



Thunder Run

Vol. 31 – NO. 2

“Together Then – Together Again”

2nd Quarter, 2016

The 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia

IT AIN'T EASY BEING GREEN

By: Bob Kickenweitz
HHT Regiment, 66-67

This story is meant to poke fun at myself for being so naïve to the world around us. Please forgive me for some of the situations, as they were all part of the Vietnam experience.

We flew into Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base in Saigon, the capital of Vietnam, on October 11th 1966. At that time, we came to Vietnam without a steel pot, flak jackets, but most important of all, no weapon. You see at this time in the war, we were not issued any equipment until you were assigned to a unit. After waiting around in the airport for about half an hour for a bus to pick us up (typical Army hurry up and wait), I needed to use the men’s room. One of my buddies kept an eye on my duffel bag while I ventured on a trip to the men’s room. This was 1966, it was the capital of the country, and the “Pearl of the Orient”, but you would not have known it from the men’s room.

The only thing ceramic in the entire room was the tile floor. A wooden trough fixed to the wall, pitched down to the left acted as a urinal. The most amazing thing to me was, there were no pipes attached to it. When the urine got to the end of the trough, it simply flowed through a hole in the wood and fell to the floor, from the floor it flowed through a hole in the wall. I can’t venture a guess as to where it went from there. This is just not my kind of country!

Another half-hour went by; we were instructed we would have to walk someplace to meet the bus. So off we went, we walked through a tent city, sandbags everywhere, around everything, and everything covered with a red dirt. Boy, I’ve been in country one hour and I’m in the boonies already. Little did I know I was still on the air base. We finally found the bus; perspiration dripping off me like an old mop being wrung out, even after my Tigerland training in Louisiana dur-

Please turn to **GREEN** on page 17

As Your Reunion Draws Near

By: Steve Page,
Director and Reunion Chairman

As you read this article the 31st Annual Reunion in San Antonio is only about 3 months away. With the interest you all have shown we will have another great attendance. As I write this update our numbers are well over 1200 and growing. This great city has so much to offer, you may not have enough time to get it all in. We have what we think will be a pleasant surprise for our Saturday night cocktail hour.

If you were a medic and have never attended a Reunion this is your year to start. This reunion is dedicated to all medics and the great work they did.

Our room block at the Hyatt in spite of adding rooms to our initial block on two separate occasions has been sold out. We have added the Residence Inn San Antonio Downtown/Alamo Plaza as another backup property. Booking information for the Residence Inn is in this issue as well as our website. The Residence Inn is approximately four blocks from the Hyatt and Riverwalk. The hotel number is 1-210-212-5555. You must tell them you are with the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans in order to get the reunion rate. You can also use the link on our website for online reservations. **The cutoff date for your reservation at the Residence Inn is August 1, 2016.** If you cancel it must be done three days prior to your check in date to avoid cancellation penalties.

Mike Rafferty is working on a tour of

See hotel list on page 7

Please turn to **REUNION** on page 2

The Blackhorse in San Antonio

The Blackhorse is going to San Antonio! Come enjoy this beautiful city with attractions like their famous Riverwalk and a view of the city at night..

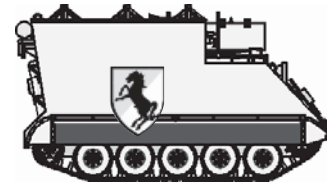




Allen Hathaway
President

From The Command Track

By Allen Hathaway, President



Deep in the heart of Texas, San Antonio, Texas that is. This is the location for the 31st annual reunion on August 24-28, 2016. The Grand Hyatt San Antonio, located on the world famous River Walk, will serve as the reunion headquarters. A second hotel, The Hilton Palacio Del Rio, has been added to handle the overwhelming response to reunion registrations. Please make your hotel reservations if you haven't already done so.

San Antonio offers many activities. The world famous River Walk is located just steps from both hotels. Take a boat tour along the river and stop at any number of outdoor restaurants. The Alamo is also just a short walk from the hotels. See the highlights of San Antonio and learn more about Texas history and the Alamo on one of the many city tour buses available.

We'll be marking the 2016 reunion with three important milestones:

- The 11th Cavalry was stationed at Fort Sam Houston in 1911-1912.

- 50 years since the 11th Armored Cavalry arrived in Vietnam in September 1966.

- To salute the many medics, doctors and nurses who served in Vietnam with the 11th ACR. All medical personnel trained at Fort Sam Houston. We are encouraging each of the over 350 medics on our mailing list to attend the 2016 reunion.

An updated reunion schedule is printed in this issue of Thunder Run. Two new activities have been added on Friday. First, we will host the Veterans Seminar in the morning with a representative from the San Antonio Department of Veterans Affairs. We encourage all veterans and their family and friends to attend.

Second, and as part of our salute to the medics, "Doc" Rafferty is coordinating a tour of the US Army Medical Department Museum at Fort Sam Houston. This is an excellent opportunity for the medics to revisit FSH again. Please read the separate

I encourage anyone who has never attended a reunion to do so.... Our reunions are welcoming, comfortable and relaxed. From the moment you walk in the door and see the first Blackhorse insignia you know you are among friends.

article in this issue.

I encourage anyone who has never attended a reunion to do so. Every year we hear comments from those attending their first reunion that they should have attended a reunion sooner. Our reunions are welcoming, comfortable and relaxed. From the moment you walk in the door and see the first Blackhorse insignia you know you are among friends.

Here are a few suggestions to make this another successful reunion: Contact old friends and plan to meet at the reunion. Don't wait until the last week to contact them! Contact them early so they will have plenty of time to make their plans. Contact any board member if you need help finding an old friend. Check the list of those attending on our website. Reserve your hotel room early. Dig out your old pictures. Remember the deadline for reunion registration is no later than August 1, 2016.

Our scholarship fundraising activities are going well this year. The first of three activities was our ever popular calendar mailed to all members in December. One of the goals for 2016 calendar project was to increase the number of donors. Currently only 1,500 of the over 7,000 members who receive a calendar make a donation. The Scholarship Fund is a separate, stand alone account. This account depends solely on your donations to pay for printing and mailing of the calendar as well as awarding scholarships. Every dollar counts so if you received a calendar please consider making a donation.

Our two other fund raising activities, the annual raffle and silent auction, will begin in May. Please see all the details on these activities in the separate articles in this issue.

This is also a good opportunity to assure our members that their donations are used for the sole purpose for which they are intended. Whether it be for Scholarship, Reunion Assistance, Memorial or the General Fund, member donations are used to support that specific fund. At the end of each quarter the treasurer produces a Financial Report which is distributed to each of the board members. In addition, the financial report is reviewed by an independent auditor as well as a tax consultant to ensure proper account practices are followed and to review all expenses in order to assure efficient and effective use of all funds and prohibit any improper or questionable expenses.

Memorial Day is Monday, May 30, 2016. Blackhorse troopers, family and friends are invited to join us at 10:00 am at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on that day as we honor our fallen comrades. Since 1986 Blackhorse troopers have met and placed the ever familiar Blackhorse wreath at the wall. Plan to join us if you're in the DC area or attend a local memorial service in your area. ALLONS! – It's good to be "Together Again".

REUNION from page 1

the Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston. Mike has posted all the information on this tour and a signup sheet is in this issue. Doc has put a lot of effort into this tour. This should be an interesting and fun trip.

The preparation for this our 31st Annual reunion has been going on for over two years. Your reunions are a major undertaking. They seem to get bigger and better each year. Remember Orlando 2017, we have already started a search for your 2018 reunion site.



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11ACVVC)

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Thunder Run covers present and future interests of the organization that includes membership and reunion information, various fund raising activities, and other items relative to the membership. Submissions are welcome and encouraged. Correspondence and inquiries concerning *Thunder Run* should be made in writing to: Editor, "Thunder Run," C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Jr., 421 Fallen Leaf Dr., Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577.

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Honoring the Blackhorse Fallen



February 2, 2016 was the 115th anniversary of the birth of the 11th Cavalry, and to mark that occasion as reverently as possible, a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown, in Arlington National Cemetery. In attendance were representatives of the U. S. Army and veterans of the regiment including members of the 11th ACVVC. This is planned to be an annual tradition to honor those who gave all while serving in the Blackhorse Regiment.



C.E. "Bill" Gregory



Bill Gregory, Editor
Thunder Run

Last issue I recalled my November 1969 trip, from the hills of East Tennessee, to the tropical splendor of the Republic of South Vietnam. That made me recall the return trip in December of 1970. To say it was different would be an understatement. First, it seemed a whole lot longer, and in my case, it was a lot longer. Before I even left Dian, I ran into a problem. Someone had stolen all my Class A uniforms while I was in the field, so I was not going to be allowed to leave, until I came up with a uniform. Fortunately, my "Turtle" was a nice guy and gave me a set of his kakis and enough brass to get me out of the unit. I went back to where I started, the 90th Replacement Company, where I was to depart some time on the 30th of November; but there were delays, several of them, and it was sometime after midnight on the 2nd of December before I got to the airport. As usual with military and civilian bureaucracies alike, there was a delay in boarding while they sorted out the order of boarding by rank. This was complicated by there being G-S scale civilian personnel on the flight. None of this really mattered to me because being a 1LT I did not have enough rank to make much if any difference. Besides, I kind of figured that both ends of the plane got there at pretty much the same time, but it mattered to somebody, so we waited to board while they sorted it out.

The flight back to Travis Air Force Base was made about as pleasant as possible by the civilian crew of the airliner. They were just great and kept us over fed and as comfortable as possible. When I got to Travis, being Army, I went to the Presidio (which ceased to be a military installation in 1989) where a smiling Staff Sergeant informed me that I was in Summer Uniform, and it was winter, so I could not leave the post until I was uniformed properly. No one was moved by my uniforms having been stolen. I thought, OK, I will just buy some civvies and go – no had to leave in Class A's. Being an officer, I could not be issued clothing and they could not sell me any. Fortunately, they had a PX on post that sold uniforms and I had a little money so I was able to buy a winter Class A uniform. Then I had to buy new ribbons, name tag

Looks like another great reunion, we have already filled the main hotel and the first back-up, and the second back-up is filling fast.

and patches and have the sewing done by a tailor shop, which would not be ready until the next day. This meant a night at the transit BOQ, a closet sized room with bunk beds for 4 people and a bath down the hall.

The next morning, I was able to get my uniform and permission to leave. A taxi ride over the San Francisco Bridge later and I was at the airport and able to book a "Military Reserve" flight to Knoxville via Atlanta. Military Reserve cost more but it was supposed to be quicker than "Military Stand-by". I arrived in Atlanta around noon and spent all day and a good part of the night being "bumped" off flights for higher grade tickets, calling my family on the pay phone to delay each time. Finally, I got a seat late that night and arrived back in Knoxville 3 to 4 days later than I should have. I thank both the army bureaucracy and the person who stole my uniforms.

