

AVEL VIETNAM

Newsletter - December 2021



Merry Christmas!



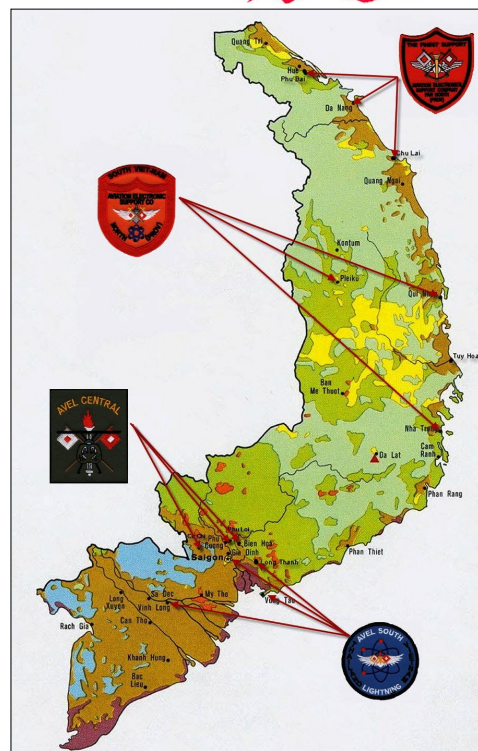
Christmas in 1970 fell on a Friday. It was a quiet day, a day off for most troops in Vietnam. It seems Charlie took the day off also. At least he did around Phu Loi. I doubt he had a Christmas tree and presents for little Nguyen. Maybe a pack of Camels or an RPG?

Christmas was a quiet day for us at Avel Central. I remember going to church on Christmas morning. That afternoon we cooked steaks. I don't know who procured them. Major Shiley maybe? Beer was also provided and free-flowing. There was a trailer filled with beer and ice. Ice? Where in hell did the ice come from? Someone was a good scrounger. If he didn't break that habit after his DEROS he probably wound up doing 5-10 in the pen after his discharge. At any rate, it was fun so no one asked any questions.

SP4 Bobby Gray, SGT Glenn Young and SFC Fitzpatrick were the chefs. The steaks were fantastic. I don't know if we were eating water buffalo or what. I do know it was delicious. Very different than the mystery meat we ate at the 165th mess hall. This meat didn't change colors when you tilted it or turned it over.

After eating our fill we sat on a bunker and drank beer thinking of home. We talked and told each other our stories of Christmas past. It was a wonderful time in a foreign land.

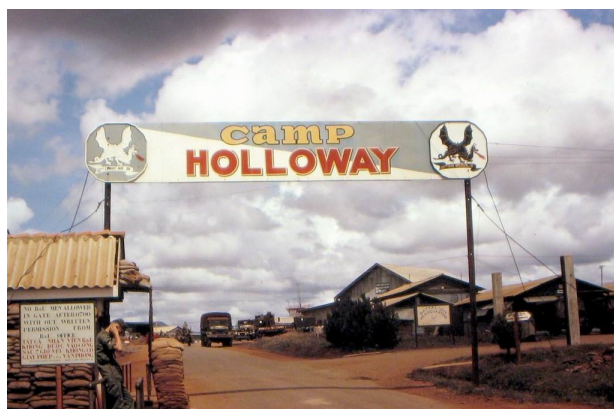
Tomorrow the war would begin again but for now it was Christmas.



CAMP HOLLOWAY

Ever wondered about those various military "Camp" names and how they were named? Here is some background information on one of the well-known 'Camps'

Camp Holloway was established in 1962. It was located along Route 19 approximately 3-miles east of Pleiku in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. The camp was named in 1963 for CH-21 helicopter pilot Warrant Officer Charles E. Holloway, who in December 1962 became the first aviator assigned to the 81st Transportation Company to be killed in action and the 22nd combat death in Vietnam. On July 4th, 1963, in a ceremony at the Pleiku airstrip, headquarters of the 52nd Aviation Battalion, the airstrip was renamed as Holloway Field. Later, the surrounding base was named Camp Holloway.

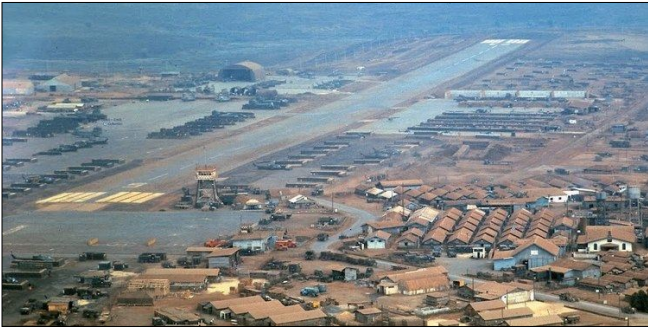


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Don't forget to join us on Facebook. Search for the group: AVEL Vietnam.



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The 81st Transportation Company had arrived in Vietnam early in October 1962 and was assigned to Pleiku in the central Highlands after gaining experience in mountain flights while stationed in Hawaii. The five H-21 companies in Vietnam had a total of 90 aircraft. Each was in high demand for air transport missions required to support South Vietnamese troops and the increasing number of American advisers.

The 81st Transportation Company, re-equipped in 1963 with UH-1 helicopters, later becoming the 119th Assault Helicopter Company.

