



Thunder Run

Vol. 21 – NO. 1 "Together Then – Together Again" 1st Quarter, 2006

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



Baghdad Dining

PART 2

By Eric Newton, 11th ACVVC PAO

Let me begin this second in a series of articles with the heart felt thanks to those who made our visit to the 11th ACR in Iraq possible. Without their support and pull, it would have been impossible to gain the unprecedented access to our troopers that allowed us to

record their well deserved place in history. We were fortunate to be witness to and record their heroic actions and humanitarian acts of kindness and compassion. The media that reports the events in Iraq is often biased and paints the picture to the American public that portrays its own agenda. The daily acts of caring our troops bestow upon the Iraqi people rarely make the news.

This is PART 2 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.

We went into this project with an open mind. We saw and recorded the daily and nightly operations without a preconceived picture of things others wanted us to see. We literally "fell in" with the troops and shadowed them as if we were part of the team. We were not treated to a news media Dog and Pony Show in a highly protected environment. Because we were former veterans of the great Blackhorse Regiment, we were immediately accepted and trusted like brothers. With that, we were able to talk on the same level with the troops and share their deepest thoughts and concerns.

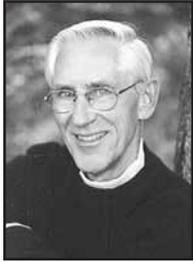
We found that the morale was high and our 11th ACR brothers and sisters were highly dedicated to the missions and believed in their cause. They were also very respectful to us Vietnam veterans and hold us in high esteem. They also sought our blessings, guidance and advice on how they were performing. Our opinion was often requested as if for

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Chuck Schmidt,
President, 11th ACVVC

Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment have returned from their year long deployment to Iraq where their contributions to operation Iraqi Freedom reaffirmed that the “Blackhorse” is still the premier training and fighting unit in the U. S. Army. Although the Squadrons of the Regiment were not operationally controlled by the Regimental HQ, which was employed as a Divisional Level Command and Control HQ, the Troopers demonstrated their outstanding professionalism in their security missions and in offensive combat operations in support of the overall mission to secure the freedom of the Iraqi people. Their successes in training Iraqi units will ultimately speed the return home of the majority of US and Coalition forces.

The Regiment’s operations were eerily similar to those we conducted some 35 years ago. It takes the same amount of courage to patrol and secure the streets of Iraq’s cities and highways as it did for us to leave the relative security of Blackhorse Base Camp at Xuan Loc or the airbase at Bien Hoa or Lai Khe, Di An, or An Loc on security or “search and destroy” missions. Some would argue that today’s Troopers were even more at risk with “Up Armored” Humvees whereas we had ACAV’s, M-48 Tanks, Sheridans, and M-106 Mortars as well as our own Howitzer Battery and Thunderhorse Air Cav Troop in immediate direct support. They faced a suicidal enemy to whom dying was as good as or better than survival, whereas our enemy wanted to kill us and LIVE! Urban and desert warfare vs. fighting in the jungle and rice paddies—each have their dangers. Leeches vs. sand fleas—which would you rather have? How about the monsoon season and humid 100 degree days vs. 120 degree weather with sand storms? Take your pick, war is HELL!

Bottom line is that the Regiment

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upheld the tradition and legacy we established in Vietnam and Cambodia, and each and every soldier deserves our deepest thanks and gratitude. Just as we did, our current Troopers lost friends that were taken from their families all too soon. These young men who made the ultimate sacrifice are mourned by us and a grateful nation. Please read Eric Newton’s article on his and Jerry Williamson’s trip to support the Troops and the COL Bayer’s (Regimental Commander) letter to veterans elsewhere in this issue of *Thunder Run*.

Blackhorse Week and Welcome Home Activities

We all remember too well the way we were treated upon our return from Vietnam. Some of us were never thanked for our service, were shunned or despised by old friends and neighbors, called “baby killers”, ignored or otherwise disrespected. The 11thACVVC has pledged that “Never Again” will returning soldiers be treated as we were so many years ago. Whether we agree with the war in Iraq, believe we are involved in a “World War” against terrorism, or support one political party over another; our soldiers deserve our support and thanks for their selfless service. We have decided to contribute to a Welcome Home Party for this country’s newest heroes. All of us are welcome at the festivities to be held in and around Ft Irwin, CA, 16 – 19 March 2006. The Troopers will have all returned from the war zone, have had “block” leave to get reacquainted with their families and had a period of time to readjust to life and service in the United States (remember when we used to call it “Back in the World?”). Members of the 11thACVVC voted at the annual business meeting during the reunion in Colorado Springs to donate \$15,000 to help ensure a party and barbecue at no cost to our soldiers and

families. There will be a small charge for veterans to attend, and accommodations are largely up to each attendee. Elsewhere in this issue of *Thunder Run*, you will find a tentative schedule of events, a RSVP form that Ft Irwin needs to project the number attendees, and other information on the party and a Banquet which will be held in Las Vegas on the 23rd of March.

11thACVVC Activities

As you will read in this issue of *Thunder Run* our 2006 scholarship fundraising activities are in full swing. I thank all who have contributed towards this major activity by sending in a donation in the envelope provided with the calendar. Our goal has been established at \$30,000 for this the first leg of our 2006 drive to assist deserving families offset the rising costs of a college education. We will award as many \$3,000 scholarships as we can based on the success of the Calendar, the Raffle, and the Silent Auction which will be held at the Reunion in Kansas City, MO, in September. Grand prize for the Raffle, which we will conduct starting in April, will again be \$1,000 with smaller sums for 2nd through 4th place winners. I will make my annual plea to all members who received calendars—please take a moment to submit your tax-deductible contribution today, and please be generous. We have consistently had about 25% participation for this activity, and if we could increase that to 50%, we would be able to award all qualified candidates scholarships and consider including Grandchildren in the near future. Thanks again to all who have made a contribution to the cause!

Thunder Run is YOUR newsletter and YOUR publication. Your dues and pro-

Continued on page 5

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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Newsletter Deadlines

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

First Quarter.....Jan 15

Second Quarter.....Apr 15

Third QuarterJul 15

Fourth QuarterOct 15

All submissions for publication must be sent to: Jim Griffiths, Editor, 3784 Michigan Ave., Bridgman, MI 49106.
Email: JGriff11@aol.com.

REUNION PROPOSALS FOR 2008

Any one wishing to propose a Reunion site for 2008 should have all required paperwork (Request for Proposal and site information) sent to me by the end of March. The 2008 site will be voted on at The Kansas City Reunion. Please mail all information to:

Stephen Page
5400 Little River Neck Road
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
1-843-280-4506
stephen.r.page@verizon.net

Thank you,



Jim Griffiths, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

In the right place at the right time is where I managed to be on Veterans Day, 2005. The place was the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in

Washington D.C. amongst a virtual Sea of Veterans from many different wars and many different units in those wars, all gathered together at our place on our day to pay homage to our comrades who had paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Luckily, I had made arrangements to reunite with my Platoon Leader, from 2nd Platoon, F Troop, Bob McCue for the first time since May of 1969 ("Together Then-Together Again"). After meeting and eating breakfast at Union Station, we grabbed a cab and headed for the Wall. Getting out of the cab across the street from the Wall, I was overwhelmed by the Sea of Veteran humanity that was present. Sharing the air and the aura of this massive presence of Veterans was extremely exhilarating.

