and other"

From the rear of the sanctuary, her sister started to heckle her. She was good at it for a five year old. This upset the "preaching sister", who stared down at her sister, and in a loud voice, informed her, "If you don't be quiet, I'll rip your face off!"

I must admit that, during my sermon, several times I almost broke out laughing. Preachers don't get paid much in small churches, but oh, the great memories and Blessings we do receive.

John



Shelby Miksh
daughter of Byron Miksch

Attention:

Don't forget to check out the VLOA webpage at www.VinhLongOutlaws.com. Bud Allie is doing a superb job at keeping this website going!

Also, in the section of the newsletter of, "Can You Identify This Person"...we need you folks to send us some photos!

We know somewhere in your pictures you have photos of these guys in their younger days! If no response, we will omit this section.

Also if you have an address change please let us know so you will not miss future issues of the VLOA Newsletter

Al & Nell ... myranell@digitalexp.com or 3120 Highway 73,
Marianna, FL 32446

The Day We Lost Jack and Mike

By George Kyle

June 15, 1965 started out like every other day had started at Vinh Long, Vietnam since the Outlaws had arrived in country. We received our mission alert the day before with aircraft assignments and crew assignments by the operations officer who was Captain Ole Thornton at that time. But, first please allow a brief digression. The Outlaws were an aviation company which was the lead element for the 1st Cav Division which would arrive a year after the 62 Aviation Company also known as A/502 Aviation Company was formed and deployed from the 11th Air Assault Division (test) at Fort Benning, Ga.

The 11th Air Assault Division had been formed a couple of years previously at Fort Benning and LT George Willard Kyle had been transferred from the 68th Aviation Company which was under the operational control of CDEC Combat Development Experimental Command at Fort Ord, California. He had completed helicopter school flying the CH-21, "Bent Banana" helicopter built by Piasecki Vertol Company. In 1961 he had completed the Infantry Officer Orientation Course, Airborne School, and the Expert Infantry Qualification Course at Fort Benning School for boys on the Chattahoochee River. In 1962, he had been flying UH-1A Helicopters for CDEC in field operations at Hunter Liggett Military Reservation in the mountains and hills of California trying to determine the Hit-Kill-Miss probabilities of armed helicopters against ground forces.

When LT George Kyle arrived at the 11th Air Assault Division he was assigned to the 228th Assault Support Helicopter Battalion. He was assigned to this first Chinook unit because he was qualified in the tandem rotor "Bent Banana" and the UH-1A Iroquois or Huey. The only problem was the Chinook had not been accepted into the Army inventory and therefore there were no helicopters in the unit. He immediately requested a transfer into the Troop B (Air)3/17 Cavalry Squadron because they had Hueys and OH-13s and were flying every day. It was there he first met Captain Al Iller, LT Jim Longhofer, LT Jack White, and others who would later go to Vietnam with the Outlaws.

When the first Assault Helicopter Battalion (the 227th), was formed, LT George Kyle was transferred there as a Instructor Pilot and began two years of extensive experience gathering by flying with every new pilot who was assigned to the battalion. Later when the 229 Assault Helicopter Battalion was formed he was transferred to that unit and trained pilots in both UH-1B and UH-1D helicopters.

When the 62 Aviation Company was formed to go to Vietnam, LT Kyle, volunteered and was assigned to the unit as the Unit Instructor Pilot and Section Commander in the 1st Platoon. He flew with both "gun" and "slick" pilots for the first 25 hour "in country" orientation before they were assigned as Aircraft Commanders and he also flew combat missions in the left seat of Outlaw 15 with Bud Allie CE during most combat missions.

On that particular day, LT Kyle was flying a PSY-WAR mission in Outlaw 13 a UH-1B helicopter which had been mounted with a giant battery of speakers on the side of the machine and had spent the morning orbiting the "Free Fire Zone," warning civilians to remain out of the Operational Area. The Co-Pilot was WO Bob Lay who was flying the right seat for aircraft commander training and SFC Ziebarth, the platoon Sergeant, was flying as Crew Chief and right door gunner. At this time we don't have the name of the machine gunner in the left door.

