



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 7 Issue 2

. Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> Oct., Nov., Dec., 2014

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“Aerial Rocket Artillery”when called on by those who were in danger, our units were there laying it on the line.

We were proud of our Aerial Rocket Artillery Team then and still proud of it now.

The Straphanger Gazette is a quarterly publication of the Aerial Rocket Artillery Association. Issues will be published on or about the 1st of January, April, July and October. Members who have e-mail will receive a copy as an pdf.

Refuel

Reload

New Fire Mission

Target Location - (Ft. Benning) Columbus, GA

The Big “50”



President's Corner

THANKS LONG OVERDUE BUT SINCERELY GIVEN

I would like to dedicate this President's Corner to a group of individuals who, at times, did not receive the credit they deserved. All contributed to the morale and welfare of the unit, and to the successful accomplishment of our missions. We relied on them for many things.

Our crew chiefs and door gunners got in that aircraft and, most of the time, did not know where we were going or how long we would be gone, or how bad an area we were going into. They would fly all day, fly mortar patrol that night, and sometimes, fly all the next day. They provided us with suppressive fire when needed, observed for us, provided first aid at times, even kept C rations available. At the end of flying the crew chief performed daily inspections on the aircraft and maintained the log books. The door gunners stripped down weapons and kept them maintained.

Our maintenance people kept up with and performed those 25 hour and 100 hour inspections. Many long nights were spent working to insure that we had available aircraft for our missions. Many times spare parts were not available, but, they cannibalized other aircraft for parts, scrounged, traded for, and even stole parts from other units. Most of the maintenance people will not admit that last part.

Our operations people scrambled us, gave us the coordinates for where we were going, and monitored those radios, day and night, to provide needed information. They stayed by those radios even when we were under rocket or mortar attack, even turning on the siren to get our attention.

We cannot forget the mess sergeant and the people running the mess. Even though we bitched and moaned about the food, some long hours were worked to insure we had what was needed. Remember the raisin bread; when you reached for it, the raisins flew away.

Remember the individual who maintained and kept our generators running? How about the individual who kept our shower points running?

The commo sergeant who kept our radios operational? Don't forget the ammo handlers who kept us supplied with rockets, bullets and 40mm grenades. Do you remember the days you "snapped" the warheads on to the 2.75 inch rocket?

This was a very diverse and talented group who helped make our units perform in an outstanding manner. In addition to maintenance personnel who scrounged, others scrounged, traded for or stole building materials, food, an extra generator, wheeled fire extinguishers and on one occasion even found another jeep which supposedly had been abandoned.

THANKS TO OUR FORMER ENLISTED FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

Now, everyone call your old friends and have them join the Association, and ask them to join us in Columbus for the next reunion. We are actively looking for more participants from the 4/77th ARA.

Keep the greasy side down.

ARA 6

Editors Note: Let us add to this distinguished list the medics who labored to keep everyone healthy; including being abused at the chow line over taking the antimalarial medications. The unit never had a case of malaria. Also the poor soul who collected and burned the latrine waste every day. He proved to us that we did not have the worst job in the war.



18TH AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY REUNION Columbus, GA May 6 – 10, 2015

It's hard to believe that it's been almost fifty years since the first Aerial Rocket Artillery Unit was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam as part of the 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile). It's also hard to believe that it's been over fifty years since those first ARA units, C Battery (ARA), 2nd Battalion, 42nd Artillery and the follow on unit 3rd Battalion, 377th Artillery (ARA), 11th Air Assault Division were activated and began planning and working out the concept of ARA that we all came to know in RVN as members of the 2/20th Artillery (ARA), 4/77 Artillery (ARA), F Battery/79th Artillery (AFA), F Battery/77th Artillery (ARA), and 77th Field Artillery Battery (Provisional) (ARA).

So, now we're going back to the Columbus/Fort Benning area for a fifty year celebration and we hope you will make plans to join us for the Annual ARA Reunion. We have some great plans and hope to see you there.

Where We Will Be Staying

Headquarters for the Reunion will be the Hilton Garden Inn located at 1500 Bradley Lakes Blvd, Columbus, GA 31904, phone # 706-660-1000. You can access their website at www.columbus.gardeninn.com to view the hotel and check out its amenities. When making reservations use group code “ARAA”.

We have tentatively reserved 75 rooms – 40 Standard King Bed, 40 Twin Queen Beds, and 5 King Bed Junior Suites. The King and Twin Queen Bed Rooms are \$109.00 + tax (16%) and the King Bed Junior Suites are \$129.00 + tax (16%). The rate is good for 3 days prior to and after the reunion if you wish to come early and/or stay late. The cutoff date for reservations is April 15, 2015 but our group rate will be honored after that based on availability.

