

## Kiowas in RVN

By [Roger DeWiitt](#)

Spring of 1970 and I had one of the few Kiowas in RVN out of Phu Loi with the 23rd Arty. Day mission with the Commander of II Field Force Arty on a SW vector with the Colonel holding the map for a change. As we passed over Go Da Ha (sp?), I started to question his navigation skills (Jack Baker). I was assured we were on course and since I had been instructing the Col. in the Kiowa, I knew he was competent. Crossing the river I climbed and contacted Paris control with my vector an estimated mileage and asked for flight monitoring until I could drop to low level. Paris advised me of my danger in crossing the "wire"(Cambodia).

About 15 miles toward Svey Riang(sp) we called in for 175mm registration fire with smoke rounds. We hit several registration points and then asked for HE to those registration points. Contacting Paris and advising them to mark our position, we dropped to low level for close recon and I was amazed at the number of troops on the ground. Black and Khaki uniforms, AK's, RPG's whose side were they on? Remember, I had the only Kiowa in II Field Force. We observed hundreds of uniformed troops and never received any fire. Some waved and of course I waved back. Twenty yards away with no external armament (M-2 was not really a factor) I did not wish to engage unknown forces. We observed jets striking a village two miles away in a pattern differing from USAF. Not sure who the pilots flew for. I really thought this would be my final mission and I was scheduled for R&R in Hawaii with my wife in June. Maybe it was the newness of the Kiowa or just plain dumb luck, but in two months of flying with II FF Arty in Cambodia, I never knowingly received fire. This was what we called the "Incursion" in the "Fishhook and Parrot's Beak". Many pilots and troopers braved great danger and I considered myself guided by angels. In two years of flight in RVN (A/229AHB, 1st Cav & 23rd Arty) I only was hit twice and only had one wounded on board. Hopefully I did something to have God smile on me.