Captain Jack Sanford called LT George Kyle and asked him to help in the search for the captured Captain John Schumann, an advisor, located on the north side of the Mekong from Ving Long. Kyle and Lay made several low passes down the canal investigating the report that the Capt Schumann was seen lying in the bottom of a sampan. When LT Chuck Wren and Captain Joe Moffett called that Jack had been shot down, Kyle and Lay executed an approach into the crash site encountering heavy mortar and machine gun fire. CWO Mills flying one of the Mavericks warned them to leave the area because he had spotted the mortar position and was trying to neutralize it. LT Bob Berquist was talking to LT Kyle as he laid down machine gun and rocket fire to neutralize the machine gun which was no more than 100 meters from the crash. After conferring with Major Tom Anderson, who was circling overhead controlling the operation, Kyle executed a second approach into the crash site.

As Outlaw 13 was brought to a hover and landed near Jack's crash site, a hand came up from under the avionics compartment, nose cone of the crashed aircraft with a thumb sticking up. Kyle exclaimed over the radio, "They're alive, I see movement in the wreckage." Kyle positioned Outlaw 13 between the crash site and the heaviest concentration of Viet Cong fire. The enemy was raising up and running through the undergrowth under the light canopy of the jungle, in alternate squad or fire team, fire and maneuver rushes, in an attempt to get near enough to put effective fire on Outlaw 13 and her crew. Kyle began to fire his grenade launcher and directed his left door gunner to lay down final protective fire while WO Lay and SFC Ziebarth left the aircraft and recovered Capt Tim Bisch, Capt. Jack Sanford and their door gunner Sgt. Ciacchino. SFC Ziebarth informed LT Kyle that Mike Moritz, the Crew Chief, was killed instantly and was under the wreckage.

(continued on page 6)

(The Day We Lost Jack and Mike by George Kyle (continued from page 5))

LT Kyle expended his 40mm grenade rounds as the left door gunner nearly melted his machine gun barrel, in an attempt to hold the enemy back from the crash site. After loading the survivors, their machine guns, radios and ammo SFC Ziebarth and WO Lay boarded Outlaw 13 which was now over maximum gross weight with the additional weight of the speakers and extra equipment and soldiers, and unable to hover. WO Lay was unable to enter the helicopter because of inadequate space therefore he hung onto the door frame and stood on the skid tube while LT Kyle made a running take off across the dry rice patty, barely clearing the jungle canopy as they climbed out over the Mekong river enroute to Vinh Long. At this point all on board felt we had just encountered a miracle, because none of us really believed we would get out of the crash site. The survivors were transferred to a Dust Off Helicopter waiting at Vinh Long Airfield and transported to Hospital at Siagon.

We were informed later that Jack passed away on the way to Saigon but Tim and Sgt Ciacchino were still alive but severely wounded.

In a recent e-mail Bob Lay wrote:

"George, yes, I was with you in Outlaw 13 on the day Jack was shot down. Sfc Ziebarth and I dismounted and searched the scene and brought Sanford and Bisch to the air craft while you were firing an M-79 into the tree line. (As my memory serves me)."

THE TREASURER'S CORNER

Judy and I have safely returned from the VLOA Roundup and our 26 day trip around the USA. We were both exhausted and glad to sleep in our own bed. I am now recuperating from Carpal Tunnel surgery which took place on 26 Sept. I can't help but reflect on the great "VLOA Roundup" we attended at Pigeon Forge. They just keep getting better. Although I have not finalized the dollar figures for the reunion I can say that it was quite successful. You can have peace of mind that the VLOA financial position is good as it has ever been. I have regretfully had to give up the position of Treasurer. Charles Bouton was nominated and accepted to succeed me. Rest assured you remain in good hands. Charlie and I will be transitioning the duties and account to him over the next three months. We will officially change hands on 1 Jan 2007. I would like to thank all who have supported me in the past six years. I have enjoyed the contacts and many opportunities to work with you. Also it is with deep gratitude that I thank the Director and the Steering Committee for awarding me the "Director's Award". I appreciate your trust and faith you have had in me. Thank you so much.

Chuck Wren



Can you identify the mystery person to the left???

If no response to this section with some pictures of our members, this will be the last time we will use this in the newsletter.

