

JUNE 1965

On 10 June 1965 in an area 55 miles North of Saigon, one of the biggest operations to date took place. Known as mission #230, this troop lift netted the company two Distinguished Flying Crosses, and 45 air medals with "V" device. The place was Don Xang. Machine guns and mortar fire in the landing zone gave the men of Company A, 101st a real test of courage and flying ability. A magnificent job of alertness and judgement in behalf of the command and control officer and the flight leader helped the ground forces to recapture this Viet Cong infested area.

Not all the action was found while flying on the "RF" or on the daily C&L missions. During the night, while the troops were in a relaxed mood, eating, watching a movie or sleeping, the loud shattering noises of incoming artillery or mortars were enough to rapidly send you towards the nearest bunker. On 1 July 1965, at 2240 hours, the Viet Cong started their vicious mortar attack on the grounds of Soc Trang Army Airfield. Rounds were falling on sections of the field, pilots and crews dashed out of their congregating places, and without regard to personal safety ran toward their respective helicopters, dodging and zigzagging to keep away from the effects of the mortar shells. Some personnel received wounds, and some helicopters were damaged, but those that were able to sustain flight were flown out of the area under attack. Air Medals with "V" devices were presented those soldiers and officers who under the rain of enemy fire, removed their aircraft from almost certain destruction.