



# AIRMOBILE



## News of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry

<http://www.cav57.org>

May, 2006; Volume 15 Issue 1

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Maury Edmonds

**How time flies!** Forty years ago our Battalion was completing its training at Fort Carson for deployment to South Vietnam to join the other battalions of the 7th Cavalry as part of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

Under Colonel Ted Swett's leadership, it didn't take long for the officers; NCOs and troops of the Battalion to make their mark in the jungles of Vietnam.

The legacy those brave troopers began in those early days continued to grow as others joined the fold. In five years of noble and heroic service in Vietnam and Cambodia, no battalion achieved more; no battalion earned greater respect or higher reputation than did our battalion - the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry.

Our battalion, like the rest of the Army, was defined by its soldiers. Each of you can be very proud that the reputation and achievements of our battalion were, in fact, earned by you. You were the Battalion.

A lot of water has gone over the dam since those days. Our Association of brothers and families was begun and has flourished.

Our Battalion was reactivated and has completed a very successful combat tour in Iraq. Our bonds of friendship now span the generations from Vietnam to Iraq as we have embraced the more recent members of the Battalion.

And now, Reunion VIII and our 40th Anniversary celebration at Colorado Springs is almost upon us. We expect (and hope for) a large turnout to celebrate our friendship and our commitment to each other.

I guarantee that you will have a great time. The Ground Team has planned an exciting program with lots of options

available.

*If you haven't registered with the Association, please do so right away. We want you with us. Also, please contact your buddies and push them to attend as well. Your hotel reservation does not, by itself, include your registration for the Reunion. Our web page ([www.cav57.org](http://www.cav57.org)) and this newsletter has the registration form.*

The Documentary on the Battalion being done by retired CBS Cameraman Norman Lloyd, titled "Commitment and Sacrifice", is finished and will be shown at the Reunion. While it depicts a specific time in Vietnam/Cambodia and in Iraq, it represents all troopers who served over the years. We will keep you posted on earlier public showings as they occur. My thanks to those of you who contributed to the film. As you can imagine, not all of the hundreds of hours of interviews made it into the final cut, but I believe you will be proud of the straight story being told about our soldiers and their families.

Lastly, my thanks to those of you who continue to devote so much of your time and effort to supporting our Association and your brothers.

I look forward to see you in Colorado Springs.

### Message From the President Emeritus

I am proud to be writing to our very special Band of Brothers, the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association members, forty-plus years after its birth. Then we were training intensively, using nine-hour training days to master the prescribed basic and advanced unit training skills.

During our training we were physically tired and somewhat apprehensive because we knew where we were going. How could we have ever even dreamed then that we would become the first echelon of probably the most decorated infantry battalion in the Vietnam War?

How could any of us have imagined then that we would form an amazingly unique and vibrant association more than twenty five years later, our Association of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry? How could we have imagined then that we would be together in August, 2006, to celebrate our eighth reunion? Unbelievable, right? But it's happening, troopers!

Most of our troopers from 1966 through 1971 were draftees; truly patriotic citizen soldiers. Starting in 1966 and 1967, each successive echelon of the battalion somehow managed to pass on to the following echelons the same esprit and the same caring about each other.

Throughout its five years of combat, our battalion fought gallantly in the Central Highlands, Hue, Khe Sanh, the A Shau Valley and Cambodia.

How could we have accomplished this? Only with patriotic civilian soldiers who were led by truly professional and caring non-commissioned officers and officers in each echelon throughout the battalion's five Vietnam years.

When you read this, I hope you will realize that I am thinking of you with deep pride! I am eagerly waiting to be with you at Reunion VIII.

# BATTALION DIRECTORY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>
<b>President Emeritus</b> Ted Swett	301-530-9039 ted6@aol.com
<b>President</b> Maury Edmonds	904-280-8448 moedmonds@bellsouth.net
<b>Vice President</b> Karl Haartz	603-726-7080 Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net
<b>VP Membership</b> Don Shipley	618-863-2635 Donshipley@aol.com
<b>VP Operations</b> Allen Patrick	910-632-6245 editor@cav57.org
<b>Secretary</b> Jerry Houston	615-790-6325 JBhouston@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer</b> Royce Vick	817-926-1026 ravick@charter.net
<b>Sergeant At Arms</b> Hoss Dannewitz	815-786-8152 sandwichfair@prairienet.com
<b>Battalion Chaplain</b> Eddie Rape	828-657-9568 emr12r@juno.com
<b>Legal Advisor</b> Jim Harmon	516-747-3894 harfirm@aol.com
<b>Vet Affairs Advisor</b> Reinaldo Espada	espadar002@hawaii.rr.com
<b>DOA Liaison</b> Larry Budge	703-239-1761 lbudge@ida.org