See answer on page 12

ON THE HUMEROUS SIDE

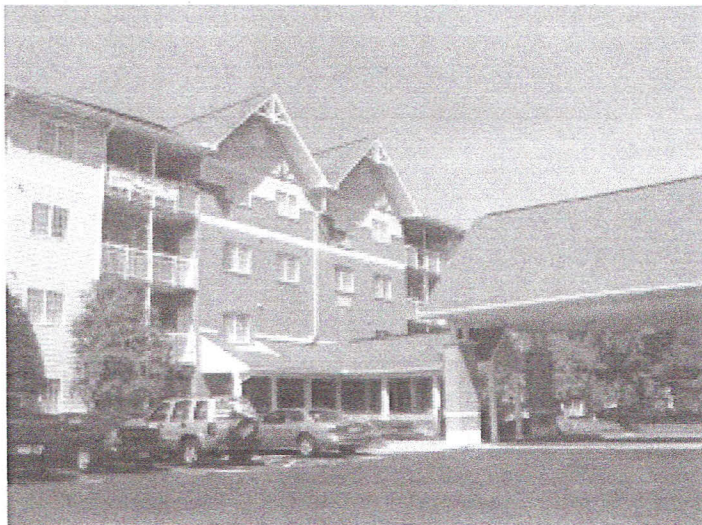
A group of kids were playing church, and decided to have a baptism. The problem was that the only candidate for baptism they could find was a cat.

Needless to say, the cat didn't take kindly to being dunked under the water. Finally after wrestling with the cat for over an hour, one of the kids took a handful of water, poured it on the cat's head and said, "OK, be a Methodist then."

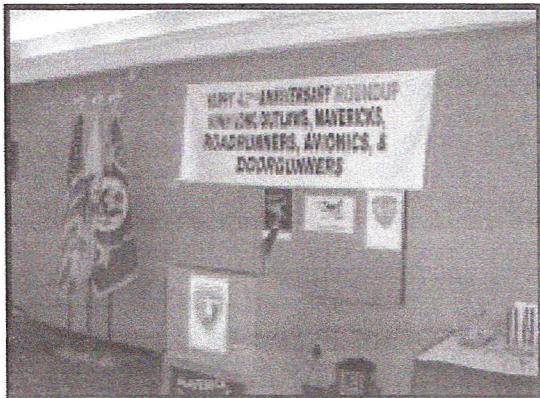
(author unknown)



Left to right standing, Big Jim Kirkley, Bob Koonce, Pete Fredriksson, Jack Konopka, Pat Theriot, Chester Voisin, Jack Lane, Skip Frontera. Left to right kneeling, Clayton Stolte, Jim Grandstaff, Tim Bisch, Leon Osterland.



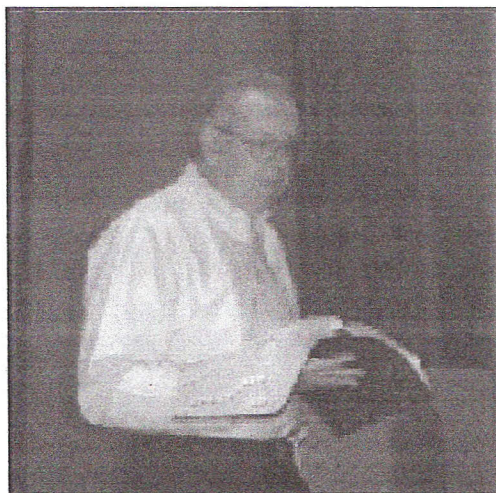
Hotel with our Outlaw banner on balcony



General Membership meeting in the hospitality suite.



Members participate in General Membership meeting.



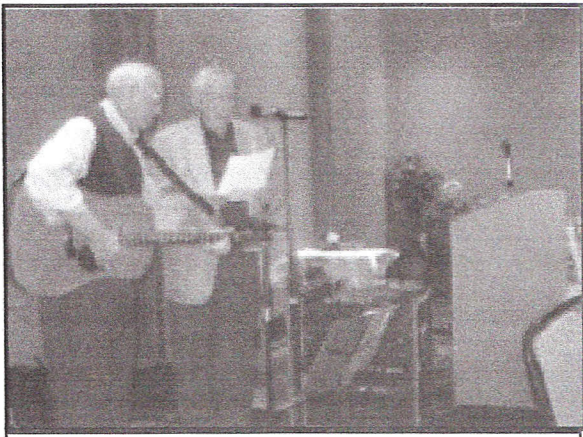
Chaplain John Doyle delivers the Sunday morning message.



