

Mike Law

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 18, 1998 8:01 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: H000012f00134156

Mike:

I served as the battalion ammo officer and occasionally as an artillery FO for the 6th Bn, 32nd Arty, and 7th Bn, 15th Arty, in 1967-68. Both outfits were 8"/175mm, self-propelled, general support artillery, meaning that we sent our batteries anywhere that there was a major operation, often by barge, between Phan Thiet and the DMZ. That also means that unlike 105mm or 155mm artillery, our equipment and ammo were too heavy to move or resupply by air. Ammo was my job, frequently over roads that were normally bypassed by aerial resupply. But everybody has chopper stories ..., here's four of 'em:

- 1) On a rare occasion when I had a Chinook, we were lifting ammo between Tuy Hoa on the central coast and our battery position at Dong Tre Special Forces Camp, about 40 miles away in the mountains. I was on my belly watching the sling, and saw one of our 200 lb rounds slip through the net and fall in the sand dunes on the outskirts of Tuy Hoa. On return, my driver and I jumped in my jeep, raced up and dug the round out of the sand. The usual 20 kids had gathered around and ran like hell when we pulled the unfused projo out of the sand;
- 2) I was able to watch the Christmas 1967 Bob Hope show at Phu Cat Air Base. A Chinook was ferrying in troops from LZ English and crashed ... the blades had sliced the Chinook end-to-end, through the masking tape MERRY X-MAS, and killed several of the troops. The show went on ... I wondered if anyone had told Bob Hope;
- 3) I was always amazed by one Huey pilot who managed to fly back to LZ Uplift in early 1967. The front end, his blades, and the main mast were full of holes. The pilot and co-pilot were badly wounded ... you just never knew if they lived or died;
- 4) My last observation is that chopper pilots always ate steak ... how did that happen?

Enclosed is a photo taken from my "office" on Highway 1, along the central coast. The road here was one of the best that we would use.

Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, September 18, 1998 7:23 AM
Subject: H000012f00134156

>Dave, I received your "Tet-68 in Tuy Hoa" message via Gary Roush. I
>maintain the HISTORY and BATTLE databases that house the information
>you saw. I updated the "Tet-68 in Tuy Hoa" record based on your input
>and THANK YOU for taking the time to provide that information.

>
>I hope you might have some Vietnam helicopter related stories or
>details that could be added to our databases. You mentioned you were
>an artilleryman - fine. Artillery needed and received a lot of
>helicopter support that is well worth documenting. Does anything stand
>out in your mind? An emergency resupply in poor weather - a helicopter
>that crashed on your FSB - a medevac - even just a routine trip back to
>basecamp. Clearly if someone died related to a helicopter, that is
>significant to us. In general I have this rule "If it is important in
>your mind, then I believe it is worthy of being recorded."

>
>Looking forward to hearing from you. [REDACTED] (days)

