

HISTORY OF THE
227TH AVIATION BATTALION
(ASSAULT HELICOPTER)

1 JANUARY 1967 - 31 DECEMBER 1967

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NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY SEVEN

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

BASE CAMP.....PAGE 2
JANUARY.....PAGE 3
FEBRUARY.....PAGE 6
MARCH.....PAGE 7
APRIL.....PAGE 8
MAY.....PAGE 9
JUNE.....PAGE 10
JULY.....PAGE 11
AUGUST.....PAGE 12
SEPTEMBER.....PAGE 13
OCTOBER.....PAGE 14
NOVEMBER.....PAGE 16
DECEMBER.....PAGE 20
KEY PERSONNEL.....PAGE 21
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS.....PAGE 22
STATISTICAL DATA.....PAGE 23

BASE CAMP

THE BASE CAMP OF THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION REMAINED AT CAMP RADCLIFF, AN KHE, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. IMPROVEMENTS OF LIVING AREAS, MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES, AND AIRCRAFT PARKING AREAS PROGRESSED SLOWLY DURING THE FIRST FEW MONTHS DUE TO THE BATTALION'S HEAVY OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS IN THE FIELD. DURING THE SECOND QUARTER NEW EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON COMPLETING 65% OF THE BUILDINGS PLANNED FOR EACH UNIT. AT THE END OF JUNE PERMANENT TYPE BUILDINGS IN THE BATTALION AREA WERE NEARING THE 65% COMPLETION MARK AND THE AN KHE BASE WAS BEGINNING TO TAKE ON A NEW LOOK. SUPPLIES WERE MORE PLENTIFUL AS WERE CEMENT MIXERS AND OTHER TYPE CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES. THE NEW EMPHASIS AT BASE CAMP ON BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DID HINDER THE OPERATIONAL READINESS IN THE FORWARD AREA SINCE ALL CONSTRUCTION WAS LIMITED TO THE SELF HELP PROGRAM.

ANOTHER MAJOR PROJECT WAS THE GOLF COURSE REVETMENT PROGRAM WITH A COMPLETION GOAL SET FOR 33 REVETMENTS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF JULY. THE BATTALION HAD EXTREME DIFFICULTY MEETING THIS DEADLINE, BUT AS IN THE PAST, ALL REQUIREMENTS WERE FULFILLED AND ANOTHER MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN WORKED AS LABORERS ON THESE PROJECTS. ANY INDIVIDUAL THAT HAD PREVIOUS BUILDING EXPERIENCE WAS ACCEPTED AS THE PROJECT DIRECTOR, AND THE REST OF THE PERSONNEL PITCHED IN WITH A TREMENDOUS SPIRIT TO MAKE THE BASE CAMP A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE.

THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION CONTINUED TO SUPPORT BRIGADE ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST CAVALRY DIVISION. THE NORMAL MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE DIRECT SUPPORT TO A SPECIFIC BRIGADE FOR A PARTICULAR OPERATION. ON INITIAL ASSAULTS OF THE BRIGADE ELEMENTS INTO AN AO (AREA OF OPERATION), AS MANY AS SIXTY LIFT HELICOPTERS (UH-1D'S) MIGHT BE EMPLOYED. THE 229TH AVIATION BATTALION, OUR SISTER UNIT, WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION, ON THESE INITIAL MOVES, WITH AIRCRAFT AND CREWS AS REQUIRED.

JANUARY

DURING JANUARY, THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT HELICOPTER) PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION THAYER II. THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT HELICOPTER) WAS PLACED IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF THE 2ND BRIGADE THROUGHOUT THIS OPERATION. COMPANY A, WAS COMMITTED ON THE BASE DEFENSE MISSION AT AN KHE UNTIL 27 JANUARY. THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION WAS RELEASED FROM THE BASE DEFENSE MISSION ON 27 JANUARY, AND ASSIGNED A NEW MISSION AT PHAN THIET. COMPANY A, 227TH AVIATION BATTALION WAS DISPLACED TO PHAN THIET TO PROVIDE SIXTEEN UH-1D'S. FOUR UH-1B'S WITH CREWS FROM COMPANY D, 227TH AVIATION BATTALION, WAS ATTACHED TO COMPANY A TO PROVIDE GUNSHIP SUPPORT.

THE 2ND BRIGADE CONDUCTED INTENSIVE SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PERSHING AO.

ON 2 JANUARY, THE 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY, CONDUCTED COMBAT ASSAULTS INTO THE HILL MASS APPROXIMATELY THIRTY-FIVE KILOMETERS NORTH WEST OF LZ UPLIFT. THIS OPERATION (HOT SNAP) WAS SUPPORTED BY TWENTY-FOUR UH-1D'S FROM THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION. THE ASSAULT WAS DELAYED UNTIL 1000 HOURS DUE TO MARGINAL WEATHER CONDITIONS.

ON 8 JANUARY, THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION SUPPORTED AN ARVN TASK FORCE ON AIR ASSAULTS INTO TWO LZ'S ALONG THE SONG KIM RIVER 18 KILOMETERS NORTH EAST OF LZ UPLIFT. THE 229TH AVIATION BATTALION PROVIDED SIX UH-1D'S AND TWO UH-1B'S.

ON 11 JANUARY, COMPANIES B AND C, 1ST BATTALION, 8TH CAVALRY, WERE SUPPORTED WITH TWENTY UH-1D'S AND FOUR UH-1B'S ON AIR ASSAULTS INTO TWO LZ'S, (BR625632 AND BR687822). THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION HAD MISSION RESPONSIBILITY AND PROVIDED EIGHT UH-1D'S AND FOUR UH-1B'S. THE 229TH AVIATION BATTALION PROVIDED FOUR UH-1D'S AND THE 119TH AVIATION COMPANY PROVIDED EIGHT UH-1D'S. THE MISSION WAS DELAYED DUE TO POOR WEATHER CONDITIONS.

