



U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Douglas “Lamar” Allen, Jr. (Ret). Served in Vietnam, 1969 to 1970

U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Douglas “Lamar” Allen, Jr., piloted Huey and Scout helicopters for Delta Troop 1st of the 10th Cavalry for the 4th Infantry Division on search and destroy missions at “tree top” level during his tours in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970.

In March 1969, during heavy inclement weather in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, Allen was flying on a different assignment when he monitored that a “sister” ground unit had been ambushed and had wounded soldiers still under attack, but needed numerous wounded to be extracted. The normal Medevac (evacuation) unit indicated they were grounded due to the weather and could be hours from sending help. Allen broke into the discussion and indicated he and his crew were in a position to try and assist.

“I just said to my crew that we need to do this and no one said not to,” said Allen. “Due to the weather and to stay out of enemy ground fire - we were flying at tree top level, but knowing the area of operations, I felt confident we could find them and hopefully get in and out quickly. Everything was moving pretty quickly, but they carved out a landing area for us and we were in and out in about two minutes. We got all six wounded out and they say we saved their lives. I thought it was 60-40 that we could make it, and we were lucky. In those situations, you just did whatever needed to be done to assist your fellow soldiers.”

Allen was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for that mission. He was also awarded the Bronze Star medal, 26 air medals and several other ribbons for his actions in Vietnam.

Allen currently resides in Burtonsville, Maryland.