## Company Trustees

<b>A Company</b> Joe Williams	503-662-8948 ljw007@fuse.net
<b>B Company</b> Jasper Catanzaro	248-380-6895 Jasper@twmi.rr.com
<b>C Company</b> Richard Bigelli	401-789-0155 rbigelli1@cox.net
<b>D Company</b> Dennis Dickess	740-533-1605 kdickess@adelphia.net
<b>E Company</b> Bill Moore	386-668-1512 moore380@comcast.net
<b>HHQ</b> Joe Dzikas	203-934-9688 jcdjr250f@sbcglobal.net

## OTHER KEY MEMBERS

<b>Video</b> Phil Sierer	830-914-2203 oldrebel@texas.net
<b>PX</b> John Goodpaster	937-855-7475 Mrgoody@core.com

# Vice President's Report

by Karl Haartz

## IT'S SPRINGTIME IN NEW ENGLAND

What snow we get between now and summer only lasts 24 hours, yea!

I don't have to tell you it is reunion time. It's a big one!

### Important Information Requests ---

As we grow there are more information requests from our KIA survivors. I ask all of you to do your best to give them the information needed. You don't have to give gory details, tell about the good times. We all have pictures of the good times we had. As the title of Pat Dockery's book says, "Vietnam was more than just killing." This is what the survivors want to know.

**Rebecca Mendenhall Krings**, daughter of Sgt. William G Mendenhall, B company, KIA 11/1/66, is planning to attend the reunion. I did hear from Rebecca and she has e-mail: [rrkrings@msn.com](mailto:rrkrings@msn.com). Her address is 15853 E 98th Place, Commerce City, CO. 80022

**Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Jones** contacted us wanting info about Sgt Jon Dale Peterson. Mrs. Jones was married to Sgt. Peterson at the time he was KIA. They are asking about the mission and circumstances about the ensuing firefight. Anyone who has any info can send it to me at [cav571vpkk@adelphia.net](mailto:cav571vpkk@adelphia.net) or snail mail address at end of article.

**Wade Eldridge**, brother of PFC James W. Eldridge, KIA 19 May 67. Wade would like to know a little about his brother and what he did to be awarded the Silver Star for his actions that day. My records show we lost 7 troopers KIA on 19 May 67. I will be sending Wade a Form 180, so he can obtain his brother records. Anyone wishing to send me e-mail I will send it on. If you wish to write to Wade his address is: 14115 west 43rd Ave., Nickerson, KS, 67561.

### C Company- Info Request

All battalion original troopers will remember this day: Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1966. As you can see this is a request from PFC Grady E. McElroy's cousin Renee. Her e-mail address is: [renee@venturenet.net](mailto:renee@venturenet.net).

Hello,

*I am trying to find anyone that was in this unit. My cousin PFC Grady Edward McElroy was KIA in Vietnam on 24 Nov 1966, he was in this company and I would like to dedicate some pages to him on my family his-*

*tory website. I would like to know all that I can find about his unit while in Vietnam. Also if someone remembers knowing him and share the stories and maybe photos with me. He arrived in Vietnam Sept of 1966.*

*Thank you for any help you can give me.*  
Renee

### If you would like a steak read this!

**John Goosman, B-227 AHB ---** John is a helicopter pilot that was shot down in Cambodia near LZ Snuffy June 30, 1970. This was John's E-Mail to Paul Giddens (Fast Flanker 1/4 & 4 Feb 68 – Feb 69): "Paul, maybe you can help me out. Are you in touch with any of the 5/7 Cav people? We were shot down near **LZ Snuffy** somewhere inside Cambodia LZ Sphere or Black or Blackhorse. It was on **30 June 1970**. It was a patrol from, I think, **Echo Company** or a recon unit that literally carried me out of the jungle and got me on a Huey – I think Major Fisher's bird from B Company, 227<sup>th</sup> AHB. I am looking for these soldiers who carried me out. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. I owe these guys one great big steak dinner. Thanks. Goose"

### "Krazy's" E-Mail Updates.

I had to re-do my address group because they were growing quite large by server standards. If you have not been getting the update every 2 weeks or so let me know. You may have to unblock my e-mail address with your server. It is somewhat of a pain but with communication we continue to grow. My E address is [cav571vpkk@adelphia.net](mailto:cav571vpkk@adelphia.net). My home address is: PO Box 1267, Campton, NH 03223-1267

### Battalion History

I think it would be nice and informative if we had a pictorial time history. What I need is everyone to send me 1 or 2 pictures with himself & a buddy or buddies with names, date and place. My wife Carol ( I haven't told her yet) will put them in a album in chronological order. Once this is done it may help us locate some of the other troopers of the 5/7.

