

71st AHC - 14th AVN. BN.

UNIT HISTORY

The 71st Assault Helicopter Company was activated 15 October 1962 at Fort Knobbe, Canal Zone. The Company was assigned to the 193rd Light Infantry Brigade, where it remained until November 1963, the unit consisted of a Company Headquarters, two lift platoons and one service platoon.

On 1 November 1963, the 71st Aviation Company changed location from Ft. Kobbe to Ft. Clayton, Canal Zone with operational activities at Albrook Air Force Base.

The colors of the 71st were moved from Ft. Clayton to the Republic of Vietnam on 2 September 1966. At this time, "A" Company, 501st Aviation Battalion's personnel and equipment were transferred to the 71st.

On 1 September 1966, Company A, 501st, Avn Bn. was deactivated from service in Vietnam and Reactivated as the 71st Aviation Company.

Although the name was changed from "A" Co, 501st Aviation Battalion to 71st Aviation Company, the nick-names, Rattlers (Lift Ships) and Firebirds (Gunships), remained in use as they had since the 501st came to Vietnam.

The Rattlers have flown many major operations with some of the most noteworthy including Operation Cedar Falls, Operation Attalboro, and Operation Junction City. The Rattlers have flown missions in such noteworthy areas as War Zone C, the Iron Triangle, and Hobo Woods.

In early 1967, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade moved from Tay Ninh to participate in Task Force Oregon at Chu Lai in I Corps. On 18 April 1967, the 71st Aviation Company departed Bien Hoa for their new home at Chu Lai. The Rattlers came under the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion at this time and continued to give direct support to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

During the days following the Rattlers arrival, they found that the Chu Lai area was almost completely under the control of the Viet Cong. Whenever they flew, sniper fire was received.

The 71st Assault Helicopter Company has continued to give outstanding support to the Americal Division and its subordinate units. At the completion of the monsoon season in the early part of this year, the Rattlers gave helicopter support to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and attached units as they inserted into the western edges of the edges of the area of operations in search of a known North Vietnamese Army rear area and suspected POW camps. Thanks to many unselfish hours of carrying troops and resupply and outstanding gun cover from the Firebirds the operation was highly successful.

From 30 April to 10 June 1970, the Rattlers of the 71st discovered that the war in Vietnam is not yet over. Called the Battle of Hiep Duc, it was one of those operations that just happen as a large force of North Vietnamese and Viet Cong were discovered in their preparations to take several fire support bases in the Hiep Duc Valley. Many hours of courageous flying were accomplished as the Rattlers made emergency resupply, extraction, and medevac lifts. With the gun support of the Firebirds, the Rattlers completed all their missions with a loss of only three ships and minor wounds to a few aircrew personnel. An outstanding job considering Charlie had many .51 Caliber and .30 Caliber anti-aircraft positions dug into the area.

From 1 January 1970 to the beginning of July 1970, the Rattlers have participated in three large operations and several smaller operations in the Americal area of operations. The Rattlers have amassed 18,422 flight hours in a six month period. 59,445 Sorties have carried 85,201 passengers, 3,626 tons of cargo and 70 medevacs. The Firebirds have destroyed 253 structures in this period and received a confirmed 184 Viet Cong killed in action. It appears that the 71st Rattlers are heading for a record breaking year.

Presently the Rattlers are providing combat assault, resupply and aerial gunship support for troops of the Americal Division and the 6th ARVN Regiment operating in the Kham Duc area.

The 71st Assault Helicopter continues to provide outstanding support for the Americal Division and subordinate units and looks forward to continuing this policy in the future.



MYRON D. DAVIS
Major IN
Commanding



WHITNEY L. YOUNG
Cpt FA
Executive Officer





Maj. DAVIS - C.O.
Capt. YOUNG - X.O.
1SG HARRIS

16th AVN Gp
DB

14th AVN Bn
DB

H.K. HARRIS, JR.

