

A-37 Association

September 2011

Newsletter



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Cleared Hot

by Vic Grahn, President

“Our Shirt”

When Judy asks why I wear my A-37 shirts all the time, I tell her that it makes me proud to remember the great flying I had at Bien Hoa supporting the ground troops.

While I have had many people “thank me for my service”, when wearing the A-37 shirt it is even better when they identify with it in some more personal way.

A couple of months ago, while at an x-ray facility here in Niceville, a fellow (John Duke) asked me about my association with the A-37. While chatting in the waiting room, he surprised me by that he was an original Combat Dragon M.X./ crew chief. He had volunteered for a “Top Secret” mission in SEA.

After a short discussion we agreed to meet for lunch at a future date. When we got together, he told me how he had trained at England AFB and then deployed with the A/C to SEA. John also

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Name Change not Necessary...

by Eric Jackson, SMSgt. Ret. (Dragon 9)

At this past reunion we (the board) discussed how we could get more enlisted personal to attend the reunions. I committed to writing an article for the newsletter. This is it.

Later, Ollie forwarded me a copy of an e-mail he received from an enlisted man who had been in the 604th suggesting we change the name of our organization to “the A-37 Officer’s Org” as he felt the enlisted troops were not shown the respect they deserved in the A-37 Association. This prompted me to write the article now rather than later. I think this man’s letter showed a very bad case of misinformation.

I was one of the original members of the 604th Air Commando Squadron. In fact, I began my time with the squadron at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada during its formation. I worked for Col. Heath Bottomly, Task Force Commander, Lt. Col. Louis Weber, Squadron Commander and Maj. Joseph Byrne’s, my immediate supervisor. From that time until the present, I have never been disrespected or discriminated against because of my rank (SSgt) or my race.

I found out about the A-37 Organization in the Friends of the Museum Magazine. I missed the first reunion but attended the second one. I was a little uneasy when I saw that the vast majority of those present were Officers. Within the first hour I realized that no one spoke of rank except that Col. Weber was addressed as Col. Now that he has “Gone West”, no one is addressed by rank. In fact, I don’t even know Ollie’s rank when he retired.

Over the years I have made contact with a number of Enlisted members from the Squadron. All wanted to attend our reunions but most were unable to because of health or other personal reasons.

Rather than ramble on, I will tell you of my experience with the Organization. I have been a member of the Board for most of the twenty years the Organization has been in existence. I was able to get the Organization to have the reunion in Tucson, Arizona. At this past reunion at Colorado Springs, Colorado, I was asked to be the Master of Ceremony for the Banquet. I thought that was a great honor. However, the killer was when I was asked if I could serve as President of the Organization. Due to my many other obligations I had to respectfully decline.

I sincerely ask that if you have not yet attended a reunion, plan to attend the next one. You will find a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. If you have any questions of me, feel free to contact me at ejackson298@msn.com.



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War Story...

Cleared Hot continued from page 1

brought a few pictures with him, one showing an A-37 making a gear up landing in Pleku and a few others, including two of the squadron members (one of all the squadron members and another of just the enlisted troops).

I am sure he has many more interesting stories of the early days. Hope to see him as new member in the future.

Another story from Lon (Lon is never without a story!) While at a mall in LAS, two different Army Types stopped and told him how much they appreciated us for the good job we had done in NAM. Just makes you feel good!

I want to thank Lon for the outstanding work on our new shirt designs, both the golf type and the T-shirt and now a hat.

In closing, I would like to say, wear your shirts, no other aircraft other than the A-1E, could have done the job we did!

Hank Keese, a Life Time member, send several chapters (those involving the A-37) of a book he is writing about his AF career. In sending them to me, he stated: "As you will be able to tell these chapters of my "book" to my mom were written for someone who did not have the background knowledge we do about our aircraft and mission. I leave it to you to omit the parts you don't need. I know it is way too long for an article. And, I also know that in many cases it is in too much detail for the A-37 crowd."

