

Only Combat Operations Center could authorize an extension to a release time. Over all, the Company provided tremendous support to the IV Corps during 1965 through the numerous C & L missions its aircraft flew.

Administrative Missions:

A fourth category of missions which "The Winged Warriors" conducted was administrative. This category included all these missions which were in support of the Company itself and which contributed to the functioning of the unit.

The only regularly scheduled administrative mission was that of the "Snooper" which was sent up every night to fly around the airfield and drop flares on Viet Cong positions in case of a mortar attack. This policy was started following the mortar attack on the evening of 7 February 1965 and was continued throughout. From their airborne position the pilots and crew members were better able to spot the flashes of the VC mortars and could direct the "armed ships" to them once they became airborne. The "Snooper" responsibility was shared with the "Tigers" who initiated it; each company taking a two hour shift each night. The Company also scheduled a stand-by flare ship to be ready to assist the "Snooper" in case of attack.

Another type of administrative mission was the R & R run to Vung Tau which normally went every three days when a ship was available. The people going on R & R flew the ship up and those returning from R & R flew it back often returning by way of Saigon to pick up mail, supplies, or personnel going to Soc Trang.

Administrative runs also included courier runs to Can Tho and Saigon for personnel on company business. A pay run was made regularly each

month between Saigon and Soc Trang to pick up the Company's payroll. Ships going to Can Tho or Saigon often carried outgoing PCS personnel as well as those going on emergency leave or out of the country R & R. Returning ships carried replacements coming to the company or other units at Soc Trang as well as people returning to duty. They also carried mail not delivered by the Air Force, PX supplies, aircraft parts, and anything or anybody else needing transportation to Soc Trang or the Delta.

All of the types of work described above were administrative missions which helped the company support itself and its attached units as well as the other units at Soc Trang. While the primary responsibility for logistical and administrative support belonged to Army Caribou units and the USAF, the Company's scheduling of its own administrative missions contributed significantly and insured smooth and continuous operation.

Armed Combat Missions:

The final category of missions performed by members of Co A, 101st Aviation Battalion was armed aerial combat. These missions were conducted by the "T-Birds" armed platoon whose members were equipped and trained to perform a wide variety of armed combat tasks.

The "T-Birds" were often called upon to provide armed escort for VIP flights, "slicks" going into dangerous areas, CV-2 Caribous on LOLEX missions in dangerous areas, and motor convoys. Another type of mission which fell into this category was lending close tactical fire support against the VC to friendly units on the ground or a friendly outpost under attack by "Charlie". Frequently the "T-Birds" were on stand-by. After being alerted there was less than a two minute time lapse before they were airborne and enroute to the distress area.