

I was Medevac 8, "Angel of Mercy, in-country from 2/70 - 2/71. I found this photo and article I thought you might like to post on your website. The photo is pilot (front seat) James "Bugs" Moran. Hank Tuell and I (Monty Halcomb) were extracting wounded grunts, one of which was a dog-handler (and we also extracted the dog). We were out of Quan Loi. Our door gunner had his .60 hit and disabled by enemy fire, coming from bunkers. Heavy fire and Max, as usual, saved the day for us and the wounded. Typical heroics for so many of the Blue Max pilots who covered us on the majority of our "hot" and/or hoist missions. – TN Farmer

Blue Max Helps Out Medevac Rescue Team

By PFC David Moore
QUAN LOI -- It started out as just another routine fire mission, but it didn't stay that way for long.
With Charlie Company, 1st

Bn, 7th Cav, in heavy contact, Cobra ARA ships from Charlie Battery, 2nd Bn, 20th Artillery (ARA), were called in.

"It started as a routine fire mission," said W01 James Moran pilot of one of the Cobras. "We'd just come on station and started putting out rockets to pin the enemy down when we got a call to divert to provide security for a Medevac bird that was coming in."

"We dropped down," explained 2nd Lt. George Alexander the Cobra's gunner, and started circling around the Medevac when he was hovering. It had to be a hoist mission, due to the heavy jungle, and they were using the jungle penetrator.

"On our first time around we started taking fire," he continued. "We opened up with the mini-gun, but it jammed after a few rounds. On our second pass we threw a burst of chunker (automatic 40mm grenade launcher) at the enemy position. We still got return fire and took our first hit."

As the Cobra pulled up its wingship took over, 2.75 inch rockets blasting, and silencing, the enemy below. When the Moran/Alexander ship came around again it received fire from another position.

"We radioed the Medevac that we were taking rounds," Moran explained, "but they said they still had several men to get out." The Cobra stayed on station, circling the Huey and taking rounds during every pass.

"We may have done only five turns around the area," commended Alexander, "but while we were down there just over those trees it seemed like thirty or forty times to me."

