

147<sup>TH</sup> AVN CO

ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER



CH-47 SUPER "C"

THE HILLCLIMBERS

1970

RVN





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**NO HILL FOR A CLIMBER**

**NO MISSION TOO DIFFICULT**



**PRESS ON, HILLCLIMBERS**

# The Hillclimbers

The 147th Avn Co "Hillclimbers" previously commanded by Major Marvin B. (Jack) Cos Jr. 16 Oct 1969 to 13 Jun 1970, has set an all time high for combat flying time accumulated by a CH-47 "Chinook" Company in Vietnam.

On 6 February 1970 a CH-47 helicopter piloted by Major Marvin B. Cox Jr., and Captain Wesley N. Swenson, and crewed by Flight Engineer SP5 Dale Snelling, Crew Chief SP5 Joseph H. Kriz, Door Gunner SP5 Tim Tominson, finished the day by logging the 50,000th hour. To fully appreciate the magnitude of this accomplishment, multiply the flying hours by 100 Knots, which is the average working air speed used by a CH-47 during a mission.

Your answer is the fantastic distance of 5,000,000 air miles or approximately the same distance as would be covered if one traveled to the moon and back ten times. Add to the 50,000 hour achievement a record hauling of over 647,387 pounds of cargo, 507,299 passengers, 2338 medevacs and 816 aircraft recoveries and you have the basic picture of what the Boeing-Vertol "Chinook" and the men of the 147th have accomplished since the unit's arrival in Vietnam.

The real beginning of the "Hillclimbers" in Vietnam started on 29 June 1965. The unit was organized under and assigned to the 44th Air Transportation Battalion 10th Aviation Group, at Fort Benning Georgia. The new company was assigned 8 commissioned officers, 28 warrant officers, and 142 enlisted men.

On 14 August 1965, the unit was alerted for overseas movement with an equipment readiness date of 15 September 1965, and a personnel readiness date of 30 September 1965. At this time, only eleven officers and fifty enlisted men, of the total personnel assigned, were experienced in the CH-47. Due to the large number of officers and enlisted men to be transitioned and or qualified in the "Chinook", the 147th Avn Co went into a rigid training program. By 21 August 1965 all pilots has completed twenty-five hours of flight time and a seven day ground school, required for qualification. The total time flown during the transition period was 950 hours.

The assigned CH-47 aircraft were 1962 models and had to undergo extensive maintenance modifications by the 171st Transportation Detachment. The 171st worked in close coordination with Boeing-Vertol, the Philco corporation, and Cellons Raido Corporation to retrofit all aircraft with T55-L-7 engines, self sealing fuel cells Decca Navigation, and ARC-102 raidos. During this period the 171st also installed the CH-47's with armor plating and approximately 540 other modification work orders (MWC's), and time before overhauls were accomplished or complied with.

On 2 October 1965, the 147th began to ferry the eighteen CH-47's to Fort Stockton California, in preparation to move overseas. This was the largest number of "Chinooks" ever attempted to be flown across the United States at one. The flight was completed in a record time of four flying days, and an average of 20 flying hours per aircraft. The remaining personnel left Fort Benning via commercial aircraft to Oakland, California. There they boarded the USNS Geiger and sailed the same day. The 171st and all aircraft were loaded at Alameda Port Terminal California on the USS Croaton, and departed on 8 November 1965.

The USNS Geiger entered the territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam on 23 November 1965 and landed at Vung Tau on 27 November 1965. The USS Croaton arrived three days later on 30 November 1965, and the first CH-47 flown from the small carrier on 1 December 1965. As each aircraft landed at Vung Tau Airfield it was 100% mission ready. This was an outstanding accomplishment for any "Chinook Company". The 147th was assigned to Vung Tau Airfield as a tenant unit and was under the command of the 11th Aviation Battalion, 12th Aviation Group, United States Army Vietnam.

The 147th became the 1st operational "Chinook" company in Vietnam, outside the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). Its mission was two-fold; to provide aircraft support for the 1st Infantry Division thru the 11th Aviation Battalion, and to provide aircraft recovery for the III and IV Corps area.

One day after arrival in Vietnam, the 147th flew its first training mission. During the training, two "Chinooks" were diverted to Saigon to air lift 20,000 lbs of cargo to Vung Tau. The first scheduled combat support mission was flown on 17 December 1965 to reposition 1,756 combat troops of the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade. Five days later a downed UH-1D "Huey" Helicopter became the first aircraft recovery performed by the 147th.