The hotel is providing our hospitality suite which has a private patio and two (2) complimentary breakfast buffets for each room daily. Parking is free.

I think everyone will be pleased with the hotel because it is in a quiet, resort like setting with a lake and beautiful landscaping.

What We Will Be Doing

We have lots to do, or you can do as little as you want. You can take in all of the scheduled activities, tours and attractions, or you can make your own schedule, or you can just hang out with friends and catch up on what’s been happening since the last reunion.

Wednesday, May 6, is check in day, get briefed, meet old friends, make new ones. To enhance our meeting and greeting, we have also planned for dinner in the hospitality suite. The meal will consist of: Green Salad, BBQ Pork w/sandwich buns, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Banana Pudding, Peach Cobbler, and Iced Tea. Cost for the meal is \$20.00 per person and includes gratuity and tax. If anyone needs a special entrée due to health/religious reasons please contact the reunion host(s) for accommodations. After the meal you can hang out in the hospitality suite, the hotel bar, or on the patio.

Thursday, May 7, will kick off our main activities. After breakfast at the hotel we will depart for a day at Fort Benning which will include a self-guided tour of the National Infantry Museum (www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org), lunch with the troops, a tour of the post, a display of modern military equipment (armored fighting and support vehicles) and combat simulators. After returning to the hotel you may choose to have dinner on the town or at the hotel and then hang out and socialize in the hospitality suite, the hotel bar, or the patio.

The schedule for the day is:

8:45 – 9:00 AM - Board buses at the hotel

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM – Tour of National Infantry Museum

12:30 – 1:30 PM - Lunch with troops in post dining facilities

2:00 – 4:00PM – Post tour and display of equipment/training simulators

4:30 PM – Return to hotel

Cost for this day’s tour is \$30.00 which covers bus transportation, admission to the museum and lunch with the troops. We are using bus transportation because the post does not allow tour groups having more than three POV’s. And, getting everyone to the same place at the same time is sort of like herding cats.

Friday, May 8, is another day of planned activities. After breakfast at the hotel we will again board buses and proceed to the world famous Callaway Gardens (www.callawaygardens.com) for a tour of the gardens and the butterfly center. From there we will journey to Warm Springs arriving in time for lunch at the Bulloch House (www.bullochhouse.com) and then tour the Little White House (www.rooseveltrehab.org) which was Franklin D. Roosevelt’s home away from Washington, DC. We will then return to the hotel and you will again be on your own for dinner, which can be at the hotel or on the town.

The schedule for the day is:

8:45 – 9:00 AM - Board buses at the hotel

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Driving tour of Callaway Gardens and Butterfly Center

12:30 - 2:00PM – Lunch at Bulloch House

2:30 – 4:30 PM – Tour of Little White House

5:30 PM – Arrive back at hotel

Cost for this day’s activities is \$40.00 per person which covers bus transportation, lunch and admission to the Little White House.

Saturday, May 9. Breakfast at the hotel followed by Board of Directors and Association Business Meeting. There will also be the Ladies Meeting and activities. There are no planned activities after the Business Meeting until 5:00 PM. At that time we will proceed by POV to the National Civil War Naval Museum (www.portcolumbus.org) for a private tour and our final banquet.

Menu for the banquet is: Prime Rib au Jus with twice baked potatoes and julienne vegetables and includes house or Caesar salad, rolls and butter, iced tea, dessert. Cost is **\$30.00** per person (includes gratuity and tax). Again, if anyone needs a special entrée due to health or religious reasons please contact the reunion host(s) for accommodations.

After dinner you can return to the hotel for a final evening of socializing with friends.

For those who plan to come early and/or stay late or just want to do your own thing Columbus and the local area have much to offer. For an overview go to www.visitcolumbusga.com. We can arrange for a tour of the Springer Opera House, Georgia's official State Theater and you may also take in a show if you desire. You may also take in a guided tour of Historic Columbus or do a walking tour on your own. Visit the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Run the longest urban Whitewater Course in the world (if you are adventurous). Uptown Columbus has a variety of dining and shopping attractions. On Mondays and Tuesdays there are mass air drops at Fort Benning. Within driving distance (1 hour) is Andersonville, the notorious Civil War Prison which is also home to the National POW Museum. You may also want to visit Providence Canyon (also known as the Little Grand Canyon). Located in Lumpkin, GA, it is the largest example of erosion in the eastern United States.

