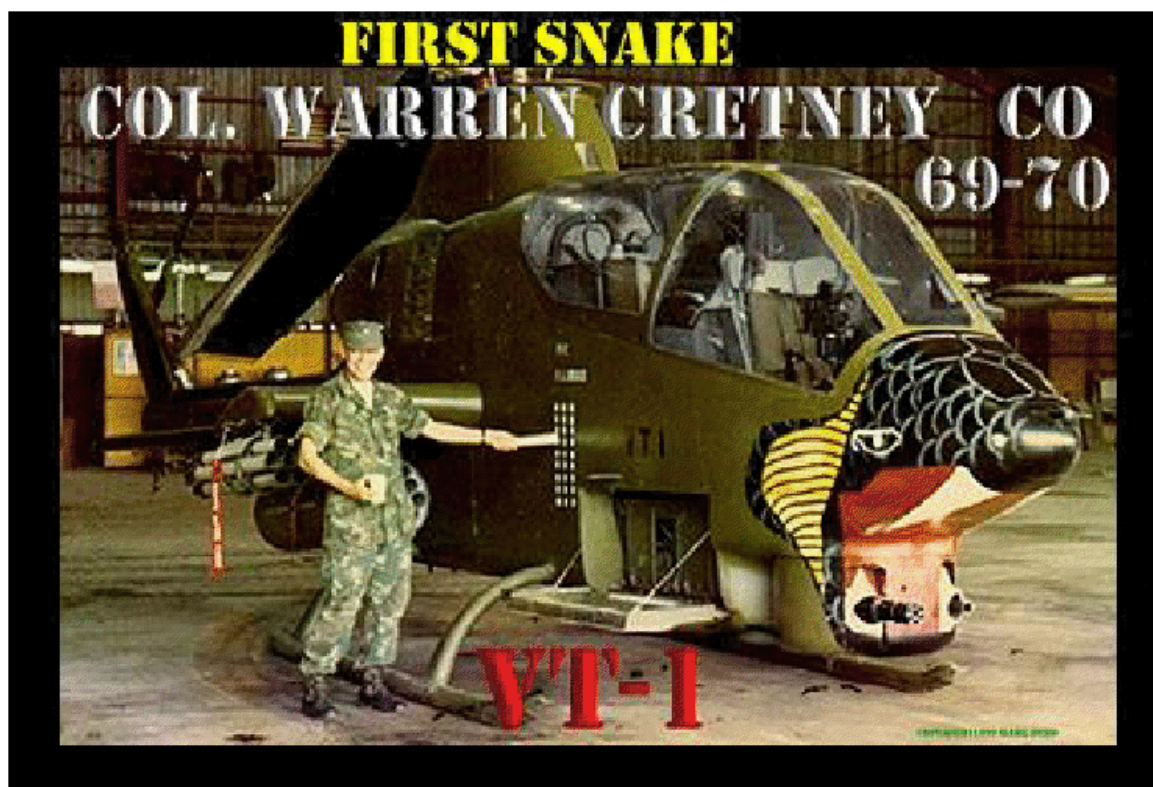


An Old Army-Marine soldiers on. By [Cornelius McMillan](#)

My normal job has me performing production test flights on Huey II's. Having been associated with Army aircraft since 1969, I always spend a little time reviewing the Historical files on the UH-1's that we turn into Huey II's and TH-1H's. It's always fun to find an aircraft that I flew as an Army Aviator or one that has an interesting background. Combat tours, unique assignments or just 10,000 hours turning out flight students.

Recently, I had the opportunity to do return to service maintenance flights on four former U.S. Army AH-1F's, part of a Foreign Military Sales Program. Going through the records I found one of the aircraft was an older airframe. It was 68-17108 and started life as an AH-1G. That was interesting but the first entry caught my attention. On the 19th of August 1970, 17108 had received small arms damage and was repaired by HML-367. This could not be correct because 17108 was an Army AH-1G. And I knew that HML-367 was a USMC helicopter unit and they flew UH-1E's.

Now that **my** interest was piqued, I started sending out e-mails asking old AH-1 acquaintances for some help in sorting out what seemed like an error. I've flown AH-1's since May 1970 and while I had a couple of Marines in my Cobra Hall class I knew that the Marines did not fly AH-1G's in combat. Of course I was wrong.



Here is the story of 68-17108. 108 came off the Bell line in Hurst in January 1970 and was accepted by the US Army. It left Hurst and went to Fort Hood where it joined a group of AH-1G's being "loaned" to the Marine Corps. She was assigned to HML-367 and began flying combat operations in support of Marine units in I Corps Vietnam and the occasional cross border mission. 108 finished **its** combat tour and **transferred the new USMC Cobra squadron, HMA-169, at Camp Pendleton, CA.** In 1972, 108 went to Corpus Christi Army Depot **for overhaul.** After CCAD, 108 stayed with the USMC **at Camp Pendleton** until being transferred to the Defense Aircraft storage facility at Davis-Moahan AFB,(the bone yard), in April 1979. It was transferred to the Bell Helicopter facility in Amarillo in 1981 and in February 1982 68-17108 rejoined the US Army as an AH-1F. She soldiered on with the 1st Armored Division in Germany and after a facelift in 1988 at CCAD, went to Korea. She came back to the states in 1994 and the Army National Guard. Then in September 2001 68-17108 went to Fort Drum and long term storage.



Scarface 22, Marble Mountain, Vietnam 1970.

And now 68-17108 is getting her final tweaking before she heads out for her next assignment and a new generation of attack helicopter pilots. She looks good, flies well and makes me feel like her sisters did 40 years ago.

For me this digging in the past has given me the opportunity to learn about a part of the Cobra history I was not familiar with. Additionally, I have heard from numerous members of HML-367 who flew 108 when she wore "Marine Green". Their stories remind me of the Army Cobra stories I know and the similarity make smile. We all know how War Stories start out and then they all run about the same. And that ain't no



68-17108, MTF complete. Wheeler-Sack AAF, Fort Drum, NY August 2011.