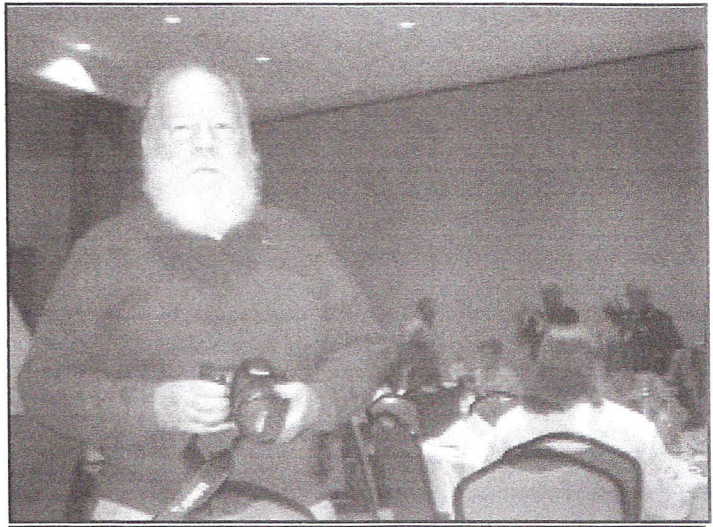
Picture at left is the Missing Comrades Table.



Ole Thornton Entertaining us at our Banquet.



Tom Anderson joins Ole Thornton in entertaining us.



Byron Miksch (now our official photographer) according to Linda Isbell.



Al Moist standing with one foot in NC and the other in TN in Great Smoky Mountain National Park.



Linda Isbell and Linda Kirkley, that's "Big Jim" Kirkley behind Linda K.



David and Dianna Amason



Frank and Anne Estes

R2K6 Roundup Recap

Well, another fantastically successful Outlaw Roundup is history! 110 Outlaws, spouses, friends and guests enjoyed 5 great days in the foothills of the Smokey Mountains in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in late September and came away with more memories of what a great organization we have!

Pat and I, along with Ole and Mary Thornton, were privileged to have served as reunion coordinators for this latest in a continuing string of successful, fun-filled and memorable Outlaw Roundups. I have to begin this recap by expressing my most sincere thanks to everyone who attended. Every single person there contributed immensely to the successful get together.

I can't begin to tell you how great it feels to stand near the Registration Table and watch the hugs and hear the shouts as each new arrival comes through the hotel door! Our Registration Table staff, Pat Anderson and Linda Isbell, handed out welcome bags filled with men's Outlaw caps, ladies crystal apple/flag brooches, Outlaw thermos's, welcome brochures, itineraries, local-interest fliers and on and on.

Our first evening BBQ dinner and entertainment, under the open-air pavilion roof, was loud and boisterous as always! Our reunion planner, Bill Oliver, gave us a preview of what was to come during the next four days. Bill did a fantastic job of making all the arrangements for our hotel, transportation, shows, meals, photos, hospitality suite, entertainment and a hundred other details.

We took bus tours, visited great restaurants, sat through several talent-laden shows, (got rained on after one of them!), spent hours in our hospitality suite, did a little shopping, and lost a good bit of sleep.

Lots of memories! For example, who will ever forget the sneaky, but amusing, techniques employed by Emmadell Voisin to get either in your face, or in your pocketbook, to get us to purchase 50/50 tickets for the big cash drawing at the end of the Roundup? She and Patty Theriot were absolute con-artists in relieving us of our cash and still making us feel good about it!

A first this year was our Quartermaster Sales table! Al Iller and Tony Clemente had Outlaw shirts, Outlaw patches, decals, Outlaw-Maverick-Roadrunner caps, Outlaw belt buckles and pins and nearly all of them sold quickly! The VLOA treasury was very grateful.

Another first this year was the \$50 drawing, on three consecutive nights, from our 50/50 proceeds! Plus, for the final drawing, Emmadell held the box of over 1300 tickets while Vicki Hampton drew the winning ticket for Mary Thornton! (How did THAT happen???) But, again, the VLOA treasury was well-rewarded.

