



The Straphanger Gazette



Volume 8 Issue 1

. Find us on the web at <http://www.araassociation.com> July, August, Sept., 2015

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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.

THE POST CHANGED BUT THE MEMORIES LINGER ON



President's Corner

A HUGE SUCC3SS -

The 6-10 May 2015 18th annual reunion in Columbus, Georgia commemorating the 50 year anniversary of ARA and the 1st Cavalry Division deployment to Vietnam had many memorable moments.

Wednesday night, after gathering for a barbecue dinner at the hotel, 14 attendees who went over by boat (boat people) were recognized and given a beautiful plaque which had been designed by Jesse Hobby. We had entertainment from a duo, Bruce Wilder and Tom Cochran, who sang “She Walks these Hills in a Long Black Veil”. I understand this was a regular occurrence in Vietnam, with Tom playing his ukulele. Surprisingly, they still remembered the words.

Thursday, we spent most of the day on Fort Benning touring the Tank Restoration Center, and the combat simulators for tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles. Regina enjoyed killing an enemy tank, an individual, and an enemy helicopter in the tank simulator. This was followed by lunch with the troops in the mess hall. The current mess halls are certainly different than the mess halls we were exposed to. This was followed by a tour of the National Infantry Museum which is a must see for anyone in the area.

Friday, another busy day, was spent touring Callaway Gardens and the Little White House at Warm Springs, Georgia where President Roosevelt died.

Our final dinner on Saturday night at the Confederate Naval War Museum in Columbus was very emotional as we had a former Marine, Hubert H. Hunnicutt from Winder, Georgia, who had contacted Bruce Wilder and me almost two years ago looking for the crew who had rescued him on 18 April 1968 southwest of Khe Sanh. He had been wounded numerous times on 16 April 1968 and had carried his Company Commander, who was critically wounded, trying to get back to friendly lines. Unfortunately, the Captain died. Hunnicutt fell into a ravine on the night of 17-18 April 1968 breaking his right shoulder. He was rescued about 1300 hours on 18 April by an ARA crew of Jerry Sommers and Sherod Mallow, pilots, and crew chief Alan Heidbreder. They met for the first time at the dinner and Hunnicutt said, “I’ve been looking for these guys for 47 years. They saved my life”. Hunnicutt had been awarded the Navy Cross for his actions.

Following the dinner, a Civil War cannon was fired, with Hunnicutt pulling the lanyard. This was followed by a wreath being placed in the Chattahoochee river in remembrance of those we have lost.

I hope that you will make plans for the next reunion, which is to be held in Bozeman, Montana, 3-7 August 2016, and will be hosted by Gary Bishop. Two large festivals will be occurring in Bozeman at that time. “Big Sky Country” offers many things to see and do, so, plan on the reunion in Bozeman. More information will be published at a later date.

If you attended the reunion in Columbus, save your lanyard and name tag for Bozeman. They are about \$3.00 each. Keep the greasy side down.

ARA 6

Meeting May 9, 2015

ARA ASSOCIATION

Meeting called to order 1005am by President Larry Mobley

Pledge to the flag. Brother Bruce Wilder gave the prayer for all. Remember Gloria and Jesse for the trip home, Gloria's sister passed away.

Reading of the minutes for the ARA Association by Secretary Huey O'Dell from the meeting of June 21, 2014. Meeting accepted by the body.

Treasurer Report given by Larry Mobley gave the information on checking and saving accounts. He asked the body for approval. It was seconded and approved by the membership.

Old Business: A previously announced amendment to the by-laws making the Chaplain a member of the board was introduced. Motion was made to make the chaplain a board member, seconded and approved by the body. Other changes to the bylaws were discussed and approved

A discussion was held concerning the Association supporting one of the Fisher Houses which serve the families who have lengthy stays at military hospitals—such as cancer patients. It was decided to donate \$200. A donation of \$300 to the Infantry Museum was also approved.

New Business: 1. Discussed places for the 2017 reunion.

