



Freedom Flyer

July/Aug
2021

Celebrate Freedom Foundation Newsletter

Volume 4 Issue 4

Inside this Edition

- Operation Fighting Spirit pg. 1
- Chairman's Corner & Presidents Press pg. 2
- Sponsor Highlight Pg. 3
- STEM Education Team Report and Schedule pg. 4
- JROTC Award for Excellence listing pg. 5 - 11
- Meet our staff pg. 12
- Unit Highlight pg. 13-14
- Sponsors pg. 15
- CFF Contact Information pg. 16

“Operation Fighting Spirit”, Kids with Cancer Day 2021!



A little over 2 years ago Celebrate Freedom Foundation (CFF) hosted “Operation Fighting Spirit”, Kids with Cancer Day for the first time. This event was a huge success! CFF is excited to announce that we will again be hosting this extraordinary event on September 18, 2021, from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm. “Operation Fighting Spirit” will again host children, who have cancer or who have fought the courageous battle and won, and their family members at our facility for the event. These warriors and their families come from all areas of South Carolina. This is one day that they can spend as a family without having to “think” or worry about their battle. A few hours just for them!

Celebrate Freedom Foundation overall goal is to make this year’s event even more memorable and exciting! Their own static airshow! CFF will again have emergency response vehicles from organizations in the Midlands and CFF Aircraft displays! This year we will also have military and civilian aircraft and vehicles along with other participants to make this fun filled day for all! Just before lunch is served there will be a special parachute jump to be enjoyed by all! After this all the warriors and their families will be able to sit and relax to enjoy a lunch. During this time, the warriors will receive a special gift that will be awarded to them for their bravery.

If you are interested in sponsoring this event, donating supplies needed, volunteering or being one of our participants, please contact Missy Robbins by phone at 803-822-8812 or email at info@cff-soar.org.





Chairman's Corner

John Lenti

I know most of you, particularly parents and grandparents, the terrible plight of the school system in our country. A full 25% of parents are opting to not send their children back to the classrooms. Current studies of the past academic year indicate little, or no learning took place at home and our state of SC is ranked 43 out of 50. Our school system is in a shambles. This makes it all more important for the CFF STEM program to reach as many K-12 students as possible.

We must remember the audience that CFF focuses on. Our STEM team will have a daunting task to deliver meaningful programs particularly to the already underserved student population further devastated by the Covid-19 year. Our team must deliver STEM instruction to help the K-12 teaching staff try to overcome the academic deficit. I am confident we can do this if we recognize the needs of the next generation.

CFF will continue to support our three-mission statement. Bob Day has the all-important mission of supporting the 150th Anniversary of the legendary 9th and 10th cavalry Buffalo Soldiers here in Columbia. These two units were the backbone of effort to settle our western frontier and were instrumental as instructors in teaching horsemanship to West Point cadets in the early 20th century. Generals MacArthur, Bradley, Pershing and Patton all learned their trade from these

President's Press

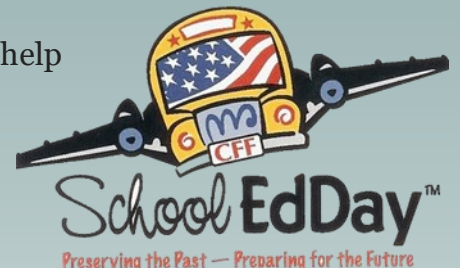
Jack Lovelady

Value Propositions; the continuous strengthening of the Foundation's promise of value to be delivered to our customers, remains our primary focus. CFF supports three customer communities. First are the veterans who inspire the next generation through the delivery of our unique STEM Education Outreach Program to them. The second community are the students who are inspired to pursue careers in STEM, and the third community are the businesses who so greatly require a sustainable STEM literate workforce.

A number of initiatives are underway in parallel which enhance our Value Propositions. New and younger skilled talent has joined both the Foundation's Board of Directors and the Board of Advisors. Both groups are actively exchanging ideas with our sponsors which enhances our product range while offering new options and solutions. Significant upgrading of our facility and classroom, including the addition of high speed internet and wireless servers have been completed. Recently a CFF member donated a gaming station set with multiple monitors and high back gaming chair for our flight simulator project. We are in the process of selecting the right simulator program that will fill our needs.

Our flying aircraft are being upgraded with satellite navigation and we are acquiring new drones and a large Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) to take to our schools.

