

My first unit in Vietnam was with the 597th TC we were based out of Phu Tai. I was a machine gunner on armored trucks and gun jeeps escorting convoys on highway 19 and 1 in the central highlands, traveling daily to destinations around either Plei Ku or Bong Son. After surviving many ambushes around either the An Khe pass or the Mang Yang pass (Torpedo Alley) and along QL 1 north of Phu Cat I was feeling like my luck was drawing thin so I put in my transfer papers for the 1st Aviation Brigade. I was fortunate enough to be granted that transfer and was lucky enough to be assigned to the 335th AHC – the Cowboys and was a gunner on a UH-1H helicopter (slick). I was in the 1st flight platoon the Ramrods. During my time with the Cowboys most of our combat assault missions were with the Herd staging our assaults from one of three locations, Bong Son, Phu Heip and/or An Khe, towards the later part of 1968 we were mostly flying single ship missions with LRRPs, 5th special forces, ROK tiger Division LRRPS (or equivalent) although, I can remember some large assaults (November 1968) with the heard just before we were relocated to Bear Cat on December 3rd, 1968 (our new AO became areas in III and IV corps). We always thought that they were going to return us to II corps and our long affiliation with the 173rd, but that never happened. The Cowboy gunners were mainly made up of many 173rd troopers like Richard Brice, Larry Kendrick, Jim Olson and many others as well as those of us from other ground units. I served with two great crew chiefs, Larry Smith and Terry (Dinky) Hofeldt on Cowboy 380. After returning to the states I was assigned to D/2/9 Cav at Ft Riley, KS and became a crew chief on an OH-13. and in June of 1970 was honorably discharged.

After my 3 year enlistment I served on the Wareham police force for the summer of 1970 and then I started undergraduate school at Central College in Pella, IA, in 1977 I went on to Boston University gaining a Masters degree in Social Work, in 1980 I became a fellow at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and lastly I completed my doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at The Fielding Institute in 1997. I presently am in private practice in Boston and Sharon Massachusetts and was on staff at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy for a number years until 2005 as part of the senior clinical staff.

I have been married to my wife Barbara for 26 years and have two great children. My experiences with the Cowboys and the 173rd taught me well and I will never forget the love, care and pure dedication of my fellow Cowboys and Herd brothers