As always, our General Membership Meeting was another highlight. We always encourage spouses, friends, guests and everyone at our reunion to attend and participate in the meeting. At our Saturday morning meeting we elected our new slate of officers for the VLOA Steering Committee for the next two years. Joe Clelan is our new Director and will be assisted by Deputy Director, Frank Estes. Larry Jackson will continue as our Secretary while Charlie Bouton is taking over our Treasurer duties from Chuck Wren. Chester Voisin and Phil Horne were elected to the Steering Committee as Members at Large. Jack Lane has picked up the QM job from Al Iller. Al and Nell Moist will continue as our Newsletter editors while Bud Allie agreed to continue as our VLOA webmaster. John Doyle will also continue to perform his duties as our VLOA chaplain.

An announcement, with great significance to the VLOA, was made by Al Iller during the meeting. Al informed us that his nearly two-year effort to copyright our Outlaw, Maverick and Roadrunner insignias has been successful! We own the copyrights to any use of these logos! What this will mean to the VLOA is still being analyzed and reviewed by the new Steering Committee. But it does recognize that we were there first, members of our unit designed these insignias, and we will have absolute rights to their use. Joe Clelan, as the new Director, is already working on developing a VLOA position relative to these issues. More in future issues of your Newsletter.

Bud Allie volunteered to serve as Reunion Coordinator for our next reunion which he proposed be held in Las Vegas in 2008! Bud will be asking for help from a lot of people to continue the string of successful VLOA Roundups. You'll get it, Bud!

An interesting sidenote. Three former members of the 175th Outlaws, from 3 years after our tour in Vinh Long, happened to be vacationing together in Pigeon Forge during our Roundup. They were casually driving along past our hotel and were stunned to see our large Outlaw "Welcome" banner hanging from the 4th floor hotel balconies. They came into the hospitality suite and were warmly welcomed by our group. They even purchased some "Outlaw" mementos from our QM sales store.

The hotel staff could not have been more accommodating or helpful. Literally anything we needed, they came up with. Our hospitality suite was, as always, the focal point of all activities. Wine, a keg of beer, coffee, water, soft drinks, snacks, etc. etc. were all available to blend with the frivolity, friendship and just plain good fun.

(continued on page 10)

R2K6 Roundup Recap

(continued from page 9)

The only hint of a disappointment during the week was the fog-filled bus trip up to the 5000 foot (+) level of the Smokey Mountains where we hoped to see fall leaves and scenic vistas. Instead, we could hardly see each other while being photographed with one foot in Tennessee and one in North Carolina.

Every reunion we look forward to hearing Chaplain John Doyle deliver his inspirational message to us during our Sunday morning non-denominational service. John continues to out-do himself when it comes to hitting us where we live! His message this year was so well-delivered, and so meaningful, he had many in the group with tears in their eyes. Regardless of our religious preference, John knows how to reach every one of us. Thank you John, for all you do for this great little group.

As usual, our Farewell Banquet on Sunday night was the highlight of the Roundup. Ernie Isbell was again the logical choice to serve as our Master of Ceremonies. I was honored to be able to narrate our "Missing Comrades" ceremony, assisted by Joe Clelan and Ole Thornton, in which we all paid tribute to our Outlaw comrades who are no longer with us. Ole Thornton entertained with blues and bluegrass on his guitar, mandolin and banjo. Tim Bisch, the outgoing Director, brought Chuck Wren to the podium to present him with the well-deserved "Directors Award" for his outstanding service to the VLOA over the past six years as our Treasurer. Our new Director, Joe Clelan laid out his thoughts for the next two VLOA years. And Pat and I were honored with two beautiful gifts from our friends in the VLOA, for which we are humbly grateful.

Following the banquet, we moved back to the hospitality suite where the Silent Auction was even more successful than we could have dreamed. Over 52 high quality items were contributed by 28 individuals! The bidding on nearly every item was spirited and fun-filled. I'm still amazed that anyone our age would pay so much money for two beautifully refurbished axes! Which one of you can still SWING an axe? The American flag flown over the nation's capitol was highly sought after. The Dolly Parton personally-autographed CD went for a great donation price. The hand-built Maverick gunship helicopter was a real treat! The handmade porcelain doll went to someone's granddaughter.

