

HAMILL TENURE ALMOST OVER



DEVILS



DIGEST



December 2016

www.red-devils.org

Vol. 10 No. 4

508 CHAPTER FUTURE IS NOT BRIGHT

By Ken Hamill

No one has stepped up and volunteered to assume the duties of Chapter Chairman, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian or Web Master.

There was a time when I could do all of these jobs fairly well, but my days of vim, vigor and accomplishment are over. My biggest problem is poor vision. Macular Degeneration has created a hole in my right eye macular that equals the size of my head in the mirror when shaving. People are no longer instantly recognizable. Some faces appear like modern art. I cannot easily read hand written notes or newspaper, so I don't read them. I cannot pass the vision test so my driver's license is kaput. Chapter secretary duties are very difficult. Making a database change is painfully slow.

If volunteers to take over our 508 Airborne Chapter do not appear, I will gradually close our 508 Chapter. I plan to publish and distribute the Devils Digest through September 2017.

Our website www.red-devils.org and related items such as domain name will close in October 2017.

A one or two page bulletin may be mailed to all members starting in 2018.

Starting now - annual membership renewals should be mailed directly to the National Office rather than to me. The address is printed on the Page 8 App of this newsletter..

Starting now - donations for our Wounded Warriors, Education Fund or National Association should be mailed to the National Office rather than to me. The address is printed on the Page 8 App of this newsletter..

Please hold your 508 Chapter donations until we need and request your help.

Please do not send me scribbled notes. Send only short notes in large capital letters. If you want to send articles for the Devils Digest, type your article on a computer and send it to me by email.

The 82nd Airborne Division Association is a wonderful organization and we All American Life Members will always have access to the Paraglide. Our association will absorb our chapter treasury when we fold. You will have to select a new Chapter when the 508 is gone.

The Family and Friends of the 508 PIR Associations will be the primary providers for our active duty 508 paratroopers in the future. We want the F&F 508 PIR Assn to maintain and display our historical items, and use any parts of our website they may want in their top of the line website - www.508pir.org

OV-1 MOHAWK-THE MODELS CONTINUED BY MARK ECKENRODE

The armed Mohawks were a source of conflict with the Air Force. The Air Force felt it was their domain to provide close air support and attack fixed wing aircraft. The Air Force won and the JOV-1A's were converted to OV-1A's. This was to the detriment to battlefield commanders who greatly appreciated real time intelligence and the ability to engage the targets with air to ground fire. There were exceptions, two Mohawk Surveillance Airplane Companies' (the 73rd SAC and the 131st SAC). Due to the nature of their missions these two companies were allowed to retain their armed Mohawks in Vietnam, ostensible for self-defense. The only Mohawk model where an enlisted observer was not a crewmember was on the YOJ-1A's and YOJ-1C's, armed Mohawks, as these were fitted with dual flight controls and required a rated Aviator to man the right hand seat.

The OV-1B was the next Mohawk to come off the Grumman assembly line. This model was built for the Side Looking Airborne Radar (SLAR) system. This necessitated the wingspan be extended an additional six feet to 48 ft. The speed brakes, leading edge slats and four of the wing pylons were removed.

The heart of the OV-1B was the Motorola AN/APS-94 SLAR surveillance system. It had an external 18-ft radar antenna pod mounted asymmetrically on the Mohawks starboard fuselage, which looks like a giant cigar. The SLAR system was capable of day/night all weather operations, to a distance of 56 mi and could see through foliage. A radar signal was emitted from either or both sides of the aircraft, the mode can be set by the observer, and recorded the echo returns which were processed while in flight onto two separate photographic films mapping both fixed terrain and moving target information within several minutes of receiving a return signal. Essential aircraft and target data were imprinted on the film to aid intelligence imagery interpreters, a visual...

