



Thunder Run

Vol. 28 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2013

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

Blackhorse Memorial Tank Restored at Colorado Springs

Ken Smith, left, and Charlie Watkins pose with restored tank.



By: Pete Walter, VP, 11th ACVVC

Located in south-east Colorado Springs, CO, the Shrine of Remembrance is viewed from two major traffic arteries in the city at the base of Pikes Peak, which forms the scenic background for the location. The memorial is a result of exhaustive efforts and two years of work by 3 groups of people, 1ST SGT, US Army. (RET) Dave Tessier, chair of the 1994 11th ACVVC national reunion at Colorado Springs. Secondly, was the cooperation of the national board of the 11th ACVVC when Allen D. Hathaway was President. Very appreciated were the efforts of the Shrine of Remembrance of Colorado

Spring, its CEO, Costas Rombocos, and military affairs director, Retired Air Force Colonel, Jim Rix.

During the 1994 reunion of the 11th ACVVC, the attendees gathered for a Memorial Service at the Veterans Honor Court of the Shrine of Remembrance, which had donated a bronze plaque that was unveiled during the memorial ceremony by

Please turn to **TANK** on page 4

Indy Here We Come



By Steve Page, Reunion Chairman

In just four short months the 11th ACVVC will ride into Indianapolis, Indiana. The reunion planning is right on schedule and many have already made their hotel reservations and mailed their reunion registrations.

The Marriott Downtown Indianapolis is located in the heart of Indy’s most active area. This part of the city abounds with shopping, restaurants, and night life. The hotel is just steps away from Lucas Oil Stadium, White River State Park, NCAA Hall of Champions, Conseco Field House, Victory Field, and just minutes from the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Transportation from the airport to

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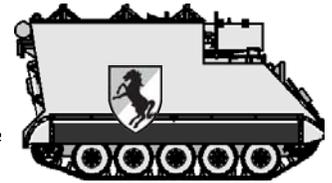




Allen Hathaway
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



We invite all Blackhorse troopers, family, and friends to join us at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 27, to honor our fallen comrades as we lay our Blackhorse wreath at the Wall.

Plans are being final- izing for the 28th annual reunion to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on September 11-15. There are many Blackhorse troopers who live in Indiana or the surrounding states and within an easy drive to Indianapolis.

We are pleased to announce that John R. Landry (MG USA Ret) will be our guest speaker at the Saturday evening banquet and program. As a captain he served as troop commander of B Troop, 1st Squadron from early 1966 until mid 1967. He joined the 11th ACR at a time when the regiment was training and preparing for deployment to Vietnam. In September 1966 the entire regiment arrived in Vietnam and immediately began operations. During his tour with B Troop Captain Landry was awarded two Silver Stars for actions in December 1966 and March 1967. During his 30 year career in the US Army he has held many other prominent assignments.

Each year we hear comments from members, after attending their first reunion, that they were sorry they waited so long to attend a reunion. They just kept putting it off until "next year." In the past year I have lost three friends I knew in Vietnam. Each one told me they would attend "next year." Sadly, they put it off every year and never attended any of the reunions. I recently received a note from the daughter of one of our members who passed away in December. She wrote "he would have loved to come to a reunion. He talked about his experiences and all he knew often. My father was a very proud veteran." Unfortunately, he never attended a reunion. I urge each of you to give serious consideration to attending a reunion soon. Don't put it off another year.

We expect another large turn-out for this reunion, now estimated at 1,000 or more. The room block is filling up fast. We urge you to reserve your room as soon as possible to ensure your reservations are set. Contact old friends early so they have plenty of time to make their plans to attend. Feel free to contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend.

Our Scholarship Fundraising activity is

going strong again for 2013. Thanks to your generosity, we have set an all time record for calendar donations. Another list of donors is included in this issue.

In past years we have had three annual fundraisers to benefit our Scholarship Fund: calendar, raffle, and silent auction. For 2013 the focus of our raffle fundraiser will be to help raise funds to relocate the 11th Cavalry Memorial from Fort Knox to Fort Benning. The Memorial is an everlasting tribute to the sacrifice our Blackhorse troopers have made in all campaigns since 1901. The raffle is one way for each of us to contribute to this very important project. Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members in May. We're offering some great prizes again this year so be sure to return your tickets prior to the reunion.

We also want to remind everyone to start thinking of items for the silent auction. The auction is always a fun and interesting part of the reunion. We have many talented people in the organization and they always come through for the silent auction. We welcome any item for the silent auction. Please see the separate article in this issue.

We received many phone calls after our last newsletter from troopers who recognized names in the "Welcome Aboard" section and the donors list. It always very grat-

ifying to be able to reconnect with old friends after many years. Please look at the new members list this issue of *Thunder Run*.

Bob Kickenweitz has been working to reorganize our website. We have recently added several hundred unit rosters covering the period 1966-1972. The rosters may help in remembering names and in locating old friends. Don Snedeker, our Historian, has done extensive research and summarized the many operations the 11th ACR participated in from 1966-1972. The list of operations, dates and units as well as unit rosters can be found at "Members Area" on our website. Please check the Funeral Honor Guard each day. Keep up-to-date with all the reunion activities by checking our website. You can also find us on FaceBook.

We invite all Blackhorse troopers, family, and friends to join us at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Monday, May 27, to honor our fallen comrades as we lay our Blackhorse wreath at the Wall. If you're not able to attend, take a moment wherever you may be and remember our comrades-in-arms. They shall not be forgotten. Our memories of them will live forever. ALLONS! - It's good to be "Together Again."

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: _____



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

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr., 421 Fallen Leaf Dr., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577.

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Restoration... ...by the numbers



11th ACVVC member and recipient of the Medal of Honor, Lt. Col. (Ret) Harold Fritz. The serene setting at the Shrine of Remembrance and its Veterans Honor Court led Dave Tessier and other members to think about placing an 11th ACVVC memorial at the beautiful site which honors military and veterans.

With the help of the Shrine of Remembrance and its distinguished board of Honorary Trustees, an M60 tank was located at Fort Hood, Texas. After complying with numerous legal procedures, the “main battle tank” was authorized as the memorial and was transported from Texas to Fort Carson, Colorado, through a donation made by the Santa Fe Railroad. There the tank was refurbished over a period of four months with materiel, time, and effort donated by Fort Carson.

The dedication of the 11th ACVVC Memorial was held on Memorial Day, May 29th, 1995, with a crowd of 1,100 in attendance. The magnificent memorial was unveiled by Brigadier General Leroy R. Goff III, Assistant Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division. He was a Platoon leader in Vietnam with L Troop, 3rd Squadron, 11th ACR in 1970-71. Dave Tessier of the 11th ACVVC



also participated in the colorful ceremony, as did the Army Band and ceremonial color guard and numerous military and civic officials. The event was so significant that the Colorado State Senate and House of Representatives issued a formal joint citation honoring the 11th ACVVC Memorial. Then the Shrine of Remembrance staff undertook an extensive landscaping project to install the tank in a beautiful and serene setting where visitors can visit and reflect. It is visible to thousands of people who transit the two major highways nearby.

With the passage of eighteen years and constant exposure to the elements, the tanks exterior needed a full makeover. Through the combined efforts of Ken Smith (Sergeant Major, US Army, Ret; M Co, 1966) and Charley Watkins (LTC, US Army, Ret; Air Cav Troop, 1965-1969) and with funding equally provided by the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia and the Blackhorse Association, the restoration began. Full sand-blasting removed old flaking paint; all exterior surfaces were primed and repainted with the famous Blackhorse patch proudly displayed on the turret and glacis plate. Many of the exterior parts (gun shroud, vision blocks, light lenses, etc.) needed replacement; Ken negotiated with Noel Rios of the Anniston Army Depot and Jeffrey Newsome, Force Integration Chief at Fort Carson and the needed parts were supplied free of charge.



Sadly Dave Tessier, the original driving force behind the memorial, passed away on January 22, 2013 after a decade-long long battle with cancer. Although Dave did not get to see the finished restoration before he marched to Fiddler's Green, he knew the mission was in good hands and would be completed with attention to detail by his Blackhorse brothers. Both Ken and Charley attended Dave's services.

Today, and for the future the M60 Tank is surrounded by flying flags, rose gardens, and sits on a grassy knoll in Colorado Springs, with Pikes Peak providing the background. The Memorial now forever remembers the sacrifices and bravery of every member who wore the Black Horse patch in Vietnam and Cambodia.





Bill Gregory, Editor
Thunder Run

Editor's Corner

C.E. "Bill" Gregory

I am looking forward to being back in Indianapolis again, we really enjoyed our reunion there in 1993, the city was friendly and welcoming, and there was plenty to do. Do not keep putting it off, send in your registration and make your hotel and/or flight reservations,...

As I write this we have a little over 5 months until we meet for our 28th Annual Reunion in Indianapolis, Indiana. That seems like a long time, but it really is not. The reunion has been laid out in detail by your reunion planners, to make sure you have a good time, and that the reunion site provides a welcoming atmosphere. I am looking forward to being back in Indianapolis again, we really enjoyed our reunion there in 1993, the city was friendly and welcoming, and there was plenty to do. Do not keep putting it off, send in your registration and make your hotel and/or flight reservations, then you can relax and not worry about it until time to go.

This issue of *Thunder Run* has all the details, about the hotel, and the reunion schedule, there is even a field trip to the Ropkey Armor Museum for those inclined to venture a little outside of Indianapolis. If you are interested in going to the museum it is really important to let Len McFarling know very soon so he can make sure we have enough transportation available. We have also included scholarship information; the dead line for applications this year is almost upon us (May 15, 2013). We have included information on the 11th ACVVC from your elected officers, and some contributions from members. You can learn about some of the activities in today's 11th ACR

2013 Newsletter Deadlines

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

- First Quarter 2013Jan 15**
- Second Quarter 2013Mar 25**
- Third Quarter 2013.....Jun 25**
- Fourth Quarter 2013.....Oct 1**

All submissions for publication must be sent to: C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Editor, 421 Fallen Leaf Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577. E-mail: Battle46A@epbfi.com

in an article about today's Combat Medics. Our "Incoming" column is larger than it has been in a while, with information about mini-reunions, and a request for assistance from a trooper. We have a really good article on the refurbishing of the memorial in Colorado Springs that was recently completed, a project that was special to my dear friend ISG Dave Tessier (US Army Ret.), who passed away in January of this year. We owe a debt of thanks to all those who worked and made the original memorial possible in 1995 and more recently the refurbishing of the memorial.

It is spring and my memory goes back 43 years to the spring of 1970 when 2nd Squadron was operating in Tây Ninh Province, up near the Cambodian border. Those of us at platoon level did not know why we kept probing at the border during that time from our FSB, "Fort Defiance" atop hill 95. We would probe, draw fire, the NVA would draw back inside Cambodia, and we would probe again. We did this during late February on into April, and then on May 1, 1970, it became apparent that we had been testing the waters around the border. As dawn was breaking on that Friday morning we participated in history as we crossed into Cambodia under fire and began to disrupt NVA operations all over SE Asia for about 8 ½ weeks. It was a time of high drama and excitement for just about everyone involved, it was also a time for solemnity for we all knew even then that we would take losses. Most of us survived, but we were never the same because we lost friends there who deserved better. This year I pause to remember those lost and honor those who shed blood in that operation, and all our operations.

I hope you enjoy this issue and I am looking forward to seeing you at the reunion, until our summer issue, may you find peace and happiness and may the grace of God be with each of you. Allons!!

INDY from page 1

the hotel is abundant and reasonably priced. Direct shuttle service is \$7.00 each way and \$3.50 for 65 years and older and eighteen and younger.

