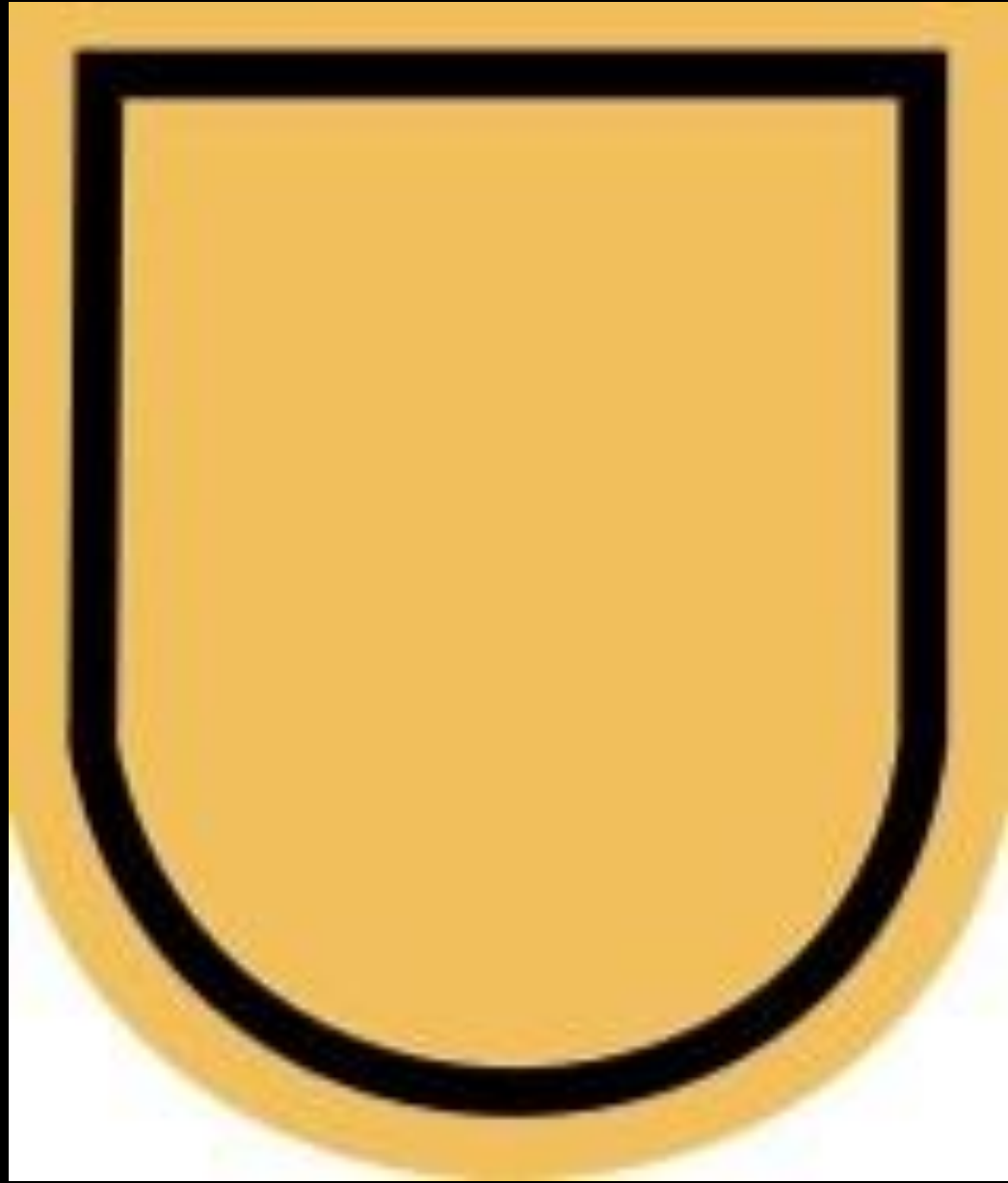




# USASF Airborne Operations

## Vietnam War



# 1st Special Forces Group

## Operation "White Star"

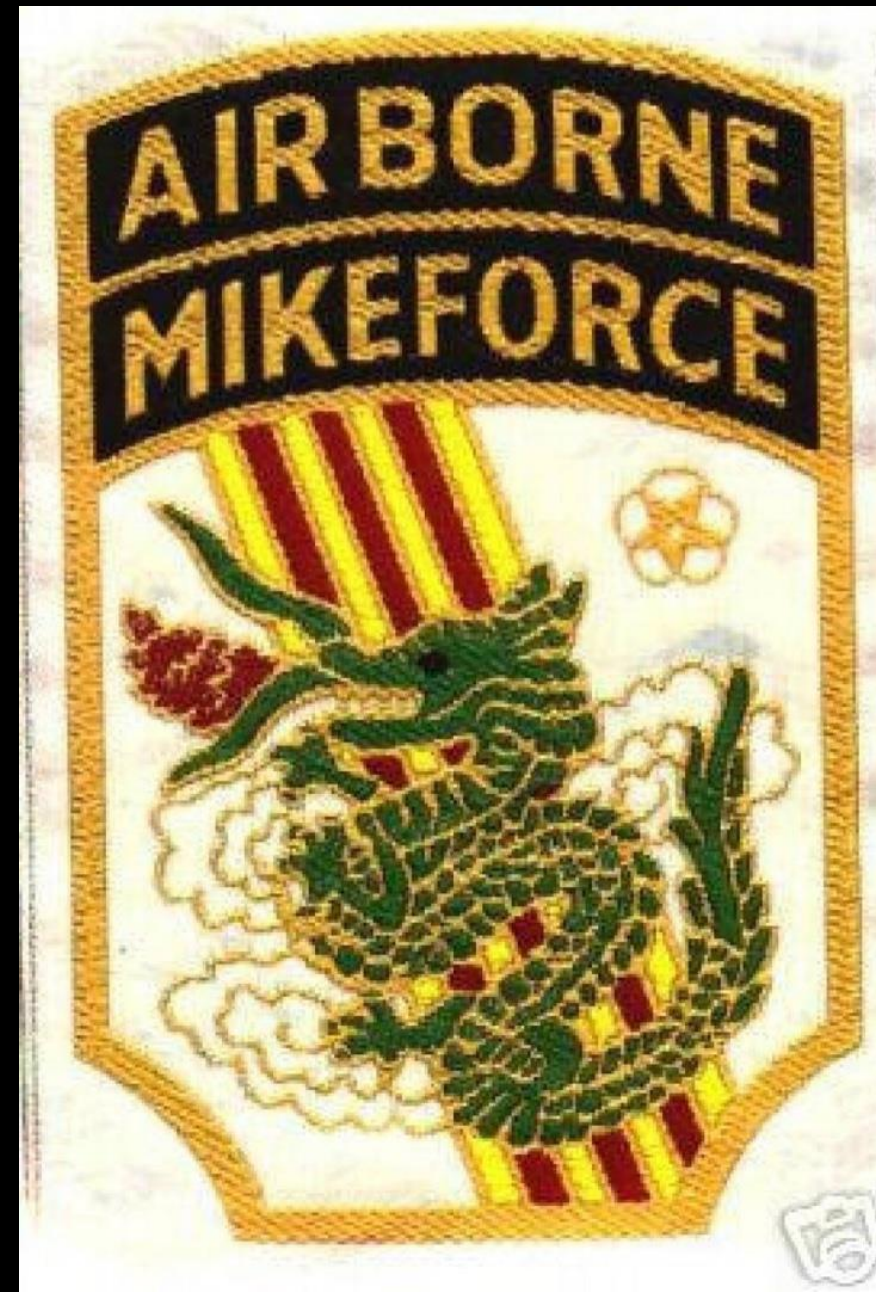


**13 Dec 1960, 1st SFG soldiers jumped into  
the critical communications crossroads of  
Ban Tha Deua with  
1st and 3d Battailons de Parachutiste**