We searched around a bit and finally linked up with the Blackhorse contingent which forms on an ad hoc basis annually at the Wall on Veterans Day. We gathered, introduced ourselves, and had great conversation until it was time to place our Blackhorse wreath at the Wall. The honor of leading our walk to the apex of the Wall and placing the wreath there was bestowed on me and my Platoon Leader. Surely, I was at the right place, at the right time, with the right people as much as I had been at any time of my life. What an honor this was! I encourage you to make this trip on Veterans Day if possible. You will not regret it.

In March, 2006 many of you will be attending the Welcome Home Celebration celebrating the return of our Blackhorse Trooper brothers from their successful mission in Iraq. Surely if you are there you will experience the feeling of being in the right place at the right time also. Details of this celebration are in this issue of *Thunder Run*

Keep the input coming and be aware that we are implementing a new "Letters to the Editor" section, ... I also would like to see more input into the "Incoming" section.

that is being mailed to ten thousand non members, eligible to join the 11th ACVVC, that served with the Blackhorse in Vietnam as well as the five thousand active members of the 11th ACVVC. This issue will hopefully reach all fifteen thousand-plus who served with the Regiment in Vietnam. Those of you going to the Welcome Home Celebration will find important information concerning the activities in which you will be a participant.

Our first *Thunder Run* of 2006 contains a great variety of input including another stellar story of 'Riding With the Blackhorse' (part II), by Eric Newton. His article is accompanied by evidence of his omnipresent camera in the form of some great pictures that we have included.

We also have the material of our regular contributors that will inform you and keep you abreast of the happenings and activities of your organization including scholarship and membership information as well as sad news concerning passing of fellow troopers and the happy news of welcoming new members to the 11th ACVVC.

Keep the input coming and be aware that we are implementing a new "Letters to the Editor" section, the parameters of which will be explained in a future article on our Editorial Policy. I also would like to see more input into the "Incoming" section. Let us know about tidbits and activities about members including information on mini reunions and anything else you think is interesting and informative to the members of our organization.

Enjoy your *Thunder Run* !

Fund Donations Approach Record

■ **Scholarship Fund Donations in Support of the Annual Calendar Appeal Enter Record Territory!**

By Chuck Schmidt, Scholarship Committee, 2006 Calendar Appeal

Offer a hearty "Thank You!" to all of our generous Troopers, spouses, families, and friends who have contributed to support the 11thACVVC Scholarship Program through the annual Calendar. We are again in record territory as this issue of *Thunder Run* goes to press. In 2004 we set a goal of \$20,000 from calendar contributions, and we received \$23,245. Last year the goal was raised to \$25,000 and your generosity resulted in \$26,782—both were records! For 2006, we established a goal of \$30,000 and as we go to press, we are already over \$27,000! Thanks to all who have taken the time to send in their tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided.

I would especially like to thank those one hundred sixty three who have been able to support the program with contributions of \$50 and more so far. About sixty five members have contributed \$100 or more with 3 three donating \$500.

The sum donated thus far for 2006 represents contributions from about 25% of our membership. For the other 75% who have not yet gotten around to it, don't despair! There is still time for you to remove the envelope from your calendar, write a check and send it in to the address listed. It would be awesome if at least 50% could respond to this annual fundraiser. Doubling the number of participants would mean that we would not have to turn down as many deserving applicants and could open the door in the near future to including our Grandchildren in the program as many of our members have suggested.

For the past few years, we have been able to increase the number of \$3,000 scholarships awarded from fewer than 15 to last year's record of 25 recipients. To date, over \$375, 000 has been awarded to

support the education of our members and their children! The program and application forms are featured in this edition of Thunder Run and we invite you to take the time to become familiar with the program. For those who are not members of 11thACVVC, you must join the organization for you and your family to become eligible to participate. There are a limited number of calendars still available and one will be sent to each new member while supplies last.

The calendar is one of three fundraising projects we conduct each year. The other two are the annual Raffle with a grand prize of \$1,000 and the Silent Auction which we hold during the Annual Reunion.

I would especially like to thank those one hundred sixty three who have been able to support the program with contributions of \$50 and more so far. About sixty five members have contributed \$100 or more with 3 three donating \$500. I am sure there will be more generous donations before we close out the calendar – (they are still arriving at the pace of about 10/day) - appeal for 2006, so if you desire to contribute, you are not too late.

All contributions are appreciated and although I pointed out some of the larger sums, I know that the \$5 that some Troopers offer is just as great a sacrifice for them as the larger amounts are for others. We really thank you and appreciate your willingness to support the scholarship program. THANKS!

Memorial Day – 2006

The annual Memorial Day wreath laying by the 11th ACVVC will be held at 10:00am on Monday, May 29, 2006, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC.

Please meet near the statue of the Three Soldiers statue. Blackhorse troopers of all eras, family and friends are welcome.

The annual Veterans Day wreath laying will be held at 10:00am on Saturday, November 11, 2006, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

COMMAND TRACK from page 3

ceeds from the Quartermaster Store pay for its printing and mailing. The editorial staff led by **Jim Griffiths**, F – Troop, '68 – '69, welcomes input from our members and that is what makes our publication unique. We will published in a future issue our editorial policy and philosophy which are restricted by our charter as a non-profit veteran's organization. The viability of the newsletter is dependent on your input of articles, accompanying photos, news, and items of interest. Additionally, we have decided to try to accept "Letters to the Editor" for the next few issues in an attempt to get better feedback on the organization, the newsletter, articles, and policies. Publication of your letters is not guaranteed, and the guidelines are contained in the editorial policy.

The new slate of Officers and Directors became effective on January 1st this year. Major changes from last year are the election of **Allen Hathaway**, HHT Regiment, '66 – '67 to serve as Vice-President for the next two years, and **Rod George**, How, 3/11, '66 – '67 to serve the remaining year of Allen's vacated Director position. I, **Frank Cambria**, G Troop, '70 – '71, and **Ollie Pickral**, K Troop, '68 – 69 were re-elected for another two year term as President, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. The other two members of the Board are **Jim Holt**, How, 1/11, '67 – '68 and **Bob Moreno**, G Troop, '69. These Troopers and all the volunteers are what make us the envy of veteran's organizations across the country. We thank them all for their selfless dedication to making 11thACVVC successful in our mission of serving the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans. The Officers and Directors will meet in late April to set the agenda for the next two years, and we welcome any ideas, suggestions, or other input to help us do our jobs better. Just contact any member of the Board with your suggested agenda topics.

Planning is well on the way for our annual reunion which will be in Kansas City, MO, this year. For the first time in many years (about 18) we will meet in September rather than August. August was the norm in the past because many

members had children in school, and off-season was not feasible. The membership voted at the reunion in Eugene, OR, in 2003 to move to September to take advantage of off-season pricing at hotels and tourist attractions. We will be trying the new time frame this year and next, and if it works as expected, we will make September the new norm. Mark your calendars for Kansas City, September 21-24, 2006, and Louisville, KY, September 6-9, 2007. If you have never attended an 11thACVVC Reunion, you are missing out on a good time, camaraderie, and great friendships. Plan now to attend in either or both 2006 & 2007!

