

ENCLOSURE 5

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF 158TH AVN. BN.

30 NOV 1971

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 158th AVIATION BATTALION (ASLT HEL)
101st AIRBORNE DIVISION (AMBL)
APO San Francisco 96383

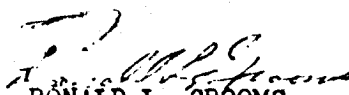
AVDG-LE-CE

30 November 1971

Commanding General
101st Airborne Division (AMBL)
APO S.F. 96383

Attached as an inclosure is the summary of the history of the 158th Aviation Battalion (AH).

FOR THE COMMANDER:


RONALD L. GROOMS
MAJ Armor
S-3 Officer

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 158th AVIATION BATTALION (ASLT HEL)
101st AIRBORNE DIVISION (AMBL)
APO San Francisco 96383

HISTORICAL SUMMARY OF THE 158th AVIATION BATTALION (AH)

The 158th Aviation Battalion was activated on 25 July 1968 at Fort Carson, Colorado from existing units of the 246th and 247th Aviation Companies. The Battalion conducted training during the months of September and November until preparation for deployment was begun. The advance party arrived in Vietnam on 28 January 1969 with the last elements of the Battalion arriving on 23 February 1969. The 158th Aviation Battalion (AH) was declared fully operational on 1 April 1969 and was welcomed in an official ceremony by the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division along with three 122mm rockets compliments of "Charlie!"

The mission of the 158th Aviation Battalion has been to provide tactical mobility to the combat troops, supplies and equipment of the 101st Airborne Division during the conduct of combat and combat support operations. The Battalion's first major combat assault occurred on 8 May 1969 during Operation Apache Snow. During the period 8 May 1969 through 30 November 1971 the 158th Aviation Battalion has provided support for U.S. and ARVN forces in every major operation conducted in northern Military Region I. The operations include Montgomery Rendezvous, Kentucky Jumper, Richland Square, Republic Square, and more recently Lam Son 719, 720, 810 and 820 in support of ARVN forces. During Lam Son 719 the 158th Aviation Battalion was the first aviation unit to airlift ARVN troops into Laos and during final stages of Lam Son 810, provided 47 lift aircraft on one hour notice for the extraction of ARVN forces. During its service in Vietnam the 158th Aviation Battalion has logged 196,471 hours of direct combat support.

In addition to the combat role of the Battalion many people of the Republic of Vietnam will remember the 158th Aviation Battalion for the many civic action projects undertaken by the men of the 158th. Several local schools and orphanages have received support through the donations of funds and manpower by the members of the Battalion.

During the 32 months of service in the Republic of Vietnam 68 men have made their ultimate rendezvous with destiny. The memory of these professionals and their supreme sacrifice will live forever in the hearts of those who have served with them.

The 158th Aviation Battalion during its existence has served under seven commanders (See Annex A). These men have led the Battalion well and have met the "Challenge."

ANNEX A

BATTALION COMMANDERS OF THE 158th AVIATION BATTALION

1 October 1968 to 10 August 1969	LTC Peter C. Withers
11 August 1969 to 24 January 1970	LTC Joseph H. Kastner
25 January 1970 to 30 June 1970	LTC George N. Stenehjem
1 July 1970 to 26 January 1971	LTC Robert J. Gerard
27 January 1971 to 19 March 1971	LTC William M. Peachey
21 March 1971 to 11 August 1971	LTC Robert A. Phillips
12 August 1971 to Present	LTC Stephen E. Featherstone

ENCLOSURE 6

HISTORY APPROX. JUN 1972

HISTORY

General order # 244 activated the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt : Hel) on 25 July 1968 at Fort Carson, Colorado. Immediately the infant battalion began six months of intensive training in preparations for vietnam combat.

The 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) consisted of five (5) companies. A, B, and C company were the tactical lift companies. D was the gun company and supported the battalion with aerial rocket artillery and other organic gun systems. HHC provided command and control staff planning, and supervision for the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel).

The 101st Airborne Division (Ambl), in March 1969, became the 158th Aviation Battalion's parent unit upon its arrival in vietnam. The remainder of 1969 found the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) participating in numerous operations such as, "Apache Snow", "Montgomery Rendezvous", "Kentucky Jumper", "Richland Square", and "Morton Falls".

