

MARCH 20, 1998 - First day of Spring

"CAMP RAINIER" AKA DAU TIENG

188th A.H.C. "BLACK WIDOWS" OPERATIONS MAY 1967 - JULY 1, 1968

① OPERATION MANHATTAN 23 APRIL - 7 JUNE '67 (III Corps)

Using Dau Tieng as a Fire Support Base this multi-brigade Search and Destroy operation was conducted to destroy Viet Cong forces in the Boi-Loi-BEN Cui area. The secondary mission of the operation was to destroy VC facilities and fortifications in the Boi Loi Woods. Even though the 188th wasn't operational until June 15, 1967 ^{they} saw some action at the tail end of this 25th Infantry Operation.

② OPERATIONS in northern III Corps Area of Operations. JUNE 1967 (III Corps)

~~He supported units from the 9th Infantry Division and the 15th Australian Task Force.~~

③ THE MONSOON CAMPAIGNS _{DRY SEASON} Three separate operations were initiated 15 MAY - 17 DECEMBER 1967 - 207 days

(A) OPERATION KOLE KOLE 2nd Brigade, 25th Inf. Division (III Corps)

The second brigade conducted search and destroy and air mobile operations in the DUC HOA, BAO TRAI, HIEP HOA and LOC GIANG area. Reacting to intelligence reports, the brigade conducted air mobile operations and combat assaults. Cordon and search and Civil Action operations were coordinated with the 25th ARVN Division and local Civilian Irregular Defense Groups (CIDG), Regional Forces (RF) and Popular Forces (P.F) 645 Known enemy casualties

(B) OPERATION BARKING SANDS 1st Brigade, 25th Inf. Division (III Corps)

The 1st Brigade conducted this operation in the area generally north of TRANG BANG. Counter-guerilla warfare techniques employed included saturation patrolling, road check points and cordon and search operations conducted in cooperation with local officials and Regional and Popular Forces. This was a combined operation along with battalions from the 7th Regiment 5th ARVN Division in the area between Ci CHI and Phu Cuong (Provincial Capital of BINH DUONG Province).

(C) OPERATION DIAMOND HEAD 3rd Brigade, 25th Inf. Division (III Corps)

~~(This group built up the base camp at Dau Tieng)~~

~~At this time it was the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and was attached~~

To the 25th Infantry Division until August 1, 1967 when it changed patches with the 3rd SS Stationed at Pleiku. The 3rd Brigade was responsible for our base camp at Dau Tieng and we supported this Brigade on paper. They played "Dau Tieng Camp Banner" after arriving from Ft. Lewis Washington in 1966. Mt. Ramier is visible from Ft. Lewis, thus came the name. The operation focused on security and reinforcement missions in the Tay Ninh - PREK KLOK area and the execution of search and destroy operations in War Zone "C". Also, cordon and search operations were conducted in the Michelin Plantation east of Dau Tieng. ~~NOTE: Our company's containment area was in the middle of this Michelin Rubber Plantation.~~

④ OPERATION BUSHMASTER August 1967 (II Corps)

In support of the 2nd Infantry 25th Inf. Division during search and destroy operations in the immediate area of Dau Tieng and the MICHELIN Rubber Plantation

⑤ OPERATION KIL TONG HONG 7 July 1967 - 21 August 1967 (II Corps)

After the mortar attack at Dau Tieng on June 24, 1967 we were ordered to move to Phu Hiep/Tuy Hoa and became OPCON to the 10th Aviation Battalion. 29 of 31 Hueys received schrapnel damage and 70+ men were KIA during the mortar barrage. This operation was in support of the 9th Republic of Korea "WHITE HORSE" Division and the Capital Republic of Korea (ROK) "TIGER" Division during search and destroy operations. We lost 8 "SPIDER" crew members in a mid-air collision. 2 gunships - flying at night - terrible accident!

⑥ SONG BE OPERATION September/October 1967

This operation was in support of Detachment B-34, 5th Special Forces, and CIDG conducting various operations within their immediate A.O. around Song Be. (VERY HOT AREA) and border area ^{Cambodian} next to NUI BARA MT. The beginning of the rugged Annamese Mountain Range

Agent Orange Spraying
③
↓

⑦. **OPERATION RANCH HAND** 7th Air Force (III Corps & I Corps) 1967-1968
The Spiders ~~the~~ flew ^{close in} air cover for C 130s ~~during~~ the spraying both at Da Nang and up at LZ Sally. On two occasions we had over spray at Da Nang which has been documented. A few of our guys have complications today because of exposure during our tour of duty. We were all exposed to Agent Orange!

⑧ **OPERATION GAME WARDEN** Nov/DEC 1967 (III Corps)

We flew support for Navy Seal Team I during their operations out of and around NHA BE. ^{Robert} W.D. Watts a "Spider" pilot drowned during this operation (11/22/67) when his gun ship crashed after engine failure at Sandy Point

⑨ **"TET 68"** 31 JAN 68 - 18 FEB '68 (III Corps) (HEAVY FIGHTING 24HR CALL)

⑩ **OPERATION RESOLVED TO WIN** JAN/FEB 68 (III Corps)

in support of mop up operations and counter offensive after Tet in the Saigon/Bien Hoa/Hue Mon area

⑪ **OPERATION YELLOWSTONE** 8 DEC 67 - 24 FEB 68 74 days (III Corps)
1 DEC - 17 DEC 67 phase I phase II 26 DEC - 24 FEB 68

A 25th Inf. Division Operation along the Cambodian border in Northern Tay Ninh Province in War Zone "C". Largest Operation to date during the Vietnam War. 1,254 Known enemy casualties. (Very Hot Area)

⑫ **OPERATION SARATOGA** 8 DEC 67 - 11 March 68 (III Corps) 95 days

A 25th Inf. Division operation in southern Tay Ninh Province. West of Saigon and along the Cambodian Border (VERY HOT AREA) 3,862 Known enemy casualties.

