

Vinh Long Outlaws News

Reunion 2000 (R2K)

September 1999

Hello Outlaws & Mavericks

R2K Planning Continues!!!!

Outlaw 6 - Tom Anderson

For over a year, a diligent search has been on-going for old Outlaws, Mavericks, Road Runners, etc. who were members of the 62d Aviation Company (and it's follow-on designation A/502d) during the unit's first year in Viet Nam. The results have been astounding and gratifying! To date we have located, and actually talked to over 120 of you who were part of that piece of our nation's history. And, we're still looking for others who were part of our company back in '64 and '65.

Most of those we have contacted have been extremely encouraging about getting together for the grand reunion in September 2000, (R2K) and planning is well underway toward that end. The "Steering Committee" (actually a bunch of guys who, after leaving the Army just HAD to have an impressive-sounding title again), stays in touch with each other on a constant basis to keep the planning moving.

Ernie Isbell has taken on the job of Treasurer for the VLOA. Tony Clemente has had dozens of accolades for his work on getting out the first, and now the second, edition of our Newsletter. (If you have something you want to say to your fellow Outlaws, drop Tony a note and he'll get it in a future edition).

Al Iller is Working overtime with various people and organizations in Branson, MO to tie down the details and events that will be a part of the reunion next year. The "Old Sarge", John Doyle, spends hours

every week on the internet and on his telephone attempting to locate more of our enlisted members. Al Iller and I have focused on locating aviators who were with us in '64-'65.

As you can imagine, there are a lot of activities going on by lots of "volunteers" from the group. One of the projects that the Steering Committee suggested was to set up a VLOA Membership for each "old Outlaw" who has been located. Truth-be-told, the real reason was to try to cover some of the costs that are being incurred by the volunteers by asking for a one-time Membership Fee of \$10 from each of us. The cost of printing and mailing the Newsletter has been funded thus far by "seed-money" donations from each of the Steering Committee members. The cost of maintaining and printing the roster has been borne solely by Al Iller. As time goes on, we will need to make deposits for event reservations in Branson, purchase postage for our mail-outs, etc. etc.

Tony Clemente has designed a fantastic-looking VLOA membership card. It shows a flight of five Mavericks flying in formation above a scattered cloud layer, the Outlaw emblem in the upper left corner, the VLOA name across the top, and YOUR NAME and membership number across the bottom! In return for only \$10, you can receive one of these GREAT membership cards and the thanks and gratitude of the entire VLOA organization. (How's that for a sales pitch????)

Seriously, we would deeply appreciate your support. However, "membership" is entirely voluntary! Even without a membership card, you'll still receive the Newsletter, rosters, information about R2K, and other mailouts as we get closer to R2K. If you can spare \$10 to help support the costs, circle this while you're reading it, then later write a check to the Vinh Long Outlaws Association and send it to Tony Clemente, 318 SW 40th St, Gainesville, FL 32607. He'll send you one of the soon-to be-collectors item membership cards.

This may be the only reunion of the First-Year Vinh Long Outlaws that will ever be held. We were a proud, talented and patriotic assembly of young soldiers. We accomplished great things during our year together. We made close friends among us but the passage of time has dimmed the memory of those friendships. Because our reunion will include only those of us who served together between August 1964 to September 1965, Reunion 2000 will give you a chance to renew literally dozens of those friendships! You should know almost everyone there!!!!

As the end of the year and the millennium approaches, I want to send my warmest personal best wishes to each of you and your families. And please, circle your calendar dates for September 14-18 in Branson MO!!!!

R&R Roster & Reunion 2000 (R2K)

