

Mike L.

HEADQUARTERS
3d BATTALION, 47th INFANTRY
APO San Francisco 96372

AVDE-IE

11 May 1967

SUBJECT: Outstanding Performance of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company

THRU: Commanding Officer
2d Brigade
9th Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96372

THRU: Commanding General
9th Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96307

TO: Commanding General
1st Aviation Brigade
APO San Francisco 96307

1. With an outstanding display of airmanship and leadership, Major Harold I. Small distinguished himself while in support of my unit, the Third Battalion, 47th Infantry, on 2 May 1967, during operation HOPTOC XVI, in the AP BAC area vicinity XS3152. As air mission commander, he flew continuously over the battle area, controlling lift ships for troop lift, MEDEVACS from "hot" landing zones, evacuation of detainees, emergency resupply, and resupply of my Battalion after dark. He marked "hot" targets for the gunships during daylight. After dark he guided MEDEVAC ships and resupply ships by marking low level runs between VC positions while dodging parachute flares.

2. Special recognition is to be given to the officers and men of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company for their support of our operation. The company distinguished itself by the courage, endurance, and professionalism, of men like Major Harold I. Small, their commanding officer.

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Their devotion to duty is symbolized by his statement, who after nearly 12 continuous hours of flying, said, "as long as your fighting, we're staying". His unit continued support until ordered from the field two hours later. Their company deserves specitl recognition for their outstanding accomplishments.

LUCIEN E. BOLDUC JR.
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

"A TRUE COPY"

David G. Summerfield
DAVID G. SUMMERFIELD
CAPTAIN ARTY
Awards Officer

AVDE-BB-C (11 May 1967) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Outstanding Performance of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company

Headquarters, 2d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division APO 96372 16 May 1967

THRU: Commanding General, 9th Infantry Division, APO 96370

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96307

1. Major Small, displayed true leadership and courage during operation HOPTOC XVI, while supporting this Brigade. The tireless efforts of Major Small and the members of the 116th enabled this operation to become highly successful.

2. Again, outstanding support as rendered by the 116th is always remembered and appreciated. Their devotion to duty was depicted when they refused to leave as long as there was a battle going. It is gratifying to have an outstanding unit like this supporting you in combat.

WILLIAM B. FULTON
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

"A TRUE COPY"

David G. Summerfeldt

DAVID G. SUMMERFELDT
CAPTAIN ARTY
Awards Officer

AVBA (11 May 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Outstanding Performance of the 116th Assault Helicopter Company

HEADQUARTERS, 1st AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96307, 25 May 1967

TO: Commanding Officer, 12th Combat Aviation Group, APO 96491

1. Forwarded with pleasure and pride.
2. The outstanding support provided by the "Hornets" and "Stingers" for the 3d Battalion, 47th Infantry on 2 May 1967, is in keeping with your usual superb standards.
3. Please convey to all the personnel concerned my personal congratulations for a job well done.

G. P. SENEFF, JR.
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

"A TRUE COPY"

David G. Summerfeldt

DAVID G. SUMMERFELDT

CAPTAIN ARTY

Awards Officer

On 2 May 1967, the 3/47 Infantry, 9th Infantry Division made heavy contact with a large Viet Cong Force, vicinity coordinates XS 317524. The VC strength was estimated to be battalion size and rapidly engaged other US units, vicinity coordinates XS 314519 and XS 339518. All VC elements were in heavily fortified bunkers and armed with automatic weapons (AW) up to 50 caliber, recoilless rifle (RR) and mortars.

At approximately 1230 hours, A/3/47 encountered heavy AW and recoilless rifle fire and was pinned down. Casualties mounted rapidly and the unit suffered 7 KIA's and 11 WIA's. Artillery fire was called in, but was not effective. A/3/47 requested gun ship support to knock out the RR position. The command & control aircraft marked the front line trace and the enemy position. The gun ships engaged the enemy position and silenced the RR, however AW fire continued. Artillery fire was again called in. A/3/47 then requested a medevac and emergency resupply of ammo. The C&C coordinated the artillery fire, gun ship firing passes and medevac resupply flight path to provide maximum suppressive fire on the enemy position. The medevac of the critically wounded was successfully completed, however the AC of the evac aircraft suffered a minor hand wound and the aircraft received four hits.