Join our team as a business, veteran, member or volunteer to help us shape the future.



Sponsor Highlight

EAGLE AVIATION

Eagle Aviation is a premier, full-service FBO centrally located on the eastern seaboard in Columbia, South Carolina, with bases at both the Columbia Metro (KCAE) and Jim Hamilton - L.B. Owens Airport (KCUB). We have been providing aircraft sales and services to aviation clients around the world since 1967, and have worked tirelessly to earn our reputation for excellence.

We've become a known and trusted name in sales, maintenance, completions, parts support and line service. Regardless of the reason for your visit, you can rest assured that the Eagle Aviation team will provide you with a professional and gratifying customer experience, time and time again.

CFF is lucky to have Eagle Aviation as a proud partner to assist us when we need help. Our HU-1 Huey museum quality restoration, was completed with the help of Eagle Aviation by using their paint booth facility to give the helicopter a period correct paint color and finish.

Thank you Eagle Aviation for your support.



The final preparations



The finished product

STEM Education Team Report

Make Sure Schools in Your County Get the Support They Deserve, So Your Students Can Receive a Visit They'll Never Forget.

Celebrate Freedom Foundation's exciting STEM Education Outreach Program visits dozens of schools across the Southeastern US every year with more than 10,000 students participating annually.

CFF's STEM Education Outreach Program, emphasizes the necessity of STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in K–12 grades. It connects the classroom with real world jobs and career fields. The program's mission is to help build a workforce that can compete globally for jobs in the future, and to ensure America's technological advantage in a global environment. STEM subjects provide skills and competencies greatly needed here in the Southeast, across the nation and globally.

How can you help the CFF STEM Education Outreach Program? We are always looking for volunteers to assist in these visits and if you have a school that you want us to visit, let us know. You can reach out to **Lori Wicker** our Executive Vice President and Director of STEM Education by email at stemed@cff-soar.org or a phone call at **(803) 882-8812**



“CFF STEM visit to Brookland Cayce High School as a proof of concept, following school COVID-19 guidelines”

CFF STEM Education Outreach Program Visits

Irmo National Night Out - 3 August 2021

Batesburg-Leesville Night Out - 4 August 2021

Touch A Truck; Gilbert, SC — Lexington County Sheriffs Department - 7 August 2021

Heyward Career and Tech Center; Columbia, SC 31 August 2021

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

NOMINEE	SCHOOL	STATE
C/Amn Megan Willis	Alconbury HS	AE
C/ Crystalena Ambrus	Kaiserslautern HS	APO
C/SSgt Amarchi Okoroafor	Kaiserslautern HS	APO
C/1Lt Joslynn Brackett	Spangdahlem HS	APO
C/1SG Jamir McNeary	White Hall HS	AR
C/A Elijah Levin	Higley HS	AZ
C/Amn Mariela Torres Vargas	Poston Butte HS	AZ
C/2LT Daniela Velazquez	Rio Rico HS	AZ
C/Ltc kevin Polanco	Rio Rico HS	AZ
C/PVt Johana Holman	Rio Rico HS	AZ
C/Sgt Hiedi Tautimez	Rio Rico HS	AZ
C/1Lt Breena Cordova-Jenkins	Desert HS	CA
C/Amn Angelo Dylan Salenga	Desert HS	CA
C/Capt Angelica Holley	Desert HS	CA
C/Maj Connor Meyn	Desert HS	CA
C/SSgt Logan Yeom	Heritage HS	CA
C/Cadet Micah Davis	Oxnard HS	CA
C/A1C Josselyn Duran	San Marcos HS	CA
C/CAPT Jacob Wong	Scripps Ranch HS	CA
C/SrA Magdalene Kwee	Scripps Ranch HS	CA
C/TSgt Lucky Hong	Scripps Ranch HS	CA
C/TSgt Sabella Ibinyopaka	Scripps Ranch HS	CA
C/SSgt Paolo Laguna	Vista HS	CA
C/Amn Davoud Brame	Whitney HS	CA
C/Amn Thomas Sackinsky	Whitney HS	CA
C/Sairman Tirzah Peters	Air academy HS	CO
C/SSgt Frances Bell	Glenwood Springs HS	CO
C/ Jimena Yanes Labrana	Grand Island Sr HS	CO
C/SrA Cassandra Levay	Vista Ridge HS	CO
C/SrA Suzanne Baker	Vista Ridge HS	CO
C/ Austin Forgey	Smyrna HS	De
C/ Maison Spradlin	Smyrna HS	DE
C/ Sean Supinski	Smyrna HS	DE
C/Amn Cassidy Watson	Smyrna HS	DE

