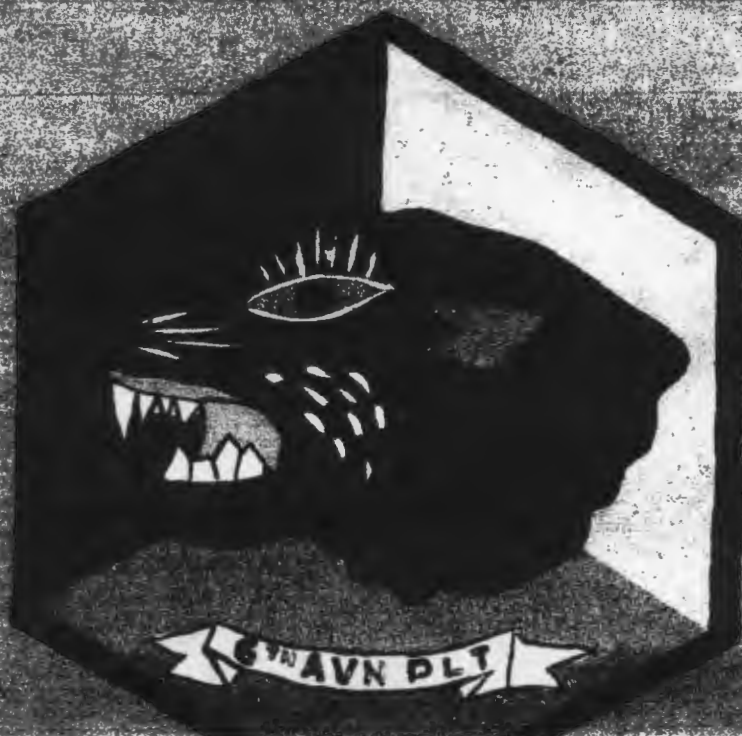


7 Aug - Dec 19

UNCLASSIFIED

HISTORY OF THE
6th AVIATION PLATOON (AIRLIFT)
7 AUGUST 1964 - 31 DECEMBER 1964



HISTORY OF THE
6th AIRLIFT PLATOON
19th AVIATION BATTALION

7 August 1964 - 31 December 1964

Prepared by
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Approved by


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Captain, AMV

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, VIETNAM
APO San Francisco 96304

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1. PHU-VINH:

On 3 August 1964, the Commanding General, Fort Riley, Kansas, was directed to activate two identical aviation units for ultimate shipment to the Republic of Vietnam.

One of these units, the 6th Aviation Platoon, was organized by General Order Number 101, Headquarters Fifth United States Army, dated 7 August 1964. (Appendix A).

On approximately 8 August 1964, a mandatory meeting of all 1st Aviation Battalion personnel was held by the commanding officer. At this meeting the battalion commander notified all personnel of the activation of aviation. Volunteers were then requested from within the battalion. The remainder of personnel were selected from A Company, 1st Aviation Battalion; B Company, 1st Aviation Battalion; and D Company, 701st Maintenance Battalion. The new 6th Aviation Platoon consisted of thirteen commissioned officers, nine warrant officers, and thirty-two enlisted. (Appendix B). All were under the command of Major Charles A. Little, 0799362.

Equipment was drawn under 202 T-778 dated 1963. (Appendix C). All aircraft F4U fell under the responsibility of Fort Consolidated Supply. Aircraft and motor vehicles were laterally transferred from within the 1st Aviation Battalion.

Platoon personnel worked without rest for approximately six days readying the equipment for overseas shipment. Also during this period, personnel within the unit received overseas physicals;

complete living quarters, and were afforded time to complete their personal affairs. On 12 August, a total of fourteen US - 1000 departed Fort Riley en route AFSS for shipment to England, California for overseas processing. The seven airplanes were to accompany the troops about the 1-100 to their final destination. The planes received the movement order on the 10th of August 1954. (Appendix C). At this time the units final destination was still unknown.