Today, the 147th, known as the "Hillclimbers", is commanded by Major Robert A. Halbman and is located in Can Tho. The Hillclimbers are a part of the 1st Aviation Brigade, 164th Aviation Group (Combat), and the 307th Aviation Battalion (Combat) commanded by LTC Colin W. McKenzie Jr.

The "Hillclimber" aircraft have changed from the 1962 models to the "C" Model Chinooks and a gradual influx of the latest in Chinook developments of the Boeing-Vertol line the new Super "C", capable of lifting loads up to 24,000 pounds and now these helicopters have begun to grace the stalls of the Hillclimber stables.

The 147th's basic mission has changed very little over the last five years. Now instead of supporting both III and IV Corps, the call sign of the "Hillclimbers" is heard only in the Mekong Delta. The huge "Chinooks" fly most of their mission for G-4 forces in the Delta providing the Special Forces camps with food and water, building materials, ammo, new personnel, and class VI. The 7th, 9th and 21st ARVN Divisions along with the 44th Special Tactical Zone complete the list of regularly supported units. Although the above units are regularly supported by the 147th, any unit in the Delta has access to the versatile hauling capabilities of these Boeing-Vertol Helicopter.

The "Hillclimbers" have established an enviable record of service over their years of flying in the Delta. The outstanding record established by the 147th was accomplished by the professional men who do the work. These men, their attitude, and motto; "No Hill For A Climber - No Mission Too Difficult", will ensure the units continued success as they "Press On" to their next 50,000 hours.







*Commanding Officer*



*SP4 Anman - Ready, Sir!*



*First Sergeant*



*Maj. Haltman & 1SG Taylor*



*SSG Thomas, 1LT Sullivan and  
1SG Taylor*



CPT Georgecink - XO



1LT Sullivan - Admin. Officer



SP5 Anderson - Co. Clerk



SP4 Gordon - Co. Clerk



Unit Secretary Hoang Thi Phuong



1LT Hertsch - Unit supply Officer



The Scroungers



Ssg Thomas - Supply Sgt.



11 SP4 Negrón - Unit Supply Clerk



SP4 Tobacco - Unit Supply Clerk



Who took the Nomex



SP4 Caldwell - unit Armorer



But I tell you it's clean.



SP4 Bratton - Supply Clerk



SGT Overton - Commo Sgt.



SP4 Bain "paint the doors white". 12



"You sure it's payday?"



"Fall in"



I don't know where he's at.



"Report"



How big was the diamond?



"Hurry up and wait"



Flight Platoon - "Hillclimber Flyers"



Headquarters Platoon "Hillclimber Thinkers"



Maintenance Platoon - "we make Hillclimbers Climb"



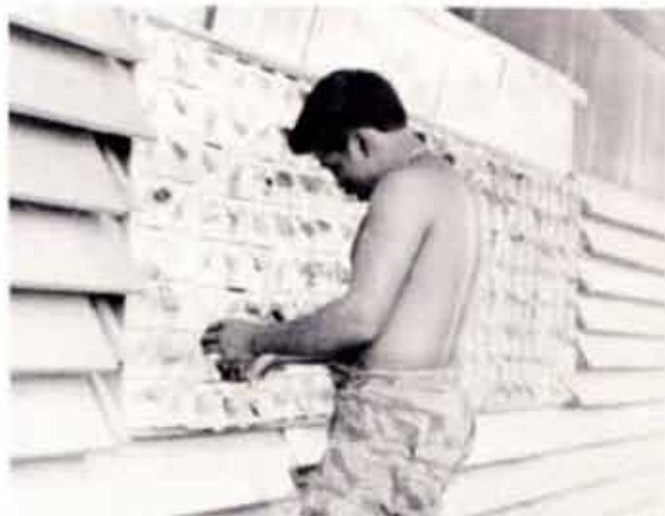
SP4 Lange - Unit Mail Clerk



Everyone gets mail but me.



I think I forgot the combination.



I think I've been forgotten.



I'm not proud.



Boy, you should smell this one.





CPT Campbell - Operations Officer



Don't forget your SOI



SFC Johnson - Operations Sgt.  
"We're the planners"



Now, what have you been up to?



CPT Hersant - Maintenance Officer



SFC Buckler - Maintenance NCOIC



SFC Kelly - NCOIC TI Shop



17 SFC Kingen - Maintenance Supervisor



SP6 Wentling - Technical Inspector



SP6 Lucas - Technical Inspector



SFC Weir - Flight Plt. Sgt.



SP4 Blount - Maintenance Clerk



SP4 Gantt - CH-47 Crew Chief



SP4 Monroe - Unit Armorer



Spare Parts

**TECH**



**SUPPLY**

CW3 Scholl - Tech Supply OIC



We supply everything?



