

Attachment A

UNIT HISTORY

4th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, 31st Combat Aviation Group U.S. Army Reserve

"The esprit of a unit can often be traced directly to an awareness of its members to that particular unit's history. Pride in one's organization and a motivation to enhance a unit's prestige are two of the important reasons for a study of past events. With these tenants in mind this unit history of the 158th Aviation is presented. In a larger sense, however, it is for the future members of this command that we have prepared this history (15 September 1969)".

25 July 1968: The 158th Aviation Battalion was activated as an element of the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Carson, Colorado from elements of the existing 246th and 247th Aviation Companies at Fort Carson, CO and at Fort Riley, KA. HHC, A, B, and D Companies trained up at Fort Carson while C Company trained by itself at Fort Riley.

25 January 1969: The Battalion advance party departed Colorado to arrive at Da Nang, Republic of South Vietnam (RVN) on 28 January, The remainder of the battalion closed by the end of February and initiated a concentrated in-country training period.

1 April 1969: The Battalion was declared fully operational. The individual units of the "Challenge" Battalion adopted the following call signs:

A Company	with attached 159th Trans. Detachment:	Ghostrider
B Company	with attached 168th Trans. Detachment:	Lancer
C Company	with attached 273rd Trans. Detachment:	Phoenix
D Company	with attached 169th Trans. Detachment:	Redskin

The Battalion Commander took the call sign **Vampire**.

8 May 1969: The Battalion participated in its first major combat assault called Apache Snow, by lifting four battalions of troops into the A-Shau Valley which remained the focal point of the largest number of 158th operations. The combat history that followed for the Battalion is marked by names of operations such as Richland square ; Clayborn Chute; Montgomery Rendezvous; Kentucky Jumper; Norton Falls; Louisiana Lee, and Dong Ap Bia (Hamburger Hill) along with the series of excursions into Laos called Lamson 719; 720, 810, and 820. That history also includes the memory of fire support bases with the names of Ripcord, O'Reilly, Tun Tavern, Henderson, Barnett, Shepard, and Vandergrift.

January 1969 - December 1971: During its 3-year tour of duty in Vietnam, the Battalion flew 196,471 hours of direct combat support. Decorations awarded to individuals were:

Silver Star.	42
Distinguished Flying Cross. . .	423
Soldiers Medal.	12
Bronze Star.	1815
Purple Heart.	150
Army Commendation Medal. . . .	2023
Air Medal.	6271

Unit citations and awards were:

Presidential Unit Citations

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel), 1969, Dong Ap Bia Mountain
158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel), 1969, Ho Chi Minh Trail

Valorous Unit Awards

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel), 1979, Thua Thien Province

Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel), 1969

Vietnamese Civics Action Honor Medal - First Class

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel), 1970

During this period, 68 men made the supreme sacrifice and met their ultimate rendezvous destiny. May the memory of their sacrifice never be forgotten.

January 1972: Upon return to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky in January 1972, the primary mission of the 101st Airborne Division was to recruit and train 10,000 volunteers under the "Unit of Choice Program". The 158th Aviation Battalion and other units of the 101st dispersed personnel in eleven states to support that mission. During the later months of 1972, the 158th once again directed its focus upon equipment acquisition and company-size training activities. In January of 1973 the Battalion participated in a brigade-size training operation called Quick Eagle I.

January 1973 - 1977: The 158th supported the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Ft. Campbell and around parts of the world in many varied and exciting exercises. In the early seventies, the Challenge Battalion tested many new air assault concepts and techniques to

include Anti-Tank Warfare, Motar Copter, and Mud Pattern Camouflage.

April 1978: The 158th became the first operational UH-60 Battalion in the U.S. Army.

1978 - Oct. 1980: Aside from providing leadership in the development and fine tuning of air assault doctrine not much detailed information has been uncovered about the 158th during this period.

October 1980 - September 1981: The 158th participated in joint service level special operations using night vision goggles in black-out conditions over long-range navigation routes. The training techniques used in these operations evolved into standards for Army Aviation. In April of 1981, the 158th Aviation Battalion was augmented with B Company/229th Avn Bn which was designated the 158th Avn Bn Task Force. The force continued special mission training during the summer of 1981.

30 September 1981: The 158th Avn Bn was inactivated at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky and relieved from assignment to the 101st Airborne Division. Personnel and assets from the 158th Task Force were officially recognized on 16 October 1981 as the 160th Task Force, the U.S. Army's premier night fighting aviation force known as the Night Stalkers.

August 1987: The name "158th Task Force" reappeared in the summer of 1987 when it was used by 101st Airborne Division Aviation assets assigned to support Bright Star operations in Egypt. It is interesting to note that personnel from the 327th Avn Co USAR located at Ft. Meade, MD and Ft. Eustis, VA participated in aviation operations with the 158th at Bright Star 87. The 327th was later inactivated but its aircraft and several of its personnel were assigned to Co. C, 4th Bn 158th Avn Regt., USAR in September 1987.

16 September 1987: The 158th Avn Bn was relieved from allotment to the Regular Army and re-allotted to the Army Reserve after which it was re-designate the 4th Bn 158th Avn Reg. at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. LTC Neale McGarry was the BN Commander and MAJ. Salvatore Salupo as Executive Officer, Staff as follows: S-1, 1LT Gail Deterra; S-2, CPT James McCormick; S-3, MAJ Stephen Mahan; S-4, 1LT Ronald Kellis; CSM, Michael Doherty. The New BN came under the 31st Combat Aviation Group of the 97th ARCOM, located at Ft. Meade, MD. HQ, HHC and B Co. were located at Ft. Devens, Ma. A and D Co. were located at Willow Grove, NAS, Penn., and C Co. was located at Ft. Eustis, VA.

9 April 1989: The 158th Avn Regt had its first change of command ceremony. LTC Neale McGarry was promoted to COL. and assigned to 31st CAG. The new 158th Avn Regt Commander is LTC Philip Fogli, who came to this Bn from the 2072nd USAR School, Philadelphia, Penn.