However, in my reading them, I feel they are great just as they are written and wouldn't change word. You can expect to see more from his chapters in future newsletters.

A-37 training was conducted at England A.F.B. in Alexandria, Louisiana where I was assigned to the 6th Special Operation Squadron. Judy and I rented an apartment near the base and enjoyed being back in the states and in each other's company after three years of B-52 alert tours and Arc Lite TDY.

Being a young B-52 aircraft commander had been a challenge and had been fun, but being out of SAC and away from alert tours and evaluations gave me a feeling of freedom that I hadn't yet experienced in my short Air Force career. ATC and SAC had conditioned me to be nervous when I faced any major changes in my life or career.

The A-37 certainly qualified as a major change but the thought of flying it made me more eager than nervous. It was a good feeling, and I was looking forward to flying upside down again.

Checking in on the base was much like the check-in at Ramey had been three years earlier except at England there was the constant whine of J-85 engines of the A-37's instead of the thunder of big B-52's. The small fighters constantly zip-ping overhead made me anxious to get on with my training and into the cockpit.

Finally, I was ready to report to my squadron. I was happy as I rolled into the squadron parking lot in the Austin Healy with my head full of thoughts of flying. I took the only empty space and, as I did, I noticed heads turning my way in what I took to be appreciation for my good taste in cars.

As I stepped out of my car a Lt. Colonel (Don Lanoue I think.) stopped me to compliment me on the Healy. He finished with, "It would look a lot nicer if it wasn't parked in my slot." (If you want to make a name for yourself, 'park in the commander's parking space your first day in town and do it while he's watching.') He went on to say, "Come on inside and I'll show you the aircraft version of this sports car."

When I got back in the Healy to move it he said, "Leave it. It may improve my image."

(Editor's note: "Now that's a great and considerate commander!")

These newsletters continue to be the efforts of people concerned with spreading the word for our A-37 camaraderie and forthcoming reunions.

This includes the Board: Vic & Judy Grahn, Henry & Jimmie Hill, Jerry Sailors, Bud Abbott, Lon & Barbara Holtz, Eric Jackson, Ollie & Gloria Maier, and Tom & Debbie McCallum,

Additional helpers: Liz & Jack Beam, George & Carolyn Courington, John Lamb, Robert Macaluso, Pat & Juda McAdoo, Bill & Anna Marie McCall, Ed & Kathy Norris, Dennis Selvig, Rolland Spring, and Gordon & Pat Weed plus all who submit stories/pictures/letters/e-mails/ideas...

Visit Dennis Selvig's A-37 Homepage!

A-37.org

This newsletter is a publication of the A-37 'Reunion' Association. It is published quarterly (except when within six months of a reunion, then monthly) as a service to the membership, new contacts, and any other interested parties.

The views expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect any official position. The editor reserves the right to print any article/letter/e-mail/photo deemed to be of interest to contacts.

The newsletter staff also reserves the right to edit any article submitted for length and reject any material that might be considered libelous or obscene. The editors invite and encourage contacts/members to submit letters/articles/photos.

New/changed addresses & emails

Curtis Arino
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Jimmy Fowler
<jvfowler@sbcglobal.net>

Lisle Kendall
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E-Mails

From: Ted Beck

Ollie,

I was one of Mike Blassie's T-38 instructor pilots at Columbus after I returned from Vietnam... I was very instrumental in Mike selecting an A-37 slot out of pilot training having been in one.

After Mike was killed, I took a four ship of 38's up to his home and flew a missing man for his memorial service.

I had been to DC a few months before the news broke on Mike being in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. On that trip I had visited the Wall and the Tomb of the Unknown.

His sister wanted to return Mike home so we no longer have a soldier in the Tomb for the VN war. That was the last war we had unknowns what with better record keeping/panolipses and now DNA.