SP4 Calles - Tech Supply Clerk



19 SP4 Delumau - Tech Supply Clerk



SP5 Brown - Tech Supply NCOIC



Head's I win, Tail's you lose.

# THE I L L C L I M B E R S



F Troop



How do you fly this Bird?



We caught them again.



Just a little bit closer.



Who stole the C's



Hello Folks, I'm the AC



Peter reduce the power.

OUCH!



What' Cha looking at me for?



The Brotherhood and Neighborhood



Who stole the Blades?



Win a few lose a few.



We'll fix it.



You fly it.



Test

Pilot



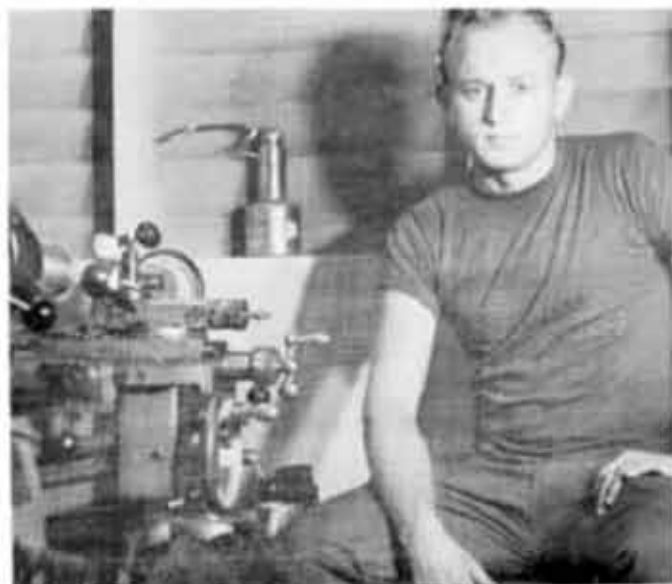
Another reason for late take off.



See, we fixed it.



Huh?



How do you start this thing?



Do What?



Where to Sarge



23 Hard working NCO with Tech advise.



Dog gone mud.





2404 Supervision



Which one?



I don't see any rat!



Stop the Bleeding



Taking ten



Delicate work



25 Nail the tunnel covers down.



Wide ovals?



We made it ourselves



Groovin



It'll never fly.



I don't mean to break it.



If I only had a doggone ladder.



Quick, it's bleeding.



I didn't mean for you to take it out and clean it.



I still can't get that roast beef out of my tooth!



Quick, turn the pilot heel on.



27 What do you mean you THINK it will fly.



For some reason, it doesn't look right.



How much do those things weight?



Going fishing.



Which engine is THIS?



Victory



Press on



War



Mama San didn't wash my nomay. 28



"How do you spell RIVIT?"



OK, Who's been cooling their Cokes with this one?



Make sure you menuse your heads and don't slip up.



So big, I measured it myself.



I don't want to hear it.



Mill around, Mill.



"It got to fit"



The latrine is the other way!



OK, come on out!



You don't really mean ZWAKE



Does this machine open Coke cans?



You've got to be kidding.



Somebody stole our spark plug wire.



You're late again, Nash.



They still don't follor orders!



Don't shake the plat form.



A wrench in the XMSN?



31 Now, let's see, I think this goes here and it should spark.



Put your visor down, here come the CO.!





Press on Hillclimber



Hillclimber Distillery



"Alright, what did the TI say?"



Bet it won't start.



Don't jump



Ain't I cute



"Rice puddin'"



Close to home



The "V" of the Name



"Who's going to fix it?"



Dynaelectron  
"The skin men"



Just a little bit more.



327 Cheung



But we are on a Diet.



Caught in the act.



The Hillclimber Stable



Raceway Park



start engines



Pull it out.



Bring him in dead or alive.



The Motor Jockey's "1864"



SGT Householder - Motor Sgt.



SP4 Mains - "spark plugs again."



SP4 Deel - The trovan man



Give me a hammer



My hot rod



I don't see him, either.



Here comes the ODI



Mattel would be proud.



OOPSI! I forgot the clip!



37 They call them, the three Musketeers.



World War II



Peter, Paul & ?



What are you, Crazy??



Hitch Hiking



Now hear this.



Spot the Fink



It don't mean nothing.



wake me when the action starts.



That darn ground hog has got to go!



War is hell



If you don't stop.



Where's your pass?





Hillclimber Flight.



Alright, who did it?



Hey Pete, bring the box!



Our goal



Who's turn it to buy.