ON 16 JANUARY, THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION SUPPORTED THE 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY, WITH TWENTY-FOUR UH-1D'S AND FOUR UH-1B'S INTO FOUR LZ'S TWENTY-TWO KILOMETERS WEST OF ENGLISH. (LZ'S NINA, ALMA, IRMA AND SANDRA).

ON 18 JANUARY, THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION ASSAULTED THE 2ND BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY, AND CIDG ELEMENTS INTO EIGHT LZ'S EIGHT KILOMETERS NNE OF ENGLISH. THE LZ'S WERE NOT NAMED. THE OPERATION WAS SUPPORTED WITH EIGHTEEN UH-1D'S AND SIX UH-1B'S. THE INITIAL ASSAULTS CONSISTED OF THREE SIMULTANEOUS LANDINGS OF SIX UH-1D'S AND TWO UH-1B'S. SEVERAL OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE HIT BY HOSTILE GROUND FIRE ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES OR SERIOUS AIRCRAFT DAMAGE. THE 229TH AVIATION BATTALION PROVIDED EIGHT UH-1D'S AND TWO UH-1B'S FOR THIS OPERATION. THE SAME GROUND ELEMENTS WERE EXTRACTED AND AIR ASSAULTED INTO SIX LZ'S EIGHT KILOMETERS NE OF ENGLISH TWO DAYS LATER. THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION PROVIDED TWELVE UH-1D'S AND TWO UH-1B'S FOR THIS MOVE.

ON 21 JANUARY, A TACTICAL EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED BY THE 2ND BRIGADE. ALL AVAILABLE UH-1D'S AND UH-1B'S WERE SCRAMBLED TO LZ UPLIFT INCLUDING THOSE AIRCRAFT ON LOGISTICAL MISSIONS AND MAINTENANCE STAND DOWN. ELEMENTS OF THE 2ND BATTALION, 12TH CAVALRY AND 1ST BATTALION, 5TH CAVALRY WERE EXTRACTED FROM LZ'S THROUGHOUT THE AO AND TRANSPORTED TO ENGLISH. THESE ELEMENTS IN ADDITION TO CIDG FORCES WERE AIR ASSAULTED INTO THE MOUNTAIN RANGE NW OF ENGLISH.

THE 2ND BRIGADE AGAIN DECLARED A TACTICAL EMERGENCY ON 27 JANUARY 1967. TWENTY-FOUR UH-1D'S AND FOUR UH-1B'S WERE SCRAMBLED TO LZ DOG. REINFORCING TROOPS (US AND ARVN) WERE AIR LIFTED INTO AN LZ IN THE VICINITY OF LZ TROUT. ON THE INITIAL LIFT, THREE UH-1D'S WERE HIT BY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE IN THE LZ. FIVE CREW MEMBERS WERE WOUNDED ALTHOUGH NOT SERIOUSLY. TWO OF THE UH-1D'S WERE FLOWN BACK TO LZ DOG, AND ONE LANDED ON THE BEACH. ALL THREE AIRCRAFT REQUIRED MINOR REPAIRS.

DUE TO AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT, THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION SUPPORTED THE 2ND BRIGADE ON A TWO BATTALION MOVE INTO THE MOUNTAIN RANGE AND FOOT HILLS

EAST OF LZ UPLIFT. NO CONTACT WAS ENCOUNTERED AND THAYER II WAS ABOUT TO END.
THAYER II OFFICIALLY TERMINATED ON 12 FEBRUARY 1967.

FEBRUARY

THE 227TH CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE 2ND BRIGADE. THE BATTALION FORWARD CP REMAINED AT LZ DOG WITH B, C AND D COMPANIES. ENEMY CONTACT WOULD VARY FROM HEAVY TO LIGHT IN THE BONG SON PLAIN AND SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS. MANY ASSAULTS TO THE EAST OF ENGLISH WERE FOUGHT UNDER HEAVY FIRE AND SELDOM DID THE LIFT SHIPS GO INTO AN LZ WITHOUT BEING FIRED ON. WEATHER PROVED TO BE A TOUGH FACTOR BUT THE BATTALION WAS "FAT" ON EXPERIENCE AND NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS MATERIALIZED.

TACTICS WERE MODIFIED SOMEWHAT DUE TO THE CONTACT ON THE PLAIN AND LOW GROUND.

ASSAULTS WERE MADE TO THE HIGH GROUND TO SUPPORT A GROUND TACTICAL PLAN OF SWEEPING DOWN TO THE VALLEYS. VERY LITTLE HOSTILE GROUND FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED WITH THE HELICOPTER ASSAULTS TO THE HILL TOP BUT A SLIGHT INCREASE IN ACCIDENTS OCCURED DUE TO THE PINNACLE LANDINGS WHICH REQUIRED A GREAT AMOUNT OF PILOT SKILL TO OVERCOME TURBULENCE AND DENSITY ALTITUDE PROBLEMS. THE 227TH BATTALION CONTINUED SUPPORTING "OPERATION PERSHING" WITH VARIOUS MISSIONS RANGING FROM THE NRF TO THE DIVISION SPRAY.

GRASSHOPPER, (A WORD DREADED BY PILOTS BUT A RELIEF TO THE GROUND UNIT PERIMETER) BECAME A NIGHTLY AFFAIR, VARYING FROM LZ CRYSTAL TO PONY, BUT WHEN BOTH PLACES WERE MORTARED BY THE VC, THE SHIPS WERE GRASSHOPPERED TO QUI NHON AND AN KHE. (GRASSHOPPER OF COURSE, IS THE MOVING OF SHIPS AT NIGHT TO A SECURE AREA). MANY NIGHTS WERE SPENT BY THE PILOTS AND CREW UNDER A MOSQUITO NET TIED TO THE TAIL BOOM OF THE UH1D. FEBRUARY ENDED WITH OPERATION PERSHING STILL IN EFFECT.