Looks like another great reunion, we

have already filled the main hotel and the first back-up, and the second back-up is filling fast. If you do not have your reservations yet, I hate to say "I told you so" but . . . In this issue you will find all the information you need to plan a great trip to San Antonio. We have articles by Leo Deege and Bob Kickenweitz, both of which are entertaining, while Don Snedecker gives us Part II of the "Animals Trilogy". There is information on this year's election of 11th ACVVC officers, and in the Quartermaster section we have a new book and some new catalog pictures. You can order a Reunion 31 shirt if you get your order in by August 1, and the ladies need to get their luncheon reservations in by July 15.

I hope you enjoy this issue of your newsletter, I may have overstayed my welcome so may you live in Grace and Peace until we meet again.

Memorial Day Wreath at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

All Blackhorse Troopers, family, and friends are invited to participate in the Annual Memorial Day wreath laying at the Wall

When: 9:45 AM, Monday, May 30, 2016

Where: Near the Three Soldiers Statue at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington D.C.

Who: All Blackhorse Troopers from all eras, family and friends

What: We will initially gather near the statue of the Three Soldiers, make introductions, say a few words, and then informally carry the wreath to the apex of the Wall

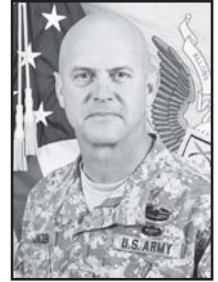
Look for the Blackhorse Patch Wreath that will be there by 09:30. Please pass this information to anyone who might be interested in participating.

Other Important Dates: June 12, Flag Day. Show your pride in American and fly the American Flag. Also, the US Army's 241st birthday.



From the 66th Colonel of the Regiment

COL Kevin L. Jacobi



COL Kevin L. Jacobi

No one should ever doubt the tenacity of the Blackhorse spirit and its rich legacy. We have a long-standing heritage of commitment to excellence, duty, and esprit de corps. These attributes have served us well during the past 115 years of continuous operation and they will continue to serve us in the future.

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's mission is vital to the readiness of our Army. Our mission is to provide the Army the most capable and lethal combined arms opposing force in the world at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. The Blackhorse trains the Army, one unit at a time in the brutally harsh climate of the Mojave Desert. Over the years, the tough and uncompromising standards of the 11th

For the past two years, it has been my privilege to share in the rich Blackhorse legacy and to serve as the Regimental Commander. I feel tremendously proud to have been a part of this dynamic community and a Regiment so committed.

ACR OPFOR have become the yardstick against which the rest of the Army measures itself.

Ten times a year, the Regiment's troopers provide rotational units with the most accurate replication of real world contingencies in order to prepare them for upcoming deployments. The dedication of Blackhorse Troopers to remain focused on what we do best has been truly remarkable. I've never been

involved with a more talented, passionate and committed group of men and women.

For the past two years, it has been my privilege to share in the rich Blackhorse legacy and to serve as the Regimental Commander. I feel tremendously proud to have been a part of this dynamic community and a Regiment so committed. Thank you, let's keep our momentum going strong! #66, signing off the net.

DEATH RIDES A BLACKHORSE!



31st Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

San Antonio, Texas ♦ ♦ August 24-28, 2016



Hotel Information

Grand Hyatt San Antonio

600 East Market Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205
August 24-28, 2016
Hyatt Reservations: 1-800-421-1442
To get the special reunion rate you must mention the "11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia"
Rates: Single thru Quadruple: \$119.00
Self parking: \$13.50 per day
Reservations must be made by AUGUST 1, 2016

Additional Hotels

Residence Inn San Antonio Downtown/Alamo Plaza

425 Bonham Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Reservations: 1-800-331-3131
Rates: \$129.00 + 16.75% tax
Self parking: \$24.00 per day
Reservations must be made by AUGUST 1, 2016
You must mention "11th Armored Cavalry Veterans" to get this rate. The hotel is located approximately 4 blocks from the Grand Hyatt.

Hilton Palacio Del Rio

200 South Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
Hilton Reservations: 1-800-445-8667
Rates: \$120 single, \$130 double, \$140 triple, \$150 quadruple
To get the special reunion rate you must use the "ACV" group reservation code.

Visit San Antonio

<http://visitsanantonio.com/>

Nearby Points Of Interest:

- River Walk (Paseo Del Rio)—Adjacent
- HemisFair Park—1 block
- IMAX Theater—1 block
- Shops at La Villita Arts Village—1 block
- River Center Mall—1 block
- The Alamo—3 blocks
- Market Square (El Mercado)—1/2 mile
- San Antonio Zoo—4 miles
- Fiesta Texas—15 miles
- Sea World®—15 miles

2016 Election

By Greg Mason
Secretary, 11th ACVVC

Three positions will be up for election this year during the General Membership Meeting held Saturday morning, August 27th, during the 2016 Reunion. The three positions are President, Secretary and one Director.

The President and Secretary will serve two-year terms. The Director will serve a three-year term. All terms will begin January 1, 2017.

All candidates must be Life Members of the 11th ACVVC. Candidates will have an equal opportunity to state their qualifications at the General Membership Meeting. The elected candidates must be able to attend the annual reunion and two Board Meetings each year of their elected term.

The elected candidates must be able to communicate by e-mail with the other Board members and be able to help the Board make decisions on a variety of organizational matters. Each candidate must be highly organized and be able to commit time and energy to a specific project or committee as directed by the President. Excellent skills in using Microsoft Word and Excel are required in order to prepare reports and other documents required of all positions.

The position of President requires considerable time and superb organizational skills. The President needs to frequently multi-task in his responsibility to oversee all projects, programs, and activities of the organization.

Candidates for Secretary should be able to intently follow and record organized minutes, summarize reports, actions and decisions from official meetings, and maintain records of the 11th ACVVC and its numerous projects. He should have strong language and writing skills and know basic Robert's Rules of Order. Information management skills on a computer are required.

The Directors are expected to commit themselves to a specific area of interest within the 11th ACVVC or as directed by the President.

Nominations for these positions should be submitted in writing to the Secretary or submitted from the floor at the General Membership meeting. Please consider participating on the Board of Directors serving the 11th ACVVC.

Show Your Pride



Ollie Pickral (K Troop, 3/11) has the sun helping to show double his pride at his barn in Kilmarnock, VA, as it casts the shadow of the Blackhorse image.

11th ACVVC Raffle to Benefit Scholarship Program in 2016

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty, Board Member
and Scholarship Committee Chairman

The proceeds from this year's raffle will once again go towards providing scholarships for our children. The 11th ACVVC's Scholarship Program has awarded 375 scholarships totaling \$1,202,000 to children of our membership since 1996. All children (natural, adopted or step children) of our members who are planning on attending a university, community college or trade school are eligible to apply. There is no age limit and students do not need to be pursuing a degree. Please look at the scholarship guide on our website (www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.htm) for more information.

You can help fund the scholarship program by participating in the 2016 raffle. The drawing will be held Saturday, August 27nd during the 31th annual reunion in San Antonio, Texas. You need not be present to win. The suggested ticket price is \$1.00 per ticket and is not tax deductible. The prize pool consists of:

- 1st place (\$500)
- 2nd place (\$400)
- 3rd place (\$300)
- 4th place (\$200)
- ...and eleven \$100 prizes.

Raffle tickets will be mailed to all 11th ACVVC members in May. Please consider purchasing tickets to help fund this important program. If you do not wish to participate in the raffle you are still welcome to send a donation to the 11th ACVVC scholarship program.

Armor Goes to War

"Armor Goes to War - The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and the Vietnam War, December 1965 to December 1966" by John M. Carland.

This article appears in the Spring 2016 issue of Army History magazine published by the US Army Center of Military History. This an excellent article covering the period when the 11th ACR was preparing to move to Vietnam through the first several months in country building the base camp and some of the early operations. The online version is available at: <http://www.history.army.mil/armyhistory/index.html>



31st Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion

San Antonio, Texas ♦ ♦ August 24-28, 2016



Schedule of Events

Wednesday, August 24

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Silent Auction donations accepted
 2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 2:00 pm - 12:00 am
 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Silent Auction donations accepted
 Registration Open
 Quartermaster Store Open
 Bunker Open
 Silent Auction

Thursday, August 25

6:00 am - 25th Annual Marty Ognibene Memorial Golf Tournament (optional fee per golfer)
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Quartermaster Store Open
 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Silent Auction donations accepted
 2:00 pm - 12:00 am Bunker Open

Saturday, August 27

8:30 am Raffle Drawing
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Women's Group Meeting
 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Memorial Service
 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Open for Late Arrivals
 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Quartermaster Store
 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Cocktail Hour
 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Banquet, Program, Presentations and "Blackhorse Salute"
 10:00 pm - 12:00 am Dancing

Friday, August 26

10:00 am - Noon Veterans Seminar (opened to all attendees)
 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Medical Museum Tour (Group 1, must be re-registered)
 12:30 pm Women's Luncheon (must be pre-registered)
 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Medical Museum Tour (Group 2, must be pre-registered)

Sunday, August 28

10:00 am - 11:00 am Chapel Worship Service (Nondenominational)
 All Day Farewells and Departures

Registration

Bob Moreno, G Troop,
 Board of Directors Member

Hi everyone, well here it is almost April and we just had another snowstorm. Now if you all have this weather also and there is nowhere to go, why not fill out your reunion registration form? It really is easy to do and doesn't take much time. First find the form in your current Thunder Run newsletter. Next tear it out and fill in the required information. Just a note here; why not use a return address label on it so we are sure all the spellings are correct. Makes life so much easier.

Remember to list everyone who is attending with you, the unit you were with in Viet Nam and the dates that you were there. And of course don't forget to include your choice of meal for each of the people with you. Meal choices are very important as we must turn these orders into the chefs on the Wednesday prior to the weekend of the reunion. If you do not choose one, then we will make the choice for you. Once you have chosen your meal please understand that we cannot make any last minute changes to your choice. You will be responsible to find some-

one to change with. Also if you have a special dietary need, be sure to let your server know when they come to your table.

If you are a walk-in (not preregistered) there will be no meal available for you. You will however be able to join your buddies in the banquet hall following the meal. *So, pre-registering is a good idea.* It's also a good idea to register now so that you do not have to pay a late charge. I must have your registration by the 7th of August.

Remember if you mail it in, it will first go to Ollie who then forwards it to me to do the name tags and packets. This process takes about a week to a week and a half. If you do it online, I have it almost immediately upon

your finishing it. Still not sure you are going to be able to go or if you want to go? Send it in anyway. If it does turn out, you can't make it we can refund your money. So go ahead and register NOW!

This year there will be four different name tag colors. The members of the Board of Directors will be wearing an orange colored name tag, Next of Kin will be wearing a blue color, First Timers will have a bright yellow (so be sure to welcome them) and all others will be wearing white name tags. We will have a chart to remind you of this at or near the registration desk. Well, I hope we see many of you in August. This is shaping up to be a really great reunion. ALLONS !