...display, a RO-166 Recorder/Processor, was also available to the observer inside the cockpit. The SLAR system mapped terrain features and showed moving targets on a Moving Target Indicator (MTI) that is based on the Doppler principle. This allowed the observer to see the moving target against a fixed terrain background. This allowed a position to be accurately determined for artillery, naval gunfire, or strike aircraft to engage the targets, which could be truck traffic or sampan traffic in Southeast Asia (SEA). The OV-1B was used extensively in SEA to monitor enemy activity along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos, the DMZ, South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Cambodia, and along riverine and costal waterways. The first OV-1B Mohawks were deployed to Germany for patrolling along the Iron Curtain in Europe esp. the Fulda Gap region. It also proved invaluable along the Korean DMZ where they were also deployed.

Most SLAR missions were conducted from 7,000 to 8,000 ft. Operations at this altitude minimized the need for evasive actions, as it was well above enemy ground fire, but not out of range of Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) or surface to air (SAM) missiles. SLAR was not only able to survey enemy targets, but could detect and record traffic patterns and activity. Plus the terrain-mapping feature could be used as an aid in navigation. The OV-1B retained the KS-61 photographic capability. From 1960 to 1965 101 OV-1B's were built.

The OV-1C was the third Mohawk model to go into production. In addition to the KS-61 and the KA-60 photographic surveillance systems the OV-1C was equipped with the Lear Siegler AN/AAS-14 Infer-Red Detection System (IR or Red Haze). The IR sensory system measured the temperature difference between the target and its surrounding environment and provided an instantaneous image on a display monitor inside the cockpit in addition to a permanent thermal map on photographic film, and like the OV-1B, imprinted with both flight essentials like altitude and speed and target information. In order to detect a target the Mohawk would fly over an area and could cover a swatch 250-meter on each side of the flight path. The details,...

... quality and accuracy were such that it was suitable to navigate by. The OV-1C could detect cooking fires, truck and boat engines, generators, or anything with a temperature differential. Often Red Haze was used in conjunction with other intelligence sources to show a pattern of activity, disposition and strength of enemy forces.

IR missions were usually flown at 1,000 to 1,500 ft. Optimum results are best achieved at 500 to 1,000 ft. This could be very dicey at night in mountainous terrain and/or in poor weather conditions.

The OV-1C when armed with 2.75-inch rocket pods or .50 caliber pods the Mohawk became a YO-1C, but with the Infer Red system removed. Between 1961 and 1969 169 OV-1C's were built, the largest number produced of any Mohawk model. The exact number of YO-1C's that were produced is unclear.

In 1969, a fourth Mohawk model came on line, the OV-1D. It included a Lycoming T53-L701 turboprop engines with 1,400 SHP each with improved propellers. The airframe was also beefed-up to handle greater weight. Essentially it combined the surveillance characteristics of both the OV-1B SLAR and the OV-1C Red Haze surveillance systems. Ground support personnel could reconfigure the aircraft from a SLAR mission to an IR mission in about 1-½ hrs. or vice versa. The 18 ft SLAR antenna could be easily bolted on and off as needed. The OV-1D used an updated version of Infer-Red system, that being the AN/AUS-24. The SLAR system was updated to an AN/APS-94D that was later further upgraded to an AN/APS -94F. The OV-1D retained aerial photographic capacities but with a KA-76 "serial frame" camera system. An avionics package was also employed using an AN/ASN-86 inertial navigation system providing more accurate all-weather flight guidance. For defensive counter measures an AN/ALQ-136 Pulsed Radar Jamming Module, an AN/ALQ 162 Continuous Wave Electronic Radar Jamming Module, an AN/ALQ-156 Missile detection System, an AN/ALQ-147 "Hot Brick" Heat...

... Seeking Missile Jamming Module that generated an intermittent thermal signal causing heat seeking missiles to lose their lock on ability, and a M-130 General Purpose Chaff/Flare Dispenser to confuse radar guided AAA and heat seeking missiles were also employed on the OV-1D. There were no armed OV-1D's. A total of 37 newly built OV-1D's were produced with 61 OV-1C's converted over to OV-1D's and 17 OV-1B's converted over to OV-1D's, for a total of 115 OV-1D's on line.