As previously stated, there is much to do in the Columbus/Fort Benning area and we will include more information in the January and April issues of the "Straphanger."

Your reunion committee – Bruce and Patti Wilder and Jesse and Gloria Hobby.

Memories of Branson 2014



An early ARA unit



Chuck and Jean Voletz in the Dining Room



The High Command (L-R) Patti Wilder, Marilyn McAlister (in defilade), Joan Szabo, Peg Hengeveld, Gloria Hobby, Roberta Cooper, Shirly Wachs, and Gloria Fleming



The Titanic Museum—a fascinating and educational trip through history



ARA COLUMBUS RENDEZVOUS

18TH ARA REUNION, COLUMBUS, GA *MAY 6 - 20, 2015*****

Reunion Registration Form

Send form and check(s) made payable to **ARA ASSOCIATION** to:

ARA ASSOCIATION
c/o Jule Szabo
5118 Brentwood Farm Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

Information			
Name/Membership #			
Wife/Guest name(s)			
Additional Guest(s)			
Street Address			
City, State, Zip Code			
Telephone Number	Home	Cell	
Email Address			
Any special assistance/ needs required			

Please list name(s) as you would like for them to appear on NAME TAG(S)	Where From
Member	
Spouse/Guest	
ARA Units(s)	
Dates	

REGISTRATION/EVENT FEES	Details	Price	# In party	Total
Registration Fee	Per member in party over 18	\$30.00		
Annual Membership Dues	If not already paid for 2015	\$25.00		
Wednesday – Dinner at hotel	Per member in party	\$20.00		
Thursday – Ft. Benning Tour	Per member in party	\$30.00		
Friday–Callaway Gardens/Little White House	Per member in party	\$40.00		
Saturday – Final Banquet	Per member in party	\$30.00		
Total for Reunion	-----	-----	-----	

Please complete and return by April 6, 2015 so that we may finalize all plans and secure set prices for events.

Other events/tours can be arranged through reunion hosts and/or hotel.

Thanks and hope to see you all in Columbus, GA May 6 – 10, 2015

AND NOW THE REST OF THE STORY

by Clarence (Al) Smith Blue Max 17



Log book entry..."Tail Rotor Missing."

I'm hoping that I can put all the bits and pieces into some sequence that will give a reasonable rendition of the "longest short flight I ever made."

I arrived with the Blue Max F Battery 79th ARA on the 27 of November 1971 and was put to work in short order.

By 9 December I was settled in. They made me the Armament Officer followed by Section Leader, Huey IP, IFE. After that I had a Cobra check out with "Iron Mike" Galloway which got me up to speed on the armament changes after 3+ years. I found that the ECU was a real blessing.

About a month after arrival, I was assigned to give a firepower demonstration to a group of "New Guys" just coming in country so they would have an idea of the capabilities of our aircraft in day and night operations. The GIF was along for the ride and was a short timer.

After clearance with Range Control, we made a clearing orbit at about 1200 feet and rolled hot for the first run. On Target. We called for another pass at 2500 ft., rolled hot in about a 70 dg., dive. First pair on target, second pair both burning in the outboard pods....then release....both on target. Noted a little "thunk" as the second pair launched. Eyeballs scanning the gauges, EGT rising, WTF?

I called a right break and fed in some pedal for trim and the pedal went to the floor. GIF jumped on the pedals and his went to the floor also. If mine went to the floor then his had to do the same thing. Duh! I leveled out and just waited to see where we would be if we waited a few seconds before thrashing around. I asked the GIF to call Ben Hoa AFB to declare an emergency and give our position and etc.

Luck was with us so far. We settled with about a 20 degree starboard yaw, nose tucked down about 5 degree and a port roll about 5 - 7 degrees. EGT continued to climb, I kept reaching for the jettison switch and kept pulling back. Finally reached up and started the clock. EGT still rising.

Getting closer to the fence, I was trying to make as shallow a touchdown as I could. Cleared the fence...pulled the stick back... collective coming down smooth... throttle coming back... aircraft yawing port...left skid makes contact...skids touchdown...cyclic neutral...steering with throttle...aircraft started yawing starboard...followed the starboard turn with forward cyclic...holding on with a death grip...three little skips to port and it settled upright after a 160 dg turn...I jumped out ASAP, ran around the left side of the aircraft...grabbed the fire extinguisher and told the GIF on the way by to shut the engine down.

As I came around the rear of the aircraft and looked at the hole in the vertical fin and realized that the T/R and gearbox were missing and then saw the gash from the T/R strike, my knees started to tremble..."just a little"...and then just a little more when I saw the mess with the annular ring slashes and cowl cuts as the T/R made its way toward the engine oil reservoir, swash plate and pitch change links.

