



BAN ME THUOT BARB



Remembering the 155th Assault Helicopter Company
& All the Ban Me Thuot Guys

SORTIE 82

MARCH 2022

Editor for #82 - Rod Waddell

THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP AND STORIES.

The first Barb was printed in November of 1995. So, for the last twenty-six (26) years, the Barb has provided a wide variety of stories: remembering those who have passed then and now, reunion information, those special times with our friends in SVN, listing of the 155 officers and some photos. If you would take a few minutes and send your stories to one of the officers, it would then be reviewed and minor changes made (if needed) to allow the publication in the Barb, as it would help keep the Barb going strong.

The very first Barb is printed below so you can see the changes and improvements made through the years. If you believe that someone has already written a story similar to yours, your perspective could be different through a different set of eyes. Please give it a try.

The first Barb was published in November of 1995, and the original Barb is printed as published below.

The first annual 155th Assault Helicopter Company Falcon Gunship and Stagecoach Slick Re-Union was held in connection with the VHCMA's wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Re-union Headquarters was located at the Hyatt-Arlington (a \$3.50 cab ride to the memorial and 2 blocks from the Metro) in the VHCMA Hospitality Room and ran from Friday November 10, 1995 to Sunday November 12, 1995. A special event occurred on Saturday, November 11, when the first ever wreath was laid at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial to honor and remember ALL crew members, officers and enlisted who gave the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The 155th members and spouses in attendance were: Earl Baldwin and wife Mary, 68-69; W/O Les Davison and wife Carrie, 69-70; Tom Hunt and wife Shirley, 68-69; Tom Mullen and wife Mary Nachtigall Mullen, 68-69; Dennis

LaJoie 69-70; Royce Campbell 68-69; Rod Waddell and wife Doris, 69-70; Fran and Len Tiner, 67-69; Les Gaul, 67 and Wayne Cranford.

A slide show was presented by Tom Hunt and a great 8mm projector show by Rod Waddell with beautiful aerial shots of the 155th compound and the pool. Everyone shared albums and stories – it was a great time and for most it was the first time we had seen each other since we left the 155th.

A touching but nice moment happened when Mary Nachtigall Mullen, whose brother Dave was lost with the entire crew of Falcon 484, WO1 Joseph Erickson AC; WO1 Paul Dolik CP; Sp4 Calvin Seran, Gunner; and SP5 Dave Nachtigall, crew chief, was given a flower from the first wreath was laid at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial to honor the crewmembers, Charlie Rains presented this flower to Mary in memory of her brother. Falcon 484 and its crew were lost on February 23, 1970. Another especially touching moment came when Mary met with Dennis LaJoie, a Falcon crewmember who was still at the 155th Compound when Falcon 484 went down.

All in all, a big thanks to Charlie Rains and Jim Sheridan for allowing us to take over the Hospitality Room and in true 155th fashion, we did take it over! Thanks again Charlie and Jim. See you next Veterans' Day with even more of us!!!

A very special thank you to Earl and Mary Baldwin who will share the duties of Unit Coordinator with me as with my fulltime job. I can really use the help and for bringing such a burning desire to find other 155th unit members for the VHCMA, both seem to work on this 24 hours a day. THANKS BOTH OF YOU!!

In closing, lets all try to find more 155th people for the VHCMA or the VHPA. Those who were in attendance at the reunion know that words cannot express what a great and somber time it was and lets all begin to make plans to attend the 2nd Annual 155th Assault Helicopter Company Reunion next Veterans' Day in Washington, D.C.

Dates for the next reunion will be from when the VHCMA Hospitality Room opens on the 6th of November 1996 thru Monday, Veterans' Day, November 11, 1996. Most should plan to arrive on Friday November 8th, 1996. Location will be the same as last year, the Hyatt Arlington, Arlington, VA. Reservations should be made early as the 1st Cav had about 300 members attending their reunion last year. Reservations can be made by calling and be sure to mention the VHCMA to get the discount rate, overflow rooms are available at other hotels nearby.