Newsletter Deadlines

Due dates to submit articles for *Thunder Run*

1st QuarterJan 15
 2nd QuarterMar 25
 3rd QuarterJun 25
 4th QuarterOct 1

All submissions for publication must be sent to: C.E. "Bill" Gregory, Editor, 421 Fallen Leaf Drive, Soddy Daisy, TN 37379-3577. E-mail: Battle46A@epbfi.com

“Find an Old Friend”

Many of you troopers believe that when you registered with the 11th Armored Cavalry’s Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia and placed on our “Master Roster” that you were automatically placed in “Find an Old Friend,” – **not true!** A lot of you when filling out the registration form did not enter an e-mail address. Why, because at that time you didn’t have one, and you cannot be entered in “Find an Old Friend” without an e-mail address. The whole file is based on your buddy finding your name on the file and sending you an e-mail. So if you still don’t have an e-mail address, send us your wife’s e-mail address, or one of your kid’s e-mails address.

Just click this link:

<http://11thcavnam.com/FindanOldFriend/Findanoldfriendupdate.htm> fill out the form and submit.

For those of you who did enter an e-mail address, IS IT UP TO DATE? Have you moved or changed provider, then you should also click this link: <http://11thcavnam.com/FindanOldFriend/Findanoldfriendupdate.htm> fill out the form and submit.

REMEMBER IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS INCORRECT, HOW ARE YOUR BUDDIES GOING TO FIND YOU?

Allons,

Bob Kickenweitz
Website Manager

Incoming...

From Ron Krueger (HHT,1/11, 66-67). The 26th Annual Northern California Blackhorse Potluck/BBQ will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2016 from 11:00 until ????, at Slidehill Park 2850 Temple Drive, Davis, CA 95618. Everyone is welcome to join us for a casual picnic in the park. Bring something to BBQ, something to share (salad, dessert, or munchies) and your beverage of choice.

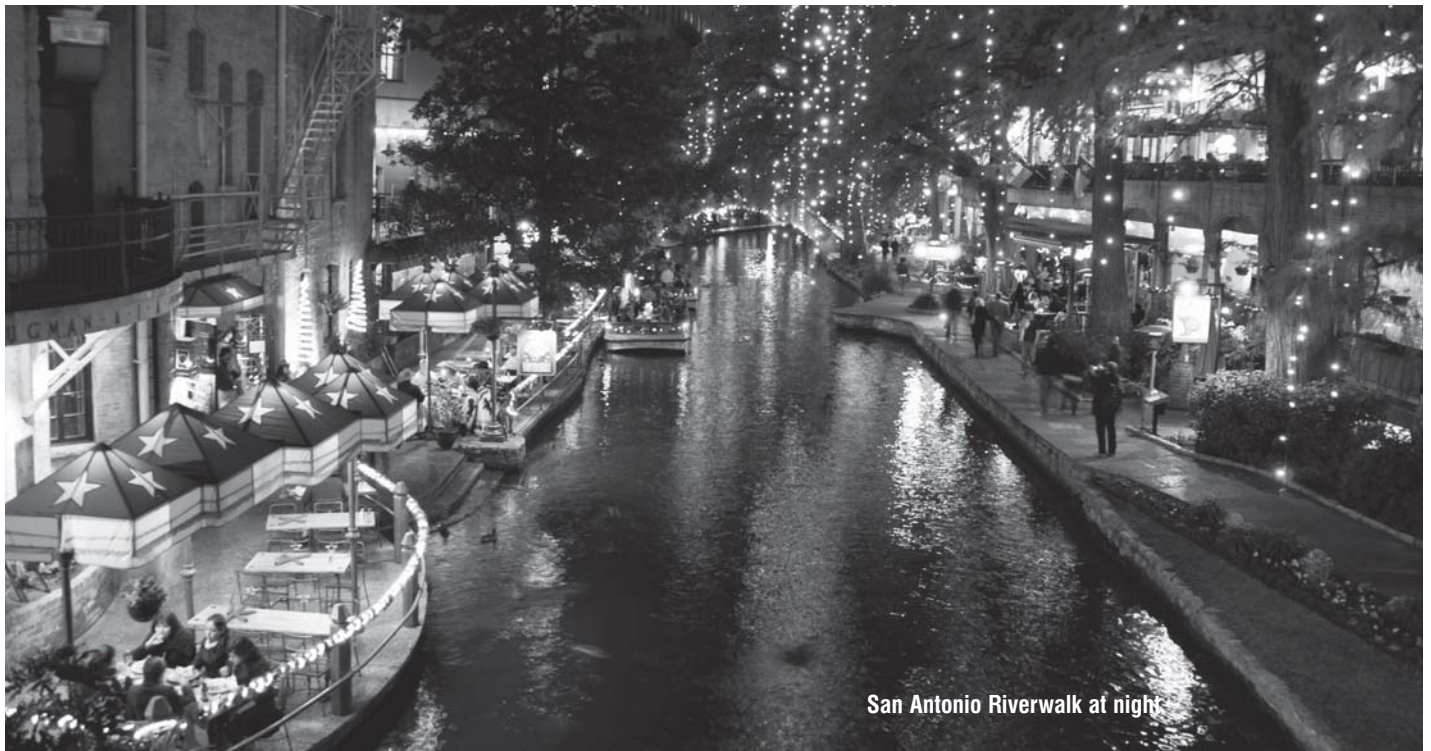
Directions:

I-80 to Davis. Take the Mace Blvd exit. Go North, around

bend (Mace becomes Covell Blvd) Turn Left on Monarch Ln. Take 1st right onto Temple. Park is one block ahead on left.

I-5 to Woodland, exit at Road 102 to Davis. Proceed South to Davis, approx. 8 miles. Turn left at the 1st major intersection - Covell Blvd. Go about 1 mile to Monarch Blvd, turn right, go 1 block. Turn right on Temple. Park is 1 block ahead on left.

RSVP: Ron Krueger: 530-758-0351/cell 530-304-4249
ronkrue@hotmail.com



San Antonio Riverwalk at night

REGISTRATION FORM



31st Annual 11th ACVVC Reunion
San Antonio, Texas



August 24-28, 2016

Registration Deadline: Monday, August 1, 2016

Grand Hyatt San Antonio, 600 E Market St, San Antonio, TX 78205

Hyatt Reservations: 1-888-421-1442

Registration fee is \$80.00 per person. This fee is required for attendance at the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night Bunker Parties and Saturday evening banquet dinner.

Registration deadline: Monday, August 1, 2016. The registration fee will be an additional \$35.00 per person for registrations post marked after Monday, August 1, 2016.

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2016.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

(print clearly or use mailing label)

Name _____ Telephone No: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Unit Assignment _____ Years in Country _____

(Example: B TRP, D CO)

(Example: 1966-1967)

KIA Relative? Yes Name of KIA: _____

Relationship to KIA: _____ Unit: _____

ATTENDEES, INCLUDING YOURSELF (please print)

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

Total Registration Fee \$ _____

Banquet Meal Selection (Indicate number for each selection) Chicken _____ Beef _____ Veggie _____

Is this your first reunion? Yes No Wheelchair or special needs seating? Yes No

Visa MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks payable to 11th ACVVC. Please mail registration form along with payment to:

11th ACVVC
C/O OLLIE PICKRAL
571 DITCHLEY RD
KILMARNOCK, VA 22482



Doing Maintenance

Do you remember what a stand-down was? Yes? No? Huh? Well, some of you know although I realize that a lot of you never saw one. A stand-down was when your unit quit fighting the war in the bush and went back to the rear or wherever you were supposed to go and just do maintenance on your equipment. The idea was that when you were out in the field fighting, shooting, and things like that, your equipment (tanks, guns and such) would wear out, get real dirty, or break. Then they needed more maintenance than you could pull in the field.

When the time came for our squadron to go on stand-down we headed for our base camp which was at Di An. That was somewhere between Saigon and Long Binh. We convoyed from Quan Loi down along QL 13 (Thunder Run - sound familiar?) to get there. Then we stayed there for a few weeks. You guys must have done a great job, because once we were finished and went back to the field, we never went back to Di An again, not for a stand-down, anyway. Did you ever go on a stand-down? Maybe not. I know a lot of you never did. You pulled all of your maintenance in the bush, in the dirt, along a trail somewhere, or wherever you were when a breakdown happened.

When I think about pulling maintenance, I remember our squadron motor sergeant. His name was Diaz, SFC Diaz. He was good. We even named one of our fire support bases for him - FSB Diaz. I don't have a clue what his first name was. Just Sarge, I guess. He and his guys could do wonders with a tank in the field. They could pull the pack, the engine and transmission assembly, out of an M48 tank, fix it, and put it back together right there in the dirt somewhere in the jungle along the Cambodian border. I was amazed at how much work they could do under the circumstances, which were primitive. They kept those iron beasts running - hard telling what they could do in a nice, clean garage back home in "The World." Everyone liked ole Sarge Diaz.

Another thing I observed about pulling

maintenance in the field was how you guys, so young then, could break track (meaning take it apart, for you civilians), fix it, and put it back together no matter where you were. I recall many times when road wheels wore out or the track came off your ACAV. The crew (meaning you at age 19 or 20 plus your platoon sergeant, a bit older) would get out, break track, put it together with new parts, and move out again. This happened over and over. You always got the job done. Some people, civilians anyway, thought you only knew how to shoot bad guys and mess around with boom-boom girls. I'm a witness that you guys did a whole lot more - you were great. Maintenance wasn't the most fun thing you did, but you did it very well, and with hardly any griping. Remember?

There were other kinds of maintenance that you did, of course. We just talked about stand-downs when you were in the rear to do maintenance. There were other times you might go to the rear too, like for checking your records, getting supplies, getting medical attention, and coming and going from wherever you were coming and going from, like R & R. Another kind of maintenance which you pulled was personal maintenance. Maybe you didn't think of it like this, but just being in the rear for a combat field trooper was a wonderful respite (which means change of pace and scenery). Going to the club and getting smashed isn't what I encouraged but it was still a change of pace - personal maintenance, sort of. Going to the club, eating in a mess hall, going to a PX, and things like that were good personal maintenance. I encouraged this - even if someone wouldn't let you into the PX without having your jungle boots polished. They were even "nice enough" to provide the shoe polish at the door (this really happened). At least the respite was a welcome break for you troopers who spent most (or all?) of your time in the bush getting shot at, sloshing through mud, setting up AAs (automatic ambushes), and such. For you rear-ender troopers, life wasn't the same as in the field (the bush) but you had your own stressors which I recognize but don't have time to

describe now. Instead, now we'll talk about another kind of maintenance.

The best kind of maintenance next to taking the Freedom Bird home was to take the Semi-Freedom Bird on R&R. That meant rest and recreation, rest and recuperation, or relaxation and rejuvenation. It was all the same, it was personal maintenance - a chance to get out of Viet Nam and go have a good time somewhere else. This is such a fun subject that I could get carried away. Not to worry, I'll keep it short and to the point. After all, you have your own R&R story to tell (so go tell someone - today). Uncle Sugar, our affectionate name for Uncle Sam, provided several places away from Viet Nam where you could go for a week to just have a good time. Of course, different people have different activities that they call having a good time. The places were Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Sydney, Manila, and I think Taipei and Singapore. For you married guys there was Hawaii. This was a great benefit for married troopers. I went to Sydney and Manila (I did two tours). I wasn't married. Go tell someone besides me about your R&R. I'm too far away. I can't talk to you about my R&R now for the same reason. Maybe we can swap R&R stories later. It would be fun to sit around and talk about R&R.