When the aircraft, vehicles, and engineer equipment were ordered away, the commanding officer of the 6th Flatoon authorized limited leave for all personnel. Leave status for most of the men started on the 15th of August. All personnel were to report back to Fort Riley not later than 6 September 1954. During the period of authorized leave for the planes the crew detachment shipped all authorized equipment with the reservation of motor vehicles.

II. OVERSEAS MOVEMENT:

The advance party consisting of two officers and one enlisted man departed CUSC for Vietnam on 5 September 1964. They were given the job of establishing necessary coordination prior to the platoon's arrival and to make contact with their still unknown parent unit.

On 9 September the first element of the main body was split into four convoys, the last convoy closing on 11 September. As each convoy reached Fuzhou AB they were immediately embarked on C-124 aircraft for the transfer overseas. The first of the C-124's arrived in Saigon, Vietnam on 14 September. Intermediate stops were made at Travis AFB, California; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Clark AFB in the Philippine Islands. By the 15th of September all vehicles and personnel had arrived in Saigon. Upon arrival they were met by members of the advance party and by a C-1 representative of the United States Army Support Command. All personnel were then given an incoming orientation and further informed that the platoon was to be assigned to the 17th (Felta) Aviation Battalion and attached to the 121st Aviation Company for actions and quarters. On the afternoon of the 15th of September, the platoon once again boarded aircraft. This time, Army SV-60's, with destination and first duty station in Chu Sang, Vietnam. Upon arrival in Chu Sang the unit received a warm welcome by members of the 121st Aviation Company. They were issued quarters and bedding for their first night in Vietnam.

III. MISSION PREPARATION:

The following day the 11th Aviation Commander assigned the unit the mission of aviation support for IV Corp Reconnaissance. This included support for 3rd Special Forces and HHCN (United States Over-land Mission).

The platoon was issued their aircraft on 19 September 1964. The units newly assigned aircraft differed in make from the original F4U. Originally they shipped seven OH - 13's and three U - 42's. While at Tan Uong the unit received eight OH - 13 (allies) and two OH - 13's (armed with the 2-1/2" 30 caliber system) and two U - 42's. The two armed aircraft and one ally were the only original aircraft retained from the First Riley shipment.

When the unit arrived in Vietnam there were seven officers that had no previous time in the OH - 13 aircraft. They were required to have a minimum of 25 flight hours of aircraft transitioning before becoming qualified. They were given a target date of 10 October to complete the transition and be combat mission ready. This training was placed on the 11th Aviation Company. This was accomplished by integrating the 6th Platoon into the 11th Aviation Company operational missions. During this training period the 11th engaged many major successes in combat assault operations. The 6th Platoon personnel were involved in all these operations as co-pilots on 11th aircraft. Training in all phases was completed on schedule and the unit was declared combat ready on 10 October. The unit then assumed its missions.

IV. PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED:

The following were the problems encountered a few problems that they quickly solved or adapted to with a positive attitude. One of these problems was the training of gunners for the armed ships. This was solved by on the job instruction given to the unit crew chiefs and other assigned qualified men within the platoon.

Another problem was the assigned aircraft came without armor plating and M-60 machine gun door mounts. It was not until late December before the platoon received armor plating and gun mounts for these aircraft. During this time the unit still performed its assignments. Also, the unit had no qualified personnel to perform maintenance of the A-1H system. The armed section, with the help of the 13th Aviation Company, trained themselves on the intricate mechanism.

Still another problem that enhanced the platoon was the fact that all of the personnel within the unit arrived in-country within a three day period of time making the BUNOC a consuming personnel problem. It was decided by the 13th Aviation Battalion that to overcome this problem some of the 6th Platoon officers would be transferred to other units within the battalion. The platoon was reorganized and eleven of the original officers were distributed within the companies of the battalion. (Appendix D).

V. PLATOON ASSIGNMENTS:

Soon after the Platoon's arrival plans were initiated for construction of a compound at Can Tho for Battalion Headquarters and the 6th Platoon. In the interim period the unit completed its mission by maintaining a rotary wing section consisting of three slicks with pilots and support personnel at Can Tho. The remaining personnel were quartered at Soc Trang until the plans and construction of the compound at Can Tho would be completed. Target date for the unit to close Can Tho was set for 1 May 1965.

