

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
HISTORY OF THE
221ST AVIATION COMPANY (SURVEILLANCE, O-1)
13TH AVIATION BATTALION
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

1 January 1968 – 31 December 1968

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
FORWARD	3
HERALDRY	4-5
COMMAND AND CONTROL	6
TACTICS & EMPLOYMENT	7
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	
DOCUMENTATION OF TET OFFENSIVE	8
SECOND PLATOON	9
THIRD PLATOON	10
FOURTH PLATOON	11-12
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS	13-17
HONOR ROLL	
APPRENDICES	
COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL LOSSES	18
PERSONNEL WOUNDED IN ACTION	20
TOTAL HOURS FLOWN	21
TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN	22
AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY	23
AFTER ACTION RESULTS	24
OFFICERS ASSIGNED IN 1968	25
EM ASSIGNED IN 1968	26-28
CONCLUSION	29

FOREWARD

The calendar year of 1968 found the 221st Aviation Company (Surveillance, O- in its third year of combat throughout the Mekong Delta. The phrase “Eyes over the Delta” above the units escutcheon has a truthful ring in this light. The “Shotguns” continued to be a major deterring factor in halting the influx and activities of the Viet Cong. The use of the O-1 in the Delta has proved to be a useful weapon in the arsenal for freedom. The 221st has remained a very flexible unit since its employment in the southeast Asian Theater. This was exemplified by the smooth transition and implementation of the new TO&E, which was effected in November 1968. Also associated with this change was a new name; From the 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company to the 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company, (Surveillance, O-1). The documentary that follows is basically a diary of a unit, the 221st, but more than that, it is the diary of human beings who served gallantly and proudly, for what is a unit without “Blood, sweat, and tears”?

/s/

ANTHONY J. ORTNER [644]
MAJ, FA
Commanding

HERALDRY

SYMBOLIC DESCRIPTION OF UNIT CREST

The unit's escutcheon, portrayed on the following page, is shaped to resemble the Greek letter delta (Δ), an allusion to our area of operations. It is auric bordered suggesting the daily luminescence of the sun's rays shining into a verdant base representing the rich lushness of the delta region. Raised white alae symbolize wings of flight and the aviator's mission. Two double-barreled shotguns, which represent the company's eponym and are symbolic of strength and effectiveness at short range, cross and permeate the center of the cat's eye suggesting the unit's perpetual vigilance over the delta.



COMMAND AND CONTROL

COMMANDING OFFICERS

Major James R. Mellish [572]	01 Jan 68 – 27 Jul 68
Major Robert W. Hornaday [411]	28 Jul 68 - 31 Dec 68

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Major Alfred E. Nordgren [633]	01 Jan 68 – 31 Jan 68
Major Raymond R. Rau [706]	1 Feb 68 – 1 May 68
Captain Thomas E. Murray II [622]	2 May 68 - 4 Sep 68
Captain James H. Hague [362]	5 Sep 68 - 31 Dec 68

OPERATIONS OFFICERS

Major Raymond R. Rau [706]	01 Jan 68 – 31 Jan 68
Captain Thomas L. Barnes [031]	1 Feb 68 – 7 Feb 68
Captain Thomas E. Murray II [622]	8 Feb 68 – 30 Apr 68
Captain James F. Keaveny [454]	1 May 68 – 23 Jun 68
Captain James H. Hague [362]	24 Jun 68 - 9 Sep 68
1LT David H. Hicks [395]	10 Sep 68 - 2 Oct 68
Captain John R. Stanko [827]	3 Oct 68 - 31 Dec 68

FIRST SERGEANTS

1SG Wallace M. Conerly [169]	01 Jan 68 – 1 Jul 68
1SG Arthur C. Sievers [775]	2 Jul 68 – 31 Dec 68

PLATOON LEADERS OF THE 221ST DURING THE PERIOD OF 1 JAN 68 – 31 DEC 682ND PLATOON

Captain Dan A. Ellett [253]	01 Jan 68 - 31 Jan 68
Captain James M. Browning Jr [095]	01 Feb 68 - 25 Jun 68
Captain Alfred T. Spain [817]	26 Jun 68 - 26 Aug 68
Captain Henry J. St. Germain [823]	27 Aug 68 - 18 Dec 68
Captain Duane W. Wilcox [936]	18 Dec 68 – 31 Dec 68

3RD PLATOON

Captain John H. Lenox [504]	01 Jan 68 – 14 Apr 68
Captain J.D. Twenter [891]	15 Apr 68 – 07 Aug 68
Captain John R. Francis [291]	08 Aug 68 – 31 Dec 68

4TH PLATOON

Major Phillip W. Gaskins [310]	01 Jan 68 – 03 Apr 68
Captain John R. Stanko [827]	04 Apr 68 – 02 Oct 68
Captain Richard A. Eckhardt [251]	03 Oct 68 – 31 Dec 68

