

Vinh Long Outlaws News

Reunion 2000 (R2K)

May 1999

Hello Outlaws & Mavericks

Greetings From Outlaw 6

Tom Anderson

As the first commander of the 62d Aviation Company, (later A/502d), I want to send my warmest and most sincere welcome to every "Outlaw". Who would have thought, 35 years ago, how vivid some of the memories would still be of our times together in Vinh Long. Over the years we have all gone on with our lives in hundreds of different ways, but the experiences of those early Viet Nam days formed a bond between us that can only be understood by those who were together there.

Last year several of us located each other and got together in Branson, MO for a few days of friendship renewal and remembrances. While there, we decided to try to locate as many as possible of the people who were with the Outlaws during that first, formative year from August '64 when DEROS dates began separating us. Hours and hours of searching and digging are now paying off. We have made contact with over 100 of that group, with more being added to the roster every week.

Because we had such a great time together in Branson, getting the entire company together again as a group was a constant theme of the Branson Bunch discussions. So, we set out to make it happen. First, we designated the Branson Bunch as a "Steering Committee" to guide the efforts and to provide support to the many tasks that will be required. Ernie and Linda Isbell volunteered to

serve as Treasurer and to set up an organization which was named the "Vinh Long Outlaws Association"

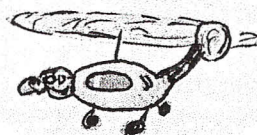
Then we began serious efforts to find the people. Al Iller, John Doyle and I have spent hundreds of hours calling, mailing and e-mailing to locate people for that first Outlaw group.

Tony and Rose Ann Clemente said they'd take on the task of getting information out in a Newsletter as well as crafting a "membership" card for everyone. Al Iller took on the huge job of making arrangements for a reunion in September 2000, again in Branson, MO.

We don't plan to make the Vinh Long Outlaws Association a long-term organization that will meet every year. There are plenty of Viet Nam organizations that do that. Our intention is to just get together in 2000 to renew the bonds of friendship we had when we left Vinh Long 35 years earlier. Nothing more unless there is an overwhelming consensus to do it again later.

With those pieces in place, we are now well on our way to making reunion 2000 a reality. (Should we call it R2K?). A weekend of activities is already taking shape. As of now, we are planning to meet in Branson, MO the weekend of 14-18 September 2000. Mark your Bicentennial calendars!! More information will be coming as the time approaches.

I'll look forward to hearing from any of you during the year ahead and to seeing you in Branson!!!



This is OUTLAW 6 where
the heck are you guys???

R&R
Roster & Reunion 2000
Al Iller

The enclosed OUTLAW ROSTER contains information only on those with whom confirmed contact has been made. All information has been verified with the respective individual, typos excepted. A MASTER ROSTER is maintained which contains all the names of those individuals originally assigned to the 62nd Avn Co who deployed to RVN from Ft. Benning, GA 9/64 as well as other known members assigned after arrival in country "9/64 -9/65". The MASTER ROSTER includes additional information regarding members spouses' name, period assigned to the unit (To/From - Mo/Yr), section/platoon/position while assigned (8/64 thru 9/65) and call sign if known. Much of the information on former unit members has been obtained from a variety of sources to include: original deployment orders, Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) "Spoof Roster", Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) "Directory", etc. Diligent search through the Internet for addresses and Email has led us to many of our contacts. Any information whatsoever on other former members during the stated period or corrections can be forwarded to either Tom Anderson, John Doyle, or Al Iller for inclusion on the MASTER ROSTER. We appreciate your help in the effort to locate other stray or lost Outlaws and Mavericks. Good sources for identifying former members who fit that period are award orders, crew orders, AC orders, etc. Should anyone desire information regarding specific individuals not found on the CONFIRMED ROSTER Tom, John or Al may be contacted and will provide you any available information from the MASTER ROSTER.

The millennium is fast approaching and with it our planned R2K OUTLAW ROUNDUP in September at Branson, Missouri. For those not familiar with Branson, it is located in the southwest portion of the state overlooking Table Rock Lake and Lake Taneycomo near the Arkansas border. It is a year round vacation spot noted for its scenic

Ozark Mountain beauty, variety of music shows and entertainment, Silver Dollar City, restaurants, factory direct shopping malls (3), sport fishing and outdoor activities. Springfield, MO, the home of the Big Bass Pro Shops, is just a short hour drive to the north. The Branson/Springfield Regional Airport is the entry point for air travelers coming to the area. Anyone desiring more specific information on Branson and area attractions contact Al Iller for a visitor information packet.