**12 Feb 1962, 1st SFG-trained Lao  
parachutists of the 1st Battailon de  
Parachutiste jumped in to seize  
Nam Tha airstrip.**

**March 1962, Groupement 1 (Airborne) and its 55th Battailon de Parachutiste jumped into Nam Tha. Joined by 3d Battailon de Parachutiste 16 Apr.**

**1st SFG advisors considered Lao airborne units well disciplined and good fighters.**



# Mobile Strike Forces “Mike Force”







# **“Mike Force” Combat Jumps**

**2 Apr 67 Operation Harvest Moon,  
first mass SF-led CIDG combat jump.**

**A-503, Camp Bunard  
300 parachutists.**

**A344 helicoptered 700 CIDG right behind  
them.**

# **“Mike Force” Combat Jumps**

**5 Oct 67, establishing Camp Bu Prang**

**Spectacular mass SF-CIDG jump, rain and 750 foot ceiling  
11 SF and 37 Pathfinders established DZ**

**B CO, 5th SFGA, commander LTC Ludwig Faistenhammer  
led 50 SF and 275 LLDB and II CTZ Mike Force Montagnads**





**MACV-SOG COMBAT JUMPS**

**OP-35 GROUND STUDIES GROUP**



# STATIC LINE (11 Total)

**10 JUN 1968**

**Recon Team *Rattler***

**Forward Observation Base #4 (CCN)**

D/Z RVN

One-Zero SFC Bobby Richardson  
One-One SP4 William Wilkinson  
10 SCU

**23 DEC 1969**

**Recon Team *Auger***

**Command and Control South (CCS)**

D/Z Cambodia

One-Zero SSG Frank Oppel (deceased)  
One-One **SGT Rob Graham**  
4 SCU

**21 JAN 1970**

**Recon Team *Sickle***

**Command and Control South (CCS)**

D/Z Cambodia

One-Zero SGT John Gunnison  
One-One SGT Kenneth Courage  
One-Two SSG David Davidson (KIA-BNR 5 OCT 1970)  
1 SCU

**21 FEB 1970**

**Recon Team *Fork***

**Command and Control South (CCS)**

D/Z Cambodia

One-Zero SSG David Davidson (KIA-BNR 5 OCT 1970)  
One-One SGT James (Ernie) Acre  
2 SCU

**23 AUG 1970**

**Recon Team *Montana***

**Command and Control Central (CCC)**

D/Z Laos

One-Zero SSG Michael Sheppard  
One-One SSG Paul Boyd  
One-Two SSG Harry Waddell  
3 SCU

**9 SEP 1970**

**Recon Team *Asp***

**Command and Control North (CCN)**

D/Z Laos

One-Zero CPT Garry Robb (deceased)  
One-One **SFC Robert Ramsey**  
2 SCU

**11 SEP 1970**

**Recon Team *Intruder***

**Command and Control North (CCN)**

D/Z Laos

One-Zero SFC Ted Hornung  
One-One SSG James Klewicki  
One-Two SSG Dwight Carnes  
3 SCU

**22 DEC 1970**

**Recon Team *Arizona***

**Command and Control Central (CCC)**

D/Z Laos

One-Zero SFC Newman Ruff  
One-One SFC Kestutis Griskelis  
One-Two 1LT Jake Barton  
2 SCU

**10 JAN 1971**

**Recon Team *Adder***

**Task Force 1 Advisory Element (CCN)**

D/Z RVN

One-Zero SFC Gerry Barker  
One-One SP/5 Charles Busler (deceased)  
4 SCU

**29 MAY 1971**

**Recon Team *Kansas***

**Task Force 1 Advisory Element (CCN)**

D/Z RVN

One-Zero 1LT Loren Hagen (KIA 7 AUG 1971)  
One-One SSG Tony Anderson  
One-Two SSG George Cottrell (deceased)  
2 SCU

