

**From the Desk of
David P. Samuels**

Bob,

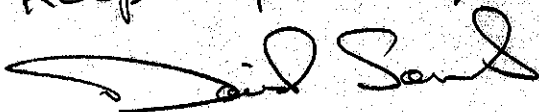
I hope this history is getting to the right person and can be of some help.

The 135th AHC is the only experimental unit of it's kind to my knowledge. 1/3 Australian Navy, 2/3 US Army Aviation.

We had an Australian XO so our CO had to be a LTC. I had a Maj. for Gunship Platoon leader.

I was Taiwan 27 from Feb 68 - Mar 69

Keep up the good work

David Samuels

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
HISTORY OF THE
135TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
222ND COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

1 January 1968 to 31 December 1968

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APPROVED BY:



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Commanding

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"GET THE BLOODY JOB DONE"

SUBJECT:4 Annual Historical Summary

CHAPTER 1

The 135th AHC unit crest was designed by the men of this unique company, and utilizes the extended eagle wings to represent U.S. Army Aviation and the traditional anchor to symbolize the Royal Australian Navy element. Since this unit is the only integrated U.S. - Australian Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam and has always sought perfection, it chose the Olympian laurel wreath to symbolize both its unity and goal. From the official term "Experimental Military Unit" comes EMU which is the unit's call sign and the motto "Get the Bloody Job Done" is a direct quote from a congratulatory signal sent by a supported unit after a successful operation west of Chi Lang, RVN.

CHAPTER 2

The beginning of the 135th Aviation Company, a CV-2B Caribou Unit in the 10th Air Transport Brigade, 11th Air Assault Division, Fort Benning, Ga, starts with GO #186, HQ Third United States Army, which officially redesignated the 516th Transport Airplane Company as the 135th Aviation Company, (Fixed Wing Airmobile), effective 1 July 1965. As the members of the 135th Aviation Company prepared to turn their facilities over to the 458th Troop Carrier Squadron at Dong Ba Thien and close the records, 8,470 nautical miles away at Fort Hood, Texas the beginning of a new 135th was starting to take shape. On 1 December 1966, the 207th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light), was activated under MTO&E 1-77G by General Order 302, HQ III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas, with a life of only two months, the 207th was deactivated but on 1 February 1967 the 135th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light) once again came into existence with the redesignation of the 207th Aviation Company. The 135th was again organized under MTO&E 1-77G, as per III Corps, Fort Hood, General Order 47, with 2 Lift aircraft platoons, each with 11 UH-1D's and one armed platoon with 8 UH-1C's, a service platoon with 1 UH-1D maintenance ship and a headquarters platoon. The two detachments responsible for the direct support maintenance were the 614th Transportation Detachment and the 68th Signal Detachment. The unit was deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in early October 1967 and started operations in November 1967. There was still much to do to make the unit fully operational so the work and training continued.

CHAPTER 3

The 135th Assault Helicopter Company has always had the very best of Unit Commanders. The Commanders of the past and present with their periods of assignment follows:

Major Spurlock, William W.	20 Dec 66 - 29 Sep 67
LTC Cory, R.M.	29 Sep 67 - 11 Mar 68
ITC Osbourn, Robert E.L.	11 Mar 68 - 14 Nov 68
Major Raetz, Paul E.	14 Nov 68 - Present

The 614th Transportation Detachment and the 68th Signal Detachment were activated by III Corps General Order 296 and 297 respectively. They have given the unit outstanding support and have been able to maintain a high average of aircraft availability. The 135th is proud of the work of these two detachments.

CHAPTER 3 (Cont)

The unit's area of operation is a fairly large one, comprising of III and IV Corps. There are very few places the pilots of the 135th AHC haven't seen in these two corps areas. They have seen the Gulf of Thailand, the U Minh Forest, rice paddies of the Mekong Delta, the sandy beaches of Vung Tau, the small pad on top of Nui Ba Den and the small under ground Special Forces out post of Bo Duc. They have seen the face of the enemy and on occasion, felt the sting of his bullets, but they gave more than they recieved. They are glad they can claim this area as their area of operation because nothing is to much for the 135th Assault Helicopter Company.

CHAPTER 4

The beginning of the New Year found the 135th supporting the II Field Force in the III Corps area. The following is a month by month discription of their operations.

