



# Thunder Run

Vol. 26 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2011

## The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia Blackhorse Hoofbeats

### Echoes from the Regiment’s Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

By Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

• From the 17 June 1966 edition of The Voice, the post newspaper for Fort Meade, Maryland: “The rumble of tanks, howl of howitzer shells, and staccato chatter of machine guns at Camps A.P. Hill and Pickett, Va., signaled the end of months of rigorous training for men of the Blackhorse Regiment. The combat readiness of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment’s three squadrons is being measured by annual Army Training Tests this month. Earlier this year, the regiment received some 1,000 soldiers fresh from basic training. The Blackhorse Regiment embarked on an ambitious and rigorous advanced Individual Training program to mold the new soldiers into integral fighting components of the regiment... Tankers, mortarmen, and howitzermen shelled the ranges at Camp Pickett while the scouts and infantrymen ranged Camp A.P. Hill. Upon completion of their AIT, the troopers were assigned permanently to units throughout the regiment and given basic unit training. Stressed in unit training were tactical exercises, tank gunnery, and mortar and howitzer firing. Operations under simulated combat con-

ditions in a counter-insurgency environment were the focal point of reconnaissance platoon training. In several exercises, aggressor forces were used to ambush reconnaissance platoon escorted convoys, teaching the troopers convoy and counter-ambush techniques... The cavalrymen will return to Ft. Meade from the southern training areas echoing the Blackhorse Regiment motto, ‘Allons’ (Let’s Go).” All units passed their annual training tests prior to boarding the ships bound for Vietnam in August.

• From the citation awarding the Soldier’s Medal to Private First Class Edward Monroe, Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop for his actions on 1 August 1968: “On this date, Private Monroe was working near the defensive perimeter of the basecamp when he observed a number of Vietnamese children playing. Suddenly one of the youths detonated a trip flare which showered several of the other children with burning fragments and set their clothing on fire... The youths were panicked by the burning flare and began to

Please turn to **HOOFBEATS** on page 4

### THE 26th ANNUAL 11th ACVVC REUNION

◆ AUGUST 17-21, 2011 ◆

**Millennium Hotel**  
200 S 4th Street  
Saint Louis, MO 63102  
[www.millenniumhotels.com/millenniumstlouis](http://www.millenniumhotels.com/millenniumstlouis)



**RESERVATIONS:** 800-325-7353  
or 314-241-9500

**RATE: \$99.00 Single / Double / King**

■ Room Types Are Reserved On First-Come, First-Served Basis.

■ Rates good 3 days prior to & 3 days after event based on availability.

■ Complimentary parking and in-room internet access for registered guests.

■ Please make hotel reservations early.

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY  
JULY 27, 2011.**

From the Command Track .....	2
2011 Elections .....	5
Editor’s Corner .....	6
Annual Veterans Seminar Scheduled .....	6
The Lighter Side of Bunker Guard .....	7
From the 64th Colonel of the Regiment .....	8
Women’s Corner .....	9
The Other Enemy Force .....	9
26th Annual Reunion: Registration Form .....	10
Registration .....	11
Reunion Assistance Fund .....	11
11th ACVVC Reunion: Schedule of Events .....	12

### Inside 2nd Quarter 2011

The 20th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament .....	12
Scholarship Fundraising Activities .....	13
Chaplain’s Corner .....	14
Welcome Aboard .....	16
St Louis Missouri, 2011 .....	17
Reunion Shirt Order .....	17
11th ACVVC Donations .....	18
Journey to Fiddler’s Green .....	19
QM Store .....	20
Incoming .....	22
From the Quartermaster .....	24





Allen Hathaway,  
President

# From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



---

**The 2011 [fundraising] goals were twofold: 1) to meet a monetary goal of \$39,000 in calendar donations and 2) to increase the number of donors. We have far exceeded both goals.**

---

Details are being finalized for the 26th Annual Reunion of the 11th ACVVC in St. Louis, Missouri, on August 17-21. The Millennium Hotel St. Louis is a great location for this year's reunion. Although folks travel from all over the county to attend our reunions, this is an excellent opportunity for those who live in the mid-west to attend.

A tentative reunion schedule is printed in this issue of *Thunder Run*. We are seeing more people arriving at the reunion a day or so early. Bob and Barb Moreno will open the reunion registration desk on Wednesday to accommodate those early arrivals.

Friday morning we will host the annual Veterans Seminar. This year we are pleased to have Dr. Candace Drake as the guest speaker discussing the topic of PTSD. We encourage all veterans and their family and friends to attend.

The Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday morning. Elections will be held this year for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and one board member. Our annual memorial service will be held on Saturday afternoon. We will top off the day's activities with our Saturday evening banquet program and "Blackhorse Salute".

Every year we hear comments from the "first timers" that they should have attended a reunion sooner. If you have never attended a reunion I encourage you to attend. Our reunions are comfortable and relaxed. From the moment you walk in the door and see the first Blackhorse insignia you know you are among friends. You know you are with others who have shared the same experiences. If you have any questions about the reunion please feel free to contact me or any of the board members listed on page 3 of the newsletter.

Please remember that we also have the Reunion Assistance Fund to help any member or family member of our troopers killed in action to attend a reunion. The fund is supported by donations from members who have attended our reunions and want others to share in this very special experience. If you know anyone who may need financial

assistance to attend the reunion have them contact me directly. We want to help so make contact early. (Don't wait until the deadline.) All information is kept confidential

You can help make this another successful reunion by keeping a few things in mind: Mail your registration early and avoid the late registration fee. Reserve your hotel room early. Finally, contact old friends early giving them plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend. Dig out your old pictures. Come prepared to enjoy yourself! Don't put it off any longer.

We are pleased to announce that the final three bronze plaques have recently been added to the 11th Cavalry Memorials at Fort Knox. The plaques honor the 43 casualties of the 11th US Cavalry during the Philippine Insurrection and the 56 casualties of the 36th and 44th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons, 11th Cavalry Group during World War II (1944-1945). The plaques are in addition to those listing the casualties from Vietnam (1966-1972), Gulf War (1991) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (2005-2006). The plaques are part of the Memorial Restoration Project begun in 2006. The project cost to date is in excess of \$100,000 and is completely funded by the sale of granite bricks. The memorials now honor all casualties from all campaigns of the 11th Cavalry since 1901. Watch for a follow-up article in the

next issue of *Thunder Run*.

Our fundraising activities this year are going very well. The first activity is our ever popular calendar mailed to all members in December. The 2011 goals were twofold: 1) to meet a monetary goal of \$39,000 in calendar donations and 2) to increase the number of donors. We have far exceeded both goals. We thank all who supported this fund raising activity.

Our two other fund raising activities, the annual raffle and silent auction, will begin in May. Please see all the details in the separate article "Scholarship Fundraising Activities" in this newsletter.

Following the last issue of *Thunder Run* we received a number of phone calls and e-mails from members who recognized names in the "New Members" section or the donations list. If you are looking for an old friend, please feel free to contact me or any board member and we'll try to put you in contact with them.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 30, 2011. Blackhorse troopers, family and friends are invited to join us at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on that day as we honor our fallen comrades. Since 1986 Blackhorse troopers have met and placed the ever familiar Blackhorse wreath at the wall. Plan to join us if you're in the DC area or attend a local memorial service in your area. ALLONS! - It's good to be "Together Again".

## Scholarship Deadline Approaching

May 15th is the deadline for 11ACVVC scholarship applications to be received by the scholarship chairman. If you have a son or daughter who will be enrolled in an undergraduate college, junior college, community college or post-secondary trade school program fall semester 2011, please have them consider applying for one of our scholarships.

The scholarship application and guide which fully explains the program may be found on our website ([www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com)). If you have additional questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Allons!

Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11ACVVC Scholarship Committee Chairman  
[Docrafferty36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Docrafferty36@sbcglobal.net)



## 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)

*Thunder Run* (©2000 11th ACVVC) is the official publication of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC), P.O. Box 1948, Plainview, TX 79073-1948; a notforprofit organization. It is published four times a year by Finisterre Publishing Incorporated, 3 Black Skimmer Ct., Beaufort, SC 29907 (finisterre@islc.net) for members of the organization. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way without the written consent of the 11th ACVVC.

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

<b>President</b>	Allen Hathaway, (HHT Regiment, 66-67)	<b>Quartermaster</b>	Jerry L. Beamon, (K Troop, 3/11, 1969-1970)
<b>Membership Chair</b>	13194 Rettew Drive Manassas, VA 20112 (703) 791-6610 <11thcav1966@comcast.net>		15926 Cedar Bay Dr Bullard, TX 75757 <JerryLBea@aol.com>
<b>Vice President &amp; Chair Operation Embrace</b>	Peter L. Walter, (How, 3/11, 70) 8 Tallowood Dr. Westampton, NJ 08060-3721 (609) 261-5629 <basepiece70@verizon.net>	<b>Editor</b>	James M. (Jim) Griffiths (F Troop, 2/11, 1968-1969) 3784 Michigan Ave. Bridgman, MI 49106-9345 (269) 465-3414 <Jgriff11@aol.com>
<b>Secretary</b>	Adrian Vaaler (HHT Regiment 69-70) 2610 Baker Blvd Eugene, OR 97403 (541) 344-2113 <11thsecretary@gmail.com>	<b>Internet Coord. &amp; Webmaster</b>	Otis Carey (F Troop, 2/11, 71-72) PO Box 124 Ekron, KY 40117 (270) 828-2512 <carey@kysales.com>
<b>Director &amp; Scholarship Chairman</b>	Mike "Doc" Rafferty (G Troop, 2/11, 1969-1970) 5837 Habanero Dr. Las Cruces, NM 88012 (575) 915-2921 <DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net>	<b>Website Manager</b>	Robert A. Kickenweitz (HHT Reg't, 66-67) 155 Hickory Tavern Rd Gillette, NJ 07933 (908) 647-4164 <bobk11acr@comcast.net>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ollie W. Pickral, (K Troop 3/11, 68-69) 571 Ditchley Road Kilmarnock, VA 22482 (804) 435-3658 <11cavalry@verizon.net>	<b>Veterans' Information</b>	Jack Morrison (A Troop, 1/11, 1967-1969) 542 Main St. Rockport, IN 47635 (812) 649-4500 <slumlord@psci.net>
<b>Director</b>	Robert "Bob" Moreno (G Troop 2/11, 68-69) 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <gtroopbob@gmail.com>	<b>Historian</b>	Don Snedeker 2221 Tulip Dr Falls Church, VA 22046 (703) 676-4019 (W) <Blackhorse4@verizon.net>
<b>Director &amp; Reunion Committee Chairman</b>	Steve Page (B Troop, 1/11, 66-67) 5400 Little River Neck Road Box 150 North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 (843) 280-4506 <stephen.r.page@frontier.com>	<b>Public Affairs</b>	Eric Newton (K Troop, 3/11, 1968-1969) P. O. 956 Colleyville, TX 76034 <Armor11ACR@aol.com>
<b>Chaplain</b>	Lawrence E. Haworth, (HHT 2/11, 69-70) 6508 Bannocks Dr. San Antonio, TX 78239 (661) 860-0093 (cell) (210) 646-5482 <lehaworth@aol.com>	<b>Funeral Honor Guard</b>	Daniel Stroia (K Troop, 3/11, 1967-1968) 8350 E McKellips #158 Scottsdale, AZ 85257 (480) 242-7040 (C) 24/7 <ktroop6768@yahoo.com>
<b>Auditor</b>	William "Bill" Suhre (I Troop, 3/11 '68) 217 83rd Ave Greeley, CO 80634 (970) 330-7900 <thesurreys@aol.com>	<b>Women's Coordinator</b>	Barb Moreno 24284 Endeavor Ave. Tomah, WI 54660 (608) 372-5892 <puppytoes8@gmail.com>