Continued on next page

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

C/PO2 Sean Limbaga	Bishop Kenny HS	FL
C/1Lt Jose Mendez	Deland HS	FL
C/SSgt Antwone Sutton	Deland HS	FL
C/SMSgt Mariano Ortiz	Dr. Phillips HS	FL
C/SMSgt Natalie Weaver	Gulf Breeze HS	FL
C/Cpl Shaylin Mays	Holmes County HS	FL
C/Seaman Henry McKey	Lake Howell HS	FL
C/MSgt Daniel Long	Mt Dora HS	FL
C/SMSgt Mackenzie Ashby	Niceville HS	FL
C/SSgt Payton Hill	Niceville HS	FL
C/2Lt Austin Michael Cole	Pine Ridge HS	FL
C/Amn Karl Snyder	Pine Ridge HS	FL
C/Major Jaimy Lee Cotto	Pine Ridge HS	FL
C/Staff Sergeant Josh Moore	Pine Ridge HS	FL
C/Second Class Isaac Rivard	Riverview HS	FL
C/CMSgt Nayelle Germosen Trinidad	Rutherford HS	FL
**C/Maj Isabelle Violette	Sebring HS	FL
C/SGT Sofia Torres	Seminole Ridge HS	FL
C/ Jazlynn Muniz	Spruce Creek HS	FL
C/Pvt Preston Bates	Spruce Creek HS	FL
C/2LT Aiden Skiens	Steinbrenner HS	FL
C/Maj Sophia Wheeler	Vernon HS	FL
C/LTC Stephen Warren	Benedictine Military School	GA
C/SSgt Da'oud DeLane	Clarke Central HS	GA
C/Seaman DaCosta Ezranyah	Green Hills HS	GA
C/PO3 Marley Mulkey	Hillgrove HS	GA
C/SN Davis Donea	Hillgrove HS	GA
C/CMSgt Michael Ballman	Jefferson HS	GA
C/SSgt Ninalyn-Kahealani Guevarra	Lowndes HS	GA
C/SSgt Sydney Rothas	Lowndes HS	GA
C/Pfc Benjamin Padgett	Richmond Hill HS	GA
C/SrA Cameron Lane	Sequoyah HS	GA
C/PO2 Justin Senzer	Sprayberry HS	GA
C/ Leonimar Mara	Lockport Township HS	IL
C/CMSgt Cecelia Gilbert	Lockport Township HS	IL

Continued on next page

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

C/TSgt Donovan Jungwaelter	Macoutah HS	IL
C/TSgt Wyatt Curry	Mascoutah HS	IL
C/CPO Jingyi Lan	Westinghouse College Prep	IL
C/SA Rubi Barbour	New Albany HS	IN
C/MSgt Evelyn Barnes	Topeka West HS	KS
C/TSgt Leah Fleet	Bell County HS	KY
C/Maj Audrey Waldron	Madison Southern HS	KY
C/PO3 Tristan Estes	Russell County HS	KY
C/2LT Korie Williamson	Red River HS	LA
C/Amn Jalyrica Whitaker	Red River HS	LA
C/Amn Ja'Lyrice Whitaker	Red River HS	LA
C/TSgt Daniel Bailey	Red River HS	LA
C/2LT Caden Lanning	eabody Veterans Memorial HS	MA
C/2LT Jadyn Bardina	eabody Veterans Memorial HS	MA
C/PFC Anusha Saha	Altholton HS	MD
C/1Lt Emma Weltz	Broadneck HS	MD
C/MSgt Manvika Mamidala	Howard HS	MD
C/ Colin Harmon	Huntington HS	MD
C/ Bima Prastya	John F. Kennedy HS	MD
C/ Maria Silva	John F. Kennedy HS	MD
C/TSgt Laron Davis	North Point HS	MD
C/SA Michael Acosta	Seneca Valley HS	MD
C/Maj Emily Bobinski	Anchor Bay HS	MI
C/LT William Chapman	Houghton HS	MI
C/Airman Elias Oerly	Blue Springs HS	MO
C/Airman Evan Russell	Blue Springs HS	MO
C/SSgt Zachary Hodges	Cape Central HS	MO
C/Airman Sabrina Epstein	lafayette HS	MO
C/SrA Zach Pruitt	Lee's Summit West HS	MO
C/CAPT Fernando Afane	Missouri Millitary Academy	MO
A1C/ Molly Mason	Republic HS	MO
Seaman Ian McCullough	Grenada Hs	MS
C/MSgt Tahkhari Doss	Natchez HS	MS
Ssgt Sparkle James	Riverside HS	NC
C/A1C Eli Quiller	Sanderson HS	NC