In December 1965 the 170th Aviation Company joined with the 119th to create the 52nd Aviation Battalion. The base eventually expanded to house the headquarters of the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion. At its peak, Camp Holloway was home to two additional helicopter companies, the 179th Aviation Support Helicopter Company flying the CH-47 Chinook, a CH-54 Skycrane company, and other supporting units. B Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry also was stationed at Camp Holloway for a period of time. In 1972, B Troop, 7/17th Air Cavalry was still there.

In 1973 Camp Holloway was transferred to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. Today it serves as a training base for the PAVN (People's Army of Vietnam)

THOSE LEFT BEHIND by Jack McCabe

A new book written by Jack McCabe

10 July 1970. A routine mission in Vietnam. Last flight of the day. Chinook 07999 with its crew of five picked up twenty passengers heading back to the rear. Some had finished their tour and were heading home. Others were going on R & R to see their wives. As luck would have it, an additional mission was assigned to them. They were to pick up some empty fuel blivets from navy river boats that had been refueled. A milk run. Easy peasy. But nothing was easy in Vietnam.

As they flew in the VC were waiting. Rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire impacted the ship bringing it down in a ball of fire. In the ensuing crash nine would eventually lose their life. Others horrifically burned. Their families back home had no idea when was happening thousands of miles away.

This is the story of the men involved in this crash, the wounded and the dead and the families they left behind.

The story doesn't end with the crash, in many cases it is where it begins.

The wounded suffered a long recovery. Their loved ones dealt with the heart-break and the sorrow of learning to live with loss. Everyone involved life's changed that day. Veterans of the Vietnam War never had the luxury of mourning our dead. We were forced to move on. But it never left us. For the families it lingered the rest of their lives. This is their story.

The book is available on Amazon or you can purchase a signed copy by sending a check for \$20.00 to Jack McCabe The \$20.00 would include postage.

Jack McCabe
2120 Augusta National Dr.
Denver, NC 28037



THE PASSING OF JIM MOORE

Most of you have never heard of Jim Moore or if you did you probably did not remember who he was.

Jim was the father of the pop singer “Pink.” Pink, whose real name is Alecia Moore posted on social media that on 26 August 2021 her father Jim died. Jim was a Air Force Vietnam veteran. He was suffering from prostate cancer that eventually took his life. Agent Orange? Maybe.

Jim wrote the song “I Have Seen The Rain” while he was in Vietnam. He performed the song with Pink at a show in New York in 2006. You can find the performance on YouTube by entering the search Jim Moore and Pink.



Veteran Suicide

The holidays can be warm, fun and a wonderful time to get together with family and friends. But, for those suffering from PTSD, loneliness and depression it can be horrible. Remember that we lose 22 veterans a day to suicide. In actuality we lose more than that as some are categorized as automobile accidents, etc.

If you know a veteran who is suffering call them. Just be yourself and let them know someone is thinking of them. If they seem at risk of harming themselves take action. Don't let our fellow veterans become a statistic.



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential crisis chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net
or text to **838255**

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention. **Call us if you experience any of these warning signs.**

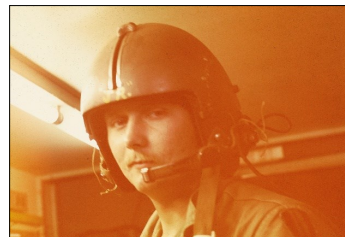
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs © 2/17 VHA

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERAN REGISTEREES

None Submitted

TAPS

Orbin Hall
AVEL North, Camp Holloway
Orbing passed away at home on 28 October 2021
He was 74 years old.
<https://obits.gazette.com/us/obituaries/gazette/name/orbin-hall-obituary?id=31217725>



PHOTOS

Mike and Dawn Blatt submitted a few more photos from the Reunion. They are posted.
Bill Fesus sent in some photos of Avel Central in 1971 & 1972. They are posted.
Gary Clark sent some photos of Avel Central in 1972. They are posted.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PHONE OR EMAIL

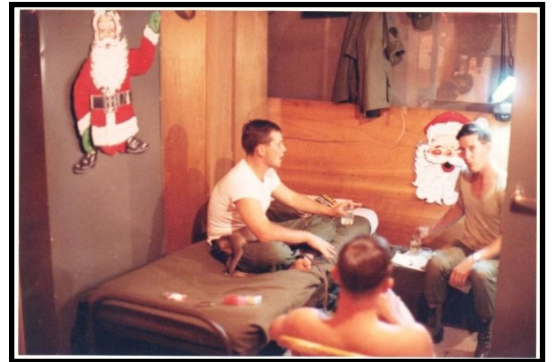
Dexter Koontz (Avel South) has a new address: P.O. Box 255, Meadow SD 57644
Richard Dees (Avel Central) has a new email address: rdees2@comcast.net

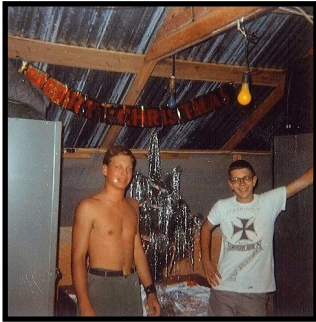


MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all of our **AVEL Brothers, Donut Dollies,**
and the **Flight Attendants** who brought us home.
Have a happy and healthy 2022! STAY SAFE!

Here are a few photos of Christmas at Avel Vietnam





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