We have added a trip to The Ropkey Armor Museum as an optional activity. Additional information and sign-up sheet can be found in this issue.

Fine dining along with national favorites and affordable fast food outlets are within walking distance. The area abounds in hot spots for a fun evening out. Some of the most famous shops are located in The Circle Centre Mall. There are numerous monuments and memorials in Indy. The Soldiers

and Sailors Monument and The Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial are just a short distance from the hotel.

The Marriott Downtown offers parking but is limited to 300 spaces. Our price to park at the hotel will be \$18.00 per day for both valet and self park. We are currently looking into alternative off-site parking at a lower rate.

I cannot stress how important early reservations are for the planning of this event. It ensures that you get a room and we are able to plan for the proper numbers. For your convenience you can make your hotel reservations online through our website.

We have added a trip to The Ropkey Armor Museum as an optional activity. Additional information and sign-up sheet can be found in this issue.

A preliminary reunion schedule is also in this issue along with order forms for the reunion shirts and golf tournament. Our website has links to other interesting activities, restaurants, and special coupons. Stay up-to-date with all activities of the reunion by visiting our website and selecting "Reunion Information".

This reunion is shaping up to be another great event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ropkey Armor Museum

www.ropkeyarmormuseum.com



Located about an hour from Indianapolis in Crawfordsville, Indiana, the Ropkey Armor Museum is one of the finest collections of US Tactical Military Vehicles in the country. Price includes roundtrip transportation in a comfortable motor coach.

Various vehicles of different types and ages are on display from an M3A1 scout car, to several WW II era Shermans to a modern day M109 155mm self-propelled howitzer. Many of the vehicles have been restored to like new condition.

The museum is a great destination/location for car clubs, veteran's reunion groups, educational tours, and other civic organizations.

Number of tickets _____ x \$15.00 per person = _____

Registration deadline: August 21, 2013

Make checks or money orders payable to: Len McFarling

E-mail: lmcfarling@mcfarling.com Cell: 317-445-5732

Mail to:

11th ACVVC, C/O Len McFarling, 3553 E 100 S, Lebanon, IN 46052

Len McFarling (F Troop, 2/11, 1969) has taken the initiative and put together a bus trip to the Ropkey Armor Museum in Crawfordsville, Indiana, during this year's reunion. The bus will leave the hotel at 12:00 pm (1200 hours) and return not later than (NLT) 5:00 pm (1700 hours) on Friday September 13, 2013. The cost will be \$15.00 per person, which covers the transportation and admission to the museum. The initial bus has a capacity of only 55 people, but additional buses can be added if there is enough interest. If you are interested in taking this trip, please let Len know by sending in the above form or a copy of it.

You can get more information about the museum on line at: <http://www.ropkeyarmormuseum.com/>

PLEASE let Len know of your desire to go on the trip as EARLY as possible so that arrangements for additional transportation can be arranged if necessary!



Membership is Our Strength



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

11th ACVVC Raffle Focus to Change in 2013

Mike "Doc" Rafferty, 11th ACVVC Scholarship Committee Chairman and Board Member

The 11th ACVVC board of directors decided last year to change the focus of this year's raffle fundraiser from scholarships to the 11th Cavalry Memorial project. As some of you already know, the number of scholarship applications has declined in recent years and the board felt the Calendar fundraiser and the Silent Auction would provide sufficient funds for scholarship winners in 2013.

Our organization and the Blackhorse Association are working together on the project to move the entire 11th Cavalry Memorial complex from the Patton Museum grounds at Fort Knox to Fort Benning, Georgia. Fort Benning is the new home of the Armor School and future home of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum. There are still many details to be worked out and significant expenses to be incurred before this project will be completed.

You can help by participating in the 2013 11th ACVVC raffle. The drawing will be held on Friday, September 13th (we are not superstitious!) during the 28th annual reunion in Indianapolis. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 (not tax deductible). *The prize pool consists of: 1st place (\$500); 2nd place (\$400); 3rd place (\$300); 4th place (\$200) and eleven \$100 prizes. Raffle tickets will be mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May.*

Please consider purchasing raffle tickets to help us fund this important project. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation for the 11th Cavalry Memorial project.

Allons

Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial



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

When: 9:45 AM, Monday, May 27, 2013

Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the

Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Who: All Blackhorse Troopers from all eras, family and friends

What: We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, 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.

I Just Don't Get It!

By: Steve Crabill
M Company, 3/11 1968 – 69)

When the twenty-four tanks of our company relocated to a new AO (area of Operations) it was a big exciting event. In Viet Nam everyone had to pack up together, the cooks, mechanics, medics, and anyone even remotely involved with the unit had to be up bright and early, lined up on a dusty red clay road, waiting for those familiar words to echo into their head sets: “OK Mike Company, move out!” Little jeeps, boxy Armored Personnel Carriers (APC’s), trucks of all sizes, and the fifty six ton M-48 tanks, would then lurch into the center of the worn out dirt road, establish a pre-determined interval between themselves, and begin the journey to our new home. The location of this new home was relayed to us by bits and pieces, as we followed the lead vehicle into the foreboding outback somewhere above Saigon and its “delta”. The mixture of red dust and diesel smoke created a “reverse raccoon” effect on my face, and the other tank drivers in a matter of minutes. Our goggles kept most of the filth away from our eyes so we all had two inch circles of pretty much natural skin color around our eyes, and the rest of our faces dyed in reddish black. We simply thought it made for easier identification of drivers. I personally found this effect useful to find spots that I had missed shaving, if that luxury had been available that morning. The oily dust seemed attracted to stubble, as well as nose hair; reddish black boogers were a problem on these road marches as well.

This is the story about one of the many strange almost surreal “relocation trips” our armored unit took during my twelve month tour in Southeast Asia. The adventure began pretty much as described above; my tank commander was the company Executive Officer (XO), so he knew our destination, which also meant that we were the lead vehicle. Good in some ways for me; no one fifty feet ahead, spewing dust and soot for me to breathe, but then again, if some sneaky little guy in black pj’s had planted a thirty kilo mine in the

“No problem, Sir! He is mine! I pulled my .45, sat down in the dirt, rested both wrists on my knees, and started getting him in my sights! The XO yelled down: “You’re not really going to try this with a .45, are you delta? Give me a break!”

dirt up ahead – guess who runs over it first! To make the drive a little more disconcerting, we occasionally had to slow up and go around craters, caused by some chump running over one of the sneaky guy’s pieces of ordinance! Sometimes there were remnants of the vehicle nearby, maybe a whole truck axle with melted tires draped over it, or the front half of a jeep, God only knew where the rear end went! Now why our destination was so “hush-hush” I never figured out! I really don’t think our enemy had enough time to keep tabs on us, and besides we were a real noisy bunch of vehicles. Correct me if I am wrong here; has anyone ever designed a “stealth” tank, for God’s sake? As per usual we were informed that our new area of operation would be in “enemy friendly” territory, so we should work hard to gain the trust of, and befriend any civilians in our new AO.

Information always comes more freely from someone who trusts you, than one you have staked out naked on a dry creek bed, as experience had taught us! For most of the day we roared along at full speed, radio communication was routine “close up the gap back there one five,” or “get your main gun to the other side one three.” Finally as we got closer to our new AO, we could see a village in the distance, surrounded by greenery, with lots of smoke rising from the center. We slowed down quite a bit, and the radios were switched to command net, which meant my TC was trying to find out what was going on up ahead. Turned out the provincial forces: ARVN had been ambushed by the Viet Cong hiding in the village. They retaliated by counterattacking with airborne reserves, and were “mopping up” as we approached. The thatched roof huts that were burning produced a spicy smelling white smoke,

almost like incense. The XO had me pull over, and motioned two other tanks to go around us to take the lead. He wanted to get a “visual” on the area so he had us creeping along at a snail’s pace. It was a very tense situation, with the ARVN soldiers running around the village, some of them dragging bodies of dead VC to the right of the road and stacking them up. They had a few of their own dead in body bags, on the village side of the road too. I was almost standing up in the driver’s compartment, so I could see what was going on. Whatever had happened that night looked real nasty, hardly any civilians to be seen, bodies on both sides of the road, and lots of South Vietnamese troops were missing their helmets, and many were walking wounded. They all had grim looks in their faces, so I was thinking: “Great, what a nice place to call home... operating about three kilometers up the road for three weeks . . . this should be interesting!”

Evidently the XO could not find out if it was safe to proceed beyond this village, so as we got to the far side of the burning hamlet, he halted the column and started switching frequencies on the radio, to get more information. When we stopped, the air was not flowing any longer, so it got unbearably hot in the tank. I looked up through the heat waves, and spotted other crews jumping down to the ground and lighting up cigs. I really needed a smoke, so I got out, looked up at my TC, who motioned with his hand to go ahead. He covered his mic and yelled: “keep it running, and don’t go too far!” That was all I needed to hear! In a matter of seconds, I was sitting on my butt in a dusty little spot of shade, sucking like hell on a Winston! Soon our interpreter, Le came running down the road, and climbed up on the tank. He was summoned to com-

municate on the radio, seems our XO was finding lots of active frequencies, but most of them were Vietnamese . . . so Le to the rescue again! As I happily sat in the dust, lighting my 2nd cig off the first one, I gazed out over a flooded rice paddy, and noticed a wounded VC about 120 feet away, limping along toward the distant tree line! I couldn't believe someone in the nearby village hadn't spotted him yet, so I jumped up and got Le and the XO to check him with binoculars.

They both confirmed that he was a VC, and the XO asked Le to call out to him to surrender, saying he would be treated humanely, if he did so. I guess that is what Le yelled at him through cupped hands, but the VC just kept slogging through the water and raised his right hand with all fingers brought together. He didn't even turn around, just kept limping away from us! The XO asked Le, "what the hell does that mean?" and Le said: "Uh, something like f*** you?" Oh . . . f*** ME huh? . . . somebody take care of him for me. OK? I immediately threw my cig. down and yelled "No problem, Sir! He is mine! I pulled my .45, sat down in the dirt, rested both wrists on my knees, and started getting him in my sights! The XO yelled down: "You're not really going to try this with a .45, are you delta? Give me a break!" Realistically, my target was WAY beyond the effective range of this pistol, but I really wanted to pull it off, so after three missed shots, the XO instructed Le to step in! Two shots from his M16 dropped the VC face down, in the paddy. No more movement. I felt cheated . . . after all I had six more rounds in my weapon . . . and I was getting closer with each shot too! Whatever!

To rub it in the XO thanked Le profusely, then told him to hop down, drag the dead VC to the ARVN pile, and: "take Annie Oakley down there with you!" Talk about adding insult to injury . . . Really! We were also instructed to check him for paperwork or ID as well. Le and I tried walking on the top of the dikes that separated the paddys, but they were too slippery, so we ended up wading through the water and mud, just like the VC had been doing. As we slopped along Le asked me: "hey, who is Annie Oakley, anyway?" I bitterly told him she was a sharpshooter in the old days, of the American west. I

also told him I didn't want to talk about her anymore. I don't think he really understood, because he just said . . . "That pretty funny . . . he called you a girl! Hee Hee Hee!" Well the VC had just a flat little wallet on him, with a black and white picture of a middle aged unsmiling Asian woman in it. No money, no ID, no paperwork; kind of sad now that I think about it. I also remember how tough the bottom of his feet were, like I would imagine elephant hide would be. Guess it was from humping up and down jungle trails, carrying ammo and rice for hundreds of miles in your bare feet! Yeah, that had to be it. Old Annie Oakley of M Company had it pretty easy in comparison! At this point, I must beg the reader's forgiveness: I really never memorized the names of the countless villages and hamlets we passed through, or even operated around! Saigon, Xuan Loc, Chu Chi, DaNang . . . are among the few places still stored in my memory simply because they were big cities, neighboring my base camp, large battle sites, or sprawling bases of American activity. So when we left the burning village, after it was determined to be safe enough to enter our new area of operation, we took some ARVN troops with us to walk ahead to give us A FEEL OF WHAT LAY BEFORE US.