## HOOFBEATS from page 1

run wildly into the rubber plantation that surrounded the basecamp. Private Monroe, with full knowledge of the possibility that the immediate area could contain antipersonnel mines, continued to pursue the panic-stricken children. Completely ignoring possible injury to himself, Private Monroe went through the barbed wire encircling the basecamp and overtook three of the youths. Assessing the children's injuries, Private Monroe quickly took them to his vehicle and rushed them to the medical company in the basecamp. Private First Class Monroe's disregard for his personal safety and deep concern for the welfare of his fellow man were in the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army."

• From a mid-1969 after action report: "When the Regiment moves in a new AO [Area of Operations], it usually makes a large number of heavy contacts. After the initial encounters in which a large number of NVA/VC [North Vietnamese Army/Viet Cong soldiers] are usually eliminated, the enemy seems to avoid contact with the Regiment except to defend fortified enemy base camps and to carry out a few ambushes. After the VC/NVA test an armored unit several times, they apparently choose to avoid further heavy contact."

• From the February 1970 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: "Cobra commander Captain Carl B. Marshall and his copilot-gunner First Lieutenant Arthur E. Smith used their gunship to perform a daring rescue of a downed Aero Scout LOH [Light Observation Helicopter] pilot amid a hail of enemy mortar, AK-47 and .51 caliber fire on 20 January. Capt. Marshall and Lt. Smith were eating lunch at Quan Loi when they learned the LOH had been downed. They scrambled their Cobra to the crash site, a grassy meadow nine miles southwest of Bu Dop, and spotted the flaming wreckage. They passed over the wreckage once, made a 180-degree turn and came back. 'I thought I had seen movement near the wreckage on the first pass,' Capt. Marshall said. 'As I made the second pass, I saw the pilot waving to me from a bomb crater near the wreckage. I

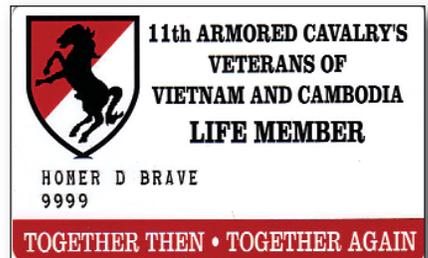
noticed that he was pointing out the enemy positions.' Lt. Smith fired into the gun positions and Capt. Marshall instructed the other gunships to pound the enemy while he went down to pick up the pilot. 'I made a low-level pass, came around to the LZ [landing zone] and immediately came under heavy .51 caliber [machine gun] and small arms fire,' recalls Capt. Marshall. 'I maneuvered the ship around the bomb crater, trying to get as close as possible to the downed pilot. While doing this, the automatic fire continued and mortar rounds began exploding within the LZ just to the west of us. I maneuvered away from them and toward the pilot. By this time we were also receiving fire from the woodline to the north and west.' Capt. Marshall attempted to suppress the enemy fire by doing pedal turns through 360, then 180 degrees while Lt. Smith fired the mini-gun. Though the fire continued unabated, Lt. Smith opened his forward cockpit door and prepared to jump out and pick up the stranded pilot. But the pilot didn't need help – he ran from the crater to the ship, firing his .45 pistol all the while. 'He jumped up a step on the side of the ship and fell backwards into my lap with one leg hanging over the side,' Lt. Smith said. 'I grabbed him around the neck with my left hand and kept my right on the gun triggers. The pilot was shouting into my microphone trying to tell us the location of the gun positions. We pulled pitch with my hatch halfway open and the rescued pilot only half in,' Lt. Smith related. 'A cobra isn't supposed to fly over 40 knots with the hatch open but we were doing between 80 and 100 knots.' The Cobra was carrying a full fuel load and over 80 percent of its 17-pound rockets when Capt. Marshall began to

take off. 'I started toward the west to get out of the fire, but I realized then that I couldn't make it because we were so heavy,' Capt. Marshall said. 'I looped back around to pick up air speed, reversed course twice and came out to the east. We managed to clear the trees.'" In the words of Captain Marshall's Distinguished Service Cross: "After transferring the injured pilot to another helicopter at Bu Dop, Captain Marshall eagerly refueled, rearmed and returned to the contact area. Captain Marshall's profound courage, conspicuous flying ability, concern for his fellow human being, and unwavering devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army." First Lieutenant Smith was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in rescuing the downed LOH pilot.

• From the "who weighed all these things" department: On 23 May 1970, Bravo Troop, First Squadron, was conducting a ground reconnaissance in Cambodia when they discovered two large caches that included five 15 x 20 foot hooches and six 30 x 15 foot bunkers. Among other things, the caches included: 200 pounds of salt, 200 pounds of corn, 200 pounds of malaria pills, over 600 bicycles, 50 machetes, 25 axe heads, 25 gallons of lard, 166 35-pound cans of "food mix," 14 4-foot long saw blades, 16 bundles of white cotton cloth (each bundle weighed 40 pounds), 25 bolts of black poplin material, 80 pounds of metal spoons, 200 pounds of dishes, 175 pounds of rubber for repairing Ho Chi Minh sandals, 165 NVA canteens, and 75 pots and pans.

## NEED A REPLACEMENT CARD?

Do you need to replace your LIFE membership card? Contact Allen Hathaway for a replacement. See page 3 for contact information.



# 2011 Elections

By Adrian Vaaler, Secretary

Five positions will be up for election during the General Membership Meeting held on Saturday morning at the 2011 reunion.

The five positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, each serving a two year term and one Director position which will serve a three year term. All terms will begin on January 1, 2012.

Nomination to fill the above positions may be forwarded to me as Secretary who will post them on a preliminary ballot in the next issue of Thunder Run. Nominations may also be made and accepted from the floor at the 2011 Reunion General Membership Meeting.

All candidates must be Life members of the 11th ACVVC. Each eligible candidate will have an equal opportunity to state his qualifications for the position at the Membership Meeting. All elected members of the Board of Directors must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of his elected term, and to be in regular email communication with the Board of Directors regarding a multitude of ongoing association projects and business requiring decisions and oversight by the Board. Furthermore, each member of the Board of Directors must be able to commit themselves to "specific areas of interest" (committees, projects, etc.) within the 11th ACVVC as directed by the President. Candidates for all Board positions should be highly organized individuals capable of communicating via email.

The highly visible positions of President and Vice President require considerable time and superb organizational skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization, and the Vice President serves as his right hand man. Obviously, sound leadership and organizational abilities are fundamental to both positions. Candidates for Treasurer must have verifiable experience in accounting and/or finance, and be competent using MS Excel.

Most importantly, the Treasurer is accountable for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing financial reports, budgeting, forecasting, etc. of the General Fund, the association's investments, and all expenses and obligations incurred from the various projects supported by the 11th ACVVC.

Candidates for Secretary should be able to intently follow, record, and prepare organized minutes to summarize reports, actions, and decisions from official meetings, and maintain records of association business and its numerous projects. He should have above average skills in language and writing, and know the basics of Robert's Rules of Order and information management computer applications.

Nominations may be sent to me by email (11thsecretary@gmail.com) or may be submitted at the Membership Meeting from the floor. Please consider participating on our Board of Directors serving the 11thACVVC.

## Show Your Pride



Frank Spacek (E Trp., 67-68) Shows pride with his Purple Heart, 11 AC Plate and Blackhorse symbol on his vehicle.

## Show Your Pride



LEFT: Steve Chipman (Air Cav Trp., 70-71) shows pride and honor with the gate to his property in S.E. Utah. He has named the gate the Joseph W. Blickenstaff Jr. Memorial Gate in honor of his fellow ACT Trooper who was KIA 12/19/70. RIGHT: John J. Miller Jr. (HOW 2/11, 67-68) proudly displays the Blackhorse flag at his cabin site in NW Wisconsin.



## Annual Veterans Seminar Scheduled

This year we are pleased to have Dr. Candace Drake as the guest speaker for the Veterans Seminar on Friday morning during the annual reunion in St. Louis, MO.

The subject of the seminar will be PTSD and Vietnam Veterans: What You and Your Family Need to Know About What It Is, How It Affects You and Your Loved Ones, and How To Get Help.

**Dr. Drake will discuss how Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is acquired, the symptoms of PTSD, and how it can impact your life and the lives of those close to you.**

Dr. Drake will discuss how Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is acquired, the symptoms of PTSD, and how it can impact your life and the lives of those close to you.

Additionally, she will speak about evidence-based psychotherapy treatments for PTSD. Evidence-based treatments are treatments that have been shown through scientific research to have a significant impact on decreasing PTSD symptoms. She will also discuss the impact of PTSD on families and what the spouses of Veterans with PTSD should know to help understand their Veteran, as well as how to care for themselves. This presentation is open to all Veterans and family members!