Platoon Headquarters, maintenance and supply were all located at Soc Trang. A joint operations was set up with the 121st Aviation Company, with the exception of platoon headquarters and maintenance which were maintained separately. Close coordination and a fine working relationship was enjoyed between the 6th and 121st. Both units were short of personnel but with the outstanding relationship between units they were able to mutually support each other and carry out their missions in a superior manner.

The armed section of the platoon, under the able supervision of Capt Larry Oliver, quickly developed into an outstanding and respected fire unit. The M41s were used in general support of all combat operations in IV Corps. The section, usually directed by a fire team from one of the armed platoons, then making target attacks with the M41s aircraft, occasionally operated independently when the tactical situation dictated. One of these tactical support

situations arose on a combat assault operation out of Da Nang in the 21st Division area. All the armed ships expending their ammo left their station to rearm and refuel. The A-14 section remained on target. During the absence of the armed ships, the ground units were pinned down by heavy automatic weapons fire. The ground commander requested fire support from Capt Terry Oliver and his A-14 section. With complete disregard for anything except the desperate need of the ground forces, Capt Oliver's aircraft delivered three suppressive fire attacks on the heavily infested VC position. The ground commander credited Capt Oliver's swift action as saving many lives within his unit and the destruction of a reinforced VC platoon. After the A-14 strikes, the ground commander reported moving through the objective area without opposition and picking up many individual and crew served weapons. The commanding officer recommended Capt Oliver for the Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic and timely action.

Capt Oliver's section, consisting of Lt Gary Steele, WO Reese and WO Harvey Carr, deserved special recognition for their action during this highly successful operation. Over 100 VC were counted dead and many weapons captured during this operation.

On 27 November 1964, Major Lisme and Capt Oliver were reassigned to 13th Battalion Headquarters. Capt Billy J. Ward assumed command of the 6th Aviation Platoon (Airlift).

During the month of December, the unit continued its outstanding support of IV Corps. In addition to normal command and liaison type

missions the platoon participated actively in an average of three combat assault operations a week. During this period the platoon maintained eight mission ready helicopters out of ten assigned. This outstanding support was achieved through the dedicated efforts of the maintenance personnel. They worked day and night in order to keep the aircraft mission ready to meet mission commitments. A high tribute to their professional ability and competence was highlighted when an outpost was under attack and the 50 caliber ships were needed. The tail rotors of both aircraft were damaged during the operation. The damage was found on landing and both tail rotors changed and aircraft were mission ready to continue the operation in thirty minutes. Such outstanding professional ability and dedication contributed greatly to the units achievements.

Another accomplishment was the completion of a periodic inspection in one night in order to meet a combat assault requirement at 0600 hours the following morning. Lt Frank Weidinger's maintenance personnel continually made the impossible seem routine. His section was the heart of the units accomplishments.

The M-14 50 caliber ships had another day of glory during December 1964. All available 13th Aviation armed platoons were in support of ground forces at Vi Tanh. During this operation a relief convoy of vehicles was ambushed by the VC. The VC were in control of the convoy and were in the process of destroying the vehicles when the 50 caliber ships were called on for support. The armed section lead by Capt Billy L. Ward immediately proceeded to the area and engaged the VC. Ground units counted thirty-one VC dead along the

road following the 50 caliber ships strikes. The quick reaction of the M-14 ships completely routed the VC ambush and saved many military vehicles and much equipment.

VI. CONCLUSIONS:

These and other "routine" missions were a constant requirement throughout the remaining days of the year 1964. The unit never failed to place the mission first, over and above all other commitments. The long working hours sustained by every member of the unit will be a challenging effort to surpass in the units future operations.

