

Swamp Fox 199TH RAC 1967-1970

CHRONOLOGY

- 1 Feb 1967 Unit activated at Ft. Hoof Tx.
- 27 Feb 1967 Maj. Charles F. Hutchins becomes first DA appointed Commander of the 199th Aviation Company .
- 28 Feb 1967 First O1-g aircraft delivered to the unit. Aircraft SN 51-5099
- 3 Mar 1967 Formal Activation Ceremony held at grey Army Airfield, Ft. Hood Tx.
- 18 Mar 1967 First social affair of the unit held at Killeen Base Officers open mess. First Officer promotion in the unit. 2nd LT. Marvin E. Stutts promoted to 1LT.
- 30 Mar 1967 Unit adopted by Jaycees of Sweetwater, Tx.
- 15 Jul 1967 Unit departed CONUS.
- 17 Jul 1967 Unit arrived Bien Hoa Air force Base, Vietnam.
- 22 Jul 1967 Unit Closed at Vinh Long Airfield, Vietnam.
- 26 Jul 1967 First in country party. Promotion party for LTC. Charles F. Hutchins who was promoted on 25 July 67. Party was held the Mekong Manor officers club, Vinh Long Airfield. At 03:00 hrs. the company underwent it's first mortar and ground attack. Capt. Theodore Preble was recommended to receive the first Distinguished Flying Cross to be awarded to a member of the unit.
- 5 Aug 1967 First aircraft hit by enemy ground fire. Aircraft was flown by LT Heinz Zoegner who was recommended for the DFC for his part in the operation.
- 7 Aug 1967 Unit officially assumed it's combat mission under the 13th Combat Aviation (Delta) Battalion.
- 24 Aug 1967 MAJ. Samuel P. Muse assumed command of the company, replacing LTC Hutchins who was transferred to the 13th Avn. Bn.
- 31 Aug 1967 First Distinguished Flying Cross awarded. Recipients were APT. Theodore Preble and LT Heinz Zoegner.
- 5 Nov 1967 First aircraft shot down by hostile fire. CPT Elija H. Smith was the pilot.
- 26 Nov 1967 Two aircraft destroyed during a ground attack on Rach Gia Airfield.
- 30 Nov 1967 MAJ. John S. Jacob assumed command of the company, replacing MAJ. Muse who was transferred to the 307th Aviation (Phantom) Battalion.
- 25 Dec. One aircraft damaged during a mortar attack on Ben Tre Airfield.
- 27 Dec 1967 Three aircraft damaged during mortar attack on Vinh Long Airfield.

- 24 Jan 1968** Morning report reflected relief from administrative control of the 13th Combat Aviation Battalion to administrative control of the 164th Combat Aviation group.
- 31 Jan 1968 TET offensive began. Vinh Long came under coordinated mortar and ground attack. Casualties 1 KIA 7 WIA.
- 1 Feb. 1968 SP/5 Sala received Silver Star for his heroic action on the previous night. U-iT Day. 199th Aviation company was one year old.
- 29 Feb 1968 TET offensive officially ended.
- 12 Mar 1968 Lt. Stanley Treanor wounded in the arm and leg. He landed his damaged aircraft safely at Vinh Long and was evacuated to the States.
- 30 Mar 1968 WO1 Richard Shoup shot down. Aircraft lost oil pressure and engine stopped. Aircraft was landed in a rice paddy 2 miles west of Vinh Long Airfield with no additional damage.
- 13 Apr 1968 WO Richard Burnes had an aircraft accident while taking off from a road strip. Aircraft totally destroyed. Pilot and observer sustained minor injuries.
- 5 May 1968 Mortar attack at 01:40 hrs. caused heavy damage to Lt. Sheaffer's room and wounded Cpt. Zoegner. No damage to aircraft.
- 2 Jul 1968 WO Richard Burnes shot down during rocket run on retreating V.C. squad. Aircraft destroyed. Pilot evacuated to the States. Observer suffered minor injuries.
- 10 Jul 1968 Major Robert S. Borer assumed command of the company. He replaced Major John S. Jacob who rotated back to the CONUS.
- 22 Jul 1968 Mortar attack at 02:45 hrs. caused heavy damage to rooms of Major Holland and Captain Morgan. Captain Swearingen and Captain Simon suffered minor shrapnel wounds.
- 10 Sep 1968 SFCE7 George f. Ingram replaced 1st SGE8 Howard O. Powers as 1st Sgt. Sgt. Powers assumed new duties with 164th Aviation Group.
- 12 Sep 1968 An Air Force C-123 accident at Vinh Long Airfield destroyed one of the unit's O-1 aircraft, a 5 ton shop van, and most of the equipment belonging to the 1st Platoon. One of the unit's POL tankers was destroyed and two enlisted men were injured. One additional aircraft was damaged.
- 16 Sep 1968 Cpt. Dunston wounded in the leg. He landed his aircraft safely at Vinh Long Airfield and he was evacuated to Okinawa.
- 30 Oct 1968 The unit has gone six months without an aircraft accident.
- 13 Nov 1968 Unit passed the CMMI.
- 19 Dec 1968 Unit had flown 20,000 accident free hours.

