

Operation Dewey Canyon II/ Lam Son 719

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I was an Army air traffic controller with 125 ATC in Vietnam from Aug 70 to Aug 71. I was at Ca Mau, South of the Mekong Delta, and then near the DMZ at Dong Ha for Operation Dewey Canyon II/ Lam Son 719. The stories are contained in the attached newspaper articles of the time. These news clippings are from Stars & Stripes. I was at Ca Mau when the 15 helicopters were shot up at VC lake. The only US Helicopter unit based at Ca Mau was the Navy Seawolves who were one of the units involved in this action and have a good write-up of the action on their website. I believe the other copters were from Can Tho but I'm not sure. The Dewey Canyon II article was the invasion of Laos in 1971 and I was with a team of Army GCA and Airforce combat controllers that went into Dong Ha and reestablished air traffic control service at the old Marine airfield. Your page on 125 ATC from Cpt Payne has photos that show our location after the operation was over. I have many pictures similar to Cpt Payne's except they are from the start of the operation in the cold, rain, mud and fog. We were there a day or two before the 48th AHC (Bluestars) came in and set up next to us. The Here's Mauldin cartoon was generic as published but after we got up one morning and the 48th AHC only had one operational bird, a slick, and had three aircrews on the ground in Laos I wrote 48th on the door of the copter in the cartoon. Originally our control unit was part of another unit that was supposed to go into Khe Sanh and setup ATC service there but the weather was too bad for them to get in so they split us up and reopened Dong Ha for ATC services and trucked everything over so the invasion of Laos could proceed without further delay. As the days went by the weather improved and the other team went in and setup at Khe Sanh as planned. I hope your members will be interested in seeing these stories.

[News article one.](#)

[Cartoon](#)

[News article two.](#)