APPENDIX:

- A. GENERAL ORDER NUMBER 101**
- B. FLATON ROYER, 15 AUGUST 1964**
- C. JEFFERSON ORDER NUMBER 33**
- D. FLATON ROYER, 31 DECEMBER 1964**

GENERAL ORDERS
NUMBER 101

HEADQUARTERS, FIFTH UNITED STATES ARMY
Chicago, Illinois 60615, 7 August 1964

ACTIVATION OF CERTAIN FIFTH UNITED STATES ARMY UNITS

1. TC 001. Following Fifth United States Army Strategic Army Forces units ACTIVATED.

TPSN	UNIT	TOE	STATION	PRIORITY STATUS
35195	28th Signal Detachment (Radio Repair) (Avion)	11-500D, 62 w/C 4 (300-26) (SRG 11-500D 1501) Team: RL Br MOS Code Grade Para Line No Plus: SC 64415 Lt	Fort Riley, Kansas	D1 (2.08) Signal Maintenance Officer

Aviation Platoon (Airlift):

1-77E, 63
To consist of the following only:

6th

Fort Riley, Kansas D1
(2.08)

7th

Fort Riley, Kansas D1
(2.08)

Br	MOS Code	Grade	Para	Line	No	Remarks
HO	Section					
AM	1983	Capt	08			1 Plat Comdr
NC	67370	E-7	08			1 Plat Sgt
	90710	E-5	08			1 Sr Plt Op Sp
	71120	E-4	08			1 Clk Typist
	90710	E-4	08			1 Plt Op Sp
	67000	E-3	08			1 Lt Trk Ervr

Br	MOS Code	Grade	Para	Line	No	Remarks
Acft Maint Sec						
	6710	WO	03			1 Acft Maint Tech
NC	67940	E-6	03			1 Acft Tech Insp
	67560	E-6	03			1 Maint Supv
	67950	E-6	03			1 Hel Tech Insp
	67320	E-5	03			2 Sr Util Hel Mech
	67110	E-5	03			1 Sr Single Eng Acft Mech
	67110	E-4	03			1 Single Eng Acft Mech
	60510	E-4	03			1 Crash Rescue Sp

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APPENDIX A

PSN

UNIT

TOE

STATION

PRIORITY
STATUS

Br MOS Code	Grade	Para	Line No	Remarks
<u>Acft Maint Sec (Cont)</u>				
67520	E-4	09	2	Util Hel Mech
71120	E-4	09	1	Clerk Typist
76610	E-4	09	1	Acft Parts Sp
67000	E-3	09	2	Util Hel Mech Hlpr
67000	E-3	09	3	Aflt Svc Crmn

Br MOS Code	Grade	Para	Line No	Remarks
<u>Airlift Section (RW)</u>				
AM 1981	Capt	10	1	Sec Comdr
0628	WO	10	1	Util Hel Pilot
67520	E-5	10	2	Crew Chief

Br MOS Code	Grade	Para	Line No	Remarks
<u>Airlift Section (RW)</u>				
AM 1980	LT	11	1	Section Comdr
0618	WO	11	5	Utility Acft Pilot Single Eng
67110	E-5	11	3	Util Airplane Cr Chief

Equipment Augmentation

Line Item No	Description	Amount
229910	Ext Fire Carbon Diox Charged Hand 15 lb	2
401088	Bayonet Knife with Scabbard	6
429280	Pistol Automatic cal .45	1
435964	Rifle 7.62mm Semiautomatic	5
475110	Trailer Amphibious Cargo 1/4-Ton 2-Wheel	1
457190	Trailer, Cargo 3/4-Ton 2-Wheel	1
461790	Truck Utility 1/4-Ton 4 x 4	1
460050	Truck Cargo 3/4-Ton 4 x 4	1
529100	Goggles Sun 2 Plastic Lenses 1 Colorless 1 Polarized Green	2
541075	Paulin Ctn Duck FFWR OD 12 Ft Lg 12 Ft W	1
565600	Tent Command Post FFWR with Cover Liner Pins and Poles	1