**18 AUG 1971**

**Recon Team *Maine***

**Task Force 2 Advisory Element (CCC)**

D/Z RVN

One-Zero SFC Howard Upchurch (deceased)  
One-One SSG Robert McNier (deceased)  
One-Two SGT John Shaughnessy  
4 SCU



**28 NOV 1970**  
**Recon Team *Florida***  
**Command and Control North (CCN)**  
D/Z Laos

One-Zero SFC Melvin Hill  
One-One **SSG Cliff Newman**  
One-Two **SSG Sammy Hernandez**  
2 SCU  
1 ARVN  
FACs and FAC Riders **Jim Latham, Dick Hall, Mike Taylor, Al Mosiello**

**7 MAY 1971**  
**Recon Team *Manes***  
**Task Force 1 Advisory Element (CCN)**  
D/Z RVN

One-Zero CPT Larry Manes  
One-One SP/6 Noel Gast  
One-Two SSG Robert Castillo  
One-Three **SGT John Trantanella**

**22 JUN 1971**  
**Recon Team *Waugh***  
**Task Force 1 Advisory Element (CCN)**  
D/Z RVN

One-Zero SGM Billy Waugh  
One-One SFC James Bath  
One-Two SGT Jesse Campbell  
One-Three SGT Madison Strohlein (MIA 22 JUN 1971)

# HALO (5 Total)

**10 AUG 1971**  
**Recon Team *Storter***  
**Task Force 2 Advisory Element (CCC)**  
D/Z RVN

One-Zero CPT James Storter  
One-One SFC Newman Ruff  
One-Two SSG Millard Moye  
One-Three SGT Michael Bentley

**11 OCT 1971**  
**Recon Team *Washington***  
**Task Force 2 Advisory Element (CCC)**  
D/Z RVN

One-Zero SSG Robert McNier (deceased)  
**One-One SGT Howard Sugar**  
One-Two SFC Richard Gross (deceased)  
One-Three SGT Mark Gentry  
One-Four MSG Charles Behler  
5 SCU





**Rob Graham**  
**Static Line #2**

**23 DEC 1969**  
**Recon Team *Auger***  
**Command and Control South**  
**(CCS)**  
**D/Z Cambodia**



**Bob Ramsey**  
**Static Line #6**

**9 SEP 1970**

**Recon Team *Asp***

**Command and Control North (CCN)**

**D/Z Laos**





# Recon Team Asp

Garry Robb & Bob Ramsey

with 2 NVA defectors







**Cliff Newman  
Sammy Hernandez  
HALO #1**

**28 NOV 1970**

**Recon Team *Florida***

**Command and Control North (CCN)**

**D/Z Laos**



# NAIL FACs 1970-71 Time Frame



Dan  
"Hoot"  
Gibson

Jim  
Latham

Mike  
Taylor

Dick  
Hall

Pat  
McCaslin

Butch  
Musik

Garry  
Robb



Jon "Goldie"  
Goldenbaum

Ted  
Stuckey

Jim  
Latham

Dan  
"Hoot"  
Gibson

Pat  
McCaslin

Danny  
Thomas  
(KIA)