Jack - you can take over from here, go for it Dick

(4)

(13) OPERATION "RAPID FIRE V"

TAY NINH EAST DEC/JAN '68

C.O. Bo ARIZ

In support of ^{5th} Special Forces Detachment B-36 V A-361 & A-362 along with Cambodians. This was a very hot area and we did POW snatches across the border into Cambodia in order to gather intelligence on enemy buildup prior to Tet. We lost 3 Hueys during this operation. (Jack - you may want to help out with some of this info) We were given the cherished Red White & blue scarfs by the Special Forces during this operation. (VERY HOT MISSION)

(14) OPERATION ATLANTA

Feb/March '68 III Corps

This was probably the last 2nd day operation that we were involved with before we headed North to L2 Sally. Search & destroy operations within our A.O. (I'll get specifics)

PLEK KLOK
KATUM
A-322 QIDG+

III Corps Battles

- A. Suoi BA - tactical em
- B. AP CHO - was being over
- C. TET '68 - just outside the NVA/VC had back from the

B-36 A-361
A-362

"BORT"

FREECAMBODIA -

we were going to the aid of Saigon where ambushed en route. A lot of casualties. Everyone has their own stories about this battle.

The 188th ceased operations in the III Corps A.O. on March 12, 1967

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III Corps Battles

A. Suoi BA

tactical emergency when Fire Support Base "BURT" was being overrun a lot of casualties

B. AP CHO

just outside Cu Chi around TET '68 the NVA/VC had concrete bunkers in place just back from the road. Reinforce units going to the aid of Saigon where ambushed en route. A lot of casualties. Everyone has their own stories about this battle.

C. TET '68

The 188th ceased operations in the III Corps A.O. on March 12, 1967

LZ Sally

The 188th AHC along with the 17th AHC & the 200th Assault Support Helicopter Co. made up the 308th Combat Aviation Battalion. We were based at LZ Sally along with the 2nd Brigade 101st Airborne Division. Our first assigned mission from the 101st Airborne Division was on March 16, 1968. Our unit had the distinction of flying the 308th Bn's first mission. The 188th became fully operational on April 4, 1968.

(15) **OPERATION CARENTAN I** ~~8 MARCH 1968 - 31 MARCH 1968~~ (I CORPS)

Continuing the fight for the area around Hue, the 101st teamed up with the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. The campaign was directed against insurgents in THUA THIEN province, north of Camp Eagle, the new forward base camp. It succeeded through a series of cordons and night ambushes. It also was charged with the responsibility of clearing Route 547 from Hue to Fire Base Bastogne 2,100 Known enemy KIA

(16) **OPERATION CARENTAN II** ~~1 APRIL 1968 - 17 MAY 1968~~ (I CORPS)

The new operation was conducted in the same area, northwest from the coastal plains; south from Hue; due west to the A Shau Valley. The mission of Carentan II was to continue driving hostile forces from the area around Hue, and to begin clearing operations toward the A Shau Valley for a possible future raid into that area.

(17) **"PRAIRIE FIRE" OPERATIONS**

I Corps
33KMS North of the DMZ and 33KMS West of the Laotian border - A.O.
The evacuation of KHAM DUC Special Forces Camp
TOP SECRET, cross border operations

(18) **OPERATION DELAWARE** 19 APRIL 1968 - 17 MAY 1968

aka what was termed "one of the 101st's toughest missions in Vietnam". The primary mission of Operation Delaware was to

(6)
(Operation Delaware/Lam Son 216) The main A.O was the A Shau Valley elements included 1st CAU, 101st ABN, 196th Inf. Brigade, 1st ARVN DIVISION, ARVN Task Force BRAVO. The A Shau Valley was an NVA sanctuary and logistical support Haven.

Provide a blocking force for the 1st Air Cavalry assault into the A Shau Valley and to interdict enemy supply routes along Highway 547 and 547A leading out of the valley toward Hue. The Brigade, with the 3rd ARVN Airborne Task Force, was to operate in the KAO NHO and KAO NAI valleys to establish Fire Base (FB) VEGHEL. (VERY HOT AREA). The Brigade succeeded in interdicting route 547, completely cutting off its use as a resupply route by enemy forces for another attack on Hue.

(19) **OPERATION NEVADA EAGLE** 17 MAY 1968 - 28 FEBRUARY 1969 (I Corps)
101st ABN. DIVISION

This was a 1st and 2nd Brigade mission. The VC and NVA in the area badly needed the rice from the upcoming harvest. Working in coordination with the district chiefs, the brigades protected the villagers as they harvested their spring rice. From May 17 to July 18 1968 325 tons of enemy hoarded rice was captured. Three miles southwest of VEGHEL a fleet of 54 enemy trucks was discovered and destroyed in place. (3,299 enemy KIA) Central THUA THIEN PROVINCE
1,017 enemy KIA

(20) **OPERATION ALLEN BROOK** 4 MAY 1968 - 24 AUG 1968 (I Corps)

OPERATION MAMELUKE THRUST 2,728 enemy KIA

OPERATION SWIFT SABER

1st Marine Division Operations around Da Nang

(21) **OPERATION EAGER YANKEE**

Support for the 3rd Marine Division

On July 1, 1968 the 188th AHC was inactivated and became "C" Company 101st Aviation Battalion, 101st Air Cav. Division.