But the variety of items was what made the auction so unique. Duck decoys, quilts, maple syrup, photographs, pottery, hand-made knives, Cajun food, deer-feet coat rack, clocks, wood carvings, "33" beer, jewelry, blankets, walking sticks, Texas hot-sauce, and on and on. Nearly all items were either hand-made or one-of-a-kind items. Fantastic!

However, I still can't believe how I got so suckered in for the "Dinner For Four - Anywhere In The United States"! I should have suspected the Voisins and Theriots were up to their usual skulduggery and shenanigans when I wound up paying over \$200 for four MRE's!!! Boy, do I wish I had let Linda Kirkley beat me out of that final bid, as she tried desperately to do.

I can't close this Recap without once more thanking so many people who helped make R2K6 so successful. I've earlier mentioned Ole and Mary Thornton, Al Iller, Chuck Wren, Tony Clemente, Ernie and Linda Isbell, Emmadell Voisin and Patty Theriot, John Doyle, Tim Bisch, Bud Allie. I'm sure I've missed some but I want to be sure and give particular thanks to my wife Pat who kept me on track so many times when I needed some clear-thinking advice.

Some final thoughts: Why do we continue to come together every two years? We're not an organization with the high visibility of many Viet Nam era organizations. In the big picture, what we did in Viet Nam, other organizations similar to ours also did much the same. The difference with us is, we have found each other again, after 42 years, and we continue to find each other, and ourselves, every two years. When we walk into that hospitality suite, we only have to be ourselves to be back with our original group in 1964-65 in Vinh Long.

We need to continue this great little organization we call the Vinh Long Outlaws Association. We love being with each other. We wish more of our eligible comrades would join us in future reunions. But, one thing we need to keep in mind. . . we don't know when our last reunion will be, but we do know that, when our group gets down to the final few, those few will still meet to show the love they have for each other, and to remember those of us who have gone on before.

Thanks for coming to R2K6! If you weren't there, you missed a great reunion!

Tom Anderson

Comments from the Peanut Gallery

Can well imagine how our Pigeon Forge Roundup enablers have appreciated their "free" time since R2K+6 closed out September 25th. They deserve a break. We had a great time. Thank you Tom and Pat Anderson, Al Iller, Chuck Wren, Ole and Mary Thornton, Chester and Emmadel Voisin, Pat and Patty Theriot, John Doyle, Ernie and Linda Isbell, Tony Clemente plus others I may not have included. Thanks to Tom for locating Bill Oliver and Tennessee Receptive Services, Inc. (TRS) and negotiating Roundup arrangements with him and TRS. Along with the MainStay Suites hotel and their staff, TRS couldn't have been more hospitable and professional. The VLOA welcome committee and hotel check-in staff were ready and eager to get you in and on your way to your roomy and comfortable suite, that is, after you satisfied our Cajun 50/50 committee members with your donation towards a subsequent chance on a daily basis to win big dollars. Next, was a visit to the Hospitality Room where beverages and snacks were always present thanks to prior arrangements by Tom and Pat. It was a large room with tables on two sides containing items; many homemade, for the Silent Auction where winning bids were announced Sunday night after our Farewell Banquet. Not only was all this fun, it also helped pay for expenses plus some extra for our VLOA coffers. There were more than a few who thanks to their tickets being drawn out of a cup or hat, won big bucks. No, it was never me.

It was not the place to be if you were trying to lose weight. There was more to eat than One would expect at a Continental breakfast. Enjoyed cereals, juices, sausage, eggs, toast, rolls, coffee, tea plus more goodies along with the fun of visiting with other attendees. There was entertainment together with delicious food offered every day in a variety of locations. They were all great. Bus transportation was provided and to my knowledge they all worked fine.

An outstanding group was elected together with others who willing to serve and/or continue their service. Our outstanding Webmaster Bud Allie offered to serve as host for R2K+8 at Las Vegas during 2008. Looking forward to it already. Thanks to everyone who joined with us at Pigeon Forge, especially those who came for the first time. Enjoyed your company and want to see you again at Las Vegas. Tom, Pat, Al, Chuck - again, thank you.

