

Announcement concerning the 2022 VHPA Membership Directory



121st Avn Association Logo



Viking 'patch' painted on helmet

The cover photos and history section of the 2022 VHPA Membership Directory will feature the 121st Assault Helicopter Company plus its predecessor and attached/supporting/co-located units from December 1961 to December 1970.

The 93rd Transportation (Light Helicopter) Company and the 80th Transportation (FM) Detachment departed from Rhode Island in December 1961 on the USS Carr and landed in Da Nang from the USS Princeton in January 1962. In September 1962, the 93rd and its attached units relocated to Soc Trang and the USMC HMM-163 (CH-34 equipped squadron) plus a sub-unit of MABS-16 (about 200+ support personal) relocated to Da Nang. The 93rd's Commanding Officer was also the Soc Trang base commander. In short order the Army would post several support units to Soc Trang for the 93rd. Some of the attached/support/co-located units were:

18 th Airfield Operation Det	Det D, 18 th Airfield Operation	Det P, 125 th ATC
134 th Medical Det	82 nd Medical Det	2 nd Medical Dispensary
41 st Medical Dispensary	36 th Dental Det	82 nd Dental Det
257 th Signal Det	Det 6, Delta Signal Co	Det 7, 232 nd Signal Co
Det 7, 1964 th Comm Grp	Det 3, 41 st Signal Bn	Det 7, 362 nd Signal Co
D Co, 52 nd Signal Bn	Det 7, 247 th Signal Co	Long Lines Signal Det
5 th Quartermaster Det	Det 7, 30 th Weather Sqd	Det 7, 5 th Weather Sqd
13 th Aviation Plt (Prov)	5 th Machine Gun Plt	Aerial Door Gunner Plt
Det D, 560 th Military Police Co	Det L, 212 th Military Police Det	Det T, 212 th Military Police Det
13 th Security Plt	69 th Infantry Det	78 th Artillery Det
Det 10, 8 th Aerial Port	Det 7, 11 th Air Postal Grp	

In January 1963, the 93rd was presented with a fifteen-week old Bengal Tiger they named "Tuffy." Although Tuffy only stayed with the unit until June 1963, his legacy was the name **The Soc Trang Tigers**. Also in June 1963, the 93rd was redesignated the 121st Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light).

Initially the 93rd was part of the 45th Transportation Battalion; in May 1963 it was transferred to the Delta Aviation Battalion (Provisional) that became the 13th Aviation Battalion in September 1964.

The two transport platoons used the WHITE TIGER and BLUE TIGER radio calls. The gunship platoon used VIKING and the maintenance folks used WRECKER.

For more than a decade, the 121st AVN Association, www.121avn.org, has compiled an impressive collection of photos, documents, and 1st person accounts from more than 138 individuals. Contact Bob Greene, bojogreene@gmail.com, or 703-851-2252 to contribute. Also see the 121st Aviation Association Collection (2273) in The Virtual Vietnam Archive (VVA) at the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech in Lubbock.