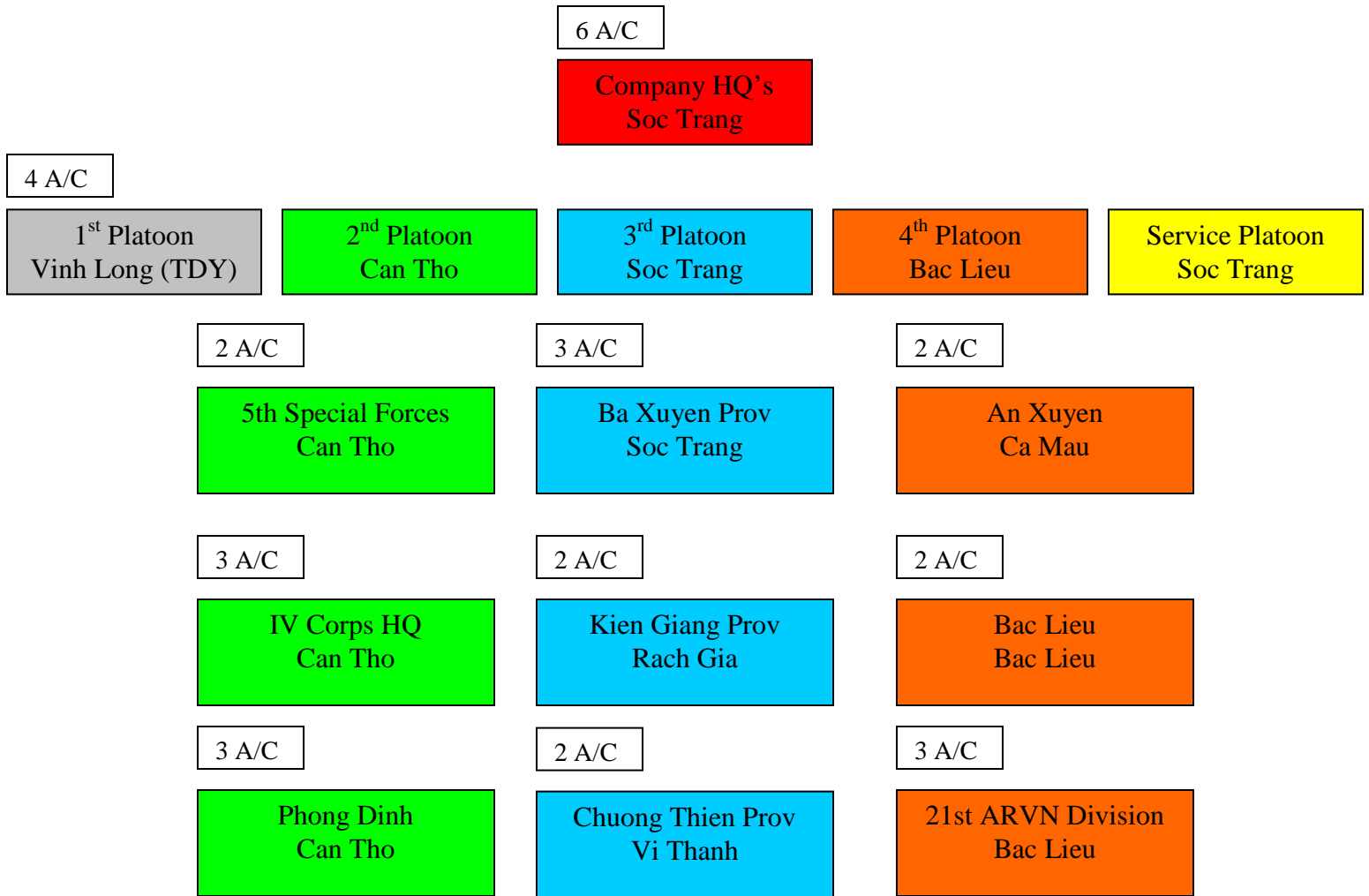
MAINTENANCE PLATOON

Captain Howard B. Gentle [317]	01 Jan 68 - 26 Jan 68
Captain Erwin C. Gutzwiller [357]	27 Jan 68 - 28 May 68
Captain Robert T. Wilson [950]	29 May 68 - 25 Nov 68
Captain Dexter A. Pond [680]	26 Nov 68 – 31 Dec 68

TACTICS AND EMPLOYMENT

The tactical use of the O-1 Bird Dog assigned to the 221st Aviation Company has remained basically the same as it has been since its arrival in Vietnam. The mission of providing aerial surveillance in the IV Corps area is still in effect. However, there has been a noticeable reduction in this requirement because of the ever increasing role played by the VNAF O-1 pilots. More and more missions which normally would be assigned to the 221st are now being assigned and flown by VNAF pilots. This trend immediately followed the Tet offensive and has resulted in a decrease in flight time. The company's twenty-eight aircraft are deployed primarily in areas south of the Bassic River, but visual reconnaissance missions are flown in the entire IV Corps area. The organizational chart on the following page reflects our areas of responsibility and aircraft dispersal.

TACTICS AND EMPLOYMENT



DOCUMENTATION OF THE TET OFFENSIVE

(29 JAN 68 - 29 FEB 68)

During the year 1968 the "Shotguns" provided air coverage for many ground operations, and it would take volumes to give credit to each. The most significant period was the Tet Offensive; Therefore we offer this documentation of our actions during that period.