Continued on next page

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

C/AiC Emery Smith	Terry Sanford HS	NC
C/1Lt Jordan Escabi	Manchester West HS	NH
C/A1C Emily Boyce	Jackson Memorial HS	NJ
C/Airman Johan Chacko	Mount Olive HS	NJ
C/Maggie E Faustino	MT Olive HS	NJ
Desirae DeJesus	Nachas HS	NJ
Elijah Pratt	Washington Township HS	NJ
C/SrA Alyssa Luby	Williamsontown HS	NJ
C/SSgt Amanda Adams	Williamsontown HS	NJ
C/SSgt Ashley Spinney	Williamsontown HS	NJ
C/Sa Thomas Patton	Santa Fe HS	NM
C/AB Janessa James	Cimarron-Memorial HS	NV
C/Amn Dylan Barnes	Cimarron-Memorial HS	NV
C/Amn Oliver Jonas	Cimarron-Memorial HS	NV
C/MSgt Monika Partida	Cimarron-Memorial HS	NV
C/Major Lorissa Miller	Carthage Central HS	NY
C/Lt Kyra Warncke	Notre Dame HS	NY
C/Ariana Cedeno	Patchogue-Medford HS	NY
C/Lt Alexa Walsh	Riverhead HS	NY
PO3 Alexa Feeney	Southold HS	NY
PO3 Grace Zehil	Southold HS	NY
PO3 Jashlin Castaneda	Southold HS	NY
C/ Roselyn Reyes	Western NY Maritime HS	NY
C/LTC Jack Phillipson	Bellbrook HS	OH
C/SRA Ethan Bui	Bellbrook HS	OH
C/2Lt Carter Sharpnack	Green HS	OH
C/Cpt Thomas Downs	Tecumseh HS	OH
C/MSgt Rachel Thibodeau	Choctaw HS	OK
C/PT Dejah	Eisenhower HS	OK
C/SA Ivakai Heiges	Crook County HS	OR
C/SR Benjamin Mc Williams	Crook County HS	OR
C/Lt Col Ana Panaitescu	North Penn HS	PA
C/Maj Jacob Grieco	North Penn HS	PA
C/Amn Kendall Nowak	Phonenixville Area HS	PA
C/Kendall Nowak	Phonenixville Area HS	PA

Continued on next page

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

C/SSgt Kalonie Sallis McWilliams	West Mifflin Are HS	PA
C/SSgt Nicholas Zottola	West Mifflin Are HS	PA
C/Sgt Draven Baker	Ashley Ridge HS	SC
C/A1C Rebecca Thompson	Beaufort HS	SC
C/Amn Abhinar Barigala	Beaufort HS	SC
C/Maj Michael Vidal	Beaufort HS	SC
C/SSgt Gabriel Dralsen	Beaufort HS	SC
C/A1C Kamari Martin	Broome HS	SC
C/A1C Gregory Symington	Cane Bay HS	SC
C/SrA Hunter Pridmore	Gaffney HS	SC
C/1Lt Andrew Madsen	James Island Charter HS	SC
C/1Lt Eric Tindal	James Island Charter HS	SC
C/Amn Brendan Gill	James Island Charter HS	SC
C/CAPT Benjamin Cox	James Island Charter HS	SC
C/Maj Ryan Paraday	Lexington HS	SC
C/SN Kylan Osgood	N. Augusta HS	SC
C/SN Lady Sheridan Town	N. Augusta HS	SC
C/SR Kori Moore	N. Augusta HS	SC
C/SSgt Zoey Werdeman	North Valleys HS	SC
C/1Lt Damian Williams	Palmetto HS	SC
C/A1C Nicholas Owens	Palmetto HS	SC
C/MAJ Miranda Standard	Palmetto HS	SC
C/MSgt William Thomson	Palmetto HS	SC
C/SGT Adrianna Pintos-Rios	Ridge View HS	SC
C/Seaman Jack Bernard	White Knoll HS	SC
C/Capt Alexander Barnett	Bell County HS	TN
A1C Brooke Acevedo	Hixson HS	TN
Airman 1st C/ Brycen Hempy	Hixson HS	TN
SSgt Garrett Jeter	Hixson HS	TN
C/LCMDR Lindsay Ripley	Oak Ridge HS	TN
C/LCMDR Sierra Allmon	Oak Ridge HS	TN
C/Master CPO Spencer Ratliff	Oak Ridge HS	TN
C/PO3 Virginia Mailen	Oak Ridge HS	TN
C/SFC Davis King	Page HS	TN
C/CSgtM Josh DeLaFuentes	Bellaire HS	TX