Sure enough about two kilometers up the road was yet another small village! This one not burning, a few people walking about. And seemed quiet enough! After what he'd seen in the village before, the XO was kind of jumpy, so he had place himself at the head of our column, stopped just shy of the outskirts of the "normal" village, and summoned the ARVN patrol. He gave then instructions through Le, to hike into the village, talk to any leaders or elders they could find, and get an idea of how hostile or friendly these people might be. This did not turn out like we had hoped! The ARVN's walked into the village cautiously as we

all watched them through range finders and binoculars, three of them went directly to a barber's hut with a striped pole out front, and pulled an old man out through the door, with a white cloth still around his neck. We were no longer in communication by radio with our allies, and it looked like they were arguing with the old man, and pushing him around. He did look a little like Ho Chi Min, and the XO kept yelling into the radio: "Can somebody PLEASE tell me what the hell is going on down there, I don't get it over?" Of course he never got an answer: none of us knew what they were doing, besides trying to get information the hard way! All of a sudden, two ARVNs grabbed the old man's hands, stretched him out between them, and the third just shot him dead through the chest! I kept refocusing the range finder in the gunner's seat . . . I couldn't believe what had just happened! Each time I looked again, the event was confirmed: crying villagers running toward the crumpled old man, guys from the barbershop trying to tend to him, and the ARVN patrol reformed in a line, beginning to march back, toward us! And the XO? He was so pissed off that he slammed our binoculars down on the turret so hard, that one of the outer lenses cracked. He just kept yelling into the mic; "I don't get it, I just don't get it!" As one can imagine, we didn't gain the hearts and minds of the locals in those three weeks of operation. We stayed isolated in the outback, never really had heavy contact with the enemy either. The anger flowed very freely from the XO through Le, to the NCO in charge of that ARVN patrol, but I honestly don't think it was ever determined why they assassinated the old guy that day. We never got that huge pair of binoculars fixed either. It was always a pain in the rear to use them afterwards, with a crack running through the field of vision – you know? Sometimes I just don't get it!

Find an Old Friend

All Troopers, please check the "Find an Old Friend" section on the 11th ACVVC web page and make sure if you have signed up there, that your email us up to date. If you have an old email address listed – no one can find you!

If you check and find you have an out-dated email address, send a correction to Bob Kickenweitz at bobk11acr@comcast.net .



From the Active Duty Regiment

Combat Medics Are Always in the Fight

By Captain Chad E. Cooper

11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Public Affairs Officer

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – “DOC” This call has been heard on battlefields for centuries, Army medical personnel have responded to the challenges of treating, evacuating and caring for Soldiers casualties since the first battles of war. Combat Medics assigned to Higher Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, are the constantly training to ensure Soldiers receive the best medical care at the ambulance exchange points (AXPs) until they are taken off the battlefield for further treatment.

“During the Decisive Action training rotation, Sgt. Jonathan Birkey is the medical noncommissioned officer in charge of the AXP Combat Medical Readiness Training. The goal is to have Soldiers trained to the point that treating patients is innate and instinctive, said Birkey. “I am teaching my Soldiers how to conduct tactical combat casualty care, which includes controlling bleeding, treating chest wounds and clearing airway obstructions in a realistic training environment, similar to what they may face on the battlefield,” The Combat Medic or “68 Whiskey” military occupational specialty is the second-largest in the Army, with nearly 38,000 medics spread across the active and reserve components. Only the infantry specialty has more Soldiers in the force. The combat medic was established during World War II-prior to that enlisted medical personnel served as hospital stewards or litter bearers. The medics typically are deployed at the platoon level, with each medic responsible for about 40 troops. But they do not initially earn the coveted title “doc,” Birkey said. First, they must prove they are part of the team. “If the platoon is filling up sand bags, grab a shovel.

Unfortunately, the fastest way to

earn the title is to have something bad happen and for the medic to do everything right, he said. Medics are known for their selfless courage, often charging into dangerous situations to stabilize and evacuate their fallen comrades. Their initial training is comprehensive, but combined with their predeployment training and practical experience; combat medics are indispensable battlefield assets. New medical evacuation policies are expediting Soldiers to treatment facilities faster and in better medical condition, reinforcing our commitment to the best and most timely care, said PFC Emily Curran a 68W assigned to Higher Headquarters Troop, 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. “The training we are conducting here at the AXP keep my skills current ensuring our Soldiers know if they are in need our of help we are right there to save them.”

The AXP is a battlefield multiplier for commanders ensuring Soldiers receive the immediate care for Soldiers while limiting the amount of combat power to maintain it. The medical planners decide where to establish the AXP before the battle even begins. Medical planners which usually consist of the personnel officer, medical platoon leader, medical company commanders, combat health support officer, brigade surgeon use ambulance exchange points (AXPs) when the distance between medical treatment facilities (MTFs) is too distant for one evacuation platform to evacuate the casualties the total distance. Medical planners and operators use AXPs when it would be more effective to have the casualty transferred on to another evacuation platform between the sending and receiving medical treatment facility, thereby freeing up the evacuation platform to transport more casualties.

An AXP is not only used for the transfer of casualties between ground evacuation platforms, it can be a location where the transfer of casualties occurs between a ground and air evacuation platform. Normally an AXP is used for the transfer of patients between different types of platforms as opposed to transfer between like vehicles, which can only delay evacuation. In these cases where transfer will occur between like platforms, medical planners should consider exchanging vehicles or crews as opposed to unloading and reloading patients onto the vehicle.

The training at the AXP includes hemorrhage control; airway management; treatment of a variety of different types of penetrating trauma; IV hypertensive fluid resuscitation; and triage and evacuation using both air and ground support. In addition, Soldier medics are taught force health protection measures and limited primary care skills. Their training culminates with both situational and field training exercises, where they must demonstrate individual- and team-level medical skills. Upon completion of their training they must be capable of managing trauma patients on the battlefield. “The training that we are learning makes me feel more confident in my abilities as a medic to be able to operate in any environment, said Pfc Erica Ford a 68W, assigned to HHT, 2/11, 11th ACR, “Staying up with the continuous and rapid changes in battlefield medical care helps to make every Combat Soldier a learning medic in a learning organization, dedicated to conserving the fighting strength and saving lives in combat”

“This training is absolutely essential to saving lives. I had a Soldier who may not be alive today if it were not for the training I had undergone similar to this type of training here at the AXP,” said Birkey. “This is the training I would want my son or daughter to have, because it absolutely saves the lives of our Soldiers on the battlefield.”

Sailing to Vietnam

By: Leo Deege,
How Battery, 3/11, 65-67

Some fifty years ago or so, my friend Jim and I were leaning over the railing of the USNS Barrett. We were sailing to Vietnam on an old grey troop transport ship. The sky was darkening with vivid reds and orange from the setting sun. Awed by the spectacular views and deeply in thought, we quietly talked about our families and friends that we had left behind. The ocean was very calm and reflected the colors of the sky. Only yesterday we had experienced the tail end of a hurricane. The wind had violently tossed our ship around and many of us had become quite seasick.

For a few days our deck was covered with seasick troopers of the 3rd Squadron, 11th Cavalry. Staying below deck made seasickness worse. We therefore stayed on deck as much as possible. For someone born and raised in a small Dutch fisherman's village, I was ashamed at my own discomfort. Lord Nelson too had been afflicted, but that did not stop him from accomplishing great deeds. My principal deed today was to keep some food inside. Just this afternoon I had taken in a bit of lunch with fellow officers in the dining hall below. Bill had jokingly knocked his shiny West Point ring on the wooden table. I had failed to appreciate his humor because I was totally focused on keeping soup on my spoon while my plate was being moved around with the ship's movements.

The evening views and fresh air were a welcome relief from the day before. Little did it then occur that some of us would not make it back.¹ Some of our finest would make the ultimate sacrifice. We were a closely knit family that had trained and lived together for several months in the fields of Virginia. However, our friendship bonds would strengthen further in the coming battles. Our lives would depend on each man's vigilance in doing his duty.

Back at Fort Meade, LTC Peterson had tailored our equipment and training specifically for Vietnam combat. M113 personnel carriers were converted into Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicles (ACAVs) with additions of armor protected machine gun emplacements. Herringbone dispersing exercises from road marches, grenade, and

small arms practices culminated in "tunnel rat" searches of a simulated Vietnamese village at Camp AP Hill. On board the Barrett, the S-3 and Howitzer Battery staff reduced the battery organization for combat to its bare essentials, to reduce vulnerability and increase the speed of deployments. In Camp Pickett we had specifically focused our artillery training on night time operations and "quick response"² fire missions. From a road march, we could deploy within a few minutes and place accurate fires on target. Our final "live" test was closely observed by Col. Boyer³ one of Gen. Patton's leading tank commanders in the Battle of the Bulge. After the test he called our cannoners together and praised them for their performance. In Vietnam we proved him and our present leaders proud when we received several unit commendations.

After twenty days sailing we arrived at Vungtau. This Vietnamese beach resort was used by both the Vietcong and ARVN soldiers. Here a side by side "time out of war" was enjoyed by enemies and allied soldiers. On the distant mountain, however, we could see a war in progress. We watched some choppers launching missiles at targets hidden by the lush green jungles. Soon we would be joining the action. Dressed up in battle gear, we descended onto landing craft and after a short ride we landed on the beach. While expecting to have to fight our way, we marched orderly behind our Regimental and Squadron staffs and with banners raised on high. Flashing bulbs greeted us obscuring the reporters and camera men from major newspapers. Our pictures would soon be splashed around the world. The 11th Cavalry's 3rd Squadron had arrived. From there on we were summarily loaded onto large troop transport planes for a short flight and deposited at our staging area in Long Binh. Tents were already waiting.

Since that time I have often wondered about what made Vietnam veterans so different from the protesting, draft dodging students and hasty Canada émigrés. To my mind the latter types were unwilling to expose themselves to danger. To us the so-called peace symbol on the black field represented the sign of the chicken. Since time

immemorial some men have been reluctant to go to war and have cowered behind defeatist slogans. Ambitious politicians dressed up in combat fatigues, took advantage of the chaos, and reveled in the lime light by throwing our Nation's awards across the White House fence. Naïve and shameless Hollywood starlets were photographed consorting with the enemy at the notorious Hanoi Hilton, while within that compound our brave pilots had been tortured and humiliated.

At age 4 and a half, my mother took me to the prison where my father was wrongfully kept. The German commanding officer offered me a candy, which my mother promptly slapped out of my hand. "You don't take candy from a German who has imprisoned your Dad!" The red faced Commandant loudly threatened to jail us but then relented. I had learned a valuable lesson...loyalty to my Dad demanded courage to oppose. History records that appeasements intensified Hitler's appetite for conquest and encouraged a war where many millions were eventually killed. Churchill understood those dangers and we are reminded of his rallying cry "...We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender..." This is how we too need to be united when we go to war. All of us are equally responsible to carry the burdens. An "all volunteer" Army must lead, but everyone else must contribute. Unlawful acts like burning draft cards and disrespect for our Nation's honors and flags are despicable and do nothing but encourage our foes, divide us and weaken our resolve.