On pass



Sirl



Hercules unchained.



Our Hero

41



This darn belt is just a little to tight.



If you want it, build it.



Got a match



SP4 Scott - The Hammer Man



Preventing Dehydration



It's stuck!



I'll get that darn Roach this time. 42



Working Hard



Watch the Board



Hardly working



WOW, they really fit.



43      Sizing up the hole.



Strategy Session



SFC "Fat man" Harmon - Mess Stewart



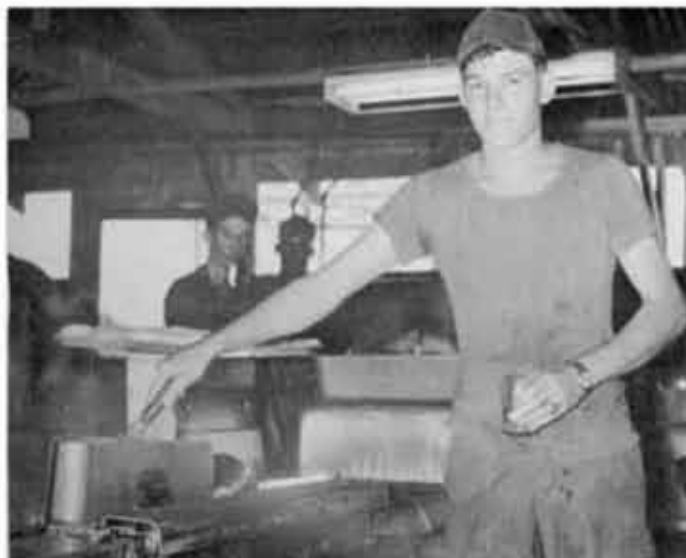
PFC Girtman - Serving it up.



SP4 Vaughn & SP5 Mullin  
"We cook too"



SP5 Carter  
"HMM, looks good"



PFC Girtman - "It's me again"



Hey man, save me some.



We sleep anywhere.



1LT Sullivan, Admin  
Maj. Halbman, Hillclimber "6"  
and Mama son



It tastes like Bubble gum.



The good, the bad, and the ugly



Just like home



Oh! That can't be a fly!



Just one more word.



Don't move



The Mod Sqqua



Laundry day



Stalog 17



Another day of guard



Turn on the light.



If I could just grow a beard.



Almost finished



That was a close one.



Checking the karate chop.



The good guys



47 Waiting for a mirror.



Home study course.





Oh, happy days



The good guys



No place like home



Having fun



Play it again.



This letter just kills me.