*Dr. Drake is a clinical psychologist who has trained and worked at the VA for 4 years. Currently, she is employed at the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System in Pensacola, FL. She is the PTSD Psychologist in the PCT Clinic, a specialty clinic treating Veterans with a diagnosis of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD. Dr. Drake works exclusively with Veterans who have been diagnosed with PTSD, using Evidenced Based Treatments to help Veterans regain the life they had before trauma. She works with Veterans of all combat eras, from WWII to the current Gulf Wars. Besides treating combat trauma, Dr. Drake also treats Veterans who may have experienced or witnessed non-combat related traumas that occurred during a Veteran's military service.*



Jim Griffiths, Editor  
*Thunder Run*

## Editor's Corner

James M. "Jim" Griffiths

**Facebook has some value to it as I enjoy communicating with my active duty friends. This communication conjures up that feeling of "living on the edge" that was experienced years ago when I was on active duty.**

I am not an avid user of Facebook, although I am on Facebook and at times have found that it can be a useful tool to communicate with others. Such is the case with many of my former students who are now in the military where Facebook seems to me to be the most efficient and useful way to keep in contact with them.

One of them, named Jason, served with the 1st Cavalry Division, mechanized infantry, in Iraq. He decided to re-up in the Army and qualified to attend Explosive Ordnance School (EOD) School at Eglin Air Force Base. From his description, this training is extremely difficult and many, if not most, wash out of the school (some of you may be familiar with the training).

I had a small introduction to explosives in infantry AIT and then learned a bit on the job in Nam where I learned to blow suspected land mines, dud artillery shells, and even bombs that had not exploded with C-4 and a bit of time fuse (I think that's what it was called). One time we were out in the bush checking out the damage B 52's had done when we found a bomb that had not gone off. We of course carefully and successfully blew it up. I have a picture of myself with C-4 on the bomb and the blasting cap with time fuse stuck in it that we had done the math on before we lit it and di-di-mauwed

(spelling close I hope). I thought I would post a copy of the picture on Jason's Facebook wall thinking he might get a kick out of it.

A short time later his reply came, "That's a great picture! Thanks for sharing it." That's a MK 81 250 lb. general purpose tow drag bomb. The fins have broken off but, I would be willing to bet there was a set of snake eye fins somewhere nearby. Looks like a 1.25 lb. charge of C-4 all primed and ready to go sitting on top of it. I'm sure you moved a considerable distance before detonating it"— Never too late to learn a little nomenclature even if it is over 40 years later. We also did give ourselves time to get a considerable distance away before it detonated!

I had congratulated Jason on successfully completing EOD training and he replied, "I've got about a month of class left before I'm finished but, thanks for the congratulations. I finish chemical weapons training tomorrow. After that it's nukes and weapons of mass destruction. May 6, I pin on my "crab" and head to Fort Carson Colorado." Facebook has some value to it as I enjoy communicating with my active duty friends. This communication conjures up that feeling of "living on the edge" that was experienced years ago when I was on active duty. It also creates a cross generational feeling of camaraderie that both young and old soldiers know so well.

This issue of *Thunder Run* has all the information in it necessary for you to prepare for the Reunion. Next issue, 3rd Quarter, may or may not reach you before the Reunion so utilize this issue as you find necessary. It has some great articles and photos that you hopefully will find interesting. Those who submit and those who desire to submit items for the first time are encouraged to do so. Your fellow Troopers will enjoy your input. Enjoy your *Thunder Run*!

### 2011 Newsletter Deadlines

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

**First Quarter 2011.....Jan 15**

**Second Quarter 2011.....Mar 25**

**Third Quarter 2011.....Jun 25**

**Fourth Quarter 2011.....Oct 1**

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

# The Lighter Side of Bunker Guard

By Mark S. Crist  
*Air Cavalry Troop 68-69*

Not too long after being assigned to Air Cav Troop in October of 1968 I found myself on at least three duty rosters. If I learned anything in Basic, checking Top's bulletin board outside the Orderly Room was a preferred method of having a one on one with a 1st Sergeant. One roster was familiar, old, and getting older. That would be KP. I'd pulled my share in Basic and AIT and was savvier on how to survive a day in a hot WW11 era mess hall. After one tour on pots and pans it didn't take this Private long to figure out the drill. Showing up earlier than the rest of the crew resulted in the more sought after job of Dining Room Orderly. Another was CQ runner, the politically correct way to say Gopher.

Then came Bunker Guard where one's duty was left to the discretion of the 1st Sergeant. I was a bit more thrilled about seeing my name on the guard roster for the first time. The bunker line at Blackhorse was about the closest thing I'd see to a frontline in my early days, though it was said such a thing didn't exist in this war. At least I had to draw a weapon and stand on some line.

If I remember correctly Air Cav had three bunkers and one tower on that line located in the southwest corner of Blackhorse, across the street from M Company. While bunker guard was a nightly affair, tower guard was a 24 hour shift. The saving grace to a long hot day

up there was the fact the weapon's range was in front of Air Cav's tower. The boredom could be relieved by honing one's marksmanship skills.

I remember one day some engineers showing up with a truckload of old ordinance. They stacked it up about 100 meters out and wired it for detonation. They ran the wire back to the bunker directly below the tower and told us to duck. We heard "fire in the hole," but nothing happened. They said it again and still no earth shaking explosion. The next thing we heard was the cursory, "aw s—!" They then came up the stairs asking what we had available that might get the job done. I don't believe walking down to check the stack was an option they wanted to consider. The M-79 did the trick.

I still have two guard rosters I kept from those days. There were four of us per bunker. After chow, we drew our weapons, were driven down to the line, and stood guard mount. The Officer of the Guard was usually a lieutenant. There was also an NCO and us. I also kept the note our NCO, a LRRP, wrote which had our radio call sign, "Moody Stylus." Who came up with those anyway? After the formalities were out of the way we reported to bunker #50. I'll never forget walking in there and seeing crates, cases, and boxes of ammunition stacked up. There was everything from .45 caliber to hand grenades. I had the feeling our weapons would melt before we ran out of ammunition. There was even .50 caliber

ammunition, though we didn't have the weapon. Maybe it was there for one of those "rainy" days.

In through the open slit window facing the wood line ran five wires. On the sill below the window were five detonators that had to be connected to those wires which ran to the claymore mines. Seemed easy enough, but one had to read the fine print before performing this task, namely, checking for static electricity that could set the mine off before doing so. We'd actually get a live demonstration a few guard mounts later. At the very moment the lieutenant was briefing us about static buildup an enormous explosion erupted in front of one of the bunkers. The "missing" man at the guard mount was now accounted for as he walked out of the bunker holding the detonator. I'll never forget that "what happened" look on his face.

There were also a couple of wooden bunks stacked up at the rear of the bunker. We'd already drawn lots on shifts and since I wasn't first in line I began to unroll my sleeping bag on one. That's when one of my companions said, "you don't really plan on staying in here do you?" I was about to get another briefing, nothing formal, more off the cuff. Those little tidbits of information not covered in an Army field manual. Gems passed down from year to year by those who served before us that might increase one's life expectancy if followed. Wisdom beyond one's years that I'd collect during my tour to carry on the tradition and pass on to those just arriving.

The first no brainer was Vietnam's glorious heat. Even though the sun had set on Southeast Asia it was like an August day in South Texas. This was no more apparent than getting off the plane in Cam Rahn Bay at 2 AM several weeks earlier. Like opening the oven door to see what my grandmother was baking. If there was a breeze blowing it was best enjoyed on the roof. I remembered that from my city boy days back in New Jersey before air conditioning.

What followed next really got my attention though. It was nothing to do

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## From the 64th Colonel of the Regiment

Tony Aguto



**G**reetings from Fort Irwin, California and the National Training Center. It has been a busy three months to start off the year, and I'd like to share with you what your Blackhorse Troopers have accomplished.

In January, we hosted the 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as they prepared for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. We were honored to have a visit from a U.S. Congressional Delegation, led by Congressman Buck McKeon, 25th District of California, as they witnessed firsthand the realistic and invaluable training that occurs here at the National Training Center. Chief of Staff of the Army, General George Casey, also visited this rotation and made a point to speak on the importance of the upcoming Hybrid Threat Operation rotations and how essential that training will be for challenges on the modern battlefield. HTO rotations will kick off in August with Rotation 11-09 and all Blackhorse Troopers are looking forward to some increased tank-on-tank action and proving

---

**In April the squadrons are conducting spur rides to allow their troopers the opportunity to earn their coveted Cavalry spurs....As always, I invite any of you Blackhorse Veterans to come and ride with us.**

---

to the Army why Blackhorse continues to be the best.

Then in February, the 1st Brigade Combat Team (Stryker) of the 25th Infantry Division from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, participated in Rotation 11-04 where they trained for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. This was a tough rotation, but we are confident that they are ready to deploy. They were followed in March by the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas. Your Blackhorse Troopers seamlessly transitioned to an Iraq rotation in support of 1/1 CAV. They have an important job ahead of them as they deploy in order to advise and assist the Government of Iraq.

On March 2, CSM Martin Wilcox, 18th Regimental Command Sergeant Major, transferred responsibility of the Blackhorse Regiment to CSM Clinton

Reiss, now the 19th Regimental Command Sergeant Major. CSM Wilcox will be retiring this year after 32 years of service to this great nation. I would like to thank him and his wife Denise for their dedication and sacrifices and wish them nothing but the best for their future endeavors. I would like to welcome CSM Reiss back to the 11th ACR, where he previously served from 2002 to 2004. CSM Reiss was most recently the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

Last year, the state of California declared March 30 to be Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. Fort Irwin hosted its 2nd annual ceremony and your Blackhorse Troopers gave the hundreds of Vietnam Veterans in attendance a wonderful welcome home. The event began with a motorcycle ride with over 300 riders from the Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow, and they allowed me to join them! The event culminated with a ceremony at Army Field on Fort Irwin where the Veterans were honored and LTG (Ret) Randall Rigby came to speak to the assembly. The whole community was present and it was a great event.

In April the squadrons are conducting spur rides to allow their troopers the opportunity to earn their coveted Cavalry spurs. We are also preparing to welcome the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division from Fort Bliss, Texas as part of Rotation 11-06. The weather is starting to warm up, but rest assured your Blackhorse Troopers are always ready to continue training America's Army.

As always, I invite any of you Blackhorse Veterans to come and ride with us. If you find yourself in sunny southern California, please come visit the Regiment and spend some time with your Troopers.

