

JANUARY and FEBRUARY 1965

In the first two months of the year 1965, the unit under the command of Major Wayne E. Dutton, participated in one field exercise, performed two medical evacuation missions and was the subject of a CMMI inspection. These items of interest changed what would otherwise have been an uneventful start for the year 1965. Talk of going overseas had been drifting about, however no specific orders had been received.

MARCH 1965

Orders dated 24 March 1965 were received by the company. The orders directed that Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion be detached from the 101st Airborne Division and be further assigned to the United States Army Support Command, Vietnam. The mode of travel was indicated to be sea vessel and the effective date of arrival was scheduled to be 1 May 1965.

APRIL 1965

On 10 April 1965 at 0100 hours, the company departed Ft. Campbell, Kentucky on the first leg of their trip to the Republic of Vietnam. The company flew to San Diego Naval Base, California. On 11 April 1965, the officers and men of the company boarded the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Iwo Jima, then moored at San Diego, and adjusted to what would be their home for the next three weeks.

While on the high seas, the aviators and crew chiefs trained, classes were taught and drills were conducted throughout the entire trip.