

5-60 Adopts Aviators During Airmobile Picnic

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LONG THANH - A combat battalion in the 9th Infantry Division cemented a grateful relationship with an assault helicopter company during a recent Sunday afternoon barbecue here.

During the festivity, the 5th Battalion (Mechanized), 60th Infantry adopted the 191st Assault Helicopter Company.

The two units have teamed up for 14 air-mobile operations in the Mekong Delta since late May when the helicopter company arrived in Vietnam from Ft. Bragg, N.C.

To show his appreciation for the cooperation given by the 191st, Lieutenant Colonel Allen S. Flynn, 5th-60th battalion commander, proposed that his unit adopt the aviation company.

Major Clarence Patnode Jr., 191st commander, explained that the idea flattered his unit so much that they gladly accepted the offer and made arrangements for a cook-out to celebrate the event.

Ten UH-1B helicopters landed at the Binh Phouc base camp of the 5th-60th shortly after noon and a contingent of infantrymen scrambled board for a ride to the aviation company's headquarters at the the 9th Division base camp.

Charcoal fires were lighted and beverages iced-down at the 191st maintenance area as the helicopters left Binh Phouc for the 40-mile return trip.

When they arrived, Flynn addressed the combined units and read the proclamation of adoption. He presented Patnode a 1917 Springfield rifle captured from the Viet Cong during a recent operation. **Patnode gave the 5th-60th a bullet-scarred "synchronized elevator", a small wing on the tail of "huey" helicopters, in exchange for the rifle. The elevator was ripped by enemy ground fire during one of the 191st — 5th-60th missions.**

A crowd of about 450 soldiers were treated to barbecued steaks furnished by the 191st.

note: Original edition of The Old Reliable saved by **PFC Don Westphal**, with a note in the margin, **"I got to go to this picnic. We sure had fun."**

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