*Blackhorse!*

## Show Your Pride



Chuck Burr, (K Trp., 66-67) shows K Trp. pride with his license plate as well as Blackhorse pride with his plate frame and bumper sticker



# Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

Hello Ladies,

As I sit down to compose this Women's Corner article, it is very early in the morning and the house is quite silent. In fact all that I can hear right now is the gentle snoring of one of the dogs in his bed next to mine. Of course, I also hear the heavier or louder snoring of both Bob and Raleigh. You know it sure would be nice if they all snored in unison. Oh well. It helps to keep me awake.

I enjoy hearing from all of you. Even if it is only a quick note to say hi or a recipe or even a joke being passed along, it makes me feel as if I am with you all again. Keep it up.

The new cookbook is coming along and I'm sure it will be ready for the reunion. I want to apologize right now if you sent me a recipe and you don't find it in the book. It is because of possibly two reasons. The first is that we received more than one copy of the exact same recipe and secondly, I had a terrible computer accident in late November and am unable to retrieve some things.

You see I was working on something one day and my computer table collapsed and I wasn't quick enough to be able to catch my computer before it crashed to the floor and shattered. Hopefully I had already sent Kathy all the recipes that I had in it. But I don't know ... so please understand.

Well ladies, since we did not get enough folks for us to take the brunch cruise, we will be doing the one hour cruise on Saturday morning. The cost for this cruise will be \$15 and there is a snack bar on the boat where you can purchase sandwiches and soft drinks. I'm sure we will still have a lot of fun.

Since some of the ladies said they don't do boats and therefore can't join us, we will be having a regular meeting as well at the hotel on Friday afternoon. The plan is for it to last about two hours. I felt this was necessary as there are many things that are happening and we need to discuss them. So PLEASE be sure to check over the schedule of events carefully when you check in. This will be an important meeting.

We will also be placing a box at the registration table to collect things for the Soldier's Angel project. So if you haven't contributed anything yet and you want to, you may bring it with you and drop it off. Remember there is a list of suggested items on the web site. I'm sure our current active duty soldiers are enjoying all that we have already sent and I thank all who have already contributed as well as the two ladies who are chairing this program.

If your man hasn't sent in the registration form for this year's reunion yet, get on him about it. You don't want to miss all the fun. And you certainly don't want to have to pay a late fee. If you aren't sure you can make it, then register anyway, you can always request a refund. And I understand the hotel is filling up pretty quickly so be sure you call them and reserve your room.

Well ladies I know this is short this time but everyone is starting to stir and so the day needs to start. I hope to see you all real soon in St Louis.

*Barb Moreno*

*Women's Coordinator for the 11th ACVVC  
Women's Army Corps Veteran.*

# The Other Enemy Force

*By Francis Hinnegan, (F Trp. 67, HHT Regt. 67-68, D Co. 68, & H Co. 69)*

**red ants...black ants...  
mosquitoes..lizards...  
spiders..tigers..rats...  
mice...monkeys...**

I was sitting at the table during the reunion hoping to save my watch because it was way too late to save my shoes (yes, it was getting deep). I thought about the critters, friend and foe that shared our lives:

The first one that came to my mind was the red ant (foe). Everyone at my table had at least ten red ant stories to tell. It went something like this. "We hit a tree, I dropped everything, I jumped up on the vehicle, ripped my clothes off and started beating those (fill in the blank) off. We had a special short handled broom..." I truly believe that more than one fire fight ended with both sides (us and Chuck) doing the strip and surrendering the field to the victorious little red ants.

Their much bigger cousin was the slow moving black ant. For tankers they were a problem. One day, when the tube was off the right side of the tank, one of them was able to make it to the fuel cell cap without interference. She flipped the lid open and sucked out five gallons of diesel before we pried her off with a tanker's bar.

Mosquitoes (foe). I had one, issued to me at Xuan Loc, that followed me my entire tour, two inches above and to the rear of my left ear. The SOB was on the Medevac with me to Valley Forge, PA. There could be several more paragraphs about bug spray, bug juice, very strange pills, but those are all nightmares that buzz around our ears to this day.

Insect eating critters (friend). Lizards and spiders make great turret pets if you drive in a lot of jungle.

Continued on page 15

## Blackhorse Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (The Wall)

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall

**When:** 10:00 AM, Monday, 30 May 2011

**Where:** Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

**Who:** All Blackhorse Troopers (all eras), family and friends

**What:** We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall

*(Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30).*

Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Allons!

**REGISTRATION FORM**



**26th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion  
St. Louis, MO**



**Wednesday, 17 August thru Sunday, 21 August 2011**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT  
Millennium Hotel St. Louis, 200 S 4th Street  
St. Louis, MO 63102  
800-325-7353 314-241-9500**

**Registration fee is \$95.00 per person.** This fee is required for attendance at any of the scheduled events including the Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and the Saturday Banquet dinner.

**Please register early. The registration fee will be an additional \$25.00 per person for registrations postmarked after July 21, 2011**

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION (print clearly or use mailing label)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Assignment \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Country \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: B TRP, D CO) (Example: 1966-1967)

**Attendees**

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
<b>Registration Fee Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Banquet Meal Selection (Choose one selection per attendee) Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Veggie \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs:  Yes  No (Please indicate needs) \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first reunion?  Yes  No Wheelchair or special needs seating  Yes  No

KIA Relative?  Yes Name of KIA: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to KIA: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MasterCard Card No \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (Required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail Registration Form along with payment to:

**11th ACVVC TREASURER  
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL  
571 DITCHLEY RD  
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482**

# REGISTRATION

## 26th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

**If you have never been to a reunion you just don't know what you are missing. Many first timers think our reunion is just for us guys. It's not; there are things for the whole family**

Hello Again,

The registrations for this year are starting to come in, on an average of 3 or 4 a day. The name tags are being done as well as the welcome packets and the family room is starting to look as if it is an office for a major event. And I guess in a sense our reunion is a major event. One that we all look forward to every year.

I have noticed that we are still getting quite a few first timers again this year. That's great! I wonder if the day will ever come when we have gotten everyone to at least one reunion. Of course when you come to just one of the reunions, you find out how much fun it is and just can't wait for the next one to get here.

Now about the registration forms. Once again, like every year, I need to remind you that we cannot always get everything you want on your name tag. So when you fill out the registration form be sure you put on it exactly what you want. I hope that's clear. Here's an example for you. Let's say your name is Theodore G. Gladstone but everyone calls you stumpy. We simply cannot fit Theodore G. "stumpy" Gladstone on the name tag. So either you can have Theodore Gladstone, or Ted Gladstone or even Stumpy Gladstone. Understand, we only have so much room.

The other thing we are finding a problem with is people who were there for more than one tour and so were with more than one unit. You are to list one unit only. If you list more than one, then we will print the first one that is listed. I hope everyone understands this. While we are trying a new system of type this year, there is only so much room for everything.

If when you see your name on the web site, and you notice it is misspelled or placed in the wrong place, please contact "me" NOT Steve, Ollie, Allen, or anyone else. I am the one who can correct it. So just call me, and leave a message, or email me and tell me and I will take care of it.

If you have never been to a reunion you just don't know what you are missing. Many first timers think our reunion is just for us guys. It's not; there are things for the whole family. The ladies hold a get together while we are in our membership meeting. They do a lot of good work for not only us but for the soldiers that are now serving. They would love to have all the ladies join them. Of course we always include a sheet in your welcome packet that list things to do in the city where we are holding the reunion. This year there will be one about St Louis. So you see it really is a family affair. And it's a great place to either spend your yearly vacation or start your vacation. I know following reunion this year we will be heading south to Branson.

Raleigh has begun to work on next years design and we hope to have an example of it at the reunion in case anyone would like a sneak peek. And no Mickey Mouse is not on it. Although being in Orlando, we would have liked to include him, but, some folks didn't think it was appropriate.

Well there isn't really much more I can say about the registration. We have some fun new faces at the check in table and at the ladies table this year. So be sure to hurry up and get your registration in. Don't wait until the last minute or even worse till after the cut off date when you would then have to pay more. Join the fun.

See you there!

*Bob Moreno G Trp. 2/11th 68-69  
Board of Directors - Reunion*

## **Membership is Our Strength**

**It's not the price you  
pay to belong, It's the  
price you paid to  
become eligible to join**

## Reunion Assistance Fund

The purpose of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund is to assist Troopers who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and Cambodia, and family members of our troopers killed in action in Vietnam and Cambodia, to attend a reunion sponsored by the 11th ACVVC. Qualified applicants will be given one or more of the following items, depending on the number of requests, funds depletion, and the degree of assistance required:

1. A room at the host hotel for one or two nights during the reunion weekend.
2. Funds to purchase fuel for auto, tickets for airfare or other means of transportation such as bus fare or train fare.
3. Registration fees.
4. Meals or food allowance.

Funds are collected through direct donations or the "passing of the hat" at the annual membership Business Meeting and are accounted for by the Treasurer. The Treasurer includes the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund as a separate reporting item on the quarterly financial report.

To be considered for financial assistance from the fund to attend a Reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the Trooper or the KIA's immediate family members (defined as Parents, siblings, children, widows) making the request must...

1. Do so in writing to the Secretary or the President, and
2. Provide evidence of the Trooper's service in Vietnam and/or Cambodia with the 11th Armored Cavalry "Blackhorse" Regiment.

The applicant Trooper or KIA survivor should describe his/her need for monetary assistance, briefly stating his/her financial situation (i.e., job, income, family, or other relevant facts). In addition, the Trooper may be required to show proof that he is a member, or that he is qualified to become a member, of the 11th ACVVC. The Officers and Directors of 11th ACVVC will decide by a majority vote on whom and how much assistance will be given to a Trooper or Survivor of a KIA.

You can find the complete description of the Reunion Trooper and KIA Survivor Assistance Fund on the website [www.11thcavnam.com](http://www.11thcavnam.com).



