

# UH-34D YK17 Roll Out Presentation Outline

1. WELCOME to the Presentation of the Estrella Warbirds Museum UH-34D helicopter:
  - a. Members of the Board,
  - b. Museum Members,
  - c. Museum Volunteers,
  - d. Visiting Guests,
  - e. Special Guests:
    - i. BGen Dave Shuter
    - ii. Dave Overstreet
    - iii. Hal Zamora
    - iv. Don Herr
    - v. Rod Bell
    - vi. Quint Meland
    - vii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - viii. \_\_\_\_\_
    - ix. \_\_\_\_\_
    - x. \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. H-34 HISTORY
  - a. Sikorsky built between 1954 and 1968 over 1800 H-34's, first for the US Navy as anti-submarine helicopters and then for the US Marines and US Army as utility transport aircraft.
  - b. They were the primary helicopter used by the Marines in Vietnam between 1962 and 1967,
  - c. among the first to be converted to gunships for a short time,
  - d. and the last piston engine helicopters used by the Marines in 1973
  
3. EWM H-34 PURCHASE
  - a. The Museum acquired this H-34 in late 2015 and began looking for donations to restore it.
  - b. Veteran members of Marine helicopter HMM-364 came forward with donations asking that it be painted as the first helicopter they lost in combat in Vietnam, which was agreeable to the Board of Directors.
  
4. DONATION THANK YOU's to the following for making the restoration possible.
  - a. William Benak
  - b. James Given
  - c. Larry Henderson
  - d. Dave Magee
  - e. RM Mayhugh
  - f. Quinten Meland
  - g. Dave Shuter
  - h. Robert Steward
  - i. Harold Zamora

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### 5. HMM-364 HISTORY

- a. HMM-364 was formed in 1961 and received their first UH-34D's.
- b. Between January of 1964 and September of 1966 they did 2 tours in Vietnam operating UH-34D's.
- c. In August of 1965 HMM-364 became known as the "Purple Foxes"
- d. After transitioning to CH-46's in May 1967, the Purple Foxes returned for additional tours in Vietnam.
- e. After Vietnam, the Purple Foxes continued their distinguished history with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- f. In October of 2014, the Purple Foxes became VMM-364 when they transitioned to MV-22B Osprey's.

### 6. PURPLE FOXES "YANKEE KILO" 17

- a. Although HMM-364 had lost crewmembers prior to this, YK17 flown by Capt. Riley was the first helicopter lost to enemy action.
- b. Capt. Kirk Riley and his crew of copilot Stanley Johnson, Crew Chief Cpl Robert White and gunner Cpl Warren Dempsey were the lead aircraft of a flight of six UH-34's on December 3, 1965.
- c. All aircraft were carrying a full complement of ARVN troops whose destination was an outpost known as Hiep Duc, just West of Tam Ky.
- d. The entire area was noted for being a very "hot spot".
- e. Ken Gross relates, "We tried to go in as high as possible, though we were limited by somewhat low ceilings, which may have placed us approximately 2000 feet above ground level.
- f. The flight was in normal cruise when we reached the vicinity of UTM grid coordinates BY031273 where the Viet Cong fired on us with time delay fused mortars.
- g. Unfortunately Capt. Riley's aircraft received a direct hit in the belly, where the fuel tanks were located, and they never stood a chance.
- h. Capt. Riley tried desperately to get the aircraft on the ground, but it was burning so fiercely he appeared to lose control and the aircraft rolled inverted and crashed. No one survived".
- i. **By painting our helicopter as "Yankee Kilo" 17, the Museum wishes to honor this flight crew and the other helicopter crewmembers in Vietnam who gave their last full measure for our country.**

### 7. THANKS TO RESTORATION CREW WORKERS

- a. Mike Brophy
- b. Ron Boyte
- c. Gary Corippo
- d. Keith Dekker
- e. Tom Devaul
- f. Kathy Drazsuzak
- g. Zachary Deweese

## UH-34D YK17 Roll Out Presentation Outline

- h. Tom Gorham
- i. Charlie Harber
- j. Dennis Johansen
- k. Bill Kerstan
- l. Chuck Kincannon
- m. Ernie Madrid
- n. James Messinso
- o. Tom Nixon
- p. Bill Lander
- q. Dan Hoskins
- r. Len Hoskins
- s. Gary Woodall

### 8. OPEN FOR VIEWING