

# **GREAT SOLDIERS BUILDING AN ARMY-- NAMES, MEMORIALS, AWARDS, VALUES, AND HISTORY**

## **As on your website:**

JOKER [call sign]

Site/facility: Street

Organization: 48th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light/Assault Helicopter)

Information: Joker was the call sign of the 48th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light/Assault Helicopter), stationed at Fort Benning, GA. The 48th deployed to Vietnam in 1965. It was assigned to the 10th Aviation Battalion, 12th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. It was stationed at Ninh Hoa and operated in the II Corps Tactical Zone, southern coastal region. It transferred to the 223d Aviation Battalion in July 1971. In April 1972 it transferred again to the 11th Aviation Group. It departed Vietnam in August 1972. Periods of service: 6 November 1965-August 1972.

Source: Vietnam Order of Battle.

## **Corrected Information:**

"Joker" was the call sign of the gun platoon of the 48th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) call sign "Blue Star." The gun platoon flew UH-1B and C models in the early years, and in April 1971 began fielding of the AH-1G (Cobra). The unit was later designated 48th Aviation Company (Airmobile Light/Assault Helicopter.) The 48th deployed to Vietnam in 1965 from Fort Benning, GA, where it was assigned to the 10th Aviation Battalion, 12th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. The unit was located for much of its time at Ninh Hoa, RVN and operated in the II Corps Tactical Zone, in the southern coastal region. In January 1971, the company ground convoyed to Dong Ha, near Quang Tri, in Military Region 1 (I Corps Tactical Zone) to conduct combat operations during Operation Lam Son 719 (US operational name: Dewey Canyon II) the incursion into Laos to sever the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The 48th was reassigned to the 223d Aviation Battalion, an ad hoc battalion formed for the purpose of this large-scale combat operation. In April 1972, it transferred again to the 11th Aviation Group. It departed Vietnam in August 1972. Periods of service: 6 November 1965 - August 1972.

*(I inprocessed with the unit in April 1970 at Ninh Hoa. Two months later, I was pilot-in-command and fire team leader in a UH-1C model gunship. The Jokers provided aerial security for the unit's ground convoy to Dong Ha in January 1971. I departed the unit in April 1971 after participating in LAM SON 719, and before the unit moved to Marble Mountain near Da Nang. Stephen T Knowles.)*