

Bob Greene

From: Donald Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2020 3:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Another Tiger Has Passed

Bob,

Another story rolled up for me. It was late November 1967 and we had been doing C&L missions out of Can Tho. We were scheduled to return to Soc Trang at about 1600 and I was looking forward to a hot shower, a meal in the mess hall and getting to bed before 2200. Alan Hull came out of Operations and told me that he had extended us. I was a bit perturbed, to say the least. A couple of weapons carriers came out to the ramp and ARVN soldiers started climbing out of them and into our helicopter. There was an American SFC with them. Mr. Hull told me to tell them that they all had to be sitting down before he would take off. A couple climbed off, but we still had 17 ARVN's and the SFC, all fully combat loaded with ammo and weapons. Mr. Hull hovered out to the end of the runway and started a takeoff run. We got translational lift by the time we reached the end of the runway, but we fluttered along at treetop height a long way before we gained any altitude. This is another time that I wonder how he got it stopped at our destination.

The main reason that I was put out by being extended is that I flew over 250 hours that month, and pulled 10 intermediate inspections. The hangar had a 24 hour turn around for a Periodic Inspection at that time, and our good Tech Inspectors, id est SFC Mack and SSG White, had been replaced with some NCOs who had just completed training as tech inspectors. You had to watch those guys like a hawk and I was frequently finding things that had not been fixed in the Periodic Inspection. Also, we did not have many long term people in the hangar at that time, mostly inexperienced people who had been drafted six months before and did not want to be in the Army, let alone in Viet Nam. Lowell Eneix once told me that Major Miller would have aircraft put on the flight line with known defects to get high availability and let the crew chief catch it - if he did, it would be fixed by the line crew and the Aircraft listed as available to fly missions. Anyway, sleep was hard to come by in those days.

Don

—Original Message—

From: Bob Greene [REDACTED]
To: 'Donald Jackson' [REDACTED]
Sent: Thu, Aug 13, 2020 1:51 pm
Subject: RE: Another Tiger Has Passed