

## After Action Report

### Wings Over the Rockies and Exploration Museum Event

2023

The event in September with the Wings Over the Rockies Museum was to honor the Vietnam Air War Veterans and the 50-year anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War. It was held over a four-day weekend culminating in a banquet held at the Centennial Airport at the Exploration or Flight Museum. The banquet was hosted by USAF Major General John L. Barry, CEO and President of the Wings Over the Rockies Air & Space Museum, and guest speaker USAF General Ronald R. Fogelman, former Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force.

What a fantastic venue; we had our museum inside the Wings Museum amongst aircraft that time has not forgotten. B-52, F-86, F-104, F-105, F-111, Star Wars Starfighter, and of course "Sweet Sioux", Bill McPherson's Mike Model Huey Gunship from the Vietnam War, and a Link Trainer ("The Blue Canoe").



We had a good Docent turn out over the four days with Bill Bates, Rick Beaver, Carl and Barbara Cavaluzzii, Wick Clark, Dale House, Phil Lanphier, Cliff Lawson, Greg Mann, Doug Neil, Terry Olson, Bill Robie, Robert Simms, and Chris Town. A special Thank You to Member Gary Worthy for providing his OH-6 for our chapter display, and Pilot LTC Roddy Dill (Ret) for providing pilot services to move the Loch around. Gary flew LOCH's in Vietnam with Air Cavalry Troop, 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, under the call sign "Black Horse". He was wounded by enemy fire during a recon of a suspected enemy encampment. The AK47 round hit his chicken plate and

ricocheted into his skull. He still carries the AK47 round lodged in his skull. He found the OH-6 at a Museum in a Houston, TX. He maintains it in flyable condition.



That's Phil Lanphier , Wick Clark, and Doug Neil with explaining the role "Sweet Sue" played in the Vietnam War.



That's Terry and Carlo talking to Guests. Bill is explaining to Dale how things work. We get visitors from around the world. To name a few: Canada, England, Germany, Malaysia,

Maldives, Vietnam, Ukraine and Russia (I wonder what the discussion might have been had they arrived at the same time). One of our guests was an American School Teacher who spent 20 years in Vietnam teaching Vietnamese school children of all ages. She said, "After the Vietnam War ended it was very evident how the communist government took control over every aspect of life for its citizens". She said of orphans, "They are not recognized by the government, so they cannot participate in any programs. They are considered non-citizens." The orphanages survive primarily on donations.

The weekend went by fast. Even though we were all exhausted by the end of the fourth day, fun was had by all. The visitors that come to us are very inquisitive, appreciative, and generous patrons of all veterans.

We Thank the Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum for having us as guests and providing all their support. We also thank them for the invitation to participate at The Exploration of Flight Museum at Centennial Airport Banquet and giving us a place at the table.



Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum at Lowry in Denver