All units continued to be heavily engaged throughout the afternoon. The C&C aircraft adjusted artillery and gun ship fire, marked targets, coordinated air strikes, casualty evacuation and emergency resupply of ammo. Intense AW fire was encountered in the entire battle area which now extended from XS 3151 to XS 3451 to XS 3454 to XS 2955. The gunships engaged numerous targets throughout the area during the afternoon and were credited with 15 VC (BC). Air strikes were made on the AW & RR positions, vicinity XS 317524, however fire continued to come from the area.

At approximately 1500 hours, a blocking force was moved into position north of the major contact in hope of cutting the VC escape route. B/3/47 and C/3/47 were instructed to continue the advance to the northwest and west, respectively, to relieve the pressure on A/3/47. This maneuver was now successful because of the excellent fields of fire of the VC force. At dark, B/3/47 and C/3/47 had advanced approximately 500 meters.

During the course of this maneuver, A/3/47 was hit from the rear by an estimated VC platoon. This completed the encirclement of A/3/47. Meanwhile, artillery, air and gunships continued to pound known and suspected VC positions.

Approximately 1700 hours, a mechanized force from 3/60 Inf (M) and 5/60 Inf () arrived and was committed north of A/3/47 with the mission of attacking east to penetrate the main enemy position. An extensive air and artillery prep was fired. The mechanized force advanced to the tree line in grid square XS 3152, but was halted by the intense fire. One APC of the southern unit (C/3/60), was destroyed by R&R fire. The VC then started using mortars and this unit was forced to withdraw approximately 200 meters and "button-up". Another artillery prep was fired and C/3/60 Inf (M) advanced again.

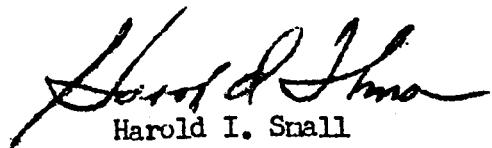
This time the force succeeded in penetrating the first defensive belt and captured 15 individual weapons, one RR and one 82 mm mortar. At this time (approximately 1800 hours) the air mission commander requested an extension of release time through the 269th Cbt Avn Bn. All units were still heavily engaged and were all in need of medevac and resupply. A "flare ship" was also requested and the AMC recommended to the CO, 3/47 that a tactical emergency be declared. All requests and recommendations were favorably considered.

As darkness approached, the enemy positions were more easily definable due to muzzle flash. The C&C aircraft marked targets for the gun ships and in some cases led them in on firing passes. Although not a normal role for the C&C, this system proved extremely beneficial since elements of three separate US battalions were involved in the action and all gun ship fire had to be tightly controlled due to friendly troop positions. Rapid engagement of targets was also a consideration. This method of engagement was utilized to silence one RR and two mortar positions.

After dark, the base camp of the 3/60 Inf (M), came under attack from a VC force, armed with mortars and AW. A UH-1D working with that unit located three mortar positions and requested gun ship support. The C&C directed the "slick" to engage the mortar positions with door guns since all gun ships were out of ammo. The "slick" silenced two positions and the third stopped firing just as it was engaged. This same aircraft also engaged AW positions and adjusted mortar fire until the enemy force withdrew. At approximately 1945 hours the C&C elected to attempt resupply of all units and evacuation of all casualties. Since the C&C was the only aircraft that knew the friendly and enemy positions, a primitive, but effective system was devised. The C&C ship had all resupply aircraft orbit at a point south of the battle area. It then picked up each aircraft at the orbit point, had the resupply aircraft go to blackout and then follow the lighted C&C into the LZ. While an intense amount of fire was directed at the C&C, surprisingly few hits were received. Little fire was directed at the resupply aircraft. This method was used effectively a total of 19 times. All casualties and 15 PW's were extracted and food, water, and ammo were delivered to the beleaguered units.

The tactical situation continued to develop after dark as more friendly elements were committed and surrounded the VC force in the battle area.

The 116th Assault Helicopter Company continued to fly resupply and medevac missions until relieved on station by another unit at 2215 hours. A total of 206 flying hours were logged during the day, of which approximately 60 were night time. Four aircraft received hits and two personnel were wounded. Ammo expended included 40,000 rounds of 7.62 mm, 1,000 rounds of 40 mm, 150 rounds of 2.75 FFAR's and 500 rounds of 20 mm cannon. VC body count by Army air was 15 with another 20 possible. Four structures and 2 sampans were destroyed. 381 sorties were flown moving 355 troops, 41 medevacs and 7.6 tons of critically needed supplies.