In closing, I would like to say that I was a little concerned about memory after 42 years and it took me three days of wrestling with it to get it right.



 **THE
STRAPHANGER
GAZETTE** 

Vol VI
TUESDAY Dec 14, 1965

THE SCOREBOARD: 2/20TH VERSUS "CHARLIE"

EST	EST	MATERIAL DESTROYED
KIA	WIA	
A-3	0	
B-1	2	1 Elephant wounded
C-2	0	2 Huts destroyed

TOTAL TO DATE

A-147	172
B-170	186
C-349	291

(HQ flew 4 illumination missions. blinded 30 Viet Cong)

SWEEP CONTINUES IN BASE AREA

This week has been slow for all the Brigades in their efforts to find and fix "Charlie" around the base camp area.

The 2d Brigade's 2d. Battalion, 12th Cavalry completed their search operations in the immediate area North-west of the picket line. The 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry has now extended those operations to the North-west and are conducting sweeps West and South-west of the Kannack Special Force camp. The 1st Brigade's 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry and 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry have been sweeping the hills South of the An Khe area along the Division TAOR boundary. The 3d Brigade has continued to secure the An Khe pass and their 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry is conducting sweep operations in the Central Vinh Thank Valley. Only, very light contact has been made by any of these sweeps, which is pretty good news. We are assured that there are no sizeable Viet Cong forces in our back yard.

The 1st brigade has sent a Battalion Combat Team to Pleiku to act as a reaction force for other U.S. elements in that area. Battery "A" has a platoon with the Battalion Combat Team.

2/20TH ARTY REMAINS IN GENERAL SUPPORT

The 2d Battalion, 20th Artillery was in General Support most of the week. On Thursday Battery "A" sent it's platoon to Plei Ku and Battery "B" sent a platoon to Kannack to reinforce the 77th Artillery fires in that zone. Saturday, found Battery "C" reinforcing the 21st Artillery with one platoon in the Vinh Tanh Valley.

NO-NAME GUNNER

Battery "C" has a door gunner without a name. Recently promoted to SP4, D.J. says "people just don't believe me when I tell them my name is "D" only, "J" only Jones. The pilots of the rocket firing "Huey" that D.J. flies in continue to marvel at his ability to get first round hits on the Viet Cong. "He's fast and accurate" says Capt Balda, Aircraft Commander. Needless to say, D.J. didn't qualify as a nick-name and he's presently referred to as "Only-Only" Jones.

WHAT IS THE STRAPHANGER?

As we promised last week the significance and symbolism of the "Strap Hanger" follows:

- The up-side down lightning bolt denotes a grounded charge.
- The fedora 'protects a bald head from "Zoomie" rotor wash.
- The spectacles denote a near-sighted approach to a far-sighted problem.
- The newspaper represents an attempt to prove literacy.
- The strap provides additional support after six high-balls.
- The black color and outline depict a dark outlook on rotation.
- The white color is symbolic of an ingrained fear of altitude.

A MOTHER'S SONNET TO A SON

I know my Son, Your wondering why
Your Father had to leave us
He's gone to take his place against
Those men who would deceive us

Now there are those who brand his cause
As wrong and without reason
But you and I know these thoughts
Could only be called treason

Though we miss the one we love
And fear greatly for his life

We can be proud he's one of those
Who protects our home from strife

It will be hard for us at home
To carry on without Them
But I believe they will not fail
And we must never doubt them

Yes, Daddy will come home one day
His battle will be won
And we can only hope and pray
It will be soon, my Son

(Submitted By "A" Btry)

ROTOR WASH FROM TUBELESS RUBE

"Wax Eagle" has gained new employment at "Straphanger" Hall. He recently moved to that location and immediately assumed the duties of Houseboy.

At a Gala Festive Ceremony, Lt Colonel Mahone, assisted by 1st Sgt Emerson officiated in the paper cutting, celebrating the Grand Opening of the new ultra modern Headquarters Battery latrine facilities. In an associated ceremony Maj Lahnstein assisted by Maj Williams, Major and solemnly and SMAJ Young formed a cortege of pallbearers and solemnly removed the now defunct structure.

It is rumored that on a mission in the mountains last week that Falcon Six flew so low that "Charlie" six had difficulty flying under him.

As the barbecue season approaches tat Sgt Owens sends quite a hit of tine in his hog wallow. We are not making reference to Headquarters!

Additional fencing is appearing around the "B" Battery gardens. Worried about cutworms from Headquarters?

