Below is an email that came to us that you might find interesting

1 October 2019  
  
[Vietnam Air Losses]   
  
to my usual (and unusual) group of cronies:   
  
I've been working for the past few months on a new website and searchable database. Here's how it came about:   
  
I got a "lead" from a retired admiral regarding a book that he references a lot. The book is called Vietnam Air Losses, by Chris Hobson. It was published in 2001 and sold for US $29.95 (UK 19.95 pounds). Today it is available only as a used copy since it has been out of publication since 2001. When I looked for it online, I found that it was fetching an average of about $130 per copy, with a maximum of $896 on Amazon. I got a copy from a used book store in England for about 40 pounds plus shipping and found that it was a real treasure. I learned some things about some friends that I didn't previously know, and it occurred to me that children and grandchildren of those mentioned in the book should not have to try to find an obscure, used book and pay an exorbitant (rip-off) price just to find out what happened to their ancestor.  
  
So, I contacted the author, who has recently retired (he was the Chief Librarian for the UK Joint Services Command and Staff School, where the library is now named the Hobson Library) and asked him if he would allow me to put his book online, inserting all the data into a searchable database to be accessible to all for free. He readily agreed and asked if I minded if he updated the manuscript with corrections and new information. Subsequently, he added over 27,000 words to the manuscript, plus many corrections.  
  
It took me a couple of months to input all the data (over 100,000 pieces) into the database and design and construct the website. To be able to search for all those two-character Vietnamese names, I had to actually move all my web sites to another type of server. I won't go into the technical details on why that was necessary.  
  
We tested the capabilities and tried to ferret out all the typos, but I'm sure we missed some.  
  
Earlier this week, we went "public" by announcing the site on the email list a friend operates that is populated mainly by former military aviators. My wife Denise also announced it on her Facebook page to over 1,000 of her "closest friends." It has now spread like wildfire. We've received a host of inputs thus far, and we know it's making its way through various organizations' emailing lists. We just received a note today from the daughter of a Medal of Honor winner praising the write-up about her father. That makes it all worthwhile.  
  
I thought all of you would like to take a look. You can access the site at [https://www.VietnamAirLosses.com](https://f8crusader.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ddb03fba3fdedda3098a7280d&id=5e9a697d0d&e=6466542934).  
  
All the best,   
  
Dave Lovelady