We must never forget our fallen brothers or the disabled still in need. Our Nation will not forget your dedicated service and the difficulties that you endured. Long gone are the days of disrespect for our military.

Editor's note: Leo Deege served as the Commanding Officer of Howitzer Battery, 3/11.

1. CPT. Jim Stephens and CPT. Bill Abernathy were killed in action on April 28, 1967 and July 21, 1967, respectively.

2. In artillery parlance this is called a "hip shoot."

3. The 11th Cavalry Regimental Commander before COL. Cobb.

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3. **Note:** Concentrate on **why you** should be awarded an 11ACVVC Scholarship. Focus on **your** qualifications and not your father's military experience. If applicable, also describe **your** participation in veterans' affairs or events, if any.

I, the undersigned, give my permission for a copy of my High School / College Transcript to be submitted with this Scholarship Application.
 I understand that the selection process may involve a committee composed of individuals that are in the community at large.

[13] _____
 ⬆ *Signature of Applicant* Printed Name Date

[14] _____
 ⬆ *Signature of Sponsor Veteran or Guardian* Printed Name Date

➔ [15] Please Mail Your Completed Application with attachments for [10] and [11] above to the Scholarship Committee Chairman:

Michael "Doc" Rafferty
 11ACVVC Scholarship Chairman
 5837 Habanero Drive • Las Cruces, NM 88012
 Email DocRafferty36@sbcglobal.net • Cell phone 575-915-2921

➔ **QUESTIONS?** Email is Doc Rafferty's PREFERRED method of communication.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Please note the scholarship committee chairman's e mail address has changed. If you have questions about the scholarship program please contact Mike "Doc" Rafferty at platoonmedic36@gmail.com or 915-792-2804.

One Minute Shower

By: *Blandin W. Karabinos*
Chaplain 2/11 (71-72)

Phu Loi was base camp for the 2nd Squad in late 1971. Three Troops in the fields, a firebase called Andrews, a clear view of Nui Ba Den and on Friday evenings a few of us returned from the field for a variety of reasons.

With Huey's help we landed at Phu Loi caked with at least a week's worth of dust and diesel and looked forward to a shower. Not a hot or lingering one, but a whole minute under a spigot that may deliver a trickle of sun-warmed potable water.

Dropping my gear, I grabbed a towel and sat in line to await my turn, hoping that the stream would not end until I got at least a partial rinse. On one particular Friday I sat next to LT John Hrom, about three or four troopers away from the make shift shower.

John was reading the Stars and Stripes, he was tired; exhausted after several weeks in the field and looking forward to a shower. As we sat reading and exchanging comments

... "Incoming." A random rocket exploded on the empty volley ball court, 20 yards away. Sand and little stones splattered about: no one harmed. John's newspaper, full open, was shredded by tiny pebbles. He never dropped it, just muttered: "Damn it all" and kept reading. He wasn't about to lose his place in line.

It wasn't funny, didn't seem scary and no one headed for a bunker. Our only concern was for the shower stall, insuring it wasn't damaged.

Forty years have passed. Yet I still take a one-minute shower. Cheat every once in awhile.

Fading memories as I grow older; different cares and woes. We all have them but we all remain old warriors. Over time, we've forgotten too many lads; you call them buddies. The last 40 years have dulled our memories.

We served at different times and in different places, from 1966 to 1972. Yet we all participated as 11th Cav troopers ... a special

band of brothers that are still bonded.

My only regret and maybe yours too, is that I didn't really get to know more of the really great people we bonded with during our time in country. I wish I knew more than their nicknames; wish I had more pictures to identify; wish I had stayed in touch. Thankfully the 11th ACVVC, Thunder Run, and annual reunions have granted some wishes.

Now when I read of our Troopers' children earning scholarships, I smile. When I read of their departure to Fiddlers Green, I may, as Frank Church so poetically captures the sentiment "shed a tear for now but will not cry." When I see their names listed as a new member, I rejoice, and when I meet them at a renewal or gathering or hear their voice on the phone, I am excited. ["Spaghetti" calls each month, and I get an occasional e-mail from several others, even the CO.]

The 11th ACVVC is a special group, a

Continued on page 21

REUNION SHIRT ORDER – also available with additional personalization 11thACVVC - 28th Reunion 2013 – Indianapolis, IN

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up during the Reunion in Indiana

If you know you are attending and want a Reunion shirt, 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 – This year's shirts' sizes run large (like WA, DC 2010 and St Louis 2011.)

All personalization of shirts will be pre-ordered.

To receive your 2013 Reunion shirt for the Reunion, Order must be in by July 31, 2013 – No Exceptions.



contact: _____

name and phone or email

2013 Reunion Shirt

Sport shirt – pique knit cotton/poly blend, color "Brickyard" - left chest pocket (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 2013 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



Hurry Up And Wait!

From your experiences in the Army that you remember clearly, I expect “Hurry Up and Wait!” is among the most memorable. Before you joined the Army, the line to get your first drivers license is probably another “Hurry Up and Wait” memory. Among your personal experiences that you remember, who had the slowest lines? Probably the Army. Getting your driver's license took patience, I admit. There the lines were endless and so was the wait. But in the Army, “Hurry Up and Wait” was a way of life. Know what I mean? I'm pretty sure you haven't forgotten.

In the Army it was hurry up and wait with a difference. For example, in the Army you had sergeants hollering to hurry up and do what they said. So you did. Along with a hundred other troopers, you hurried to keep the sergeant out of your face. Back then you had to hurry information to the theater for mandatory classes like character guidance, painting rocks, or how to guard something. So you hurried. Then you waited and waited some more for something to happen. Not that you cared so much, but you were told to hurry, so you did. Why? Because Top or the Ole Man said to. For what purpose? To make him happy, I guess. You could have gone a lot slower and accomplished the same thing, but that's not how it was done.

How about parades? Just about everybody loves a parade. Parades are great! I've always loved watching soldiers passing in review. We've talked about parades before - the flags waving, the bands playing, the troops marching, looking sharp and feeling proud. I loved them then and I love them now. The parades and passing in review weren't a problem. You already knew about parades when you signed up. You liked them. A problem developed with the hurry to get ready, to look sharp with your shoes or boots spit shined, getting to the parade ground in plenty of time, then being formed up and ready for the commanding officer, the guest general, or whoever you were in formation for. The sun was hot and you were in your long sleeved Class A uniform,

How many times did you have to wait in line to have a drug test? Many. I was the chaplain and I had to stand in line to pee into the bottle like everyone else.

with your tie snug against your throat, wearing your steel pot and your rifle slung (slang?) over your shoulder. You were ready to go! Except the brass hadn't shown up yet or else he was just late. So you waited. You got hot, you got tired, you got hungry, you got pestered by flies, your nose itched, and you had to pee. But still you waited. Was it worth it? That's not the point. The point is that you were in a culture of hurry up and wait. So you hurried up and waited.

What I think is that hurry up and wait has been around ever since armies were first invented. I know for sure it was around in our dad's generation and probably his dad's too (I didn't ask him so can't say for sure). I'm sure that long, slow lines were the main way hurry up and wait got its reputation. How many times did you have to wait in line to have a drug test? Many. I was the chaplain and I had to stand in line to pee into the bottle like everyone else. (Not the same bottle, of course - what did you think?) Some test “opportunities” were unannounced. When the call came you had to hurry over to the clinic, the orderly room, or wherever the test was done. You came to a quick halt at the end of the line. Then you waited and waited. Finally, your turn came - trouble is you couldn't pee because you already did just before the surprise call came. You had to stick around because someone thought you'd go cheat or something (yes, there were ways to cheat on the pee test). So you hung around until you finally accumulated enough to take the test. Remember? What can I say? Of course you remember.

Lines were everywhere. You had to hurry to get in line, any line. The Army scheduled your life and hurry was part of it. The first sergeant said to hurry over there, anywhere. If you didn't get over there pronto to the bus, helicopter, van, deuce-and-a-half truck or whatever, would leave without you and you'd be in trouble. So you hurried up, you got there, and you waited. The line

was long, slow, and inefficiency was the order of the day. The hurry up and wait principle applied to everybody, equal treatment for all. This included officers, believe it or not (generals excepted. On time is when the general arrives). You'll remember other situations, of course.

One place where the principle of hurry up and wait applied was in Viet Nam. I've become convinced that it applied in every war we've fought; WWII, Korea, Iraq, Afghanistan, and such. Actually, in peace time too. Today we're zeroing in on Viet Nam. When you were out in the bush, sometimes word would come that the NVA or VC were moving into your area or coming down a trail toward your position. So your squad or platoon had to bust your rears to get into position to take care of the situation. You set up however you needed, maybe a squad ambush, an automatic ambush, or a couple of sniper positions. You had to hurry up because you had to be in position before nighttime dark set in. So you hurried. Then it was wait. And wait. Maybe something would happen and maybe not. The point here is that there were times when “hurry up and wait” was clearly the best thing to do. Sometimes it was even necessary for your survival. No problem.

I guess when you deal with a lot of people like the Army, hurry up and wait is just going to happen. I don't think there's much point in trying to explain it. We don't have time to explain now, anyway. Sometimes the wait after hurrying didn't seem worth it, like waiting in a long line for chow only to find that it wasn't the cooks good meal day. Other times the wait and the hurry were worth it. I remember times when the mess halls put out spreads that could almost match mom's home cooking. (I said, “almost.”) Especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas, it paid to get there in a hurry. It was worth the long line. The feast was worth the hurry up and wait.

The Bible, the Word of God, has something to say about waiting which I find very encouraging. I don't have to be in a hurry to get in line for God because he's always available, no matter where or when. When it says to wait on God, it means slow down and listen, not get in a line. I quote, "Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!" Isaiah 30:18. When we wait on the Lord, we shouldn't be in a hurry. He will bless you. He'll relate to you personally with his compassion because he knows you and he loves you. He has a purpose for your life and a reason why you were born.

"Hurry up and wait" was part of our lives in the old days. It still is. Only now it's mostly up to us when to hurry and whether to wait when we get there. So let's be smart about hurrying and waiting. It matters.

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

11th ACVVC Calendar



2013

11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

The 11th U.S. Cavalry was formed on February 2, 1901 at Ft. Myer, Virginia. In December it was assigned to duty in the Philippines where, in 1902, the 1st Squadron would earn the first of the Regiment's many battle streamers, "Samar 1902."

In the Mexican Expedition of 1916-17, the 2nd Squadron engaged Pancho Villa's men on May 5, 1916 at Ojo Azules, Mexico, killing forty-two enemies in the last mounted cavalry charge in U.S. History.

The Blackhorse Regiment would see action in World War II where it earned five more battle streamers, but the Regiment's finest performance would be in the Republic of Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Blackhorse Troopers served there for 2,040 days and earned eleven battle streamers.

In June of 1991, freedom called and the Blackhorse rode again, earning it's most recent battle streamer in Operation Desert Storm.

The 11th Armored Cavalry returned from Iraq at the end of 2005, and has once again assumed the challenging task of training America's Army in the desert environment of Fort Irwin, California. Although the primary mission is preparing units for deployment to the war in Iraq, our Regiment is simultaneously training intensely to remain the best Regiment in the United States Army! During the recent deployment fighting in "Operation Iraqi Freedom III," the famed Blackhorse Regiment continued to uphold the great legacy established by Troopers who fought the war in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Philippine Insurrection
Samar 1902

Mexican Expedition
Mexico 1916-17

World War II
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Vietnam
Counteroffensive Phase II
Counteroffensive Phase III

Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive Phase IV
Counteroffensive Phase V
Counteroffensive Phase VI
Tet 1969 Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive Phase VII

Operation Desert Storm
Southwest Asia Cease Fire

Operation Iraqi Freedom
Iraqi Governance 2004-2005

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.**

REUNION REGISTRATION

By: *Bob Moreno*
 Director, 11th ACVVC

Hello all, my article this time will be a continuation of the last article. In this one we will be working on filling out the registration form.