2. A member, Asa Talbot and Bruce Wilder talked about each person putting your memories down some place, so someone might be able to get the information that is in our brains. No one else knows or understands what we went through and that information should not be lost.

3. Buy a paver for Fort Rucker so someone will remember what each and everyone has done.

4. Asa Talbot talked about Agent Orange and the effects it has had on us and that the ones who were affected by this also pass this on to our children. Make sure you keep your data updated with the VA.

5. Some 50 year clips were handed out to the group.

6. We need a place to go for 2017. Seattle, Nashville, Fort Sill, Ft Rucker, were mentioned Next year: Bozeman, Mont. Aug 3-7, 2016. It will be put into the next Straphanger and let people contact anyone on the board.

7. The Editor (Asa Talbot) asked all to make sure we have the right email address for everyone.

8. The amendments to the Bylaws previously published in the Straphanger were adopted, with the exception of making the Webmaster a member of the BOD. A corrected copy of the amendment without the Webmaster changes follows these minutes.

Also there are basic websites that we should utilize - keep these emails alive (<http://www.araassociation.com>) and (<https://www.facebook.com/AerialRocketArtilleryAssociation>) and (<http://www.armyav.org>)

Meeting adjourned 5/9/15 1150am

PROPOSED CHANGE TO ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

At our Reunion in Branson and in subsequent conversations and emails the issue of BOD representation has come up and it has been proposed that the following Articles be amended. These proposals will be brought up at the next business meeting of the Association in 2015.

ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors

Section 1. The Association Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the BOD, shall be composed of the President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of the Association Newsletter (collectively “The Officers”). In addition to the Officers of the BOD there shall be one (1) OFF/WO representative and one (1) NCO/EM representative from each of the following: 3rd Battalion, 377th Artillery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery and one (1) representative from “F” Battery, 79th Artillery serving on the BOD.

It is proposed that the first line of ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors be amended to read as follows: The Association Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the BOD, shall be composed of the President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and the Editor of the Association Newsletter (Collectively “The Officers”).

Reason for proposed change is to include the Chaplain as a member of the BOD.

It has also been proposed that the last line of this ARTICLE, which reads as follows - “In addition to the Officers of the BOD there shall be one (1) OFF/WO representative and one (1) NCO/EM representative from each of the following: 3rd Battalion, 377th Artillery, 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery, 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery and one (1) representative from “F” Battery, 79th Artillery serving on the BOD” be deleted.

Reason for deletion is that while this seemed like a good idea when the By-Laws were re-written in 2008 and was actually put into practice for a short time. It has proven to be impractical and leads to confusion in interpreting the composition of the BOD.

If/When approved these changes will also require that ARTICLE V – Officer, Duties, and Terms of Office be amended as follows:

Section 1. , which currently reads: “The Association Officers, also known collectively as the Board of Directors, are the President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor, with their primary duties as indicated below” shall be amended to include the Chaplain , and shall read as follows “The Association Officers, also known collectively as the Board of Directors are the President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, and the Editor of the Association Newsletter”.

The sub-paragraphs of ARTICLE V, Section 1. Will also require amendment as follows:

Current sub-paragraph G shall become sub-paragraph I.

New sub-paragraph G. shall read: The Chaplain shall be responsible for all religious matters pertaining to the Association.

New sub-paragraph H shall read: The Web Site Manager shall be responsible for updating, posting and/or removing material and renewing web site with approval from BOD. The Web Site Manager may also act as Liaison Officer if/when the Association engages an external web site management agent.

New sub-paragraph I shall read: All Officers of the Association shall actively promote membership in the Association and maintain contact with members of the Association.

Reasons for change to this ARTICLE are to maintain compliance with ARTICLE IV Section 1 and to add job descriptions for the Chaplain and Web Site Manager and to maintain sub-paragraph order.

These changes will also require that ARTICLE VII – Elections be amended as follows:

Section 3. which reads: “Unit Representatives may be filled by elections from among and by the members in good standing or by volunteers” shall be deleted.