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEKS PUZZLES:

Logic Problem: Preceding Clockwise

- (1) Ethel Carter, Brunette, Hostess
- (2) Gina Bates, Gray Haired
- (3) Florence Dowling, Blonde
- (4) Helen Allen, Red Head

Crossword:

A	D	D
R	I	O
A	N	T

THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE:

Place the digits one through nine using each only once in the squares below so that the sum of any line, horizontal, vertical or diagonal equals fifteen.

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

If you have any interesting puzzles that you think may be of interest to ally submit then to the SMAJ. Solution must accompany.

The Gazette is published weekly. Hunan interest items, humorous happenings or my events of interest concerning the 2/ 20th Artillery are desired by the Editor Just jot it down on a scrap of paper and deliver to the Battalion SMAJ.



Doc Talbot and Gary Adams discuss times gone by. (Photo by Jules Szabo)



George Padilla and Brian Ross still have the form. (Photo by Jules Szabo)



Jesse and Gloria Hobby board the showboat. Gloria qualified for a Wounded Warrior award. (Photo by Jules Szabo)



Joe and Arlene Pullano enjoy the fine cuisine of the Branson Belle. (Photo by Jules Szabo)



The Table of Remembrance. Many of us were marginalized for over twenty years, but these will not be forgotten.



Some of our guys almost ended up in a glass display case.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM ONE SOLDIER TO ANOTHER

Contributed by Jerry Hipp

Thanks to my fellow veterans:

I remember the day I found out I got into West Point. My Mom actually showed up in the hallway of my high school and waited for me to get out of class.

She was bawling her eyes out and apologizing that she had opened up my admission letter. She wasn't crying because it had been her dream for me to go there. She was crying because she knew how hard I'd worked to get in, how much I wanted to attend, and how much I wanted to be an infantry officer.

I was going to get that opportunity. That same day two of my teachers took me aside and essentially told me the following:

"David, you're a smart guy. You don't have to join the military. You should go to college, instead."

I could easily write a theme defending West Point and the military as I did that day, explaining that United States Military Academy is an elite institution, that separate from that, it is actually statistically much harder to enlist in the military than it is to get admitted to college, that serving the nation is a challenge that all able-bodied men should at least consider for a host of reasons, but I won't.

What I will say is that when a 16 year-old kid is being told that attending West Point is going to be bad for his future then there is a dangerous disconnect in America, and entirely too many Americans have no idea what kind of burdens our military is bearing.

In World War II, 11.2% of the nation's population served for four (4) years.

During the Vietnam era, 4.3% of the nation's population served in twelve (12) years.

Since 2001, only 0.45% of our population has served in the Global War on Terror.

These are unbelievable statistics. Over time, fewer and fewer people have shouldered more and more of the burden and it is only getting worse.

Our troops were sent to war in Iraq by a Congress consisting of 10% veterans with only one person having a child in the military. Taxes did not increase to pay for the war. War bonds were not sold. Gas was not regulated. In fact, the average citizen was asked to sacrifice nothing, and has sacrificed nothing unless they have chosen to out of the goodness of their hearts.

The only people who have sacrificed are the veterans and their families. The volunteers. The people who swore an oath to defend this nation. You stand there, deployment after deployment and fight on. You've lost relationships, spent years of your lives in extreme conditions, years apart from kids you'll never get back, and beaten your body in a way that even professional athletes don't understand.

Then you come home to a nation that doesn't understand. They don't understand suffering. They don't understand sacrifice. They don't understand why we fight for them. They don't understand that bad people exist. They look at you like you're a machine - like something is wrong with you. You are the misguided one - not them.

When you get out, you sit in the college classrooms with political science teachers that discount your opinions on Iraq and Afghanistan because YOU WERE THERE and can't understand the macro issues they have gathered from books, because of your bias.

You watch TV shows where every vet has PTSD and the violent strain at that. Your Congress is debating your benefits, your retirement, and your pay, while they ask you to do more. But, the amazing thing about you is that you all know this. You know your country will never pay back what you've given up. You know that the populace at large will never truly understand or appreciate what you have done for them.

Hell, you know that in some circles, you will be thought as less than normal for having worn the uniform. But you do it anyway.

You do what the greatest men and women of this country have done since 1775.
YOU SERVED. Just that decision alone makes you part of an elite group.

"Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." -Winston Churchill-
Thank you to the 11.2% and 4.3% who have served and thanks to the 0.45% who continue to serve our Nation.

