

AUGUST 1966

During the month of August the "Warriors", participated in eighteen airmobile operations having mission command of eight. Many of these were no more than frustrating excursions into rice paddies, as little contact was made with the Viet Cong during August.

However, the "Winged Warriors" continued the outstanding support they have provided in previous months. One four day operation did rout many Viet Cong from the U Minh forest, a haven that they have had to themselves for years, and the "T-Birds" continued to inflict their share of punishment on the enemy.

By August the impact of the rotation losses on the company was shown by the number of hours the remaining aviators have flown. At the same time the "Warriors" were getting replacements. However, they must be trained before they can become operational in the Delta. The number of hours flown by the company in August is not significantly different from other months for the work must still be done. The "Warrior Slicks" flew 2,188 hours, the second all time high for the company and the "T-Birds" flew 679 hours which exceeded their old record by over 200 hours. The high time aviator logged 138.6 hours and with the exception of the new aviators, all were close to this figure. Many of the new ones logged an average of 35 hours for each week they were here during this period.

The "Warrior Slicks" got the new XM 23 gun mount system designed specifically for the UH-1D. It consisted of the mount assembly that bolts to the side of the aircraft and the XM 600 machine gun with the grips instead of the stock. Previously, the gunners used either the old mount or

would hold their weapons. The only drawback was that the gunners must sit in the two side walls and couldn't remain in the forward compartment to supervise loading and unloading of passengers.

The "colors" of Co A, 101st Aviation Battalion are returning to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. The unit at Soc Trang is being redesignated as the 336th Aviation Company (Air Mobile Light) by direction of the Department of the Army.

During the period, Co A, 101st Aviation Battalion has been in Vietnam many changes for the better have occurred. Soc Trang is constantly being improved upon as an installation. Each individual who has been in this unit has contributed in some way to the progress achieved in all aspects of operations, maintenance, improvement of facilities, and to the overall war effort.