I have received several calls concerning the cost of children. The answer is very simple. If you are bringing a child and they are coming to the banquet and will be eating the meal and occupying a chair, then the cost is the same as everyone else.

Next let's go back over where to record who is coming. Everyone's names should be on the lines that say 'attendees'. Please be sure to list everyone who is coming, and remember to list your name also.

This area is under the information area where it asks for your unit information. Remember list **only one** unit that you served with. **not** for example G Trp and E Trp. And only list one year **not** 66-67 and 69-70. This should only be the one that you want to sit with at the dinner. This is very important as we only place seats for a unit by the number that registered with that unit. So if you sit with someone who is not in your unit then that shorts out a seat for someone else. So understand if you are found to be sitting with another unit you will be asked to move. We cannot make any last minute changes.

Okay now double check everything again. Got it all? Did you print clearly, type it or at least use those little return address labels that everyone gets? If everything is done then either mail it to Ollie or submit it thru the web site.

Next step - Have a wonderful reunion.

If you have any additional questions, then just give me a call and I will happily answer them.

Order Form

"Party With the Blackhorse" Cookbook

Please send me ____ "Partying with the Blackhorse" cookbooks. I have enclosed \$_____ (\$15/book plus \$5/book S&H, \$20 total/book) in the form of:

check money order

Name: _____

Address: _____

Mail this form or a copy of it along with full payment to:

Barb Moreno
 'Blackhorse Cookbook'
 24284 Endeavor Ave.
 Tomah, WI 54660

28th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion



Indianapolis, Indiana
 September 11 – 15, 2013



Schedule of Events

(Tentative Schedule as of March 31, 2013)

Wednesday, September 11

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Registration Open
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm – 12:00 am	Bunker Open

Thursday, September 12

7:00 am – ????	22nd Annual Marty Ognibene Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
Memorial Golf	
9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration Open
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store Open
2:00 pm – 12:00 am	Bunker Open

Friday, September 13

9:00 am – 6:00 pm	Registration Open
9:00 am – 5:00 pm	Quartermaster Store Open
10:00 am -12:00 pm	Veterans Seminar
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Ropkey Armor Museum (optional fee per person)
12:00 pm -12:00 am	Bunker Open
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Silent Auction
8:00 pm	Raffle Drawing

Saturday, September 14

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

Sunday, September 15

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

REGISTRATION FORM



28th Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
Indianapolis, Indiana



Wednesday, 11 September thru Sunday, 15 September 2013

PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS AT

Indianapolis Downtown Marriott
350 West Maryland Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46225
Reservations: 317-822-3500

Registration fee is \$80.00 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 post marked after AUGUST 28, 2013. All registrations must be received no later than Friday, SEPTEMBER 7, 2013.

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

Name Telephone No:

Address

City/State/Zip

E-Mail Address

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

ATTENDEES (please print)

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Rows for individual attendees and a Total Registration Fee row.

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

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
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL
571 DITCHLEY RD
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482

It Ain't Easy Being Green

By Bob Kickenweitz
HHT, Regiment, 66-67

This story is meant to poke fun at myself for being so naïve to the world around us. Please forgive me for some of the situations, as they were all part of the Vietnam experience.

We flew into Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base in Saigon, the capital of Vietnam, on October 11th 1966. At that time we came to Vietnam without a steel pot, flack jackets, but most important of all, no weapon. After waiting around in the airport for about half an hour for a bus to pick us up (typical Army hurry up and wait), I needed to use the men's room. One of my buddies kept an eye on my duffel bag while I ventured on a trip to the men's room. This was 1966, it was the capital of the country, and the "Pearl of the Orient," but you would not have known it from the men's room.

The only thing ceramic in the entire room was the tile floor. A wooden trough fixed to the wall, pitched down to the left acted as a urinal. The most amazing thing to me was, there were no pipes attached to it. When the urine got to the end of the trough, it simply flowed through a hole in the wood and fell to the floor, from the floor it flowed through a hole in the wall. I can't venture a guess as to where it went from there. This is just not my kind of country!

Another half-hour went by; we were instructed we would have to walk someplace to meet the bus. So off we went, we walked through a tent city, sandbags everywhere, around everything, and everything covered with a red dirt. Boy, I've been in country one hour and I'm in the boonies already. Little did I know I was still on the air base. We finally found the bus; perspiration dipping off me like an old mop being wrung out, even after my Tigerland training in Louisiana during the hottest time of the year I still really felt the heat. All the windows of the bus were opened, but were cover with a wire mesh so that objects such as home made bombs or hand grenades could not be thrown into the bus and ruin our whole day. Being the bright guy I am, I used my duffel bag as a shield placing it in the seat closest to the window; just in case we receive small arms fire I'm hoping the

While sitting there thinking of something to write, I notice my arms had an orange tint to them. Turning to the left I saw this enormous column of flames going up in to the air about two to three hundred feet,...

duffel bag would stop the bullets. We came to a stop at a red light in Saigon, two lane of traffic each way, a busy street. There standing with his back to the traffic was a Saigon policeman (we use to call them white mice due to their uniforms). He was urinating on the wall not more than twelve feet away with people going by not noticing a thing. East meets West culture shock!

We continued on our first trip up Highway # 1 past the LBJ Ranch (Long Binh Jail) to the 90th Replacement Battalion (the leaning sh*t house) at Long Binh. In October of 1966 it was mostly tents, with the exception of the mess hall, and the enlisted men's club. One night after dinner, I deposited some of my money in the one armed bandits at the enlisted men's club. I returned to my tent, it was a hot night and the sides of our tent were rolled up. I sat down on my bunk to write some letters home to my family. While sitting there thinking of something to write, I notice my arms had an orange tint to them. Turning to the left I saw this enormous column of flames going up in to the air about two to three hundred feet, then folding over itself churning and boiling to crating a mushroom shaped fire inferno. The ammunition dump across a gully from us had suffered a direct mortar hit. The first thing that popped into my head was "O sh*t! Charlie is now using atomic bombs!" All those visions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that we used to see on TV growing up raced through my head in a nanosecond. I grab the mattress at the end of my bed and rolled it around me and becoming a pupa in a mattress cocoon. Within seconds the shock wave rolled up the gully and hit the tent, making it sway about a foot. I felt very vulnerable not being able to defend myself with a weapon in my hands, a steel pot on my head, and a flak jacket on my back. You see at this time in the war, we were not issued any equipment until you were

assigned to a unit. I'm not in the country a week, how am I going to last a year over here. Wail I was in Vietnam, this ammunition dump was blown up four times and I was close by on all four occasions.

After a few days went by I got the word I was being assigned to a new unit that arrived in Nam just a little over a month ago, it was the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse Regiment). We were placed in a deuce and a half for our short ride over to the Blackhorse Regiments staging area. The staging area was located in Long Binh, and was our base camp while we were building our new base camp in Xuan Loc. I was assigned as a scout and had to provide coverage on convoys to Xuan Loc in the afternoon and back to Long Binh the following morning. Later in my tour of duty, the convoys would leave in the morning and return in the afternoon of the same day. The scouts had a jeep with a 50-caliber machine gun on a stand behind the two front seats, and an M-60 machine gun mounted on the right side of the jeep where the windshield would be mounted.

My first trip up to Blackhorse was uneventful; we arrived about four o'clock in the afternoon. On the eastern side of Route # 2 was a rubber tree plantation and on the western side, our engineers had cleared a strip of land which was to be the eastern side of base camp. It was about fifty yards wide and about a quarter mile long. After dinner we sat around and talked and joked as most guys do. When it was time to turn in I found a spot under a deuce and a half to sack out. No sleeping bag, no blanket, right on the ground. When morning came, I was afraid to move; I opened my eyes and looked all around making sure some kind of friendly critter didn't use my warm body to keep themselves comfortable, i.e. a snake! Like I said it was uneventful.



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
HHT REGIMENT		Moss, Richard A	67-68	Harris, Anthony B	68-69	HOWITZER BATTERY, 2/11	
Bilyeu, Ronald E	70-71	Sale, William A Jr	67-68	Schreck, Robert C	66-67	Armagost, Charles H	71-71
Brown, Jerry L	70-71	Turner, Richard D	70-70	HHT, 2/11		Bullock, Charles O	68-69
Mason, Michael A	67-68	Williams, Paul R	70-70	Gibbs, George A	71-71	Claiborne, Ronald G	68-69
Nettle, Gregory J	67-68	A TROOP, 1/11		Hwoschinsky, Peter V	68-69	Fore, Dale J	70-71
O'Neill, Daniel J Jr	66-67	Bohlin, Thomas A	71-71	Kiger, Terry W	71-71	Intihar, Donald L	69-70
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		Dixon, Lorenzo J	69-69	Morgan, John	67-68	Kangas, Raymond J Jr	68-68
Allen, Jerry M	71-72	Drummer, Frank L	70-70	Nybo, Marc K	69-70	Pitsenbarger, Jessie L	71-72
Clark, Robert O	69-70	Lewis, Richard A	69-69	Schulz, Douglas A	72-72	Werner, Ronald H	71-71
Crowder, Dennis K	68-69	Reyes, Juan M	69-70	Sidebottom, William J	69-69	Williams, Paul R	71-71
Kirton, James E	71-71	Sewell, Robert C	69-70	Smith, David L	67-68	HHT, 3/11	
Offutt, Theodore J	70-71	Sims, Martin K	67-68	E TROOP, 2/11		Armagost, Charles H	70-71
O'Neill, Daniel J Jr	66-67	Whitson, J D	70-70	Storey, Dennis W	69-70	Morse, Alan K	68-68
Smith, Thomas M	71-72	B TROOP, 1/11		F TROOP, 2/11		Picciano, Kenneth R	68-68
Wampler, Miller G	66-67	Alcantara, Richard G	69-69	Bouchard, Wallace	65-67	Waliczek, Daniel F	70-71
Wollenman, Gary A	71-72	Ferguson, Festus S	67-68	Cook, Jeffery J	70-71	I TROOP, 3/11	
27th ENGINEER BATTALION		Knell, Leonard R	67-68	Coolidge, Phillip B	67-68	Bunch, Jerry E	66-67
Mcgreevy, Eugene	68-69	Price, Theodore L	68-69	Dean, Clifton S Jr	68-69	Durham, Charles K	69-70
37th MEDICAL COMPANY		C TROOP, 1/11		Kindred, Earl D	66-67	Mitchell, Lewis C	69-69
Nipps, Bobby G	71-72	Bartz, Richard C	68-69	Mckinney, Reginald D	67-68	Negroni, Pedro R	66-67
Trocha, Michael J	67-68	Berndt, Loren L	66-67	Sidebottom, William J	68-69	Taglianetti, Philip C	67-68
Trueblood, Marion	70-70	Church, Carl O	66-68	Smalley, Michael E Sr	68-69	K TROOP, 3/11	
398th TRANS DET		Clark, Robert O	69-70	Standley, William F	69-70	Blanton, Billy E	69-70
Beasley, Jonathan E	69-71	Hernandez, Luis	69-70	Turner, Calvin L	69-70	Bush, James L	68-68
Maher, Robert R	69-69	Lounsbury, Marion R	69-70	G TROOP, 2/11		Heller, Al	67-68
Sartain, Claude E	70-70	Mcmanus, Charles P	68-68	Eastman, Gary L	69-69	Ranalli, Nicholas	68-69
409th RR DET		Sale, William A Jr	67-68	Jones, Terry L	70-71	Steinman, Gordon N	66-67
Orpin, John W	68-69	Willming, Donald E	66-67	Kemplin, Frank	71-72	Taute, Michael C	67-67
551st MAINT CO		D COMPANY, 1/11		Mangram, John C	68-69	L TROOP, 3/11	
Davis, James L	69-70	Briggs, Robert N	69-70	Mckey, John D	69-70	Fishback, Charles T	69-70
919th ENGINEER COMPANY		Burris, Stanley K	70-70	Parton, Ben A	68-68	Kida, Gordon J	70-71
Corradini, Richard A	69-69	Gilliland, Laverr E	69-70	Spencer, Donald B	67-67	Mitchell, Lewis C	69-70
Dougherty, Harry G	70-71	Robinson, Gary R	68-69	H COMPANY, 2/11		HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11	
HHT, 1/11		HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11		Campos, Abram	66-67	Bailey, James H	68-69
Flaig, James A	67-68	Church, Carl O	66-68	Smalley, Michael E Sr	68-69	Jameson, Charles C	70-71
		Harrington, Geoffrey M	69-70	Souza, Albert J	70-70		