Continued on next page

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

C/ Amanda Salvatierra	Canyon Lakes HS	TX
C/ Isabella Hollenbeck	Canyon Lakes HS	TX
C/MSGT Kim Norris	Cypress Woods HS	TX
C/Pvt Savannah Lujan	East Central HS	TX
Col Joelynn Donnell	Floresville HS	TX
C/ENS Katherine Karr	Fredericksburg HS	TX
C/A1C Teesha Baylon	Judson HS	TX
C/Amn Riley Sulit	Lamar Consolidated HS	TX
C/A Steven Martinez	Lockhart HS	TX
C/ENS John Henry Davis III	Lubbock HS	TX
C/Maj Clayton Chabarria	Medina Valley HS	TX
C/Amn Mahlia Rivera	New Braunfels Canyon HS	TX
C/SRA Jasmine Miro	New Braunfels Canyon HS	TX
C/SRA Sierra Richards	New Braunfels Canyon HS	TX
C/Amn Mitchell Boyer	Oak Ridge HS	TX
C/SRA Stefan Turon	Oak Ridge HS	TX
C/MSgt Nadalia Naranjo	Randolph HS	TX
C/1SG Chasity Paruzinski	University HS	TX
Chief PO Diego Pineda	Vista Ridge HS	TX
C/PFC Stella Rethaber	Winston Churchill HS	TX
C/A1C Jillian Halls	Wasatch HS	UT
C/A1C Rosalyn Giese	Wasatch HS	UT
C/LTC Hunter Patterson	Wasatch HS	UT
C/TSgt Meg Harris	Wasatch HS	UT
C/A Caydence Goodwin	Battlefield HS	VA
C/ Pho Ryan	Chantilly Academy	VA
C/2LT Rachel Dallas	Chantilly Academy	VA
C/AiC Phillip Dube	Deep Run HS	VA
C/Amn Makayla Wright	Franklin County HS	VA
C/MSgt Lillian Fosdick	Grassfield HS	VA
C/SrA Gabrielle Simmons	Grassfield HS	VA
C/Amn Joseph Stephens	Federal Way HS	WA
C/PO1C Maekeala Granbo	Marysville Pillchuck HS	WA
C/Seaman Tyee Eliason	Marysville Pillchuck HS	WA

Continued on next page

JROTC Award for Excellence Awardees

2020-2021

Thank You Letters

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

Thank you for presenting me with the Celebrate Freedom Foundation award. I will always cherish it. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Cadet Brown, Rachelle

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I would like to thank you for selecting me for your national JROTC. I am very honored that you chose me for this prestige. Your award has driven me to develop and further my leadership skills and to help and mentor the other cadets. When I heard that I was receiving this award I was in shock I was so sure that somebody else deserved this more than me. I would like to state again how thankful I am for receiving this spectacular award. I'm extremely grateful and really excited to see what the future holds for everyone in the corp.

Sincerely,
C/A1C Hewes

Meet the Staff

Melissa “Missy” Robbins

Melissa Robbins is the Secretary of the Board and Business Manager for Celebrate Freedom Foundation.



Melissa “grew up” in Altoona, PA, where her parents relocated to after her father retired from the US Army. She attended Penn State University for 2 years before deciding to join the US Army herself, along with her sister. Melissa served 6 years in the Army as an Administrative Specialist. Her most enjoyable assignment was in Panama at the Jungle Operations Training Battalion (JOTB). She also served in other interesting areas, to include Ft. Meade, MD supporting NSA, Fort McPherson, GA supporting FORSCOM and at Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN, supporting the 1991 E-7 Promotion Board Proceedings. Melissa also served another 4 years with

the US Army Reserves as an Automated Logistical Specialist in Altoona, PA. after leaving the active duty Army.