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Line Item No	Description	Amount
649104	Radio Sec AN/VRC-10 Mt'd In Truck 1/4-Ton	1
649804	Radio Sec AN/VRC-10 Mt'd In Truck 3/4-Ton	1
678260	Telephone Set TA-212/TC	1
712730	Computer Air Navigation Dead Reckoning Ty MB-4	1
744650	Lift Preserver Set Vest Mark 2	1
763200	Plotter Acft Scale 1/500000 Asb 1/100000	1
(Acft Maint Sec)		
232542	Filter Separator Liq Fuel 50 GPM 75 PSI	2
229910	Ext Fire Carbon Diox Charged Hand 15 lb	2
401088	Bayonet Knife W/Sabbard for 7.62mm Rifle	20
428279	Pistol Automatic .45	19
435965	Rifle 7.62 Semiautomatic Lt Barrel	19
447110	Trailer Amphibious Cargo 1/4-Ton 2-Wheel	1
457190	Trailer Cargo 3/4-Ton 2-Wheel	2
457220	Trailer Cargo 1 1/2-Ton 2-Wheel	1
460080	Truck Cargo 3/4-Ton 4 x 4 W/Wa SF	2
460140	Truck Cargo 2 1/2-Ton 6 x 6 W/W	1
461328	Truck Tank Fuel Servicing 2 1/2- Ton 6 x 6	2
461799	Truck Utility 1/4-Ton 4 x 4	1
4607681	Cabinet Tool and Spare Parts 39H 46 3/4W 23 9/16 In D	1
510320	Case Field Office Machine 18 1/2- 22 1/2 26 1/2 or 34 1/2 L ID	1
519800	Dispensing Pump Hand Driver Gas- oline 12 Gal Per 100 Rev	1
524300	File Visible Index Book Metal 40 to 120 Pockets	1
529100	Goggles Sun 2 Plastic Lenses 1 Colorless 1 Polarized Green	15
541075	Paulin Ctn Duck PMAH OD 17 Ft Lg 12 Ft W	4
567480	Repair Kit Tentage	1
588495	Tent Maint Frame Type with Light Frame Pins	1

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Line Item No.	Description	Amount
576310	Table Folding Legs Wood Solid Top Wood Legs 36 L 24 W 27 25/32 H	3
575900	Typewriter Nonptbl 11 or 12 in. Elite Rica or Bulletin type	1
678260	Telephone Set TA-312/Pt	1
784030	Tool Kit Aircraft Inspection Technical	2
785240	Tool Kit Organizational Maintenance Army Aircraft Set 5	1
5636113	Parachute Personnel Back 28 Ft Dlx Canopy	18
784040	Tool Kit Aircraft Mechanics General	10
Callift Sec (RW)) 732941	Flashlight Plastic Baton Ty 2 Cell Miniature Glange Lamp Water Proof	4
W01088	Bayonet Knife with Scabbard for 7.62mm Rifle	21
429280	Pistol Automatic Cal .45	14
435965	Rifle 7.62mm Semiautomatic Lt Barrel	7
529100	Goggles Sun 2 Plastic Lens 1 Colorless 1 Polarized Green	7
638600	Radio Set AN/URC-2	7
712730	Computer Air Navigation Dead Reckoning Type MH-4	14
732600	Helicopter Utility Tactical Transport	7
744650	Life Preserver Set Vest Mark 2	28
744420	Life Preserver Under Arm Parachutist Gas or Oral Inflation B-7	56
763200	Plotter Acft Scale 1/500000 & 1/1000000	14
784040	Tool Kit Aircraft Mechanics General	7
Callift Sec (FW)) 732941	Flashlight Plastic Baton Ty 2 Cell Miniature Glange Lamp Water Proof	4
401088	Bayonet Knife with Scabbard for 7.62mm Rifle	9
429280	Pistol Automatic Cal .45	6
435965	Rifle 7.62mm Semiautomatic Lt Barrel	3

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Line Item No Description

529100	Goggles, Sun 2 Plastic Lens 1 Colorless 1 Polarized Green	
638600	Radio Set AN/URC-10	1
700950	Airplane Utility	2
712730	Computer Air Navigation Dead Reckoning Type MB-4	6
744650	Life Preserver Set Vest Mark 2	6
744420	Life Preserver Under Arm Parachute Gas or Oral Inflation B-7	12
763200	Plotter Aircraft Scale 1 to 5000000 and 1 to 10000000	6

Assigned to: Fifth United States Army and further assigned to head-
quarters of station indicated.