Income:	Item	Dollars	Notes
	Membership	2900	9 Life Memberships
	General Donations	0	
	Bank Interest	17.87	
	2015 ARA Reunion	11,940.00	
	Donations (Claude and one other member)	100	
	Picture Money	325	
		Fiscal YR Total Income	15,282.87
Expenses			
	Item	Dollars	
Reunion Breakdown			
	Members Certificates/ mailing	51.72	
	Fisher House donation 2014	200	
	Materials (Lanyards, names tages, Printing, Reunion Gifts, Mugs, Pins, Beverages/Booze/Snacks Etc.)	994.37	
	Wednesday Dinner	1677.22	
	Buses	2320	
	Ft Benning Lunch	371.85	
	National Infantry/Ft Benning Tour	350	
	Callaway Garden Tour White House	625.95	
	Bulloch House Lunch	942.5	
	National Civil War Naval Museum Donation	500	
	Farwell Dinner	2695.67	
	Reunion Refunds	240	
	VHPA ADs 1/4 Page 2 editions	135	
	Membership Letters printing/ mailing	552.69	
	Total Expense (-)	11656.97	
Reunion Income (+)	11940		
Reunion Balance	283.03		
Misc Items	Item	Dollars/Date	
2014 Taxes submitted	Accepted and confirmed by IRS - 05/03/2015		
Bank Balances as of 05/04/15			
Current Bank Balances:			
○ Checking	\$13,137.58	Post 2015 Reunion Balance	
○ Saving	\$8,797.98	Post 2015 Reunion Balance	
July 1 2014 - July 2015 Fiscal Year Report			

Those who led



In front of the Infantry Museum and the Doughboy Statue



The Ladies who do so much to make these reunions memorable.

Those who followed



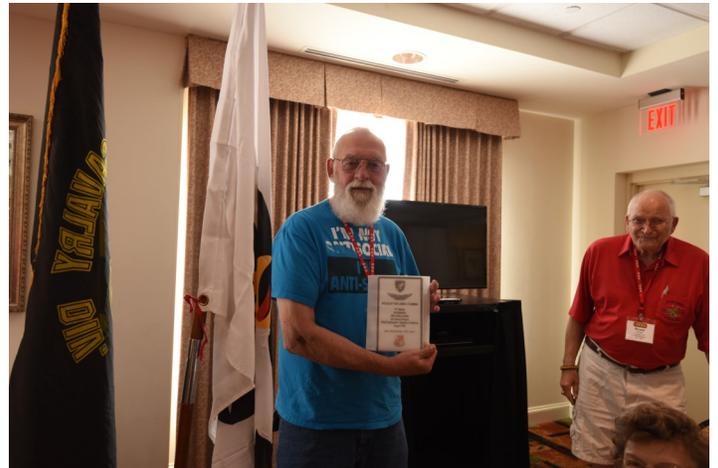
The Hilton Garden Inn—our home away from home in Columbus. A little upscale from our digs in 1965.



Our next door neighbor was Talbot Rehabilitation Hospital (no connection to your editor), one of the most exclusive “drunk tanks” in the South. Was there a message there?



Our stalwart host crew, primarily the wives, register and distribute the goodies. Regina Mobley, the ubiquitous Bruce Wilder, Mary Alice Titchenell, Gloria Hobby and Patti Wilder



One of the many themes and events was to give special recognition to the “First Teamers” - those who were in the startup group in 1965. True “boat people” Jim Flemming gets his while Bruce Wilder cheers him on.



Larry Mobley honors Gerry Hipp, Chuck Voeltz and Joe Pullano as Pioneers of 1965

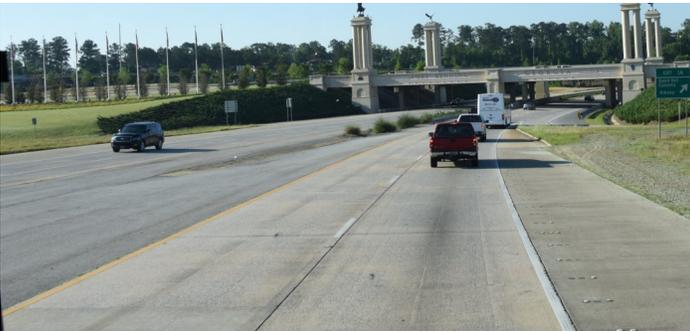
It may not be the post we remembered, but some things have not changed



When funding shortfalls closed Ft. Knox the Armor School went to Georgia.



