

FOX FAX

Journal of the 199th Recon Airplane Company RVN 1967-70 Vol. 8, Issue 7 Jul 2011

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WEB SITE www.SwampFox199thRAC.com

Goals:

To find as many of our old friends as possible *and get them talking to each other again.*

To build as complete a history of the unit as possible and make it available to all the members.

To perpetrate reunions.



bumper sticker from www.uswings.com/welcomehome.asp

This is why we meet, author unknown

"The darkest places in Hell are reserved for those who maintain their neutrality in times of moral crises - Anon

Gents . . . an extraordinary and succinct explanation of why we are the way we are . . .

. and why we gather, and why we like, even love , each other. Why old warriors never die, but live on in the memories of gentle comrades left behind, until, the old friends pass over to rendezvous amid great quiet peace on the
Other Side . . .

On the experience of war: Author unknown

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or to look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with men who acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed together, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men.

*They were delivered by fate and the military,
but I know them in a way I know no other
men.*

*I have never given anyone such trust. They
were willing to guard something more precious
than my life. They would have carried my
reputation, the memory of me. It was part of
the bargain we all made, the reason we were
so willing to die for one another. As long as
I have memory I will think of them all day,
every day. I am sure that when I leave this
world my last thoughts will be of my family
and my comrades . . . such good men."*



**We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he to-day that sheds his blood with me
Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile,
This day shall gentle his condition;
And gentlemen now a-bed
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here,
And hold their manhoods cheap while any speaks
That fought with us upon St. Crispin's Day.**

*

Henry V is a [history play](#) by [William Shakespeare](#), believed to be written in approximately 1599.

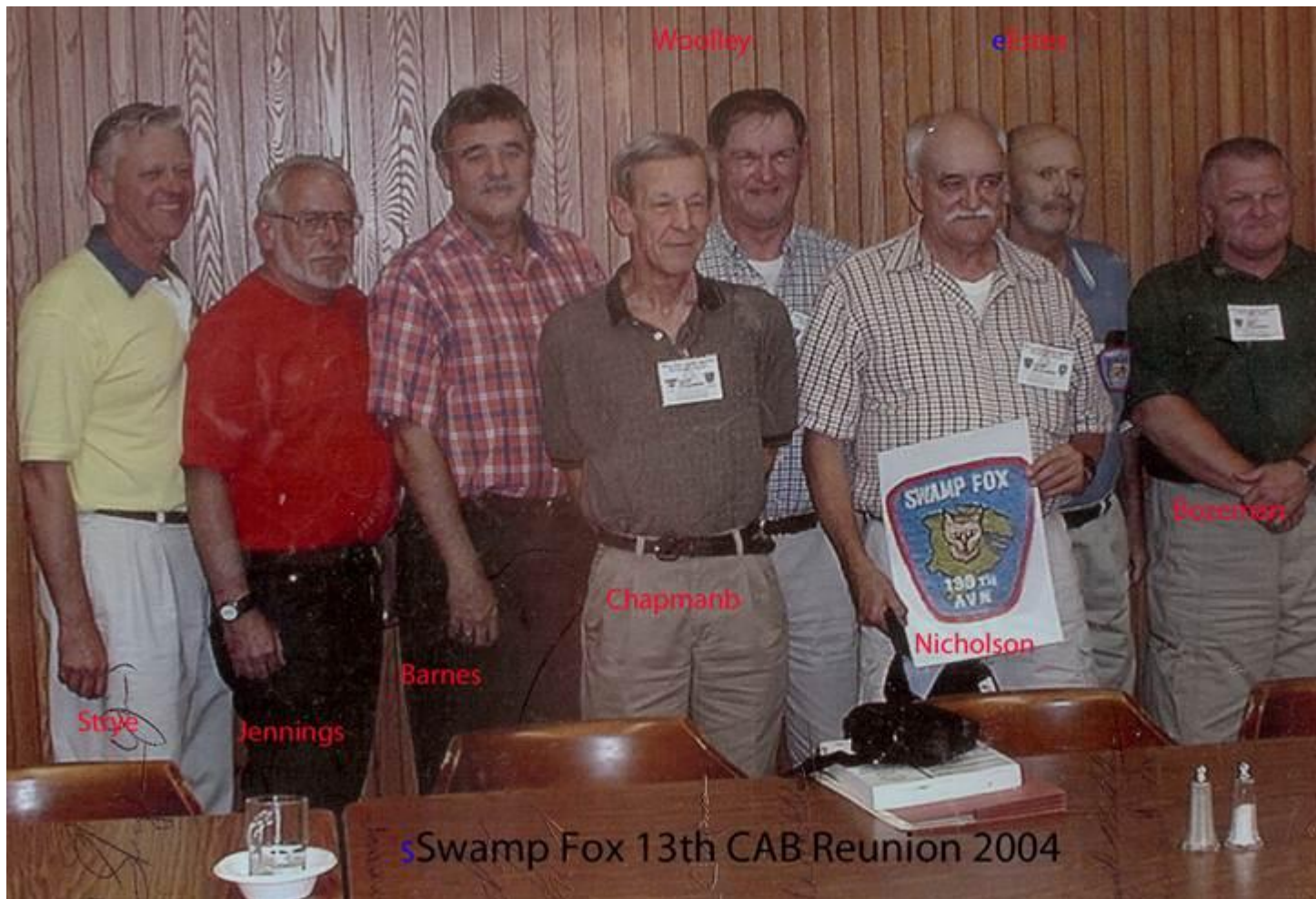
The *St. Crispin's Day Speech* is a famous [motivational](#) speech from the play, delivered by Henry V before the battle ([act IV scene iii](#)). It is so called because 25 October is the feast day of [Saints Crispin and Crispinian](#). The speech itself names the day *Crispin Crispian*, in the passage

