



Website: <http://6thbattalion56thartillery.com>

Email: john@6thbattalion56thartillery.com

April 10, 2012 8th Edition

The first edition of the "Night Hawk", the battalion newspaper, was published on 18 January 1963 at Fort Bliss, Texas and continued throughout the battalion's time in Vietnam. Throughout the years it kept the personnel informed on all events, especially those within the battalion.

Happy Easter

To all the members, their families, love ones, and supporters of the 6th Battalion 56th Artillery and the 6th Battalion 71st artillery.



6th Battalion, 56th Artillery Chapel Vietnam 1967 -1968

The month of April to include Easter Sunday was just another day for the men of the Battalion in the Republic of Vietnam.

Some of the events of the month of April with the Battalion in the Republic of Vietnam:

- On 13 April 1966 at 0030 hours at Tan Son Nhut Airbase the first reportable battle casualty of the 6th Battalion, 56th artillery occurred. Private E-2 Richard D. Kays was wounded by metal fragments in his right foot, when Tan Son Nhut came under hostile fire.
- At 010140 April 1968 Battery B, 6th Battalion, 71st Artillery had two rounds of 122mm rockets impact the batteries compound. There were negative casualties and damages.

- At 270315 April 1968 the 79th ordnance detachment received two incoming 122mm rockets to the compound. Negative casualties, minor damages to one building.
- On the night of 10 April 1968 Easter Sunday, while flying in a friendly intercept aircraft, the Battalion Commander, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery and several members of the aircraft crew observed a UFO with characteristics of the Mi-6 Hook Russian Mi heavy lift helicopter. Again one 20 April 1969 another aircrew citing was made and the UFO observed had characteristics of a Mi-4 Hound Soviet transport helicopter.
- On 4 April 1969 Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery was released from the air defense mission in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area. On 10 April 1969 the battery was in stand down phase of operations preparing HAWK equipment for retrograde to CONUS. Personnel of C battery was reassigned in country with priority to fill shortages in 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery units, as well as Americal Division Artillery in Chu Lai.

Well Air Defenders that's the Army for you. The equipment goes home to the great USA and the men stay in country. God Bless and have a Happy Easter 10 April 2012.

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I look forward to publicly recognizing great events in your life, your stories and pictures. I am anxious to publish your submissions. Email:

john@6thbattalion56thartillery.com Mail: John Mayfield, PO Box 901358, Palmdale, CA 93590-1358

Newsletter Editor:

John A. Mayfield, SFC
US Army, Ret.