- 8 Jan 1969** Maj. Gary L. Kling assumed command from Maj. Robert L. Borer.
- 20 Jan 1969 The 199th Aviation Company was reorganized under new TOE/MTOE 1-257F. There were no significant changes in equipment or personnel.
- 7 Feb 1969 New revetments for the aircraft were completed.
- 11 Feb 1969 While covering an operation in the 44th Special Zone, CPT French took a round in the engine and made a successful dead stick landing at Cai Cai. The aircraft received no further damage.
- 1 Mar 1969 Tra Vinh Airfield, Vinh Long Province was mortared. CPT. Grabham and 1LT Ellington were wounded and aircraft 395 was slightly damaged.
- 15 Mar 1969 Swamp Fox emblems were installed on the aircraft.
- 18 Mar 1969 The 199th Aviation Company received the 1st Aviation Brigade quarterly safety award for achieving the best safety record of any O-1 company in the republic of Vietnam.
- 9 apr 1969 1LT Donald Phillips was requested to cover the 10th Regiment, 7th ARVN Division during enemy contact. He expended his rockets, killing one enemy and wounding another. He observed a group of Viet Cong running from the area and dove on them firing with his M-16. He killed one and wounded another. The remaining three Viet Cong raised their hands in surrender. 1LT Phillips continued to circle them until ground troops arrived to take the captives.

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- 10 Nov 1969 The Unit received the Re-Enlistment award from the 164th Aviation Group.
- 28 Nov 1969 CPT Donald C. Vaughan, flying in support of Dong Tuong Province, aided a Regional Forces outpost that was engaged an estimated Viet Cong Battalion. CPT Vaughan expended his own rockets on the Viet Cong and the directed gunships against the enemy. CPT Vaughan employed OV-10s on the enemy location, and after was shot down he successfully directed the medevac of the crew. Once the enemy clear of the outpost he directed artillery fire onto them, completing the victory. 55 enemy were killed and 14 AK-47s were captured.
- 6 Dec 1969 Maj. Jackie D. Catt assumed command from Maj. Robert A. King.
- 31 dec 1969 The 199th Aviation Company amassed over 11,800 hours and five months without an accident.

1970

There is no Chronological Listing in the 1970 Unit History. The following is a description of mission, activities and deactivation.

1. During the last nine months of its existence, the 199th Aviation Company continued to train Vietnamese observers. Pilots of the First and Second Platoons carried a Vietnamese observer on daily missions.
2. With the withdrawal of numerous American units from the Delta. The Vietnamese observers became more influential in the air ground team. In contrast to their activities in 1969, The Vietnamese were effectively initiating artillery fire missions and reporting a great deal of intelligence through Vietnamese channels.
3. The Unit continued to fly direct combat support missions for small unit operations. Because of its visual reconnaissance and its wide dispersion throughout the Delta, there were no occasion when the unit supported one large operation. However on a daily basis, each platoon flew mission in support of numerous ground operations for the 7th Arvn Division, 44 Special Tactical Zone and seven provinces.
4. Elements of all three platoons did fly operations in support of the **Cambodian** operations during the months of May and June. Once operations began, the 199th Aviation Company spear headed the attack with long range visual reconnaissance. During the Cambodian operations, the 199th Aviation Company played an important role in supporting successful ground operations. The radio relay, artillery adjustment and convoy cover missions flown by the Swamp Foxes were invaluable to the ground units in their new area of responsibility. For the first two weeks of the offensive, the 199th provided 24 hour direct combat support.
5. In addition to daily operations, the 199th was responsible for the maintenance and operation of eight stage fields located in Moc Hoa, Binh Duc, Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, Chau Duc, Long Xuen, Cao Lanh, and Go Cong. The personnel at these airfield were responsible for numerous improvements in the area. They built or supervised the refueling and rearming points, installation of control towers and improvements the condition of the runways. Because of these renovations, numerous helicopter and fixed wing aircraft were able to utilize these airfields.
6. During **Cambodian** operations, the stage fields at Moc Hoa and Chau Doc were providing support for more than one thousand aircraft per day. This caused significant increases in the amount of POL and ammunition required. The stage field personnel worked untiringly to provide the needed support and were commended for the efficient and timely manner in which they met each requirement.

Deactivation

15 October 1970

In August 1970, the 199th Aviation Company was alerted that it would begin to deactivate on 15 September 1970. On that day the company began to stand down in accordance with the plan formulated by Maj. Ernest L. Martin, the company commander. By 28 September, all the O-1 aircraft were transferred to the 221st Reconnaissance Airplane company or turned in. The deactivation continued to move along smoothly as additional maintenance and vehicular equipment were turned in thru supply channels. Many of the units personnel were transferred to the 221st RAC. On October 15th all the company equipment was either transferred or turned in.

The 199th Aviation Company closed its history on 15 October when it was formally deactivated by the Battalion Commander, LTC Thomas J. Shaughnessy. The Swamp Fox Colors are proudly displayed in the Headquarters, 214th Combat Aviation Battalion.