Why we partner with the 221st

221st was activated on 23 March 1965 deactivated 10 October 1971. We came in country July 1967 and deactivated 1970. Last in first out. When we came in we took over half their area of operation.in IV Corp. Shot Gun was in Vinh Long before us. Some 199th personnel never saw Vinh Long and went straight to 221st. Some 221st came to us at the same time, like Rick Soup. We got one O1-D from 221st, rode hard and put away wet from time in country. As I recall we gave it back. When we deactivated in 1970 some 199th personnel and aircraft went to 221st. Some personnel and aircraft went to other RACs and the rest of the aircraft went to Vung Tau. As you can see 199th and 221st have dual citizenship. We have much in common in IV Corp. We both got shot at in some of the same places!

The first gathering of Swamp Fox was with the 13th CAB Reunion at Ft. Rucker, 2004 as guests of the 162AHC of which Don Nicholson is a member. It was decided then to Reunion in 2005. All the stars lined up and it was held with the IBDA in Fredericksburg,

Tx. with over thirty IBDA Bird Dogs. 2006 I mined all the e-mail addresses from the 221st web site and invited them to the 13th CAB Reunion at Ft. Rucker. I encouraged them to get organized . . . and they actually did it. The result was the first Delta Bird Dog Reunion at Ft. Walton Beach 2007 and a second in 2009. The third will soon be upon us in San Antonio.



If you don't show up you don't get to vote. The fourth Delta Bird Dog Reunion could be at Elmendorf in December and it will be your fault.



Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

SUV inside Boniface Gate,



Nunivak Island

F22 escorts Bear Bomber near

[2011 Delta Bird Dog Reunion News](#)

October 13 to October 16

Delta Birddog Reunion 2011

13 October 2011 – 16 October 2011

San Antonio, Texas

OK Folks, we finally have the information we have been waiting for regarding registration at our reunion hotel, the Doubletree Hotel San Antonio Downtown. The hotel is located at 502 W. Durango Blvd, San Antonio, Texas 78207 approximately ten blocks from the Alamo and two blocks from Market Square.

The rate that we have negotiated is \$119.00 per night and this will include the following:

- Complimentary self-parking in the covered parking garage
- Complimentary high speed internet in the IT Oasis
- Complimentary use of the Fitness Center
- Group rate includes Full American Breakfast
- Group rate is available two days before and two days past event

Individual call in reservations can be made by calling hotel reservations at 1-800-HILTONS, or via the hotel directly at 210-224-7155 (between the hours of 0800 and 1600). Please ask for the Delta Birddog Reunion. You may also secure your room reservation by going to the website at www.sanantoniodowntown.doubletree.com using the Group Code **DBD**, for our group. The hotel will honor reservations received by 7 September 2011. For reservations received after this date, the rooms are subject to space availability and at prevailing room rates.

Don't wait to make your reservations, we have a limited number of rooms available at the special rate and we may not be able to negotiate the price for additional rooms. See you in San Antonio.

Reunion Committee

a/o 6/26/2011. Please register as soon as possible so we can get a good count on the number people to plan for.

