

179th Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter)

The company was established in September of 1966. It moved to Vietnam in November of 1966, and arrived at Pleiku in December of 1966. From that time one, the unit has established records of achievement that would make any Aviation Company proud.

Being the only CH-47 Chinook Company in the Central Highlands, the 179th has been instrumental in all of the major offensive operations in the II Corps area. There were an average of four major assaults a year supported by the "Shrimpboat" company. The "Shrimpboat" operated as far south as the area of Ban Me Thout. It was involved in the operations at Vu Prang, assisting in the rescue work and support of the infantry and artillery units and in the north, Ben Het, Doc Seiang, and Doc Pek, where there was bitter fighting. It was a "SHRIMPBOAT" aircraft that first crossed into Cambodia for the initial assault in that country. Tons of food and weapons were flown back and turned over to the Vietnamese by the company. The unit worked many long hours, re-supplying the fire support bases in support of the operation.

The company has a safety record second to none. The Chinook company had over twenty safe flying months and over 16,000 hours without accident. While it was not out to set records, the professional attitude displayed in its operations and fulfilling its missions to the units in the II Corps area was its main objective.

The 179th was the first company to be supplied with all "C" model Chinooks. This requirement had to be met because of the Higher Density Altitude in the Central Highlands.

179th ASHC

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