SHOWER from page 15

most unique organization. A lot of veterans I meet are envious as to the cohesiveness of our membership. They are amazed at the bond – the regimental pride. And a lot of them have greeted me with: “you saved our ass, brother.” No more clearly is that remark explained than in Philip Keith’s book, *Black-Horse Riders*, the story of Alpha Troop of the 1st Squadron in March, 1970. We have all heard the same words that Captain Poindexter said that fateful day, “Mount-up.” And we all responded accordingly.

I have to smile, and you do too, when you recall how often John Wayne, as a Cavalry officer uttered those same words in any num-

ber of his Westerns. We were excited by them in our youth, we acted the part in our manhood, and we relish the phrase in our dotage.

In 1984, when he dedicated the statue of The Three Grunts at the Vietnam Memorial, President Reagan remarked: “Those who fought in Vietnam are part of us, part of our history. They reflected the best in us.” He further went on to say: “You didn’t forget. You kept the faith. You walked from the litter, wiped away your tears, and returned to the battle. You fought on, sustained by one another and deaf to the voices of those who didn’t comprehend. You performed with a steadfastness and valor that veterans of other

wars salute, and you are forever in the ranks of that special number of Americans in every generation that the Nation records as true patriots.”

So my brothers, we are bonded together not only to each other, but to the history of the country. We can count in our pedigree great men, historic Cavalrymen who I can’t possibly all list. Just start with your brothers from Vietnam and before long you’ll go all the way back to Custer and Crook, Jeb Stuart, Hampton and Buford, Fremont and Taylor, Greene, Pulaski, Lafayette and even, George Washington.

Some pedigree ... I’ll bet some of them also took one minute showers.

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

By: Don Snedeker, 11th ACVVC Historian

• **Flying ACAVs (parts two and three):** In the last edition of *Blackhorse Hoofbeats*, I reported on the Alpha Troop mission in mid-August 1969 to fly on C-130s to the rescue of Bu Dop. This article apparently created a lot of interest, as I received phone calls and e-mails from no fewer than five Blackhorse Troopers telling me I was WRONG! It wasn't Alpha Troop, they told me. It was Fox Troop. Others said, no, it wasn't Alpha or Fox, but Bravo Troop that had flown its ACAVs on C-130s to Bu Dop. In fact, it was all three. Alpha Troop did it first on 18 and 19 August. They stayed in the Bu Dop-Bo Duc area for about two months and then went 'home' to Loc Ninh. A short time later, the NVA started making noise again, so on 10 and 11 November Fox Troop saddled up, loaded their ACAVs on C-130s, and flew into Bu Dop. The intelligence specialists said that the natives were getting especially restless – the Green Berets reported there were Communist tanks on the other side of the border in Cambodia– so about two weeks later, Bravo Troop also loaded on C-130s and reinforced Fox Troop (on 27-28 November). Together, they made up Task Force Bradin and in December had a number of big fights with the 141st Regiment, 7th (NVA) Division. So, you Troopers from Alpha, Bravo, and Fox Troops can all brag that you made a combat assault on a C-130.

• **Mine Warfare:** From the Combat Operations After Action Report for Operation Atlanta (20 October – 8 December 1966): During Operation Atlanta in October 1966, the 1st Platoon of the 919th Engineer Company supported the 1st Squadron. While on a reconnaissance mission with Bravo Troop, one of the engineer squads discovered “an ingeniously emplaced mine complex designed to disable an armored vehicle and once stopped, destroy it with a charge that was placed at a higher elevation than the first.” Fortunately, this tricky mine was discovered and destroyed before it could be used against the Regiment.

• **Who Is on the Line:** Viet Cong prisoners of war captured in 1967 confirmed what many suspected. Using captured US radios – the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) estimated that as of August 1968, the enemy was believed to possess about 900 captured US radios, including AN/PRC-10s and -25s – they monitored, and even entered friendly radio nets. According to the MACV Command History for 1967, one “VC prisoner stated that during combat operations, US troops transmitted everything in the clear. The VC easily understood the messages and attempted to counter US operations. Another VC prisoner revealed that by listening to US communications, his unit was able to determine the meaning of key code words used by one of the US units... Other VC prisoners indicated that US units were often identified through voice recognition because US operators usually chatted for a while after passing traffic, permitting the VC to become familiar with the operator's voices and to identify stations. US operators sometimes queried each other in the clear about parts of preceding messages that they were having trouble decrypting.” Radio Telephone Operators' (RTOs) use of slang instead of more complicated codes was cited as the reason the VC could break US codes [such as using the word “BLACK-

HORSE” as a local code to transmit coordinates] “in as little as two hours.” US forces were not the only ones subjected to what was officially termed Imitative Communications Deception. MACV Lessons Learned Bulletin #64 reported that on 11 December 1966, an ARVN patrol operating south of Blackhorse Base Camp received a radio message to move to a set of coordinates. “The caller used proper call signs that allegedly originated from the district headquarters. Authentication was not requested, but the patrol leader became suspicious and sent a runner back to the compound to confirm the order. No such order was issued and the ruse was believed to have been an attempt to lure the patrol into an ambush.” Four years later, the situation had not changed dramatically. On 22 July 1970, while searching for documents on the body of a dead VC, Golf Troopers found a receipt for the purchase of four GI-issue PRC-25 radios. These radios were bought on the black market for about 100,000 Piaster (about \$850) each and were destined for the radio intercept team of the 274th (VC) Regiment.

• **Basement Surprise:** From the June 1969 edition of the Blackhorse newspaper: “Members of M Company who captured an enemy schoolhouse near here [Quan Loi] recently thought they had learned their lessons well, but it turned out that their education had just begun. The troopers, tired from three days of almost continuous contact with entrenched enemy forces, found the simple, tin-roofed structure hidden in an enemy base camp. Among the propaganda banners cluttering the floor were the same learning aids found in classrooms everywhere – blackboards, worn erasers, and writing tablets. Then a cavalryman noticed a peculiar sag in the worn floor. ‘Check it out,’ said the squad leader. The rough boards came up easily, and the troopers caught their breath as they spotted a 500-pound bomb wedged beneath the floorboards. A booby-trap device had failed to set it off. The cavalrymen breathed a lot easier after the bomb was disarmed. They probed the soft dirt beneath the floor and unearthed three tons of bagged rice. But their troubles weren't over yet. As the troopers loaded the rice onto their tanks, they were attacked by an enemy force. Ten enemy soldiers were killed in the ensuing fight. ‘This has been one hell of a day,’ commented one trooper as M Company left the base camp.”

• **In the (NVA) Navy:** If someone were to bet you that the Regiment did not capture any NVA sailors during its time in Southeast Asia, take that bet! In the spring of 1971, Second Squadron and Air Cavalry Troop were operating in the Ho Bo and Boi Loi Woods. The mission was to provide security for Rome Plows making tactical cuts in the jungle to open up traditional VC base camps for aerial observation and quick ground reaction. On the 1st of June, Golf Troop observed three enemy soldiers near what was known as ‘The Onion’. Once they realized they had been spotted, the three took off into an area that was inaccessible for tracked vehicles. An Air Cav ‘Pink Team’ (one Cobra and one LOH) was operating in the vicinity and took up the chase. Once they saw the helicopters overhead, two of the enemy soldiers raised their hands and surrendered. Upon interrogation, one of the two said that he was a rice-carrier; the second said that he was a member of the H5 Naval Sapper Battalion. He was a long way from the South China Sea, but he was still a sailor.

• **Blue Browns.** In late 1971, Air Cavalry Troop was routinely working out of Phu Loi, Katum, and Tay Ninh, supporting South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) operations in northern War Zone C and southern Cambodia. One of the daily missions was to pick up an ARVN aero-rifle platoon (called 'Browns' to distinguish them from US aero-rifle platoons known as 'Blues') and positioning them as a ready-reaction force. Frequently, this involved sitting around all day on the Tay Ninh West airstrip in the hot sun, waiting for the call to action. The 30th of November 1971 started out as such a day, but things got interesting shortly after lunch. The ACT crews noticed that a group of the Browns were horsing around, concluding with a couple of smoke grenades being tossed. One of the Browns came over to the Blackhorse Troopers; he had been burned by one of the grenades and needed first aid. He also indicated that he wanted the crew chief's pistol, but SP4 Arthur Rossetti wisely refused. After being patched up, the ARVN Ranger – who appeared to have been drinking something stronger than bug juice – went back to his buddies. Less than an hour later, several other Browns came running back to the helicopters to get their weapons and packs. The group

then moved (more like staggered) toward the main gate, shooting in the air and into the ground in front of them. Their target appeared to be the guard shack occupied by the National Police (called 'White Mice' because of their sparkling white uniforms). What ensued was a full-blown firefight between some of the Browns and the White Mice. Several of the more senior Browns tried to stop their soldiers from shooting, but they were only partially successful. Although the Browns were using M-16s and M-79 grenade launchers, they apparently felt like they needed additional firepower. Twice during the mêlée, members of the Brown Platoon attempted to take the M-60 door guns from the Blackhorse helicopters, but crew chiefs and pilots – including CPT Bob Farenkopf, WO1 Larry Mateer, and SP4 Charles Mitchell – combined to stop them. Shrapnel from a blooper round damaged one of the slicks, penetrating the fuel cell and making it unflyable. Seeking to avoid further damage or even casualties, the crews requested, and were granted permission to fly away from this burgeoning civil war. Troops from the 18th (ARVN) Infantry Division eventually arrived and restored order.

THE 22ND ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thursday, September 12, 2013
Morningstar Golf Club

Steve Seibel, Golf Professional
271 S. Mitthoeffer Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46229
Phone 317-899-4653



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 September 1, 2013 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 September 1, 2013. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at one of best facilities in Indianapolis. 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 short 18 minute ride from our hotel. Top line rental clubs are available. Let Joe know if you need them.

This golf course is owned and operated by its head professional of 30+ years. He and his staff take great pride in hosting our 11th Cav veterans and guests.

21ST 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

11th Cavalry Memorial Project

Planning for the relocation of the 11th Cavalry memorial from Fort Knox to the new National Armor and Cavalry Museum at Fort Benning has begun. It is anticipated that the first phase of development of the National Armor and Cavalry Museum will be completed by October 2013. Our goal is to complete the move and construction of the new memorial site no later than early 2015. This gives us approximately two years to complete the project.