The classic symbol of the “Follow Me” leader now graces the entrance to a beautiful Infantry Museum



The two lane entry road is now a main highway over a bridge



Gone are the bleachers and stands—replaced by virtual simulators where you blow up tanks and enemies. No more freezing your butt off in the winter.



Killer Voeltz virtually wipes out the attacking enemy. What does Chuck know about using automatic weapons?



In the shadow of a replica of a revolving gun turret in the Civil War Navel Museum we held our farewell banquet and paid honor to those who are MIA as well as KIA.



A highlight was the reunion of Hubert H. Hunnicutt (second from left), a former Marine and hero, with Jerry Sommers and Sherod Mallow, pilots, and crew chief Alan Heidbreder who rescued him 47 years ago (1968 at Khe Sanh). This was the first meeting since that day.



The banquet ended with the rescue mission people assisting in the loading and firing of an authentic 16 pound cannon on the banks of the Chatahoochee River.



Ray Hatfield and Jim Flemming cast a memorial wreath on the river for those who have gone before us.



This is better than how I remember the Chatahoochee in the winter of '57.

MORE ARA HISTORY—from Jess Hobby

Alan Doty loaned me a very interesting book entitled “Vietnam Order of Battle” by Shelby L. Stanton. This book details the composition of the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1961 to 1973.

Information on 2nd Battalion, 20th Artillery (Aerial Rocket) reads as follows:

Arrived Vietnam:	13 September 1965	
Departed Vietnam:		10 April 1971
Previous Station:		Fort Benning
Authorized Strength:		1966 1968 1971
	Battalion	415 415 329

The 2nd Battalion (“Armed Falcons,” “Blue Max,” “Bobcats”) of the 20th Artillery was an aerial rocket artillery battalion equipped with armed helicopters and assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. The battalion served continuously with the division and was collocated with it during its service in Vietnam. The battalion was headquartered at An Khe until the division moved north. From 1968 until departure it was headquartered at Phuoc Vinh. Does anyone recall using the “Bobcat” call sign?

Information on 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (Aerial Rocket) reads as follows:

Arrived Vietnam:	17 October 1968
Departed Vietnam:	4 January 1972
Previous Station:	Fort Sill
Authorized Strength:	1968 1970
Battalion	515 575

The 4th Battalion of the 77th Artillery was an aerial rocket artillery battalion employing armed helicopters. It was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and collocated with division headquarters at Gia Le. (Note: There is no mention of the unit call signs – “Dragons,” “Toros,” and “griffins.”)

Information on Battery “F”, 77th Artillery (Aerial Rocket) reads as follows:

Arrived Vietnam:	30 April 1971
Departed Vietnam:	12 August 1971
Previous Station:	Vietnam
Authorized Strength:	133

Battery “F” of the 77th Artillery was an aerial rocket artillery battery employing armed helicopters and was formed to render support to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. The battery was thus located at Bien Hoa. Battery “F” was a redesignation of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery (administratively redesignated 30 April 1971). (Note: While we have information identifying Battery “F” as a “Provisional Unit” it is not identified as such in the Order of Battle due to its official recognition as a TO & E unit. According to Stanton the word “Provisional” was added when a unit was identified as such or found to be unauthored but existing. We also have information provided by Michael O’Keefe, who was a member of F/77, that it was assigned to the 145th CAB.)

Information on Battery F, 79th Artillery (Aerial Rocket) reads as follows:

Arrived Vietnam:	30 June 1971
Departed Vietnam:	22 August 1972
Previous Station:	Vietnam
Authorized Strength:	161

Battery F of the 79 Artillery was an aerial rocket artillery battery employing armed helicopters and was raised to provide additional support to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. It was stationed at Bien Hoa. In 1972 the battery went to Long Thuan and was placed under control of the 1st Aviation Brigade there.