I have always felt a little responsible for talking him into taking the A-37 assignment. It was a good assignment for me and I have always thought the US could have done a lot more with that little fighter as cheap as it was (they did a little but not near enough).

I looked at the pictures in the newsletter... did not recognize anyone... went and looked in the mirror... didn't recognize the old fart in the mirror either... must be getting old!

Ted

(My comment: Thanks Ted for the info about Blassie. But found looking in mirror not always beneficial to making good feelings anymore.)

Ted added:

My trip to Vietnam in February was fabulous... plan to go next year.....13 days and 1500 miles from Hanoi to Saigon on motorcycles staying at great hotels... can't beat the price - \$2900 for the 13 days (then airfare).

I am making a video... should be about two hours long... might consider giving the association copies to sell cheap and keep the money for the association if you have an interest.

Your motorcycle trip sounded neat. Video should be interesting...



From: Lambo

(This message Lambo sent to a model maker, which he copied me on, is self-explanatory)

Gary,

I ask a special request of you and Encore Models [MMD Holdings].

Please dedicate this A-37 model kit to the following eleven pilots who lost their lives in the A-37 in Southeast Asia:

1Lt Michael Joseph Blassie,
St Louis, MO

Major Ronald Dale Bond,
Fargo, ND

Major Phillip Ward Broom,
Monroe, NC

1Lt Stephen Howard Gravrock,
Fullerton, CA

1Lt James Craig Harris,
Liberty Center, IN

Capt John Wayne Held,
Indianapolis, IN

Capt Richard Warren Jones,
Ada, OK

1Lt Dean Wilbur Krueger,
Reedsville, WI

1Lt John Michael Minor,
Post, TX

1Lt Russel Earl Voris,
Jefferson City, MO

1Lt David Hugh Whitehill,
Newburg, NY

I checked the spelling of their

names on the Vietnam War Memorial website and feel confident that they match the information we have at the A-37 Association.

I personally knew four of these pilots and Lt Krueger was my wingman the day he died in Cambodia on March 26, 1971. I think it would mean a lot to those of us who flew the A-37 if these men were remembered for their sacrifice for our country.

Many thanks, John Lamb

Thanks John, such a dedication to these brave men is surely appropriate.



Email exchange between Doug Aitken and Claude Newland which I was copied on... told them I'd try to help by including it in this newsletter. Can anyone ID him? Let either Doug or Claude know.

From: Douglas B. Aitken [mail to: DAITKEN@nc.rr.com]
To: Claude Newland
Subject: Kohn Om and who? in rustic hooch.



Kohn Om and who (?) In Rustic hooch

Who is that Claude?

Claude Newland <rustic19@cox.net> replied:



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E-Mails continued

Doug

As you say, this may have been an A-37 Rap pilot with Cambodian pilot Kohn Om. I don't believe it was the Rustic FAC hooch.

I'm CCing the A-37 group honcho, Ollie Maier, in case he can get his group to help identify the unnamed pilot in the blue party suit.

This photo was probably taken circa fall, 1970, Bien Hoa.

Claude

P.S, Ollie: Kohn Om and his family are living in Virginia and he will be attending the Rustic reunion in Ft Walton Beach, FL 13-16 Oct at the Ramada Plaza Beach Resort. Any A-37 guys and gals are welcome to attend. Contact me for details.

I replied:

Claude,

Will be happy to put the photo and invite in the next A-37 newsletter (Sept)...

Ollie

OK readers, do any of you recognize him? Can you make it to their reunion?



From our Board Member, Tom McCallum, reference to a website.

Ollie,
Did you ever see this? Australia... Incredible.

<http://www.combatdragon.com.au/index.html>

My response to him after I checked the site out:

Tom, it's even Greater than Incredible!... Didn't know of it before. Will mention it in the Sept. newsletter.

Noticed it had a link to our A-37.org website. If I were just a little closer, would surely go for a flight in it...