It has been necessary to start early planning for our R2K OUTLAW ROUNDUP to remain well ahead of the "power curve". A program of specific events is under development which will include lodging, meals, entertainment and other activities. We anticipate a 3 to 4 day program with a schedule of sufficient flexibility to allow for individual as well as group activities. Our progress toward this end will be announced in newsletters or special announcements. Final R2K OUTLAW ROUNDUP schedule and specific particulars will be provided in the newsletter at least 180 days prior to the event.

Message From The "Old Sarge"

John Doyle

I can't wait!! It sure will be great to renew old friendships in Branson. Although our reunion is more than a year away, there is still much that needs to be accomplished. And we need your help! Tom, Al, and I have spent countless hours on our computers and phones. We have placed messages on Veteran web sites, placed "seeding ads" in organizational magazines and newspapers, and spoken with literally hundreds of people. We have found many former comrades, but many still need to be located. We need your help. Rack your brain for old buddies' whereabouts. Check photo albums, old orders, think! Is there someone you might help us locate? Maybe just a hometown, or some other bit of information that would put us on the right path. We really do need your help. For those of you that live in Florida, our Mini Reunion is just around the corner. If you have not been contacted by Tony Clemente or myself by now, please give one of us a call. Tony 352-373-7372 or call me 352-341-1390

Vinh Long Outlaw Association Is Now Official

Ernie Isbell

The Vinh Long Outlaw Association is official now! We have a Tax Identification Number and a Bank Account.

The following is our Income and Expense Report: Seed Money from 11 members \$500.00 - Expenses: Checks \$37.75 - Bank Balance: \$512.25.

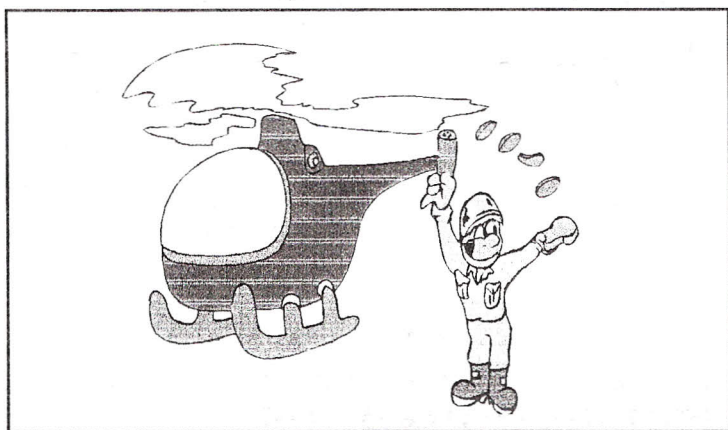
At this time we are unsure whether this reunion will become an annual occurrence or a one time thing. We are asking you who wish to contribute \$10 Seed Money to help defray the expense of planning the reunion (i.e. Phone calls, Stamps, Paper, Printing etc.) However if we decide that this is really great, and we want to make it happen again, your \$10 will go toward your membership fee.

Please mail your check to: Vinh Long Outlaw Association, c/o Ernie Isbell, 3301 Stone Bridge Drive, Flower Mound, TX 75028

150TH Transportation Detachment (CHFM)

Tim Bisch

Seeing information concerning names and current address of members assigned to: 150th Transportation Detachment (CHFM) at Vinh Long, RVN during period 1964 - 1965. Please contact Frederick R. Bisch, 8604 Esslinger Court, SE, Huntsville, AL 35802. E-mail address is bischfr@aol.com.



Maintenance tracking rotor blades!!!!
Or is this how they make salami sandwiches????

A Note From The Editor

Tony Clemente

Hi guys It has been 35 years since we left Vinh Long. We are looking forward with great enthusiasm to the reunion in Branson MO Year 2000. We are also looking for some articles about what you have been doing these past 35 years. Regardless of what happens at our reunion, this newsletter will continue to flourish. Our intent is to put out a quarterly newsletter, however we can't do this without your help. We hope that we hear from you soon. If your name is not on the Vinh Long Confirmed roster, 4/99 it is because of our publication deadline, but it will be added to the master roster. We'll be seeing you at the roundup.

DO YOU REMEMBER?



Can you guess who these fine young men are??

HERE'S A CLUE!!

THEY ARE ALL PEOPLE THAT YOU SPENT
A LOT OF TIME WITH,
ONE IS TALL, ONE IS ALMOST NORMAL,
AND ONE IS A SHORT ITALIAN.

I KNOW THAT YOU THINK THAT YOU
KNOW WHO THEY ARE, BUT YOU MUST
COME TO BRANSON AND FIND OUT FOR
SURE. WE WILL ALL BE THERE.