*Garry Owen Guys & Gals*

*See you in Colorado*

*"Krazy" Karl*

**If you would like to be on Krazy Karl's e-mail updates list, please send him your e-mail address. Karl sends out news flashes and frequent updates. He does not forward your address. Karl's e-mail is: [Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net](mailto:Cav571vpkk@adelphia.net).**

# REUNION VIII EVENTS SCHEDULE \*

DAY/DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
<b>SUNDAY, JULY 30</b>		
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	
No time schedule this day	Early arrivals can choose from numerous sites and events to visit in Colorado Springs area; reunion ground team will begin setup	Check out Convention Bureau Guide for Interesting Things To Do and See in the Colorado Springs Area
<b>MONDAY, JULY 31</b>		
05:30 to 01:00 hrs	Hospitality Room Open	Located in the Academy Room
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	Coffee, fresh fruit and rolls available also in Hospitality room.
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs	Registration Open	Located in Tower Room 1 in T Building
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs	PX Open	Located in Tower Room 2 in T Building
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs	Memorabilia Room Open	Located in Tower Room 3 in T Building
11:30 to 12:30 hrs	Deli lunch served in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
No events scheduled this day	Early arrivals can choose from numerous sites and events to visit in Colorado Springs area	Check out Convention Bureau Guide for Interesting Things To Do and See in the Colorado Springs Area
24:00 hrs	Last Call in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
<b>TUESDAY, AUGUST 1</b>		
05:30 to 01:00 hrs	Hospitality Room Open	Located in the Academy Room
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	Coffee, fresh fruit and rolls available also in Hospitality room.
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs	Registration Open	Located in Tower Room 1 in T Building
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs	PX Open	Located in Tower Room 2 in T Building
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs	Memorabilia Room Open	Located in Tower Room 3 in T Building
11:30 to 12:30 hrs	Deli lunch served in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
15:30 hrs	Meet in Lobby for Bus to Cripple Creek & Casinos	Bus accomdates 40 persons; extra buses can be requested if enough persons sign up in advance.
16:00 hrs: Bus departs for Cripple Creek	Cripple Creek Casino Excursion; \$25 per person for bus ticket which will be refunded with equivalent value in gambling coupons.	Gambling participants must be 21 years of age or older. See Convention Burea guide for details of Cripple Creek resources.
22:30 hrs	Bus departs Cripple Creek for return to Academy Hotel	Please make sure you get on the bus; we don't want to lose anyone
24:00 hrs	Last Call in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
<b>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2</b>		
05:30 to 01:00 hrs	Hospitality Room Open	Located in the Academy Room
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	Coffee, fresh fruit and rolls available also in Hospitality room.
07:30 to 14:30 hrs	Golf Outing at Cheyenne Shadows Golf Club	All members who plan to play need to assemble in the lobby at 07:30 hrs.
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs	Registration Open	Located in Tower Room 1 in T Building
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs	PX Open	Located in Tower Room 2 in T Building
08:00 to 11:30 hrs and 12:30 to 17:00 hrs and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs	Memorabilia Room Open	Located in Tower Room 3 in T Building
11:30 to 12:30 hrs	Deli lunch served in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
Open Time	Afternoon schedule is open	Check out Convention Bureau Guide for Interesting Things To Do and See in the Colorado Springs Area
18:00 hrs	Pizza Night in the Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room --- Raffles will begin
24:00 hrs	Last Call in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room

\* Tentative, final Schedule will be included in registration folder.