From Board Member Lon Holtz (sent to the rest of the board):

GUYS!!!! YOU AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE THIS... IT HAPPENED TO ME AND I Don't BELIEVE IT!!!!

As you are aware Vegas is a tourist town. Well yesterday we went down top one of the major shopping centers near the strip and I felt like wearing the new Association shirt.

I wasn't in the mall more than ten minutes when two older guys (our age) came up to me and said "Hey you were one of the guys that supported us up in the Angels wing". They were Green Berets.

Later another guy approached me and said that he was prior Air Force and remembered us from out Operations at Plieku.

Another guy with his wife said that he was a FAC in Four Corp and always felt very confident when we came on the scene.

When I got home I checked the paper to see if there were any military reunions in town at the time and there were none.

Lon

It's messages like that make me feel good in the help the little fighter and the people involved with it were able to make to the war effort... and just wearing an A-37 logo shirt can let other know the little aircraft is not totally forgotten yet. (This was the shirt with the new logo that Lon developed and is now taking orders for... about 40 sold in the first week!)



From: webmaster, Dennis Selvig and a forwarded message he received.

Ollie:

I received the message below from a Special Forces team member who is thanking us for our support! Might be a good item for the next newsletter.

Denny Selvig

The message received:

On Friday, Jun. 24, 2011 at 3:14 PM, <SGMCIB@aol.com> wrote in a message titled 'Subject: Looking to thank A- 37 pilots)':

I was with the A Team, Special Forces at Dak Seang in 1970 when it came under attack. In June I remember some A 37's flying over our camp to drop munitions on the mountain on the other side of the runway.

That was the first and only time I saw the A 37 during my three tours in Vietnam. They came in low and I thought slow and delivered the munitions where we requested. The munitions had snake eye fins.

If any of your members of your association flew these missions, please, tell them there is a soldier who owes them a thank you and has not forgotten what they did for me and my team mates.

Thank You and Sincerely Yours
Sgt Major Edward F. Komac
USA Retired

Dennis answered with:

Edward,

Great to hear from you and glad you survived your combat tours! There were three squadrons of A-37s at Bien Hoa. I was there in 1970 with the 604th "Rap" squadron.

I'll forward you message to our contact member and ask him to mass email the members of the A-37 Association.

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Maybe we can find who it was.

Dennis Selvig

Editor's note; Decided rather than asking by email, I would just include in this newsletter so I would have a record of it. Do any of you remember that mission. If so, please let Dennis know so he can advise Edward.



From: Dean Miller

When we had our 2007 reunion in D.C., we worked with Dean Miller (Fairfax CVB). When I saw an article he had written in a reunion magazine, I thanked him for the fine article and the tips he gave. He replied with:

Hi, Ollie!

Actually, I remember you and Gloria well ... hope everything is going well for you, and that you're keeping cool in this intense heat!

We're still sending out a brochure to military reunion groups that includes a nice testimonial that you gave us. Again, many thanks for this!

In the upcoming issue of Reunions Magazine (it should be out in about a month), we'll have an article about a great reunion that the USS Boston Sailors had here, as well as my column, this time on issues relating to serving alcohol.

Would love to have you and your fellow A-37ers back with us before long!

Best,

Dean Miller

National Sales Manager

Visit Fairfax

Good to hear the A-37 is getting some publicity through our testimonial.



From: Claude Newland

When I sent out an email forwarding a request for A-37 stories for the Friends

Magazine, received this response from Claude, one of the FACs who also receives our A-37 emails and newsletters.

Ollie,

I'd like to learn more about this publication. Do you suppose they would like stories by FACs about the A-37?

The A-37 was a favorite of the Rustics FACs and we have a number of stories already written that are in our revised book that will be published in September by Lulu.com.

Can you give me Mr. King's email address?

Thanks, Claude Newland

I gave Claude Mr. King's email address... I'm sure some nice words about the A-37s and its people from a FAC will be of interest to Mr. King.