1. Ammunition expended

2.75" Rockets	7.62mm	.50 cal	Other
1335	6000	2000	3000 (5.56mm)

2. After Action Report

KBA	WBA	Sampans Destroyed	Structures Destroyed
96	49	109	33

3. Statistical Data

- a. Hours Flown - 2873.4
- b. Sorties Flown - 2734
- c. Aircraft damaged on ground due to hostile action - 2
- d. Aircraft receiving hits in flight - 27
- e. Aircraft shot down - 0

SECOND PLATOON

The VC made their all-out attack on Can Tho city on 31 January. 1LT Robert L. Duncum [243], flying night coverage over the city reacted by pinpointing enemy positions, fired his aerial rockets at them, and directed the fires of "Spooky" and Cobra gunships. On the morning of 1 Feb, after the attack, the Shotguns flew over the city of Can Tho and assisted the ground troops in the clearing action by spotting VC positions and giving friendly forces the directions of enemy movement. During the day, Shotguns accounted for 10 VC KBA within the city. That night the airfield was again hit by VC mortar and small arms fire. While Captain Joseph Lazzari [500] was flying a security mission, the VC captured an APC and began using it to over run outposts and road blocks. Captain Lazzari [500] attacked the APC with his O-1, forcing it to flee down Highway #4 to a place where it could be destroyed with anti-tank weapons. On the 2nd of February, the Shotguns again united in the city clearing operation resulting in the VC's being pushed out of the city and into the rice fields on the west side of town where they could be engaged with armed helicopters and air strikes. On this day, the Shotguns directed many Cobra strikes directly into Can Tho city and much .50 caliber fire from the APC troop. On 25 February, the VC made an attempt to take the district town of Phong Dien, but failed due to the efforts of Captain James Browning [095] and 1LT Paul B. Stuart [851]. Captain Browning [095] was flying over the town when the attack started. He immediately took action firing rockets and sending requests for "Spooky and gunships. While waiting for the help to arrive, he spotted the VC machine gun and mortar positions and when the gunships arrived, he gave them the targets and friendly positions and adjusted their fire on the VC. Shortly after the attack on the town was under way, the VC began an attack on Can Tho Airfield and the IV Corps ammo dump. Captain Browning [095] then moved in close to the city and began adjusting the newly arrived 9th Division artillery onto the VC mortar positions. This unexpected

action confused the VC and left the gunships free to stay and help defend Phong Dien. Shortly after this, 1LT Stuart [851] became airborne and went to Phong Dien where the VC were still attacking. The gunships had pulled off station to re-arm and the VC were trying to take the town while they were gone by using 75mm recoilless rifles from the roof of a rice mill located in town. 1LT Stuart [851] located the weapons and directed an airstrike onto the position and several others were holding the VC back until the gunships could return. From 0700 on the 30th of January until 7 February, the 2nd Platoon had aircraft in the air over Can Tho city 24 hours a day and from the 7th of February until the 29th of February, aircraft were in the air at least 18 hours out of every 24. From the 30th of January through 29 February, the Can Tho - Binh Thuy complex was attacked 16 times by the VC, and in almost every case, a 2nd Platoon Shotgun was the first aircraft to see the gun positions and the first aircraft to place ordnance on them. It was during this period that the VC first used .50 caliber machine guns in large numbers. Sometimes they would have as many as six defending one mortar position. In the weeks that followed the Tet Offensive, the 2nd Platoon gathered extensive and indescribably valuable intelligence for the protection of installations in the IV Corps area. They flew almost continuously locating VC positions, reporting VC movements, adjusting artillery fire, and photographing the results of operations and air strikes.

THIRD PLATOON

The 3rd Platoon has supported sector operations in three areas, Ba Xuyen, Chuong Thien, and Kien Giang Provinces during the period 29 January to 29 February 1968. The hardest hit area during the Tet Offensive was the Soc Trang city in Ba Xuyen. For a week prior to the start of the heavy aggression, the VC had infiltrated approximately one battalion of troops into the town of Soc Trang. On 29 January they launched a major attack on the Ammunition and Logistics compound within the city. Captain J.D. Twenter [891] and 1LT Bernard Watson [917] were greatly instrumental in the defense of the area. By pinpointing enemy activity, firing HE aerial rockets, and directing helicopter gunship strikes into the area, they were responsible for driving the VC out of the immediate area. Although the enemy forces continued their drive to harass outlying outposts, they were limited to very little success and sustained very heavy losses. At Rach Gia in Kien Giang Province, heavy mortar and ground activity was prevalent during this period. VC harassment of outposts increased greatly and heavy contact with the enemy was reported during the many operations. 1LT Ross Vogt [901] and Captain James McKee [563] were frequently the only air support available in the province and were busily engaged firing rockets at enemy positions, structures, and sampans, and adjusting artillery. Captain McKee [563] was subsequently wounded during this period while adjusting artillery and was evacuated to Saigon. In the Chuong Thien Province 1LT David Henemier [388] and 1LT Robert Langevin [487] were instrumental in sighting extensive VC sampan traffic and activity. Despite the fact that they too were required to travel unsecured roads to reach the airfield and operate from the Soc Trang airfield when flying night security missions, they accounted for extensive sampan and structure destruction and hostile KBA's both through firing their rockets and adjusting Vi Thanh artillery.