## REUNION VIII EVENTS SCHEDULE (CONT'D)

DAY/DATE	EVENT	COMMENTS
<b>THURSDAY, AUGUST 3</b>		
05:30 to 01:00 hrs	Hospitality Room Open	Located in the Academy Room
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	Coffee, fresh fruit and rolls available also in Hospitality room.
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs	Registration Open	Located in Tower Room 1 in T Building
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs	PX Open	Located in Tower Room 2 in T Building
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs	Memorabilia Room Open	Located in Tower Room 3 in T Building
09:30 to 10:00 hrs	Association Officers Meeting	Peak Room
10:00 to 12:00 hrs	Battalion Meeting	Academy Room
12:30 to 13:30 hrs	Deli lunch served in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
13:30 to 15:30 hrs	Film presentation by Norman Lloyd on history of 5/7 Cav (1st Viewing)	Rockies Room
15:30 to 17:30 hrs	PTSD Conference with Dr. George Patrick & Marjorie Swett MSW	Rockies Room on second level. Elevator is available if needed.
18:30 to 20:30 hrs	Film presentation by Norman Lloyd on history of 5/7 Cav (2nd Viewing)	Rockies Room
24:00 hrs	Last Call in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
<b>FRIDAY, AUGUST 4</b>		
05:30 to 01:00 hrs	Hospitality Room Open	Located in the Academy Room
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	Coffee, fresh fruit and rolls available also in Hospitality room.
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs	Registration Open	Located in Tower Room 1 in T Building
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs	PX Open	Located in Tower Room 2 in T Building
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs	Memorabilia Room Open	Located in Tower Room 3 in T Building
09:30 to 10:00 hrs	Association Officers Meeting	Peak Room
10:00 to 12:00 hrs	Battalion Meeting	Academy Room
12:30 to 13:30 hrs	Deli lunch served in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
13:30 TO 16:30 hrs	Meeting with Representative of the Veterans Administration (VA), Dr. George Patrick and Marjorie Swett MSW -- For all interested parties. Info on how to apply for benefits, seek counseling, what paper work is required and how to locate the resources you need.	Rockies Room on second level. Elevator is available if needed.
17:00 to 19:00 hrs	Company Photographs	In Hospitality Room --- Photos to be printed and distributed the same evening
17:00 to 22:00 hrs	Cash Bar	Located in Hotel Bar areas
17:00 to 22:00 hrs	Battalion Banquet	Located in the Restaurant and Lobby Area
24:00 hrs	Last Call in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
<b>SATURDAY, AUGUST 5</b>		
05:30 to 01:00 hrs	Hospitality Room Open	Located in the Academy Room
06:30 to 09:30	Hotel serves complimentary breakfast in restaurant and lobby	Coffee, fresh fruit and rolls available also in Hospitality room.
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs	Registration Open	Located in Tower Room 1 in T Building
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs	PX Open	Located in Tower Room 2 in T Building
08:00 to 09:30 hrs and 13:30 to 17:00 hrs and 18:00 to 21:00 hrs	Memorabilia Room Open	Located in Tower Room 3 in T Building
09:30 hrs	Meet busses to move to Memorial Site	
10:00 to 12:00 hrs	Battalion Memorial Service	Location: US Air Force Academy Chapel
12:00 hrs	Board busses to return to hotel	
12:30 TO 13:30 hrs	Deli lunch served in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room
14:00 to 16:00 hrs	USAF Academy Live Falcon Demonstration: presented by Air Force Academy Cadets Open to all members --- especially great for our young-	Lobby Area
17:00 to 22:00 hrs	Cash Bar	Located in Hotel Bar areas
17:00 to 22:00 hrs	Battalion Bar-B-Q	Located in the Restaurant and Lobby Area
22:00 hrs to 24:00 hrs	Dancing and Entertainment with local Colorado Springs DJ	Lobby Area
24:00 hrs	Last Call in Hospitality Room	Located in the Academy Room