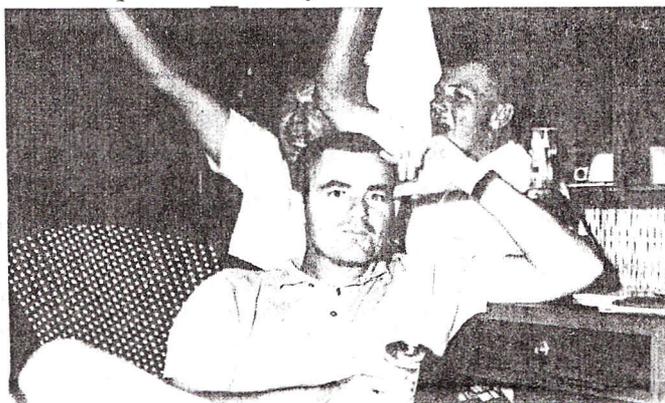
Al Iller

The OUTLAW ROSTER attached to this newsletter contains only new confirmed contact additions, changes or corrections since the last VLOA newsletter. Those who have been initially contacted since our last newsletter and roster should have received from our editors, Tony and Rose Ann Clemente, a copy of our first newsletter and roster containing all confirmed contacts through 4/99. In all future newsletter editions, only those new additions of confirmed contacts, changes or corrections since the last newsletter will be included. Periodically, beginning year 2000, we will include a full up to date confirmed contact OUTLAW ROSTER. MASTER ROSTERS are maintained of all O/WO/EM known to have been assigned during the period 8/64-9/65. Anyone desiring a copy of these rosters may contact Al Iller.

With this edition of the newsletter and those following a "MOST WANTED" roster will be included which contains selected names of those we have been unable to contact or obtain information as to their present whereabouts. We urge you to help us locate these individuals so their names can be added to our growing confirmed roster. Any bit of information

anyone may have that might give us a lead PLEASE pass it on to Tom, John or Al who will get hot on the trail. A great deal of effort has gone into contacting all those on our confirmed roster, many of you have already aided in that effort for which we appreciate. But, still more help is needed to round-up stray OUTLAWS. So...how about clearing some years of dust off those old footlockers and records and out of our mental attics and see if we can't identify and maybe trace some of those who served with the OUTLAWS 8/64-9/65.

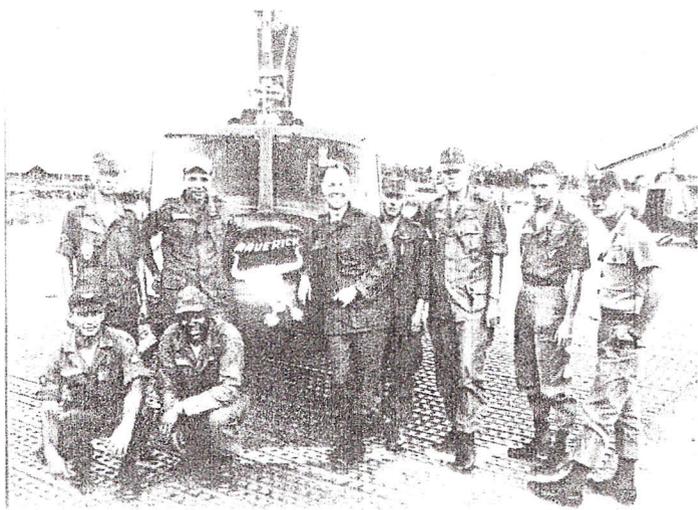
Planning for the R2K (Reunion Year 2000) OUTLAW ROUNDUP at Branson, Missouri continues. Dates have now been firmed for 15 Sep thru 18 Sep 2000 (Arrival date 15 Sep and departure date 19 Sep). Accommodations, group meetings, group meals and a program of events to include two group banquets (welcome and farewell), at least one music show and scenic tour with a chuck wagon lunch have all been tentatively coordinated and scheduled. To ensure a relaxed visit while at Branson the planned schedule allows ample optional time for other group or individual activities. The planned arrangements will be presented to our steering committee in October 1999. With their approval we anticipate our confirmed Y2K program, a detailed schedule of activities/events and estimated cost including taxes and gratuities, to be published in our next quarterly newsletter o/a January 2000. Shortly thereafter we will need to obtain from each of you an indication of your desire to attend or not attend. Although this will NOT be a binding commitment, we need this information to approximate the number of anticipated attendees in order to determine the number of accommodations, meals and size of meeting facilities. Anyone desiring information about Branson, MO and the surrounding area contact Al Iller who will have a visitors information packet sent to you.



Al Iller, Chuck Wren, & John Sedam
Party Animals November '64

Do You Remember?

**30 June 1965, two Maverick ships rescue
Crusader pilot Lt. Cmd. Weedon.**



Pictured standing l to r: W. Hollenbeck, R. Sanders, Lt. Cmd. Weedon, C. Dominy, D. Logan, & C.V. Mills. Kneeling in front, are unknown door gunners.

Cmd. Weedon from the aircraft carrier Bon Homme Richard was on a mission in the delta when one of his guns ruptured, causing engine damage and ultimately engine failure. He bailed out and was picked up by the Mavericks, and taken to Vinh Long. Once in Vinh Long and after a change of uniform, proceeded to the club, and was officially introduced to army aviation.