FOURTH PLATOON

During the Tet Offensive, the fourth platoon supported the ARVN 21st Division and Bac Lieu and AN Xuyen sectors. At the beginning of the offensive all major airfields came under heavy mortar and rocket fire with ground troop attacks following close behind. The airfields in the 4th Platoon's AOR were no different. Perhaps the hardest hit in the 42d DTA was the AAF at Can Tho and the USAFAF at Binh Thuy. The Shotguns flying for the ARVN 21st Division supported all operations during this period in an effort to clear all the area around those airfields. Captain Jack Ragsdale [702] and 1LT Paul Shafer [779], both division pilots, supported all of these operations in the Can Tho area. Many days of 10 hours per man were not uncommon for these fourth platoon aviators. Normal radio relay and missions requiring an airborne Vietnamese artillery observer were conducted. However, during this period many other missions were heaped upon the capable division pilots. VR's, adjustment of artillery, and acting as command and control of ground troops were not unusual requests which were intermingled with what close support the Shotguns could give with their rocket runs, small arms fire, flare drops, and many night message drops. The actions of both Captain Ragsdale [702] and 1LT Shafer [779] were invaluable in ridding the VC and securing Binh Thuy and Can Tho airfields. 1LT Ronald Easley [250] and 1LT Tracy Forehand [287] both flying out of Bac Lieu airfield and supporting Bac Lieu sector were instrumental in securing the airstrip and the town of Bac Lieu itself. At the outset of the Tet Offensive, the VC burned and destroyed over 1,000 homes which constituted approximately 20% of the town. In order for the sector pilots to get to their aircraft every day, an armed convoy escort was required to drive on 2 1/2 miles of unsecured roads to the airfield. Taking off and landing at the airfield was precarious and both of their aircraft were hit in the immediate vicinity of the airfield. Many small operations were conducted around and through the town of Bac Lieu in an effort to secure the Division Headquarters

and town. Rocket runs coupled with supporting machine gun fire from the back seat were instrumental in flushing VC from their concealed positions for the friendly troops. On one such occasion LT. Ronald Easley [250] flushed approximately 90 VC just west of Bac Lieu. The enemy was well equipped with automatic weapons and they brought them to bear on the Shotgun pilot. 1LT Easley [250] had his aileron control cable cut by ground fire, yet through his expert ability, brought the aircraft back to the airfield without any further damage. During this period, the compound where both Shotguns lives received harassing fire on 25 different days. On one occasion, the VC came very close to over running the MACV sector compound, at which time 1LT Forehand [287] and 1LT Easley [250] taking up defensive positions around the compound, accounted for 1 confirmed KIA, and one confirmed WIA. At Ca Mau, the action was undoubtedly the hottest. Ca Mau is just far enough away to be the last on armed gunship priorities. When this problem is further amplified by the support airfields at Can Tho and Soc Trang being attacked themselves, simultaneously, additional gun power becomes scarce. During the prelude to the Tet Offensive, Shotgun pilots flying out of Ca Mau sensed a coming attack. Captain Henry St. Germain [823], Captain Richard Stanko [827], and 1LT Kenneth O'Neal [642] reported very few spottings or VC incidents and also very little civilian river traffic which is all very unusual for An Xuyen Province. At 0300 hours on 31 January, the VC launched their main attack on Ca Mau. The city, MACV Compound and airfield all came under intense fire from automatic weapons, mortars, and rockets. It was later estimated that approximately 1000 VC attacked with their main objectives being the 32nd Regimental Headquarters, the sector TOC, and the ammo dump in front of MACV Headquarters. The MACV compound was under heavy fire for approximately seven hours, where all three sector pilots were housed, before Captain St. Germain [823] was able to make his way to the airfield only 1/2 mile away. Air strikes flushed out numerous VC. 400 VC were spotted directly

behind the sector TOC at which time Captain St. Germain [823] took them under fire with his rockets and wing mounted machine gun. This initial attack later 14 1/2 hours with the VC intent on completely over running the town of Ca Mau. 585 VC were killed with three 75mm pack howitzers, five 82mm mortars, and approximately 150 AK-47's captured. Shotguns were credited with 20 VC KBA, 7 VC WBA, and 18 sampans destroyed. The remainder of the month, the Shotguns kept close contact with the retreating VC but reported they seemed to be regrouping for another attack. Exceptionally large sampan convoys were spotted and subsequently destroyed by air strikes.

AWARDS

SILVER STAR

BARLOW [029]	Gregory P.	CPT
ST. GERMAIN [823]	Henry J.	CPT
BOHRINGER [068]	William W.	CPT

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

VOGT [901]	Ross D.	1LT
BOYD [072]	Fredrick W.	1LT
BARLOW [029]	Gregory P.	CPT
DUNCUM [243]	Robert L.	CPT
GASKINS [310]	Phillip W.	MAJ
RAGSDALE [702]	Jack D.	CPT
HAAS [359]	James A.	CPT
McKEE [563]	James C.	CPT
O'NEAL [642]	Kenneth K.	CPT
SAYRE [761]	Leslie B.	1LT
SHAFER [779]	Paul E.	CPT
ST. GERMAIN [823]	Henry J.	CPT
WATSON [917]	Bernard M.	CPT
LANGEVIN [487]	Robert E.	CPT

AIR MEDAL WITH "V" DEVICE FOR HEROISM

RAINES [703]	Samuel C.	CPT
SOKOLISKI [812]	Charles S.	SFC
STUART [851]	Paul B.	CPT
TANGUAY [861]	Paul K	CPT
WOLFE [956]	Joseph G.	1LT
ROBERTS [728]	Alfred P.	SP5
BOHRINGER [068]	William W.	CPT
WATSON [917]	Bernard M.	CPT
BARLOW [029]	Gregory P.	CPT
EASLEY [250]	Ronald E.	CPT

REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM "CROSS OF GALLANTRY"

JOHNSON [442]	Lawrence L.	CPT
WERNER [922]	Bruce G.	CPT
MELLISH [572]	James R.	MAJ
GASKINS [310]	Phillip W.	MAJ
TANGUAY [861]	Paul K.	CPT
STANKO [827]	John R	CPT