# 11th ACVVC Reunion XXVI, St. Louis, MO

## Wednesday, 17 August thru Sunday, 21 August 2011



### Schedule of Events

(Tentative Schedule as of April 1, 2011)

#### Wednesday, August 17

12:00pm - 4:00pm Registration Open  
12:00pm - 4:00pm Quartermaster Store Open

#### Thursday, August 18

7:00am- ??? 20th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)  
9:00am - 6:00pm Registration Open  
9:00am - 5:00pm Quartermaster Store Open  
2:00pm - 12:00am Bunker Open

#### Friday, August 19

9:00am - 6:00pm Registration Open  
9:00am - 5:00pm Quartermaster Store Open  
10:00am - 12:00pm Veterans Seminar  
12:00pm - 12:00am Bunker Open  
1:30 pm - 3:30 pm Women's Group Meeting  
5:00pm - 9:00pm Silent Auction

#### Saturday, August 20

9:00am - 12:00pm Annual General Membership Meeting (Members Only)  
2:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Service  
2:00pm - 5:00pm Registration Open for Late Arrivals  
3:00pm - 5:00pm Quartermaster Store Open  
5:45pm - 6:45pm Cocktail Hour  
7:00pm - 9:30pm Banquet, Presentations, Raffle Drawing, and "Blackhorse Salute"  
9:30pm - 1:00am Dancing

#### Sunday, August 21

10:00am - 11:00am Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)  
10:00am - 2:00pm Quartermaster Store Open  
All Day Farewells and Departures

## THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



### Thursday, August 18th, 2011

Brad Hewitt, General Manager

1170 Turtle Creek Drive, O'Fallon, MO 63366, Phone 636-240-4653

Veteran Friendly Championship Golf Club

\$75 per golfer includes greens fees, carts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$75 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 8, 2011 to guarantee your entry!

You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 8, 2011. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in the St. Louis area.

They have a dress code to include: 1) No denim (Blue jeans), 2) No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. 3) Soft spikes only facility. Tee times will be an 8:00 AM shotgun start with lunch buffet following golf.

The golf course is a 40 minute ride from our hotel. Top line rental clubs are available. Let Joe know if you need them.

#### 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Average Score \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Checks To: Joe Coopet, Golf Tournament Director,  
9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

# SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Our fundraising activities for 2011 are going well. We are confident that with the continued support of our members we will again have a very successful year. The Scholarship Fund is a self sufficient fund which depends solely on donations to sustain. The number of scholarships awarded each year depends on the total donations made during the year. Through the generosity of our members in 2010 we were able to award twenty-three \$3,000 scholarships and one \$5,000. Let's make 2011 another outstanding year.

The Scholarship fund raising program consists of three activities: the calendar, raffle and silent auction.

## CALENDAR

One of our fund raising activities is our ever popular calendar mailed to members each December. Members always look forward to receiving the calendar. The calendar contains 12 photos submitted by our members as well as notes on significant historical events between 1966 and 1972.

We want to continue to mail you a calendar each year. If you've put off mailing your donation please use the envelope included with your calendar. Your support

is critical and any donation is welcome.

## RAFFLE

Another fund raising activity is our annual raffle. This is our 23rd year for the raffle. We have expanded the prize pool this year to 15 prizes. Tickets are \$1.00 each with the chance to win the following prizes:

- 1st prize .....\$500
- 2nd prize .....\$400
- 3rd prize .....\$300
- 4th prize .....\$200
- 5th – 15th prizes .....\$100 each

Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in May. Drawing will be held on August 20, 2011, during the 26th annual reunion in St. Louis, MO. Winners will be notified and need not be present to claim their prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the scholarship fund

## SILENT AUCTION

Another fund raising activity is the silent auction which is held during our annual reunions. The silent auction is always fun and entertaining. Ron Krueger and Paul Gissible will be coordinating the Silent Auction again this year along with the help of David Ludwig. This is our 16th year for the silent auction. Each year

we continue to see an impressive array of items being offered. Over 100 items were donated in 2010.

We once again ask our members to put their imagination and talent to work for the organization and ask for donations of items for the silent auction. Our membership has always come through with many unique and interesting items. Donations of items or services are welcomed. Any items with an 11th Cavalry theme are always in demand. Other items such as tools, books and any other military memorabilia are also very popular.

Items can be mailed prior to the reunion or they can be brought to the reunion and dropped off at the reunion registration desk. If you would like to donate an item please make sure to fill out the Silent Auction Donor Form found in this issue. This gives us all the information about the donor, a description of the item and an estimate of the starting bid. All these are very important.

All proceeds from the silent auction will be used to benefit the Scholarship Fund. We look forward to another successful silent auction. Thanks in advance for all that you do to keep this the best ever.

## 11th ACVVC Silent Auction

### Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. It is important for our records. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

Description of item donated: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

Value of Item Donated \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC  
C/O David M Ludwig  
2140 Princeton Place  
St Louis, MO 63117-2425



A good friend of mine had been an Air Force pilot during the Viet Nam War. I believe he had something like 136 sorties to his credit. He and his family made a great trip to Viet Nam a few months ago. He wrote about their trip in a personal report. He asked for input from me in response, as he had from other friends. He touched on a subject that I've believed quite strongly about ever since my own time in Viet Nam. The subject was the outcome of America's support for the war in Viet Nam. I put into words some of my beliefs and observations. These are completely my own although I know there are many who share the same beliefs. Naturally, there are also those who see the outcome of the war far differently. I thought I'd share my own point of view with you because I believe you are interested in the subject, whether you see it as I do or not. If you care to share thoughts in return, I'd be interested. If not, that's OK too

Here's my response to Tom:

"Dear Tom:

I almost envy you your wonderful trip to, and throughout, Viet Nam. Viet Nam is a country and a people that I came to love many years ago after serving two tours of duty there. Both tours were a year long and under largely combat conditions. The first year was in Soc Trang, deep in the Mekong Delta, during the time of the Tet Offensive of 1968. My second year was in the jungles along the Cambodian border northwest of Saigon with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. In May-June of 1970 we led the incursion into the Fishhook region of Cambodia. I had opportunity to observe and interact with many Vietnamese people, particularly in the Delta where I made friends with the local Catholic priest and the Protestant pastor. The priest could speak English so we communicated easily and had a very active and enjoyable relationship. With the Protestant pastor, we interacted through the local school principal who was a member of his church and could translate for us. Our soldiers supported orphanages and medical facilities in town. Following the devastation of Tet '68, I coordinated with World Vision who provided enough clothing so we were able to

provide for a good portion of the local people who had lost almost everything in that infamous battle. Needless to say, we established a genuine positive image of the American character in the hearts of those people. I've found that my experience was typical throughout the land for the entire period of the "American" war."

Move ahead several years: the Americans are long gone, our politicians having handed the communist North their victory on a silver platter. (This is a long story in itself). Since then the country has opened for travel and Viet Nam vets have been going back to visit where they had fought. They go to heal, to re-connect, to see, to say good-bye to buddies, to bring their experience full circle. I'm chaplain for Point Man Ministries as well as 11th Armored Cavalry veterans, as you may know. Quite a few of our men (and women) have gone back and continue to do so. A good number go to do Christian ministry on a continuing basis. This also is another story. In Southern California for a few years, when Deanna and I were living the motor home lifestyle, I fellowshipped with one of our Point Man outposts in Orange County. Through "fortuitous" circumstances our vets established a close relationship with a Vietnamese congregation of wonderful Christians in the area. Healing and reconciliation took place which was powerful and blessed of God. I'm telling you these stories so you can see where I'm coming from when I say that most of the Vietnamese people love, respect, and appreciate Americans. Vietnamese people that I know appear to have a deep understanding of why Americans fought the "American" War even if the American elite, including the media and the political/educational establishment, does not.

My belief and assertion of the love of the Vietnamese for Americans (and usually vice-versa) comes from my experiences such as those above. It also comes from stories such as this: Several of my vet friends, who've gone back to Viet Nam, especially in the early years of open travel there, tell me about their experiences of interacting with the people. Typical is that when meeting a Vietnamese person on the

street or some public place, the Vietnamese is rather skeptical of the white westerner until they find out that he's not Russian, but American. Then they become all smiles and friendliness. When opportunity presents, they become very outgoing and helpful. To make my point I'll relate an incident that one of my close Viet Nam vet friends told me. He's a triple amputee having lost legs, an arm, and an eye to a buried mine when on patrol one day. He went back to Viet Nam a few years ago and visited the Cu Chi tunnels. The docent there was a former Viet Cong. When he learned that Jim was a Viet Nam vet, he insisted that he, personally, would literally carry Jim down into the tunnels and show him through the tunnel complex. Jim was overwhelmed, of course. The healing and relationship that took place was dynamic and real. It spoke volumes for relationships, healing, and understanding between the common Vietnamese and Americans, especially vets. The media will never say it, nor will the educators, but it is my belief that the "American" War was won, in large measure, by those vets who gave so much. I guess it will go down in history as being a lost war. Maybe so. But it's more accurate and honest for history to record that the war was won by those brave soldiers who went and did what their country asked. Then it was given away by the politicians who had their own agenda and understanding. That's a more honest evaluation of the "lost" war. Now, time has passed and Viet Nam is apparently thriving. Most of the people were born after the war. Now the media, the politicians, the businessmen, the tourists, and, yes, the Vietnamese people, are benefiting greatly. And rightly so. Some of us would just like it to be known that the present blossoming of that beautiful country is built largely on the foundation of sacrifice of those young Americans who gave themselves so this blossoming could be. I believe the Vietnamese people understand this. Maybe someday history will too. So, in a way, both sides won in the end. Was it worth the cost? Put it this way, I'm one who believes that our soldiers did not die in vain.

The USA wasn't fighting a religious war.

The war became very complex and political. But I believe the American soldier fought from right motives and, as I already said, he gained far more than that for which he is credited (or discredited). Psalm 121 reflects feelings of many of those soldiers: "I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; From whence shall my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber (verses 1-3)." It's the prayer of many that the land of Viet Nam will continue to prosper and history will recognize that the sacrifices of many young Americans contributed their share.

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

*Chaplain Larry Haworth  
6508 Bannocks Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78239  
LEHaworth@aol.com*

## ENEMY from page 9

They would stay busy eating the foe that fell into the vehicle. Don't ask where they spent their free time.

Tigers. Never saw one, but I met a grunt with a mangled foot in the hospital. Seems he was sleeping on the ground, during monsoon, under a poncho (three mistakes) when a tiger tried to take him home for dinner. Fortunately, for the grunt, he owed his platoon money.

Rats and mice (chow eating foes). Yes, they did live under the turret of the tanks and the floor boards of the ACAV's, but so did the mice eating snakes. I have seen rice paddy rats that would scare the tiger in the previous paragraph. I was told the rats were good eating but I only believed the

LRRP's when they were giving Intel and directions. Speaking of snakes – let's not.