General David Petraeus
West Point Class 1974

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Tragically, this brilliant officer, who did so much to make the debacle in Iraq and Afganistan into a win situation, sullied his reputation with an error unfortunately all too common to men of intelligence and power. He knew the responsibility he had to his wife and family and chose a lower road. "Duty, Honor, Country" are the core principles by which we of the military live—and die. There is no excuse for his error but one must recognize the voraciousness of the political maelstrom which seized upon him and devoured him.*

Placing it in perspective, we must recognize that such action would have cost America other senior commanders such as Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Gen Dwight Eisenhower, and President Franklin Roosevelt all of whom had immoral liaisons. Currently, the politicians who are pledged to destroy the fabric of the nation we served to defend and preserve, are discarding all senior commanders who dare to disagree with their pathway to weakness and global insignificance for actions deserving, at best, correction or even reprimand. But a wise nation does not "shoot itself in the foot" nor "cut off its nose to spite its face". Many of us are old enough to remember an Army and Navy who noted weaknesses of the flesh and sought to protect the service without sacrificing the man or his value.

Given the choice between what makes America strong, if flawed, and weak and in danger of self-destruction, we should not have a problem deciding. November may well be the most critical time in our history.

FINAL FLIGHT

Cecil W. (Chip) Parker passed away peacefully on July 7, 2014 in Dallas, TX. He is survived by his wife, Vickie Fuller Parker, one son, one step-daughter, one step-son and five grandchildren.

Chip had a long successful career as President of Precision Dialing Services, and was also a member of Dallas Elks 71, MOWW, and the VHPA. Chip will be remembered for his heroism in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot, his leadership in business, as "Papa" to his grandkids, as hero and role model to his family and friends, as larger than life to all who knew him. The family requests that donations in his name be made to the Military Order of the World Wars.

Chip graduated with Flight Class 65-8W and flew in Vietnam with HHB, 2/20th Artillery (ARA) in 1965 – 66.

Copied from VHPA Aviator September/October 2014 issue.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HUEY

The first flight of the Huey was by Pilot Floyd Carlson on October 22, 1956 in Fort Worth, Texas. UH-1 aircraft have totaled more than 27,000,000 + flight hours since that first flight.

Army UH-1's totaled 7, 531, 955 flight hours in the Vietnam War between October 1966 and the end of 1975. The Huey Cobra (AH-1G) had 1,038,969 flight hours in Vietnam.

Bell Helicopters built 10,005 Huey's from 1956 to 1975. Of the 10,005 production Huey's, 9,216 went to the U.S. Army, 127 to the U.S. Marine Corps, 79 to the U.S. Air Force and 42 to the U.S. Navy. The rest went to other countries.

Today, there are only 113 B models, 9 E models, 12 F models, 10 Training F models, 1 HH-1K, 8 TH-1L's, 14 UH-11's 3 M models, 1 P model, 5 civilian 205's and 547 UH-1H's still flying. In other words, there are just 723 Military-variant and flyable Huey models registered today.

The Huey remains a legend as the most successful rotorcraft in Aviation History.

There are specific tail numbers for the 11,827 total helicopters that served in the Vietnam War from all branches of the service. 1,925 Huey's were lost in combat, while 1380 were lost in operational accidents. The high losses reflected their heavy use rather than a fragility of the aircraft, with the heavy use leading to crew fatigue that contributed to the high accident rate. Records indicate that 7,013 Huey's served in the Vietnam War. Almost all of those were with the Army. Huey aircraft casualties (KIA) include the loss of 1,074 pilots and 1, 103 aircrew members.