I have time to discuss one more maintenance item. It's in the category of personal maintenance. This one is deeper and even more important than R&R maintenance, and that's going some. Like I mentioned a minute ago, I went on two R&Rs in two tours so I know how important R&R was in Viet Nam. This item is special because it's the maintenance of our mind, soul, and everything else about who we are and why we're here. You'll understand when I say that in life we all need to go for maintenance from time to time, for renewal of our souls, our minds, and our hearts. We all need to get our lives squared away. Actually, we need to be right with God. After all, that's what life is all about. So I'll let God speak for himself, which he does in his Word, the Holy Bible. He selected his man Isaiah to say this: "Do you not know?"

Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired

and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:28-31).

This is a great maintenance program. It works for me. It works for millions. It can work for anyone – including you.

God bless you. God loves you. So do I.
Editor’s Note: This article was first run in the Fall 2011 issue of Thunder Run.

2016 Silent Auction

By: Greg Mason,
Secretary, 11th ACVVC

The 2015 Silent Auction raised \$7,735 for the 11th ACVVC Scholarship Fund with 170 items donated and available for bid. The donated items included many hand-crafted items and one of a kind items with a Blackhorse theme. We look forward to another successful auction.

Last year we made a few changes to improve the experience and process. We plan again to have the auction in a separate room. We also plan to make it easier to get into the room so we do not have the long lines we had in 2015.

The auction process continues to be as follows:

- 1: Items are needed for the Silent Auction to be conducted during our 31st Annual Reunion in San Antonio, Texas. Items peculiar to the 11th Cavalry are always favorites, and any item or service of value is welcome, Cav related or not.
- 2: We will have a collection site set-up in the registration area to collect donated items brought to the reunion beginning on Wednesday from 2pm to 6pm, Thursday from 2pm to 6pm, and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.
- 3: You can ship items to Ed Brown, to collect, hold and bring the items to the reunion for display. If you plan to ship items, please use the convenient Silent Auction Donor Form printed in this issue. If you bring the items to the reunion, also complete the donation form

and include it with the item.

4: The auction will be from 7pm to 9pm on Friday night with the bidding ending precisely at 9pm.

5: Winning bidders must be present and pick up their items and pay for them between 9pm and 9:30pm after the bidding is complete.

6: If the item is not picked up, the item will be awarded to the next highest bidder at 9:30 or auctioned off at 9:45pm Friday evening. The bid form will have a place for you to leave a cell phone number in case we need to call you to let you know to pick up your item.

7: We will be able to accept cash, checks, Visa or MasterCard for payment.

We do need volunteers to work the collection site and the night of the auction. We are setting up the collection site schedule in 2 hour shifts and if you would like to volunteer please contact me at gregmason@aol.com or 813-754-2980. I will respond to your email as I receive them. If you do not get a response, it is probably because AOL has a habit of putting stuff in their “junk” folder so feel free to follow-up with a phone call.

Our reason for requiring items to be picked up and paid for the evening of the auction is because of the difficulties we have had in prior years getting all the items delivered and paid for. We appreciate your understanding.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio and thanks in advance to all the donors!

11th ACVVC Silent Auction

Donated Items Information Form

Please provide the following information with your donated item. If you wish to donate anonymously, please check the box below.

Please print clearly.

Description of item donated: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address of Donor: _____

Phone # of Donor: _____ Value of Item Donated \$ _____

I wish to remain anonymous (check box)

Mail silent auction items to: 11th ACVVC, C/O Ed Brown Jr., 1235 Creek Ranch, San Antonio, TX 78253-4899



Women's Fiesta Luncheon Set for Friday

Ladies, get ready for luncheon! There, the cat is out of the bag! Details to follow below! I'm excited! While it seemed so far off, it's actually less than three months that the 11th ACVVC Blackhorse family will gather in San Antonio, Texas, for the 31st annual reunion of our Vietnam and Cambodia Veterans!

The Women's Group Board has been busy planning for you. The biggest items on our agenda involves things you, the Women, have asked us for. Because the reunion is packed with many activities in addition to being located in a historic tourist location at the infamous Alamo, there was no time slot to fit in a women's tour. However, we still have something great planned! I'll spill the beans on what we have confirmed for Friday! Oops, I've already dropped a clue – beans!

Women's Group Luncheon

Ladies, the Women's Group invites you to attend a fun, San Antonio Style Fiesta Luncheon from 12:15 - 2:15 p.m., Friday, August 26 at the Rio Rio Cantina. Price of Luncheon is \$25 per person, including taxes and tip.

The venue has worked with us on a menu that we think will please any palate. There are three options to choose from:

Appetizers- Served on Tables

Tortilla Chips and Salsa

Plated Entrée, Selection one of three choices

#1. Chicken Fajitas al Carbon: Grilled Marinated Breast of Chicken

Cut Fajita Style Topped with Sautéed Onions, Green and Red Bell Peppers.

Served with Spanish Rice, Rio-Rio Refried Beans, and Flour Tortillas.

Garnish: Guacamole, Pico De Gallo, and Sour Cream

#2. Enchiladas de la Casa: Cheese Enchiladas topped with a Mild Chile Sauce, served with Spanish Rice, Rio-Rio Beans (This is a nice choice for Vegetarians.)

#3. Gluten Free option, a gluten free fajitas may be served depending on numbers; regardless there will be a nice gluten-free meal choice available

Dessert- Served Family Style

Cinnamon Churros

Beverage Included

Iced Tea and Water

**Bar Service Available as Cash Bar, not included in luncheon price*

We have a fun event planned for the luncheon in addition to great food so we hope you will join us for an early afternoon of fun, food and good conversation!

The Rio Rio Cantina is located along the River Walk at 421 East Commerce Street, San Antonio, within a 5 to 8-minute walk from the reunion hotel, the Grand Hyatt Riverwalk. It's a walking

location because transportation costs as a group in the city would cost us out. However, if walking isn't an option, individuals are welcome to find their own transportation to the venue. More details and simple directions will follow in the next Thunder Run. Please note that Pre-payment and Pre-registration is required to attend the Women's Luncheon. Registration is limited to the first 175 women and their reunion guests. There are no refunds available. However, you may find someone to take your place and they would reimburse you, just inform us so we can change the name on your reservation. Please use the Registration form that is included with this issue of the Thunder Run. A firm deadline of July 15 is set to guarantee this price without increase from the venue.

Speaker

The annual women's meeting, set for 9 a.m. - 12 noon, Saturday, August 27, will be informative as well as fun. Our guest speaker is Chaplain Larry Haworth (HHT 2/11, 69-70), Chaplain of the 11th Armored Cavalry Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia. The Chaplain will speak to us on his experiences while ministering to our troops in Vietnam. In addition, Chaplain Haworth has authored a book on his experiences and will be available following for a book signing.

Prayer Shawl Project

In speaking with our prayer shawl chairperson, Cherry Platt, she noted how supportive 11th ACVVC members and their families have been in keeping this very important, worthy project going. Since the last reunion, August 2015, Cherry has mailed 31 prayer shawls to those who have passed on to Fiddler's Green. That's 31 Troopers who have left us. Cherry receives beautiful thank you notes from many families. She recently received the sweetest letter from one recipient who said she and her daughter sat and cried when they received it in memory of their Trooper.

"They were surprised to receive it because while their trooper was a member of the 11th ACVVC, he had not been able to attend a reunion. Reaching out to the wives is just as important as reaching out to the husbands," Cherry said.

Cherry is right. The Prayer Shawl Project, an idea brought to the Blackhorse Women's Group by Cherry just a few years ago, has taken the lead as the most important project our group has. It's a way to make sure that each and every Trooper is valued and remembered. Not every Trooper felt valued when they returned home from Vietnam/Cambodia so many years ago. You are important to us! Anyone can be a part of the Prayer Shawl Project whether they come to the women's meetings or not. If you can knit or croquet and would like to help, please contact Cherry for more information by email at or by phone at 770-445-7534.

San Antonio/River Walk Trivia

Who reads the Blackhorse Women's Group column? Below you'll find some information that just may become useful at our San Antonio Fiesta Luncheon. You never know what might hap-

pen with this knowledge.

- How many people visit San Antonio each year? (Approximately 20 million)
- What is the Spanish name for the River Walk? (The Paseo del Rio)
- What is the Indian name for the river? (Yanaguana, “fresh water”)
- How many bridges are built over the River Walk? (22 bridges)
- What is the most common type of tree on the River Walk?

(Cypress)

- Why are River Walk patrons not eaten by mosquitos? (The presence of Purple Martins)

Kathy can be reached by email at kathy.tandberg@yahoo.com or by phone at 701-873-2970. Also, be sure to check out the Blackhorse Women’s webpage site by going to www.11thcavnam.com and locating Blackhorse Women’s News tab in the white box near the bottom. Find and “Like” us on Facebook by searching Blackhorse (11th ACVVC) Women.

Women’s Group Luncheon Registration Form

Please join us for a San Antonio Style Fiesta Luncheon.

- **Time:** Friday, August 26, 2016, 12:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Rio Rio Cantina, 421 East Commerce Street, San Antonio, TX. (5 to 8-minute walk from Reunion Site).
- **Price:** **\$25.00 per person** includes tax and tip.

Sign-up must be received by **July 15, 2016**.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Meal Choice: Includes garnishes and more, dessert and ice tea

Chicken Fajitas Plate # _____ Cheese Enchiladas# _____ Gluten Free Selection (to be decided)# _____

Make checks or money orders payable to: Blackhorse Women’s Group

Mail this form with payment to: Kathy Tandberg, Blackhorse Women’s Group, 112 4th Ave NW, Beulah, ND 58523

2016 11TH ACVVC REUNION SHIRT ORDER FORM

All pre-ordered shirts will be available for pick-up at the Quartermaster Store during the 2016 reunion in San Antonio.
Orders must be received by August 1, 2016.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State ____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____



Shirt Color: Yellow, Reunion logo – left breast, Personalized embroidery – right breast

Adult Sizes: S, M, L, XL - \$42.00 each / 2XL, 3XL - \$44.00 each / 4XL, 5XL - \$47.00 each

Prices include up to 3 lines of 40 characters per line of personalized embroidery (Name, Unit, Dates, Etc.)