Effective date: 7 August 1964.

Authorized Strength:

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>WARRANT OFFICERS</u>	<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>
28th Signal Detachment	1	0	6
6th Aviation Platoon	3	19	32
7th Aviation Platoon	3	19	32

Equipment: See message, DA 981255, 6 August 1964.

Personnel: See message, DA 981255, 6 August 1964.

Morning Reports: Initial and subsequent Morning Reports for above
units will be prepared and submitted in accord-
ance with Army Regulations 335-60.

Mission: In accordance with table of organization and equipment
indicated above.

Fund obligation: In accordance with current fiscal procedures.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

OFFICIAL:

GEORGE M. JONES
Brigadier General, GS
Chief of Staff

B. E. BRIDGECOCK

B. E. BRIDGECOCK
Colonel, AGC
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

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**6th AIRLIFT PLATOON
13th AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96296**

SUBJECT: Platoon Roster

15 August 1964

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
LIGNA, Charles A	Major	0995562
CATTON, Robert L	Capt	05501453
DE BONVILLE, Curtis R	Capt	088042
MURLEY, Paul L	Capt	01915959
OLIVER, Robert	Capt	086593
WILLIAMS, William H	Capt	0226590
CAMPBELL, Paul M	1st Lt	02304549
FRENCH, George D Jr	1st Lt	05306407
HARRINGTON, Lawrence	1st Lt	05513500
READINGER, Frank M	1st Lt	05414110
STEEL, Gary L	1st Lt	05315887
BELLAMY, Mark L	2nd Lt	05406128
ROMER, Michael H	2nd Lt	05217884
FERDIAN, Ferdinand A	WO-1	W3151757
FLOWERS, Thomas	WO-1	W3151656
ELIAS, Richard B	WO-1	W3151791
SAMPSON, Thomas A	WO-1	W3151803
SCHMIDT, John H	WO-1	W3151804
WAGONER, Bruce E	WO-1	W3151812
WELFARE, Bradley L	WO-1	W3151813

APPENDIX B

SUBJECT: Platoon Master

15 August 1964

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
WHITE, Ronald L	WO-W1	W3151125
PEREZ, Angela A	SFC E-7	RA 27 081 948
DORAN, Wilson Jr	SFC E-6	RA 43 007 099
LAFFERTY, Tom	SFC E-6	RA 35 653 619
REED, Jack D	SP6 E-6	RA 16 495 311
COLLINS, William B	SP5 E-5	RA 18 381 163
TAYLOR, William S	SP5 E-5	RA 16 756 067
ALLEN, Louis A	SP4 E-4	RA 16 722 865
BARIL, William C	SP4 E-4	RA 16 758 908
BALZANI, Richard J	SP4 E-4	US 55 336 174
OOK, Daniel T	SP4 E-4	RA 14 788 547
FLITS, John H	SP4 E-4	RA 13 758 544
POWERS, Thomas M Jr	SP4 E-4	RA 12 663 487
RATENUEK, Dale J	SP4 E-4	US 55 799 867
ABYO, Alec Jr	PFC E-3	US 50 202 255
BANFIELD, John H	PFC E-3	RA 19 748 364
CANTU, Emil J	PFC E-3	US 55 768 800
BRVENS, Phillip J	PFC E-3	US 55 727 138
EMERY, Leonard C	PFC E-3	US 55 759 470
PORTEROT, David W.	PFC E-3	RA 19 778 496
ACER, Albert J	PFC E-3	US 54 338 208
LANFORD, Warren D	PFC E-3	US 52 585 926
LAWRENCE, George R	PFC E-3	US 55 759 468