# 5/7Cav PX

Baseball Cap 5/7 embroidered	\$10.
Miniature Garry Owen Crest pin	3
1st CAV cloth shoulder patch	5
1st CAV window sticker (no Vietnam)	3
1st CAV Div. challenge Coin	10
Full size CIB	4
1st CAV Hat pin (1")	3
Combat Medic pin (new)	3
Air Medal Pin (new)	3
M16-A-1 Hat pin (new)	4
Combat Cavalry pin (gold wreath - new)	4
5/7 Guidon bumper sticker (new)	2
Garry Owen/American flag pin (new)	4
7th CAV Crossed Sabers (no 5)	3
Reg. Garry Owen Crest Pin	3
Miniature CIB pin	3
AnKhe Hat pin	3
5/7 porcelain tie bar pin	5
1st CAV Div. Flag 3x5"	15
Raised letter CAVALRY pin (new)	3
1st Cav Hat pin (5/8") (new)	3
UHI Huey pin (new)	3
Miniature Purple Heart pin	3
M60 Machinegun pin (new)	4
Huey Hat pin (black/gold)	4
5/7 Crossed Sabers lg. pin (new)	4
Claymore Mine Pin (new)	4
Garry Owen Canvas Tote Bag -- Great Xmas Gift	7.50
White Polo shirts button-up with collar Embroidered 5/7 Cav. and Garry Owen Crest all short sleeved, order by size	23
5/7 Cav Denim Shirts Embroidered with Garry Owen Crest. Order by size, colors are Blue, Khaki, Green; Men or Ladies; Short Sleeves or Long Sleeves	25
Irish Green Golf Shirt with Embroidered Garry Owen Crest. Black Cav 5/7 Lettering under Crest. Quality Jerzee Brand. M, L, XL, XXL	25
New Adult T-Shirt with large Carry Owen Crest screen print on front. M, L, XL	10
New Child's T-Shirt w/silk screen 1st Cav patch on left chest & "Cav Kid" lettering under patch. Sizes: 2-4, 4-6, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16.	9
Baby Brutus the Bear dressed in Army green sweater w/Garry Owen crest and 1st Cav patch. Pocket in front for favorite soldier's picture.	20

**PLEASE ALLOW THREE WEEKS ON SHIRT DELIVERY.**

**PLEASE INCLUDE \$2.00 POSTAGE ON HATS & SMALL ITEM ORDERS AND \$3.00 ON ALL SHIRT AND BEAR ORDERS.**

**SEND ORDERS TO:**

**JOHN GOODPASTER  
303 CORA DRIVE  
CARLISLE, OHIO 45005-3268  
PHONE #937-855-7475  
EMAIL: [Mrgoody@core.com](mailto:Mrgoody@core.com)**

# Update from Membership VP

**REUNION VIII: Forty years and counting** --- since the activation and departure of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry from Fort Carson. Many of the men that served with the 5/7 Cav may not realize that prior to Vietnam the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry went by regiment status. So in 1966 when the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry was prepared for Vietnam with battalion status we became a new unit designation. At the same time the unit also became known as an Air Mobile Battalion with different training requirements.

Sixteen years ago this month Jasper Cantanzaro came to me on behalf of Bernie Grady and himself, asking if I could find some of the men of C Company that had served with the 5/7 Cavalry in Vietnam. For this opportunity to help I wish to thank him.

Jasper told me that Bill Purdy had been asked to do the same thing for A Company and was having good success and that they were planning the first Reunion in Detroit, Michigan.

I'll never forget the thrill of talking on the phone to some of the guys from C and D Company whom I had not spoken to or seen since Vietnam. As great as it was to talk to them on the phone coupled with the excitement of getting to see them, I was still apprehensive of what the reunion would be like. That first reunion was fantastic and each one gets better.

From the time I left Vietnam until that first reunion I kept all those feelings bottled up inside, not speaking of any experiences of combat in a hostile country.

For years I had shunned all connections with Orientals even as the company I worked for ran me around the world. Strange how personal feelings against an entire race of people could be relaxed to the point it is now by merely being able to talk to men openly that have had like experiences. Being able to communicate with my fellow troopers has also helped me come to terms with those that were left behind in Vietnam.

I will be the first to admit that a memorial service for our fallen brothers, whether it is at the reunion with best of friends standing along side or at the Wall in D.C. on Veterans Day, it still brings a big lump in my throat and tears to my eyes.

Colorado Springs Reunion VIII is now a few weeks away. If you don't already have

your reservations in by now you are late but still have time. So ***GIT ER' DONE!!!***. The phone number for the Academy Hotel is **800-766-8524**.

Everyone needs to remember that we will be in Colorado Springs at the height of the vacation season. If you are flying into Colorado Springs; the hotel does has a free shuttle from the airport to the hotel. It's about 20 miles to the hotel from the airport so the shuttle cycle time can get to be lengthy. When you get to the airport baggage claim area call the hotel on the courtesy phone to check on the shuttle schedule.

Reservations for activities outside of the Reunion need to be arranged as soon as possible for those wishing to site see in the area.

For first attendees remember your family members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Don't worry about them not knowing anyone. It takes only a few minutes in the Hospitality Room and they will know as many if not more people than you do.

I'm looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you in Colorado Springs for as many days as you can arrange at our biannual 5/7 Family gathering.