Tim Bisch

VLOA Member Heads VHPA

Angelo Spelios, one of our own VLOA members, was elected President of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association at the VHPA meeting in July 2006. The VHPA, which boasts more than 12,500 members worldwide, is one of the largest Vietnam veterans organizations. Angelo has been an active member of the Vinh Long Outlaws Association and is a regular at our reunions. The VLOA Steering Committee, as well as the entire membership, sends congratulations to Angelo for the well-deserved recognition given him by the VHPA for his past leadership and professionalism. We wish you much success in your new position and look forward to having your continuing participation in our VLOA organization.

Tom Anderson

OUR THOUGHTS ON THE VLOA "ROUNDUP" AT PIGEON FORGE, TN

What a great time we had!! Tom and Pat Anderson did a MAGNIFICENT job of hosting this event! A huge thanks to you both!

The trip through the Smoky National Park was very informative and interesting. We thoroughly enjoyed "Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede". The show was great and the finale was very impressive. The Smith Family Theatre was really a wonderful show and left us with some great memories. All of the accommodations including all the food we were served were outstanding. We especially enjoyed the Sunday morning service by John Doyle (our Chaplain). It was a very inspirational message. The entertainment at the banquet by Ole Thornton (and Tom Anderson) was certainly pleasurable.

The best part of the "Roundup" was seeing old and new friends and comrades. These "Roundups" just keep getting better with each one we attend. We came home with some wonderful memories and a feeling of love and respect for everyone. Looking forward to Las Vegas in 2008.

We continue to enjoy publishing the newsletter and hope everyone enjoys receiving and reading it.

Thanks again to Tom and Pat and everyone involved in making this Roundup such a success!
Al & Nell

150th Transportation Detachment Memorabilia Donated to Transportation Museum

The 150th Transportation Detachment (CHFM) was activated and organized at Ft. Eustis, VA August 8, 1964. During late September seventy-seven of us assembled for deployment to Vinh Long, Vietnam. We were fortunate to be attached to the 62nd Aviation Company where our mission was to provide aircraft maintenance support for the Outlaws and Mavericks. We all worked hard and enjoyed our association with them during our tour at Vinh Long.

Fortunately, Tom Anderson and Al Iller lead a re-organization reunion of Outlaw, Maverick, Roadrunner, 28th Signal Detachment members at Branson, MO during September, 2000. For the 150th, Therman (Shorty) Farley was instrumental in contacting other initial 150th roster members and preparing articles about our unit for the first issue of our Vinh Long Outlaws News dated July, 2000. Shorty also obtained and had our 150th Transportation Detachment colors presented to the unit on his behalf at our first reunion at Branson.

The radio call sign for our 150th Transportation Detachment UH-1B aircraft was "Roadrunner". Bob Koonce, both talented artist and crew chief, designed and sketched a representative bird on the nose panel of the aircraft. It was a unique logo which set us aside for providing fast responsive maintenance/supply service to our Outlaw and Maverick partners. For our first VLOA reunion, Bob Koonce prepared an original Roadrunner drawing to be put at auction to the highest bidder for VLOA coffers. George Prescott's fiancée, Sue Simpson, submitted the winning bid for the drawing as a gift for George. Several years later, Mr. and Mrs. George Prescott returned the drawing, now enclosed by a beautiful "birdseye" maple frame, as their gift back to the unit.

Fifteen original comic sketches prepared by Bob Koonce pertaining to daily/routine/not so routine activities of 150th members that we have enjoyed were included with our presentation. Also submitted were three photographs of unit personnel enjoying each other's company at a unit party.

It was determined and mutually agreed to by members of the 150th that framed 150th Unit Colors and Roadrunner drawing together with other documents specifically related to the 150th Detachment be offered to the U.S. Army Transportation Museum, Ft. Eustis, VA. Their purpose would be to serve as a record of information relating to maintenance/supply units who supported air mobile light aviation company's in Vietnam. Other documents included: "The Roadrunner Story - Vietnam 1964 - '65" prepared by Tom Anderson; Movement - PCS Orders w/150th TOE and Personnel Roster; "Reception Plan for Incoming Units to Vinh Long" offered by Therman (Shorty) Farley; Detachment/Assignment Orders to 62nd Aviation Company, Company A, 502nd Aviation Battalion; General Orders, HQ DA Valorous Unit Award; 150th Operational Report - 1965; History of 150th Transportation Detachment; Supporting Information - Creator/Artist Bob Koonce; DVD - Vietnam 1965 - '66 by Pete Fredrikson.