Vietnam remained the home of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt : Hel) for the following two (2) years. During this period, the men of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) set a record unmatched by any other aviation battalion in the 101st Airborne Division (Ambl).

The 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) enjoys the distinction of having conducted its operations in the most hazardous terrain in Vietnam. The A-Shaw Valley was the focal point for the largest number of operations conducted. This area, surrounded by rugged mountains, presented possibly the most difficult and dangerous problems any aviator is likely to encounter. Through all of this the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) flew 105,358 combat hours, which was the highest amount of hours flown by any battalion in the 101st Airborne Division (Amb). Upon leaving Vietnam the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) had an accident, incident rate of 11.2% which was the lowest rate of any other battalion in the Division.

The men of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) not only won the respect of the Vietnamese but also their hearts. Late in 1971 as Monsoon rains flooded areas in Vietnam the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) flying through torrential rains, low ceiling and bad visibility evacuated over 1000 Vietnamese refugees and then donated money, time, and effort to provide food, clothing, and shelter for them.

The 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) left the Republic of Vietnam with a combat record equalled by few. The men that served with the battalion during its combat role in Vietnam held their heads high and said, " We met the "CHALLENGE".

The 101st Airborne Division (Amb) remained the parent unit of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) as they returned home in

January of 1972 to Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The primary mission of the 101st Airborne Division (Anbl) in 1972 was to recruit and train 10,000 volunteers. The Unit of choice program was initiated to fulfill this goal. Along with the other units of the 101st, the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) was given the mission of supplying personnel to man the program. Men of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) dispersed in eleven (11) states across the Nation and contributed greatly to the realization of the goal.

The 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) then turned it's attention to personnel and equipment acquisition. Concurrently, company size training was intensified through support of various units within the division to include setting up and operating the Division Instrument Training School for all post and division aviators.

In January of 1973 a brigade size operation was held, the first for the division since returning to Fort Campbell. Quick Eagle I as it was called saw various companies of the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) supplying helicopters and men during the operation.

Quick Eagle II was held in March of 1973 with all three brigades of the division participating. Several battalion size airmobile operations were conducted with the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) playing an integral part.

As the companies of the 158th Aviation Battalion are declared combat ready, the entire Battalion is looking forward to meeting any "CHALLENGE" confronting it.

PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) 8 Feb 71 - 24 Mar 1971 (Pending)
Co A 158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) 10 May 1969 - 21 May 1969
Co B 158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) 10 May 1969 - 21 May 1969

VALOROUS UNIT AWARDS

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) 22 July 1970 - 23 July 1970

VIETNAMESE CROSS OF GALLANTRY W/PALM

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) 23 Feb 1969 - 14 May 1969

VIETNAMESE CIVICS ACTION HONOR MEDAL - FIRST CLASS

158th Avn Bn (Aslt Hel) 26 Feb 1969 - 2 May 1970

DECORATIONS AWARDED

From 1 January 1969 to 30 November 1971

Silver Star	42
Distinguished Flying Cross	423
Soldiers Medal	12
Bronze Star	1,815
Army Commendation Medal	2,023
Air Medal	6,271
Purple Heart	150

Commanders of the 158th Aviation Battalion (aslt Hel)

Major Maurice Dougherty	25 Jul 68 - 30 Sept 68
Lieutenant Colonel Peter C Withers	1 Oct 68 - 10 Aug 69
Lieutenant Colonel Joseph H Kastner	11 Aug 69 - 24 Jan 70
Lieutenant Colonel George N Stenehjem	25 Jan 70 - 30 Jun 70
Lieutenant Colonel Robert J Gerard	1 Jul 70 - 26 Jan 71
Lieutenant Colonel William M Feachey	27 Jan 71 - 19 Mar 71
Lieutenant Colonel Stephen E Featherstone	21 Mar 71 - 21 Dec 71
Major William A Bartlett	24 Jan 72 - 1 Jun 72
Lieutenant Colonel Joseph A Koehnke	2 Jun 72 -