PURPLE HEART

GRAY [343]	Jeffrey L.	CPT
BARLOW [029]	Gregory P.	CPT
FOREHAND [287]	Tracy W.	CPT
McKEE [563]	James C.	CPT
STANKO [827]	John R.	CPT
TWENTER [891]	J.D.	CPT

BRONZE STAR

PLOTT [675]	Thomas L.	CPT
RAINES [703]	Samuel C.	CPT
RAU [706]	Raymond R.	MAJ
SAYRE [761]	Leslie B.	1LT
SHAFER [779]	Paul E.	CPT
ST. GERMAIN [823]	Henry J.	CPT
SOKOLOSKI [812]	Charles S.	CPT
SPAIN [817]	Alfred T.	CPT
STEPHENSON [837]	Terry B.	CPT
STUART [851]	Paul B.	CPT
TANGUAY [861]	Paul K.	CPT
TWENTER [891]	J.D.	CPT
WATSON [917]	Bernard M.	CPT
WIEDE [935]	Jack R.	CPT
BOHRINGER [068]	William W.	CPT
WILSON [950]	Robert T.	CPT
FLANIGAN [278]	Thomas F.	1LT
BARLOW [029]	Gregory P.	CPT
FOREHAND [287]	Tracy W.	CPT
GASKINS [310]	Phillip W.	MAJ
GUTZWILLER [357]	Erwin C.	CPT
HAAS [359]	James A.	CPT
KEAVENY [454]	James F.	CPT

LANGEVIN [487]	Robert E.	CPT
LENOX [504]	John H.	CPT
McKEE [563]	James C.	CPT
MELLISH [572]	James R.	MAJ
RADMORE [700]	Fredrick W.	WO1
LEWIS [511]	Robert J.	SFC
POPE [684]	Jasper	SSG
BLADES [059]	Willis D.	SP5

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

STANKO [827]	John R.	CPT
BERRY [052]	Robert	PFC
EASLEY [250]	Ronald E.	CPT
FRANCIS [291]	John R.	CPT
FOREHAND [287]	Tracy W.	CPT
GASKINS [310]	Phillip W.	MAJ
GROVER [351]	Ernest M.	SFC
CONORLY [169]	Wallace M.	1SG
HILLER [399]	J.L.	CW2
MELLISH [572]	James R.	MAJ
JULLETTE [452]	Dale L.	SP5
WHEATON [927]	Benjamin	SP5
LAURENDEAU [494]	Stephen L.	SP5
DOUGHERTY [234]	George D.	SP5
PEPPER [659]	Walter A.	SSG

"OLDER MEN DECLARE WAR. BUT IT IS THE YOUTH WHO MUST FIGHT AND DIE. IT
IS YOUTH WHO MUST INHERIT THE TRIBULATION, THE SORROW, AND THE
TRIUMPHS THAT ARE THE AFTERMATH OF WAR"

- HERBERT HOOVER

In memory of deceased members of the 221st Aviation Company, (Surveillance, O-1)

1LT JOSEPH G. WOLFE [956]

1LT THOMAS F. FLANIGAN [278]

PFC ROBERT BERRY [052]

1LT LESLIE B. SAYRE [761]
(Missing in Action)

COMBAT AND OPERATIONAL LOSSES - 1968

1. On 3 February 1968, 1LT Dean Sterling [839], landing after a three hour night airfield security mission at Soc Trang Army Airfield, ground looped his O-1 aircraft causing major damage.
2. On 7 February 1968, 1LT Gregory P. Barlow [029] was involved in a major accident at Can Tho Army Airfield when the main landing gear on his O-1 aircraft collapsed on landing.
3. On 27 February 1968, 1LT Erwin C. Gutzwiller [357] was involved in an aircraft incident when he damaged his O-1 aircraft in a ground loop while landing at Tan Son Nhut airfield.
4. On 5 May 1968, 1Lt Joseph G. Wolfe [956], while flying a low level mail drop at Song Doc outpost in An Xuyen Province, crashed his O-1 aircraft and was killed.
5. On 12 June 1968, Captain Duane W. Wilcox [936] was involved in a major accident at Soc Trang Army Airfield when his O-1 aircraft ground looped. The aircraft was declared a total loss.
6. On 15 September 1968, 1LT Thomas F. Flanigan [278], while flying operational coverage for a sector operation, was involved in a mid-air collision with a VNAF O-1.
7. On 4 October 1968, 1LT David H. Hicks [395] was involved in a major accident at Rach Gia Stage field when he lost directional control of his O-1 aircraft and struck a VN armored car. The aircraft was declared a total loss.