MARCH

MARCH STARTED OFF WITH A BATTALION SIZE COMBAT ASSAULT OF THREE COMPANIES, USING 11 UH1D'S FROM THE 227TH AND 11, UH1D'S FROM THE 229TH. THE 2/5TH WAS COMBAT ASSAULTED INTO "VC VALLEY", 3 K'S SE OF LZ DOG. ONLY SPORATIC CONTACT WAS MADE AND ALL LZ'S WERE GREEN.

D COMPANY WAS CREDITED WITH 1 KIA WHILE SUPPORTING THE ARVNS. A PSY OPS PROGRAM WAS INCREASED IN THE BONG SON PLAIN. NORMAL CA'S, EXTRACTIONS AND GENERAL SUPPORT MISSIONS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH. THE FLYING HOUR PROGRAM WAS CONTINUALLY BEING OVERFLOWN DUE TO THE MOVEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS IN THE BONG SON AO.

APRIL-MAY

PYS OPS NOTICES AND LEAFLETS TELLING ALL CIVILIANS TO GET OUT OF THE AN LOA VALLEY WAS IN PROGRESS. THE AN LOA VALLEY, THE REAL STRONGHOLD OF THE NVA IN THE BONG SON AO WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A FREE FIRE AREA. THE 227TH PROVIDED SUPPORT TO THE 229TH IN THEIR SUPPORT TO THE 1ST AND 3RD BRIGADES. THE AN LOA PROVED TO BE A FORMIDABLE STRONGHOLD TO THE HELICOPTERS AS WELL AS THE INFANTRY.

NUMEROUS NIGHT EMERGENCY RESUPPLIES WERE MADE, AS WELL AS MANY FLARE MISSIONS TO SUPPORT OUR INFANTRY IN TAKING THE NIGHT AWAY FROM "CHARLIE".

THE BATTALION BECAME SPLIT IN THREE LOCATIONS, COMPANY "A" WAS AT PHAN THIET, COMPANY "B" WAS AT LZ DOG, AND COMPANY "C" WAS MOVED TO LZ HAMMONDS. THE GUN COMPANY (D) REMAINED AT DOG, BUT PROVIDED ONE PLATOON OF FOUR ACORNS TO PHAN THIET.

"C" COMPANY WAS TO SET UP AT HAMMONDS WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 15TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION TO BECOME EVENTUALLY A SECURE MAINTENANCE AREA. PLANS CHANGED AND AFTER A SHORT MONTH "C" MOVED BACK TO LZ DOG.

"BEACH PARTIES" BECAME MORE OF A REALITY, ALMOST TWICE A WEEK. IN OTHER WORDS, THE BULK OF THE MISSION READY AIRCRAFT WOULD FLY TO THE BEACHES ALONG THE COAST NEAR THE CRESCENT AREA AND LAGOON, THE INFANTRY WOULD FLY WITH US TO PROVIDE PERIMETER DEFENSE. AT DAYBREAK THE AIRCRAFT WOULD CRANK AND RETURN TO THE MISSION OF THE DAY.

THE WEATHER WAS BEGINNING TO GET HOTTER AND THE DENSITY ALTITUDE HIGHER, MUCH EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON REDUCED LOADS AND MORE CRITICAL ATTENTION OF THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDERS AND PILOTS. THE 3RD BRIGADE OF THE 25TH INFANTRY REMAINED AT LZ UPLIFT, AND AT TIMES THE 1ST CAV AIRMOBILITY WAS CALLED UPON TO ASSIST THE "TROPICAL LIGHTNING" BRIGADE.

THE 227TH RECEIVED AN ORDER TO MOVE FURTHER NORTH TO DUC PHO TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND REF TO THE 3/25 FOR 2½ WEEKS. A JUMP CP WAS SET UP WITH THE BRIGADE AND THE HUEYS WOULD FLY FROM THE BONG SON PLAINS TO THE LITTLE MOUNTAINS OF DUC PHO. THE MARINES WERE MOVING OUT OF THE AREA, AND THE ARMY WAS TAKING OVER AN AO FURTHER TO THE NORTH.

AFTER 2½ WEEKS THE 161ST AVN CO ASSUMED THE SUPPORT OF THE 3/25 AND THE 227TH AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO SUPPORT THE 1ST CAV.

NIGHT HUNTER WAS INCREASED IN THE PERSHING AO IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT AT NIGHT. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY NUMEROUS COMPANY SIZE MOVES WERE CONDUCTED IN SUPPORT OF THE 2ND BRIGADE UTILIZING FROM 6 TO 10 UH1D AIRCRAFT. MAY ENDED WITH 11 UH1D AND 3 UH1B IN PHAN THIET. THE REMAINDER OF MISSION READY SHIPS WERE COMMITTED TO THE 1ST CAV IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION PERSHING.

JUNE

LTC GEORGE C. HORTON TOOK COMMAND OF THE BATTALION DURING JUNE REPLACING LTC JAMES F. HAMLET.

20 UH1D'S FROM THE 227TH AND 40 UH1D'S FROM THE 229TH MOVED 60 SORTIES OF B, C AND D COMPANIES, 2/12TH TO THE MOUNTAIN AREA NORTHWEST OF THE AN LOA VALLEY. THE ASSAULT WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT INCIDENT; WITH THREE BATTERIES FIRING ON THE LZ GO GO AND ARA, AS WELL AS ORGANIC GUNS SHIP AND DOOR GUNNERS SUPPRESSING.

THE ASSAULT WAS CHARACTERIZED BY LIGHT ENEMY CONTACT AND HEAVY AIRCRAFT COMMITMENTS FOR LOGISTICS AND RESUPPLY.

