

BLACKJACK FLIER

AD EXCELSUM CONAMUR

12TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, VIETNAM

1 NOVEMBER 1967

Is Shot xth Time

quent hospitalization, he exempt from signing the act for several days.

Holman has logged more 300 hours over Vietnam and received numerous medals is bravery and dedication y.

has received the purple has been twice awarded Army Commendation Medal alor, and has been twice led the Air Medal for

has received 25 Air Medals service on combat missions has been recommended for Bronze Star in addition to Silver Star.

a little over two years, in has proved himself to be dit to the US Army and to country. He entered the in July of 1965, attended Training at Fort Leonard, Missouri, Airborne Train FT Benning, Ga., and Aded Infantry Training at Ft son, S.C.

er his arrival in Vietnam in 1966, he served seven s with the 1st Cav. ion: October of 1966 he transfer to the 116th Assault Heli r Company. Holman is to rotate to the US in Feb of 1968 after completing months of combat duty.

Let Near \$10,000 r Two In Group

s with the Navy. He then ded he wanted to make a er of the Army. went through basic—for the

Dim Lights Might Mean Monkey Shines

BIEN HOA (145th Avn Bn 10)—Power failures are not uncommon occurrences at Bien Hoa Airbase, so no one suspected monkey business was afoot when the power failed recently in the maintenance area of the 118th Assault Helicopter Company.

The generators have been known to go out of their own accord at most inconvenient times in the past so only passing interest was caused by the power blackout.

An inspection of the generator area by 1SG John R. Huffman, 537th Transportation Detachment "topkick," revealed that monkey business had indeed been underfoot—or more correctly, over head.

1SG Huffman discovered that a small spider monkey had climbed atop the area generator and was happily swinging on the wires when he inadvertently shorted out the system by grabbing two of the wires simultaneously:

The jolt was not enough to kill the animal but just enough to keep him from letting loose of his tingling handholds. With a little help from the men of the 118th, the monkey was released from his perch and the power restored.

second time—in 1965 and was assigned as a fixed wing aircraft mechanic.

269th LIFTS ENTIRE BDE OF 25th DIV

CU CHI (269th Bn 1.0)—A classic example of an air Mobile operation at brigade level and one of the largest such operations to date was launched recently by the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion in conjunction with the 25th Infantry Division.

All three battalions of the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division were airlifted into a heavily wooded area five miles west of Go Da Ha near the Cambodian border to begin a massive search and seal operation. The entire force was moved in less than one and one-half hours.

The highly synchronized operation included the many pickup zones (PZ's) being operated expertly by the 269th "Black Barons" Pathfinder Detachment "Caveliers" who readied both troops and cargo for their airmobile delivery.

Due to the close proximity to the Cambodian border, the area was extensively "prepped" by heavy artillery strikes which preceded the numerous gunships' "prep" of the landing zones (LZ's) prior to the landing of the slicks.

Close, timely coordination between the ground commander and the air mission commander was essential to the success of the operation due to the enormous size of the air mobile force and the weather conditions which prevailed throughout the entire operation. Despite a ceiling of less than 1,000 feet, the multi-lift missions continued on schedule.

The 1/5 Mechanized Infantry, the 1/27 Infantry, and the 2/27 Infantry Battalions of the 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division were airlifted from three field locations near Trang Bang and Go Da Ha into six separate landing zones.

The operation, which called for precise, well planned and executed flights by the five assault helicopter companies involved, was conducted in five two-company flights and one one-company flight. On one occasion as many as 40 slick trooper-carrying helicopters made simultaneous landing in two different LZ's.

The air armada included the 116th "Hornets", the 187th "Black Hawks", the 188th "Black Widows", all from the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion "Black Barons."