Harold I. Small
Major, TC
Commanding Officer
116th Aslt Hel Co

116TH ASSAULTICOPTER COMPANY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN ACTION
OF 2 MAY 1967

COMMAND AND CONTROL
AIRCRAFT 990 UH-1D

*DSC A/C Major Harold I. Small
*DFC P Major Bobby G. Franklin
*AM/V CE SP/5 Kenneth L. Latta
*AM/V G PFC David G. Ruiz

FIRE MISSION COMMANDER
AIRCRAFT 952 UH-1B (Gunship)

*DFC A/C Capt Terence M. Henry
AM/V P 1/Lt Michael H. Adkinson
ACM/V CE SP/4 Victor M. Santos
ACM/V G Sgt Ignacio P. Pajuela

FLIGHT LEADER
AIRCRAFT 183 UH-1D

*S/S A/C Major Wyatt L. Schneider
AM/V P WO Marshall E. Clarke
ACM/V CE SSG John E. McHenry
ACM/V G SP/4 Thomas E. Bullard

AIRCRAFT 954 UH-1B (Gunship)

*DFC A/C 1/Lt Donald D. Groenmann
*AM/V P WO Michael J. Miller
*ACM/V CE SP/4 Andrew D. Hernandez
*ACM/V G SP/4 Arthur R. Blair

AIRCRAFT 936 UH-1D

*S/S & PH A/C WO Dennis S. Magdon
*DFC P WO Gordon R. Fitzgerald
*S/S CE PFC Jerome P. Klein
*AM/V G SP/4 Lanny L. Kunselman

AIRCRAFT 953 UH-1B (Gunship)

DFC A/C 2/Lt Carroll G. Dyson
AM/V P WO James T. Stoeser
ACM/V CE SP/4 Mitchell G. Sims
ACM/V G SP/4 Thomas E. Phillips

AIRCRAFT 162 UH-1D

*S/S A/C Capt Rolla M. Breed
*DFC P WO James A. Watts
*S/S CE SP/4 Jerry E. Denlinger
*AM/V G PFC William L. Mitehell

AIRCRAFT 957 (Gunship)

DFC A/C 2/Lt Anthony V. Hutson
AM/V P WO Michael Kitchura
ACM/V CE SP/5 Lanny E. Swisher
ACM/V G SP/4 Gary E. Hobbs

AIRCRAFT 139 UH-1D

*DFC A/C 1/Lt Anthony M. Coggeshall
*AM/V P Major Glenn R. Reaser
*ACM/V CE SP/4 Robert E. Coppin
*ACM/V G SP/4 Anthony M. DeMuzio

AIRCRAFT 125 UH-1D

DFC A/C WO-1 David J. Lee
AM/V P Capt David G. Summerfeldt
ACM/V CE SP/4 Robert J. Pickett
ACM/V G PFC John C. Upchurch

AIRCRAFT 991 UH-1D

DFC A/C 1/Lt Alfred J. Turgeon
AM/V P WO Gerald F. Finch
ACM/V CE PFC William C. Geer
ACM/V G SP/4 Robert G. Brozzani

AIRCRAFT 512 UH-1D

DFC A/C 1/Lt Stephen R. Muench
AM/V P WO Richard L. James
ACM/V CE SP/5 John R. Young
ACM/V G SP/4 Fred D. Dague

AIRCRAFT 987 UH-1L

DFC A/C WO Richard A. Price
AM/V P WO Michael F. Albert
ACM/V CE SP/4 Roger W. Brooks
ACM/V G SP/4 Richard G. Theis

AIRCRAFT 2 UH-1D

DFC A/C WO William R. Croucher
AM/V P 2/Lt Nguyen K. Hiep
ACM/V CE PFC John M. Sloke
ACM/V G Sgt Robert K. Naihe

AIRCRAFT 148 UH-1D

DFC A/C WO John P. McQueen
AM/V P WO Neil A. Townsley
ACM/V CE PFC Weden O. Humphrey
ACM/V G PFC John M. Flores
ACM/V G PFC William D. Arnold

* Asterisk indicates personnel submitted for spot award at earlier date - application not included.