Al Iller has been in touch with Cmd. Weedon, and we are hoping that he will be joining us at the R2K in Branson.

150th Transportation Detachment (CHFM)

Tim Bisch

Seeking 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.

Florida Mini Reunion

Tony Clemente

Happy days are hear again. That's the way it was when 10 gray haired (but still very handsome) Outlaws & Mavericks met in Inverness Florida.

John Doyle, who lives in Inverness, made all of the arrangements. Not bad for a Baptist Minister.

It was a grand time sitting around talking and laughing about the crazy times we had in Nam. We were a group of Old Soldiers from Vietnam who were very proud of what we accomplished. With out a doubt, it was a super time.

If you are interested in having a Mini Reunion in your state, check out the Old Sarge's Recipe for having a Mini Reunion.



from l to r: Pat & Bob Lay, Linda & Big Jim Kirkley, Kim & Jack Dunaway, Joan & Mike Madigan, Ruth & John Doyle, Jerry Arida, Danny Akkola, Jim Coleman, & Tony & Rose Ann Clemente

Why Not Have A State Mini Reunion ?

The "Old Sarge" - John Doyle

As you read elsewhere in this newsletter, those of us who live in Florida (most of us), got together for a mini reunion in May. We had a great time. Some of the guys had not seen each other for 30 or more years. A "mini" can be fun, inexpensive, not too difficult to organize, and a chance to renew old friendships and make new ones. I can just hear you now, "TOO MUCH WORK". Not so.

Here are the steps we took to organize our "Mini":

1. See if there is enough interest. Check out VLOA roster to find who lives in your state. Call, write, or e-mail them.
2. Find a central location. This makes it easy on everyone.
3. Secure a suitable hotel, ie. Good rates, meeting room, restaurant on premises.
4. Make up written information sheets that contain "Where-When-How Much" and includes a mail back that answers if a person (or couple will or will not attend.
5. After a reasonable time, call those who did not respond to the mail out.
6. When you get a final number of participants, make final arrangements with hotel, restaurant, meeting room. etc.
7. You might want to invite your local news media. We had a great write-up in the St. Petersburg newspaper.
8. Have a great reunion!

Note: Of course there is considerable work in this but it is well worth it.

Report From Our Treasurer

Ernie Isbell

Income:	
Dues	\$200.00
Seed Money	\$475.00
Total Income	\$675.00
Expenses	
1 st Newsletter	\$ 70.00
Total Expenses	\$ 70.00
Balance	\$605.00

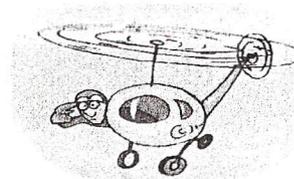
A Note From The Editor

Tony Clemente

Hi Guys and Gals sorry I'm late for this quarter's newsletter. We are still in our infancy, but we are growing fast. We need your help to keep this newsletter interesting to all.

We need articles on what career's you have pursued. We sure would like to know how many of you continued in aviation careers with a commercial airliners. You have my e-mail address or you can just send me a note. I'd love to hear from you.

The BIG ROUNDUP in Branson is just around the corner, we'll be seeing you there.

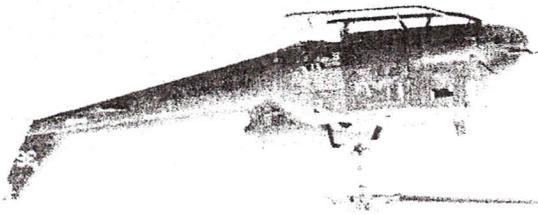


Still looking
for Outlaws &
Mavericks

MOST WANTED
OUTLAWS & MAVERICKS

Douglas R. Armstrong
William G. Barmore
Homer W. Bickel
Anthony Casimano
William Hollenbeck
George W. Kyle
James E. Lonhoffer
John P. Reynolds
Robert Sanders
Dale E. Sherrod
William L. Tillman
Richard L. Varner
Robert L. Vecchio
Leon Ziebarth

Anyone having information regarding the whereabouts of these stray Outlaws, Mavericks and Roadrunners notify immediately Tom, John or Al. A substantial reward MAY be offered.



Vinh Long Outlaw Association
c/o Ernie Isbell
2009 Tophill Drive
Flower Mound, TX 75022