At the reunion one big question will be "Where will we have Reunion IX? " Any thoughts on this? Please bring them as early as possible to Maury Edmonds, Karl Haartz, Allen Patrick, Royce Vick, or me. We will be more than happy to discuss the size of accommodations, such as size of hotel, amenities, local needs, such as transportation and etc., which are required for a group of our size for a successful reunion.

**GarryOwen,  
Don Shipley**



**PIKES PEAK**

*Have you changed your mailing address recently? Remember to send your change of address to: VP Operations, 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association, 713 Royal Bonnet Dr., Wilmington, NC 28405*

# LETTERS

Subject: Missing Children Binh Duong Province, Vietnam 1969

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you because of a letter the U.S. Consulate in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, has received regarding a letter from Nguyen Hung Son writing on behalf of his father, Nguyen Thi Ngoc. Nguyen Thi Ngoc's son and daughter and his nephew did not return home one day in May of 1969. The children had been seen running after soldiers on the side of Phu Giao forest asking for candies or canned food. They did not return that day and the family searched for them for more than three months. They thought they had died.

In January, 2006, Nguyen Thi Ngoc met Mr. Dan Hoc Gia in Phuoc Hoa village, Phu Giao district, Binh Duong province. Mr. Gia said that he was the interpreter for an operation named: "Head Quarter, 1st Air Cavalry Division, APO SF, 96490, commanded by 3rd BDE General Robert M. Shoemaker and General Robert M. Tarbox, Assistant."

Mr. Nguyen said that this unit had been in the Phu Giao zone from November 1968 until February 1972. Mr. Gia also said that on the day in question, he saw "...three children who were lost in Phu Giao forest zone include two boys and a girl. The girl died. Two boys after that had been transferred to the hospital of American."

Do you have any idea how we might follow up on this? Perhaps someone from this unit remembers some children. Perhaps someone remembers taking them to a hospital. Or, maybe someone else has another explanation.

Thank you for any help you can provide.

Karie Ennis  
Executive Assistant to the  
U.S. Consul General  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Office: 84-8-822-9434 x2201  
Cell: 090 371-7431

Dear Mr. Patrick:

I was privileged to serve as the interim battalion surgeon for 5/7 CAV in Iraq from August-September 2005, relieving CPT Jitu Modi, MD, the outstanding permanent battalion surgeon. I'm tired of urban myths and media bias in the coverage of events in Iraq. I served for OIF-III from early May 2005 through mid-January 2006. Major media outlets barely mention the tremendous humanitarian efforts of folks serving there.

SPC Russell H. Nahvi joined the Army as a medic from Arlington,

Texas. He was assigned to 5th Battalion of the 7th Cavalry Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)-III at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Paliwoda near Balad, Iraq. Volunteering for yet another patrol, Russell was killed immediately by a roadside bomb (improvised explosive device, or IED) on the evening of October 19, 2005, during a patrol near Balad. Russell was the son of Sam and Nancy Nahvi, who works as a nurse. Russell was 24 years old and an American Soldier who selflessly served others at every opportunity, including the ultimate sacrifice.

The SPC Russell H. Nahvi Memorial Fund for Pediatric Research has been established at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. The Nahvi Fund will not support faculty salaries, travel, administrative, fundraising, or publication costs. It will support only the direct costs of pediatric research for projects deemed worthy by the UTHSCSA Director of Pediatric Research, Dr. Chuck Leach. All contributions are fully tax deductible and should be sent directly to:

Carol Ann Swartz, R.N.,  
M.S.N.  
Director of Corporate and  
Foundation Relations  
External Affairs, UTHSCSA  
ADMIN 322  
7703 Floyd Curl Drive  
San Antonio TX 78229-3900  
Voice 210 567 2028; Email  
SWARTZC@uthscsa.edu

All work supported by the Nahvi Memorial Fund will acknowledge so in presentations and publications, a fitting tribute to Russell's all-too-short life spent soldiering in service to others.

Would it be possible to share notice of this effort with the members of the 5/7 CAV Association? Feel free to forward this email to your friends and colleagues to put a face on the good folks who served and continue to serve in Iraq so quietly.

Russell's family has been pleased with this anonymous effort to remember Russell's values of selfless service. I have submitted my application to the 5/7 CAV Association and made a recent contribution to the ongoing effort to obtain spurs for the troopers.

Hopefully, you'll have an excuse to visit South Texas soon.