Melissa has worked at Michigan Association of Insurance Agents (MAIA) as Administrative Support in the Education Department, and The MITRE Corporation in Colorado Springs, CO as Administrative Support. Meanwhile, Melissa also earned Certification in Medical Sterilization from Columbus Technical College, Certificate in Pre-Health Care, Certificate in Pre- Respiratory Care, and an Associate of Science Degree in Human Services with Honors from Midlands Technical College. She completed her Bachelor of Science, Human Services in May of 2018. She is currently pursuing her Associate of Science Degree in Business Management with Pennsylvania State University Worldwide. During this time period, Melissa was also busy at home supporting her family while her husband served overseas and finished out his Army career. She volunteered with the unit Family Readiness Group (FRG) and also was a Den Leader for her son’s Cub Scout and Boy Scout Packs, and also coached little league and youth soccer with the post Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR). Melissa and her family finally planted roots in Blythewood, SC in 2010 with her husband who retired from the US Army in 2016 at Fort Jackson.

Melissa is also a mother to 2 sons, Anthony and Aiden. Anthony is a graduate from The Citadel in Criminal Justice, and is now a SC State Highway Trooper, and is a soldier with the S.C. Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer. Her youngest son, Aiden, is currently enjoying his childhood at home in Blythewood and is a big fan of Celebrate Freedom Foundation. Melissa loves to travel, with her favorite vacation getaway being Fiji, camping and spending time with family and friends. When asked what she felt was her biggest achievement was, she answered, “My family being happy and healthy is my biggest achievement. Everything I have done and will do is to make sure they stay that way, with God’s guidance and the support of my husband, this is achievable.”

Unit History

134th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC)

The Army also needed someone who could handle the physical and emotional stress of extended dangerous missions that would be flown in all kinds of weather and terrain. Those selected were for the most part young and wanted to fly -- often not quite realizing what they were getting themselves into. Volunteers came forward by the thousands.

Flight training for pilots began at Ft. Wolters, Texas, and continued at Ft. Rucker, Alabama or Ft Steward, Georgia. The training was broken into essentially five segments. Basic training consisted of simply learning to hover, takeoff and land a helicopter. In the next phase, they learned how to land and take off from a confined area, how to land on a pinnacle and cross-country navigation. At Ft. Rucker and Ft. Steward (and Ft. Wolters in the early days), pilots received basic instrument training, essentially how to maintain the helicopter right side up solely through the use of instruments. Next, student pilots were transitioned into the UH-1 Huey helicopter, which became not only the workhorse, but also the symbol of the Vietnam War. Finally, students were taught aviation tactics. The flight program lasted a total of 9 very trying months. There was no let up, when a student was not flying, they were in class studying aircraft maintenance, proper preflight techniques, military tactics, how-to call-in artillery fire, first aid, navigation, safety considerations, flight characteristics of the aircraft and much more.

The 134th was activated on 17 February 1967 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina as an Assault Helicopter Company. Roughly 75-80% of the men were regular army volunteers and the rest draftees. The unit picked up its 23 slicks (UH-1D's) and eight gunships (UH-1C's), many with consecutive tail numbers, at the factory in April-May and began training. Upon completion of training, the 82nd Aviation Battalion administered an ORT (Operational Readiness Test). The test was completed in a minimum of time due to the preparedness of the 134th. The company far surpassed all requirements and was said to be the most highly trained and professional unit to have been organized at Fort Bragg. Every man in the 134th had a job to do and all were important to the functioning of the company, right down to the cooks and mail clerk--maybe especially the cooks and mail clerk!

The 134th was ready for deployment by the first of November 1967. The aircraft were flown as a unit across country (+24 hours of flight time) to Sharpe Army Depot in California where they were loaded onto an aircraft carrier. Once the entire unit was in San Francisco, they boarded the USNS John Pope for a 21 day voyage to Vietnam. The voyage to Vietnam was incredibly boring and there was literally nothing to do but sleep, eat, play cards, read and gamble. Many men read quite a few novels and any books they could get their hands on. As an indicator of their desperation, it is interesting to note that a book popular among some folks was Gibbons' "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire", all 2000 or so pages of it.