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Remember, all are encouraged to join in the "Welcome Home" activities of "Blackhorse Week" at Ft Irwin, CA, 16 – 19 March. Turn out and let our newest veterans know that we appreciate their service and that we salute their courage! Whenever you see a Soldier, Airman, Marine, or Sailor, extend your hand and thank them for their service to their country—they deserve our support! ALLONS!!!



C-130: Our ride to Iraq

approval from a parent. It was very emotional being with these fine soldiers.

With that said, please try to attend and support the Welcome Home Celebration in March 16-18 at Fort Irwin. I believe these troopers consider our veterans respect and admiration above that of the general public.

Kuwait – Destination Iraq

We loaded up with other civilians at 2:00AM in a bus with closed curtains for a thirty minute drive to a military airstrip somewhere in Kuwait. We were some of the few that wore desert BDU's. The majority of the passengers wore civilian clothes and were American contractors. As you looked at the group you wondered who and what job they were headed for. We got the usual once over and sometimes after seeing the Vietnam Vet embroidered over our shirt pocket got an inquiry. Our standard reply was that we were just visiting. This drew more speculation and scrutiny until we explained our mission.

We spent hours waiting and discovered that flight times were always a secret and they would never tell if you were on a flight until it was time to board. We boarded a C-130 as the sun peeked over the desert and were on our way. (See Photo C-130)

In our request for special treatment to get us to the 11th ACR as soon as possible, we skipped the news media briefing

and credentialing process which would have cost us two days of our trip. This was a mistake that would haunt us repeatedly during our stay. We figured that once we were with our Blackhorse brothers, we didn't need any papers. Problem was, we later had to move from place to place under the control of other units and branches.

One example was the hassle we got entering the various dining facilities. Both military and civilian contractors eat there and carried identification that we missed out on in our haste to move forward. Military entered one door and civilians entered through another after they were wanded and or searched. We were usually escorted to chow with group that contained a Sergeant Major or higher. Boy did we feel like celebrities. Yes, we also dined with privates and enjoyed the interaction and conversation.

On one instance we were in the Green Zone where a lot of senior military dined, lots of brass and generals. The security was so tight there that even LTC Blackburn couldn't convince them we were OK. We were directed to the dreaded civilian door. After more exchanges between the LTC and the Lieutenant in charge of security, we were sent to the next station for the search. The 3rd Infantry Division sergeant I was face to face with stood motionless for a moment as he read the Vietnam Vet over my pock-

et. A disgusted look came over his face and he turned to the Lieutenant and shouted, "I'm not going to search these guys" and waved us in and said, "Go on in Sir." I reached out in mutual respect, shook his hand and said 'Thank you and thanks for serving our country'.

Now I am going to share a closely guarded secret with you. After seeing the dining facility and the bounty of everything imaginable, I thought it was best not to take any photos. I often told the troopers that I was not taking any pictures inside because "if the folks back home saw them, you will never get another Care Package". I would compare it to a quadruple Golden Coral. This was in Baghdad and not the norm at our other stops.

Day One

We arrived in Baghdad around noon and as is usual inside the military machine, we were on our own. We were supposed to start our visit in Mosul with the Regimental Headquarters but the flight was not going that far that day. Once I found a land line I called 2/11 ACR and requested someone bring us home. Within minutes a Humvee arrived with the familiar Blackhorse on the gun shield for the ride to Camp Liberty. The in-flight service on the C-130 was low budget, no frills and limited to the bottle of water you picked up at the back ramp.

2/11 was a little unprepared for our visit which was now a week sooner than expected. We were treated to lunch and issued newer body armor. We were told to get some rest and they were going to pick us up at 2:00 am to raid several suspected terrorist homes. "Welcome to our War!"

We were definitely sleep deprived by now but we knew we would have to check our camera gear in preparation for what was to come in a few hours. The video light was in excellent condition but the bulb did not survive the shock in the C-130. It really did not matter because the light would have given away our position and ruined the troops' night vision.

We rolled into the streets of Baghdad which were empty due to the curfew. The first glimpse of the city would be at night which would take on a whole new look

when the sun came up. We turned into a neighborhood and the street narrowed. The computer facing the front passenger glowed with the navigational three dimensional picture of building roof tops and the Humvee's ever changing position. This was star wars at its finest, driving with no lights through the streets of Baghdad with the 11th ACR.

We had linked up with an Iraqi army unit who unlike the ARVN's of Vietnam, did most of the searching while the 11th ACR backed them up. When we reached the suspected house there were vehicles scattered in defensive positions. The word came over the radio and doors flew open and the race was on along the six foot tall wall to the front gate that was chained. The team was prepared with bolt cutters and quickly stormed the front door and knocked and shouted in Iraqi. Dogs were barking throughout the neighborhood as the door opened and the team entered and began interrogating the occupants. My escort cleared me to enter and capture the process on video. The Iraqi army began searching the house. Most houses are not air conditioned with only ceiling fans to move the hot air. I began to notice the heat building up under my body armor and had thoughts of Vietnam. It was a very similar feeling. Perhaps this is why most of the occupants slept on the floor. It is the lowest point and therefore the coolest.

The interpreter got Intel from the resident that caused a stir and we were out



Abu Ghraib Death House

the door and running down the street to another home where they hoped to find a suspect. Too late, he was no longer there.

We left the neighborhood empty handed that morning but gathered more information for future raids. It was still dark as we headed for the infamous Abu Ghraib Prison. Last April the Marines fought off a fierce attack on the entrance and guard tower that made world news for weeks. Soon after that the 11th ACR was sent to relieve the Marines and took over perimeter security. The interior of the prison however is controlled by a private civilian contractor. We were given what is now considered a rare tour of the prison along with the 3rd Infantry Division Commander and viewed Saddam's Death House. After the invasion by Coalition

Forces documents were discovered in the form of ledgers that listed over ten thousand deaths in the prison. Those were just the ones that had been written down. They are still fearful of doing any excavation around the complex at this time for fear of uncovering mass graves.

Media tours were halted after the media hammered the military's handling of prisoners while under the control of a National Guard unit. While the prisoner's treatment was without question wrong, it amounted to nothing more than what takes place at a college hazing. As usual the media worked it into frenzy for months. The real story in the prison which gets hardly any notice is the deplorable conditions that existed when Saddam was in control. Saddam and his son's were very efficient at murder and torture as the various areas in the prison became Dante's Inferno to tens of thousands of Iraqis.

The Gallows and Baseball

This was an assembly line where two could be hung as quickly as one. The best comparison was to the batting order in our own American baseball. The scenario went like this. The first two unfortunate prisoners would step up to have the noose tightened around their neck with the executioner standing between at a podium with dual levers. When the trap door dropped, the bodies hung below on the next level. The next two prisoners in line to meet Allah, (On Deck), had the job of taking the dead prisoners down and dragging them to the door. They then moved to the gallows. From the door, the next



Dual Gallows: Prisoners dropped below as trap door opened when levers guard operated levers.

two prisoners in line, (In The Hole), would drag the bodies outside to a waiting truck. They would then become (On Deck). This process worked well until a prisoner resisted, applied a union job action and refused to participate. He would then be counseled by having his hands connected to a rope that would be looped around a steel hook projecting from the concrete ceiling. He would be hoisted above the floor and repeatedly struck with sticks and other objects of pain like a Mexican Piñata until he decided death by hanging was less painful. The counselors would take care not to damage the extremities while inflicting maximum pain. After all, this prisoner still had to be able to perform his part in the assembly line. We saw many of these ceiling hooks in various rooms throughout the prison.