Thanks to Alan Doty,

Following information was provided by a new member to the Association, Leslie (Les) Haas, who served with “A” battery (Dragons), 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (ARA), 101st AbnDiv (AMBL) in RVN from March 1970 – December 1970. Haas was later assigned to both “A” battery (Dragons) and “B” battery (Toros), 4th Battalion, 77th Artillery (FA), 101st AbnDiv (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, KY from May 1975 to January 1978 (The unit was redesignated 229th Attack Helicopter Battalion in January 1978). We also have information provided by another member, Dave Cooper, that 4/77 (ARA) deployed from RVN to Ft. Campbell in early 1972. Based on this information it appears that 4/77 was not only the last ARA unit on active duty but that it was the longest serving ARA unit having been activated in 1968.

Thanks to Les Hass, Dragon 92C
And David Cooper, Dragon 26

Ladies of the Association

Here is a bit of humor that I thought you might find interesting.

INSTALLING HUSBAND - Version 1

Dear Tech Support,

Last year I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slow-down in overall performance – particularly in the Flower and Jewelry applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and installed undesirable programs such as NFL 5.0, MLB 3.0, NBA 4.0, NASCAR 4.2 and Golf Clubs 4.1. Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and Housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail.

What can I do?

Signed – Desperate

Dear Desperate:

First keep in mind that Boyfriend 5.0 is an Entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an Operating System.

Please enter the command: “<http://www.I-Thought-You-Loved-Me.com>” and try to download Tears 6.2, and don't forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update.

If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewelry 2.0 and Flowers 3.5. But remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0, or Beer 6.1. Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT install Mother-In-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources).

Also, do not attempt to reinstall Boyfriend 5.0 program. This is an unsupported application and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory, and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Hot Food 3.0 and Lingerie 7.7.

Tech Support

Now I ask you, does this sound like your system?

Regina Mobley

Blue Max Mistress

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FINALLY, A DEFINITION OF THE TERM "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS!"

For the last six odd years, almost all of the things I wanted to write or say, have been stymied by a recently coined term referred to as "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS"! Although I consider myself rather fluent in the English language, that term was not in my vocabulary. My curiosity got the best of me and I decided to do a little research and after two weeks of chasing fruitless leads, I found what I'd been looking for at the Truman Library and Museum in Independence Missouri. An unnamed source there sent me copies of four telegrams that were between Harry Truman and Douglas MacArthur on the day before the actual signing of the Surrender Agreement. The contents of those four telegrams below are exactly as received, not a word has been added or deleted!

- 1) Tokyo, Japan
0800-September 1, 1945
To: President Harry S Truman
From: General D A MacArthur
Tomorrow we meet with those yellow bellied bastards and sign the Surrender Documents, any last minute instructions!
- 2) Washington, D C
1300 - September 1, 1945
To: D A MacArthur
From: H S Truman
Congratulations, job well done, but you must tone down your obvious dislike of the Japanese when discussing the terms of the surrender with the press, because some of your remarks are fundamentally not politically correct!
- 3) Tokyo, Japan
1630-September 1, 1945
To: H. S Truman
From: D A MacArthur and C H Nimitz
Wilco Sir, but both Chester and I are somewhat confused, exactly what does the term politically correct mean?
- 4) Washington, DC
2120 September 1, 1945
To: D A MacArthur/C H Nimitz
From: H S Truman
Political Correctness is a doctrine, recently fostered by a delusional, illogical minority and promoted by a sick mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a piece of shit by the clean end!



Chaplain's Corner

“Get Up and Go!”

