

Mike Law

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, June 21, 1998 9:26 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Army Aviation B.C. (Before Cav)

Hi Mike,

Thought you might be interested in this note.

Gary

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<excerpt>Return-Path:  
Reply-To:  
From: "billy and lois hampton"  
To:  
Subject: Army Aviation B.C. (Before Cav)  
Date: Sun, 21 Jun 1998 21:41:58 -0500  
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal

<fontfamily><param>Arial</param><bigger>Gary,

Just a few lines to bring to the attention of the organization that there was Army Aviation in Viet Nam (B.C.) Before the 1st Cav. arrived in 1965.

When I arrived in Sept.1964, with the 62nd Avn. there were already several units in place. the following list is of units that I am aware of:

145th Bn in Siagon

U.T.T. (later 197th then 334th)

120th AHC "Deans"

13th Aviation Bn.In Can Tho

114th AHC --Vinh Long

62nd AHC (later the 175th)--Vinh Long

121st AHC--Soc Trang

82nd Med Det.--Soc Trang

A Co. 101st Avn. Bn. (later 336th AHC)--Soc Trang

A CH 37 recovery unit at Vung Tau(don't remember designation)

Info removed by VNCA

There were two CH-21 units that were in place prior to the huey units arriving(except UTT). One

of the units (Soc Trang) took heavy casualties at a place called Ap Boc in late 63 or early 64..

There may have been other units in country before the cav that I did not know about or have forgotten about. There were also several firsts that happened that I am aware of that have gotten little attention. The following list is correct to the best of my knowledge:

First helicopter pilot to break 1000 combat hours--Lt. Ernie Sylvester--82nd Med

First UH-1D to have an emergency and land in country--CWO Jim Church--Soc Trang 1965--arrival of "A" 101 at Soc Trang

First UH1D used on a combat assault--CWO Billy Hampton ( Co-pilot unknown) Also first night combat assault in Nam into Hai Yen south of Camau--Soc Trang 1965

First capture of an AK-47 and Chicom rifle in Nam--Dec 28, 1964--at the horseshoe north of Soc Trang.--UTT--114th--121st.

First All American Force operation--Special Forces-114th Avn.--121st Avn--Early December 1964--Attempted rescue of Lt./Maj. Nicholas Rowe

There were numerous other operations. Obviously I cannot remember them all. There may have been other units that I do not remember since I did not get north of Saigon on that tour.

I know that the units that I was assigned to were awarded the Presidential unit citation with 1 oak leaf cluster, Valorous Unit award, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and many individual awards.

Since you are in charge of records and data base please try to get more information published about the early years B.C. I do not care for this letter being published. I would just like to see more about the early years.

Thanks

Bill Hampto

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