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APRIL 25, 1989

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DEAR MIKE,

IN REFERENCE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION IN THE MARCH 1989 NEWSLETTER MAYBE I CAN BE OF SOME ASSISTANCE ON THE ARTILLERY QUESTIONS AS FAR AS THE FIRST CAVALRY IS CONCERNED. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS A DIRECT QUOTE FROM THE INTERIM REPORT OF OPERATIONS FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION JULY 1965 TO DECEMBER 1966.

THE DIVISION ARTILLERY HAS THREE 105MM DIRECT SUPPORT HOWITZER BATTALIONS: THE 2/19 ARTY, THE 1/21 ARTY, AND THE 1/77 ARTY. EACH IS EQUIPPED WITH THE LIGHTWEIGHT M 102, 105MM HOWITZER, AND IS UNIQUE IN THAT THERE ARE NO PRIME MOVERS ASSIGNED FOR HOWITZERS. RATHER, THEY DEPEND ON THE CH-47 CHINOOK OF THE 11TH AVIATION GROUP. WHERE OTHER DIVISIONS HAVE A MEDIUM ARTILLERY BATTALION, THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE) ARTILLERY HAS AN AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY BATTALION (2/20 ARA), THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD. THIRTY-SIX OF ITS 39 UH-1 HELICOPTERS ARE ARMED WITH A PAIR OF 24 TUBE 2.75" ROCKET LAUNCHERS. THE REMAINING THREE ARE COMMAND AND CONTROL SHIPS. THE DIVISION ARTILLERY ALSO SPORTS THE ONLY ARTILLERY BATTERY IN THE WORLD (E BATTERY 82ND FIELD ARTILLERY) WITHOUT ORGANIC ARTILLERY WEAPONS --- THIS BATTERY PROVIDES AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE, AERIAL ADJUSTMENT OF ARTILLERY FIRE AND COMMAND LIAISON.

I FLEW AS A HELICOPTER PILOT FOR E BATTERY IN 1967-68. AFTER SOME INITIAL TRAINING IN COUNTRY THE PILOTS USUALLY DID THE ARTILLERY ADJUSTMENT. NOT ONLY DID WE FIRE THE CAV TUBES BUT ALSO ATTACHED 155MM HOWITZERS, 8" GUNS AND THE 175MM LONG TUBES. ON OCCASION WE WERE EVEN CALLED UPON TO ADJUST U.S. AND AUSSIE NAVAL GUNFIRE, USUALLY 5" GUNS OR ROCKET BARRAGES. THE PILOT AND HELICOPTER LIVED ON THE LZ WITH THE ARTILLERY BATTALION. AS AN EXAMPLE I SPENT A GREAT AMOUNT OF TIME AT LZ UPLIFT ATTACHED TO THE 1/77 ARTY WHILE E BATTERY LIVED AT LZ TWO BITS (BONG SON) NEXT DOOR TO DIVARTY FIELD HEADQUARTERS.

FINALLY, AS BEST I CAN RECALL, WE HAD 6 SCOUT SHIPS ,1 UH1-C, AND ABOUT 3 BIRD DOGS, YEAH THOSE ARE AIRPLANES AND THEY WERE USED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, AT NIGHT ON COUNTER MORTAR PATROL.

I HOPE THIS INFOMATION IS OF USE TO YOU.

SINCERELY YOURS,


GEORGE GREEN

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