Monkeys (friend and foe). Monkeys can fire a .50 cal if they put their paws on the grips and their feet on the butterfly. (Check with D Co Maintenance – mid-'68.) They like military script money for lunch. Pulling the pin out of a grenade is not a real difficult task to teach them - after they eat your money. You just don't teach them to throw the grenade....

I could go on about deer (hunting), water buffalo (avoiding) and sleeping elephants (leaning on a Sheridan). But, they are for another reunion. Hope to see you there! Allons!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### 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 ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**



# Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*. Are you looking for an old friend? Please contact any Officer or Board Member listed on page 3 for help

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
<b>HHT REGIMENT</b>		<b>HHT, 1/11</b>		<b>HHT, 3/11</b>			
Appleton, Gary J	69-70	Biltjinitis, Peter A	65-68	Hicks, Dwight S	66-67	Cramey, Val R	70-70
Brown, William J	70-70	Blakesley, Merville F	69-70	Pearson, James H	66-67	Demont, Robert W	70-71
Demont, Robert W	70-70	Bland, Gerald M	69-70	Rose, Perry W	71-72	Farrell, Thomas R	67-68
Marshall, William F	70-70	Butler, Henry L	69	Streeter, Billy G	70-71	Hartsell, Carl S	68-69
Meyer, Ned H	69-70	Canevet, John P	69-70	<b>E TROOP, 2/11</b>			
Mize, William C	68-69	Encabo, Richard N	70-70	Anderson, Darell K	68-69	Momyer, David C	69-70
Munns, Michael N	66-67	Fisk, Asa F III	68-69	Brown, William J	71-71	<b>I TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Stewart, Harry E	69-69	Grigsby, John J	69-70	Collier, Timothy R	71-72	Bevill, Phillip D	70-70
Taylor, Terry C	71-71	Kerner, Arnold E	69-69	Daddario, Donald B	68-69	Buske, Michael A	69-70
<b>AIR CAVALRY TROOP</b>		Templeton, David R	67-68	Frank, Lawrence A	67-68	Herrmann, Robert S	68-69
Farner, Steven K	68-69	<b>A TROOP, 1/11</b>		Griffin, J B	68-70	Stoddard, Paul E	69-69
Persinger, Clarence V	68-69	Cook, Danny L	70-71	<b>F TROOP, 2/11</b>			
Stewart, Harry E	68-68	Delfosse, Wayne J	70-71	Darnell, Johnny W	71-72	Weeks, Keith V	67-68
Telesco, Samuel E	69-70	Harker, David O	66-67	Farris, Carl L	67-68	<b>K TROOP, 3/11</b>	
<b>7th SURGICAL HOSPITAL</b>		Mosley, Kenneth	70-70	Hazard, George W	71-72	Allen, Charles N	69-69
Nassif, John M Jr	67-68	<b>B TROOP, 1/11</b>		Glass, Frank E	68	Bierbrauer, Dwight	67-68
<b>37th MEDICAL COMPANY</b>		Appelgate, Paul E	69-70	Knop, Randolph L	69-70	Brooks, Stephen C	68-68
Hernandez, Jose A	68-70	Canevet, John P	69-70	Muckerheide, Dale J	67-68	Campbell, Richard R	71-71
Howington, Robert W	68-69	Casal, Donald P	68-68	Traw, Gary A	66-67	Chenault, Anthony	69-69
Smith, Ronald K	69-69	<b>C TROOP, 1/11</b>		<b>G TROOP, 2/11</b>			
Thistlewood, Paul F	66-67	Boswell, Wally R	70-71	Austin, Frank J	71-71	Cothron, Henry L	67-68
<b>398th TRANS DET</b>		Bump, Robert J	70-71	Bouthot, Claude J Jr	66-67	Firchau, Melvin C	68-70
Griffin, William C	71-72	Darnell, Danny O	68-69	Conger, Benjamin O	69-71	Helton, Thomas A	66-67
Smith, Charlie F	71-71	Garrisi, Lorenzo F	68-68	Curnell, Charles R	71-72	Henderson, Thomas R III	70-71
<b>541st MID</b>		<b>D COMPANY, 1/11</b>		Dasher, Edgar Jr	69-69	Marquez, Gabriel R	69
Canale, Eugene A	69-70	Alcala, Guillermo D	66-68	Ison, Arvis	68-69	Monroe, Raymond B	70-71
<b>720th MP BN</b>		Crandall, Ray M	69-70	Manley, Clyde A	66-68	<b>L TROOP, 3/11</b>	
Lewis, James R	66-67	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11</b>		Shattuck, Lawrence G Jr	69-70	Anderson, Melvyn L II	67-67
<b>919th ENGINEER COMPANY</b>		Robison, Philip D	69-71	<b>H COMPANY, 2/11</b>			
Adkins, Gary W	70-70	Russ, Millard Jr	70-70	Forte, Arnold G	69-69	Austin, William G	70-71
Brennan, Paul W	68-69	<b>HHT, 2/11</b>		Williams, Donald E	69-70	Delos-Santos, Tiofilo R	67-68
Hinkey, Elwood	69-70	Baker, John T	67-68	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11</b>			
Knebel, Charles R	70	Benson, Richard C	70-71	Belville, Harold L	66-67	Mclendon, Ronald W	70-71
<b>30th AIR FORCE WEATHER</b>		Castaneda, Buddy R	68-69	Collier, Timothy R	71-72	Ockuly, James J	69-70
Castle, Roderick J	66-67	Curnell, Charles R	71-72	Fuller, Anthony W	68-69	Radtke, James R	70-70
<b>UNKNOWN</b>		Fitch, Howard E	70-71	Hetrick, Kenneth P	67-68	Victor, James M	69-70
McDonald, Leon C	69-69	Frank, Lawrence A	67-68	Marks, Gary	66-67	<b>M COMPANY, 3/11</b>	
		Garrigus, Michael T	71-72	<b>HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11</b>			
				Garrett, Dean G 68-69			

# ST LOUIS MISSOURI, 2011

By Steve Page, Reunion Committee Chairman

The planning for St. Louis is now in high gear. The rooms are going fast. The hotel will honor reservations beyond our commitment as long as there are rooms available. It is important that you register ASAP. If another group signs a contract for the same dates that we have all remaining rooms will go to them. If you need to cancel your room reservations you will not be charged as long as you cancel within 72 hours of your scheduled check-in.

Please send in your registration form as soon as you can. Having your information, meal choice, first timer status and unit etc makes the planning process much easier for Bob and Barb who handle your registration. They do a great job and appreciate early registrations.

The activities in St. Louis seem endless. Restaurants are numerous and drink establishments abound. Local transportation is excellent and timely. It looks like

**Volunteers are always welcome. There are many things that need to be done at the reunion. Please let me know, via e-mail, if you are willing to help.**

we will have another great attendance this year.

The reunion evaluation forms are a great benefit to me. I take all suggestions into consideration and discuss them all with the BOD. As you are aware, there are some things we cannot control, like the weather, although we are looking into supreme intervention. Problems with rooms should be called in to the front desk for the speediest service. If there are things that you think need attention please write them down and leave at the registration table. They will get to the right people.

Volunteers are always welcome. There are many things that need to be done at the reunion. Please let me know, via e-mail, if you are willing to help. I can assure you

there will be a job. Again make your room reservations and send in your reunion registration early.

## Show Your Pride



Jay Halladay, (K Trp., 69-70) proudly displays his new and impressive Maryland 11th ACR license plate.

### REUNION SHIRT ORDER – also available with additional personalization 11thACVVC - 26<sup>th</sup> Reunion 2011 – St. Louis, MO

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up during the Reunion in St. Louis

If you know you are attending and want a Reunion shirt, if you know your size, whether or not you want your unit on it also, we encourage you to take this opportunity to make your pre-order; it will be ready and waiting for you at Registration – all personalization of shirts will be pre-ordered.

To receive your 2011 Reunion shirt for the Reunion, Order must be in by June 30, 2011 – No Exceptions.



contact name and phone or e-mail

#### 2011 Reunion Shirt

Sport shirt – pique knit cotton/poly blend, color - red - left chest pocket (may request  no pocket)

Adult (mens) sizes S – 6X avail – (for sizes 3-6X, please add \$2.- per X)

If to be shipped (AFTER the Reunion) – please add \$8.- per shirt

Include your address and shipping instructions

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30.-ea. \_\_\_\_\_

qty \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (add over 2Xs =) \_\_\_\_\_

size \_\_\_\_\_ S&H \_\_\_\_\_

WA residents 8.7% Tax \_\_\_\_\_

#### personalization

Add your name, unit, and/or dates in-country:

\$10.-ea. \_\_\_\_\_

left chest over pocket, opposite Reunion logo – in 1 to 3 lines, allow 24 characters, excluding spacing:

example: CHUCK BOWER  
L TRP 69-70

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

payable to Penn Sport – Thanks!

- see you there – Allons

This form is for 2011 Reunion Shirts only – all other orders go thru the quartermaster

Reunion shirts provided through Penn Sport Embroidery – Please e-mail or call direct with questions!

