



The Operation Lam Son 719 seen the largest air helicopter assaults ever carried out during the war in South East Asia from the part of the Americans. These airmobile operations took place against an entrenched enemy equipped with tanks and a huge number of anti-aircraft guns. By consequences the losses were extremely heavy, with 109 helicopters shot down after a month of combat and over 600 others damaged. The wreckages of a US Army OH-6 and an USMC CH-53 were seen on a hill just south of Tchepone in March 1971 after they were brought down by a North Vietnamese battery.

(Photo credit: Albert Grandolini Collection)