During the tour we were taken to a hall that had no window and was ventilated by holes in the concrete block. The hall was about fifteen foot wide and half the length of a football field. Imagine this hall filled to capacity, standing room only of hot bodies without air conditioning. Saddam's cronies were sending so many prisoners that the warden could not handle any more. He called one of Saddam's sons to ask how he might handle the problem. Uday or Qusay shows up with his entourage and immediately has a solution for the warden. He pulls his pistol and does a head count one, two, three bang.

He proceeds to repeat this down the hall as his assistants reload the magazines

The Vets are Coming

Our early arrival in Baghdad at 1/11ACR was a surprise to the troops. Very few knew about us or why we were really there. Perhaps we were spies for the brass and really doing an IG inspection. It later proved to be a real morale booster. On our first daylight mission in the early morning hours we made our way to the three Humvee's. The crews were gathered around for the briefing and the team leader announced that two Vietnam vets would be riding with them today. We got a few bewildered glances as the briefing continued. When the briefing concluded they manned their vehicles as we waited to be directed to ours. When I entered the back seat behind the driver I introduced myself and told them my name was Eric and not Sir. The crew still seemed a bit uptight and bewildered having never experienced a situation like this. I added that I had served in Vietnam with the Regiment and had a combat MOS. I also told them not to baby-sit me and stay focused on their job. "If the S— hits the fan, just pass me a gun, I can take care of myself." With that the ice was broken and their silence changed to "Hooah." The gunner above me then added, "When they said some Vietnam vets would be riding with us today, we figured, these guys have got to be at least sixty or seventy years old by now". Their mind now at ease, I said that we left our walker and wheelchair inside HQ's

From the 61st Colonel of the Regiment

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 11TH ARMORED
CAVALRY REGIMENT
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5100

January 20, 2006

Fellow Blackhorse Troopers,

The Blackhorse Regiment has returned from Iraq. Command Sergeant Major Pring and I would like to first thank you for your constant and unwavering support of the Blackhorse Regiment. The past year has been full of activity for both our Troopers and Families during our deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III. The Regiment recently returned from Iraq and the Troopers are busy reintegrating into the Fort Irwin community but more importantly with their family and friends. The Troopers of the Regiment and their families remain our focus as we celebrate our Regiment's service to the nation in the coming months. I am extremely proud of our Troopers accomplishments as they have once again honored the Blackhorse tradition of incredible service and sacrifice to our great nation.

The return of the Regiment from Iraq marks the closing of another distinguished chapter of Blackhorse history. In March the Regiment and the Fort Irwin Community will close this chapter with the Blackhorse week celebration from 16 through 18 March 2006. Command Sergeant Major Pring and I would like to extend our personal invitation to you to attend the Blackhorse week celebration with our newest veterans. Please join us in recognizing our recent return from Iraq, but more importantly our Regiment's long and proud history of service to the nation.

Our Troopers have always had reason to be proud of serving in the Blackhorse Regiment, in part because of the efforts of veterans like you. Now more than ever, the Regiment's efforts in Iraq bring home to all our Troopers the importance of celebrating our remarkable accomplishments, history and Cavalry traditions. The deployment to Iraq has truly brought the Regiment into a new and significant chapter of Blackhorse history and I am extremely proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of it. Hope to see you here in March.

ALLONS!

Sincerely,

Peter C. Bayer Jr., COL, AR
1st Colonel of the Regiment



HUMVEE: Our transportation in Baghdad

By Ollie Pickral

2005 Was A Good Year For Us

Christmas and New Year are over so I now have a clear head and have sharpened my pencil to do our final report of year 2005. This year we have accomplished much for our organization. For all those accomplishments, checks must be written, checkbook balanced and quarterly reports prepared. I'd like to discuss our various income and expenditures for the 2005 in comparison to year 2004.

General Account

The General Account consists of income for Membership, Quartermaster sales, Donations and Bank interest. We pay out expenditures for Administration, Quartermaster, Newsletter, Raffle, Calendar and bank charges.

	2004	2005
Income	\$103,058	\$111,578
Expenditures	\$135,613	\$117,205

Scholarship Account:

The Scholarship Account is made up of all donations for Calendar, Raffle, Auction and Donations. The expenditures are Raffle cash prizes and Scholarships for our young adults attending colleges.

Income	\$60,015	\$73,595
Expenditures	\$34,500	\$74,194

Reunion Account:

The Reunion Account consists of reunion registrations. The expenses of all facets of reunion costs are our expenditures.

Income	\$91,097	\$64,151
Expenditures	\$85,996	\$53,759

Reunion Assistance Account:

Income:	\$1,745	\$2,015
Expenditures	\$ 764	\$2,312

Investments:

Our investments consists of interest and share income for twenty-two Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and three Mutual Funds. These mutual funds and CDs are from Life memberships and are intended to be used to operate 11 ACVVC past and present.

Your 2006 Forecast:

I expect income for Membership monies to decline as we are signing up fewer troopers each year. We have many, many more troopers transferring their annual memberships to Life. Our Quartermaster sales will remain about the same as 2005. Donations continue to rise as well. Monies from our Quartermaster are expected to remain the same as 2005. Much effort is being given to increase the number of scholarships awarded, thus more donations will be solicited for next year. Reunion funds are expected to be about the same as 2005 as our numbers at reunions are leveling to about 900 plus people. Our monies to assist troopers to attend a reunion will increase we think as we have adequate funds to support more assistance. The monies that we collect at the reunions each year are leveling out to about \$1,500. Our investment funds are expected to increase due to many CD's paying dividends in 2006. The above funds reporting indicate to us that our organization's finances are in great shape and will continue to support us in the future years.

ALLONS !!

Are You A Member?

By *Allen Hathaway, Membership Chairman*

If you are one of the few who hasn't yet become a member, or if your membership has expired, this is a good time to take a minute and become a member or renew your membership. If you are not sure of your membership status in the 11th ACVVC, take a second and check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter. If the words:

FREE COPY or EXPIRED

are printed on the first line, you need to either join or renew your membership! Expired members will also have their membership number printed on the same line.

There is still a bit of confusion about membership in this organization, 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) and the Blackhorse Association (BHA). They are two separate organizations, each with their own charter, by-laws, officers and membership fees. Many of us are members of and support both organizations. Some of the people we have contacted for membership renewal have written back and furnished a copy their LIFE membership card only to discover it is not from the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia.

To join or renew your membership in the 11th ACVVC just fill out and mail the membership form on the back page of this newsletter. Make sure you give your full name, address, service number, unit(s) and dates in country (month/year). This will help us match you with others that served in the same unit. We also encourage you to sign the release line at the bottom of the form. This gives us permission to give your address and/or telephone number to other troopers who may be looking for you. Your name, address, etc. are NOT sold or given out to vendors or anyone other than Blackhorse troopers.

