

# PREFLIGHT

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

## Huey 823 Restoration Progress



Glad to have Kylie back to help install the RH fuel tank

Our maintenance team discovered that 823's original tailboom was in need of a very expensive modification. As we considered alternatives we found a tailboom that had already been modified that we could acquire at about a quarter of the modification cost. We sent our new healthy tailboom to the good folks at [SureFlight](#) who stripped, painted, and stenciled it to the way it looked when 823 flew with the 170th in

Vietnam. Work continues today inspecting and assembling this very important and very complex part of the aircraft. Seeing this newly painted tailboom installed has given all of us a sense of what she will look like when completely painted, and we are very enthusiastic about it. Take a look and tell us what YOU think! Does anyone know what the Vietnamese phrase says? We know that the color

may look off to some, but keep in mind that the picture was taken inside under fluorescent lighting and also that there were a LOT of variations in colors in Nam. Rob, SureFlight's paint guru, carefully and accurately mixed this color to reflect what it looked like in 1969 in Vietnam. Also, our left side fuel cell from [AmFuel](#) has arrived and installation begins on the 17th. Consider a [donation](#) this month to help get Huey 823 flying!

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- The "Over the Top" Club
- See Above & Beyond
- Check Upcoming Events
- [Bad rotor blade! Bad!](#)
- [Join us!](#)

Almost every Saturday veterans come to see our Huey. We're never sure who gets more out of these encounters as they almost always share a story or two. This is why we do what we do.



Paul and Jim discussing the nose art painted by Bikini 17, Russ Mowry, at the Carlisle show this summer. Paul was a forward artillery observer in Vietnam and spent a lot of time in the jump seat of Hueys back in the day!

### Over the Top Club

Welcome to our newest "Over the Top Club" members! **VFW Post 1568**, Towanda, PA has tripled down this year with a \$2000 donation in October. In addition, **The Linesville VFW, Post 7842** has doubled down with a \$1000 donation in December! And many thanks also to the other new members, the **Reinholds VFW Post 6759, Jack & Rose Kelly**, and **Ron & Anne Sanders!** Ron, you may remember, was a 170th "Bikini" crew chief.

Our "Over the Top" club now has **27 members** for 2016 for a total of **\$72,000**. You can still join us in the restoration of this iconic aircraft by becoming an "Over the Top Club" member yourself. We'll



Helping Vets get to a safer place! Kevin says thanks for your donation!

send you a framed certificate of appreciation and one of our unique Challenge coins. In addition, club members enjoy special discounts at events to include free rides in our restored Vietnam veteran Huey helicopter.

Any [donation](#) is much appreciated— you will be helping us to get 823 back to doing what she did best, helping vets get to a safer place.

**Upcoming Events:** (note: we have requests for 823 to appear at airshows in 2017, so this list is subject to change once 823 is flying!)

Visit us on any Maintenance Saturday!	12/17/16 12/31/16
Christmas Party!	January
PA VFW mid-winter Conference	1/19-1/22 2017
Community Days—2017	8/26/17
Pottstown Veterans' Community Day	9/30/17

### Above and Beyond

Our "**Above and Beyond**" salute this month goes to all of our active volunteers who show up every Saturday, some from hours away, to contribute their time and talent to getting 823 flying again. THANKS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU! They enjoy each others' company and are truly committed to what they are doing.

[Please consider joining them!](#)