

FEBRUARY 1966

During the first seventeen days of February, the "Warriors" participated in eleven airmobile operations having mission command of seven. On 7 February the "T-Birds" supported a 7th Division ground operation CUU LONG 7. They provided visual reconnaissance and fire support to the ground elements who were sweeping through a Viet Cong dock facility. The "T-Birds" were credited with 52 VC dead, 9 Sampans sunk and 3 buildings destroyed.

On 11 February a "T-Bird" gun ship was heavily damaged by ground fire on operation LONG PHI 955.

On 21 February at 0100 hours the "Warriors" (less administrative and rear det. personnel) pulled out of Soc Trang for a two week II Corps commitment at TUY HOA on the central coast of South Vietnam. All aircraft arrived by 1100 hours and began setting up in their bivouac area near the beach. After lunch, most of the aircraft began command and liaison missions. The "Winged Warriors" had arrived to support the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division, the second element of the division to be in Vietnam. The "Warriors" supported the brigade on many airmobile operations, and it seemed strange to many to be transporting American troops instead of Vietnamese. The terrain was different from the Delta, but the operations were much the same. Also, on several occasions, the "Warriors" airlifted Korean troops.

Meanwhile, back at Soc Trang, a new control tower was constructed. It was complete except for tinted glass and air conditioning.

During February the "slicks" flew 1,292 hours and the "T-Birds" flew 438 hours. The high aviator of the month logged 113.9 hours.