The entire memorial complex will be moved, including the large Vietnam Memorial, the three memorials which are dedicated to the Philippine, World War II and Iraqi Freedom campaigns, plus the nearly 1,100 granite bricks which surround the memorial. All bricks will be catalogued prior to the move and will be placed

in the new location in the same relative position.

The cost of the move will be shared between the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and the Blackhorse Association. To help offset the cost of this project both organizations will be offering granite bricks.

Anyone can purchase a memorial brick. Memorial bricks are a lasting tribute of **YOUR SERVICE** to our regiment. The bricks are a way in which we ALL can participate and show our support for our fellow Blackhorse troopers whose names are listed on the memorials. The bricks measure 8 x 4 x 2 inches and can accommodate inscription of up to three lines of 15 characters per line. Many choose to have their name, unit, and years of service

with the regiment inscribed on their brick. Others choose to have a special message inscribed. Some of the messages are very touching. "IN OUR HEARTS", "BROTHERS 4-EVER", "I NEVER FORGET" and "ALL GAVE SOME-SOME GAVE ALL" are just a few of the personal messages on the bricks. The cost of the granite bricks is \$100.

We are beginning this fundraiser now so we can insure that sufficient funds are available in plenty of time to complete the project by early 2015. Bricks will be placed at the new memorial site at Fort Benning during the construction phase.

The bricks add a very special and personal touch to the memorial. We urge you to support this worthwhile project by ordering a brick.

Brick Order Form

Instructions: Print your message in the boxes below exactly as you want your brick to appear. Be sure to leave a blank box between words. Each line accommodates a maximum of 15 characters, including blank boxes and punctuation (commas, periods, hyphens). If ordering more than one brick, photocopy this form or use a separate sheet of paper.

LINE 1:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

LINE 2:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

LINE 3:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

4" x 8" x 2" Brick - \$100 enclosed

Visa Master Card Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

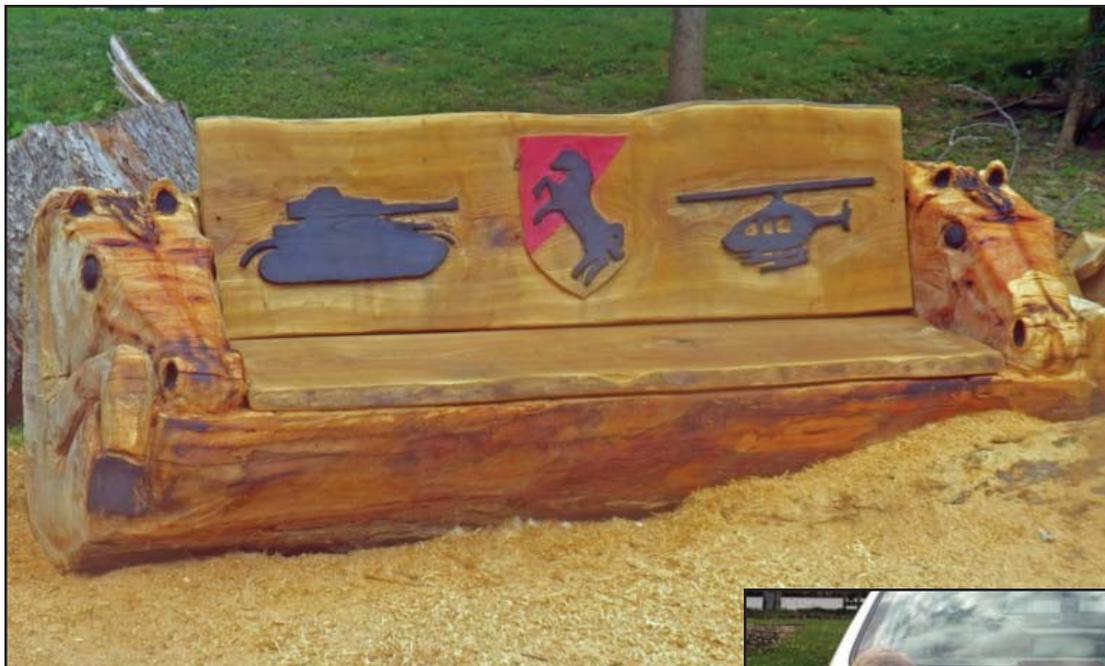
Signature (Required for Credit Card): _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check, money order, or credit card (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC, C/O Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd, Kilmarnock, VA 22482**



Show Your Pride

Stephen C Roth (409th Radio Research Det., 1967) has pride in the Blackhorse and in his 1946 Globe Swift airplane, near his Madison, VA home. Stephen not only has the Blackhorse patch in the tail, but on the cockpit (with RVN Service Ribbon) and instrument panel. When passengers think it is a Ferrari logo, he is happy to set them straight!



Last summer Jack Morrison (A Troop, 67 – 69) had to cut a 60 inch tree due to lighting damage. We think he put it to very good use!

Forty some odd years ago Lou Reymann (on the right) and Kent Hillhouse (on the left) served together in H Company (1968), and then last fall they found each other at the Air and Space Museum (Dulles Airport). Happy reunion guys – it would have been easier to come to one of our reunions!





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. 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.

Ronald E. Allison, K Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on September 2, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Burgettstown, PA. He was laid to rest in National Cemetery Of The Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA.

James T. Bell, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on April 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Caneyville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

Ralph A. Bowman, III, HHT, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on August 12, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Santa Clarita, CA. He was laid to rest in Eternal Valley Memorial Park, Newhall, CA.

R. B. Bridges, HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on September 6, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Columbia, SC. He was laid to rest in Ft. Jackson National Cemetery, Columbia, SC. R.B. is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Stuart R. Burns, HHT, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 10, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Louisville, KY.

Richard L. Coffman, HHT, 2/11 (1970) and HHT, 2/11 (1970) passed away on January 15, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Williamsburg, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

Donnie S. Colwell, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on March 7, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brookville, PA.

Francesco R. DeSanctis, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) and B Troop, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on March 14, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wantagh, NY. He was laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, NY.

Kenny R. Dewitt, HHT, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on September 4, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Oklahoma City, OK.

Joseph J. Dewolff, III, Air Cavalry Troop (1966-1967) passed away on August 14, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Shelbyville, KY. He was laid to rest in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, Radcliff, KY.

Charles C. Diamond, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) and D Company, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 13, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grovetown, GA. He was laid to rest in Bellevue Memorial Gardens, Grovetown, GA. Charles is also a veteran of the Korean War.

Michael J. Doran, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on April 17, 2011. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Naples, NY. He was laid to rest in Rose Ridge Cemetery, Naples, NY.

Stephen E. Dubravac, G Troop, 2/11 (1969) and HHT, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 27, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Alexandria, VA. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA.

John G. Duke, Sr, HHT Regiment (1967) and HHT Regiment (1970) passed away on January 27, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Brighton, TN.

James P. Fitzpatrick, D Company, 1/11 (1964-1967) passed away on August 6, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Marshfield, MA. He was laid to rest in Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA.

Robert J. Galloway, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1971) passed away on September 6, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fair Haven, NY.

Steven L. Goll, Howitzer Battery, 2/11 (1971) passed away on July 6, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lakewood, CO.

John A. Haberli, Jr, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 28, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hankins, NY. He was laid to rest in Sullivan County Veterans Cemetery, Liberty, NY.

Meriel G. Hall, HHT, 1/11 (1969) passed away on March 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Fontanelle, IA. He was laid to rest in Fontanelle Cemetery, Fontanelle, IA.

Harold B. Jennings, 919th Engineer Company (1966-1967) passed away on January 3, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dixon, MO. He was laid to rest in Sunset Memorial Estates Cemetery, Waynesville, MO. Harold is also a veteran of World War II and Korean War.

Paul A. Jones, 27th Engineer Battalion (1967-1968) passed away on December 21, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Chicago, IL.

Michael J. Komisin, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1972) passed away on January 11, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sharon, PA.

Peter B. Kotzo, F Troop, 2/11 (1971) and L Troop, 3/11 (1970-1971) passed away on December 3, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Red Lion, PA.

Richard K. Kwiatkowski, 409th Radio Research Detachment (1969-1970) passed away on January 1, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Binghamton, NY.

Gary E. Marino, F Troop, 2/11 (1970-1971) passed away on July 2, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gaithersburg, MD.

Jesse R. Martin, 919th Engineer Company (1970-1971) passed away on September 10, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Gaffney, SC. He was laid to rest in Frederick Memorial Gardens, Gaffney, SC.

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



Richard L. Mathews, HHT, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 4, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Waterford, MI.

Ronald E. Minnick, E Troop, 2/11 (1968) passed away on June 19, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Meadville, PA.

Dennis A. Minson, HHT, 1/11 (1970) passed away on June 22, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Elgin, IL.

Danny C. Morrow, Howitzer Battery, 1/11 (1970) passed away on May 17, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Middleport, OH. He was laid to rest in Pine Street Cemetery, Gallipolis, OH.

Kenneth Mosley, A Troop, 1/11 (1970) passed away on July 28, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Bulan, KY.

Mark J. Perry, L Troop, 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 13, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Quincy, MI.

Henry Pierre, HHT, 1/11 (1967-1968) passed away on September 18, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Grand Coteau, LA. He was laid to rest in St Charles Cemetery, Grand Coteau, LA.

Howard S. Quinn, E Troop, 2/11 (1968-1969) passed away on October 23, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carmel, NY.

George S. Reynolds, II, E Troop, 2/11 (1970) and HHT, 2/11 (1971) passed away on April 10, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Longmont, CO.

Francis R. Smolich, A Troop, 1/11 (1969-1970) passed away on February 6, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Lockport, IL. He was laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

David L. Stark, H Company, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on July 8, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Sparta, WI. He was laid to rest in Cataract Cemetery, Sparta, WI.

John E. Starkovich, L Troop, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on May 21, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Morton, IL. He was laid to rest in Parkview Cemetery, Peoria, IL.

Paul J. Stauffer, Jr, 541st Military Intelligence Detachment (1968-1969) passed away on February 21, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hudson, FL. He was laid to rest in Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL.

Raymond G. Sturtz, Air Cavalry Troop (1969) and HHT Regiment (1969-1970) passed away on January 11, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Hyndman, PA. He was laid to rest in Madley Cemetery, Buffalo Mills, PA.

Joseph C. Tanner, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on January 26, 2013. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Defuniak Springs, FL.

John D. Ward, L Troop, 3/11 (1969-1970) passed away on October 26, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Castle, IN. He was laid to rest in Green Hills Memory Gardens, New Castle, IN.

Philip D. Watt, HHT, 3/11 (1966-1967) passed away on November 30, 2012. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Wellsboro, PA.

Adolph Zumpol, Jr, G Troop, 2/11 (1967-1968) passed away on November 12, 2012. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Medford, NY.

‘Hitchhiker’ on Board!

*Thomas F. Koch
HHT (1969-1970)*

Who knew that more than 40 years after the event, I would want to share this tale with my comrades through “Thunder Run?” Who knew I should have kept better notes—the place, the date, and most of all names? When all I really wanted was to do my job and get home safely, who knew that the times in “Nam” would still be alive in my memory decades later? Many details are missing here, but perhaps others—especially those whose names should be included—can fill in the blanks. Perhaps they know....

