

MARCH 1966

Major Ruby L. Whitehead replaced Major Donald J. Elmore as commander of Co A, 101st Aviation Battalion. The new "Warrior 6" assumed command 28 March.

The "Warriors" returned to Soc Trang from Tuy Hoa and resumed normal operations with the Delta Battalion on 7 March. From 7 March through the end of the month the "Warriors" participated in thirteen airmobile operations, having mission command of five. The operations this month were very successful. While supporting these airmobile operations, the "T-Birds" found and killed "Charlie" on all but three occasions. The most profitable of these was Operation Chu Long, 15 on 21-22 March. The "Warriors" had mission command to support the 7th Division staging at Moc Hoa, 3 infantry battalions were lifted into known VC positions on the southern tip of the "Plain of Reeds". In two days of fighting the "T-Birds" and the other participating gun platoons of the "Delta" Battalion killed 206 VC, wounded 14, destroyed 37 huts and damaged or sunk 14 sampans.

On a quick reaction operation on 20 March the "T-Birds" scrambled to Bac Lieu to assist units of the 21st Division who had made contact with an estimated battalion of VC. After the afternoons work was finished, the "T-Birds" were credited with a VC count of 40 dead, 28 wounded, and 4 sampans sunk. On a similar mission earlier in the month the "T-Birds" killed 33 VC. And so it went all month.

The full time job of Airfield Commander and Installation Coordinator was created this month. Prior to this, the senior commander at Soc Trang held this as an additional duty. As it has worked out the "Warriors" have

had the senior commander since arriving here. This has relieved the tactical commander from administrative duties that were becoming more complex as Soc Trang grew.

The "Warrior" slicks" flew 1,241 hours and the "T-Birds" flew 364 hours this month. The high aviator for the month had 111.0 hours.