Shotgun 3, Damon & Ann Agee
Swamp Fox 35, Woody Barnes
Swamp Fox 27, Brian Bowling

Shotgun 34A, Tim & Joanne Brinkerhoff
Shotgun 33, Boyce & Darlene Cates
Shotgun 24, Charlie & Katherine Chase
Shotgun 36, Robert Clayton & Kitty Munroe
Shotgun 46, Hank & Irene Collins
Shotgun 34, Hal Crites Shotgun, Virgil & Kathleen Dreffs
Shotgun 5, Russell & Myrt Duffin

Swamp Fox 31, Sam & Lynne Givhan

Shotgun 16, Arthur & Bow Chu Goto
Shotgun, Dellino & Donna Hartman
Shotgun, Milt & Bobbi Kramlick
Shotgun, Robert & Wannee Lewis
Shotgun 35, Don & Kathy Loftis
Shotgun 22A, Amador & Maria Norma Marcha
Shotgun 6, Jimmy & Frances McGraw
Shotgun 36, Bob & Joan McKenzie
Shotgun 6, Don & John Modica
Shotgun 15, Ned & Barbara Moore
Shotgun, Eric & Rosemary Nakasone

Swampfox, 20 Dan & Martha Oates

Shotgun 5, Leigh Ogden
Shotgun, Herb & Susie Phillips

Swamp Fox 16, Gary & Georgia Simon

Shotgun 8A, Don & Renate Smith
Shotgun 37, John & Darla Stefero

Swamp Fox 12, Joe & Betty Swift

Shotgun 16A, Roy & Josefina Talley
Shotgun 24A, Billy & Andrea Wallum

**The Blast is attached. Rather than retype Don Smith's Reunion Information.
The IBDA Bark is also attached.**

SAN ANTONIO BOOTS ON THE GROUND CREW:

199th

Don Nicholson

Gary Simon (2011 Reunion coordinator 199th)

Jim Strye

Anyone else in the San Antonio area who wants to help. Drop me an e-mail.

221st

Don Smith

Amador Marcha

Roy Talley

Russ Duffin

*Jump in and hang on. We're goin' for a ride.
Anybody barfs in my airplane gets to clean it up.*

Crew Chief

Letters to the editor

From: Dave Kling

Personally, I'm not terribly concerned about what the French think of us, but I have to admit this is a surprisingly pleasant read. DK

French view of American Military by Jean-Marc Liotier

American troops in Afghanistan through the eyes of a French OMLT infantryman

The US often hears echoes of worldwide hostility against the application of its foreign policy, but seldom are they reached by the voices of people who experience first hand how close we are to the USA.

In spite of contextual political differences and conflicting interests that generate friction, we do share the same fundamental values - and when push comes to shove that is what really counts.

Through the eyes of that French OMLT (Operational Mentoring Liaison Teams) infantryman you can see how strong the bond is on the ground. In contrast with the Americans, the French soldiers don't seem to write much online - or maybe the proportion is the same but they just have fewer people deployed. Whatever the reason, this is a rare and moving testimony which is why I decided to translate it into English, so that American people can catch a glimpse of the way European soldiers see them. Not much high philosophy here, just the first hand impressions of a soldier in contact - but that only makes it more authentic.

Here is English translation :

"We have shared our daily life with two US units for quite a while - they are the first and fourth companies of a prestigious infantry battalion whose name I will withhold for the sake of military secrecy.

To the common man it is a unit just like any other. But we live with them and got to know them, and we henceforth know that we have the honor to live with one of the most renowned units of the US Army - one that the movies brought

to the public as a series showing "ordinary soldiers thrust into extraordinary events". Who are they, those soldiers from abroad, how is their daily life, and what support do they bring to the men of our OMLT every day? Few of them belong to the Easy Company, the one the TV series focuses on. This one nowadays is named Echo Company, and it has become the support company.

They have a very strong American accent - the language they speak seems to be not even English. How many times did I have to write down what I wanted to say rather than waste precious minutes trying various pronunciations of a seemingly common word? Whatever state they are from, no two accents are alike and they themselves admit that in some crisis situations they have difficulties understanding each other.

Heavily built, fed at the earliest age with Gatorade, proteins at places like Waffle House and McDonalds - they are all heads and shoulders taller than us and their muscles remind us of Rambo. Our frames are amusingly skinny to them - even the strongest of us - and because of that they often mistake us for Afghans.

Here we discover America as it is often depicted: their values are taken to their paroxysm, often amplified by the loneliness of this outpost in the middle of that Afghan valley. Honor, motherland - everything here reminds of that: the American flag floating in the wind above the outpost, just like the one on the postage parcels. Even if recruits often originate from the heart of American cities and gang territory, no one here has any goal other than to hold high and proud the star spangled banner.