**John Trantabella**

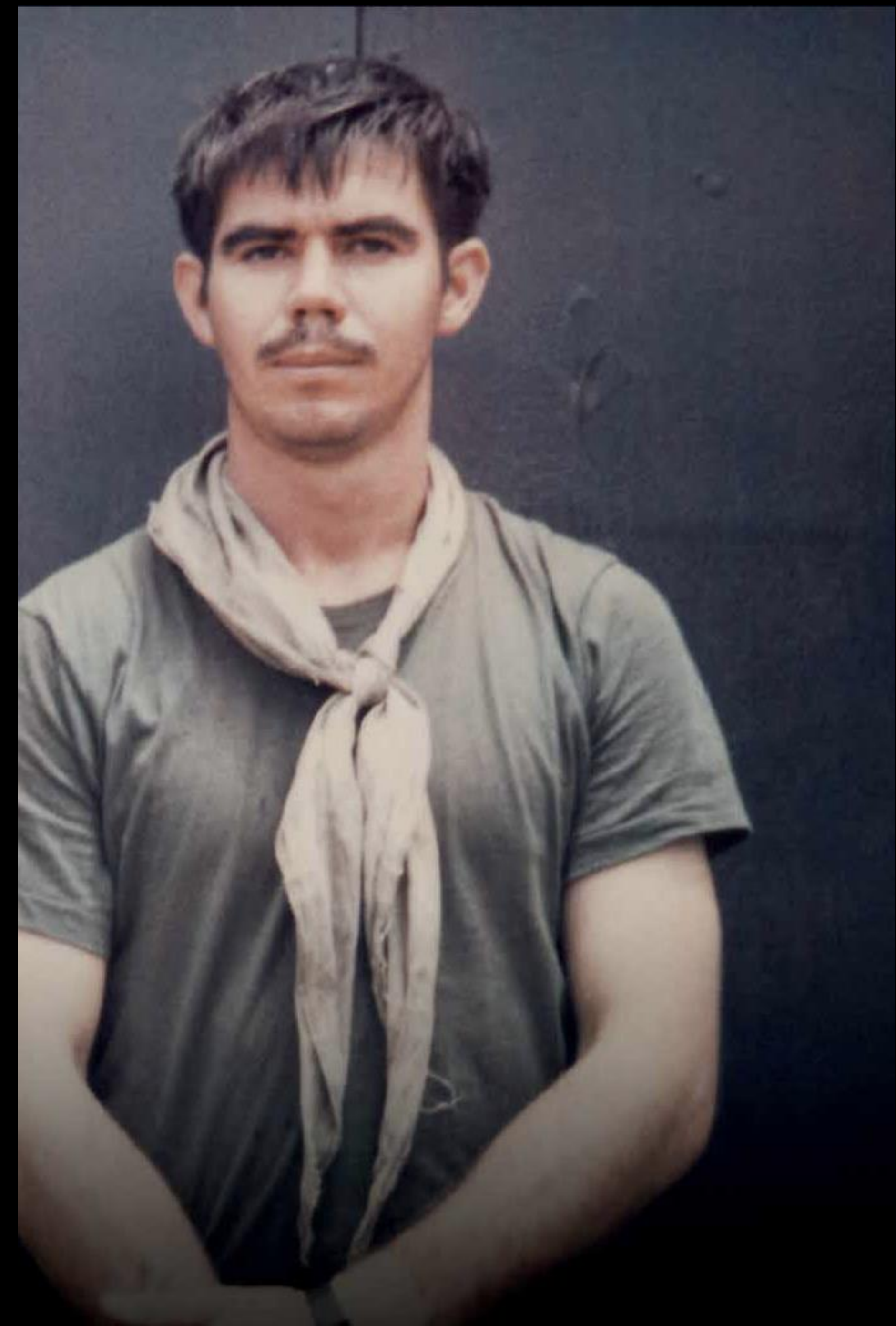
**HALO #2**

**7 MAY 1971**

**Recon Team *Manes***

**Task Force 1 Advisory Element (CCN)**

**D/Z RVN**







**Howard Sugar**  
**HALO #5**

**11 OCT 1971**  
**Recon Team *Washington***  
**Task Force 2 Advisory Element (CCC)**  
**D/Z RVN**



JUN 1971 - PRE COMBAT HALO INSERT  
0200, 22 JUN 1971





SGT MADISON STROHLEIN  
KIA 22 JUN 1971

MSG HARRY DENNY