The 173rd Assault Helicopter Company "Robin Hoods" and the 162d AHC "Vultures" from the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion also participated in the action under the operational

Continued on Page 8

Specialist Gets High For A Cool Re-enlistment

PHU LOI (11th Avn Bn 10)—SP6 Daivid E. Kealey, of Torrance, Calif., "got high" for his recent re-enlistment.

SP6 Kealey was sworn in by Maj George W. Adamson (Columbus, Ga.), commanding officer of the 213th Assault Support Helicopter Company "Black Cats" at an altitude of 11,240 feet.

First Sergeants William H. Timmerman, of the 213th, and Morris W. Squier, of the 329th T.C. Detachment witnessed the ceremony.

At 11,240 feet, the temperature dropped to 43 degrees.

"This is the first time I've really been cool since my arrival in Vietnam," said Kealy.

LZ, one enemy round came through the chin bubble of his aircraft and lodged in his leg.

"I knew I was hit," he said, "but I didn't know how badly."

He continued his mission and was evacuated for medical treatment only after he had flown another load of troops in the LZ where he was hit.



NEW 1ST BDE. CG-MG Robert R. Williams recently assumed command of the 1st Aviation Brigade, receiving the brigade colors from MG G. P. Seneff, Jr. (Photo by 222d IO)

DECORATIONS

SP5 DeRosett, Earl
SP5 Amaral, Matthew P.
SP5 Bay, Charles F.
SP5 McCormick, Thomas D.
SP5 Vaughn, Gerald E.
SP5 McLean, Roger D.
SP4 Browning, Richard
SP4 Upham, William D.
SP4 Sloan, Kenneth E.
SP4 Boaz, James C.
SP4 Holtz, Hohn
SP4 Deming, Russell A.
SP4 Selters, Larry D.
SP4 Wilburn, Gary
SP4 Riegleman, James
SP4 Willis, Troy J.
SP4 Doynor, Wilburn
SP4 Schnipke, Jerome O.
SP4 Vara, Ismael O.
SP4 Waldon, Jerry D.
PFC Wasco, Robert J.
PFC Charlon, Peter P.
MAJ Yonta, Robert W.
WO1 Carlmarks, Gary K.
SFC Busch, Robert W.
SP5 Miller, Moel C.
SP4 Beckwith, Richard E.
SP4 Emery, Leland P. Jr.
SP4 Morrison, Lawrence E.
PFC Barnes, Ray K.
PFC Poff, Stephen C.

PURPLE HEART

SP5 Barnes, Thomas C.
SP5 Allen, Michael T.
SP4 Mordue, Thomas W.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

CPT Kambrod, Matthew,
SFC Awrey, Michael F.
SSG Logan, Norman E.
SP5 Cannon, Johnny C.
SP5 Calhoun, William P.
SP4 Cummings, George E.
SP4 Murphree, Roger D.
SSG Barlow, Isaiah
PFC Loughery, Paul P.
CPT Steele, Rowland G.

SP5 Koliastasis, Pete
SP5 Betterton, Robert
SP5 Zabala, Pete
SP5 Strout, William
SP5 Palacios, Charles
SP5 Griner, John
SP4 Shepherd, Noah
SP4 Smiddy, Arther
SP4 Thompson, Samuel M.
SP4 Reddor, Albert C.
SP4 Surzinski, John
SP4 Schneider, Robert C.
SP4 Hartwick, Edward A.
SP4 Warr, James M.
SP4 Presley, Thomas
SP4 Kindred, Ronny K.
SP4 Moore, Wayne L.
SP4 Vite, Edward M.
SP4 Berchen, Robert
PFC Messina, Francis
PFC Reppas, Michael
PFC Diniro, Raymond
CPT McDavid, Donald G.
1SG Kurtz, Edwin H.
SP5 McGowan, Archinguq
SP4 Baxton, William E.
SP4 Brooks, Ivan L.
SP4 Lamarre, Robert G.
SP4 Zincio, Walter M.
PFC Gale, David C.

WO1 Cline, Arthur L.
SP4 Surzinski, John M.