There were several variants of the Mohawk produced. The OV-1-SEAMORE (South East Asia MOhawk REvision) which of course was intended for use in SEA Theater. Essential features included increased target detection capability for both IR and SLAR sensors, improved sensor displays in the cockpit and improved target location accuracy. Little is known about its operational abilities and missions. Only a few Mohawks were modified to OV-1-SEAMORE.

The RV-1C was another variant using a Quick Look ELINT (Electronic Intelligence) surveillance system able to locate and identify ground based radar installations. It was equipped with aerial cameras. There were two conversions from OV-1C's.

The RV-1D was developed for Quick Look II (ELINT) operations. It retained its camera systems, but the SLAR equipment was removed. and electronic surveillance equipment was installed to include radar emission detectors and pods to collect electronic SIGNET (Signal Intelligence) emissions. It also had upgraded engines bringing them up to 1,800 SHP each for increased. There were 31 conversions to the RV-1D. The OV-1E was meant to be the next generation of Mohawks. It had a Global positioning System (GPS) integrated a new SLAR package, an USQ-61 ELINT/SIGNET system, with upgraded engines, avionics and flight instrument systems. Two were sent to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) after the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and later returned to the US in 1984.

TO BE CONTINUED

**Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Assn
By Chris Harris, Vice President of the
Family & Friends 508 PIR Association**

**10th Anniversary Reunion
2-6 November, Charleston SC**

Over fifty Association Members, including Veterans from WWII and all successor generations and their Families and Friends, gathered to celebrate the Association's 10th Anniversary and the beginning of the 508th's 75th year since being activated on 20 October 1942. Highlight activities included a visit to the USS Yorktown and Fort Sumter and a tour of The Citadel, including front-row seats for the Friday Twilight Parade of cadets. 1st Battalion 508th from Fort Bragg provided the Color Guard. Both Commanding Officers, LTC James Browning (2-508) and LTC Justin Reese (1-508), were featured speakers during the Welcoming Breakfast and the final Banquet, respectively. Several Active Duty 508th Paratroopers participated throughout the entire Reunion and some 70 Active Duty attended the Banquet. Educational sessions included an Oral History Video presentation and a Veterans Panel Discussion, whose participants including WWII, Vietnam-era, Panama, and Afghanistan Paratroopers. Dick O'Donnell, the Association's founder and National Chairman, was awarded "Person of the Year" –aptly renamed "Person of the Decade" for his outstanding leadership contributions and his tireless efforts as Webmaster (The Association's website now tops 5000 pages and is the world's largest repository of 508th history.). During the Annual Membership Meeting, the Association's Board presented the year's highlights that include a highly successful new Lifetime Member Program, the achievement of 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization status, a major update to the Association's website, and substantial progress strengthening the Association's finances. For a re-cap of the Charleston Reunion, 508th History, past editions of the Association's DIABLO newsletter, Active Duty updates, Association Finances, and Membership opportunities, please visit www.508PIR.org.

I was honored to represent the Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association and all 508th Veterans and Active Duty at this year's Veterans Day commemoration events in the Washington DC area. Stephen Couchman and his colleagues from the Col Reuben H Tucker Chapter did an outstanding job planning and conducting three days of wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery and the Washington Mall war monuments. I was privileged to join COL (ret) Doug Dillard in unveiling wreaths at the 508th PIR Memorial and at 1st SGT Leonard A Funk's gravesite. At the 508th Memorial, we praised 508th Paratroopers for mobilizing around the world in support of freedom for over seven decades, spanning three generations. At SGT Funk's gravesite, we highlighted his valiant fighting that earned him the Distinguished Service Cross and the Medal of Honor, and COL Dillard related a personal story of how SGT Funk welcomed him to 508th Co C from the 551st, calling SGT Funk "a soldier's sergeant." In 1945, COL Dillard replaced SGT Funk as 1st Sergeant of Company C. In short, each wreath laying was a special opportunity to learn the history of an Airborne unit or leader and to fittingly honor Airborne contribution and sacrifice. The first two days at Arlington National Cemetery were capped off by delicious luncheons at Sequoia Restaurant in Georgetown, compliments of Ark Restaurants VP Walter Rauscher, a 505th PIR combat veteran.