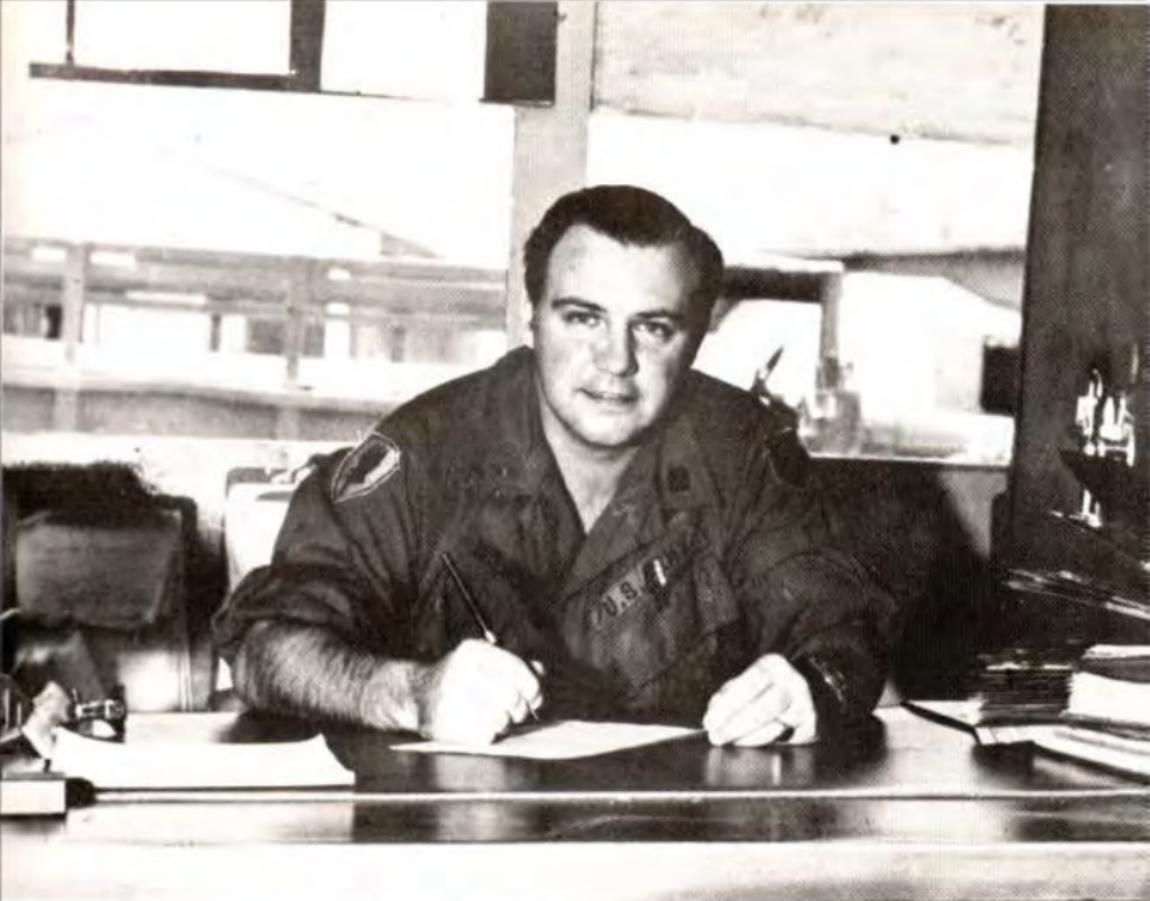
HARRY K. HARRIS
1SG E-8



SP4 GERALD E. MOORE - Company Clerk



SP4 WALTER L. MYRICK - Company Clerk



NATHAN J. WILONDEK
CW2 AV
Supply Officer





CHARLES CAMPBELL - Supply Clerk



TERRY P. CONNORS & JAMES D. LAVELLE
Supply Clerks



CHESTER GEORGE - Armorer



PFC BRUCE MARQUIS - Maint. Clerk



WO1 KENT S. GARRETT
Motor Pool Officer



SP5 RONALD L. BRADLEY - Mechanic



PFC RONNIE B. KING - Dispatcher
SP4 RAY C. HALL - Mechanic



SP4 Romero, SGT Anderson, SP5 Bradley
Mechanics



SP4 Robert H. Gibson -
Cook



SGT WILLIE L. MORRIS - Commo Sgt.



SFC Carter - Mess Steward

SFC McDermite - Asst. Mess Steward



SP4 Henley & SP5 Price
Cooks



SP4 Verheyen - Mechanic



SP6 Eule Penny - Cook



CPT MARSH - Operations Officer





SP4 ZAHARES - Operations Clerk



PFC JONES C.B.



SP5 DOYEA - Operations Clerk



CPT SIEŃKIEWICZ - Maintenance Officer



SFC McKEE - Plt. Sgt.



SP4 PARENT - Avionic's Clerk



SP4 Elwood & SP Frigger - Maint. Clerks



SP4 Talley - Electrician



SP4 Krebs - Avionics



SP4 Howard & SP4 Cousins
Maint