From: Robert F. Dorr

Referring to that same request for A-37 stories, also received this from a book author who also has articles in the Air Force Times.

Ollie,

I wonder if any of your members have information about restored A-37s operating as warbirds in the United States? That's something I could turn into a magazine article.

Best, Robert F. Dorr

I mentioned Ted Beck's A-37 and the one Gordon Johnson was restoring. Do any of you know of others?



From: **Jimmy Fowler**, new contact.

Ollie

I found the A-37 Association site today while google-ing around 1st SOW.

I never had to go in country during my stint in the Air Force but was assigned to numerous squadrons on Hurlburt Field in Ft. Walton Beach where we had a squadron on A-37s.

My tour was May 69-73 with 70-73 being at Hurlburt. I was assigned to the 317th SOS over on Doolittle Runway (U-10s and UH-1's) until 72 and then went into the 834 FMS where we worked on all the planes on base. There I maintained avionics on the A-37s.

I was wondering if you ever heard of the accident on Hurlburt around '72 when a pilot in an A1 firewalled the throttle and ripped the engine out. The engine cartwheeled across the ramp and took out 4 A-37s and a Toyota in the parking lot.

It caught the line at an angle and took one out completely, caught one's wing and couple others back fuselage and tail. Don't know if he ever painted any A-37s on the A1.

I worked on the U-10 that is on static display at Hurlburt. FYI. The tail number on the plane is wrong. They had us remove all the equipment from the plane when it was to go static but then realized that it was the wrong plane. They just repainted the tail numbers.

Sure enjoyed the A-37 Association site. Reminded me of Hurlburt.

By your email, could I assume that you are in Austin? I reside in Houston. Jimmy Fowler

Part of my response to him:

Thanks Jimmy,

Yes, read about the accident... In fact may have even had it as a war story in one of our newsletters or in one of the five little booklets we put together. I think one of the people who sent the

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EMAILS Continued from page 5

story to me mentioned they tried to protect themselves by hiding up the wings of one of the airplanes.

Not in Austin, just a little south in San Marcos.

Thanks again for the contact,
Ollie



From: Guy Dennis & wife, Judy

(After reading of my stepping down as leader of our organization.)

Dear Gloria & Ollie,

Congratulations to both of you for being our leaders and bringing so much joy to the A-37 family throughout the years. We will miss your leadership.

Thanks to you both for making the A-37 Association such a remarkable success. You certainly have enriched our lives, and for this we are very grateful.

We are well. Both very active in physical activities, and still going strong.

Take care, enjoy the good life, and keep the stars on top!

With Warmest Regards,
Judy & Guy

My response to them:

Judy & Guy,

Thank you for the message and the nice compliments. They are sincerely appreciated.

However, I can assure you it was we who had the greatest pleasure in our role in the Association... And we could not have done it without the help of many others plus all the attendees at the reunions.

Seeing the old friends there and making new ones made any effort on our part well worth it. Receiving messages such as yours and letters, photos, phone calls, etc., also added to it.

I have great faith the Association will not only continue as I take a lesser role,

but will improve as new ideas are incorporated.

I just pray the efforts of all will help keep the memories of the great little fighter, along with those who flew it, worked on it, or worked with it, alive a little longer by those on the ground who we help support and many in the nation.

Thank you again for the kind words... We are both in reasonably good health, although Gloria could not make the last three reunions. (Because of her heart condition, the doctor told her to avoid as much stress as she can... And probably just living with me is stressful enough for her!)

We have a little 250 fruit tree orchard which tends to give us plenty of exercise.

As we get older, I feel I am not out of place to tell many of my friends, such as you two, I love them. Too many have already gone without my letting them know what they meant to me...

Ollie



Earlier, received this from a member and thought it was something that might express how some of the rest of us felt so am including it here. Thanks Mike.

(Won't include his last name in case you don't agree with this.)