Each man knows he can count on the support of their whole people who provide them through the mail all the things that an American could miss in such a remote front-line location: books, chewing gums, razorblades, Gatorade, toothpaste etc.

Every man is aware of how much the American people backs him in his difficult mission. And that is a first shock to our preconceptions: the American soldier is no individualist. The team, the group, the combat team are the focus of all his attention.

And they are impressive warriors! We have not come across bad ones, as strange as it may seem to you when you know how critical French people can be. Even if some of them are a bit on the heavy side, all of them provide us everyday with lessons in infantry know-how. Beyond the wearing of a combat

kit that never seems to discomfort them (helmet strap, helmet, combat goggles, rifles etc.) the long hours of watch at the outpost never seem to annoy them in the slightest.

On the one square meter tower above the perimeter wall they stand the five consecutive hours in full battle rattle and night vision goggles on top, their sight focused in the directions of likely danger. No distractions, no pauses, they are like statues nights and days. At night, all movements are performed in the dark - only a handful of subdued red lights indicate the occasional presence of a soldier on the move. Same with the vehicles whose lights are covered - everything happens in pitch dark even filling the fuel tanks with the Japy pump.

And combat? If you have seen Rambo you have seen it all - always coming to the rescue when one of our teams gets in trouble, and always in the shortest delay. That is one of their tricks: they switch from T-shirt and sandals to combat ready in three minutes. Arriving in contact with the enemy, the way they fight is simple and disconcerting: they just charge! They disembark and assault in stride, they bomb first and ask questions later - which cuts any pussyfooting short.

(This is the main area where I'd like to comment. Anyone with a passing knowledge of Kipling knows the lines from Chant Pagan: 'If your officer's dead and the sergeants look white/remember its ruin to run from a fight./So take open order, lie down, sit tight/And wait for supports like a soldier./ This, in fact, is the basic philosophy of both British and Continental soldiers. 'In the absence of orders, take a defensive position.' Indeed, virtually every army in the world.

The American soldier and Marine, however, are imbued from early in their training with the ethos: In the Absence of Orders: Attack! Where other forces, for good or ill, will wait for precise orders and plans to respond to an attack or any other 'incident', the American force will simply go counting on firepower and SOP to carry the day.

This is one of the great strengths of the American force in combat and it is something that even our closest allies, such as the Brits and Aussies (that latter being closer by the way) find repeatedly surprising. No wonder it surprises the hell out of our enemies!)

We seldom hear any harsh word, and from 5 AM onwards the camp chores

are performed in beautiful order and always with excellent spirit. A passing American helicopter stops near a stranded vehicle just to check that everything is all right; an American combat team will rush to support ours before even knowing how dangerous the mission is - from what we have been given to witness, the American soldier is a beautiful and worthy heir to those who liberated France and Europe.

To those who bestow us with the honor of sharing their combat outposts and who everyday give proof of their military excellence, to those who pay the daily tribute of America's army's deployment on Afghan soil, to those we owed this article, ourselves hoping that we will always remain worthy of them and to always continue hearing them say that we are all the same band of brothers".

Hey Doc,

During my search and contact of the Texas Swamp Fox members I had a nice chat with Jim Wilkerson, Fox 20, and I thought that you might like to know that his health is not real good right now. He recently had a heart attack and is now dragging around an oxygen bottle both at home and when he goes out. A bit of personal contact from your guys might go a long way in helping him to recover. E-mail: jamewilkerson@sbcglobal.net , Tel: (817) 645-2001.

Don, Shotgun 8A

From: Bill Poor



Delta Birddog Reunion 2009 DVDs are available from Bill Poor. These are very well done indeed. Well worth the five bucks for shipping and material.

Contact Bill Poor at wtpoor@comcast.net

MISC.



Other RACs

21st RAC Web Site No Longer Available

73rd RAC see 74th RAC

74th RAC www.aloft74th.org

119th RAC www.219headhunters.com

The Oct 2011 Reunion will be held in BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA

183rd RAC www.183seahorse.org

184th RAC www.184rac.com

185th RAC www.angelfire.com/tx4/Pteradactyl185/index.html no info

199th RAC www.SwampFox199thRAC.com - San Antonio Oct 2011

203rd RAC no web site

220th RAC www.220raccatkiller.us.com new Home page www.catkillers.org -
2010

Mark your calendars!

