

ANIMAL DEN OCCASIONAL BULLETIN #2, 4 JUNE 2012

From: Hitemor@aol.com

To: Hitemor@aol.com, Jrush4211@aol.com, tonycard123@gmail.com, rkmoyle@yahoo.com, rnenow@live.com, rodo48@adelphia.net, g_pagaminglasvegas@cox.net, richardmrph44@gmail.com, amurph54@hotmail.com, frogswitch@hotmail.com, numbersch13@comcast.net

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Subj: ANIMAL DEN OCCASIONAL BULLETIN #2

Hello, all:

Great news! I found Rick Leigh in Charles Town, West Virginia, whom some of you knew and will remember. His e-mail is added to the below list. This makes eleven of us. And still looking for Wayne Dail, Dennis Blair, Francisco "Frank" Garza, Riggs, and several others.

Dick "Turkey" Murphy has suggested a conference telephone call, which might work with a small group, but would probably be pandemonium if everybody got on the line at one time. If interested, contact Turkey.

Whip Rush has asked for anyone with personal memories of John "Bear" Munger to send them to him so he can forward them to Munger's family.

To Whip's suggestion about writing down memories, I would urge all of you to consider doing this for the benefit of your own families in the future, as well as to share among the group here. I would appreciate your memories, especially as I have some questions that I'd like answers to and I'm not finding answers to most of them. For one thing, I need somebody to tell me what happened after we got off the plane in-country. Were we gathered under the Aerial Port roof and those of us assigned to Bien Hoa told to get into buses and taken to the Base Theatre for an in-processing briefing, and then somebody from the squadron met us there and showed us where things were, the hut, BX, etc.? I'm imagining this, but not really remembering it. It seems right. All I know for sure is that Ron Slaughter was assigned by the Squadron to meet me and show me around, and I think we met at the theatre after a briefing. I think we had some papers to fill out there. [On later reflection, I think Ron met me at the terminal and walked me to the hut to leave my baggage on my newly assigned bunk, then to the Orderly Room to sign in, then he showed me places on the West Side: PO, BX, etc.]

And another lost memory. When you got on the Freedom Bird, and got safely into the air with enough altitude to avoid being shot at, did everybody on board give a loud cheer, or did everybody just remain silent and in the usual state of shock we all lived in after a year over there? I remember being a zombie, but don't remember the cheer. I haven't a clue about that.

Where were the three dining halls on the West Side of the base? One was near the Animal Den, but where? [DH #1, by Base Theater.], Where were the other two? [DH #2 down near 8th Aerial Port, DH #3, on East Side.] I know one of them [DH #3] was closed when DH #4 was opened [on East Side] early in 1969.

I urge you, when you have memories to share or questions to ask, please send your messages to all the below men and keep your e-mail list up-to-date. And don't forget to share photo collections. They're a great help in remembering people and getting places back in our minds, for those of us who are trying to remember.

It's great to be back together!

Current Roster

Hitemor@aol.com, Joe "MoJoe" Moore, Hampton, GA. Admin Spec, Orderly Room Chief Clerk & Billeting Clerk
Jrush4211@aol.com, Jim "Whip" Rush, Malden, MA. Cook

tonycard123@gmail.com, Tony Cardullo, Augusta, GA. Cook
rkmoyle@yahoo.com, Richard "Richie" Moyle, Durham, NC. Linen Supply
rmenow@live.com, Ray Nenow, Forest City, NC. Cook
rodo48@adelphia.net, Ron "Hondo" Mahar, North Adams, MA. Billeting & Special Duties & Driver
g_pagaminglasvegas@cox.net, Richard "Ric" Vetter, Las Vegas, NE. Cook
richardmrph44@gmail.com, Richard "Dick" "Turkey" Murphy, Roseville, CA. Cook
amurph54@hotmail.com, (Capt.) Vincent "Murph" Murphy, Penn Valley, CA. Squadron Operations Officer, Security Officer, Supply Officer, Base Mortuary Officer, succeeded Col. Whitaker as Squadron Commander, and probably held a bunch of other posts that I don't know about. [We did not address Captain Murphy as "Murph" back then!]
frogswitch@hotmail.com. Philip "Phil" Duty, Harrisburg, PA. Base Billeting Clerk
numbersch13@comcast.net, Herman R. "Rick" Leigh, Charles Town, West Virginia. Cook.

I'm attaching scans of two cigarettes lighters that MSgt. Stewart had done for us, one for the Animal Den and one for the squadron. Remember them?

MoJoe