ON 6 JUN 67 A NIGHT ASSAULT WAS PLANNED IN THE CRESCENT AREA WEST OF HIGHWAY #1. THE LIFT WAS ACCOMPLISHED UTILIZING 18 UH-1D'S FROM THE BATTALION. DURING THE CONDUCT OF THE LIFT THE ENGLISH POL AND AMMO DUMP EXPLODED. THE 15TH MEDICAL FACILITY WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED WHICH RESULTED IN THE 227TH TREATING AND EVACUATING 37 CASUALTIES. NUMEROUS AIRCRAFT PARKED ON THE GROUND AT LZ DOG SUFFERED BOTH SCRAPNEL AND CONCUSSION DAMAGE.

NUMEROUS ASSAULTS WERE CONDUCTED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF JUNE UTILIZING 6-12 UH-1D'S. ON 24 JUN 67 THE 227TH AHB (-) WAS SELECTED TO MOVE ONE COMPANY (B) TO KONTUM AND THE OTHER COMPANY (C) TO AN KHE. B COMPANY WITH A PLATOON OF GUNS WERE IN SUPPORT OF THE 3RD BRIGADE OPERATING IN A NEW AREA KNOWN AS THE GREELY AO. THE BATTALION AND C COMPANY MOVED TO AN KHE TO ASSUME THE BASE DEFENSE MISSION.

JULY

JULY STARTED OFF WITH (A) COMPANY AT PHAN THIEP, (B) COMPANY IN KONTUM, AND (C) COMPANY AT AN KHE. D COMPANY HAD A PLATOON SUPPORTING EACH COMPANY. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION WITH (A) COMPANY. B COMPANY ENCOUNTERED A FEW PROBLEMS WITH WEATHER AND MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN AT KONTUM. B COMPANY WAS SUPPORTING A NEW BRIGADE WITH THE 1ST TEAM, THE 3RD BRIGADE, WHICH HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE 229TH. THE PREVAILING WEATHER WAS THE TOUGHEST PROBLEM TO FIGHT IN THE GREENLY AO. MANY NIGHTS A HUEY WOULD TRY TO FIND ITS WAY HOME IN MARGINAL WEATHER, OF COURSE MAKING A GOOD TARGET FOR THE ENEMY. MOST LZS ASSAULTED WERE PINNACLE AND RIDGELINE TYPE. THIS REQUIRED EVEN MORE SKILL FROM THE PILOTS. "C" COMPANY HAD SPORADIC CONTACT IN AND AROUND AN KHE. THE REF WAS LAGGERED AT MUSTANG PAD WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE SHIPS ON THE GOLF COURSE. HAVING THE SHIP AND CREWS LAGGERED AWAY FROM THE GOLF COURSE GAVE THE BASE DEFENSE A READY REACTION FORCE THAT COULD BE MOVED IMMEDIATELY, EVEN DURING A MORTAR ATTACK. (SO OFTEN DIRECTED TOWARD THE GOLF COURSE).

THE LAST WEEK IN JULY THE BATTALION RECEIVED ORDERS TO MOVE BACK TO LZ DOG AND SUPPORT THE BONG SON AO. B COMPANY WAS ALSO CALLED BACK TO SUPPORT OPERATION PERSHING IN THE BONG SON AO. HQS, B AND D COMPANIES CLOSED INTO LZ DOG ON 25 JUL 67. CHARLIE COMPANY CLOSED INTO LZ UPLIFT THE DAY PRIOR. THE AO WAS NOT BUT CHARLIE HAD MOVED BACK INTO THE AREA WHILE THE HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN GONE. IMMEDIATELY, THE LIFT SHIPS STARTED MOVING INFANTRY TROOPS INTO POSITION WITHIN THE AO. NUMEROUS 6+2 COMBAT ASSAULTS MOVED THE TROOPS INTO POSITION TO FIND THE ENEMY. THE LAST WEEK IN JULY THE BATTALION STARTED RECEIVING THE NEW H MODEL HELICOPTER AND PLANS INDICATED THAT BY OCTOBER THE CHANGEVER WOULD BE COMPLETE. LIKE ANY OTHER NEW EQUIPMENT, THE H MODEL HAD IT'S INITIATION PAINS WITH NUMEROUS MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS.

AUGUST

THE 227TH AVN BN SUPPORTED THE 229TH AVN BN ON 9 AUGUST BY LIFTING THE 1/8TH CAVALRY INTO THE MOUNTAINOUS HILLS AROUND THE SONG RE VALLEY. THE LIFT WAS COMPOSED OF FOUR FLIGHTS OF SIX UHDS, YELLOW, WHITE, GREEN AND ORANGE. THE ORANGE FLIGHT WAS THE 227TH POSITION. THE LIFT WAS WITHOUT INCIDENT UNTIL THE 3RD OF FOUR COMPANIES WAS LIFTED IN, AND AT THAT TIME THE SLICKS BEGAN RECEIVING 12.7 INCH GUN FIRE WHILE GOING INTO A FOUR SHIP LZ (LZ PAT). ARA AND THE GUN SHIPS IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE POSITION UNDER FIRE. ONE GUN SHIP WAS SHOT DOWN AND TWO OBSERVATION SHIPS WERE SHOT UP BEYOND REPAIR. ONE SHIP FROM THE 227TH RECEIVED TWO BULLET HOLES IN THE TAIL BOOM. THE LIFT WAS HELD UP ON THE LAST COMPANY UNTIL ARTILLERY AND OTHER FIRES COULD SUPPRESS THE 12.7 POSITIONS. THE LIFT WAS DELAYED FIVE HOURS AT BATO, A SPECIAL FORCES CAMP, UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1500 HOURS. THE LAST COMPANY WAS PUT IN WITHOUT FURTHER SHOOTING.