Interest is building to form a 155th Assault Helicopter Company Association and soon we should have something concrete to be able to report to you for your comments and suggestions, our first concern is that if we are to form this association it should be done in connection with, or conjunction with the

VHCMA or the VHPA and not as a separate organization, lets hear your comments!

Gentlemen, the first reunion was hastily organized and we are sorry if anyone was left out, it was not intentional, and this year should be much better. Any questions can be answered by calling me, Earl or Mary Baldwin or the VHCMA Headquarters. Keep in touch and see you in November.

Written by Tom Mullen

Mailed February 1996

Falcon 077

REMEMBERING A FALLEN FRIEND

Wes Timmons

I was sad to hear about **Brad Marsh**. He was a great guy with an infectious smile. One of my fondest memories: he and I were going on R&R at the same time - him to Australia, I think, and me to Hawaii. We spent one night in Cam Ranh Bay before we went to Saigon to catch the big bird. We went to the small O Club and there was a guy playing piano - he was actually pretty good. So Brad and I (mostly Brad) went around to everyone in the club and got them singing along and he passed the guy's tip jar around 'til it was overflowing. We had a great time and the piano player was very appreciative.

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PETER PILOT RED-X

Frank Uhring, Stagecoach 19

As I remember my time as a "Wobbly One" Peter Pilot with the 155 (summer of '69), I pre-flighted a lot of ships in the early morning hours. One day I was assigned as a Peter Pilot on a ship that the AC (I really don't know who the AC was, but if I had to guess I would say John Ruhly) had flown the day before. John was always pulling 'jokes' on us FNG's. Our mission that day was not an early one, so we were not early to take off. The AC told me to go to the ship and pre-flight the bird. Since there was a lot of time to pre-flight the ship, I really looked it over hard. Areas that one would normally look at really quick, I looked at for a long time. I looked into every area that a pilot would not normally check really close as a pre/post flight. I was taking my time looking over the ship since I had to stay there until we took off on our mission.

I opened the hatch that contained the engine oil cooler and looked in. At first, I did not notice anything wrong - until I saw a bullet lying on the deck near the back wall. It was an AK-47 bullet, not a US type bullet. Well, I stuck my head into the compartment to look at the back of the oil cooler. I saw the oil cooler housing was cracked and was being held together by the oil cooler fan guard. At first, I thought the AC and CE were pulling a 'joke' on the FNG, to see if I would find the problem. So, I went to the CE, showed him the bullet, and said that I found the 'joke' that they thought I would miss.

Well, the CE gave me a look that told me he did not know what I was talking about - so I showed him the cracked oil cooler housing. He started

cursing up a storm, and went off to Maintenance to get an inspector to check the oil cooler damage. When the TI saw the damage, he red X'ed the ship. The Maintenance Officer then came out to see the damage, and started to curse out the CE for not post-flighting the ship very well. Apparently, the ship came in late and the post-flight inspection was done in the dark. (I can see how one could easily miss the damage in the dark.) Then the Operations Officer came out to see the damage. He was upset because he had to cancel a mission on one of the other ships and assign that ship to our mission, which had a higher priority. We could not find a bullet hole in the bottom of the ship; the bullet must have come up through a hole that a drain tube comes out. The bullet must have hit the ship when the ship was flying high, because it was almost spent when it hit the oil cooler. And the bullet was only slightly dented. I gave the bullet to the CE, since he was the closest crew to where it hit. I didn't fly that day.

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Reunion of 2022 - 19-23 October

Crowne Plaza San Marcos Golf Resort, Chandler AZ

Reunion Cost: \$100.00, includes Banquet.

Hospitality Room: Available from 1500 Hrs. on Thursday 20 Oct. to 1200 Hrs. on Sunday 23 Oct.

Banquet: Saturday 22 Oct. 1800 – 2200 Hrs.

Registration: Room Rate \$149.00 prior to taxes and fees.