PERSONNEL WOUNDED IN ACTION

1. Captain John R. Stanko [827], then sector pilot for An Xuyen at Ca Mau, received one .30 caliber round in the right thigh on 8 February 1968, from coordinates WQ013904. He was flying at an enroute altitude of 1500 feet AGL. He landed the aircraft at Ca Mau with no further damage. Captain Stenko [827] Spent two days in the Ca Mau dispensary and approximately two weeks at company headquarters recovering from his wound.
2. Captain James C. McKee [563], a sector pilot for Kien Giang, was wounded by enemy fire on 15 February 1968. The .30 caliber bullet penetrated his right shoulder. Captain McKee [563] was on a visual reconnaissance mission, flying at an altitude of 2700 feet when he was wounded by moderate small arms fire from WS130180. He was immediately evacuated to the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon and from there to Japan where he stayed for approximately six weeks.
3. On 14 March 1968, 1LT Tracy W. Forehand [287] was slightly wounded by flying Plexiglas when ground fire shattered his cockpit. The pilot was on a routine visual reconnaissance mission flying at 1600 feet when he received the light small arms fire from WR619178.
4. On 22 March 1968, 1LT Leslie B. Sayre [761] and his crew chief, Sp5 William B. Taylor [868], were reported missing in action. The two men had been sent to Chi Lang on 19 March 1968. Their mission was to support a USSF operation in that area. They arrived at Chi Lang at 0925 hours, 19 March and closed out their flight following with Delta Center at that time. This was the last known radio contact the men made with any station. They flew all day the 19th in the Chi Lang area but talked to no one on the radio. The night of the 19th they spent with the MACV team in Chi Lang. At approximately 0930 hours 20 March 1968, the two men took off from Chi Lang and were never heard from or seen again. Personnel at Chi Lang believed the men had returned to their home station and did not report them as missing. Personnel of their platoon at Can Tho believed the men to be at Chi Lang and did not realize they were missing until they sent a message to Chi Lang requesting the men to return to home station. This was at 1800 hours, 22 March 1968. An extensive search was conducted over a five day period. There were no sightings. Intelligence reports from the area indicated that the VC had shot the plane down and captured one of the occupants. It was reported the other man had died in the crash. Sp5 Taylor [868] was found 40 days later and was evacuated to the United States. 1LT Sayre [761] still remains missing in action.
5. 1LT Gregory P. Barlow [029] received a superficial wound of the left arm from an enemy's bullet on 24 March 1968. He was flying a search and rescue mission in the Chi Lang area and received the fire from a hill side 500 feet altitude, 90 degrees and 500 meters to the side of the O-1. Coordinates of the fire were VS968625.
6. 1LT Jeffrey L. Gray [343], a sector pilot for Phong Dinh sector, was wounded by shrapnel caused by a ricocheting .30 caliber round which penetrated the cockpit of his aircraft and lodged in the instrument panel. A small part of the chip detector light pierced his trachea. 1LT Gray [343] was taken to Dong Tam Field Hospital for minor surgery and released. Coordinates of the fire were WR858825

7. Captain J.D. Twenter [891], Third Platoon Leader, was wounded in the right calf by a .30 caliber round. Captain Twenter [891] was evacuated to MHD, Camp Zama Japan, and further evacuated to CONUS.

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN IN 1968

MONTH	TOTAL
JANUARY	2697
FEBRUARY	2664
MARCH	3039
APRIL	2723
MAY	265
JUNE	2562
JULY	2394
AUGUST	2298
SEPTEMBER	1994
OCTOBER	2108
NOVEMBER	2299
DECEMBER	2668

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN IN 1968: 30,091

TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN IN 1968

MONTH	TOTAL
JANUARY	2649
FEBRUARY	2518
MARCH	2879
APRIL	2608
MAY	2811
JUNE	2650
JULY	2484
AUGUST	2476
SEPTEMBER	2115
OCTOBER	2081
NOVEMBER	2210
DECEMBER	2504

TOTAL SORTIES FLOWN IN 1968: 29,985

AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY IN 1968

MONTH	TOTAL
JANUARY	88%
FEBRUARY	84%
MARCH	83%
APRIL	81%
MAY	78%
JUNE	85%
JULY	88%
AUGUST	85%
SEPTEMBER	91%
OCTOBER	92%
NOVEMBER	92%
DECEMBER	91%

AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY AVERAGE IN 1968: 87%

AFTER ACTION RESULTS FOR 1968

MONTH	KBA	STRUCTURES		SAMPANS	
		Destroyed	Damaged	Destroyed	Damaged
JANUARY	15	26	15	26	15
FEBRUARY	96	33	24	109	32
MARCH	70	89	109	62	56
APRIL	53	52	32	63	50
MAY	42	42	27	12	33
JUNE	31	32	42	7	58
JULY	24	13	31	15	17
AUGUST	31	16	26	31	6
SEPTEMBER	8	12	9	5	10
OCTOBER	15	27	8	11	11
NOVEMBER	24	15	16	6	14
DECEMBER	17	1	12	9	5
TOTALS	426	358	351	351	348