On Veteran's Day, I joined Dave Crance, veteran from Operation Just Cause with the 1st Battalion 508th 193rd Brigade Fort Kobbe Panama CZ, at the Greater Falls Church Veterans Council's ceremony where seven local soldiers who perished in the Global War on Terrorism were honored with permanent memorial plaques. Dave then graciously hosted a "Gold Star Banquet" at his Best Western Falls Church Inn. Additional thanks to Dave for the hospitality he extended me, the American Red Hat advisor veterans, and former South Vietnamese paratroopers.

**Fundraising Underway for 1-508 GWOT
Monument Project at Fort Bragg**

The Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association has launched a post-Thanksgiving drive to fund additional granite monument ledgers that will honor 1-508 Paratroopers who lost their lives in the Battalion's last three deployments to Afghanistan. Commanding Officer, LTC Reese, has shared that it really hits you when a Gold Star mother stops by...

... Battalion Headquarters, carefully surveys the existing monuments along the entranceway sidewalk, and sadly finds her son's name missing. With this project, 18 more 1-508 Paratroopers from Operation Enduring Freedom (2009-2010, 2012, 2014 tours) will be duly memorialized and by May 2017 (All American Week), no Gold Star 1-508th mother will be left again with such an empty feeling. Please go to http://508pir.org/f_and_f/memorial_project.htm to preview the new monument ledgers and a schematic of the future sidewalk entrance to Battalion Headquarters and to Donate online (secure PayPal or Credit Card options). Donation Checks may also be made out to "F&F of the 508th PIR Assn" and mailed to: Ellen Peters, Treasurer, 3630 Townsend Dr, Dallas, TX 75229-3805. The Association intends to follow up this December Monument Fundraiser with a New Membership Drive in early 2017 aimed at attracting more 508th Veterans from all generations and more Active Duty. Please consider making a Donation to this Project and becoming a Member of the Association—and help Preserve the Legacy

Editor's Note: Mr. Chris Harris, Vice President of the Family and Friends, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association has generated a very positive influence on the relationship between his association and our 508 Chapter. Mr. Harris was invited to attend the 82 Airborne Division Association wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. He was very busy at the time with his duties at the F&F 508 PIR Assn reunion in Charleston, SC 2-6 November. Mr. Harris made the trip to Washington at his own expense, paid \$120 for the 508 wreath and participated in the ceremonies with the help of our own Colonel Doug Dillard. Mr. Harris wrote the attached Veterans Day Commemoration which he read at the 508th Memorial site on 9 November. Mr. Harris can write or say his exact intended message. I have asked Chris Harris to submit articles for future Devils Digest publications. Please read the following Veterans Day Commemoration.

VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION 508TH PIR MEMORIAL ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

9 November 2016

Thank you for joining us this morning. The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment now enters its 75th year of courageous service. For over seven decades, spanning at least three generations, 508th Paratroopers have mobilized around the world in support of freedom.

From the hedgerows of Normandy; to the farm fields and forests of Eastern Holland; to the treacherous snows of the Ardennes; to the Texas prairies of Operation Longhorn; to the streets of Santo Domingo; to the jungles of Vietnam; to the beach sands of Grenada; to the burning neighborhoods of Panama City; to European NATO shows of force; to the deserts of Iraq; and to the mountains of Afghanistan—the 508th has been front and center. Our Nation, and the World, salute the extraordinary legacy of 508th Paratroopers.

As we gather this Veterans Day, we honor all those 508th who perished in these conflicts or sustained life-altering injuries. And we remember the many other 508th Veterans who have passed on. Our thoughts and prayers are with the two 508th Battalions stationed at Fort Bragg, many of whom have seen multiple deployments during the Global War on Terrorism.

We remain committed to honoring, preserving and communicating the history of all generations of the famed 508th Paratroopers.

Thank you.

