

HISTORY OF THE
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO San Francisco 96490

1 JANUARY 1967 - 31 DECEMBER 1967

PREPARED BY

1LT CHARLES B. CHITTY

APPROVED BY

DEAN P. WARTICK

MAJOR, INFANTRY

COMMANDING

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1967

The opening of calendar year 1967 found the First Team engaged in Operation Thayer II, with 11th Aviation Group, Headquarters, located at An Khe. Landing Zone Hammond was established as the forward area for the division's aviation assets.

Pathfinders from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group, initially ran landing Zone Hammond, but eventually aircraft control for this complex base was passed to a tower team from the Communications Platoon, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group. Pathfinders continued to establish and control all of the infantry's fire bases throughout the area of operation. Some of these fire bases included Landing Zone's Orange, Gavin, Meade, Uplift, and Stuart. In addition, Pathfinder support was also provided for each infantry maneuver Company.

On the night of 25 January 1967, an eight (8) man Pathfinder team led by Captain Benjamin C. Buckley, parachuted into Landing Zone Moon, to establish a lighted landing zone for a night combat assault by the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. Despite drawing enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire, the Pathfinders were able to successfully complete the combat assault.

On 11 February 1967, Operation Thayer II, terminated and the First Team launched its now famous operation Pershing. Landing Zone Two Bits was established on 12 February 1967, and shortly thereafter the division forward Command Post was moved in from An Khe. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group, also established a forward Command Post at Two Bits. Landing Zone English (Initially know as Landing Zone dog) was expanded to accommodate the second Brigade and Landing Zone

Sandra, was established for the Third Brigade. All four of these major Landing Zone's were opened by Pathfinders. Eventually, Tower and Ground Controlled Approach Radar Teams assumed control of landing Zone's English, and Two Bits. In addition, the Pathfinders established several other battalion sized fire bases through the Division's area of operation. Among these were landing Zone's Hump, Glenn, Pony, Sand, Santana, Jay, Laramie and Geronimo.

June 1967 saw Colonel Lukens, depart as Commanding Officer of 11th Aviation Group, and Colonel Joseph Gude, replaced him.

Shortly after the change of command, on 23 June 1967, a Two Battalion, 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry, and 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry, task force from the Third Brigade was ordered to the Kontum, Dak To area to assist the 173rd Brigade (Airborne) and the 4th Infantry Division. A detachment of Pathfinders from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group, accompanied this airmobile task force to their new area of operation. Two weeks later, on 5 July 1967, this task force was returned to the First Team and the Third Brigade returned to Landing Zone Sandra.

Operations during the summer months remaining were highlighted by the arrival of Major Dean P. Wartick, who assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group, and by the Song Re Valley operation in which Pathfinders accompanied the Third Brigade on an 18 day recon-in-force of the Song Re Valley. Pathfinders also supported task force 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry, in operation Bolling, near Tuy Hoa, Republic of Vietnam, (17 September 1967 - 14 November 1967) and task force First Brigade in Operation Mac Arther (12 November -

26 November 1967) near Dak To, Republic of Vietnam.

On 3 October 1967, Operation Wheeler Wallows was initiated near Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. Only the Third Brigade participated in this operation. A tower and Ground Control approach team from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group, controlled the Brigade's Landing Zone, Landing Zone Baldy. Pathfinder established and controlled Landing Zone's Ross, Colt, and Leslie within the area of operation.

Throughout the entire year operation Byrd remained in progress near Phan Thiet. Task force 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was supported by a team of Pathfinders who controlled Landing Zone's Bartlett and Judy. Operations in the Byrd area of Operation were highlighted by six parachute operations conducted in support of combat operations by the Pathfinders.

During 1967 the last of the tents disappeared from the Headquarters and Headquarters Company in An Khe. Additional Barracks were built and painted through the efforts of the enlisted men of the Company. The appearance of the area was also greatly improved by some landscaping and yardwork.

1967 was a successful and eventful year for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 11th Aviation Group. The officers and men of the Company looked back on the year with justifiable pride in the record of their accomplishments. With sorrow we remember our fallen comrades. We look forward to the challenges of 1968 with confidence and determination.

ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

GROUP COMMANDANT	COLONEL HOWARD LUKENS COLONEL JOSEPH L. GUDE	January 67 - June 67 June 67 - December 67
EXECUTIVE OFFICER	LTC IEO P. TURNER LTC CHARLES GRAFT	December 66 - July 67 July 67 - December 67
ADJUTANT	LTC JOSEPH COBB LTC WILLIE DIXON LTC DERYCK CHRISTY	July 67 - August 67 August 67 - November 67 November 67 - December 67
S-2	MAJ DONALD R. SCHESSLER	August 67 - December 67
S-3	LTC ROBERT DOWNER	March 67 - December 67
S-4	MAJ WILLIAM FERGUSON MAJ WILLIAM SMITH	January 67 - August 67 August 67 - December 67
HHC COMMANDANT	CPT BENJAMIN C. BUCKLEY CPT JAMES ISREAL MAJ DEAN P. WARTICK	February 67 - June 67 June 67 - July 67 July 67 - December 67
SERGEANT MAJOR	SMG MELVIN E. NEAL SMG BOYCE C. WOODMAN	January 67 - May 67 May 67 - December 67
FIRST SERGEANT	1SG BILLIE WILDER 1SG JOHN S. VANDIVER	January 67 - July 67 July 67 - December 67
COMMUNICATION PLT IDR	CPT JAMES ISREAL	May 67 - December 67
COMMUNICATION PLT SGT	SGT ANDREW BOST MSG LEONARD M. WHITE	January 67 - June 67 June 67 - December 67
PATHFINDER PLT IDR	CPT BENJAMIN C. BUCKLEY CPT ROBERT JACKSON	January 67 - February 67 February 67 - December 67
PATHFINDER PLT SGT	PSG GEORGE KNAB PSG JAMES R. MARTIN	February 67 - August 67 August 67 - December 67

DECORATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1967

SILVER STAR PFC KEITH V. HUFFSTUTLER 1 November 67 Binh Dinh Prov
(Posthumously)

SOLDIERS MEDAL SSG HOWARD C. STOKES 3 July 67 Kontum Prov
CPL CARLTON A. MAGER 3 July 67 Kontum Prov
CPL EDWARD G. EMMONS 3 July 67 Kontum Prov

BRONZE STAR WITH "V" DEVICE

SGT RANDELL T. BOSTIC 1 April 67 Binh Dinh Prov
PFC JOHN M. BRIMM 21 August 67 Souica Valley
PFC DAVID A. FLICK 19 May 67 (Location UNK)
CPL EVERARDO S. GOMEZ 31 October 67 Quang Nhiem
SGT CAREY R. GONZALES 26 June 67 An Hoa
CPL RONALD LUNDE 28 June 67 Tan An
PFC MICHAEL W. MANN 27 January 67 Tan An
PFC JEFFREY A. PARISI 25 March 67 Dan Tra-o Lake
SGT JOSEPH L. SNOCK 27 February 67 Bong Son