I remember so vividly the orders I received at Fort Benning fifty years ago ordering me to Vietnam! They were not the usual orders cut by the headquarters and mailed to the individual in seven copies. They were issued over the radio as we car pooled to the Sand Hill area from Columbus, GA that morning in July 1965. Our President, Lyndon B. Johnson said, “My dear friends and fellow countrymen, I have this day ordered to Vietnam, the Air Mobile Division!” We immediately turned the car around and went back home to tell our wives to stop unpacking from the recent move to Benning from other posts, and start repacking for another move because we were going into combat!

I had very little knowledge of Vietnam. I had seen the newsreels in the hometown theatres when the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu by the Viet Minh in May 1954, my junior year in high school. We were going to a place of which I knew very little. A quick refresher course in world geography fixed the location. What was going to happen once we arrived would be answered later. This was like stories from the Bible!

I remembered a scripture from Acts, chapter 8. The Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So, Philip got up and went. That was the extent of his orders! Again, we see how other people of the Bible have been ordered to get up and go, by reading from Genesis chapter 12, when the Lord told Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” I didn’t hear any of those blessings from President Johnson. I was in the Army and I had just received competent orders to go and serve! It was my “get up and go” type order. Well, I did not have the same experience Abram, Sarai, or Philip had. Theirs was more impactful for the whole of creation. Mine was impactful for a shorter duration and affected fewer people, but the memories remain to this day.

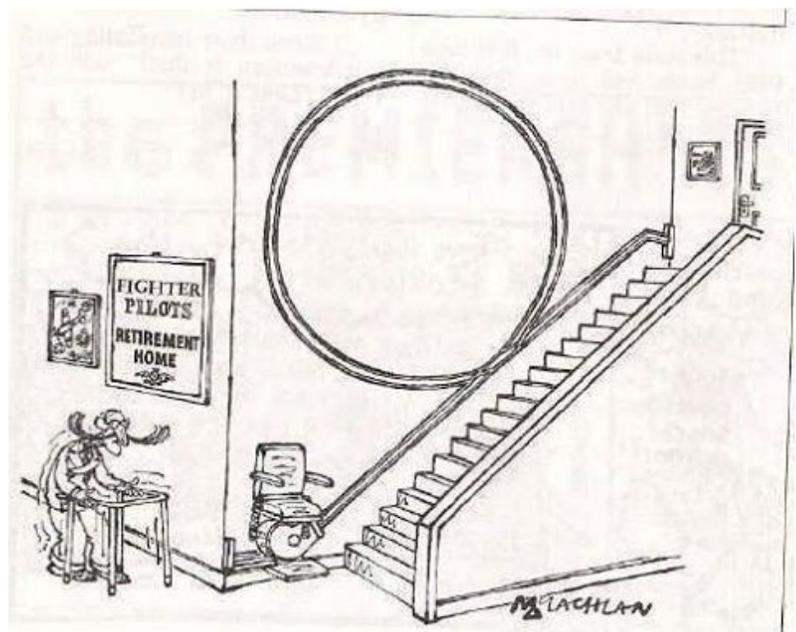
As Abram, Sarai, and Philip, the soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) were about to move out of their comfort zones. With new names given to them by God, Abraham and Sarah were old people about to be thrown into a child bearing scenario at the age of 100 and 90, respectively. God, through the Holy Spirit was providing for them in his promise of future generations. Philip the Evangelist carried the Gospel to Samaria and was instrumental in showing God’s role in originating the mission to the Gentiles. His “get up and go” mission put him in contact with an Ethiopian eunuch, which was way out of his comfort zone for several reasons! He encountered three hits: the eunuch was not a Jew, was of a different sexual orientation, and was African. Philip was called to break down barriers.

We soldiers left our comfort zone of peace time army training, living at home with our families, and not having to worry about death in combat. While we were in that combat zone, God was with us every day and night. It may have been frightening and overwhelming as it was for Abraham, Sarah, and Philip in their new roles; however, God provided for us all.

God calls us today to move out of our comfort zones. Even in an uncertain and changing world. It is not about us and what we can or cannot do. We were planted here for a reason. God calls us to serve and make a difference in the lives of others; and he will provide for us.

God bless us all, as we get up and go!

**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