THE SNATCH MISSION WAS MORE AGGRESSIVELY USED DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THAT IS, FOUR TO SIX HELICOPTERS WILL CONVERGE ON A GROUP OF PEOPLE WAITING IN THE RICE PADDIES, MANY VC WERE CAPTURED USING THIS METHOD.

NORMAL RESUPPLY AND COMPANY SIZE ASSAULTS IN THE BONG SON PLAIN OCCURED WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION.

C COMPANY LOCATED AT LZ UPLIFT WAS MORTARED WITH APPROXIMATELY 50 ROUNDS ON THE NIGHT OF 26 AUGUST. NO PERSONNEL WERE INJURED BUT 10 UHLD WERE DAMAGED AND TWO COMPLETELY DESTROYED. THIS DID NOT HAMPER OPERATIONS BECAUSE C COMPANY WAS SCHEDULED TO PICK UP EIGHT NEW HOTEL MODEL UH1'S ON THE 28TH. AUGUST ENDED WITH THE BATTALION SUPPORTING OPERATION PERSHING ON THE BONG SON PLAIN AND ONE COMPANY SUPPORTING OPERATION BYRD AT PHAN THIEP.

GRASSHOPPER WAS AGAIN IMPLEMENTED WITH THE AIRCRAFT GOING TO QUI NHON AND AN KHE TO LAGGER OVERNIGHT.

THE H MODEL INVENTORY WAS INCREASING WITH B COMPANY FULLY EQUIPPED, AND C COMPANY HAD STARTED RECEIVING THEIRS.

SEPTEMBER

ONE OF THE LARGEST ASSAULTS TO TAKE PLACE IN THE DONG SON PLAINS HAPPENED ON 6 SEPTEMBER. INTELLIGENCE INDICATED THAT THE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AND ALL ATTACHED UNITS WERE HOLED UP IN THE CAY GIEP MOUNTAINS NORTH OF THE CRESCENT AREA. AFTER TWO B-52 "ARC LITES", THE MOUNTAINS WERE TO BE ASSAULTED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON ALL SIDES AND THE INFANTRY WOULD EXPLOIT THE AREA AND COMPLETELY SEARCH THE MOUNTAINS FOR THE ENEMY. THE L8 + 8 ASSAULT WENT OFF EXCELLENTLY AND WAS A REAL SHOW OF AIRMOBILITY. FIVE DIFFERENT BATTALIONS WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY LANDING AROUND THE OBJECTIVE.

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER THE UNITS OF THE BATTALION HAD CHANGED OVER TO THE "H" MODELS. THE LONG PROCESS OF TURNING IN ALL OUR "D" MODELS WAS IN PROGRESS.

ON 27 SEPTEMBER THE 227TH AVN BN RECEIVED WORD THAT THEY WOULD BE MOVING UP TO THE WALLOWA AO. NW OF TAM KY. THE 3RD BRIGADE WAS TAKING OVER THE MARINE AO FOR THE SECOND TIME AND THE 227TH WOULD PROVIDE AVIATION SUPPORT.

OCTOBER

THE STATE OF THE BATTALION DURING OCTOBER WAS AS FOLLOWS:

THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION (AH) (-) CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE 2ND BDE IN THE PERSHING AO, FROM 1 AUG 67 - 31 OCT 67. "A" COMPANY (-), 227TH (AHB) CONTINUED TO SUPPORT OPERATION DYRD AT PHAN THIET, FROM 1 AUG 67 TO 31 OCT 67. ON 2 OCT 67 "C" COMPANY (+) AND BN HQS (-) 227TH (AHB) MOVED TO THE WALLOWA AO, QUANG TIN PROVINCE, TO SUPPORT THE 3RD BRIGADE, 1ST AIR CAV DIV. "B" COMPANY (-) AND THE REMAINDER OF BN HQ REMAINED AT LZ DOG TO CONTINUE SUPPORT TO THE 2ND BRIGADE. THIS LEFT THE 227TH IN A POSTURE THAT IS WELL BECOMING ITS TRADEMARK, IN THAT IT IS SPLIT INTO THREE SEPARATE AO'S. "D" COMPANY (-) ON 10 OCT 67 MOVED THE REMAINDER OF THEIR COMPANY TO THE WALLOWA AO TO JOIN THE BN (-) IN SUPPORT OF THE 3RD BRIGADE. ONE COMPANY AT PHAN THIET, ONE COMPANY AT LZ DOG AND THE REMAINDER OF THE BN AT LZ GUDE ISLAND.

ON 1 OCTOBER THE 227TH MOVED AN ADVANCE PARTY TO GUDE ISLAND JUST ACROSS THE CHANNEL FROM THE BIG COMPLEX OF CHU LAI. THIS ADVANCE PARTY WAS LED BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LTC ARTHUR J. LEARY JR. ALL VEHICLES AND SUPPLIES HAS TO COME IN BY THE FERRY, ON NAVY MIKE 8 AND MIKE 6 BOATS.

THE BATTALION HAD TO BREAK IN A COMPLETE NEW AREA. NOTHING BUT PINE TREES AND SAND ON THE ISLAND. QUICKLY, THE BATTALION BEGAN TO SET UP POL, AIRCRAFT PARKING AREAS AND COMPANY AREAS. AN ATTACHED ENGINEER COMPANY OPENED THE AREA AND AN INFANTRY COMPANY PROVIDED THE SECURITY AND SLOWLY SET UP A PERIMETER. PENEPRIME WAS SLOWLY OBTAINED AND SAND WAS TOO MUCH TO COPE WITH. AIRCRAFT WERE GOING DOWN FOR F.O.D. AND SAND DAMAGE TO THE ENGINE.

ON 30 OCT 67 LZ GUDE ISLAND WAS MORTARED AND SAPPER UNITS OVERRAN THE FLIGHT LINE. THIS RESULTED IN 5 AIRCRAFT DESTROYED AND 8 EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED. TEN TROOPERS WERE WOUNDED, WITH ONE EVACUATED TO JAPAN.

