

NATIONAL YELLOW BAT DAY

April 21st honors National Yellow Bat Day. On this day in 1967, the Army activated the 265th Army Security Agency Company (Airborne) with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The official insignia of the 265th is a bat with outstretched wings on a full moon rising with the motto Through the Night below. Symbolically, the bat represents mystery and secrecy due to its nocturnal nature. The bat fittingly describes the intelligence support provided by the Army Security Agency Battalion.

Before deploying, the personnel painted all the military vehicles and equipment with a yellow bat. The symbol made the equipment clearly visible from a distance and aided in the identification of all unit equipment. On November 19th of the same year, they deployed to Vietnam with the designation 265th Radio Research Company (Airborne) to provide intelligence support to the 101st Airborne Division. Arriving a few weeks ahead of the Viet Cong Tet Offensive, they soon learned of the North Vietnamese campaign. However, few commanders would believe the intelligence.

Tet Offensive

January 31st on the Vietnamese calendar, Tet, celebrates the lunar new year and is considered a most important holiday. During the conflict between North and South Vietnam, a long-standing informal truce took place every year on Tet.

General Vo Nguyen Giap, commander of the North Vietnamese, prepared to ring in the lunar new year with a series of coordinated attacks, breaking the informal truce. Doug Bonnot, who was assigned to the 265th RRC (ABN) Operations NCOIC in the spring of 1970 and author of *The Sentinel and the Shooter* says, "The offensive would come as a surprise to many but personnel of the 265th RRC (ABN) were manning their sector defensive perimeter of Bien Hoa Air Base, along with the very few small units that believed their intelligence reports, some 12 hours before the Tet Offensive was launched." The Viet Cong never breached these positions, and the Battle Flag of D: 275th Viet Cong Battalion hangs in the Sentinel Museum today.



Battle Flag of D: 275th Viet Cong Battalion

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalYellowBatDay

While the Tet Offensive happened more than 50 years ago, the Yellow Bat's history lives on. You can continue to learn more about these service members and the 265th Army Security Agency Company (Airborne). You can also recognize this day in several other ways:

Take some time to learn more about the Vietnam War and those who served. Read about the Tet Offensive about the 265th. *The Sentinel and the Shooter* by Douglas W. Bonnot *The Tet Offensive 1968 Battle Story* by Andrew Rawson Honor those who served during a contentious time in our country Tour the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Volunteer for a veteran's organization

Be sure to invite family and friends to take the journey with you by using #NationalYellowBatDay to share on social media. NATIONAL YELLOW BAT DAY HISTORY

In 2016, Doug Bonnot, President of the Sentinel Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association, submitted National Yellow Bat Day. He and the chapter members all served with the 265th RRC (ABN).

The Registrar at National Day Calendar proclaimed National Yellow Bat Day to be observed on April 21st, annually. For more information on National Yellow Bat Day or the Sentinel Chapter of the 101st Airborne Association, please write to Sentinel Chapter, PO Box 205, Telford, TN 37690