

From: William Brown Jr. [<mailto:webjrnremt@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2015 5:36 PM
To: Robert Lapointe
Subject: Re: Raymond J. Crow Jr. AFSC/MOS

Bob,

Yes, this is the mission; Gunfighter 82. Here is link to write-up and photos on a Sandy site. And of course I would like any "official" info you have on the mission. I do have your first book but to my knowledge there was never a publication regarding service beyond 1968. Has there been another addition?

Since retirement I have completed 1 book, an EMT study guide, completed 21 chapters of a Paramedic textbook (which took 15 months of work) that should hit the market in spring of 2016. This summer will do an Advanced EMT study guide for publication in the fall. All books are electronic as today's students don't want books but something that can be done via iPad, etc. So, I know how much time it takes to write a book and how critical readers can be about the "facts," as they see them. Not every book is perfect, so you remember that. For one to have the complete historical picture one must read multiple books on the subject. So, if you're close, can't get a few pieces of information, etc. just get the book out and be prepared to do a second edition based on later gathered information. I would also hope that when the complete Viet Nam story is out you can get a publisher to publish the entire book (provided you get copyright release from first publisher). It is a story that needs to be written. I have been hounded by my class members, Jenkins, Muelchi, Brinson, Petty, Perry, Rhody, Webber, etc. to write the 70-3 story. A group of 12, where 10 went to Nam and were awarded 4 Silver Stars and 27 DFC's. Not bad for 10 guys. We've had 2 reunions of the class thus far. All still brothers that communicate via e-mail. (If you need any contact info).

The thing on Crow that bothered me was the Viet Nam Memorial Wall page has his AFSC wrong via the Pentagon and they won't fix it unless I have "orders" or some official document that shows he was a PJ even though he is wearing a baret on his head in his picture. So, I just gave up. His name should be spelled right on our website. Some added info. After he was killed I wrote his mother a letter regarding his serve. It was read at his memorial service. About 20 years later I went to Salt Lake City where he was born and family lived. There I met his step-father who brought to me a miniature of the Utah Viet Nam Memorial sculpture and setting that is on the Capital grounds in Salt Lake. At that meeting he presented me with a copy of the letter I wrote Jack's Mom and he told me that they letter was read throughout Utah as part of the fund raising initiative for the Utah Viet Nam memorial. I was stunned that such a letter would have this type of impact many years later. I also learned that Jack's Mom was present to read his name when the DC Viet Nam Memorial was dedicated and that she was very active in Veterans circles in Utah after Jack's death. She died a lonely mother who honored the service of her son. Jack's brother also came apart after his death, became a drug addict and later lost his life due to an overdose. His brother never recovered from his death.

In October 2000 Viet Nm Magazine published my article on the rescue of Gunfighter 82. I was awarded my DFC for the mission at the Ohio AMVETs convention about 1 year after the mission by Col. Blissett whom my Dad found via the AF locater. That is how over the years I have kept in touch with Blissett. He too continued to fly after military service and start a company that later became Delta Comair, that was absorbed by Delta Airlines. Otherwise it would be just as other PJ's have done, we would have gone on with life without knowing anything regarding those whom we rescued. Just an FYI, Paul Perry, and Billy Brinson both suffer PTSD, particular Billy Brinson that started many years after the war. Our brotherhood helps them. And your book will as well.

Also note that I have maintained contact with Wayne Fisk, who on the last occasion I talked to him about 2 years ago, is suffering with memory problems. After his retirement he started a company in NH that provided EMS education to SF guys for rectification and he kept in contact with the SF community. Just another note, as I could go on-and-on, I was fortunate enough to help the SF community initiate, equip, develop curriculum, etc, when they started the SF medic school at Fort Bragg in the mid-90's. At that time I'd visit the school about 2 times a year but after 9-1-1, and the war tempo got turned up, they discontinued full Paramedic education and thus I lost contact with the community. It was a fun ride to once again hang around Delta, Seals, and PJ's of young.

Thanks for your service to the PJ community and good luck if you take on the Viet Nam Memorial Wall fokes regarding Jack Crow's AFSC.

Bill Brown.
70-3 PJ

My contact information is:

Bill Brown
6965 Kindler Dr.
New Albany, OH 43054
(home) 614-939-1430
(cell) 614-477-4040

Skyraider write up: <http://skyraider.org/skyassn/sartapes/gf82/gf82.htm>