

June 7, 1995

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Mike LAW

I got this picture in the summer of 1987, when the action officer for scout helicopters in the Aviation Directorate, Secretary of the Army, Research, Development and Acquisition(SARDA) was in the act of throwing it away. As with much of the history of helicopters in Vietnam, it was obsolete, so might as well toss it.

The only reason I kept it was that it was a 1st Cav aircraft, showing the yellow circle of Charlie Troop 1/9 CAV. This troop was instrumental in finding the NVA in what developed on November 14, 1965 as the battle of the Ia Drang valley, during the Pleiku Campaign. Their actions are recorded in the book, We Were Soldiers Once... And Young by Lt. Gen Harold G. Moore(Ret) and Joseph L. Galloway. Additionally, six members of the troop that were lost in the Pleiku Campaign, for which the 1st Cav was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation are listed in the beginning of the book, along with the over 230 killed in action.

We all remember the OH-13 as a pain during instrument training at Rucker. There are definitely others who flew that skeletal winged chariot off into the Hell of battle. They led the way.

Mike

Mike SLONIKER

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