ON 31 OCTOBER THE BATTALION STARTED REPAIRING THE DAMAGED HELICOPTERS WITH OUTSTANDING ASSISTANCE FURNISHED BY THE 15TH TC BN. MOVEMENT OF TROOPS WAS CURTAILED SOME, BUT AVIATION SUPPORT WAS STILL FURNISHED THE 3RD BDE. ALSO ON 31 OCT THE DECISION WAS MADE TO MOVE THE BATTALION OFF THE ISLAND TO THE CHU LAI COMPLEX.

NOVEMBER

DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER THE 227TH AVN BN FOUND ITSELF IN MARINE BARRACKS AND USING RUNNING WATER FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION HAD MOVED TO VIETNAM. WE WERE LIVING IN THE OLD MARINE AIR GROUP 36 AREA. THE AIRCRAFT WERE PARKED ON HARD ASPHALT AND PIERCED STEEL PLANKING. WE HAD MOVED INTO THE BEST LIVING AREA SINCE THE HILLS OF FT. BENNING.

BUT CHARLIE DIDN'T LET UP AND THE HEAVY AIRCRAFT COMMITMENT CONTINUED; TO HELP THE 3RD BRIGADE COMPLETE ITS MISSION, TO DESTROY THE VC AND THE NVA INFRASTRUCTURE.

ON THE 13TH OF NOVEMBER THE FOLLOWING ACTION TOOK PLACE:

TWO GUNSHIPS WERE ON CALL AT LZ BALDY FOR THE 3RD BRIGADE REARLY REACTION FORCE. THE FLIGHT LEADER WAS ON CALL AT CHU LAI. THE DAY SEEMED TO BE A SLOW ONE FOR A CHANGE. AT APPROXIMATELY 1600 HOURS A CALL CAME IN THAT TWO "D" TROOP 1/9 CAV ARMED HELICOPTERS HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN ABOUT SIX MILES SOUTHEAST OF QUE SON, RVN. IMMEDIATELY THE GUN SHIPS WERE SCRAMBLED AND THE FLIGHT LEADER NOTIFIED. AS SOON AS THE FLIGHT LEADER WAS AIRBORNE HE ASSEMBLED HIS FLIGHT AND GAVE INSTRUCTIONS THAT THEY WERE GOING TO PUT IN A SECURITY FORCE AROUND THE AIRCRAFT AND OF COURSE EVACUATE THE CREW. EVERYONE WAS CAUTIONED THAT THE AREA WAS EXTREMELY "HOT". ENEMY TROOPS HAD BEEN FIRING ON THE DOWNED CREWS FROM THE TREE LINES SURROUNDING BOTH SHIPS. THE FLIGHT LEADER TOOK HIS FLIGHT OF SEVEN SLICKS TO THE WEST OF LZ ROSS TO PICK UP "A" COMPANY 1/35, OF THE 196TH LT INFANTRY BRIGADE, WHICH WAS ATTACHED TO THE 1ST CAV. THIS WOULD BE THE SECURING FORCE FOR BOTH DOWNED AIRCRAFT.

AS THE SEVEN LIGHT HELICOPTERS LANDED WITH THE SECURING TROOPS NEAR THE 1ST DOWNED AIRCRAFT THE ENEMY OPENED UP WITH SMALL ARMS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THE GUN SHIP OF "D" COMPANY, 227TH IMMEDIATELY PLACED FIRES UPON THE ENEMY POSITIONS. ALL SLICKS MIRACULOUSLY GOT OUT OF THE LZ WITHOUT A HIT DUE TO THE EXCELLENT GUN COVERAGE OF DELTA COMPANY. THE FLIGHT RETURNED AND PICKED UP

THE REMAINING PORTION OF "A" COMPANY AND PUT THEM IN THE SAME LZ. AGAIN HEAVY ENEMY FIRE WAS RECEIVED HITTING ONE OF THE SLICKS RENDERING IT NOT FLYABLE AS WELL AS PUTTING TWO ROUNDS IN ONE OF THE GUN SHIPS. THE LIFT WAS NOW SIX SLICKS AND THE GUN SHIPS WERE BOTH STILL FLYABLE. THE FLIGHT LEADER TOOK HIS SIX SHIPS TO PICK UP "B" COMPANY OF THE SAME INFANTRY BATTALION TO SECURE THE 2ND DOWNED AIRCRAFT. THE SECOND LZ WAS EXPECTED TO BE MUCH MORE HOTTER THAN THE FIRST, AS THERE WAS A VILLAGE ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE LZ THAT WAS KNOWN TO CONTAIN SEVERAL AUTOMATIC WEAPONS POSITIONS. AS THE FLIGHT REACHED ABOUT 400 METERS FROM THE LZ THE GUN SHIPS MADE THEIR GUN RUN QUITE SUCCESSFULLY AND THE LIFT HELICOPTERS MADE IT INTO THE LZ WITHOUT RECEIVING A HIT. AS THE GUN SHIPS MADE A 2ND PASS THE ENEMY OPENED UP WITH A HEAVY VOLUME OF FIRE HITTING THREE OF THE LIFT CHOPPERS. ONE SLICK HAD TO MAKE A FORCE LANDING NEAR THE LZ. AS THE GUN SHIP MADE A PASS TO PROTECT THE SLICK, THE GUN SHIP RECEIVED SEVERAL .50 CALIBER HITS FORCING HIM TO LAND. THE OTHER GUNSHIP CONTINUED PLACING FIRE ON THE ENEMY WHILE TWO OF THE EMPTY LIFT SHIPS CAME AROUND AND PICKED UP THE CREWS OF THE TWO NEW DOWNED AIRCRAFT. NO ONE WAS INJURED BY ENEMY FIRE AND BOTH EMERGENCY LANDINGS WERE COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY. THE FLIGHT LEADER THEN DEPARTED TO REORGANIZE AND REFUEL. DURING THIS TIME THREE MORE SLICKS WERE SENT TO THE FLIGHT LEADER MAKING A TOTAL OF EIGHT LIFT SHIPS. TWO ADDITIONAL GUN SHIPS WERE SENT UP TO ASSIST.