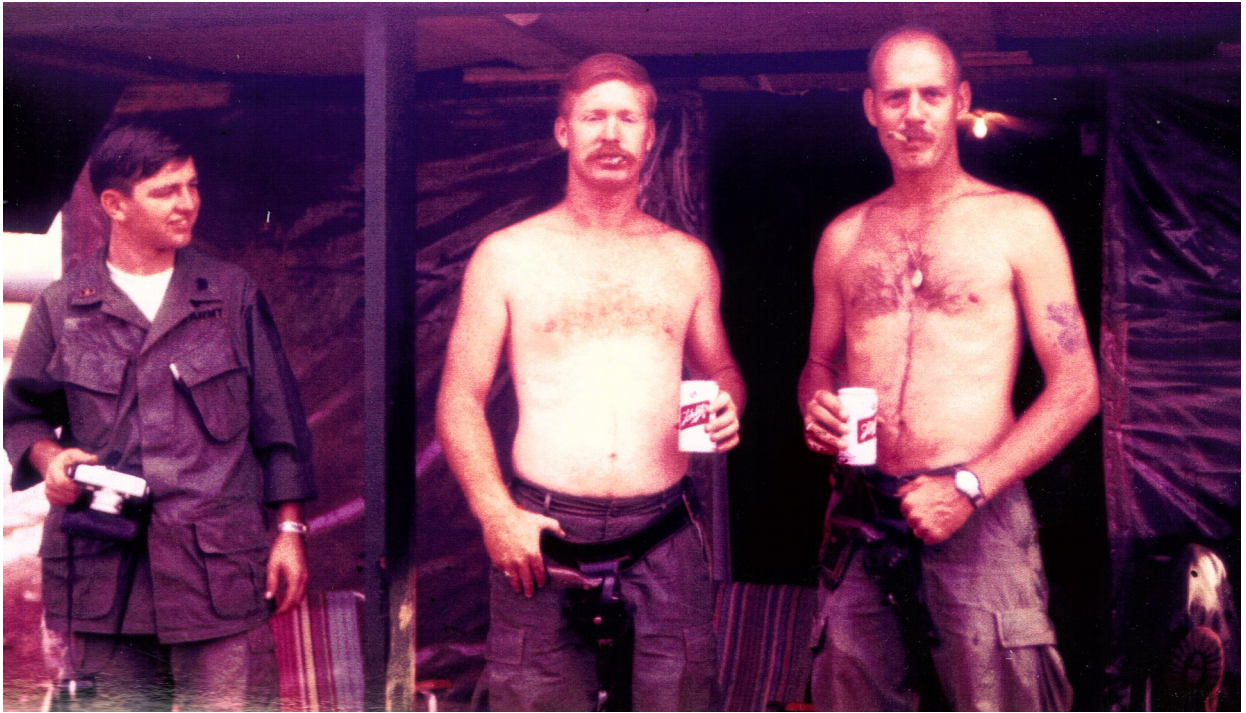
Vietnam has been judged the "first helicopter war", and the Huey remains a symbol of the conflict far more than any other weapon. There are many images of Huey's. They range from those depicting dropping troops into landing zones, to pictures of Huey's thrown off aircraft carriers during the frantic final evacuation.

The UH-1's will always be a common sight in many of the world's military forces, and are still in first-line service in the U.S. Marines. USAF historians have claimed that nearly all battlefield casualties were evacuated by UH-1 helicopters.

Facts pulled from VHPA "Aviator" July/August 2014 edition

And Speaking of Great Leaders.....

Our beloved Vice President Johnny Grice and our Valorous President, Larry Mobley in their glory in 1968 as an incredulous James Wiggin looks on.



*They were young and foolish but they knew what was important to protect and defend.
No wonder the ARA was the most feared unit in Vietnam.
Careful of the beer men!!*

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Ladies of the Association

DO YOU REMEMBER?

When you could not tell the weather change by your joint pain?

When you and your friends talked about fun things instead of aches, pains, and doctor's appointments?

When you did not have to check the mirror for chin hairs before you went out?

When you offered your seat to someone older, now they offer you a seat.? (This happened to me on the metro in Washington, D.C. in

July, when we took our granddaughters there). - really irked me.

When you had get up and go - where did it go?

Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be, so enjoy this day and your friends while it lasts.

Larry and I met Jesse and Gloria in Columbus in early September to coordinate some of the activities for next year's reunion. The Hobbys and Wilders have a great lineup for us; so make your plans to join us in Columbus.

Regina

ARA Mistress

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Shooting advice from various Concealed Carry Instructors.

If you own a gun, you will appreciate these rules.. If not, you should get one and learn how to use it and learn the rules:

A: Guns have only two enemies: rust and politicians

B: Its always better to be judged by 12 than carried by 6.

C: Cops carry guns to protect themselves, not you.

D: Never let someone or something that threatens you get inside arms length

E: Never say "I've got a gun." If you need to use deadly force, the first sound they hear should be the safety clicking off.

F: The average response time of a 911 call is 23 minutes; - the response time of a .357 magnum is 1400 feet per second.

G: The most important rule in a gunfight is: Always win - there is no such thing as a fair fight; cheat if necessary.

H: Make your attacker advance through a wall of bullets. You may get killed with your own gun, but he'll have to beat you to death with it, cause it will be empty .

I: If you're in a gun fight: If you're not shooting, you should be loading; If you're not loading, you should be moving; If you're not moving, you're dead..

J: In a life and death situation, do something ... it may be wrong, but do something!

K: If you carry a gun, people call you paranoid. Nonsense! If you have a gun, what do you have to be paranoid about?