Subject: Captain Bullshit

THIS SENIOR CITIZEN
NAILED IT!!!!

Alan Simpson, Senator from Wyoming, Co-Chair of Obama's deficit commission, calls senior citizens the Greediest Generation as he compared "Social Security" to a Milk Cow with 310 million teats. August, 2010.

Here's a response in a letter from a unknown fellow in Montana ... I think he is a little ticked off! He also tells it like it is...

"Hey, Alan, let's get a few things straight.

1. As a career politician, you have been on the public dole for FIFTY YEARS.

2. I have been paying Social Security taxes for 48 YEARS (since I was 15 years old. I am now 63).

3 My Social Security payments, and those of millions of other Americans, were safely tucked away in an interest bearing account for decades until you political pukers decided to raid the account and give OUR money to a bunch of zero ambition losers in return for votes, thus bankrupting the system and turning Social Security into a Ponzi scheme that would have made Bernie Madoff proud.

4. Recently, just like Lucy & Charlie Brown, you and your ilk pulled the proverbial football away from millions of American seniors nearing retirement and moved the goalposts for full retirement from age 65 to age 67. NOW, you and your shill commission is proposing to move the goalposts YET AGAIN.

5. I, and millions of other Americans, have been paying into Medicare from Day One, and now you morons propose to change the rules of the game. Why? Because you idiots mismanaged other parts of the economy to such an extent that you need to steal money from Medicare to pay the bills.

6. I, and millions of other Americans, have been paying income taxes our entire lives, and now you propose to increase our taxes yet again. Why?

Because you incompetent bastards spent our money so profligately that you just kept on spending even after you ran out of money. Now, you come to the American taxpayers and say you need more to pay off YOUR debt.

To add insult to injury, you label us

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“greedy” for calling “bullshit” on your incompetence. Well, Captain Bullshit, I have a few questions for YOU.

1. How much money have you earned from the American taxpayers during your pathetic 50-year political career?

2. At what age did you retire from your pathetic political career, and how much are you receiving in annual retirement benefits from the American taxpayers?

3. How much do you pay for YOUR government provided health insurance?

4. What cuts in YOUR retirement and healthcare benefits are you proposing in your disgusting deficit reduction proposal, or, as usual, have you exempted yourself and your political cronies?

It is you, Captain Bullshit, and your political co-conspirators called Congress who are the “greedy” ones.

It is you and your fellow nutcases who have bankrupted America and stolen the American dream from millions of loyal, patriotic taxpayers. And for what? **Votes.**

That’s right, Sir. You and yours have bankrupted America for the sole purpose of advancing your pathetic political careers. You know it, we know it, and you know that we know it.

And you can take that to the bank, you miserable son of a bitch.

Reader: If you like the way things are in America, delete this. If you agree with what a fellow Montana citizen says, PASS IT ON!!!!

I responded with:

Good one... Thanks for sending it Mike...

Will definitely forward it to others as it’s absolutely the truth and I totally agree with it. It’s unfortunate though that messages like this won’t make a damn bit of difference to most in power in Washington, too many are too self-ish and only think of themselves... I can only hope and pray, that with the help

of God, we can do something at the ballot box to improve the situation... Ollie

Editor’s note: Hope I didn’t step on anyone’s toes in publishing this.



From: **Don Mercer**, Rustic FAC

Ollie,

It has been some ten years or more since we spoke and I ordered three booklets of A-37 stories from you. I saw the email that you had sent to Claude Newland, President of the Rustic FAC Association.

I finally located some film a few years back of several A-37 air-strikes that I controlled over Cambodia. I put these on my website, as I’ve been renewing my interest in photography for a while now.

You, or some of your fellow A-37 pilots, may be interested in viewing the film clips at www.rustic41creations.com. Go to “Video/Books” in the menu listing at the top of the Home page, and then select the “Narrated Combat Film/Cambodia 1971” in the drop down menu. If nothing else, it may bring back some memories.