Relaxing



CPT GEORGE CINK



MAJ HALEMAN



CPT HERSANT



CPT CAMPBELL



1LT SULLIVAN



1LT HERTSCH



CW2 ROBERTSON



49 CW2 WRIGHT



CW2 ABRAMOWICZ



CW2 KEHN



WO1 CONINE



WO1 COCKERHAM



WO1 SKAUGE



WO1 HOLLEY



WO1 GRIER



CW3 SCHOLL



WO1 BRISSETTE



WO1 FANN



WO1 FEHRS



WO1 NOACK



WO1 WEIHRACH



WO1 HOURNEY



WO1 LABRUTO



WO1 BRITTON





SFC BUCKLER



ISG TAYLOR



SFC JOHNSON



SFC HARMON



SFC KINGEN



SFC JACKSON



SP6 WENLING



SP6 LUCAS



SP6 BAGLEY



SSG THOMAS



SP5 KILBRIDE



SGT OUCRTON



SP5 HOUSEHOLDER



51 SP5 ODOM



SP5 SMITH



SP5 JACQUES



SP5 SPRAGUE



SP5 CARTER



SP4 VAUGHN



SP4 TOBACO



SP4 HODGE



SP5 TEMPEST



SP4 STAPLES



SP5 VEST



SP4 KORE



SP5 THOMPSON



SP4 LAPORTE



SP5 SNARE



SP5 NEUMEIER



SP5 CAMPBELL



SP4 CONRAD



SP4 CUDDY



SP5 BROWN



SP4 BLOUNT



SP4 BURNETT



SP4 BRATTON



SP4 PERRY



SP4 BAIN



SP4 DEEL



SP4 WESTERMEYER



SP4 ORTIZ



SP4 FARRIS



SP4 MOORE



SP4 HEFLIN



SP4 McGUIRE



SP5 LANGE



SP4 HOLLIMAN



SP4 PACK



SP4 SATURDAY



SP4 SNODGRESS



SP4 FRANK



SP4 POTTER



SP4 HORST



SP4 HUNTER



PV2 INMAN



SP4 CONKRIGHT



SP4 DELUMAU



SP4 CALDWELL



SP4 EVANS



SP4 TOZER



SP4 NASH



SP4 BOSTIC



SP4 REECE



53 SP4 TRUSSO



SP5 ALLEN



SP4 JONES



SP5 KING



SP5 GORDON



SP5 SIPE



SP5 MULLINS



SP5 SPAIN



SP5 TAYLOR



SP4 LAW



SP4 MAINS



SP4 KURJE



SP6 BELCHER



PFC THOMAS



PFC HINES



SP4 McFARLIN



PFC BUSIC



SP4 PECK



SP4 WHITEAKER



SP4 MIESCHER



SP4 KELBACK



SP5 WILSON



SP5 MOOTS



SP4 RANKIN



SP4 FEIGE



SP4 BRYANT



SP5 SNEED



PFC CAPRI



SP5 MALESKI



SP4 LEGG



PFC GIRIMAN



SP4 REED



SP4 OMER



SP4 GRAY



SP4 JOHNSRUD



SP4 ROBINSON



SP5 ANDERSON



SP5 MONAHAN



SP4 BENNETT



SP4 NEGRON



PFC BALLE



PFC HERING



SP4 PERKINS



SP4 HOWARD



SP4 ERRETT



SP4 WILNER



SP4 PYLE



SP4 ARMSTRONG



SP4 MILLER



SP4 PALMER



55 SP4 CALLES



SP4 KALLISTRÖM



PFC PEDDACHIO



SP4 GAMBILL



PFC LOCKETT





SFC ANDERSON



SP6 FELL



SP5 KRIZ



SP5 JERRY



SP4 CHILDERS



SP4 VOIRO



SP5 ADAMS



SP5 BODINET



SP4 VERSTEEG



SP4 GRANT



SP4 WOODS



SP4 MULLIN



SP4 SIDIEL



SP4 HOLLAND



SP4 MILACH



SP4 TOMLINSON



SP5 JERNEBURG



SP4 AMMEN



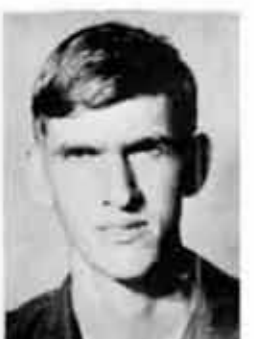
SP5 MURRAY



SP5 MICHEAL



SP4 SHAFFER



SP5 MATHEWS



SP4 SCHWAVBACH



PALMER



SP5 JOHNSON 56



The Professor



I can't stand that stuff



Another blister



No drinking in the billets



SP4 POWELL



SP4 LAUTZENHEISER



SP4 EMERY



SP4 SUMMERVILLE



SP4 WILLIAMS



57 SP5 BUCKO



SP4 LAW



SP4 SCOTT



SSG SMIH



SP4 RAMERIZ





# MY PHOTO



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Mike J. TenEyck  
woman - unknown

on right  
Mike J TenEyck  
on left -  
unknown



# MY PHOTO



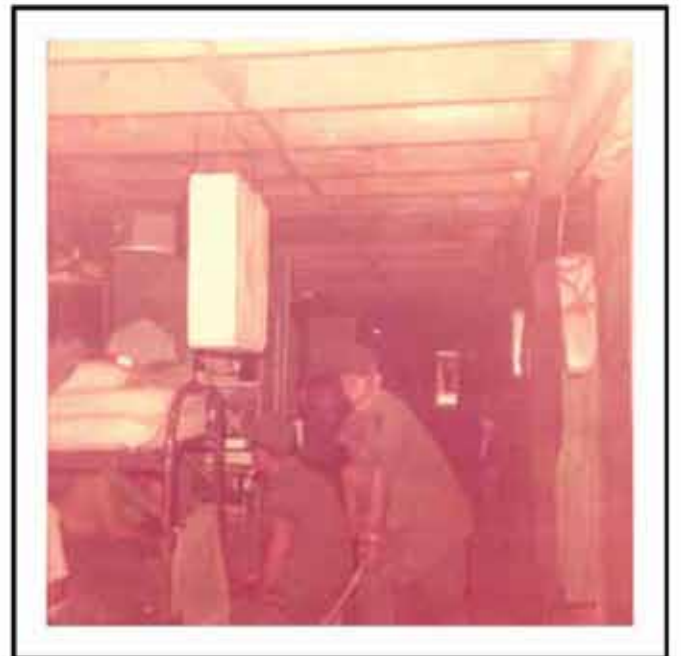
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