As best I recall, it was August 1969. As an Assistant S-1, with special responsibility for Blackhorse legal matters (the regiment had no official legal section, though it had plenty of legal troubles!), I had to confer with Major “Doc” Bahnsen, who was somewhere out in the “boonies,” down near a river, in some God-forsaken swamp. See, that’s one of the missing details—exactly where this occurred, I have no idea! So when the daily courier chopper arrived at Blackhorse Base Camp, I jumped on board and told the pilots (another missing detail—the names of the pilots that day) that I needed to visit Major Bahnsen. That’s all I needed to know or needed to tell them—they knew where to find him! So we headed out to the Air Cav Troop’s location, and they set the copter down in some thick reeds, about chest high. I made my way a few hundred feet over to Doc’s location, conferred briefly with him, and returned to the chopper.

Our next stop was at USARV HQ in Long Binh, where I trans-

acted a bit of business and returned to the chopper for the brief flight back to base camp. As we began to lift off, I noticed a whole lot of excitement and confusion in the cockpit; the chopper was tilting side to side, and the pilots gave every sign of a genuine emergency. They set the plane back down, and I jumped out and moved clear. Eventually, they signaled that everything was okay and told me to get back on board. We took off and headed back to Long Giao. As we approached the base camp, the confusion began again. The pilots took turns flying the plane. As one took the controls, the other would lift his feet into the air! This occurred several times over several minutes. Eventually, they set the copter down on the pad at base camp, and we all bailed out. When I asked them what the “h” was going on, they told me that there was a snake on board! It was up in the cockpit, just under their feet, and as it moved side to side, the pilots traded controls and just tried to avoid making contact with it! We figured that we must have picked up our hitchhiker when we landed in the reeds; later, the pilots identified the visitor from pictures as a pit viper! I’m told that the mechanics pretty much tore the helicopter apart looking for this unwanted guest, but they never did find it.

My S-1 slot took me on a lot of courier flights during my year in Nam, but few were as memorable as this one. Now safely back home in my Green Mountains, and no big fan of snakes, I’ve often thought that if we acquired a pit viper by landing in the reeds, then I’m really thankful that my brief stroll through those same reeds didn’t bring me into a more personal relationship with one of that snake’s cousins!

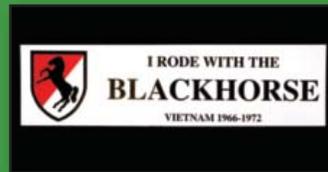
The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$10.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#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



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



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

#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$50.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Belt, \$30.00



#15 Attache Case \$30.00



#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$10.00



#21 Blackhorse Women's Sterling Pendant \$45.00



#23 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver \$380.00

#24 Men's Ring, Gold & Silver w/Diamonds \$430.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



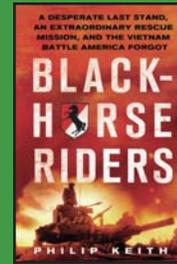
#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#25 Blackhorse Coin \$15.00



#26 Magnetic Blackhorse \$5.00



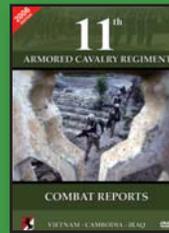
#31 Book: Blackhorse Riders \$25.00



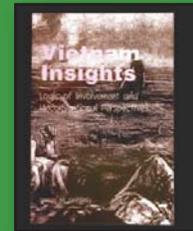
#22 Gear Bag, Red \$35.00



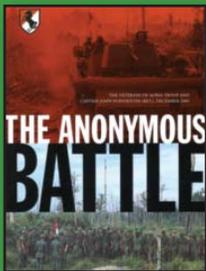
#27 Magnetic Ribbon \$4.00



#28 Video (DVD) Combat Reports \$30.00



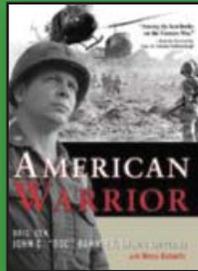
#30 Book: Vietnam Insights \$10.00



#34 Book: The Anonymous Battle \$16.00



#32 Book: The Anonymous Battle : Part II \$16.00



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



#36. T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L) \$20.00



#38a Old Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#38b New Blackhorse Hat \$12.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Ash/Black \$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 Blue Dress Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$32.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00





Women's Corner

By Barb Moreno, 11th ACVVC Women's Coordinator

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! Yes that is a clue to our women's meeting for this year. But before more clues are given let's make note of a few other things.

Reunion registrations started coming in with a big bang and then suddenly tapered off. Ladies let's start giving our husbands that loving push that we all know they need and get them in. The sooner we have them the better, and so that I don't fall behind.

Why would I get behind? Well, Bob and I will be on the road a good bit this summer. You see he will be turning 66 in June and can't decide if he really wants to retire or not. And if he does, then what? So we decided to do a bit of traveling to figure things out.

First stop will be Indianapolis in April. Bob has a meeting there to attend and Raleigh and I are going to tag along to check out the area and perhaps visit with an old school chum. It's been several years since we were there, so I imagine a lot of things have changed. Then it's off to the Holland Tulip Festival. Later in the summer we will be heading home for my hometowns' Old Home Week festival and a visit with my

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mom. Sometime in all this we promised Raleigh a trip to Mount Rushmore. He was there when he was young but now wants to go back. Raleigh and I also have a couple of "mom and son" weekends planned. So you see we too have a busy summer planned, so get your registrations in early. It would be very helpful.

We have about 55 cookbooks left. Please let's get them out of my house. I would really hate to have to just destroy them. And we really can't do anything else until they are all gone. And besides Kathy T. and I have so many ideas for fund raisers we want to see about doing some of them. We won't be selling any lanyards this year. However if you participate in the women's meeting this year you will be receiving a very special one. One that will be available only to those women who participate in the Women's Meeting.

We will have a photographer at our meet-

ing this year. My younger sister is a free lance photographer and lives about 3 hours from Indy. She and her husband will be attending the reunion with us this year and has agreed to take photos for me. Originally she was just going to do G Troops pictures but being the kind, loving big sister that I am, I convinced her to take some at the Women's Meeting also.

Well, I really do have a few things to do today not only for our meeting, but for the first time in weeks the sun is out and I just feel like it is making me want to do some cleaning. So my closet seems to be calling me. But before I leave you, I want to give you another little clue. So here it is: Have you ever dreamed of walking the Red Carpet? Now will be your chance. You will be able to find more info on one of our web sites or in the next *Thunder Run*.

See you all in Indy (wood).

Incoming...

From Steve McClendon, K Troop, 3/11, 1970-71:

First of all, welcome to all my brothers and sisters. I was with the 11th ACR, K Troop from 1970 – 1971. I am trying to find anyone that was I K Troop while we were in Cambodia in June 1970. I was at Firebase Susan when we were withdrawing from Cambodia, K Troop was holding the base camp while all other troops were pulling out. We were asked to police the area and soon after we were hit by a mortar attack. My APC was hit 3 times and several of my brothers did not make, I am very sorry to say I miss to this day. The date was June 26, 1970 I was put on a chopper and sent to the rear and then sent to the states and then returned to Nam. A lot of my brothers thought I did not make it and was glad to see me.

I am asking if anyone knows of this that they will please write me a letter so I may use it to get my Purple Heart. I have been fighting the VA for years and as we all know I have not gotten any place with them. I could use some help if you know of this or you know someone that might know. Thank you brothers,

Steve McClendon,
1015 Olney Road
Dawson Springs, KY 42408,
Cell: (270) 399-0172

From Ron Krueger, HHT, 1/11, 1966-67:

The 23rd Annual Northern California Blackhorse Potluck / BBQ, on Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 11:00 until ????. Slidehill Park, 2850 Temple Drive, Davis, CA 95618. Everyone is welcome to join us for a casual picnic in the park. Bring something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice.

DIRECTIONS: I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take 1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left.-OR- I-5 to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection - Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go 1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left. Watch for balloons and signs. RSVP: Ron Krueger: (530) 758-0351 or ronkrue@hotmail.com

From Adrian Vaaler, HHT Regiment, 1969-70:

Tenth Annual Eugene Blackhorse Picnic. The 10th Annual Eugene Blackhorse Picnic will be held on Saturday, June 15, 2013 at the home of Adrian Vaaler, 2610 Baker Blvd, Eugene, OR 97403. For more info call 541-344-2113 or email 11thsecretary@gmail.com.



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 2nd QTR 2013

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white Acrylic 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	10.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5" Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	4.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat, (rope & pin included in price)	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Blackhorse Belt - One size fits all	30.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	50.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	5.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	10.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x11x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00	_____	_____	_____
21.	Blackhorse Women's Pendant w/chain, sterling silver w/full BH insignia	45.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, red with color BH insignia (11x11x21)	35.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Men's Ring, gold & silver w/full color BH insignia on face (specify size)	380.00	_____	_____	_____
24.	Men's ring, gold, silver, & diamonds	430.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book: "Blackhorse Riders"	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II" (Picture not available)	16.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (Youth sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, American Warrior" by "Doc" Bahnsen	20.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Black Poplin adjustable w/full color direct embroidery Blackhorse insignia. <input type="checkbox"/> a (old) <input type="checkbox"/> b (new)	12.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> ash <input type="checkbox"/> black	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	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Blue dress or denim shirt (men's)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.	_____	_____	_____	_____
Subtotal					_____

Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL. Specify size and color preference of item requested.

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Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple items)

A)	\$2.00	—	\$5.00	=	\$3.00
B)	\$6.00	—	\$15.00	=	\$6.60
C)	\$16.00	—	\$60.00	=	\$12.35
D)	\$61.00	and over		=	\$16.85

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

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

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*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 \$14.55. 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**



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13194 Rettew Dr.
Manassas, VA 20112-7800

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From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Greetings BLACKHORSE Brothers! Time is getting close again, for another Reunion, this time in Indianapolis Indiana. So make those reservations early! Jan and I would very much like to have some volunteers to help out in the Quartermaster Store in Indy this year. Come on in and help us, we have a lot of fun in there and the best thing is, we get to meet a whole lot of really nice troopers and their families. Come on and send us an e-mail telling us you will help us out this year.

Okay guys I am still getting orders for shirts and **no sizes**, please don't forget the sizes!

It would also be helpful to either have a phone number or e-mail address to contact you if this does happen. Well, I know a lot of you are having or have been having lots of snow. You lucky birds - all we get are heat and sunshine.

Oh! Yes for any of you guys who are in the Deep East Texas area we will be having the East Texas Round up on Saturday, May 4th. This year it will be at the Rusk State Park and there will be no entry fee. Just let the people at the gate know you are with the 11th ACVVC. Our event will be held at the dining hall which

is covered and very nice, and close to the restrooms too. There will be lots of tables and chairs and fans so come join us with your war stories and plan on having a really nice time. There will also be sandwiches, chips and tea; sweet and un-sweet. For info call Wayne Jacobit (903) 588-2898 (home). Or Jerry Mitchell (903) 894-3851, or E mail Jerry at jmitchell15@nctv.com. We are really hoping for a good turn out this year. So come on and join us.

Oh, Yes! We have had a great response to the new hats on the web site and in the *Thunder Run* keep those orders coming. Do not forget to put on **line # 44, your name, troop, and year**; so we can have it added on to the sweat band of your Cavalry Hat. If you do not want it, you can say leave it blank. Again, thank you so much for all the support from Bill Gregory and Otis Cary, you make my job a lot easier by all that you do. We are having another good year so far.

Not a whole lot going on so will close on this note, six months 'till see all our trooper families once again in Indy. Everyone have a fun and safe up-coming Easter and summer, see ya soon. ALLONS!

QUARTERMASTER CLEARANCE & FEATURED ITEMS



Cavalry Hat
\$225.00
 (Item #9)