Phone Reservations: 877-685-5594. Ask for: **155 Assault Helicopter Block**

Internet Booking Link:

[155 Assault Helicopter](#)

https://www.crowneplaza.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=CP&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=phxqq&_PMID=99801505&GPC=qwf&cn=no&viewfullsite=true

NOTE: If you should have trouble making a reservation with the above link, **PLEASE**, call the hotel at 877-685-5594 and make your reservation.

And then please read this **Special Note: When receiving a confirmation letter after making a reservation online or through our call center, it will automatically show a resort fee. This is an IHG standard, however, since this has been waived per your contract, the hotel will absorb that fee upon check in.**

This last paragraph is important. Let me give this example: our per night fee when you register will be \$188.89. When you go to check in, the \$15.00 per night resort fee will be deducted, and your per night fee will be \$173.89.

The **cut-off date** for reservations for our room block is: **Monday, September 19th, 2022.**

Friday 21 Oct.: Arrangements have been made to visit Falcon Field in Mesa where we would tour the Commemorative Air Force Museum and the Army Aviation Heritage Foundation facility. At the AAHF facility they offer rides in their UH-1 at \$100.00 for vets and \$110.00 other. They also offer the front seat of an AH-1F for \$600.00. After all this “fun”, lunch at the Steak and Stone Steakhouse & BBQ.

Tour Cost: \$15.00 per person

Lunch Cost: TBD

Time: Leave the Resort at 0830 and return at 1430.

For those of you that are interested I would appreciate you letting me know by 1 August.

For all you golfers that might enjoy a friendly round of golf at the Resort, John Ahern has graciously offered to be the POC of this activity. Please contact him at _____ in order to arrange a date.

Questions? Contact Jim Cunningham _____ or cell phone: .

SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION

If you feel left out and want to show your pride with the 155 Assault Helicopter Company, here is what you can do. Order a T-shirt, patches, mugs, hatpins or even golf T-shirts. Chuck Markham is waiting for your telephone call or email. All he needs is the item you want, size, how many, shipping information and Chuck will tell you where to send the check. Chuck’s email address is: _____ OR call 254.

Items for sale are:

Stagecoach or Falcon Hats	\$20
Patches	\$15
Challenge Coins	\$10
Mugs	\$15
Hat Pins	\$10
Grey T-Shirt	\$20

email (below) or call one of the officers below. We want to acknowledge their service and not forget them.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR DUES

Please send your dues to: 155th AHCA, _____
North Canton, Ohio 44720

Annual dues are only \$30, so if you are able, any back dues are always appreciated. The association will have considerable up front expenses for the reunion and Jeff says that our dues are not paid by the rotor wash. Your contribution will help greatly.

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155th AHC Association Officers

- Joe Harrelson -President
- Tom Hunt -Vice President
- Chuck Markham-Quartermaster
- Jeff Schrader -Treasurer
- Bob Gardner -Treasurer's aide
- Larry "Matt" Matthews -Data info
- Les Davison -Historian
- Bruce McInnes -Member@lg
- Jim Cunningham -Member@lg
- Wayne Coward -Member @ lg
- Elizabeth Coward - Webmaster

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CHANGE OF YOUR ADDRESS

If there should be a change in your mailing address, and to include your email, please let Matt know. Our postage expense is the greatest after the reunion costs. The association would rather email the Barb vs. hard copy mailing. Matt's email is: _____ and his mailing address is: Matt Matthews, _____, NC. 27712-1325

GUEST BOOK:

We are approaching almost 600 guest book entries of fellow vets leaving a message for others to read or reply. If you wish to leave a message for those stationed at Camp Coryell, or read what others have said, go to the web site, which is: "155th ahc.org". Then, click on the Guest Book and scroll to the end of the blog. There is a comment box at the end of the Guest Book. If you click on a reply button, that is where your comment will be posted. When you leave a message, go to the bottom of the page. There is space for comments and this will place your comment in the order received OR, clicking the reply button will put your comment in that location instead of the top of the page.

155th AHC Association
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Challenge: Who are these young men?