THE TWO NEW AIRCRAFT HAD TO BE SECURED AND TIME WAS BECOMING A FACTOR SINCE IT WAS GETTING DARK AND THE WEATHER WAS DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. THE FLIGHT LEADER LEAD HIS FLIGHT OF EIGHT TO THE 1ST DOWNED AIRCRAFT (SLICK) AND ENCOUNTERED FIRE AGAIN FROM THE SW EDGE OF THE LZ. THIS TIME ONE SLICK WAS HIT CUTTING THE FLIGHT DOWN TO SEVEN. THE FLIGHT RETURNED TO MAKE THE 2ND PICKUP AND DUE TO EXCELLENT COVERAGE OF THE GUN SHIPS NO SLICKS WERE HIT.

IT WAS NOW VERY DARK AND THE FLIGHT WAS RUNNING IN AND OUT OF RAIN SHOWERS, BUT ONE HELICOPTER STILL HAD TO BE SECURED. THE FLIGHT OF SEVEN PROCEEDED TO PICK UP THE NECESSARY TROOPS FOR THIS INSERTION. ENROUTE TO THE LZ THE FLIGHT RAN INTO EXTREMELY BAD WEATHER FORCING THEM TO FLY LOW LEVEL OVER AREAS THAT THEY WELL KNEW TO BE HOSTILE. DUE TO THE POOR VISIBILITY THE FLIGHT MISSED THE LZ ON THE FIRST PASS. AS THEY WERE TURNING AROUND TO COME IN AGAIN ONE OF THE LIFT HELICOPTERS RECEIVED HITS AND WENT DOWN. AS THE GUNS SUPPRESSED FOR THE DAMAGED AIRCRAFT, THE SLICK AIRCRAFT COMMANDER MADE A CALL THAT HE HAD SUFFICIENT POWER TO FLY THE SHIP BACK TO A SECURE AREA (LZ BALDY). THE FLIGHT MADE ANOTHER 180 DEGREE TURN AND CONTINUED ON TO THEIR ORIGINAL LZ. THE SUPPRESSIVE FIRES THIS TIME HAD TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED DUE TO THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF FRIENDLY TROOPS. THE FLIGHT DEPOSITED THE TROOPS AND DEPARTED. ON DEPARTURE THEY ENCOUNTERED FIRE AND THE GUN SHIPS RECEIVED NUMEROUS HITS AND A SLICK WAS HIT BUT ALL WERE STILL FLYABLE. THE FLIGHT WAS NOW COMPOSED OF SIX SLICKS. ALL FOUR DOWNED AIRCRAFT HAD SECURING FORCES AROUND THEM, BUT THERE WAS STILL AN ADDITIONAL SIX SORTIES OF "B" COMPANY 1/35 TO BE PUT INTO THE 2ND LZ WHERE THE B TROOP 1/9 GUN SHIP WAS LOCATED. AS THE FLIGHT WENT INTO THE LZ, THE FLIGHT LEADER AGAIN BRIEFED THE FLIGHT TO WATCH THE SUPPRESSIVE FIRES DUE TO THE LOCATION OF FRIENDLY TROOPS.

AS THE FLIGHT APPROACHED THE LZ THE LIFT SHIPS AND GUN SHIPS WERE HIT WITH A TREMENDOUS VOLUME OF AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. THE GUN SHIPS PLACED FIRES ON THE POSITIONS TRYING TO PROTECT THE SLICKS BUT THREE MORE OF THE LIFT SHIPS WERE HIT AND ONE GUN SHIP WAS HIT BALDY AND FORCED TO LAND. IMMEDIATELY THE FLIGHT LEADER DISPATCHED A SLICK TO PICK UP THE DOWNED CREW OF THE GUN SHIP. THE CREW WAS PICKED UP AND ALL SHIPS DEPARTED THE AREA. BY THIS TIME SO MANY OF THE HELICOPTERS WERE DAMAGED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE THE DOWNED GUN SHIP. IT WAS DESTROYED DURING THE NIGHT BY ENEMY TROOPS USING SACHEL CHARGES. THE RESULTS OF THE NIGHTS ACTION WERE STAGGERING, THERE

FIVE HELICOPTERS SHOT DOWN. THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 13 LIFT HELICOPTERS
ONE WAS SHOT DOWN AND 10 OTHERS RECEIVED A VARYING NUMBER OF HITS.
SEVERAL WERE SO BADLY DAMAGED THEY COULD NOT BE FLOWN AGAIN UNTIL EXTENSIVE
REPAIRS WERE MADE. OF THE FIVE AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN ALL 20 CREW MEMBERS WERE
RESCUED. THE FLIGHT LEADER, LT JAMES LAWTON, WAS PRESENTED THE SILVER STAR FOR
HIS ACTION BY THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISIONS' COMMANDING GENERAL, MG JOHN J. TOLSON.
THIS ACTION WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE PROFESSIONAL ATTITUDE THE 227TH MAINTAINED
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

NOVEMBER ENDED WITH OVER 1100 NVA OR VC KILLED BY BODY COUNT. THE
BATTALION ACCOMPLISHED FIVE BATTALION SIZED COMBAT ASSAULTS, 77 COMPANY SIZE
ASSAULTS AND 19 PLATOON SIZE ASSAULTS FOR THE 3RD BRIGADE IN TWO SHORT MONTHS.