If you have access to the internet, you can also join by visiting our website www.11thcavnam.com. From the main menu, choose "Membership Application".

Membership dues are only \$15 per year, or \$100 for a LIFE membership. We also accept Visa and MasterCard credit cards for all transactions.

Your membership dues provide you with

Continued on page13

MOVING?

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



Name: _____

Old Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone _____ Effective Date: _____

Welcome Home Celebration Planned for Blackhorse Troopers

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

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 23, 2006, in Las Vegas

Information about the Ball will be published as it becomes available

Blackhorse Week Celebration 16-18 March 2006

Tentative Schedule

16 March 2006

- All Day Arrival of VIPs and veterans
- 1800 BHA led key leader's dinner at Reggie's (Invitation Only)

17 March 2006

- 0730 Regimental Run
- 0900 Tours of Ft. Irwin Facilities (starts with 11 ACR Monument Dedication and Wreath Laying Ceremony)
- 1030 Guidon Retirement Ceremony at the horse stables
- 1100 Horse Detachment Demonstration at the horse stables
- 1130 Volunteer recognition lunch at Ingall's Recreation Center
- 1500 11th ACR Welcome Home Ceremony at the helipad
- 1700 Spur Call at Reggie's
- 1900 Concert (Fort Irwin)

18 March 2006

- 0800 Breakfast with Barstow leaders (Invitation only)
- 1030 Barstow Parade and Special Awards Ceremony in Barstow
- 1400 Post BBQ-Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang at Army Field, Fort Irwin
- 1800 Concert (Fort Irwin)

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**

Blackhorse Week Celebration RSVP Form

16-18 March 2006

We are requesting your response to ensure that we can accommodate as many people as possible at each event and to update our internal Veteran and Friends of the Regiment database. Please Fill out the information below and return it to:

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

Public Affairs Office

ATTN: CPT Mick Mineni

BLDG 182

Fort Irwin, CA 92310

Phone: (760) 380-5657 or (760) 380-5112 Email: michael.mineni@irwin.army.mil

Note: Please indicate "BH Week Celebration" in the subject line

General Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Blackhorse Veteran: Yes No

Position: _____ Rank _____

Unit _____ Year(s) _____

Location _____

I am interested in participating in the following events:

- 0900 17 March - 11th ACR Monument Dedication and Wreath Laying Ceremony
- 0930 17 March – Tour of the National training Center & Fort Irwin
- 1030 17 March – Guidon Retirement Ceremony at the horse stables
- 1100 17 March – 11th ACR Horse Detachment Demonstration at the horse stables
- 1500 17 March – 11th ACR Welcome Home Ceremony at the Helipad
- 1700 17 March – Spur Call at Reggie's [wear your Stetson] (for seating purposes)
- 1030 18 March – Barstow Parade and Special Awards Ceremony (Barstow)
- 1400 18 March – Blackhorse Barbeque at Fort Irwin

Number of Guests in Party: _____

The Blackhorse Regimental Ball

March 23, 2006

Flamingo Hilton Hotel Casino

Las Vegas

\$58.00 per person

Fort Irwin and Regimental Staffs are planning the Regimental Ball, with input from Veterans. It is planned for all Active Duty and Veteran Troopers and their Families.

All Veterans are invited and encouraged to attend. Seating for 2500 has been arranged. The Active Regiment expects All Regimental Officers and Troopers to attend the Regimental Ball to honor their Service to the Nation in Iraq. A number of Hotels in Las Vegas are offering reduced room rates for the 23rd. Rooms will be up for grabs on a first come first serve basis for Active Duty and Veteran. Get the information from 1LT Fraser early and reserve a room if you plan to attend. A flyer to RSVP is being developed, but has not been approved by army officials for distribution as of this printing.

A large number of young troopers in today's army are married and have families, and this affair will stretch their budgets to the limit. To offset this expense Veterans are encouraged to sponsor a family (or more than one family) to attend by defraying the \$58 cost per person of the dinner and one night in a Las Vegas Hotel.

Point of Contact:

LT Mark Fraser

760 380-3837

mark.fraser@irwin.army.mil

Iraq Commemorative Print

The Regiment has commissioned a Dietz print to commemorate its service in Iraq. These prints will be sold for \$100 and are open to all veterans and friends of the Regiment. There will be 750 prints available so you better get one reserved if you are interested. LT Fraser is the point of contact for questions and orders.

Another event we are planning is a Regimental ball in Las Vegas. This ball will be on 23 March. Veterans are welcome to attend. If you are interested and want to purchase a ticket, please let us know. We are still trying to raise money for that event so all the details have not been worked out yet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to send them.

Please contact LT Fraser (mark.fraser@irwin.army.mil or 760 380-3837)

The Blackhorse in Iraq



1/11 Armored Cavalry Regiment checking house just outside Abu Ghraib Prison



Troop Interview Abu Ghraib. 11ACVC PAO, Eric Newton, Interviews Trooper Tingle at Abu Ghraib Prison. Trooper Tingle is credited with finding the largest weapons cache to date uncovered by the 11th ACR



The San Bernardino Sun publishes photos with its subscribers in notable places. Jerry Williamson competes for the prize. Bridge secured by 1/11 ACR in Baghdad. Left to right: 1/11 ACR, LTC Blackburn, Lt Nguyen, Jerry Williamson, Trooper Duffy, and Trooper Arreola



Camp Liberty. Concrete blast wall in front of 1/11 ACR HQ's is freshly painted with the Blackhorse.



Jerry Mentoring. Inside Abu Ghraib Prison. Gerald Williamson, former member of the 11th ACR in Vietnam has the undivided attention of 11th ACR troopers in Iraq. He discussed political parallels concerning Iraq and Vietnam. He also discussed veterans' benefits and tactics we employed in Vietnam.



Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

January 2006. Another year is upon us. Wonder what this one has in store for us?

Normally I use this space to bring you up to date with my family and work or maybe to toss out ideas for the ladies meeting at the next reunion. But this time my heart just isn't in it.

You see three weeks ago the war in Iraq hit home for our family. A close neighbor and friend was notified that his son had been killed in Iraq. He was a Marine and was on foot patrol when a bomb went off. He and nine of his fellow troopers paid the ultimate price. His name was Andy and he was twenty nine years old.

At the visitation, I looked through many books of pictures of Andy as a young kid playing soldier in his backyard. I could see that this was something he always dreamed of being. I could remember very plainly the day his dad told us Andy was joining the service. Such a proud air he had about it.

At the funeral his sister recalled how when they were all small Andy would make them all march around the yard in formation. Yes, this was something he was destined to be. He always knew that when he graduated from high school he would join the service and he did, the week after graduation. When he was still in high school and later when he would come home on leave he would come into our yard when Bob was outside cutting the grass or whatever and they would talk military.

Everyone in town knew Andy and his family. His dad taught drivers education and training at the local high school. He probably taught 90% of the kids in town to drive. I know he taught mine.