CPT Bellamy, Mark L.
SFC Graves, Raymond L.
SGT Besler, Donald W.
SP5 Ohlson, Howard D.
SP5 Hildenbrand, David A.
SP4 Micale, Joseph
PFC Gibson, Ronald A.
SP4 McMillin, John D.
PFC Wilson, Jimmy L.
SP5 Lucia, Frederick J.

CONSTANT MAINTENANCE..... (Continued from Page 3)

of an assembly line process is lost.

Admitting these problems, but explaining that they are problems faced by any maintenance unit in a combat zone where

demands are always high, Sgt Didinger praised his men as "an outstanding PE Team. With all members capable of doing any portion of the inspection."

General Seneff during military careers. The first was in 1955 when he replaced Col Seneff as Chief of Airmobility Division, Office the Chief of Research and Development, Washington, D.C. second time was in 1966, when he replaced Brigadier Gen Seneff as Director of Army Aviation upon General Seneff's assignment to Vietnam.

A 1940 graduate of West Point, General Williams has been in Army Aviation since its inception. He was the first Army aviator to receive the Master Aviator Badge, and one of the first constructors of Army pilots from 1942-1944 in the Army Aviation Section of the Artillery School.

'Vultures' of Phuoc Vinh Go on 'Cold Turkey'

PHU LOI (11th Avn Bn 10) -- "Cold turkey" is slang for withdrawal from a habit or an addiction. A turkey shoot is something else. And when the "Vultures of Phuoc Vinh" go on a "Cold Turkey Shoot" in Vietnam that is something else again.

The 162d "Vultures of Phuoc Vinh" went on such a "Cold Turkey Shoot" recently as part

of an operation with elements of the 1st Infantry Division.

In 10 lifts, 70 passengers were flown from Song Be airstrip to several Special Forces camps in the area.

In a "Cold Turkey Shoot" operation a lift of civic action personnel, along with Chinook hauled artillery, is taken to each camp. The civic action personnel hold a MEDCAP in camp for the benefit of villagers while the artillery fires on positions in the area.

There was limited action during the operation when a "Copperhead" gunship rec-

269th Lift...

(Continued from Page 1) control of the "Black Barons."

Twenty gunships from the respective companies involved, besides preparing the many LZ's, helped seal the eastern and western boundaries of the large area with machine gun and rocket fire. The gun teams involved included the 116th AHC "Stingers", the 187th AHC "Rat Pack", the 188th AHC "Spiders", the 173rd AHC "Cross Bows" and the 162d AHC "Copperheads."

The 269th Combat Aviation Battalion smoke ship "Smoky Baron" covered for the approaching slicks by laying dense smoke screens in six of the landing zones. The heavier infantry equipment was later carried in by Chinook helicopters from the 205th Assault Support Helicopter Company "Geronimos" under the operational control of the "Black Barons."

The air mobile task force commander for the operation was COL Edwin W. Emerson, commanding officer of the 2d Brigade, 25th "Tropic Lightning" Division. The air mission commander was LTC James H. Merriman, commanding officer of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion.

BIEN HOA (145th Avn Bn 10) -- Ten members of the 334th Helicopter Company were awarded recently for their actions on August 20, when 95 VC were killed. MG George P. Seneff, Jr., presented the awards before 1,000 personnel in Vietnam and his post of commanding General of the 12th Combat Aviation Group.

CPT Willard E. Bainbridge, Magna, Utah, who led a fire support team into action which resulted in the VC being killed near Duong Nhieu, was awarded the Silver Star.

His pilot, MAJ Evans Guidroz, and Chief Warrant Officer Russell Rarkin received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medals with "V" for Valor. Warrant Officer S. Mitchess and Sp4 La Kalb, the Bronze Star with "V" for Valor, was awarded to Sp4 James H. Merriman, commanding officer of the 269th Combat Aviation Battalion.