

Company A (Asset Hel) 101st Avn Bn (Airmobile)
101st Airmobile Division (Airmobile)

to report the results of the mission 26 March 1971

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Subject: Lessons Learned - Ham Son 719

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1. Highlight of Events

8 Feb 71 - Comanches lead the assault into LAOS, putting 470+ ARVN Rangers onto LZ Ranger, drawing small arms, AK, 23mm, 37mm, 12.7 machine-gun and mortar fire going in and coming out. Seven aircraft of Company A and three aircraft of Company C accomplish the assault which is led by Cpt Federwisch. Primary C&C aircraft carries LTC Fernandez, CO of 101 Avn Bn & MAJ Senelle, S-3, 158th. Concurrently FB 30 & later FB 31 are established with similar enemy fires encountered enroute and in the LZ. Command & Control for these waves is provided by LTC Reaching, Co, 158th Avn Bn, backed up by LTC Fernandez & LTC Phillips, S-3, 101 Avn Group. Also present over FB 30 & 31 is LTC Newton, Co, 159th.

8-9 Feb 71, On the night of 8+9 February 1971, the Comanches Ron at Khe Sanh. Unable to depart when released at 090000 Feb due to weather, the aircraft await the return of the Company Co. By 1500 hours, weather breaks and CPT Federwisch begins to call the flight out one at a time. 4 Cobra gunships of D Co, 101 Avn Bn elect

2/ to depart the Saik following the slides. Hawk 14 is shot down in bad weather 3 kilometers NE of Kien Sah at 1630 hours. The 1st is reported for the Commander's support of Operation Lam Son 719 on 16 February 1971 - Operating a total commitment to CEN of 8 aircraft, the first combat damage is received as Commanders 33 & 29 are hit by a Schrapnel in near the DMZ. The 1st is reported for the Commander's support of Operation Lam Son 719 on 16 February 1971 - Operating a total commitment to CEN of 8 aircraft, the first combat damage is received as Commanders 33 & 29 are hit by a Schrapnel in near the DMZ.

17 February 1971 - Comanches 13, 11, + 33 are hit by small arms fire near DMZ. One aircraft severely damaged. 1 of F-4's downed. 1 Comanche downed. 100+ dead and less injured. Three others attacking.

10-15-75-3

18 February 1971 - Comancher 19 in aircraft 252 is shot down near the SW wall of the A Shau accomplishing the final sortie of a tactical emergency extraction in extremely hazardous weather. The crew are MIA at 1700hrs.

19 February 1971 - Comanchero 13 receives ZPA (Quad 14.5) machine gun fire while enroute to a field location supporting CEN and is hit. Comanchero 27 overspeeds his rotor avoiding this fire and Comanchero 14 overtorques his aircraft. Comanchero 14 is damaged and is forced to land off but not in a position to engage much.

20 February 1971 - Comancheros 33 + 12 perform a tactical urgent extraction of a CEN team. 33 receives RPG fire in the PZ and his crewchief is WIA. Unable to attempt the same ~~extraction~~ ^{extraction} again. ~~ship~~ ^{ship} ~~lost~~ ^{lost}.

1920 6 Feb
Medevac after
jet hit ARVN

26-27-28 February 1971 - Comanches 6 fly LAOTIAN missions; host is LTC Peachey, CO 158th, in preparation for the Comanches support of operation Pan Son 719 when C-158th has become heavily committed.

1 March 1971 - Comanches begin support of 1st ARVN Division & I Corps (ARVN) units in LAOS. The company flies 97+ hours. Comanches 17 + 32 are hit by 12.7 mm fire. Five aircraft support the insertion of Delta One and Brown. Five aircraft resupply FB 30, and units south of FB 31. One aircraft, Comanches 40 RON's and has flares, Three others stand-by. On this initial day, the unit sets up an advance CP on the Lager Pad, a large cleared area on the South Eastern end of the new active runway. A GP medic tent is pitched and two PRC-25 radios installed. Aircraft parts, a TI, regger and one NCO run the show.

2 March 1971 - Comanches 14 is heavily hit in aircraft 264 while resupplying with 8 other Comanches aircraft, a unit SW of FB 31. He lands at A Loui & is "rescued". Later, the Comanches attempt resupply of FB 30 and are mortared off but not before several sorties are made.

Returning in late afternoon to vicinity FB 31, Comanches lead is swamped with 36 ARVN wounded, bleeds off getting 20 on board out. Comanches 24 receives mortar damage to aircraft in the same LZ/PZ. Again a flare ship RON's.

8 March 1971 - Comanches support the ARVN Marines;
Comanche 30 is shot down in an LZ SW of Delta.
Two crewmembers are seriously wounded + evaded.

9 March 1971 - Comanches resupply at Camp Eagle

18 March 1971 - 10 Comanches extract 2010 elements removing
more than 400 troops under fire without incident. Mortars
again.

19 March 1971 - Comanches extract troops. Comanche 14
is shot down in aircraft 491, lands at FB Alpha + is
extracted. LTC Peachey is shot down. Mortars again & more 12.7.

20 March 1971 - More extractions? Mostly stand by at hide out.

21 March 1971 - Comanches lead the extraction of 740 troop
from a PZ in the Anvil (XDB 336). Comanche lead
gets shot up while low level near TABAT. What else? Get in
another ship + Drive on!

24 March 1971 - Comanches extract final troops from FB Hotel
flying a total of 73 parties with average ACL of 7; 500+
troops extracted. Mortars again but not many. Coincidence -
Cpt Federovich makes the final extraction of 8 troops
and gets a PZ clean - earlier, on 8 February 1971,
he led the assault on LZ Ranger - officially - the
log says FB 30 + 158th made initial LZ about
18 minutes before Federovich LZ'd at Ranger - but we
know different. Comanches.