Shirt Size: _____

- Visa
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover

PLEASE PRINT

Line 1: _____
 Line 2: _____
 Line 3: _____
 Card No. _____ CVC Code ____ Exp. Date ____
 Signature (Required for credit card) _____

Make checks or money orders payable to **TYLER EMBROIDERY** and mail form to **TYLER EMBROIDERY, 5111 TROUP HWY STE 110, TYLER, TX 75707**



11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam & Cambodia (11ACVVC) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION [revised January 1, 2016]

➔ Please print the latest **Scholarship Guide** at www.11thcavnam.com/scholar.html
Scholarship Chairman Michael "Doc" Rafferty

➔ **Important:** A person who has been awarded an 11th ACVVC Scholarship is not eligible to apply for a second scholarship.

[1] **Applicant's** Full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

[2] **Applicant's** Social Security Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Address: _____ Apartment/Unit # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Telephone Number: _____

[3] **Applicant's Qualifying Status:** (Check Only One): Child of Deceased 11ACR Trooper who served in Vietnam or Cambodia
 Child of a Current 11ACVVC Member

➔ [4] **Applicant's SPONSOR 11th Cav Veteran:** Full Name: _____ Email _____

[5] **Sponsor's 11th Cav Unit** in Vietnam: _____ Dates in Vietnam _____ 11th ACVVC Membership #: _____

➔ [6] **Name and Address of College or Trade School That You Plan to Attend:** Are you pursuing a graduate degree program? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Have You Made Application? Yes. No. Have You Been Accepted? Yes. No.

[7] **Standard Test Score For Your State:** ACT _____ SAT _____ Other _____ Specify: _____

[8] **Estimated Expenses for the School Year:** Tuition & Fees \$ _____; Room & Board \$ _____;
Books & Supplies \$ _____; Miscellaneous \$ _____; Total Exp. \$ _____

➔ [9] **Schools and Colleges Attended:** (10th Grade to Present)

Name	City, State	Dates From / To

Name	City, State	Dates From / To

➔ [10] You **must** attach a copy of your **grade transcripts** from your **last two years of education** in High School or College.

➔ [11] On **one** typed sheet of paper with **your NAME & EMAIL** and your **11ACVVC Sponsor/Father's** name at top of the page:

1. State the **Field of Study** That You Plan to Enter and **Why**.
2. Tell Us **Why** You Would Be a **Worthy** Recipient of the 11ACVVC Scholarship.
3. **Note:** Concentrate on **why you** should be awarded an 11ACVVC Scholarship. Focus on **your** qualifications and not your father's military experience. If applicable, also describe **your** participation in veterans' affairs or events, if any.

I, the undersigned, give my permission for a copy of my High School / College Transcript to be submitted with this Scholarship Application.

I understand that the selection process may involve a committee composed of individuals that are in the community at large.

[13] _____
↑ Signature of **Applicant** Printed Name Date

[14] _____
↑ Signature of **Sponsor** Veteran or Guardian Printed Name Date

➔ [15] Please Mail Your Completed Application with attachments for [10] and [11] above to the Scholarship Committee Chairman:

Michael "Doc" Rafferty
 11ACVVC Scholarship Chairman
 5837 Habanero Drive ● Las Cruces, NM 88012
 Email: platoonmedic36@gmail.com ● Phone 915-792-2804 or 575-915-2921

➔ **QUESTIONS?** Email is Doc Rafferty's PREFERRED method of communication.

Application Deadline is May 15th

GREEN from page 1

ing the hottest time of the year I still really felt the heat. All the windows of the bus were opened, but were covered with a wire mesh so that objects such as home-made bombs or hand grenades could not be thrown into the bus and ruin our whole day. Being the bright guy I am, I used my duffel bag as a shield placing it in the seat closest to the window, just in case we receive small arms fire I'm hoping the duffel bag would stop the bullets. We came to a stop at a red light in Saigon, two lanes of traffic in each direction, a busy street. There standing with his back to the traffic was a Saigon policeman (we use to call them white mice due to their white and gray uniforms). He was urinating on the wall not more than twelve feet away with people going by not noticing a thing. East meets West culture shock!

We continued on our first trip up Highway # 1 past the LBJ Ranch (Long Binh Jail) to the 90th Replacement Battalion at Long Binh. In October of 1966 it was mostly tents, with the exception of the mess hall, and the enlisted men's club. One night after dinner, I deposited some of my money in the one armed bandits at the enlisted men's club. I returned to my tent, it was a hot night and the sides of our tent were rolled up. I sat down on my bunk to write some letters home to my family. While sitting there thinking of something to write, I noticed

my arms had an orange tint to them. Turning to the left I saw this enormous column of flames going up in to the air about two to three hundred feet, then folding over itself churning and boiling to crating a mushroom shaped fire inferno. The ammunition dump across a gully from us had suffered a direct mortar hit. The first thing that popped into my head was "O shit! Charlie is now using atomic bombs!" All those visions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that we used to see on TV growing up raced through my head in a nanosecond. I grab the mattress at the end of my bed and rolled it around me and becoming a pupa in a mattress cocoon. Within seconds the shock wave rolled up the gully and hit the tent, making it sway about a foot. I felt very vulnerable not being able to defend myself. I'm not in the country a week, how am I going to last a year over here. While I was in Vietnam, this ammunition dump was blown up four times and I was close by on all four occasions.

After a few days went by I got the word I was being assigned to a new unit that arrived in Nam just a little over a month ago, it was the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (Blackhorse Regiment). We were placed in a deuce and a half for our short ride over to the Blackhorse Regiment's staging area. The staging area was located in Long Binh,

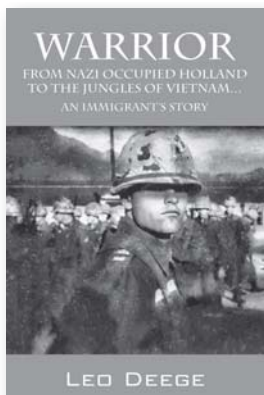
and was our base camp while we were building our new base camp in Xuan Loc. I was assigned as a scout and had to provide coverage on convoys to Xuan Loc in the afternoon and back to Long Binh the following morning. Later in my tour of duty, the convoys would leave in the morning and return in the afternoon of the same day. The scouts had a jeep with a 50-caliber machine gun on a stand behind the two front seats, and a M-60 machine gun mounted on the right side of the jeep where the windshield would be mounted.

My first trip up to Blackhorse was uneventful; we arrived about four o'clock in the afternoon. On the eastern side of Route # 2 was a rubber tree plantation and on the western side, our engineers had cleared a strip of land which was to be the eastern side of the base camp. It was about fifty yards wide and about a quarter mile long. This strip grew day by day into Blackhorse Base Camp. After dinner we sat around and talked and joked as most guys do. When it was time to turn in I found a spot under a deuce and a half to sack out. No sleeping bag, no blanket, right on the ground. When morning came, I was afraid to move, I opened my eyes and looked all around making sure some kind of friendly critter didn't use my warm body to keep themselves comfortable, i.e. a snake! Like I said it was uneventful.



New Books

Another new book written by a trooper who served with the 11th ACR in Vietnam is now available through the Quartermaster. This is an excellent book and a must read for all Blackhorse troopers.



Warrior - From Nazi Occupied Holland to the Jungles of Vietnam by Leo Deege (CO, Howitzer Battery, 3/11 ACR, 1966-1967).

Published by Outskirts Press, 134 pages, soft cover, photos.

As a youngster the author recalls the chaotic times for his family when Germany occupied The Netherlands during World War II. As a teenager after

graduating from High School he and his family emigrated to the U.S. in 1955 where he attended UCLA. In 1962 he enlisted in the US Army, graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After several assignments he received orders in early 1966 for 11th ACR at Fort Meade, MD, where he served as the commander of Howitzer Battery, 3/11 ACR. Ten chapters are devoted to the authors tour with the 11th ACR as the unit prepared to deploy to Vietnam as well as events during the first year (1966-1967) in Vietnam. The author writes about many of the operations that first year including Cedar Falls, Junction City, Slope 30, Glen Burnie and several more. The book finished with his homecoming in the summer of 1966.

US Army Medical Museum Tour

By: Mike "Doc" Rafferty
Director 11th ACVVC

The USAMED museum is located on the grounds of Ft. Sam Houston. This facility was built using private funds on seven acres in 1989. Dedicated to preserving the history of the Army Medical Department from the Revolutionary War to the present, the main building has many interesting and informative exhibits. Outside, visitors will find a restored hospital train; ambulances and medevac helicopters. A recent

addition to the museum grounds is a Medal of Honor Walk honoring the 50 medics who have received our nation's highest honor for valor.

We have arranged two tours (10 am and 1pm) of the museum on Friday, August 26th but the number of people we can accommodate is limited so it is important you complete the registration form on the adjacent page as soon as possible. Please give us all the information requested and print legibly. Since we must sub-

mit this information to the Ft. Sam Visitor Control Center at least two weeks before the tour, we cannot accept any registrations received later than August 1st.

There is no charge for the bus transportation or admission to the museum.

If you have questions, please send me an e mail at Platoonmedic36@gmail.com. If you do not have access to e mail you may reach me at (575) 915-2921.

11TH ACVVC DONATIONS

Donor Levels:	Platinum Level \$500+	Gold Level \$100-\$499	Silver Level \$50-\$99	Bronze Level \$1-\$49	
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US Army Medical Museum Tour

Registration Form

The US Army Medical Museum is located on Ft. Sam Houston. In order to enter the post, we must gather the information requested below so those people on the buses can get through security. **If you have a military/DOD ID card you must have it in your possession when you get on the bus. Everyone who does not have military ID must bring some form of valid photo identification with them.**

Two tour groups will be going to the museum, one in the morning and the second in the afternoon. We can only accommodate a limited number of people on each tour so registrations will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. **In any event, your completed registration form must be received by Doc Rafferty by August 1st. Buses will be picking us up at the Grand Hyatt on Friday, August 26th (10am for morning tour and 1pm for the afternoon tour). Please make sure you list all members of your party. There is no charge for these tours.**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

IF YOU HAVE A DOD/ID CARD LIST ONLY YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER BELOW:

Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____ Phone# _____

Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____ Phone# _____

Email for contact person _____

IF YOU OR ANY IN YOUR PARTY DO NOT HAVE A DOD/ID CARD, COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION BELOW!

Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____ DOB _____

Driver's License# _____ State _____ OR SS # _____

Home Address _____ Phone# _____

Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____ DOB _____

Driver's License# _____ State _____ OR SS # _____

Home Address _____ Phone# _____

Name: Last _____ First _____ MI _____ DOB _____

Driver's License# _____ State _____ OR SS # _____

Home Address _____ Phone# _____

Are any of the persons listed above wheel chair bound? Yes No If yes, please list name(s) _____

Which tour would you like to go on? Morning (10am-1pm)* Afternoon (1pm-4pm)

*If you elect to go on the morning tour you will not be able to attend the veterans seminar which is scheduled for Friday morning.

