

PHOENIX



"Rendezvous With Destiny"

C/158TH AVN. BN. 101ST ABN. DIV.

On the occasion of the Phoenix And Friends Reunion in Omaha in 2015, which brought together all generations of Phoenix from all over the world, C Company 158th Avn. BN 101st Abn Div presents this plaque to the Army Aviation Museum at Fort Rucker Alabama in memory of the following perpetual brothers-in-arms whose ultimate sacrifice in pursuit of the cause in Viet Nam we remember every day.

From DaNang
To The DMZ And
North, From Eagle Beach
To The Ashau And West

Phoenix Unit Awards

Presidential Unit Citation



Valorous Unit Award



Vienam Cross of Gallantry
with Palm, Unit Citation



Vienam Civil Actions
Unit Citation



ANDREW LEE MILLS • DOYLE DANIEL DUNBAR • TERENCE JOHN MORTENSEN • JERONE JAMES WARNICK • GREGORY GERALD FUCHS • JAMES ROBERT COUCH • ALAN CARSON MANESS • THOMAS LYNN FORSYTHE • ARTHUR ROBERT HERNDON • DAVID LEROY EGGLESTON • DONALD LLOYD SWANSON • MAHLON RONNIE ARNETT • PHILIPPE LUC LAS HERMES • ROGER BRUCE BAXTER • CLIFFORD EARL POE • ALLEN GENE KINNE • ROBERT KENNETH COLE • NICHOLAS GABRIEL SAUNDERS • CARLTON COE GRAY • JOHN STEPHENSON WILSON • LARRY GLENN BALDWIN • ALBERT MAURICE FINN • WILLIAM THOMAS DOTSON • DAN OWEN FELTS • CLIFFORD KEITH BAADE • THOMAS PATRICK DOODY • PAUL CLARK STEWART • CHARLES GLEN BOBO • JOHN ERNEST ROBERTSON • RALPH ANGELO MOREIRA • DAVID LINDFORD NELSON • JOEL CLINTON HATLEY • MICHAEL ELI KING • DALE ALLEN PEARCE • DAVID PECOR SOYLAND • ROBERT LEE DENMARK • BYRON KENT KULLAND

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.
The Fallen, R. Laurence Binyon*



C/158 Aviation Battalion, The Phoenix, flew from the "Phoenix Nest" at Camp Evans, RVN, located approximately midway between the old Imperial Capitol of Hue and the northern city of Quang Tri in Thua Thien Province. The Phoenix performed their assault helicopter mission in Northern I Corps, usually north of Hue, an area of South Viet Nam in which all types of terrain and enemy forces were encountered. The Phoenix received many individual and unit citations, but all members agree that the best reward for the effort was the appreciation received from the ground units they supported.

The 158th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter) was activated on 25 July 1968 and was to become the second assault helicopter battalion of the 160th Aviation Group (later the 101st Aviation Group) of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). On March 1, 1969 the battalion was assembled in its entirety and welcomed by the Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division. On May 8, 1969, the Phoenix participated in "Operation Apache Snow," a combat assault into the Ashau Valley focused on a mountain which was called "Ap Bia" by the local Montagard tribesman, "the mountain of the crouching beast. It has also been known as "Hamburger Hill." The A Shau was a pipeline and staging area for the North Vietnamese Army. The Valley and the four northwestern most provinces in South Vietnam were the home to the bloodiest of battles in the Vietnam War. The operation was to be a direct challenge to the North Vietnamese Army and their 29th Infantry Regiment which used the area as a base for launching the Tet attack against the city of Hue in 1968. The 101st Division withdrew from "Hamburger Hill" on May 20th but would return several times during the summer of 1969 to challenge the North Vietnamese Army's infiltration of the south.

Consistent with that interdiction mission, Command and Control North or "CCN" was a common Phoenix mission in support of the cross-border missions of the Special Forces, MACV-SOG based at Quang Tri. The Phoenix were involved in many major operations, including those associated with Khe Sanh; the evacuation of Firebases Ripcord and O'Reilly; and support generally of the 101st Airborne Division, 1st ARVN Division, 3rd Marine Recon, and 1st Brigade of 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

The last major mission was Operation Dewey Canyon II and ultimately Lam Son 719, which was the largest invasion since the Normandy Beaches during WW II. On January 25, 1971 Operation Dewey Canyon II began and paved the way for Lam Son 719. The areas included within the scope of Lam Son were familiar territories for the Phoenix from their many CCN missions, and they were thus called upon to help spearhead the Laotian invasion. The invading troops were our South Vietnamese allies, with air support provided by US Army Aviation assets. When Huey crews from many aviation units arrived at Khe Sanh to begin reopening the old base, they were pleasantly surprised to find a "Welcome to Khe Sanh" sign awaiting them. It was left there the night before by a Phoenix crew.

The Phoenix remain a very close knit organization more than 40 years after Viet Nam service, staying connected through reunions and the "Phoenix Nest West" at <http://www.phoenix158.org/>.



*"We have shared the incommunicable experience of war, we have felt, we still feel, the passion of life to its top.
In our youth our hearts were touched with fire."
Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.*