**Editor's Note: I have mailed a personal check in the amount of \$500 to the treasurer F&F 508th PIR Assn for Life Membership and a donation to their monument fund. Address follows: Ellen Peters, Treasurer
3630 Townsend Drive
Dallas, TX 75229**

A PARATROOPERS MEMORIES #14

By Ed Slocum of HQ3-508 ARCT 1955-56

All American member Edward A. Slocum of Headquarters Company, 3-508 ARCT 1955-56 and Sumter, SC has written his life story. The book is titled – Searching for the Yellow Brook Road. Ed would like feedback from us. If you spot an error, pass it on back, so Ed can fix it. Article #14 starts now. Meet "Corporal Buddha". The communications platoon had an unforgettable character from a Harlan County, KY coal field. He was 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment and Korean War Veteran, a Corporal we called "Buddha". The "Buddha" took his nickname from his block like body shape which reminded everyone of the statue of the 40 ft tall concrete Buddha located outside our compound in Beppu, Kyushu, Japan. But the real reason I remember him is that he was full blown dangerous, a touch crazy and missing a few bricks needed to make a full load. He claimed to have a personal revolver and many times when he was drinking, he was searching for his revolver because he was going to shoot this person or that person for some slight. His demeanor matched his equally hard head. I witnessed another trooper bounce a steel helmet off his thick skull. What would have either killed or floored a lesser man only served to make him angrier.

The Buddha did not believe in long discussions or verbal debates. Instead, his way was to thump somebody's head. In the 1950s airborne units, there seemed to be an overabundance of career enlisted personnel with limited social skills. This can be a good thing during an armed conflict, but unfortunately when the war is over, these types of troopers can be a big problem. A large part of the cause might be that since the troops were badly paid, the army sometimes attracted the wrong type of career soldiers.

You get young adventurers like me, and also some good soldiers with few prospects back home, who seemed to be the back bone of the professional army. Unfortunately you will also recruit some who were willing to settle for anything in exchange for security where little was demanded of them other than competence in soldier skills. They called this security- in...

...garrison, "three hots and a cot" or in the field, "three colds and a hole." In other words food and a place to sleep met their needs.

During this period of my life I witnessed several old soldiers who drank to excess and were accepting of their station in life. They were mostly bachelors who looked forward to payday each month and "brown bottle" amnesia until they were broke again. They were not going to be promoted nor did they want to be.

Oh, and did I mention that the Buddha also claimed to actually be the Devil or Satan? Well he sure did and although I doubt his credentials as the Devil, he in all probability may have been an admiring disciple of the same. One of his more colorful exploits was witnessed when we saw the liquored up Buddha standing in a Beppu, Japan alley, giggling, claiming he was the Devil while holding a small Japanese Rickshaw driver by the throat. He was an equal opportunity bully.

My buddy, Jean Ashcraft remembers an incident at Fort Campbell prior to deployment to Japan. It happened at a drinking establishment appropriately named "The Red Devil Club."

It seems that the Buddha had a confrontation with another trooper from one of the line infantry companies. That trooper displayed a knife and threatened the Buddha with disembowelment. Buddha told him that he was unimpressed and if he would step outside, we will settle this. Upon reaching the parking lot, the Buddha reached in his back pocket and pulled out a revolver. He then fired at the trooper's feet and said, "Dance". The guy danced and then ran off.

He was a constant recipient of revenge from the troops. As the Wire Chief in the Communication Platoon, it was Buddha's job to lay and maintain telephone field wire. In the field, the reconnaissance patrols were accused of cutting out sections of Buddha's communication wire so he would spend half the night finding the break and repairing it. Although I did not know the term passive-aggressive behavior at that time, today I know he could have been a training aid for teaching new psychologists'.

TO BE CONTINUED



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CHAPTER CHAIRMAN**
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**TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS
RECENTLY DECEASED**

Augustine E. Fernandes **Leesburg, Florida**
L Co. 508 ARCT 1951-54 **24 Aug 2016**
Alfred T. Zlotopolski **Gateway Chapter**
Fox Co. 508 PIR WW II **27 Aug 2016**

Statistics

Annual Members.....23
Affiliate Members.....14
All Americans.....295

December 2016 Treasurers Report

Devils Digest & 500 Stamps Dec 2016: \$419.17
Chapter Account 9 Dec 2016: \$2933.54
With \$919.17 to be deducted \$500 WW & \$419.17 DD

Mrs. Fernandes sent a very nice note informing us of the loss of her husband Augie and his fond memories of his friends and the 508 Regiment.