Garry Owen!  
Robert Ferry, Jr., MD  
Captain, MC  
HHSC 111th ASMB, 71st Troop Com-

To 5/7 Cav Association,  
Thank you SO much for providing this information!

I have received a few emails from other members and they have provided a lot of information. One in particular actually kept in touch with my father on a weekly basis up until his death.

Again, I am glad that I found this publication as it has definitely helped me out! You guys have been amazing and free to share any info that you had available!

Nicki

-----Original Message-----

Subject: Re: Info on Gilbert L Horchler

Dear Ms. Conti,

Your father served in the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Regiment which was a part of the 1st Cavalry Division. Our association records indicate he served in D Company from April 1966 to July 1967. This means he trained with the Battalion when it was formed in Ft. Carson, Colorado in the summer of 1966. The men who were part of the battalion when it formed at Fort Carson in 1966 all went to Vietnam as a 750 man strong unit. We shipped over on the USS Gaffey and arrived 17 days later at Quihnon, Vietnam. The base camp for the 1st Cavalry division was in Ankhe, Vietnam about 40 miles inland from our port of entry.

The 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry completed its service in Vietnam in 1971 as one of the most decorated units of the Vietnam War.

More than twenty years later some of our fellow soldiers got together to find our former comrades in arms. The process of searching for former members via old orders, word of mouth and old fashion telephone searching resulted in the formation of the 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Association. Our records indicate your father joined the association in 2001. His service number was US xxxxxxxxx.

With this service number you can retrieve your father's military records and service medals by following the instructions on the following web site: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>.

I will also forward your e-mail on to other members of our association in hopes that they can respond to you directly with accounts of your father's service in Vietnam.

Thank you for your enquiry and I wish you the best as you seek to answer your questions.

Regards,  
Editor 5/7 Cav Association

----- Original message -----  
From: rascal03@aol.com  
To Editor Cav 57,

I am looking for any info that you may have on my father - Gilbert Lee Horchler who served in Vietnam. Unfortunately, he passed away on 9-14-01. Needless to say, I was unable to locate any of his medals, patches, etc for his funeral.

Does anyone have any pix of him? Can you forward this email to someone who may have known him or served with him? I would love to hear some of the stories and get more details of what he did during his "duty".

Any info will be greatly appreciated.

Nicole Conti  
308 Magnolia Ln  
Archdale, NC 27263  
336 861 9262

Gibs last address was Mitchell Rd, West Middleses, PA 16159

## TREASURER'S REPORT by Royce Vick

This is my first opportunity to wish for each of you the best year of your life. I just wanted to use this space to report "good news" to you. There is good news to report in our financial status and the giving of time and contributions by your Association's Officers as well as many of our members.

Don't forget that it is your annual dues that cover most of the Association expenses. Please keep them current. Several of you have been generous in your donations this past year and that is appreciated. During calendar year 2005 the Association earned \$345.91 in interest and we had no service charges.

Mr. "Goody" will bring a well stocked PX to the reunion. You may want to let Goody know ahead of time what you are interested in purchasing at the reunion so his inventory will be able to accommodate your needs. Give him a call so he'll be well stocked for the reunion.

You may have already made your hotel reservations but we need you to send in your registration from too. It makes the check-in process go a lot faster if we have your registration before you show up at the registration office.

We also use your registration form to estimate how many will be joining in the various reunion activities i.e., the Cripple Creek Gambling trip, the Memorial Service and the Banquet and Bar-B-Q. Our Colorado team is doing a great job in planning for your visit but you can help make it go smoother for them by sending in the registration form. You'll find a copy in this newsletter and there is also one available on line at our web site: [www.cav57.org](http://www.cav57.org).

In reviewing the registrations that have been received so far I note there are several persons that will be attending their first reunion, this is great! I look forward to seeing each of you (new and returning members) in the Springs.