NOT ALL ACTION WAS IN THE WALLOWA AO. A COMPANY AT PHAN THIEP WAS
CONDUCTING OPERATIONS IN THE BYRD AO ON 22 NOVEMBER 67 AND WHEN THEY WERE ON
SHORT FINAL TO AN LZ THE ENEMY PLACED HEAVY AUTOMATIC FIRE ON THE FLIGHT. THE
RESULTS WERE AGAIN STAGGERING WITH SEVEN LIFT SHIPS HIT AND TWO ARA AIRCRAFT
HIT AND DESTROYED. ONLY TWO MINOR INJURIES WERE RECEIVED DURING THIS ACTION.
AFTER ALL ACTION WAS TERMINATED AND THE AREA SECURED, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT
THE LZ WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF TWO VC COMPANIES.

DECEMBER

THE 227TH REMAINED IN THE SAME POSITION AS DURING THE PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS, THAT IS, ONE COMPANY AT PHAN THLET (A), ONE COMPANY AT LZ DOG IN DONG SON (D-), AND TWO COMPANIES AND BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AT CHU LAI (C,D).

LTC GEORGE C. HORTON RELINQUISHED COMMAND OF THE BEST AVIATION BATTALION IN VIETNAM TO LTC W. F. DIXON. THE BATTALION CONTINUED THE EXCELLENT SUPPORT IN THREE OF THE FOUR CORPS AREAS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. DECEMBER PROVED TO BE A NORMAL MONTH TO THE 227TH. VARIOUS CHANGES OF PERSONNEL TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE BATTALION.

ENEMY ACTION WAS ON THE INCREASE IN ALL THREE AO'S. IN OPERATION BYRD ON 9 DEC "A" COMPANY HAD TWO LIFT HELICOPTERS SHOT UP WHILE ON SHORT FINAL TO THE LZ. THE RESULTS WERE SEVEN CREW MEMBERS WOUNDED, ONE SERIOUSLY AND SIX WERE MED EVAC. THE TWO AIRCRAFT WERE TURNED IN FOR EXTENSIVE REPAIR.

IN THE PERSHING AO B COMPANY RENDERED SUPPORT TO THE 1ST BRIGADE WHICH CAME IN HEAVY CONTACT WITH TWO NVA BATTALIONS JUST NORTHEAST OF LZ ENGLISH. THE BODY COUNT FOR THAT ACTION SO FAR IS OVER 400 NVA KIA. NO AIRCRAFT DAMAGE HAS BEEN REPORTED.

KEY PERSONNEL

1967

BATTALION COMMANDERS

JANUARY - JUNE	LTC JAMES F. HAMLET
JUNE - DECEMBER	LTC GEORGE C. HORTON
DECEMBER - PRESENT	LTC W. F. DIXON

COMPANY COMMANDERS

HHC

JANUARY - JULY	CPT EDWARD D. HART
JULY - SEPTEMBER	CPT CHARLES P. HARRIS
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	CPT JACK R. WATKINS

A COMPANY

JANUARY - MARCH	MAJ SAMUEL J. HUBBARD
MARCH - JUNE	MAJ GEORGE GILES
JUNE - DECEMBER	MAJ STEVE FARRIER JR.

B COMPANY

JANUARY - JUNE	MAJ FRANCIS J. TONER
JUNE - SEPTEMBER	MAJ EDWARD A. COLBURN
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	MAJ JAMES F. DRADEL

C COMPANY

JANUARY	MAJ MILTON C. SHERIDAN
JANUARY - APRIL	MAJ LESTER C. CAUDLE
APRIL - JULY	MAJ MARION H. COLLINS
JULY - SEPTEMBER	MAJ ANSON D. BELL
SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER	MAJ WILLIAM M. HAYES

D COMPANY

JANUARY - MARCH	MAJ ROBERT M. GIBBS
MARCH - JULY	MAJ RICHARD D. WHITE
JULY - DECEMBER	MAJ WALTER F. D. ALLAN

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

THE FOLLOWING RECEPITULATION OF DECORATIONS AWARDED TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 227TH AVIATION BATTALION (ASSAULT HELICOPTER) FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1967 SERVE AS TANGIBLE TESTIMONY TO THE ESPIRT LE CORPS AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE MEN OF THE 227TH. THESE ARE DECORATIONS AWARDED AND MANY MORE HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED AND NOT RETURNED AS THIS HISTORY IS PUBLISHED.

SILVER STAR (HEROISM)	3
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS (HEROISM)	78
SOLDIERS MEDAL (HEROISM)	8
BRONZE STAR W/"V" (HEROISM)	8
ARMY COMMENDATION W/"V" (HEROISM)	126
PURPLE HEART	45
BRONZE STAR (SERVICE & ACHIEVEMENT)	99
ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (SERVICE & ACHIEVEMENT)	141
AIR MEDAL (COMBAT OPERATIONS)	3465

THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES SERVE AS A VALUABLE GUIDE TO FUTURE COMMANDERS TO COMPARE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE 1967 RESULTS.

STATISTICAL DATA

1 JANUARY 67 - 31 DECEMBER 67

	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TASKS</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>TONAGE</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
JAN	13,247	6,108	20,348	561	4693
FEB	15,380	6,967	21,650	607	3814
MAR	16,339	7,902	21,282	779	4523
APR	16,383	7,076	20,282	596	4474
MAY	16,194	7,564	22,509	857	4949
JUN	14,015	6,252	14,747	695	4456
JUL	13,953	6,114	11,673	758	3940
AUG	18,397	8,293	22,705	917	4826
SEP	17,788	7,290	19,925	1112	4093
OCT	19,781	8,631	23,396	953	5119
NOV	17,371	7,542	24,865	1169	5106
*DEC	18,421	7,930	20,281	1098	4983
TOTAL	197,269	88,291	243,667	10,102	54,975
AVERAGE PER MONTH	16,439	7,358	20,306	842	4581

*ESTIMATE