The Tiger Gazette

121st AVN Association Volume Number 12 Issue Number 2 Date 10 May 2022

**From the Editor’s Desk:**

The last couple of years has been frustrating and has caused me to think about where I am and what I want to do. One of my ambitions was to go on a safari in Africa. The time and expense required has always kept me from doing it. Until Now. I decided that I do not want to die as the richest man in the nursing home, so I looked into a hunting trip to South Africa. I found it to be amazingly economical – Jeanie and I were able to fly to South Africa for a week for less than it cost me to drive to Newfoundland and hunt moose for a week. That trip was the most value for money that I have ever received, and I am so glad that we took it. My point is that if there is anything you have always wanted to do, now is the time to take a leap of faith and do it. You won’t regret it.

We are in our third year since the last reunion, which was in Kansas City. We are darned sure that we want this year’s reunion to go as planned. We need to see each other once again and share our memories. I intend to bring my photo album to the reunion. I do not have all of my pictures from those days, but have enough of them to bring us together. I will see you there.

Don Jackson, Chairman, Editor

**Historian’s Report**

I’ve been holding off on submitting Version 11 of our Archive to Texas Tech hoping to get some more material, but it looks like it is time, so off it will go with a terrific set of Jerry Esmay’s photos. Thanks Jerry!

Last year I got a lot of help from Mike Law of VHPA in encouraging Texas Tech’s Vietnam Center and Archive (VNCA) to put our Archive data into their data base instead of just storing the thumb drives I send to them. One of the biggest hold-ups in this process has been the copyright issue caused by photos. I learned, far too late, that an individual’s photographs require a separate Deed of Gift in order to be legally the property of VNCA. And unless they own the property rights, VNCA will not include these items in their data base. I am very grateful to those of you who have provided me with their executed Deed of Gift, but there are many more to be furnished. I will have a stack of blank Deeds of Gift with me at the reunion. Of course, this is a personal decision, but I imagine the overwhelming number of you don’t have publishing plans for your photos. If you will not be able to attend the reunion, and want me to provide a blank Deed of Gift, please let me know. Let’s let the world know what a terrific unit the Tigers was, and still is in the memories of those of us who served.

Good news! VHPA has decided to feature our unit in their annual directory. The cover of their directory will be decorated with photos from the 93d/121st Avn. Co. and will contain information about our time in Vietnam from 1962 to 1970. I have been working with Mike Law to get the best info about our unit for this directory.

I’m so looking forward to seeing each of you at Columbus, GA in September. This will be over sixty years ago since I first arrived there as a new second lieutenant in February of 1959.

Bob Greene, Vice Chairman, Historian

**Secretary’s Report**

As usual, several things are always going on in the Secretary’s office. First of all, I would like to apologize for an error on the Reunion Information that was sent out to everyone. The information sheet had the correct date for the Huey flights; however the registration form said the date was 9/17, which was incorrect. The actual date is Friday, September 23. Even though several folks reviewed the information, the mistake (made by my keyboard, of course) was not caught until after it was sent out.

While on the subject of the Huey flights: the Friends of Army Aviation (the organization who will be providing the flights) has experienced a tremendous fuel cost increase in recent months. We have not been able to determine a cost for the flights as of this date. Another factor will be IF we have enough people sign up for going on this nostalgic ride. We will need AT LEAST 50 people signed up for this event. Once the cost per person is determined, I will be contacting those who have noted on their registration form that they are interested in flying in a Huey to inform them how to make their payment. Stand by for further details about whether we can make this event happen. Please continue to note on the registration form that you are interested. The more that sign up, the less cost per person.

Our reunion registrations are coming in very slowly. As of now, we only have 25 folks registered. If you are planning to attend this reunion, we ask that you send in your registration and reserve your room at the Hilton Garden Inn in Columbus as soon as possible. This will be a tremendous help for the committee to make plans for our reunion. We will need to get the catering for our dinners arranged and plan refreshments and snacks for our hospitality room.