360-321-7110 – pennsport@whidbey.com - Chuck and Cathi Bower – 6075 S. Coles Rd. Langley, WA 98260

# 11<sup>TH</sup> ACVVC DONATIONS

Donations to various 11th ACVVC activities since the 1st Quarter 2011 issue of *Thunder Run*

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49	
<p><b>Trooper Assistance Fund</b></p> <p><b>Platinum Level</b></p> <p>Crowder Family</p> <p><b>Scholarship</b></p> <p><b>Gold Level</b></p> <p>John Covington Jerry Hensley Tom &amp; Kara Martin In Honor of Darold Thoenke Frederick Hotzman Robert Rawson Nick Reschetnjak William Ryerson Ralph Severeid Greg Steege</p> <p><b>Silver Level</b></p> <p>Edgar Dasher Dwight Hicks Ned Myer Calvin Warren</p> <p><b>Bronze Level</b></p> <p>Melvin Blackman Dale Brown Luis Bumanglag Jimmy Edwards Teddy Ellison Thomas Henderson Richard Hoyt Herke Joffer David Leach John Lefever Perry Rose Richard Schiraldi Valley Grove Baptist Church In Memory of Philip McPeake Bennie Wright</p> <p><b>Calendar - Scholarship</b></p> <p><b>Gold Level</b></p> <p>Craig Anderson William Barnes Alfred Bowen James Brewer Robert Brown</p>	<p>Richard Carlson Gerald Connolly James Decker Alfred Dirska John Dunn Frederick Elliott George Fancher John Ferreira Joseph Fierro Melvin Firchau Gary Galloway James Hain Frank Hendry Gustaf Holman Jim Holt David Husing Patrick Kelliher Carl Miller Alfred Noetzel Joseph Orzo Bert Pehr D.P. Reeves Masten Rondie Frank Sasaka Marvin Sellars Patrick Sexton Larry Sharpe Robert Sinclair William Smith Martyn Sugihara Adrian Vaaler Dan Walker Thomas Young</p> <p><b>Silver Level</b></p> <p>Patrick Arble William Austin Andrew Bourdess Robbin Brand Jerry Cutright Jim Darson Henry Davis William DeBerry Robert Delve John Effinger David Gallman Michael Garrigus James Garten Wilbur Gathe David Gauld Babe Halstead Dale Heideman Eugene Hemner Freddy Henry Joseph Hessburg Joseph Hladky</p>	<p>Larry Holloway John Hunt Gary Ishley Betty Jackson Ernest Johnson Gene Johnson Jose Juarez Steven Krieg C.M. Kuchenbuch Orlin Kuenzel Simon Labrecque Jeffrey Mayer Earl Moore Arsen Norsian Gene Olson Robert O'Neal Tom Parkins Donald Petrusko Omer Pigeon Maui Bay Shirt Company Steve Smith Jerry Sowell James Stevens John Strickland William Taylor Phillip Tidwell Andrew Tscholl Danny Vancel Patrick Vassallo Ronald Vetere Robert Wagg Scott Wardrope George West James Young Jerl Young</p> <p><b>Bronze Level</b></p> <p>William Agosti Juan Alanis Canuto Albear William Allender Philip Anderson Allen Andreasen Johnny Armada Daniel Atchison John Atkinson R. Babcock Daina Baker Cherry Baker John Ballweg Timothy Bankson Ronald Barton John Beas Groucho Beckenhaupt Kent Benker</p>	<p>Ronald Bennett Joseph Berenda Francis Bertolini Melvin Blackman Joseph Bohr Robert Bomba Daniel Boone Leon Boughner Johnny Bowlby Donald Brydge Larry Burwick Donald Callahan Jimmie Campbell Guy Caporiccio Ronnie Cargile Salvatore Cassano Merrill Chappel James Chesemore Gus Christian Frank Church Floyd Clark Kermit Collier Roger Cooper David Corriveau Bernard Cox Michael Coyne Jerry Crook Robert Crowley Joseph Czerwinski Samuel Czys Francis Degaray Ralph DeMasi Mark Derge David Derk George Devine Michael Dewitt Joseph Dickensheet Eugene Dilling John Dimeo Thomas Doll Sammy Dublin Steven Dufford John Duke Catherine Dunlop Parrish Edgar Earl Edwards Steven Ehrets Glenn Elsing Ron Emerson Walter Ergish Larry Erickson Robert Ericson James Eriser Douglas Farfel Howard Fitch Roy Francis</p>	<p>Denise Franks Robert Freme Gary Fry Frank Fulop Robert Gambert Roland Gambol Henry Gatewood Richard Gibbs Raymond Giesige Donald Giesler Jessie Gilbert Howard Goodwater William Gray Zane Gray Paul Greany John Greeley Lawrence Greene Kenneth Gregg John Grunloh Michael Gunn Norman Hainley Eugene Hallman Jeffrey Hanson William Haponski William Harris Gary Hartwig Joseph Headrick Donald Hebert Herbert Hertel Lawrence Hess Robert Hill William Hobbie Peter Hoffman Roland Holk Malcolm Holmes Megan Hopper James Hormell Ben Hotchkiss Michael Huml Henry Inman William Iseman Fred Jack Warren Jackson Wayne Jacobitz Leon Jenkins Candace Joel Edward Jones Thomas Juskiewicz Blandin Karabinos Danny Kays Richard Kearnes Dennis Kehoe Tommy Keirns Kenneth Kennedy Mark Kersey William King</p>	<p>Robert Klink John Knapp George Knight Thomas Landusky Eugene Lee Johnny Lee D. Leesmann William Leeson Paul Lehnard Bill Lewellen Thomas Licon Stephen Lombardo Robert Long Jeffrey Lopez Sam Lovato Edward Lumpf Clifford MacDonald Jerry Mann Joseph Manzo Dennis Maples Jerry Mathis Timothy McCain Leonard McCarthy Thaniel McFee Willis McKenna Cary McMasters Wesley McWethy Benjie Meek Joseph Miller George Miller Earl Minor Jerry Mitchell Gerald Mladjen Larry Moon Ray Moreno Glenn Morris Henry Morris Kenneth Moser Patrick Mullin John Mulrath Kenneth Nelson Richard Obenschain Robert Oracz Joseph Orozco Concepcion Ortiz John Ottenbreit D.L. Pace Angel Pagan Eddie Patterson Stanley Pawlaski David Phillips John Pollace Ronald Pope John Poundstone Ronald Raper Theodor Rauh</p>

Lannie Ray  
Richard Reed  
Ronald Reed  
Clinton Reeves  
Edgar Reinfeld  
Deward Rice  
Randy Richmond  
Michael Rideau  
Vicky Roberts  
Raymond Rodarte  
Robert Rush  
W. Arthur Russell  
William Ryerson  
Larry Samsel

Gary Sawvell  
Charles Scarborough  
Glen Schaaf  
Gerald Scherz  
David Scheumann  
Thomas Schmersahl  
Frederick Schneeman  
David Schneider  
David Schofield  
Jack Schubert  
Mark Schwarm  
Patrick Seeger  
Phillip Seyller  
Bob Shambarger

Dale Sharrow  
Dale Sherman  
Dale Shimel  
Lawrence Shuey  
Thomas Sikora  
Michael Simmons  
Woodrow Sink  
William Slusser  
T.H. Smallwood  
Paul Smith  
Timothy Smith  
Isaac Snell  
Gary Southerland  
Eustacchio Staffieri

Thad Staples  
Will Stokes  
Robert Stuedemann  
Gordon Sutton  
John Szegda  
Manuel Tafoya  
Alan Tamashiro  
F. Robert Taylor  
Douglas Taylor  
Melvin Teffner  
Joseph Tenik  
Slofko Terlecky  
Charles Thompson  
David Tiedeman

Dennis Tonkovich  
Lawrence Totaro  
Frank Townsend  
Gary Traw  
Reynaldo Trevino  
Anthony Valdez  
Thomas Valenti  
Luis Vargas  
Victor Vela  
Larry Velders  
Gene Waldron  
Bobby Ward  
Bruce Ward  
David Watters

Donald Wells  
Joseph Wetmore  
Michael Weynard  
David Wieland  
John Wolf  
Kenneth Wollschlaeger  
Kenneth Wood  
J.D. Woolard  
Stanley Woolley  
Ralph Wright  
Stephen Wright  
Larry Zeller  
Tim Zimmerman



## Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at [www.11acr.com/hg.htm](http://www.11acr.com/hg.htm). We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

**Elisardo Acosta**, 7th Army Postal Unit (1970-1971) passed away on February 20, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Aurora, IN. He was laid to rest in Rising Sun New Cemetery, Rising Sun, IN.

**Raymond H. Auringer**, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 18, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oswego, NY. He was laid to rest in Hannibal Village Cemetery, Hannibal, NY.

**Robert E. Barnett**, M Company 3/11 (1969) passed away on January 15, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Huntington, WV. He was laid to rest in Baylous Cemetery, Salt Rock, WV.

**Francis Thomas (Tom) Brophy**, Howitzer Battery 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on March 31, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Strafford, NH. He was laid to rest in New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscaawen, NH.

**Herbert L. Carpenter**, C Troop, 1/11 and E Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on January 11, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harker Heights, TX.

**Stephen E. Celski**, E Troop, 2/11 (1971) passed away on January 4, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hayward, WI. Stephen is also a veteran of the Korean War.

**Pete Elliott**, HHT, 2/11 and F Troop, 2/11 (1968-1970) passed away on February 3, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, MO. He was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery, Columbia, MO. Pete is also a veteran of World War II and the Korean War.

**Roy E. Farley**, Air Cavalry Troop (1971-1972) passed away on January 23, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Harlan, KY. He was laid to rest in Resthaven Cemetery, Harlan, KY.

**Lynn T. Gott**, 398th Transportation Detachment (1970-1972) passed away on January 26, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lexington, KY. He was laid to rest in Camp Nelson National Cemetery, Nicholasville, KY.

**Vernie D. Hicks**, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on January 8, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waco, TX.

**Greg F. Lavigne**, H Company, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 1, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bryon, GA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Philip W. McPeake**, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on March 7, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Knoxville, TN. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

**Allen L. Messal**, E Troop, 2/11 (1967-1969) passed away on January 10, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Jelm, WY.

**James A. Schlecht**, C Troop, 1/11 (1969) passed away on January 21, 2011. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Longview, WA. He was laid to rest in Longview Memorial Park, Longview, WA.

**Roger D. White**, HHT, 2/11 (1971-1972) passed away on February 16, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fort Wayne, IN. He was laid to rest in Alindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, IN.

You might want to make copies of these dog tags, place one on your refrigerator and extra dog tags on your adult children's refrigerators



### So that his brethren shall know...

Please report the death of any member of The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia to Allen Hathaway, 13194 Rettew Dr., Manassas, VA 20112; Phone: (703) 791-6610; Email: [11thcav1966@comcast.net](mailto:11thcav1966@comcast.net); for listing in "Journey to Fiddler's Green."