**6th AIRLIFT PLATOON
13th AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96296**

SUBJECT: Platoon Roster

15 August 1964

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
LICHA, Charles A	Major	0995562
CATRON, Robert L	Capt	05501453
DA SONVILLE, Curtis R	Capt	088042
MURLEY, Paul L	Capt	01915959
OLIVER, Robert	Capt	086593
WILLIAMS, William H	Capt	0226590
CAMPBELL, Paul M	1st Lt	02304549
FRENCH, George D Jr	1st Lt	05306407
HARRINGTON, Lawrence	1st Lt	05513500
READINGER, Frank M	1st Lt	05414110
STEEL, Gary L	1st Lt	05315887
BELLAMY, Mark L	2nd Lt	05406128
ROMER, Michael M	2nd Lt	05217884
INTSMANN, Ferdinand A	WO-W1	W3151757
ILOWIECKI, Thomas	WO-W1	W3151656
NILES, Richard B	WO-W1	W3151791
SAMUELS, Thomas A	WO-W1	W3151803
SCHMIDT, John M	WO-W1	W3151804
WAGNER, Bruce E	WO-W1	W3151812
WELFARE, Bradley L	WO-W1	W3151813

APPENDIX B

SUBJECT: Platoon Hester

15 August 1964

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SERIAL NUMBER</u>
WHITE, Ronald L	WO-W1	W3151125
PEREZ, Angela A	SFC E-7	RA 27 081 948
DORAN, Wilson Jr	S3S E-6	RA 43 007 099
LAFFERTY, Tom	S3S E-6	RA 35 653 619
REED, Jack D	SP6 E-6	RA 16 495 311
COLLINS, William D	SP5 E-5	RA 18 381 163
TAYLOR, William S	SP5 E-5	RA 16 736 067
ALLEN, Louis A	SP4 E-4	RA 16 722 865
BARIL, William O	SP4 E-4	RA 16 758 988
BAGZANI, Richard J	SP4 E-4	US 55 336 174
COX, Daniel T	SP4 E-4	RA 14 788 547
FLITE, John H	SP4 E-4	RA 13 758 544
POWERS, Thomas E Jr	SP4 E-4	RA 12 663 487
RATERINK, Dale J	SP4 E-4	US 55 759 867
ABYU, Alec Jr	PFC E-3	US 50 202 255
BARFIELD, John H	PFC E-3	RA 19 748 364
CANTU, Emil J	PFC E-3	US 55 768 800
DEVENS, Phillip J	PFC E-3	US 55 727 138
EMERY, Leonard C	PFC E-3	US 55 759 470
PORTER, David W.	PFC E-3	RA 19 778 496
KOGLER, Albert J	PFC E-3	US 54 338 208
LANFORD, Warren D	PFC E-3	US 52 585 926
LAWRENCE, George R	PFC E-3	US 55 759 468

6th Aviation Platoon

(Airlift)...



First Patch of 6th Plt
6th Plt

Second patch of

The 6th Aviation Platoon (Airlift), "Fangs" was activated at Ft Riley, Kansas and arrived in Tan Son Nhut, RVN in September 1964. Initially assigned to the 13th Aviation Battalion, the unit was attached to the 121st Aviation Company for initial train up. After the unit was declared Combat Ready it was assigned the mission of supporting IV Corps HQ and the 5th SFG (ABN). The unit was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation in December of 1964. In early 1965 the 6th Aviation Platoon (Airlift) was moved to the I Corps Tactical Zone where it joined up with its sister unit, the 7th Aviation Platoon (Airlift) when it was assigned to the I Corps Aviation Company (Provisional). After a short but illustrious stint in I Corps the unit was moved south to Tan Son Nhut and then to Bien Hoa. In early 1966 was combined with the 145th Aviation Platoon (Airlift) to form the 2nd Platoon, 171st Aviation Company in Nha Trang. The mission was to provide support to 5th SFG (ABN), Detachment B-52, Project Delta and other assets of the 5th SFG (ABN). In July of 1966 the 2/171st was absorbed by the 281st Aviation Company (AML). For a more detailed date by date chronology of the events surrounding the history of the 6th Aviation Platoon (Airlift) see the [281st Chronological History](#) on this website. We

have been able to find a copy of the 1964 Unit History for the 6th Aviation Platoon (Airlift), it is presented in Adobe format: [1964 6th Aviation Platoon History](#)