John Schmied, Secretary, Reunion Coordinator

**Membership Committee Report**

Is your contact information up to date? Whenever we send out our annual reunion information, 5% - 10% are returned because of moving or in some cases even deaths. When this happens, the membership committee tries to track down these lost souls. This can take a considerable amount of research time. In addition, it costs the association additional costs for postage and reprinting additional registration material. So if you happen to change your address, phone number or email address, please contact us so we can keep our records up to date. You may contact Dave Cunningham (Membership Committee) TigerLead67@aol.com, or John Schmied, (Secretary) johnjdschmied@yahoo.com to update your records on file.

**Scholarship Reminder**

It is time to encourage your grandchildren or even great grandchildren to apply for our Educational Financial Assistance Program (AKA Scholarship Program). In years past, this program has been funded by our raffles during reunions and donations. Even though we have not held a reunion in nearly three years due to the COVID pandemic, the program has continued to fund scholarship awards. As of the 2021 scholarship awards, the association has awarded $26,500 for our descendants’ education. The application can be found on our web site:

http://121avn.org/ Applications MUST be received by the Financial Assistance Committee NO LATER than June 30, each year.

**PX Items**

Don’t forget that our PX has several items available for you to “Show Your Colors”. Shirts, hats pins, bumper stickers and other items are shown on our website- http://121avn.org/ - just click the PX tab on the left menu.

**In Memoriam**

We have been informed of the following Tigers who have passed since our last issue of the Tiger Gazette.

Frederick Blaz Crew Chief 121st - 1969 DoD 9/30/2021

Henry T. Brown C. O. 121st - 1970 DoD 12/12/2020

Gordon A Harrison 93rd Trans - Mid 50’s DoD 1/2022

Doy Gene Hibbard DoD 1/24/2022

Loren Hummel 80th/93rd - Mid 50’s DoD 12/27/2013

Hadley F. Kittredge Pilot 93rd - 1962 DoD 12/31/2019

Carl H. McNair, Jr**.\***  CO - Ret. MG 121st - 67-68 DoD 5/2/2022

Bill Miller Door Gunner 121st - 68-69 DoD 4/11/2022

Bob Randolph 93rd/121st - 61-63 DoD 2/17/2014

Max M. Summers 121st - 64-65 DoD 2/2/2022

Roland J. Ward, Jr. Maint/Crew Chief 80th/121st - 63-64 DoD 1/7/2022

**\***Here is a link to an obituary for MG Carl McNair:

https://www.magnetmail.net/actions/email\_web\_version.cfm?ep=1b7iB27WqwPvtGuPdnh33D5LOTwtQVrgTLiz5ZgqyQ8TVMuh7szCv1jlKedV8omFMxZ5uvd7-IJGS6uCWYs9zuvkog8O5XdbclXmI6BlayUvTdtYLqRyIUH\_ekUDwI5R

May you rest in peace, Brothers.

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Do you have a story about your experiences while you were serving in Soc Trang? Something that was exciting or funny that you would like to share? You don’t have to be a professional author. Just a brief description of what you think may be interesting or humorous will work. If you include a phone number when you send it to our Editor, he will contact you, if necessary, for additional info to put together an article for the Gazette. Send it to tiger129ts@aol.com

Something like the following story….

**The Old Viet learns American slang**

There were times that working on the Huey could be very frustrating. One hot sunny afternoon we were working on a UH-1D parked on the ramp adjacent to the operations shack. We were changing out a fuel pump in a fuel cell underneath the gunner’s position. There was very little space to crawl under the bird, and when the pump was removed a half pint or so of JP-4 drizzled out, usually hitting you in the face. Chris Newton got his face out of the way, but JP-4 flowed down his arm and soaked his t-shirt. He jumped to his feet and yelled: “This is F\*\*\*ed UP!” The old Vietnamese man who went around with a whisk broom and a dust pan sweeping up insects and debris looked up and asked: ”Boked Op?” Chris corrected his pronunciation and said: “Helicopter F\*\*\*ed UP, Sergeants F\*\*\*ed Up, Army F\*\*\*ed Up!” The old man repeated: “F\*\*\*ed Up?” and Chris replied: “F\*\*\*ed Up same-same Boom Boom!” The old man got it and was delighted that he had learned some American slang. After that, any time that he encountered anyone who was on our crew he would tip his hat politely and say: ”F\*\*\*ed Up Boom Boom!” and laugh happily. I hope that the years were kind to that old man.

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Tiger Gazette 5-10-2022