At the funeral, as one of his fellow troopers talked about him, this fact was brought up. It seems he was told to move a Humvee and as he and three others were riding Andy accelerated to the point that the vehicle went onto two wheels. His LT. commented on the fact the he never lost control and asked him where he learned to drive like that. His calm reply was "in high school driver's ed. Sir". After about ten minutes he turned to the officer and said

with a grin, "Did I happen to mention that my drivers' education teacher was also my dad?" He was truly a remarkable young man.

I never saw such an outpouring of love and support for Andy's family as our town showed when the news came. The line for the visitation was about six blocks long. Never mind that it was freezing cold everyone wanted to say good-bye. The streets were lined with town's people all holding flags all the way from the church to the funeral home, a distance of about 2 and one half miles. School was cancelled that day. They say because of snow, but I think even if school hadn't been cancelled there would have been a lot of empty seats from people who had gone to the funeral to honor the fallen hero. The flags in town were all put to half staff, and there were signs of thanks and support to this hero and his family everywhere you looked. He was laid to rest in a town about two hours from here the next day, and there were well over 250 people in attendance.

It certainly brought the gayety of the holiday season to a new awareness for me. It made me stop and count my blessings. It made me ever more thankful for the love of a good man, two beautiful sons, a remarkable daughter-in-law, and three wonderful grandchildren, all healthy, happy and free thanks to people like Andy who are willing to put their lives on the line for us.

Well my friends, I know this is short, but I want to leave you all this time with my love and my hope and prayers of freedom and happiness. My thanks to all of you ladies, gentlemen, and families without whom our country would not be as great as it is.

Barb

Show Your Pride

Paul Renschen (A Troop 1968) was instrumental in getting an 11th ACR license plate approved in 2005 in the State of Alaska.

MEMBERSHIP from page 9

this quarterly newsletter Thunder Run. The newsletter keeps you informed of your organization, its members, and the activities of the 11th Cavalry, both past and present. We pride ourselves on our continued commitment to bring the news to our members through this newsletter which has been printed and mailed every quarter for the past 20 years. It shows our reliability, stability and commitment.

When you become a member or renew your membership you will receive your new membership card. All members are assigned a membership number that appears on their membership card. LIFE members receive a plastic membership card with their name and membership number embossed.

Life Membership Payment Plan

The number of LIFE memberships has increased rapidly over the past years. Over two-thirds of our members are LIFE members. This increase is due in part to our LIFE Membership Payment Plan.

The plan was designed to allow an individual to join as a LIFE member and divide the \$100 membership fee into four (4) equal payments. This is how it works:

When you join or renew your membership, make an initial payment of \$25. This will immediately enroll you as a LIFE member.

After the initial payment, the remaining balance of \$75 is paid in three (3) installments of \$25 each at three (3) month intervals. We will even mail a reminder during the months when a payment is due.

Since beginning this plan we have had scores of members join or renew using this plan. It's simple, easy, and a LIFE Membership shows a real commitment to this organization. So consider using the LIFE Membership Payment Plan when you join or renew.





SERVICE

Did you ever wonder why they call it “the service?” Like, “He’s going in the service” or “My kid’s in the service” or “I went into the service?” When I was a kid during World War II, I clearly remember people talking about someone going into the service. I knew what they were talking about; they were talking about going into the Army or other military force. Or, think about this one: Why do you leave a tip when you’ve had a great meal at a nice restaurant? Naturally, it’s because you had good service which you appreciated. [Or you left no tip because the service was lousy or you’re just too tight - huh?]. So what does the Army have to do with eating out? Simply put, they were both a form of service.

“So what do you mean by service, you ask?” Thanks for asking. I respond that service is doing something for someone else that helps them or makes their life better - maybe a lot better or maybe just a little better, but better. I agree that military service, especially fighting and maybe dying for someone’s freedom, is a whole lot bigger than putting someone’s meal in front of them, but they’re both ways of giving service, of doing something that makes someone’s life better, even if it’s only a little bit better.

Since the sole (which means only) purpose of the Army (like the rest of the military) is to serve our country, it’s just called “The Service.” “Why?” you ask. “I don’t know,” I reply, “It just is.” I personally think it’s a good term. It fits. It’s what we do, being members of the Army. The same applies to the other services.

Now, here we are, veterans, ex-service members, unless you’re still young and on active duty, that is. (Cheer up - someday you’ll be a veteran too. Be patient). One thing where we have a huge advantage over a lot of our civilian friends is that we have a handle on what service means. We’ve been down that road. Another thing plenty of veterans have a handle on is memories, whether great, good, neutral, bad or extreme. Some vets

even have PTSD which means having a hard time adjusting to those hard times of serving which maybe took more out of you than you could handle then. Now you’re looking for a way to get rid of the ghosts and demons of those times. Some of you are looking for how to quit living in the past, come into the present and look to a hopeful future. Talking about PTSD usually brings Viet Nam vets to mind. Being a Nam vet myself, I clearly understand this. Our war didn’t create PTSD (it used to be called shell shock or combat fatigue) but it did make our whole civilization very aware of the problem. Now younger generations of war-fighters (Service members) are living with the same burden.

So what’s being done about it? I mean, what are people doing to help vets with this problem to get past it? Mostly, what are the vets with the problem doing about it for themselves? There are a lot of programs and people out there who help. There are plenty of vets who’ve gotten past their PTSD, their ghosts, their grief, and their guilt. There are VA Counseling Centers, Point Man Outposts, churches, vets organizations, psychologists, pastors and even military debriefing teams that truly help (I’m not including the ones who only talk and blather).

There’s something else I’ve seen from time to time that helps vets get past their life’s demons and ghosts. It’s something that they understand very well, indeed. It’s something that every vet can actually do which is healing and fulfilling. It’s worth committing to and it works. It’s called service. “Huh?” you say. “That’s right,” I say. “You just got through spouting off about service being something that people do for others. Now you’re saying that I’m supposed to serve others, just like I did in the military service? Hey (or hay)! I’m the one with the problem! What gives?” you say. What gives is this. I believe what I’ve observed and experienced which is that the principle of “it’s better to give than to receive” is not just a pious platitude; it’s a life principle that works.

Let me tell you a true story. I’ve seen plenty of vets get into group therapy and share their story, which is hard to do. There’s no way to over state how important it is to talk it out. Too many carry their stories stuffed and untold for years, maybe decades. They’ve just sat there in the group, poisoned and festering. You know what I’m saying. These experiences and memories have to be unstuffed, shared with others who care and who might have walked that same road. As important as that is, once you deal with your story, then you need to move on. Too often vets keep going over the same ground time after time, week after week, and year after year. They’re stuck at the entry level of healing when there’s more living to be done. You have to move on! That’s where service comes in.

In the early eighties I was stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany. I’d served two tours in Viet Nam and was on my second tour along the East German border. In Schweinfurt I’d been talking with soldiers who were being hounded by their memories and their ghosts. I’d seen that it helped to get those infections lanced and the pus of grief and guilt expunged. I saw also that if they were to grow beyond the lancing stage, they had to move on. I observed that in proportion as the vet (some still on active duty) got involved outside himself by serving others he gained purpose, healing, and a brighter future. My observations were personal and gave me a renewed realization that even the most severely distressed vet can find hope and healing.