I heard from **Eric Brown** of Able Company, 508 ARCT 1951-54 and DePew, New York. Eric was present for the Reactivation Ceremony at Fort Bragg on 5 May 1951. He sent a copy of the reactivation photo provided by Luis Navarro and published in our September Devils Digest. Eric has circled his head in the photo and identified his position in the picture. Thank you Eric.

I heard from **Bob Bitgood** who served in 1-508 from 1963-66 and currently resides in Costa Rica. Bob had some surgery performed by a special doctor in Seattle. Both knee's were replaced and Bob is now able to walk for 4-5 miles every day without pain. Great to hear from you Bob.

I heard from **Tony Peralta** of D Company, 508 ARCT 1952-55 and currently living at an assisted living facility in Phoenix, AZ. I could not read all of Tony's note, but he spoke of attending a memorial service for a friend named Frank who served with Tony in D Company, 508 at Benning.

I heard from **Aristeo Blanco** of C Co., 508 ARCT 1951-54 and Reno, Nevada. Aristeo validated his memory by sending a photo of C Co. with 20 people identified. He also sent a very positive note and a generous donation to our Chapter treasury. Thank you Aristeo.

Members are reminded that I cannot read normal size type – make it large and bold.

I heard from **William D. Kelly** of the 598 Airborne Engineer Company, 508 ARCT 1952-53 and St Petersburg, Florida. William Kelly has always been a very generous donor to our Chapter. His latest note was a series of positive statements and included a generous check for the Chapter. Thank you Colonel Kelly for your continuous warmth and support.

Members are reminded to hold their donations until we need and ask for them.

Kenneth L. Richardson of A Co. 508 ARCT 1951-52 and Gastonia, NC sent a photo of A Company taken in August 1951 with a roster of personnel in the photo. The photo quality will not reproduce well. It will be kept with our historical files. Thank you Ken.

Les Crocker of L Co. 508 ARCT 1951-54 and Pawnee, OK sent several newspaper clippings from the Brownwood Bulletin and other papers, all brown with age and pertaining to Operation Longhorn. They will be kept with our historical files. Thank you Les.

I heard from **Bob Hayes** of C Co. 1-508 1971-73. Bob has attended several 508 Chapter, 82 Airborne Division Association and Family and Friends 508 PIR Association reunions. He usually makes these trips on his motorcycle. Bob is always very supportive of our Chapter efforts, but has been out of touch for the past year or so. After 19 years of living in an apartment, he searched for a rural home to buy. Bob bought a farmhouse built in 1919 located in the Pembroke, Mass area. It has a deck in the back, a farmer porch out front, a lake across the street and lots of nature. Bob still has his motorcycle and kayak and will soon have a Terrier that looks like a Dingo Dog. Congratulations Bob, please enjoy...

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 508 CHAPTER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

9-DIGIT Zip _____ ASN _____ (or) SSAN (Last 4) _____

MARITAL STATUS _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____

OCCUPATION _____ HOME #: (____) _____ CELL #: (____) _____

EMAIL _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

____ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YEAR 2017 \$25.00 + Wounded warrior _____ Ed Fund _____ Total Sent _____

____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$250.00 FOR 49 YEARS AND UNDER OR \$175.00 FOR 50 YEARS +) \$ _____

____ ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, RESERVE, NAT. GD – Current Rank and Date of Rank: _____

____ RETIRED MILITARY – Retired Rank and Date Departed Active Military Service _____

____ MILITARY VETERAN – Rank and Date Departed Military Service _____

508 UNIT: Co _____: Bn _____: Location _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

NEW MEMBERS MUST INCLUDE PROOF OF AIRBORNE QUALIFICATION

Mail This Application To:

**82nd Airborne Division Association
Post Office Box 87482
Fayetteville, NC 28304-7482**