OFFICERS ASSIGNED IN 1968

RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE ASSIGNED
1LT	BARLOW [029]	Gregory P.	20 Jan 68
1LT	BARNES [030]	Grover E.	11 Jan 68
CW2	BAXLEY [036]	Allen D.	24 Jul 68
1LT	BLAZEK [062]	Charles S.	24 Sep 68
1LT	BOHRINGER [068]	William W.	9 May 68
CPT	ECKHARDT [251]	Richard A.	4 Jul 68
1LT	FLANIGAN [278]	Thomas F.	10 Apr 68
CPT	FRANCIS [291]	John R.	20 Feb 68
1LT	GRAY [343]	Jeffrey L.	9 May 68
CPT	HAGUE [362]	James H.	19 May 68
1LT	HENEMIER [388]	David J.	2 Jan 68
1LT	HICKS [395]	David H.	22 Jul 68
WO1	HILLER [399]	J.L.	10 Apr 68
MAJ	HORNADAY [411]	Robert W.	13 Jul 68
1LT	HOWE [416]	Henry S.	9 Jun 68
1LT	JOHNSON [442]	Lawrence	15 Jul 68
1LT	KEAVENY [454]	James F.	23 Jun 68
CPT	McLAUGHLIN [565]	Daniel	26 Sep 68
1LT	MOFFETT [593]	Paul M.	19 Dec 68
CPT	MURRAY [622]	Thomas E.	6 Feb 68
1LT	POND [680]	Dexter A.	4 Oct 68
WO1	RADMORE [700]	Fredrick	22 Aug 68
WO1	ROBINSON [734]	Walter A.	7 Oct 68
1LT	ROSS [744]	William L.	31 Jul 68
1LT	SAYRE [761]	Leslie	9 Feb 68
1LT	SHAFFER [779]	Paul E.	23 Jan 68
CPT	SHIPP [785]	Charles S.	24 Sep 68
1LT	SIMS [795]	Roger D.	21 Jun 68
1LT	SPECK [819]	Amos	19 Jan 68
CPT	STANKO [827]	John R.	27 Jan 68
CPT	ST. GERMAIN [823]	Henry J.	4 Jan 68
1LT	TAYLOR [866]	Gary B.	11 Jan 68
WO1	TOWNSEND [884]	Mitchell	22 Aug 68
1LT	TAYLOR [867]	Ronald	26 Sep 68
CPT	TWENTER [891]	J.D.	14 Jan 68
1LT	ULVEDAL [893]	Robert J.	9 Jun 68
1LT	WIEDE [935]	Jack R.	13 Apr 68
CPT	WERNER [922]	Bruce G.	31 Jul 68
1LT	WOLFE [956]	Joseph G.	9 Mar 68
1LT	WOOLF [957]	Samuel J.	25 Apr 68
1LT	WILSON [950]	Robert T.	20 Jan 68
1LT	YOUNG [964]	Richard L.	13 Jul 68

CPT	WILCOX [936]	Duane W.	3 Jun 68
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ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED IN 1968

RANK	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE ASSIGNED
SP5	EISENHUTT [252]	Eugene E.	4 Jan 68
PFC	PELIC [657]	George P.	11 Jan 68
SFC	HOLDER [406]	Glenn B.	15 Jan 68
SFC	SEIVERS [775]	Arthur C.	29 Jan 68
PFC	ANTONI [016]	Henry G.	1 Feb 68
SP4	DWYER [248]	Dennis J.	1 Feb 68
SP5	STANFORD [826]	Ronnie	7 Feb 68
PFC	HUGHES [422]	Thomas L.	1 Mar 68
SP4	ANDERSON [014]	Gary L.	1 Mar 68
SP4	DROFFS [237]	Virgil M.	1 Mar 69
PFC	HARRIS [375]	Bruce M.	1 Mar 68
SP5	REYES [711]	Aroldo C.	10 Mar 68
SP4	WARDEN [916]	Michael W.	25 Mar 68
PFC	SILER [790]	Wilmer R.	1 Apr 68
SP5	BLADES Jr [058]	William E.	11 Apr 68
SP4	McMAHON [566]	Peter J.	11 Apr 68
SP4	WRIGHT [960]	Gary A.	11 Apr 68
SSG	CLARK [157]	William F.	14 Apr 68
PFC	NORTHCUTT [634]	Walter	18 Apr 68
SP4	DORAN [232]	Dennis A.	23 Apr 68
SP5	EVANS [260]	Michael A.	23 Apr 68
SP4	HERB [391]	Gert K.	23 Apr 68
PFC	MACHUCA [526]	Anthony	23 Apr 68
SFC	PIGGOTT [672]	James W.	23 Apr 68
PFC	VLASICH [900]	Branko	26 Apr 68
SP5	SMITH [804]	Harold E.	2 May 68
SP4	LeBARON [501]	Gary W.	3 May 68
SP4	HAMANN [367]	Don M.	3 May 68
SP5	MAYFIELD [547]	Howard L.	3 May 68
PVT	WIDNER [934]	Keith A.	5 May 68
SP4	BREEDING [080]	Delbert	5 May 68
PFC	KENNEDY [459]	Harold K.	5 May 68
SP4	PETERSON [665]	Ricky B.	6 May 68
SGT	SKEEN [796]	Grover B.	9 May 68
SP4	CLARIDA [155]	Karyl L.	9 May 68
SP4	WINDHEIM [952]	Charles J.	9 May 68
SP4	HOUSE [414]	Jerry R.	10 May 68
SP4	BACKHAM [025]	Leroy W.	10 May 68
SP4	DYSON [249]	Eddie P.	10 May 68
SP5	REASOR [707]	Robert R.	10 May 68
SP4	TURNER Jr. [889]	Phillip A.	12 May 68