These items of memorabilia were presented to and accepted by U.S. Army Transportation Museum Curator Marc Sammis and Assistant Curator James Atwater at the museum during October 17, 2006.

Tim Bisch



Bob and Dianne Tidd

Harold
Quattlebaum
& Al Moist
(looks like a
serious
conversation
to me.



IN PURSUIT OF VLOA COPYRIGHTS

Sometime ago, exactly when is hard to pinpoint since time has a way of dimming one's memory, but about the time of 2004 Outlaws Roundup Reunion at Ft Rucker there was discussion about obtaining copyrights to certain VLOA patches and logos. After Ft Rucker, the wheels of progress began to turn slowly. First, a go-ahead was obtained via cyber space technology by Email communication with the VLOA Director, Officers and Members at Large. Maybe not lighting fast, but they collectively were in agreement and gave the A-OK to submit copyright applications for the Outlaws patch, Maverick logo, Roadrunner logo, 150th CHFM Maint Det patch and the 28th Sig Det Patch. This was followed by the "selection" of two volunteers, one necessarily being a VLOA Officer, that being Chuck Wren the money bags of the outfit, and the other reluctant individual being the author of this article.

Now the work began, early spring 2005. Contact with the U.S. Copyright Office (USCO) was made, again through modern means of the web page. Instructions and application forms were obtained. Then the necessary digestion of the all the government verbalize, which as one might expect took some time for translation. This was followed by several follow up calls to the USCO for clarification, interpretation, etc. BTW, contrary to popular belief, these government types were most courteous, helpful and informative! Once all this was done then it was time to put the pen to the paper, or rather the USCO Form VA

Struggling through a two page form requiring only about a dozen entries consisting of several word entries, checking "yes" or "no" blocks and entering names, addresses and dates may sound simple to most. It ain't necessarily true. A few more calls to USCO, a little pondering here and there and VIOLA! a completed Form VA.

OOPS! Hey, it just might be a good idea to contact the designers, conceptualizers, and artists who had a hand in the origination of the aforementioned patches and logos before sending Form VA to USCO. Again, Email was resorted to and Bob Koonce (official VLOA artist and original designer of the Roadrunner logo and 150th CHFM patch), Joe Clelan (approved design of 128th Sig Det patch) and Mrs. Becky Bergquist Quinn (widow of Bob Bergquist the original designer of the Outlaws patch and Maverick logo) were contacted and informed of VLOA's intent. All graciously agreed and gave their approval to move full steam ahead.

Finally, in mid-September 2005 the package was complete with USCO Form VA and photo reproductions of the patches and logos. Off by US Postal Service (known here as Arkansas Mule Mail) to Chuck in NJ and his Deputy Treasurer Joe Moffett in SC for their perusal. Once both agreed, then Chuck's signature on the Form VA with the VLOA enclosed check for \$150.00. Off again by USPS to USCO to await their approval/rejection. The fine print in the instructions indicated to expect six plus months for approval.

WOW! In almost no time Chuck received the VLOA package back with a form letter explaining releases were needed from the authors/artists who first produced the "works" and the date originated. Several phone calls by Chuck to USCO point of contact for some more clarification, then once again, the package was returned to Arkansas by USPS. More cogitation, phone calls to USCO and to the patch and logo originators. Some time passed, eventually the releases were formalized, signed and notarized then sent on to AR. The needed corrections were made to USCO Form VA, releases attached and the package returned to Chuck in NJ. Quick action by Chuck and the package was off to USCO sometime in April 2006. Now the long wait began.

BINGO! On or about late August 2006 Chuck received final approval for all the requested VLOA copyrights! He elected to keep this "CLOSE HOLD" for announcement at the Pigeon Forge 2006 Outlaws Roundup Reunion. As the Roundup attendees all know, the rest is now history!

Al Iller

Author's Comment: On behalf of VLOA our sincere thanks and appreciation to Robert "Bob" Koonce, Mrs. Becky Bergquist Quinn and Joe Clelan for their cooperation and unhesitant willingness to relinquish their design and authorship rights to the various patches and logos to VLOA for copyright purposes.

And the answer is:
Al Moist at the age of
12.

Don't forget dues are due in January. In the next issue we will publish our new Treasurer, Charles Bouton's mailing address.