JANUARY: The units supported this month were primarily the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Australian Task Force, U.S. 9th Infantry Division, 18th ARVN Division and the 101st Airborne Division. The area of operations were around Saigon, Phuoc Tuy, Mekong Delta, and Xuan Loc.

FEBRUARY: The units supported in combat assaults and troop lifts were again the 9th U.S. Infantry Division, in the Mekong Delta, the 1st Australian Task Force in Phuoc Tuy and Bein Hoa and the 18th ARVN Division near Xuan Loc. All missions were combat assaults as opposed to general support.

MARCH: The units primarily supported were the 18th ARVN Division near Xuan Loc, the 5th ARVN Division out of Ham Tam, and the 25th ARVN Division near Can Giouc. The 5th ARVN's operations were around Bear Cat, An Loc, Song Be, Duc Hoa and Loc Ninh. The 25th ARVN operations were around Saigon, Can Giouc, Nha Be, Ben Tre, Tan An, My Tho and Ben Luc.

APRIL AND MAY: Combat assaults, tactical troop lifts and field resupplying missions continued to be the main employment of this unit. Operations were spread all over III Corps area and ranged from flying from mountain locations and jungle clearings to the flat rice paddies of the Delta.

JUNE: There were no "hot" LZ's this month, although the landed troops soon made contact with the enemy after landing on many occasions. The unit worked with the same units as in the previous months.

CHAPTER 4 (Cont)

JULY: Operations in the III Corps area involving this unit continued at the same rate as previous months. The 18th ARVN Div made combat assaults around Ham Tan, Baria and Vo Dat while the 25th ARVN Div was in the vicinity of Tan An, Ben Luc, Duc Hoa and Tay Ninh.

AUGUST, SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER: The unit operated throughout III Corps. Many operations, however, were with the U.S. 9th Division in the III Corps portion of the Mekong Delta.

NOVEMBER: During this month the unit moved to Bear Cat, coming under the control of the 222nd Combat Aviation Battalion. The general operational task did not change, but the unit did start operations with the Thai forces.

DECEMBER: This month was a very successful month for the 135th Assault Helicopter Company against the enemy. The armed platoon accounted for 89 kills with no aircraft losses. The unit was assigned operationally to IV Corps for its dry weather campaign. Operations involved supporting elements of the 7th and 9th ARVN Divisions.

CHAPTER 5

Camp Blackhorse was the unit's home from late December 1967 to mid November 1968. They shared this post with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and other smaller units. The unit was fortunate to be mortared and rocketed only once during the period with no injuries to personnel. The unit's main problems were seasonal dust and mud. Since moving to Bear Cat in mid November, the 135th received incoming rounds on four occasions. Improvement in the living area and local establishments such as PX, Service Club, Steam Bath and Swimming Pool has served to boost morale. Considerable "self-help" was required to upgrade the unit area. Members enthusiastically embarked on this task and although there is still much to do, it ranks as one of the **finest unit areas in RVN.**

CHAPTER 6

THE 135TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY HONOR ROLL

CPT Robert D. Fleer, KIA	8 Feb 68
WO1 Glenn D. Moore, KIA	8 Feb 68
SPl Richard Cavanaugh, KIA	8 Feb 68
PFC Robert A. LaBuda, KIA	8 Feb 68
LCDR P.J. Vickers (Australian), KIA	22 Feb 68
LEUT A.A. Casadio (Australian), KIA	21 Aug 68
WO1 Hershel J. Bullock, KIA	21 Aug 68
POACH O.C. Phillips (Australian), KIA	21 Aug 68
SPl William E. Fennell, KIA	21 Aug 68
WO1 William M. Miller, KIA	16 Sep 68
ASIT Tony J. Huelin, (Australian), KIA	3 Jan 69
WO1 William S. Childers, KIA	3 Jan 69
SPl Ernest D. Dodson, KIA	3 Jan 69
SPl Larry R. McPherson, KIA	3 Jan 69

APPENDIX I GENERAL INFORMATION

Total Sorties	94,363
Total Hours Flown	34,120
Number of Aircraft Hit	115
Total Passengers	193,220
Total Cargo Tons	1532.5

APPENDIX II
MONTHLY FLYING TIME