There’s a place in the Bible that makes the point. It’s in I Peter 4:7-10 in the New Testament where it says “Be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” This is good advice. It applies to you just as much as it does to me. Uh oh. I can hear

the excuses coming even as I speak. I can't reply to everyone, so I'll just point out that you can be clear minded, you can think and reason rationally, you can pray and you can serve. I know for a fact that you can love deeply because some of the deepest love I've ever witnessed was on the battlefield. You were there so you know.

So now, I trust that you'll consider just where you are in all this. Are you still stuck in the past? Please get unstuck, talk to someone, visit a memorial, go to a reunion, and break through the barrier. Then take the steps you need to move into the present, to accept healing and to find your purpose and the joy of living. Big steps come through serving - serving God your Maker and serving others around you. I've observed this and I know it works. It works for me and it will work for you. Do it. Service is an answer.

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

Chaplain Larry Haworth
176 Rainbow Drive, #7627
Livingston, TX 77399
LEHaworth@aol.com

Do you recognize this Trooper??



The photo of the "Blackhorse" soldier was taken in 1970 by Sewell Mezel, G-Troop and is featured in the 2006 Calendar for October. If you know the Trooper's name, please contact Jim Griffiths, *Thunder Run* editor, or Chuck Schmidt, President, 11thACVVC. Contact information is on page 3.

The Ladies of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse Want Your Recipes!

By Kathy Tandberg, (Member of the Ladies of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse)

The Ladies of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse have an exciting mission in the works – a cookbook that will raise funds for the scholarship and troopers assistance program of the 11th ACVVC.

Plans are in place to have a 300 recipe cookbook published and ready for sale by the end of summer, just in time for the 21st Annual Reunion to be held in Kansas City, MO the weekend of September 22nd, 2006.

With most of the fine details in place, two final tasks remain to accomplish this mission and make it a success. The first is more recipes. Several recipes have already been submitted, but many more are needed.

Here's where your assignment comes in, men and ladies of the Blackhorse. The Ladies are requesting your help to fill this cookbook. They need your recipes. Does your family have a favorite or two or more? Share your personal family favorites with your Blackhorse family – appetizers and beverages, soups and salads, vegetables and side dishes, main dishes, breads and rolls, cookies and candy, desserts and a little of this and that – the ladies want them all.

The second task needed for a successful mission will be buyers of this wonderful cookbook. Keep that in mind as you make your gift list for the year. Once available, cookbooks will also be available from Barb Moreno through the mail. Those details will come later.

Work on this cookbook began this past fall, but the project actually began about four years ago as the brainchild of Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator, after she received the first women's award given by the 11thACVVC. "I thought then that, OK, now I really need to get this group active and wanted to show much we ladies are proud of the 11th ACVVC and all that it does" Barb said.

As a former member of the Women's Army Corps and the wife of a career soldier, Barb always has had a love and

The Ladies are requesting your help to fill this cookbook. They need your recipes. Does your family have a favorite or two or more? Share your personal family favorites with your Blackhorse family ...

respect for all that "our heroes have done and are continuing to do." With her love for cooking and collecting cookbooks, the idea of a Blackhorse cookbook seemed the natural thing to do. "To actually see this coming to life is very exciting and rewarding for me. But it could not have been completed without the help of many others," Barb added.

The Ladies of the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse held its first meeting in 1992 at the San Antonio reunion. Barb became coordinator of the group in 1998 when it appeared that due to lack of leadership the group would dissolve. She has since seen the group grow from 10 women to more than 80, with the hope to gain more members each year. Perhaps this will be the project that brings more women to the group.

The cause is good so join the mission. Profits from the book will be split with 50 percent to the scholarship fund, 45 percent to the troopers' assistance fund and the remaining five percent to the Ladies group for future projects.

Anyone can submit recipes for the cookbook – men, women, sons, daughters, grandchildren or friends. Recipes can be mailed to Barb Moreno "RECIPES", 24284 Endeavor Ave., Tomah, WI 54660, or email them to her at puppytoes@charter.net, with "Blackhorse Recipes" in the subject line. A March 31, 2006 deadline is the goal so spread the word and send those recipes in as soon as possible. Together, this mission can be accomplished!

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Incoming...

The following information has been provided by our Troopers:

From Gene Johnson.....Blackhorse Welcome Home Celebration ...Fort Irwin and Regimental Staffs are planning the Blackhorse Welcome Home Celebration to honor the Regiment's participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Planning has been with input from Veterans. It is planned for all Active Duty and Veterans Troopers and their Families March 16-18...

Points of Contact are: Jack Stoddard (702) 459 4233 e-mail; jscb@cox.net, Ft. Irwin: Major Michael Martel (760) 380 3365 michael.martel@irwin.army.mil, LT Mark Fraser 760 380-3837 mark.fraser@irwin.army.mil, CPT Michael Mineni (760) 380 5657 michael.mineni@irwin.army.mil.



Larry Klein, (2 How. 66-67) will be riding his Harley/trike from Nashville Georgia to Barstow California in Honor and in Remembrance of all the Blackhorse Troopers that have paid the Supreme Sacrifice Past and Present, as well as in support of those serving today. He has been in touch with Major Martel, and has requested that he be allowed to enter his bike in the Welcome Home Parade.

Larry will be departing Nashville GA. on 12 March, with planned overnight stops in Memphis TN., Clinto OK., Gallup, NM., then on to Barstow CA. Troopers who would like to ride for a while or all the way into Barstow are welcomed to join him. Those interested can contact him by, Email lklein1946@aol.com, blackhorse66@aol.com, Phone 2296866863, CELL 9123817848.)



Hoedown Fundraiser...11th ACVVC member, Steve Spriggs, (31st Engr. BN. 1968) is spearheading a fundraiser to be held March 4th 2006 at American Legion Post 291, 215 15th Street in Newport Beach, CA. The Post hopes to raise \$3,000 for the Blackhorse Welcome Home Celebration at Ft. Irwin. If you are in the area you are welcome to attend. \$20 for Cowboy barbecue and dance and tickets must be purchased in advance.

All Proceeds go to the Welcome Home Celebration for the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse Troopers) Serving in Iraq. Please call 949 673-5070 for tickets as none will be sold at the door. Steve's email is Steven_Spriggs@GMACM.COM



16th Annual Northern California 11th ACR BBQ/Picnic....Saturday, May 20, 2006 1100 - ???, Slidehill Park, Davis, CA. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice. Directions: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit off I-80. Go North around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) to Monarch Ln., Turn Left, then 1st right on Temple. Park is one block ahead on left. I-5.to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis.



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Greetings to all. Since taking over Quartermaster duties in September, I have had the pleasure of talking to and chatting over the internet with numerous great Blackhorse Troopers and /or their wives. It has been such a rewarding task for me and my wife, Jan, to be able to fill their orders and to find out that their husbands or fathers have been surprised by Santa stopping by the Quartermaster Store. I must say that I became very well acquainted with Santa and his Helpers. We got to know each other very well. Jan and I are looking forward to seeing these people and everybody else in Kansas City this year.

There have been some reports of broken or damaged packages. We need to hear from you so we can continue to strive to eliminate these problems. We also encourage you to continue checking Thunder Run for sale items we really need to move out of our stock. Past reunion pins are 1/2 priced to move out of stock.

