

UNIT HISTORY



The 179th Aviation Assault Squadron Company has had a fine record since arriving in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam, at Camp Holloway, Pleiku. The company was set up on TO&E records in September of 1966. It was moved to Pleiku, II Corps area, in December 1966. From this time on, the company

set forth records of achievement that would make any Aviation Company proud.

Being the only inland CH-47 Chinook Company, the 179th has been instrumental in all of the major offenses in the II Corps area. There has been an average of one major assault a year that have been supported by the courageous pilots of the "SHRIMPBOAT" company. The "SHRIMPBOAT"'s have operated south in the areas of Thout. It was involved in the operations at Vu Prang, assisting in the rescue and support of the infantry and artillery units. On the north, there was Doc Seiang, and Doc Pek, where bitter fighting cost the lives of many men and aircraft. It was one of the "SHRIMPBOAT" aircraft that first crossed into Cambodia for the initial assault of that operation. Many tons of food and weapons were brought back and given to the Vietnamese by the CH-47's. The aircraft and crew worked many long hours, resupplying the fire support bases with the necessary ammunition.

Working in the II Corps with professionalism was worthwhile in that the company has a safety record of which it is highly jealous. At present, the Chinook has over twenty safe flying months and over 16,000 hours without accident. The 179th is not out to set records, but to show a professional attitude in its operations. Its mission is the support role, fulfilling its mission to the units in the II Corps.

At present, the "SHRIMPBOAT" Company is assigned sixteen CH-47-C Chinooks. 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.