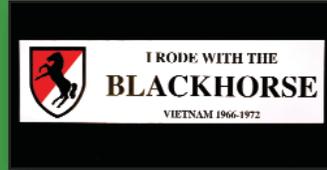
# The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$3.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Subdued \$4.00



#12 Lighter, \$18.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#10 Belt Buckle, brass \$30.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$7.50

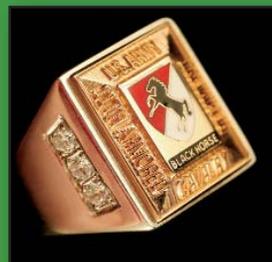


#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$225.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$280.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Lapel Pin, Support Troops \$3.00



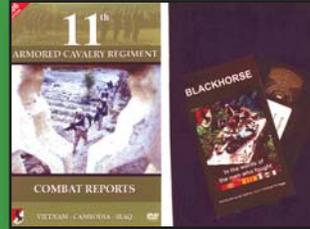
#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



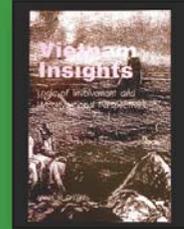
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



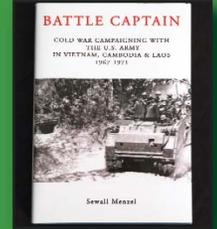
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



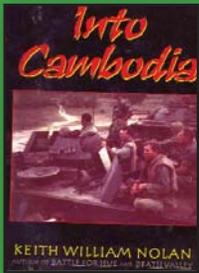
#29 Video Combo #2 \$40.00



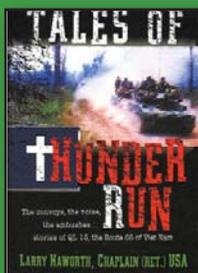
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



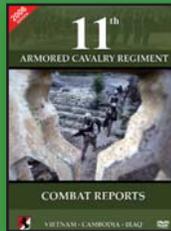
#31 Book: Battle Captain \$20.00



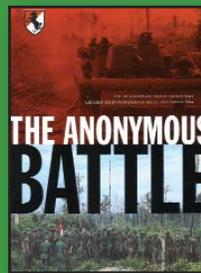
#32 Book: Into Cambodia \$23.00



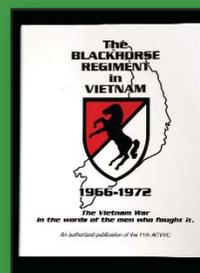
#33 Book: Tales of Thunder Run \$11.00



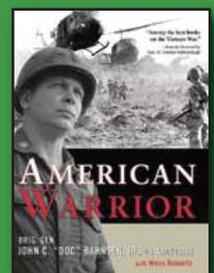
#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



#35 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#36 Book: The Blackhorse Reg't in Vietnam \$25.00



#37 Book, "American Warrior" by 'Doc' Bahnsen-\$20.00



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39a/b T-Shirt, green/gray \$18.00



#40a/b/c Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, red/white/black \$32.00



#43 Windbreaker, black w/snap front & BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, \$35.00



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon, Mens \$30.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$75.00

---

## Bunker Guard from page 7

with the weather, or what action we'd take if a ground attack ensued on the base camp. It seemed even more sinister once the telling was over. It was all about what else might be sharing the bunker with us. A series of tales worthy of a Steven King novel today or at least had me wondering if all those horror and Science Fiction movies I'd seen in the '50's were based on actual events. "Things" that oozed from the primordial slime and did go bump in the night awakening dormant primal fears. A staccato of stories shot through with terror on how garden variety pests back home had indeed become those mutated matinee' monstrosities.

While we had no campfire I heard about spiders as big as dinner plates, centipedes as long as a man's arm, gigantic cockroaches, snakes, bats, and rats, the bite of either guaranteeing only one thing, making it as far as the door before meeting the Grim Reaper face to face. Last, but not least, the hideous Sun Spider, a beast as big as a dog, red, and pulsating with poison that dripped from fangs longer than a bayonet.

Was this exaggeration, a let's mess with the newbie's head thing, or indeed maybe, campfire tales? My companions seemed quite serious about what might be dwelling in the bowels of the bunker. It was enough for me to gather my belongings and move upstairs.

As time went on I'd have run-ins with all these critters both in and out of the bunker, as well as a bevy of others not mentioned. I'd have my own repertoire of stories to tell the new guys. I did try to control my imagination and remain coherent while doing so. While not quite the size of a dinner plate I did see one of those spiders. It did have one characteristic worthy of science fiction. It didn't crawl along the bunk as only a spider could do. I took a swat at it and it disappeared quicker than you could say, "beam me up Scotty!" It just disappeared, lurking in the darkness for the right moment to pounce. The centipede wasn't the length of a man's arm, only half. The primal instinct here was to step on it like I'd done with those toothpick sized things back home. This baby was at least a foot in length. It was the wrong

thing to do. It wrapped around my boot and I could feel its claws and fangs digging into the leather. It was seconds from disaster as I hopped around the hooch.

The Sun Spider was a real letdown. Yes, it was red and did seem to pulsate in the hot Vietnamese sun, but it was barely larger than my thumb. Then again, maybe it was just a baby and hadn't devoured its first human yet.

Then there was that day and night on tower guard. The remnants of a typhoon blew into Blackhorse. As I remember the tower was open on three sides up top. The wind was blowing so hard all attempts to hang our ponchos up failed as we were pelted with rain, not to mention the tower shaking back and forth. So much for the 12x12 wooden pilings it was built on. We had to abandon ship and move downstairs to the bunker beneath us. We weren't in there five minutes when a bat flew in. Four's company, five's a crowd! I think the profanity could be heard in Saigon over the howling wind. I went to ground zipping myself up in my sleeping bag. It finally flew out the window.

---

## Incoming...

---

### Information provided by and for our Troopers

**From Adrian Vaaler.....**The 2011 Eugene Blackhorse Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 18 from 11am-5pm. It will take place at 2610 Baker Blvd, Eugene, OR, home of Adrian Vaaler. FMI, phone 541-344-2113 or email to11thsecretary@gmail.com. RSVP if possible.

**From Donald Johnson (HHT, 2/11, 68-69).....** Don is coordinating a special 11th Cavalry Veterans tour to Vietnam. The tour, tailored for Blackhorse Vets originally scheduled for April 2011 has been rescheduled for November 7 – 25, 2011. Don has made several visits to Vietnam through the years with the tour company MilSpec Tours, Inc. Anyone interested in this special tour should contact Donald Johnson at (281) 452-2324 or by mail at 826 Kilpatrick St., Channelview, TX 77530. Details and registration may be found at [www.gomilspec.com](http://www.gomilspec.com) by clicking the Asian Tour link. **DISCLAIMER-** The 11th ACVVC is not connected in any way with this or any other tour venture. This announcement is provided as a courtesy to members of this organization.

**From Dan Stroia.....**Thunder Run Pizza Run is celebrating its 4th anniversary of serving pizza and soda pop once a month at the Phoenix VA hospital on Thursdays after visiting hours. We deliver and the D.A.V. reimburses us. The following are Blackhorse Troopers who pair up and arrive to lift the spirit of our fellow veterans and staff: Craig Anderson (E Trp. 68), Manuel Birch ( HHT 3/11 70-71), Charles Joiner (HHT Regt. 1970-1971), Lyle "Skip" Monson (Air Cav Trp. 1969), Ralph Pursell (F Trp. 66-67), Daniel Stroia (K Trp. 67-68), and Jack Tinsley (Air Cav Trp. 68). If you are interested in starting this activity in your state please go to [www.ktroop.com/cc\\_stroia.htm](http://www.ktroop.com/cc_stroia.htm) or contact Dan Stroia at [Ktrp6768@yahoo.com](mailto:Ktrp6768@yahoo.com)



# Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 2nd QTR 2011

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	Code	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	C	10.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Acrylic square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	A	3.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	A	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	A	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	B	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	B	4.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt Buckle, solid brass w/crossed sabers & BH insignia	B	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	B	50.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	Lighter, brushed chrome w/full color BH insignia	B	18.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	B	5.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	C	7.50	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	C	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	B	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	B	45.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	C	35.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	A	225.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	A	280.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Lapel Pin: "Support Our Troops"	A	3.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	A	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	A	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	C	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Video combo: "Combat Reports" (DVD) & Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam (VHS)	C	40.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	C	10.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Battle Captain" by Sewall Menzel	C	20.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Into Cambodia" by Keith Nolan	C	23.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Larry Haworth, Chaplain	C	11.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	C	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	History Book, "Blackhorse Regiment in Vietnam"	C	25.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	C	20.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	B	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> green <input type="checkbox"/> gray	B	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black	B	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim Shirt, Mens	B	30.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	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	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	B	35.00	_____	_____	_____
			<b>Subtotal</b>	_____	_____	_____
			<b>Shipping and Handling</b>	_____	_____	_____
			<b>Total</b>	_____	_____	_____

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 = \$6.25; C items = \$10.50  
(items totaling over \$75.00 = \$14.20 cost of shipping)

Visa  Mastercard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**\* If paying by check, please write your drivers license number on the check.**

\*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 \$13.95. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid. Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

**\* Required info to process your order**



**11ACVVC**  
**13194 Rettew Dr.**  
**Manassas, VA 20112-7800**

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 JACKSONVILLE, FL  
 PERMIT NO. 3



## From the Quartermaster...

**Jerry Beamon**

Hello To All Our Blackhorse Troopers.

Jan and I hope you have made your Reunion Reservations. Time is upon us once again to look ahead to a great time together. I was looking at the 11thcavnam.com website to see who all has registered. WOW !! Looking Good! A lot of you have already registered, so the rest of you need to do it now. Don't put it off, charge forward and make your reservation.

I have had many questions about shipping charges. So I hope to help out by saying we have a changing Post Office. Ours changes the charges we use applying to bulk shipping just as yours does. The more you send out in a package the more it goes up. Sorry, but it does. So if someone orders 1 or 2 small items we charge a small cost. 1 or 2 larger items means there will be a larger cost. Hope this helps out. We try to keep it simple, so don't forget the shipping.

Last year in Washington, K Trp. had the most attendees and won the attendance award. So let's do it again. If not so be it, we'll have a lot of fun anyway.

OK guys once again let me ASK you to please fill out your order form completely with name, address, phone number, and driver license #. Please don't forget to put your sizes as well. If we have all your info it will be easy to contact you, instead of you wondering where your order is. Thank you. We enjoy getting all your orders and doing the very best to get them to you as soon as possible. Believe it or not we do get orders with no return address, no sizes, and no info.

OK now back to the upcoming Reunion. We are once again asking for volunteers to help us in the Quartermaster Store. We would enjoy hearing from you before the reunion so we will know ahead of time who will be helping us. We would so enjoy hearing from you. E-mail us at [jerrylbea@aol.com](mailto:jerrylbea@aol.com). Believe it or not time is almost here only four months away. I can't wait to see all my brother troopers and their families again.

See you in St.Louis, Jerry

## QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST: Blackhorse in Vietnam VHS, \$5.00**