Mail or Email this form to:

Mike Doc Rafferty
PO Box 13188
Las Cruces, NM 88013
platoonmedic36@gmail.com



From Nazi Occupied Holland to the Jungles of Vietnam

By: *Leo Deege*
How 3 /11, 1965-67

A few months after Hitler had promised Holland neutrality, German paratroopers invaded our country at night. This happened while I was only a few months old. Therefore, most of my recollections about World War II date back to the end of the war or from 1944. We were having a very difficult time because when Dad our breadwinner was captured, and when he did not return from a German concentration camp, the odds of survival were against us. Mom was forced to place her kids with various family members, and lacking my Dad's income, she visited Dutch farms to beg for food. During the notorious Dutch "hunger winter" of 1944 to 1945, she managed to collect enough food for us to survive.

In September 1944, Dutch railway employees struck in an effort to assist liberating Armies that were trying to capture bridges across Holland's main rivers. Montgomery's thrust north towards Arnhem depicted in the film, *A Bridge Too Far* failed and the allied armies came to a grinding halt south of our main rivers. The German administration retaliated by placing an embargo on all food transports to the western Netherlands. When the embargo was partially lifted in early November 1944, and some food transports were allowed over water, an unusually early and harsh winter had set in. The canals froze over and became impassable for barges. Also gas, electricity and heat was turned off. Roughly 30,000 Dutch died from starvation, exhaustion, cold and disease.

In the hunger winter we literally fed on anything that could be found. We learned that sugar beets, turnips and even tulip bulbs could stem hunger. Our streets were empty of cats and dogs. Butcher shops advertised "rabbits for sale," but we learned that a cat's body cannot be anatomically distinguished from a rabbit's body. In spite of those food substitutes many people died from hunger. The Germans had flooded our normally pro-

ductive agricultural lands to stop Montgomery's British-Canadian forces from crossing the Rhine. Our food was rationed and rations shrunk dramatically as the winter progressed. Even the black market was running out of food.

My Dad was employed in a prison and helped two Jewish men who were undoubtedly destined for a gas chamber, to escape from prison. He then took the prisoners place in the same prison. I recall scary experiences in trying to get Dad released, our farewell from him on a train station destined to a German concentration camp and V-1s flying over our homes, some of which landed far short of London and destroyed a neighborhood. I also remember when our living room exploded from joy when a clandestine radio broadcast announced that the allies had landed in Normandy. Today the Dutch are still extremely grateful for the liberation of their country and the graves of fallen U.S. service men are draped with flowers each and every year.

Fast forward to when I went to Vietnam as part of the 11th Armored Cavalry. In my job as commander of the 3rd Squadron's 105MM self-propelled howitzers battery, I had trained the unit for about one year and fought with the unit of another year. This turned out to be the best job that I have ever had.

I recall getting caught in an ambush, getting mortared and fighting against a large coordinated attack from a North Vietnamese regiment. I was one of the first U.S. soldiers to enter the notorious Iron Triangle, where my battery distinguished itself.

What did the average U.S. soldier experience when fighting in Vietnam? For the uninitiated, imagine fighting for the most powerful military in the world and being tasked to fight a guerrilla we had to search out in unfamiliar jungles rife with millions of miles of underground tunnels that allowed him to appear and disappear at will. In President Kennedy's words, the enemy was everywhere and at the same time nowhere. Imagine also that

the guerrilla was supported by the local population and that this enabled him to blend in with civilians whenever opportune. The guerrilla wore the same black clothes [we called them "pajamas"] as the farmers and hamlet dwellers.

When we saw what looked like a unit of Vietcong, we had to make sure that they were actually Vietcong. We could not just fire at them, but we needed to obtain clearances from district officials to ensure that we were not killing ordinary farmers or villagers since only the regular army of North Vietnamese wore a clearly identifiable uniform. Communications with South Vietnamese district leaders was sometimes difficult and we could not always get permission to fire in a timely manner. The potential bounties would then have spotted us and escaped since we only were allowed to fire spontaneously when we were fired at and/or when we rode into an ambush. The enemy, whether guerrillas or North Vietnamese army units, were often able to engage us when most opportune for them; hence their successes in ambushes. We had learned some effective counter tactics, but we always took casualties.

Initially in WWII, the U.S. bombed mostly military targets in day time and at low altitudes and suffered many casualties, while the British bombed from safer high altitudes at night with less scruples at avoiding civilian casualties probably because they had endured many bombing raids on their own cities and because they thought it also would adversely affect German morale. Even as late as July 21, 1944 Eisenhower ordered the Eighth Air Force to use only precision bombing of military targets which resulted in the destruction of oil facilities and bridges that effectively kept most of the Luftwaffe grounded on D-day and kept panzer units tied up at river crossings when these could have been used to stop the allied invasion of France. However, our Air Force eventually used napalm and A bombs to destroy cities in both Germany and Japan causing hundreds of thousands of civilian

casualties.

In Japan there were not many industrial targets left and military targets were often co-located near large cities. Truman had hoped to avoid killing women and children but he judged that he needed to use the atomic bomb to impress the ever aggressive Russians in East Europe and he thought that it would save up to a quarter of a million American casualties.

In Vietnam we made a concerted effort [with some widely publicized exceptions, such as in the My Lai massacre] to avoid civilian casualties, because it was essential for us to win over the South Vietnamese people. At the time we had no idea that this was probably a fool's errand. An ordinary U.S. soldier has been trained to kill on impulse in the words of Colin Powell we aim to apply overwhelming force in order to secure a victory and that cannot be done in a socially acceptable manner. Collateral damage is always present, but yes we must try and limit it when possible. However, when we go to war we must be allowed to use maximum force and the best tactics to achieve victory all within a clear set of moral standards. Hand-to-hand combat with guerrillas that have clear operational advantages should never be necessary.

There are further similarities in the

Vietnam, the second Iraq war and the war in Afghanistan. Our objectives of nation building, rooting out corruption, freeing women from cultural oppressions and converting locals into religiously tolerant 21st century democracies are pie in the sky kinds of objectives. Those types of changes must come gradually from a people themselves. We cannot convert a nation overnight from a middle age culture into a modern democracy or a capitalist society and especially not with the use of force.

Why was the Vietnamese conflict such a difficult war? We possessed the most powerful military and were armed with weapons that could wipe out the rest of the world. It ought to have been simple to subdue a technologically inferior people. Yet somehow these people had resisted Chinese domination for centuries and more recently defeated modern Japanese and French armies. Apparently our involvement began with requests for assistance from the leaders of South Vietnam. President Kennedy wanted to restrict our commitment to advising the Government of Vietnam's [GVN] military with our Special Forces, which eventually grew to about 15,000. Earlier President Eisenhower had warned about sending troops into Vietnam. He said that the jun-

gles would absorb battalion after battalion with no clear victory in sight and the military would continue to ask for more.

President Johnson, however, increased our commitment under the banner of our need to fight for the great causes of "freedom" and "democracy." He, as well as President Eisenhower, had believed in the domino theory, that if Vietnam fell to the communists, the whole of South East Asia would fall. That too proved to be a myth.

I personally witnessed some ironies while gaining an enormous respect for our soldiers who always did their duties and performed heroic acts under trying circumstances. In my memoir I compare Vietnam to WWII and reflect on our society in the late 1960s, when I navigated some street riots while trying to carve out a career in civilian life. Since that time our society has changed and it now better appreciates the sacrifices of our soldiers, but much more must be done to heal the wounds of the disabled ones.

Editor's Note: Leo Deege commanded How 3/11 in 1965 to 1967. This article is excerpts from his book, "Warrior: From Nazi Occupied Holland to the Jungles of Vietnam" by Leo Deege available our Quartermaster Store and other great booksellers. All the author's profits will be donated to the "Disabled Veterans Assoc."



Fiddler's Green

We are sorry to report the following Troopers have taken the journey to Fiddler's Green. We send our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to their families and friends. We honor their service to our country and to our regiment by posting their names. Funeral Honor Guard, please check daily at www.11acr.com/hg.htm. We check over 500 U.S. Newspapers. The daily obituary keyword is 11th Cavalry. Information is then posted on our website to allow us to attend the funerals.

Clyde M. Frank, Regimental Headquarters (1968-1969) passed away on March 16, 2016. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Dickinson, ND.

Henry L. Knox, C Troop, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on October 24, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in New Albany, MS. He was laid to rest in Union Prospect Cemetery, New Albany, MS.

Charles M. Mahurin, L Troop, 3/11 (1968-1969) passed away on February 26, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Willits, CA. He was laid to rest in Little Lake Cemetery, Willits, CA.

Patrick G. McPhetridge, G Troop, 2/11 (1969-1970) passed away on December 16, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Helena, AL. He was laid to rest in Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.

Antonio Mendoza, B Troop, 1/11 (1968-1969) passed away on January 29, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Greeley, CO. He was laid to rest in Linn Grove Cemetery, Greeley, CO.

Nicholas A. Pellegrino, Air Cavalry Troop (1967-1968) and Howitzer Battery 3/11 (1967-1968) passed away on January 17, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Ithaca, NY. He was laid to rest in Enfield Center Cemetery, Enfield, NY.

Clarence Gary Pramhus, 37th Medical Company (1970-1971) passed away on November 5, 2015. He was a member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Pelican Rapids, MN. He was laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery, Fargo, ND.

Gerald E. Tighe, HHT, 1/11 (1966-1967) passed away on June 24, 2001. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Millburn, NJ. He was laid to rest in St. Rose of Lima Cemetery, Short Hills, NJ.

Roger D. Towry, A Troop, 1/11 (1968) passed away on March 16, 2016. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Show Low, AZ. He was laid to rest in Mountain View Cemetery, Kingman, AZ.

James A. Trusley, HHT REGT (1968-1969) passed away on June 1, 2015. He was a LIFE member of the 11th ACVVC and resided in Carrollton, TX. He was laid to rest in Dallas - Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX.

THE 25TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, August 25, 2016

Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, 1050 Harry Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, TX 78234
Joseph Mendez, Tournament Director, 210-222-9386

Call 651-246-8009 if you have questions. You will receive confirmation in the mail if your registration fee is paid by August 3, 2016. All entries must be prepaid. This year we will be playing at an outstanding military facility that is proud to host our veteran's organization. They have a dress code to include: **1)** No denim (Blue jeans), **2)** No tank tops or T-shirts. Shirts must have collars. **3)** Soft spikes only facility. Tee times will be an 8:00 AM shotgun start with lunch following golf.



A limited number of club rental sets will be available. Call Joe! We have always had the best turnouts at military facilities. Hope to see you there.