You are all invited to the 220th Catkiller Reunion

July 11-15, 2012, Seattle, Washington

Registration information will be available in September, 2011

<http://www.catkillers.org/catcom4-quarter10.htm#reunion2012>

Norm MacPhee, Reunion Committee, catkiller2012@earthlink.net

221st RAC www.221st.org see above 199th

13th CAB Reunion. 2012

Birddog Store – www.druid-consulting.com/bird_dog_store.htm

The Bird Dogs' Tale

by Bobby Jack Woolley (Swamp Fox 26 – editor)

The author has presented the combat service of the Bird Dog aircraft in a comprehensive manner that covers the ten-year period, 1962-1972. The intent is for *The Bird Dogs' Tale* to serve as a record of how O-1's service contributed to the overall combat effort that occurred in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era.

Research concerning the disposition of each O-1 that served with Army, Air Force and Marine aviation units is presented. Brief histories of each O-1 aviation unit are also included. Of significance, an accounting of each service member who lost his life participating in its combat service is also recorded. The accounting of each aircraft and those who lost their lives to O-1 operations is an important and unusual content of a combat related book. *The Bird Dogs' Tale* is that story.

Distributor

Feeder-Feeder Publications

feeder-feederpubs@comcast.net

(253) 874-3982

24.95 (US)

Order via <http://feeder-feederpubs.com>

from Corky's -

www.cafepress.com/corkysstudio/3000315

Swamp Fox Bar and Grill

PUB GRUB, DINER CHOW STYLE STUFF.



www.cookingchanneltv.com/recipes/mekong-school-prawns-stir-fried-with-pork-belly-and-spring-onions-tep-rang-ba-roi-recipe/index.html

If you catch the episode it is from Can Tho floating market.

WEB SITE OF INTEREST



Red Bull Air Races – always interesting.

www.redbullairrace.com/cs/Satellite/en_air/Video/Halls-amazing-recovery-021242857873001

[EAA calendar](#)

<http://www.eaa.org/events>

<http://www.eaa.org/airventure/> OSHKOSH

[IBDA](#)

The IBDA magazine has been discontinued.
The Bark is now in pdf format see attached.



IBDA Olive Color Hat With Birddog Logo
Adjustable Size
\$17.95 ea
www.ibdaweb.com/merchandise.htm

Swamp Fox IBDA members

Charley Baker
Woody Barnes
Brian Bowling
Rich Burns
Sam Givhan
Larry French
Curt Herrick
Ray Jennings
Jim McKee
Don Nicholson
Dan Oats
Rick Shoup
Gary Simon

Let me know if you are a member and I will add you to the list.

www.ibdaweb.com

IBDA has been very supportive of Birddog Unit Reunions and deserves our thanks. We can show it by joining up. It's only a few bucks (\$30). Well worth it

www.ibdaweb.com/picture_gallery.htm

SWAMP FOX NETWORK

Welcome Home

Clyde R. LaCore sp/4 1969.



Unfortunately he passed in 2004. I do not know much of his tour in Vietnam. I just have this photos of him and his friends. I can send as many as you like.

Thanks

Justin LaCore

Hi,

I found your website, and it brought back a ton of memories. I was the NCOIC of the 346th ADD from May 1969 to March 1970. I was Air Traffic Control chief in addition to that, sort of chief cook and bottle washer for both LTC Hannan and later LTC Lynman. At that time I held a commercial pilots license and, because of that, there were times that I was invited to fly from the backseat during the night security flights, while the front seat guy caught up on his letter writing.

After my retirement, I continued working as a civilian air traffic controller for the next 19 years. I think of the 199th often, to the point that I even looked into buying a Birddog, but I found the asking prices were too prohibitive, so I settled for a Cherokee 180. If you have anything such as honorary members, count me in.

Best regards to all of you,

Tom Oliver

(added as guest)

call sign Fox ?? means I don't have your call sign.
Drop me an e-mail and I will fix that.

If you have a change of phone number, address or especially e-mail address.
Let me know so we don't lose touch with you,

Thanks, editor

Site News

Note that the Fox Fax can be viewed in pdf format on the Swamp Fox web site. Adobe reader is required.

http://www.druid-consulting.com/news_letter.htm

Adobe Reader is available as a free down load from Adobe.

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

Established June 6, 2002 D-Day!

THE FOX FAX WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS.

I try to keep it interesting. After going on eight years of the Fox Fax Bird Dog related articles are getting a little skinny.

If you have something to add to the Fox Fax, I need it before the fifth of the month.
I try to publish the weekend following the fifth. Sometimes I am even on time.

NOTE: NEW e-mail address below

Editor r.jennings@KTIS.net

O.K., so they both still work r.jennings14@verizon.net

And this one too. SwampFox@Druid-Consulting.com

Cheers Y'all

(EOM)