Your store's sales for the time period of December 1 through December 27 were close to \$8000. Many thanks to all of you for your purchases and the support you have given us over the past few months while we have been getting our "boots broken in." We will continue to strive to serve your Quartermaster requests in a timely and effective manner.



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
Anderson, Paul H	I TRP, 3/11	67-68
Coates, Charles	E TRP, 2/11 & AIR CAV TRP	70-70
Crabill, Steven	M CO, 3/11	68-69
Davis, Harold V	HHT, 2/11	66-67
Dietz, Charles	409th RRD	67-68
Dominguez, Manuel E	I TRP, 3/11	70-71
Grohal, Thomas J	541ST MID	68-69
Gruber, George B	185TH MAINT	70-71
Halama, Ronald B	K TRP, 3/11	69-70
Hautamaki, Eugene W	K TRP, 3/11 & HOW,3/11	67-69
Hoover, Lawrence P	HOW, 3/11	70-71
Kurihara, Harry M	7TH APU	68-68
Manley, William E	409th RRD	69-69
Mcperson, Zekus L	I TRP, 3/11	69-70
Perea, Richard R	919th ENGR CO	69-70
Price, George L	A TRP, 1/11	67-68
Phalen, Fred E	F TRP, 2/11	70-72
Reilly, Jon E	HOW, 3/11	68-68
Rickenbacher, Tommy F	409TH RRD	67-68
Schang, David A	HHT, 1/11	70-70
Stetson, Randy M	AIR CAV TRP	69-69
Waller, William A	HHT, 3/11	66-67
Sibenaller, David C	B TRP, 1/11	69-70
Weege, Henry W	C TRP, 1/11	68-69

REGISTRATION FORM



11thACVVC Reunion XXI Kansas City, MO
Thursday, September 21 thru Sunday, September 24th, 2006



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
571 Ditchley Rd.
Kilmarnock, VA 22482



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.

Cecil R. Adams, who served with HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on 11/18/2005. Cecil had resided in LeFlore, Oklahoma.

James D. Cox, who served with the 919 Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on November 6, 2005. James was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and had resided in Richland, Missouri.

Donald W. Arnold, whose word of passing was received December, 2005 served with D Company, 1/11 (1968-1969). Donald's place of residence was Henryetta, Oklahoma and he was a life member of the 11th ACVVC

Howard Fitzpatrick, who served with F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away in March 20, 2005. Howard had resided in Wilmington, Delaware.

William R. Fenner, who served as Platoon Sgt. with K Troop (1967-1968) passed away on January 2, 2006. William was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and lived in Copperas Cove, Texas.

Edwin J. Hall, who served with HHT, 1/11 (1970-1971) is reported to have passed away on January 23, 1995. "Ed" had resided in Douglasville, Georgia.

Mikeal E. Hall, who served with F Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away November 18, 2005. He was a life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Eclectic, Alabama.

Richard H. Hanson, who served with the 541st Military Intelligence Detachment, (1971) passed away on December 5, 2005. Richard lived in Grass Valley, CA and was a life member of the 11th ACVVC.

William C. Hensley, who served with F Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) is reported to have passed away on July 18, 1995. He had resided in Radcliff, Kentucky.

Richard C. Jackowski, who served with HHT, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away August 21, 2005. Richard had resided at Lake In The Hills, Illinois.

Thomas Naylor, who served with the Air Cav Troop (1968-1969) passed away May 14, 2005. Thomas was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and had resided in Davisburg, Michigan.

Charles D. (Chuck) Patton, who served with the Air Cav Troop (1967-1968) passed away December 22, 2005. Chuck had resided in Waterloo, Illinois.

Roy D. Potter, who served with G Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away August 1, 2005. He had resided in North Bend, Oregon.

Billy C. Strickland, who served with C Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 5, 2004. Billy was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and had resided in Warne, North Carolina.

Roy J. Tanner, who served with D Company, 1/11 (1970-1971) passed away on April 12, 2005. Roy was a Life Member of the 11th ACVVC and had resided in Radcliff, Kentucky.

Edward P. (Ed) Kazarian, who served as a LRRP with the Air Cav Troop (1966-1968) passed away January 17, 2006. "Kaz" was a life member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Valley Village, California.

The Vietnam Veteran

by Ed Hayes, 2nd Platoon, D Company 1st Squadron
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1966 – 1967

They came from all 50 states
To fight an enemy they were taught to hate
They came from cities, towns, and farms
Many died in their buddies arms
Most were young boys, just out of high school
At that time in their life, everything was cool

Some, with parents of wealth and connection
They stayed home, went to college, had protection
Others, with whatever reason
Turned their backs and ran, only to "beg" to return in a later season
Most that were called to serve their nation
Did so willingly and without reservation

We did the best we could considering the situation
Not having the support of the people of this great nation
Over 58,000 young men died, and many were maimed
Wives were left without husbands, kids without fathers,
Mother's lost sons, and brothers lost brothers.

The ones who survived are scarred for the rest of their life
They returned home to find that few cared
Only their comrades understood the "Hell" they had shared
No parades, No thanks, No welcome home
Only ugliness and resentment was shown

The ones who returned home without having their name
chiseled on the wall
shall live having nightmares and shed lots of tears
before "Gods" final call
The Vietnam Veteran - "Brothers" without America's support
But "Brothers" we will always be.

REUNION PLANNING

Planning for Our Annual Reunion in Kansas City, MO is well under way. The registration form has been published both in Thunder Run and on the Web Site. Airline and Auto discount code numbers and Toll Free numbers are in this issue (Avis and American Airlines). Tours are still in the planning stages we expect to have them ready for the next Thunder Run. Remember it is NEVER TOO EARLY TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS WITH THE HOTEL Hyatt Regency Crown Center, 1-816-421-4190. Reunion Registrations are also being accepted.

REUNION XXI KANSAS CITY, MO

Air and auto Discounts

- AVIS AWD Number J996857: Call 1-800-331-1600
- American Airlines Star file: A9396AC Call 1-800433-1790

Discounts good 13-17 September 2006
Steve Page Reunion Committee Chairman

Together then, together again



F Troopers (68-69) Bob McCue (L) and Jim Griffiths (R) reunited after 36 years, were accorded the privilege of jointly placing the 11th ACVVC's wreath at the Vietnam Wall on Veterans Day. Bob was Jim's 2nd Platoon Leader

QUARTERMASTER NEW & CLEARANCE ITEMS

The 11thACVVC Quartermaster Store has some new items to introduce and some items that are at reduced prices.

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

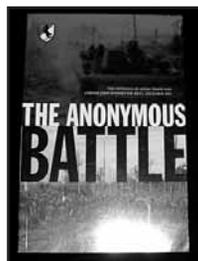
reunion, the 2003 Eugene, OR reunion. (Unfortunately, photos of the shirts are not available for this issue of TR, but they are "Golf" style with site specific embroidery and are similar to shirts illustrated on the QM Web Site—go to www.11thcavnam.com and "click" on QM). Limited numbers of reunion pins 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, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths — \$10.00 (C)

• 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)

Temporarily out of stock



M-106 Mortar Track — \$46.50 (C)

Temporarily out of stock



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 Tatoo	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			
Hentley 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 06/30/06. 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, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

☆☆☆ **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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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