25TH ANNUAL MARTY OGNIBENE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Name _____ Average Score _____

Address _____ Home Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Name _____ Average Score _____

Mail Checks To: **Joe Coopet, Golf Tournament Director,**
9289 Parkside Draw, Woodbury, MN 55125

Veteran Friendly Championship Golf Club

\$75 per golfer includes greens fees, ca Veteran rts, balls, tees, lunch and prizes! Fill in the form and mail it to the address below with a check for \$75 per golfer (payable to Joe Coopet). Form and fee must be received in Minnesota by August 3, 2016 to guarantee your entry! You don't need a foursome to enter. Include your average score for 18 holes and I'll pair you with a golfer of equal talent or include the names of all golfers in the group for whom you are paying. This outing is open to men and women. Don't delay!!! Mail today!!! FORE!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

11th ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Membership is open to all troopers who served with or were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment while in the countries of Vietnam or Cambodia from August 1966 thru March 1972. Membership is also open to the wives, parents and children of our Troopers killed in action.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

UNIT _____ DATES: FROM _____ TO _____
(Troop, Sqdn) (Mo/Yr) (Mo/Yr)

SER NO RANK (during tour) _____ SSN NO _____

OTHER INFORMATION _____

TYPE MEMBERSHIP: NEW RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____

ANNUAL (\$15) LIFE (\$100)

LIFE Plan (\$25 enclosed, plus 3 payments of \$25 in 3, 6 and 9 months)

IN ADDITION, PLEASE ACCEPT MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION FOR \$ _____

I authorize the release of my address/phone number to other Troopers who served with the 11th ACR

(Sign) _____

Visa Mastercard Card # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to: **11th ACVVC**. Mail this form with your check or money order (no cash) to: **11th ACVVC Membership, Ollie Pickral, 571 Ditchley Rd., Kilmarnock, VA 22482.**

Blackhorse Hoofbeats

Echoes from the Regiment's Service in Vietnam 1966-1972

By: Don Snedeker,

The Animals - Part II

Even in the midst of combat operations, the American GI is notoriously a sucker for little babies and critters. Far from the 'baby killers' that many in the anti-war movement and media saw, these soft-hearted young men would go after the enemy with zeal. They would protect four-legged animals with equal fervor. Such was the case when the 11th ACR crossed the border into Cambodia in May 1970. In one of the extensive NVA base camps uncovered in the first 48 hours, Troopers found bunkers with two feet of overhead cover – and farm animals. While the cooks accompanying the recon troops and tank companies saw fresh roast meat on the menu, some of the scouts and tankers saw pets. As described in the Pacific Stars & Stripes: "The tanks liberated a Communist 'farm,' scattering pigs, chickens and tomatoes. It was 'quite a sight,' [reporter SP4 John] Beard reported, to watch battle-hardened troops cuddle some of the chicks they brought back aboard lumbering tanks for pets."

CWO David Burns remembers the pet spider monkey named 'Charlie' kept in Air Cav Troop in late 1967 and early 1968. Charlie's palate was not especially discerning, as he would eat most anything; he was, however, partial to Winston filtered cigarettes. Mr. Burns was an observant pilot, who recalled the ample flora and fauna of Vietnam. In a letter to a Michigan elementary school class, he wrote: "When I fly over the jungle real low, I can see monkeys looking at me, and there are thousands of little parakeets of all colors. Blue, green, yellow, and we have peacocks here, and even the rare 'birds of paradise.' Oh, I have seen herds of elephants, and wild water buffalo here, also. It is so pretty; it is hard to realize there is a war here."

Speaking of monkeys, 'Lifer' was an Alpha Troop mascot cared for by SP4 Wally Walburn in 1969 and 70. As the moniker implies, the monkey was facetiously named for the professional soldiers in the unit, especially the First Shirt. Lifer even had an appropriate haircut – a flattop. In early 1967, newly-arrived Air Troop traded a pig to Bravo Troop, in exchange for a case of jungle boots. The Bravo Troopers promptly named the pig 'Top'. The Bravo Troop First Sergeant's reaction is not recorded.

Not everyone was an animal lover, however. And not all of the mascots were tame. Such was the case in 1971. 'Jo-Jo' was Golf Troop's pet monkey, and there was one Trooper who constantly tormented Jo-Jo. In the dark of the Vietnam night, the monkey got even. Fellow Golf Troopers were awakened to a scream, followed by the frantic call of "Medic!" After the dust from the medevac settled down, the story made its way around the tight NDP perimeter. Jo-Jo had ripped an ear off its tormenter. Boat Person Doug Hunt remembers a somewhat larger, also not-so-tame primate. One night while pulling perimeter guard at Blackhorse Base Camp, he and the others on duty heard something in the wire that surrounded the perimeter. Whatever or whoever was out there was making so much noise, they figured it was not an enemy soldier trying to sneak into the base camp, but they were still getting "a little nervous". When a couple of Delta Company tanks pulled up and turned on their Xeon searchlights, they illuminated an orangutan with his fur caught in the rolls of concertina. The bright light apparently spooked the beast.

"He took off running, dragging the wire with him and setting off mines, booby traps, and trip flares. He didn't get hurt, though."

Sometimes, the animals that Blackhorse Troopers interacted with were pests, not pets. And, like the mascots that sailed to the Philippines with Second Squadron in 1902 and to Vietnam with the regimental HHT in 1966, such pests were well remembered by Blackhorse Troopers of these widely separated eras.

In 1902, Eleventh Cavalry Trooper Carl Rickarts told a reporter about the time his unit encountered "a swarm of big Filipino bees, with stingers a quarter of an inch long, which stung men to death." Those who were stung and survived were in the hospital for weeks. Fortunately, (for the Troopers, not for the bees), the 'insurrecto' bees died after stinging the apparently unsavory Cavalrymen.

Sixty-eight years later and one week into the Cambodia operation in May 1970, a Lima Trooper was stung by so many 'NVA' bees that he passed out and had to be medevacked. The infamous red ants (obviously, they were Communists, being red and all) lie deep in the psyche of anyone who ever encountered them. But there were other pests as well – snakes, leeches, tigers, scorpions, spiders – called 'sproings' by some for the way that they jumped. A 1967 Army Reporter article, written by the 17th PID, described one Fox Troop and Hotel Company jungle-busting mission where many of these pests were encountered.

The cavalrymen now found a new foe to be reckoned with, the animal and insect life. Every branch that fell teemed with large, angry red ants. The mosquitoes razed the troopers with the ferocity of a mad dog. Snakes frantically tried to flee trees doomed by the menacing armor. One snake even fell into an ACAV as a tree tumbled to earth under the belly of the relentless tank.

Alpha 6 in 1969 (CPT Paul Renschen) also remembers the red ants.

The worst hazard was red ants. When we were busting jungle, our antennas would sweep through the low hanging branches. The red ants built their nests in the branches where an antenna would not infrequently knock one down. Red ants had an extremely painful venom. When a crew was attacked by red ants, everything stopped. The crew would strip and spray each other with a pesticide that was clearly labeled as not to come into contact with the skin or eyes or to be breathed in.

First Squadron tanker SP4 John Williamson recalls the ambush patrol in December 1967 that almost resulted in the loss of his leg. It was the dry season and they weren't set up anywhere near water, but all the Troopers on that AP came back with dozens of ground leeches attached to their lower extremities. John recalled he began "to feel that itching" on his legs. He noticed that others were already dealing with the blood-suckers, so he figured he must have them too. Sure enough, when he dropped his jungle fatigue trousers "there musta been 50 of them or so". A few minutes and a bottle of mosquito repellant later, they were gone. But two days later his leg started to swell and got real sore. The doctors determined that he had a blood infection from the combination of the leeches and the bug spray. Fortunately, they were able to treat him with antibiotics at the 37th Med ward at Blackhorse Base Camp and he was back in the field a week later.

Part III will appear in the next Thunder Run.

The 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia QM Store



#1 Coffee Mug \$15.00



#2 Key Ring \$4.00



#3 Bumper Sticker \$2.00



#5 Blackhorse Watch w/Leather Band (men's only) \$35.00



#7 Blackhorse Patch Colored \$4.00



#8 Blackhorse Patch Gray \$4.00



#4 Window Sticker \$2.00



#6 Blackhorse Watch w/Metal Band (men's only) \$35.00



#9 Cavalry Hat \$225.00



#11 Flag, Indoor/Outdoor \$60.00



#16 Tote Bag, Embroidered \$20.00



#10 Web Belt with buckle \$20.00



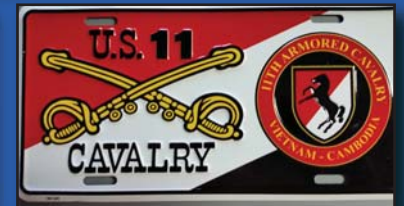
#15 Attache Case \$30.00



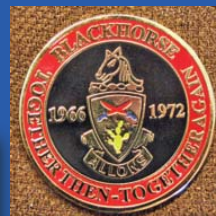
#17 Blackhorse Pin \$5.00



#14 License Plate Frame, Black w/white letters \$10.00



#13 License Plate, Blackhorse \$6.00



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#19 Blackhorse Cavalry Pin \$5.00



#18 11th ACR Regimental Crest \$5.00



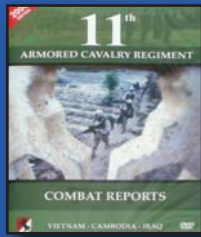
#20 Vietnam Blackhorse Pin, Wreath \$5.00



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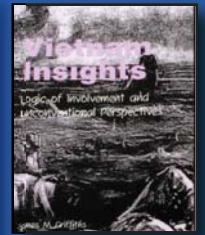
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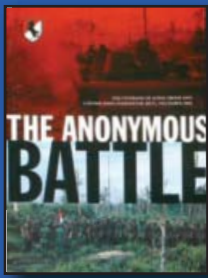
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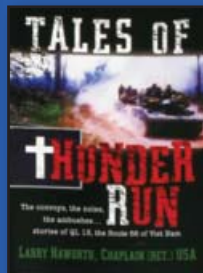
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#35 Book, "Warrior" \$15.00



#40 Golf Shirt, w/BH Insignia. Specify color: Red, White or Gray \$32.00



Hat A



Hat B



Hat C



Hat D

#38 Poplin Hats \$15.00



#39 a/b T-Shirt, Dark Gray & Sand \$18.00



#43 Windbreaker, black w/snap front & BH Insignia & VN Ribbon, \$35.00



#41 Denim Shirt, w/BH & VN Ribbon \$32.00



#42 Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon \$95.00



#29 Ladies Necklace \$25.00



From the Quartermaster...

Jerry Beamon

Hello to all Blackhorse Troopers! We here at your Quartermaster Store are looking forward to another year and another Great Reunion. We hope you are making plans to be in beautiful San Antonio in August. We will be looking forward to seeing you there, so don't put it off any longer, make your reservations now. The hotel is filling up very fast.

In your Store we have added several new books, written by fellow Blackhorse Troopers, that we think you will enjoy reading. We have also changed the caps, we have offered several different styles, but a lot of you have had trouble separating the newer ones from the older ones (that we have carried longer), so we are trying it a little different on the order form.

We are receiving a LOT of order forms that are not being completed on the bottom of the form, mainly Name, Address and a phone number if possible. Please help us out with this because your order will go on a wait list if there is a problem with your order form, and we cannot get in touch with you. We hate to keep reminding you, but it makes it better on us to get your orders out to you a lot easier and faster. So please check the form before you send it out to us.

On a closing note if you have any free time at the reunion, come on by your Quartermaster and volunteer some of your time, we can always use the help. Our thanks again go out to Bill Gregory and Otis Cary. These guys keep us looking good and make our job here a whole lot easier. Thank you Guys so very much. ALLONS!