L: You can say 'stop' or any other word, but a large bore muzzle pointed at someone's head is pretty much a universal language.

M: Never leave an enemy behind. If you have to shoot, shoot to kill. In court, yours will be the only testimony.

N: You cannot save the planet, but you may be able to save you and your family



Chaplain's Corner

“Duty or Privilege?”

When thanked by people for my service I am sometimes at a loss for words. Recently, I said in return, “It was my privilege!” Afterwards, I asked myself whether it was my privilege or my duty to have served my country. Yes, I was proud to have served, but in reality, I really had no choice. I had voluntarily stayed on active duty in the regular army, been properly and adequately trained for combat duty should it come to that, and therefore; it was my duty to respond to the orders nearly fifty years ago on August 14, 1965 and make the bus trip from Fort Benning down highway 280 to board the USNS UPSHUR in Savannah, GA, for the 31 day trip to the Republic of South Vietnam.

Was I afraid? You bet your tintype, I was scared! There was no way I would show that fear. I was in uniform and expected to demonstrate the traits of a leader. Was I wearing the calming mask of an officer while on the inside churning like crazy for fear of the unknown? I think the answer would be yes. I would have preferred being back at Fort Benning with my family all secure; however, this was a sacrifice I was making because I signed on for it. Didn't make it any easier. But it was a privilege to be able to serve.

Being a Christian is a lot like being a soldier. Both require being a servant – a servant of God and a servant of the country. Both have expectations. How many times have you had the feeling that you'd like to be doing something else? Being a soldier requires a lot of sacrifices and being a Christian demands a lot of sacrifices of its adherents. Faith makes one tell the truth when it might be easier to tell a lie. It makes one say “no” to questionable pleasures while others freely indulge in them. Our Lord asks us to act when we'd rather sit and do nothing.

The opening verses in Romans flies in the face of all our grumblings. Paul writes in verse 5, Good News Bible: “Through him (Christ) God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ.” These simple words explain the whole career of Paul as a Christian missionary. He says God has given him a *privilege*. What a strange word. Not a duty, a responsibility, or a burden, but a *privilege!* When one considers what it costs Paul to be a Christian, the word *privilege* seems even more amazing. Listen to what his work involved:

“Five times I was given the thirty-nine lashes by the Jews; three times I was whipped by the Romans; and once I was stoned. I have been in three shipwrecks, and once I spent twenty-four hours in the water. In my many travels I have been in danger from floods and from robbers, in danger from fellow Jews and from Gentiles; there have been dangers in the cities, dangers in the wilds, dangers on the high seas, and dangers from false friends. There has been work and toll, often I have gone without sleep; I have been hungry and thirsty; I have often been without enough food, shelter or clothing” (2 Cor. 11:24-27).

This is a privilege? How could Paul endure all this without at least threatening to give up the whole job and retire to Tarsus?

The answer, and perhaps the explanation to Paul's life and writings, is here in the opening verses of Romans. The great apostle says he is a servant, a slave of Jesus Christ. He has received the good news from God and the grace and peace from his Lord. This is a clue to Paul's joy and to his willingness to endure the perils of his ministry. This is also a source of strength to us when we grow weary in Christian living. We need to remind ourselves of what we have received. In Christ we have been given blessings that far outweigh any sacrifice that we are asked to make. We too are privileged to be called by the name of Jesus Christ.

Peace,
Bruce Wilder
Chaplain



AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

This form may be used for Applying for New Membership or for Renewing Existing Membership. Please circle that which is appropriate.

Name _____ Wife's Name _____

Rank _____ Membership Number _____
(At time of service in ARA) (If known)

Retired Rank (if applicable) _____ Service Number _____

List all ARA Units that you served in.

<u>Battery/Battalion</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____
_____	From mo/yr to mo/yr	_____

Current Address: _____
Street or PO Box
City State Zip Code

Phone: _____
Home Work (if okay) Cell

E-Mail Address: _____

Association membership is on an annual basis (unless member opts for life membership) running from January 1 to December 31 and is past due on January 31.

Annual dues are \$25.00 regardless of when submitting.

Life membership (if paid in full) is \$250.00. Life membership may also be paid in \$50.00 installments on a quarterly basis until paid in full.

Total amount enclosed _____ (Please indicate in remarks section of check whether this is Initial Membership, Membership Renewal, Life Membership in full, Life Membership payment #.

Mail completed application to: Aerial Rocket Artillery Association
C/O Jule Szabo
5118 Brentwood Farm Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030

For Office Use Only
Check # _____
Check Date _____
Amount _____
Date Rcvd _____

Web address – www.araassociation.com