

TRADITIONAL CALL SIGNS

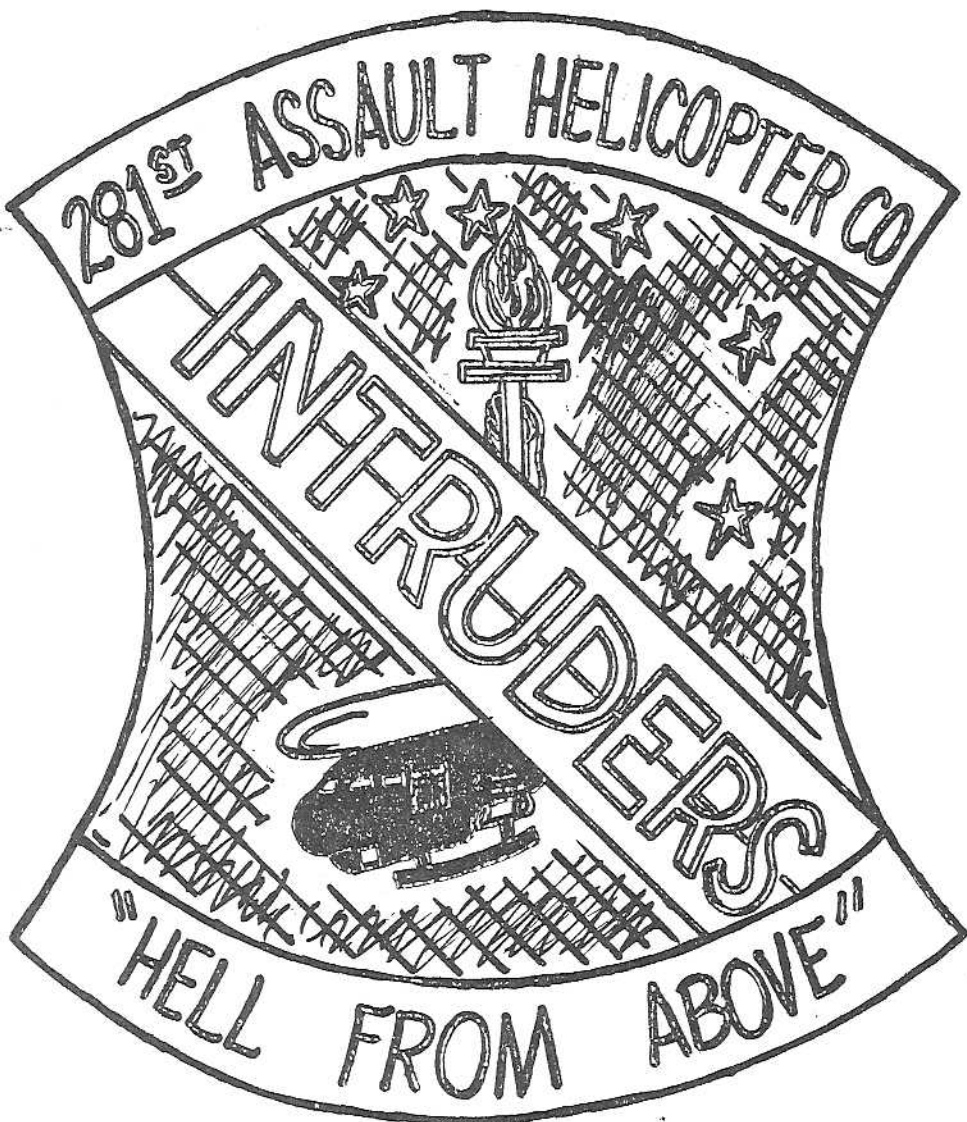
LIFT SHIPS MARDI GRAS

GUN SHIPS WOLF PACK

COMMANDERS

EVERDUS H. HACKETT 7 October 1965 - 23 July 1966

WILLIAM P. GRIFFIN 24 July 1966 - 31 December 1966



281st ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

The origin of the 281st Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam began with the 145th Airlift Platoon of the 145th Aviation Battalion which arrived in this theater during 1964, and was stationed at PHAN THIET, RVN, in support of Special Forces operations in that area. The platoon moved to NHA TRANG and was assigned to the 52nd Aviation Battalion on 6 January 1965 to provide aviation support to Headquarters, I Field Forces, Vietnam. On 25 December 1965, the unit was assigned to the 10th Aviation Battalion by General Order Number 256, Headquarters, USARV, dated 30 December 1965. In early February, the 145th Airlift Platoon and the 6th Aviation Platoon, 171st Aviation Company were combined into 2nd Platoon, 171st Aviation Company per General Order Number 4, Headquarters, 12th Aviation Group, dated 25 January 1966. The mission of the 2nd Platoon, 171st Aviation Company was to provide helicopter support as directed by 5th Special Forces Group (ABN) with headquarters at NHA TRANG, RVN. The 281st Aviation Company (AML) was activated by General Order Number 318, Headquarters, Third U.S. Army, dated 7 October 1965. This order activated the company headquarters; service platoon; 499th Signal Detachment; and the 483rd Transportation Detachment for the 281st Aviation Company (AML). The advance party of this unit arrived in Vietnam on 23 May 1966, and the main body closed at NHA TRANG on 4 June 1966. The company received the assets and assumed the mission of the 2nd Platoon, 171st Aviation Company per General Order Number 27, Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group, dated 14 July 1966.