PVT	FARRIN [268]	Bruce A.	12 May 68
PFC	CLASSEN [158]	Gary G.	14 May 68
SP4	WILLIAMS [942]	Douglas A.	14 May 68
SP4	HUDSON [420]	Hillard L.	16 May 68
PFC	STENGEL [836]	Edward C.	16 May 68
PFC	CARTER [139]	Donnie L.	22 May 68
PFC	TRICE [887]	Daniel L.	22 May 68
SP4	LANGTON [488]	Robert J.	22 May 68
SFC	GREENLEE [344]	Donald H.	22 May 68
PFC	DELGADO [209]	William R.	22 May 68
SP4	REINAN [709]	Thomas D.	22 May 68
PFC	CALDWELL [122]	Billy J.	22 May 68
PFC	PAIGE Jr. [646]	Isreal	27 May 68
SP4	MATHYS [543]	Richard E.	4 Jun 68
SP4	PETTS [667]	Allen R.	9 Jun 68
SP4	KELLEY [456]	Tommy E.	9 Jun 68
PFC	LAX [499]	William E	26 Jun 68
PFC	BIVENS [055]	Richard E.	1 Jul 68
SP4	JONES Jr. [446]	Cecil E.	1 Jul 68
SP4	SIMMONS [791]	Robert E.	3 Jul 68
SP4	DOOLEY [231]	John H.	4 Jul 68
SP4	ENGLE [254]	Larry E.	4 Jul 68
SP4	FOIL [283]	Albert V.	4 Jul 68
SP4	BRIDGEMAN [082]	William E.	5 Jul 68
SP4	SLAYBAUGH [797]	Richard	9 Jul 68
SP4	PETERSON [666]	Stephen T.	10 Jul 68
PFC	STOTTS [845]	Ronald M.	12 Jul 68
PVT	WESTENDHAL [926]	Lyle A.	12 Jul 68
SP4	CHANDLER [145]	David C.	14 Jul 68
PFC	KINARD [464]	Herman L.	16 Jul 68
SP4	ALVAREZ [013]	Gilberto	16 Jul 68
SP4	VALDEZ [894]	Manuel C.	17 Jul 68
PFC	WATSON [918]	Jessie J.	18 Jul 68
PFC	THOMASON [872]	William E.	19 Jul 68
SP4	WEST [924]	Jimmy K.	23 Jul 68
SP5	GALIMORE [305]	Roger	25 Jul 68
SSG	BOYETT [073]	Leonard	25 Jul 68
SP4	BAUER [035]	Larry D.	28 Jul 68
SP4	MITTEN [590]	Damon S.	28 Jul 68
PVT	WILLIS [948]	John S.	28 Jul 68
SSG	PEPPER [659]	Walter E.	1 Aug 68
SP5	RICKETT [721]	James R	2 Aug 68
SP4	GILLIAM [326]	Terry M.	5 Aug 68
SP4	SLIFE [798]	Jackie R.	5 Aug 68
SP4	POULSEN [687]	Sherman	11 Aug 68

SFC	SELANDER [776]	Leo M.	14 Aug 68
SP4	POLING [679]	James A.	14 Aug 68
SP5	METZ [578]	James A	16 Aug 68
SP4	HAYES Jr. [385]	James	18 Aug 68
SP4	LEONARD [505]	James L.	18 Aug 68
SP4	CHIOTTI [150]	Joseph L.	25 Aug 68
SP4	HINES [402]	Robert L.	26 Aug 68
PFC	HAAS [358]	Gary M.	29 Aug 68
SP4	BURTS [111]	Donald	6 Sep 68
SP5	JOBES [434]	Robert A.	6 Sep 68
PFC	LAMBERT [484]	Harry C.	11 Sep 68
PVT	SORIVO [816]	Michael W.	29 Sep 68
SFC	CAREATHERS [133]	Clifford G.	2 Oct 68
SSG	FERGUSON [271]	Parnell	4 Oct 68
SP4	FORD [286]	Rudolph S.	8 Oct 68
SP5	HITT [403]	Kenneth L	8 Oct 68
PFC	BOYLES [074]	Michael L.	3 Oct 68
PFC	JOHNSON [437]	Dave M.	13 Oct 68
SP4	SMITH [805]	Jerry L.	15 Oct 68
PFC	ACKERMAN [001]	James A.	16 Oct 68
PFC	MOSLEY [613]	Fredrick	16 Oct 68
SP4	GIBBS [321]	Edwin C.	16 Oct 68
PFC	FRENCH [298]	John R.	16 Oct 68
PFC	WILLIAMS [947]	Tex	16 Oct 68
PFC	WRIGHT [961]	Ernest	21 Oct 68
PFC	HAGERMAN [360]	Roger W.	24 Oct 68
PFC	GILLS [328]	Robert M.	28 Oct 68
PFC	HOLMES [408]	Gregory	31 Oct 68
SP4	DENCOMBE [210]	Dennis P	1 Nov 68
PFC	DONG [229]	Ronald	10 Nov 68
SP4	FARRAR [267]	James W.	12 Nov 68
SP4	O'CONNOR [637]	John H.	12 Nov 68
SP5	WHITE [929]	Larry D.	14 Nov 68
SP4	STRICKLAND [849]	Larry D.	1 Dec 68
PVT	BLAKNEY[061]	Harry N.	1 Dec 68
SP4	BLACKMON [057]	Robert	13 Dec 68
SP4	SIMPSON [794]	Nelson F.	13 Dec 68
SP4	CARDENAS [132]	Richard	13 Dec 68
SP4	WOOLSEY [958]	Merlo R.	19 Dec 68
SP4	BRUSTROM [099]	John L	19 Dec 68
SP4	CHAPEL [146]	Garry L.	29 Dec 68
SP4	CARR [136]	Richard A.	29 Dec 68
SP4	DILLON [223]	Noah B.	29 Dec 68

To the men of our unit, valor, heroism, gallantry, and intrepidity are not intangible qualities, but are frequent experiences in combat missions. Flying at low level to pinpoint the enemy, exposing aircraft and pilot to intense hostile fire to divert the enemy from entrapped friendly units, assaulting heavily defended positions, completing missions with crippled aircraft - none of those actions and instances are rare. Through danger and death shadow our lives, an innate strength of mind and resolution of purpose enabling us to encounter fear and peril leads us forward. Some of the striking examples of heroism above and beyond the call of duty have been recorded within these pages; many more equally significant actions have eluded this chronicle slipping into the unwritten past quietly, un-pretentiously and unknown.