Welcome Aboard!

New Members of the 11th Armored Cavalry's Veterans of Vietnam and Cambodia (11th ACVVC) since our last issue of *Thunder Run*. Are you looking for an old friend? Please contact any Officer or Board Member listed on page 3 for help.

NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES	NAME	DATES
HHT REGIMENT		Turner, Dale O	66-68	HHT, 2/11		Legere, Alfred J Jr	69-70
Craig, Dennis P	70-71	7th ARMY POSTAL UNIT		Bryla, Edward A	69-69	Neyland, Leroy	66-67
Dietz, Anthony C	69-70	Castanien, Donald C	68-69	Burns, Christopher G	70-71	Prestidge, Andrew T Jr	69-70
Dunn, Van W	70-70	919th ENGINEER COMPANY		Diederich, Edward J	67-67	Todd, John H	70-71
Eaton, Donald E	69-70	Delano, Billie D	69-70	Greenway, Freddie M	68-70	HHT, 3/11	
Graziano, Anthony P	66-67	Fox, James R	69-69	Hall, William E	69-69	Garner, Leland P	68-70
Harrison, William B	69-69	HHT, 1/11		Hewitt, Jay T	67-68	Garzon, Sanford M	66-67
Hopkins, Stanley O	69-70	Dietz, Anthony C	69-69	Krebs, Lynn L	69-70	Gonzales, Robert S	69-70
Johanson, Larry L	69-70	Littlefield, Clifton L	70-70	Moeding, James A	71-72	Leonti, John	67-67
Kea, Charlie J	68-69	Teters, Richard L	70-71	Pickett, Claiborne	68-69	Smith, James J	67-68
Kenney, Michael R	66-67	Wallace, Emitt I	66-67	E TROOP, 2/11		Speer, Cleaver C	67-67
Sevey, David R	67-68	A TROOP, 1/11		Bryla, Edward A	68-69	Welsh, Tedd A	66-67
AIR CAVALRY TROOP		Spurgeon, Jerry W	68-68	Pimentel, Henry A	68-68	I TROOP, 3/11	
Berry, Lawrence J	69-70	B TROOP, 1/11		Siebold, Mark A	71-72	Covington, Oscar P	66-67
Brooks, Andy D	68-69	Everett, John W	67-68	F TROOP, 2/11		Fearman, Edward L	67-68
Craig, Dennis P	71-71	James, Anthony R Jr	66-67	Collins, William J	68-69	Mcdowell, Louis D	66-67
Day, James F	66-67	Mcmahon, Leroy	66-67	Connolly, David V	68-69	K TROOP, 3/11	
Drenth, Eugene R	71-72	Trares, Bernard J	69-70	Defriese, Steven M	69-70	Biddle, Steven A	69-70
Nimesgern, James L	70-70	C TROOP, 1/11		Hall, William E	68-69	Cote, George D	66-67
White, Glenn D	70-71	Berry, Howard R	68-69	Kouba, Robert J	68-69	Dobrowsky, Robert D	66-67
124th CS MAINTENANCE		Cook, Frederick L	67-68	Omans, Richard A	71-71	Speer, Cleaver C	67-67
Brown, Billy R	71-72	Felicia, Kenneth L	69-70	Pratt, Lawrence E	68-68	L TROOP, 3/11	
37th MEDICAL COMPANY		Hopes, Kenneth	70-70	Ritter, Darwin R	67-68	Edwards, Wayne	69-70
Edwards, Floyd K	70-71	Kea, Charlie J	68-69	G TROOP, 2/11		Garzon, Sanford M	66-67
595th ENGINEER COMPANY		Smith, Harold W	68-69	Biccum, Richard W Sr	71-71	Thomas, Roy E	68-68
Haug, William O	70-70	D COMPANY, 1/11		Mix, Larry W	67-68	HOWITZER BATTERY, 3/11	
Orbison, Harry	67-68	Pelliccio, Thomas A	67-68	Ohlen, William F	66-67	James, David R	71-71
Rufener, Stan	67-68	HOWITZER BATTERY, 1/11		H COMPANY, 2/11		Proctor, Willie J	67-68
Stratton, Gale	67-68	Wallace, Emitt I	66-67	Cole, Peter H	68-69		



Quartermaster

ORDER FORM • 1st QTR 2016

11TH ARMORED CAVALRY'S VETERANS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Item No.	Product Description	\$ Amt	Size	Qty	\$ Total
1.	Coffee Mug, white, ceramic (glass) 11oz w/full color Blackhorse insignia	15.00	_____	_____	_____
2.	Key ring, 1.5 " Embroidery square w/full color Blackhorse insignia	4.00	_____	_____	_____
3.	Bumper Sticker "I Rode With The Blackhorse" w/full color BH insignia	2.00	_____	_____	_____
4.	Window Sticker, full color BH insignia and Vietnam service ribbon	2.00	_____	_____	_____
5.	Watch, BH insignia on face, leather band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
6.	Watch, BH insignia on face, metal band (indicate choice) <input type="checkbox"/> Man's	35.00	_____	_____	_____
7.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Colored	4.00	_____	_____	_____
8.	Blackhorse Shoulder Patch, Subdued	4.00	_____	_____	_____
9.	Cavalry Hat (Brown in color, rope and pin included in price--round or oval head shape)	225.00	_____	_____	_____
10.	Belt: Military style 'web' trouser belt with Blackhorse buckle	20.00	_____	_____	_____
11.	Flag, indoor/outdoor 3'x5' with color insignia	60.00	_____	_____	_____
12.	30th Reunion Challenge Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
13.	License Plate, metal red & white background with crossed sabers & 11	6.00	_____	_____	_____
14.	License Plate Frame, metal, black w/Blackhorse 11th US Cavalry in white	10.00	_____	_____	_____
15.	Attache Case w/shoulder strap 11.5" x 15.5" w/dir emb. BH insignia & VN rib	30.00	_____	_____	_____
16.	Tote Bag, red & black, 14x1x6 w/full color BH insignia and VN rib	20.00	_____	_____	_____
17.	Blackhorse Pin	5.00	_____	_____	_____
18.	11th ACR Regimental Crest	5.00	_____	_____	_____
19.	Blackhorse Cavalry Pin, brass, 11 over crossed sabers	5.00	_____	_____	_____
20.	Vietnam Blackhorse Pin w/wreath	5.00	_____	_____	_____
22.	Gear Bag, camouflage wwith color BH insgnia	45.00	_____	_____	_____
23.	Leather Gear Bag w/Blackhorse Insignia and pull handle	45.00	_____	_____	_____
25.	Blackhorse Coin	15.00	_____	_____	_____
26.	Magnetic "Blackhorse"	5.00	_____	_____	_____
27.	Magnetic "Support Our Troops" Ribbon	4.00	_____	_____	_____
28.	Video: "Combat Reports" (DVD Only)	30.00	_____	_____	_____
29.	Ladies Necklace	25.00	_____	_____	_____
30.	Book, "Vietnam Insights" by James Griffiths	10.00	_____	_____	_____
31.	Book, "Anonymous Battle II"	16.00	_____	_____	_____
32.	Diary of a Draftee, by: James M. Yunker	22.00	_____	_____	_____
33.	Patton's Boys, by: Jack Stoddard and Edward Cook	20.00	_____	_____	_____
34.	Book, "The Anonymous Battle" by John Poindexter.....	16.00	_____	_____	_____
35.	Book, "Warrier" by Leo Deege	16.00	_____	_____	_____
36.	T Shirt, "My Grandpa Rode With The Blackhorse" (sizes: S, M, L)	20.00	_____	_____	_____
37.	Book, "Tales of Thunder Run" by Chaplain Larry Haworth.....	11.00	_____	_____	_____
38.	Hat, Poplin adjustable <input type="checkbox"/> Hat A, <input type="checkbox"/> Hat B, <input type="checkbox"/> Hat C, <input type="checkbox"/> Hat D,	15.00	_____	_____	_____
39.	Blackhorse T-shirt, 100% cotton, preshrunk, full color BH insignia. Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray <input type="checkbox"/> Sand	18.00	_____	_____	_____
40.	Golf Shirt, w/BH insignia and VN Ribbon: Specify color: <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Dark Gray	32.00	_____	_____	_____
41.	Denim shirt (men's)	32.00	_____	_____	_____
42.	Blackhorse Jacket, 100% Nylon, zipper front, fleece lining w/full color BH insignia, (6" back), and ACVVC front left	95.00	_____	_____	_____
43.	Windbreaker, black w/snap front, BH insignia & VN Ribbon	35.00	_____	_____	_____
44.	OTHER: Sale Items, Etc.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Note: unless otherwise noted, all clothing items are available in size medium through size 3XL
Specify size and color preference of item requested.

Subtotal _____

Shipping and Handling _____

Total _____

Shipping Costs: (Includes multiple Items)

- A) \$2.00 — \$5.00 = \$3.00 C) \$16.00 — \$60.00 = \$12.35
- B) \$6.00 — \$15.00 = \$6.60 D) \$61.00 and over = \$16.85

Visa Mastercard Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

*** If paying by check, please write your drivers license number on the check.**

*Name _____ Phone _____

*Address _____ Email _____

*City/State/Zip _____

Check if address change

Please include the largest of chosen items S/H costs with your order. Maximum per order form charge is \$16.85. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to **11th ACVVC**. Allow six weeks for processing and delivery. **ALL PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**. Previous price lists are invalid.

Mail order to: **11th ACVVC Quartermaster, c/o Jerry Beamon, 15926 Cedar Bay Dr., Bullard, TX 75757. JerryLBea@aol.com**

*** Required info to process your order**



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Manassas, VA 20112-7800

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Thank You For Your Donations In 2015!

By Ollie Pickral
 Treasurer, 11th ACVVC

During the calendar year of 2015, our organization received generous donations from our membership. 1949 donors contributed over \$95,000.00. Below is a listing of our projects funded by you for the year:

- Donations to our Reunion Assistance program of \$2,085.00 assisted members and/or KIA family members attend our last reunion.
- Donations to the Memorial fund were \$2,860.00 and also a \$30,000.00 donation from the Blackhorse Association.
- Donations to our Scholarship program totaled \$13,183.00 for the year.

■ Donations from our annual calendar totaled \$67,204.00 that helped fund 19 scholarships to the children of our members. Funding of scholarships throughout the years is over 1 million dollars.

■ Your bidding at the reunion Silent Auction added \$7,746.00, resulting in additional scholarship funding.

■ Our General account that handles our administrative expenses was provided \$1,950.00 from your donations. Although not donations, another \$44,663.00 was raised with our annual raffle for our Scholarship Fund.

Our accomplishments were achieved because of your generous donations. We thank you and hope you'll continue to contribute your tax deductible donations to the 11th ACVVC, allowing our organization to continue service to our members and 11th ACVVC families. ALLONS !

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Posted www.11acr.com/hg.htm Obituaries