At various times during its tour of duty the 134th supported:

- 173rd Airborne Brigade

- Long range recon patrols (LRRPs) from the 173rd Airborne

- 22nd and 23rd ARVN Divisions ands their MACV advisors

- MACV intelligence ("people sniffer" and "Sniffer" missions)

- Special Forces "A" Teams

- Special Forces "Mike Force" units (battalion size and larger units of indigenous troops)

- 4th Infantry Division

- 52nd Artillery Brigade

- The six regiments of the two Korean divisions in the area.

- The Korean divisions were the 9th (Whitehorse) Division and the Capital Division.

Due to its general support mission, the 134th covered all of II Corps and the flight crews often spent several days at a time with the units they supported, or more often with the local aviation unit having the direct support mission. Consequently, they came to know the other aviation units throughout the II Corps area very well.

Unit History

Tet of 1968 was a busy period for the 134th. Aircraft were dispersed all over II Corps, plugging holes and supporting units normally supported by others. Some slicks went to Pleiku to support the 52nd Artillery Brigade, others to Ninh Hoa, Nha Trang and Qui Nhon. There were quite a few night flare missions during this period and also a few close calls in getting the flares clear of the aircraft before they ignited. One slick carrying the 52nd Arty commander called in artillery fire on 2 companies of NVA regulars brazenly marching in formation down Highway 1 into Qui Nhon, accounting for at least 100 KIA.

The Devils had a field day during Tet and accounted for well over a thousand VC and NVA KIA. They were so busy and had so many missions no one bothered to keep count of KIAs. Missions included fire support for US and ARVN units engaged in house to house fighting in downtown Nha Trang, Tuy Hoa and Kontum.

Despite a wide variety of dangerous missions and nightly mortar attacks on Phu Hiep itself not a single man or aircraft was lost during the Tet offensive. Considering the missions undertaken by the 134th this was quite an achievement. Contrary to public perception back in the US, Tet 68 was a major victory for US and Vietnamese forces. The NVA attacked all major cities, expecting to be welcomed and aided by popular uprisings but this did not happen. Instead, they were cut down in the thousands by the infantry, artillery and aircrews from assault helicopter units such as the 134th.

The 134th came of age in 1968 and completed its first year in country (as a helicopter unit) with only 4 personnel lost in combat.

During 1969, the 134th absorbed the 832nd Signal and the 618th Transportation Detachments. The company was also redesignated from the 134th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light) to the 134th Assault Helicopter Company.

Just as in the previous year there was a large turnover of pilots in October 1969 and few new pilots to take their place. Many pilots began logging 150-200 hours a month, well over the 140 hour maximum allowed by the flight surgeon. Anyone with a set of wings was press ganged into the pilot seat, including much of the battalion staff.

During 1969, the 134th transported over 152,000 personnel on combat assaults and other troop lifts. Although resupply was not a major activity, over 1300 tons of cargo were transported during the year. The unit also participated in its first night combat assault (with the 28th ROK Regiment). As a result of the dedicated efforts of Demon maintenance, aircraft availability averaged over 80% for the year.

The 134th served in Vietnam for 1 year, 12 days as a helicopter unit and flew just short of 100,000 hours in UH-1's.



Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation would like to thank all of our sponsors who have given donations in order to ensure the education of STEM and to honor our military - past, present and future.



To Contact the Celebrate Freedom Foundation:

Headquarters and
STEM Education Center

Celebrate Freedom Foundation
2533 B Airport Blvd.
West Columbia, SC 29170

Phone: (803) 822-8812
Email: info@cff-soar.org
website: www.GoCFF.org

**Educating the Public, Promoting
Patriotism and Honoring the
Military - Past, Present and
Future**




Celebrate Freedom would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers that have given their time and effort to the renovation of the CFF Headquarters and to our Board of Directors for their continued pursuit of progress. Without the countless hours of help, CFF wouldn't be where we are today.
Thank you!



Any questions or suggestions about the newsletter, please contact Tom Robbins at the phone number above or by email - webmaster@cff-soar.org


Donation or Membership Mail In Slip

If you would like to make a donation or become a member of CFF you can fill in your information below, cut it out and mail it to CFF at the address listed above or visit our website and use PayPal.



Mail in donation and or membership slip

Please Print



Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Prior Service?: _____ Branch _____

Spouse Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Phone #: _____ Anniversary Date: _____

College Student: \$25.00 x _____ Annual: \$50.00 x _____ Lifetime: \$250.00 x _____ Sponsor Donation: \$ _____