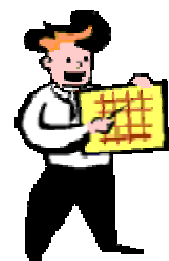
**GarryOwen,  
Royce**

### Association Financials

FINANCIAL REPORT	
<b>BALANCE OCT 31, 2005</b>	\$23,037.34
Interest Income	\$165.31
PX Sales	\$373.50
<b>Donations for Throws</b>	
Boulden, Jim (Red)	\$40.00
Budge, Larry D	\$30.00
Edmonds, Maury	\$50.00
Olson, Lois	\$40.00
Peltier, Ed	\$40.00
Wickham, Jr, John	\$120.00
<b>TOTAL DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$320.00</b>
<b>Donations to Reunion Fund</b>	
Budge, Larry D	\$90.00
Kelly, Timothy D	\$100.00
McCarthy, Timothy R	\$20.00
Williams, Larry Joe	\$60.00
<b>Total Reunion Donations</b>	<b>\$270.00</b>

Dues Paid	
Andresen, Ralph L	\$60.00
Ayala, Abe	\$50.00
Bateman, Paul	\$50.00
Bernir, Charles W	\$10.00
Bortell, Ted	\$30.00
Bremer, Charles L	\$20.00
Brostrom, Gerhard	\$40.00
Budge, Larry D	\$30.00
Cooper, Moses L	\$30.00
Crowe, David	\$20.00
Cullitan, Jerome R	\$20.00
Denton, Terry	\$50.00
Ferry Jr, Robert	\$10.00
Garrison, Howard	\$20.00
Gettleman, Howard D	\$10.00
Gonzales, Juan C	\$10.00
Hertz, David	\$50.00
Hoag, Donald	\$40.00
Holtry, Richard K	\$10.00
Kelly, Timothy D	\$100.00
Klein, George F	\$20.00
Lawless, Richard A	\$20.00
Leep, John D	\$20.00
Letts, Junior L	\$30.00

Dues Paid (Cont'd)	
McCarthy, Timothy	\$30.00
McDonald Jr, Roland W	\$10.00
McKenzie, Bobbie K	\$10.00
McQuary, Charles L	\$30.00
Miller, Davy	\$20.00
Nelson, Tommy A	\$40.00
Olson, Lois M	\$10.00
Osler, Boyd C	\$30.00
Patrick, James R	\$20.00
Post, Michael	\$40.00
Ravnaas, Orvin	\$20.00
Ropp, Jerry D	\$50.00
Salvi, Rodney	\$50.00
Schortemeyer, Alan L	\$50.00
Scull, Martin	\$30.00
Shear, Steven	\$30.00
Smith, Donald B	\$20.00
Splichal, Ed	\$20.00
Steuer, Charles E .	\$20.00
Stutz, Richard L	\$10.00
Sweeney, Charles P	\$10.00
VanCamp, Robert M	\$40.00
Wetherbee, Richard (Ric)	\$10.00
Whiteford, Robert M	\$100.00
Wickham Jr., John	\$30.00
Willman, Argil	\$20.00
Wise, A J	\$50.00
<b>Total Dues</b>	<b>\$1,550.00</b>
<b>REUNION DEPOSITS</b>	<b>\$8,910.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Memorial Russell H Nahvi	\$75.00
Vietnam Memorial Wreath	\$210.95
Memorial Wreaths for Albert A Mora and Jose E Rosario	\$117.17
December Air Mobile Newsletter	\$1,518.98
Memorial Wreath Joe Lucas	\$60.99
Reunion Dee Jay Deposit	\$100.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,084.09</b>
<b>BALANCE MAR 31, 2006</b>	<b>\$32,542.06</b>



5th Battalion 7th Cavalry Assoc.  
713 Royal Bonnet Dr.  
Wilmington, NC 28405

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5th Battalion  
7th Cavalry

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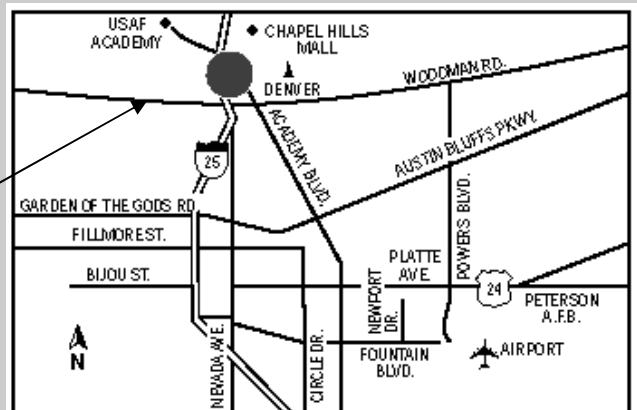
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**REUNION VIII --- COLORADO SPRINGS  
JULY 30 - AUGUST 5, 2006**

**THE ACADEMY HOTEL  
8110 N. ACADEMY BLVD.  
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80920  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 1-800-766-8524  
<http://www.theacademyhotel.com>**



**Ask for Special 5/7 Cav room rate: \$79.00 per night**