Thanks to all of you for your great work in Cambodia and III Corps. It was a pleasure having A-37s check in out country!

Don Mercer
Rustic 41

Editor’s note: I don’t know about the rest of you, but I always enjoy hearing from FACs and the troops on the ground about the good (and lives saved) the A-37 and it’s people did in the war effort.



‘Coming at Ya’

Those of you receiving these newsletters via email already received three emails concerning A-37 related items this past month.

Those of you who receive these newsletters only by regular mail will receive those three emails as inserts to this one. I hope you will seriously review the contents of each and consider acting upon it if it applies to something you can do or want to do.

In other news, because we have run short of sets of the A-37 booklets we put together containing stories from many of you, we are looking at having more printed. We are even considering the possibility of putting all five volumes into one booklet, a CD, or a Flash drive.

Speaking of books, a new updated Rustics book should be out this month. The Rustic FACs controlled many of our strikes and enjoyed what the little fighter could do... and many of you who worked with them enjoyed their insight and direction in fighting the enemy while reducing our risk. Many of stories involve the A-37.

And a last item. Even though this newsletter is quite long (It was a real challenge for Gloria to get everything in it that I asked her to), it still does not contain many of the items I would have liked to include... letters and emails from you, also items not related to the A-37 received which were interesting, patriotic (like the Eagle sitting on a gravestone marker at a national cemetery), etc.

If I did, I’m afraid it would become a book rather than a newsletter. (I normally receive about 10-20 emails each day from friends, such as you, and others.) So if I didn’t include what you sent and it was very worthy of making it into these newsletters, I’m sorry.

Although not always successful, to limit the size of the newsletters, we try to only put in them mainly items we feel would be interesting to a majority of you.



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Letters Home

A little background on these letters if you've just joined us. When Fred Long returned from Vietnam, he found his mom had kept all the letters he wrote to them while in 'Nam. Reviewing them, he found they gave an idea of what life was like for some while over there so he asked if I'd like to include them in these newsletters. I said I surely would (one or two at a time) and thus he typed and emailed all of them to me. For those of us over there at that time (or even later), they surely bring back memories. Thanks Fred

Dear Mom and Dad,

Feb. 17, 1968

Everything is fine now. I'm not going to extend over here. I hope they don't call me to come back. I didn't really want to see Japan and those other places anyway. It would cost too much money and I want to save as much as possible. I put \$180 in the bank this past month. Don't know how much I've saved so far.

Did you get my letters? I haven't been getting yours for a few days now. I think you better stop the paper. I haven't had one for about three weeks now. Don't know what is going on, but you might as well stop it if I can't get it.

Got a letter from David, said he was going to quit school. Said he doesn't have anymore money. I hope he doesn't get drafted.

I have been doing a lot of reading on the war effort and all that has been going on. It doesn't seem like the war can last much longer. Of course it will be another year or so. But when you look at how long it has been that isn't so long.

Everything is back to normal again so will close for now.

Fred

Dear Mom and Dad,

Feb. 18, 1968

The base was hit again last night. 21 rockets this time. I'm not going to listen to anything they say again. I'm fine.

They hit us at night so we can't sleep. This time it started at 1 in the morning.

Not much more to say. Tired and getting little sleep.

Fred

Dear Mom and Dad,

Feb. 19, 1968

How is everything back home? Hope everything is OK. Working night's 4:30 to 12. Going to put in for R & R tomorrow. I'll let you know where I'm going when I make up my mind.

The woman that comes here to clean our barracks is polishing my shoes now. Did I tell you the VC burned down her house? That was terrible. She is staying with friends.

Don't know how much work they will have for me. Hope it isn't much.

We have three Momasons in here now. Boy! they love me. I gave one of them a lighter. You should hear them talking.

It's a nice day today. I had a good night sleep. Slept till 11. I wanted to get up at 9:30 but didn't.

I'll write again soon.

Fred