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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO


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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure that the Army realizes current benefits from lessons learned during recent operations.

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BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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1 Incl

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1. SECTION I OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

   a. (U) Mission: There has been no change in the battalion's mission or area of operation.

   b. (U) Organisation: There were no changes in the primary subordinate units assigned to the battalion. There was an addition of three Quartermaster Detachments and the reassignment of a Signal (Avionics) Detachment from Battalion resources. This resulted in changes in the following subordinate unit organizations.

      (1) (U) The Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion with the 5th, 52nd, 53rd and 62nd Quartermaster Detachments attached, stationed at Soc Trang, RVN (APO San Francisco 96296)

      (2) (U) The 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company (O-1) stationed at Soc Trang, RVN (APO San Francisco 96296)

(See Complete Organization and Stationing Chart, Inc I)

   c. Command Group Personnel:

      (1) (U) The battalion had several key personnel changes in the command group and among the subordinate units. The composition of the battalion staff has stabilised. The influx of personnel throughout the battalion has generally reduced the personnel turbulence which was caused by having to shift personnel to man key positions. There are no significant peak rotational troop movements in officer and warrant officer categories; however, there are peaks in enlisted strength which will be resolved in the coming quarter with an infusion program.

      (2) (C) Composition of the Battalion Command Group:
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AVBN-P


15 August 1968

POSITION       RANK     NAME               SN       ASSIGNED      RELEASED

Commander     LTC       Charles F. Hutchins 077053  21 Dec 67     13 Jul 68

Executive Off  LTC       Charles N. Allgood 061423  13 Jul 68     N/A

S-1           MAJ       Alvin E. Walker 095640  6 Jun 68      N/A

MAJ           John A. Duff 089907  28 May 68     N/A

MAJ           Curtis J. Kerrick 091064  23 Jun 68     30 Jun 68

MAJ           Joe D. Berry 0106058  13 Jul 68     N/A

MAJ           Joe D. Berry 091372  13 Jul 68      N/A

S-4           MAJ       Samuel P. Mason 0204460  12 Dec 68     31 Jul 68

Signal        CPT       Walter G. Hicks 06317127  14 Feb 68      13 May 68

MAJ           Joseph S. Smith 05537569  13 May 68      N/A

A/C Maint      CPT       Harold L. Boyd 23114461  15 Jun 68     N/A

Safety         No Change

(3) (C) Subordinate Unit Commanders: (Changes)

(a) Commanding Officer, 199th Reconnaissance Airplane Company: Major John S. Jacobs, OP104022, commanded from 1 December 1967 to 10 July 1968; Major Robert S. Borer, OP11555, assumed command 10 July 1968 to the present.

(b) Commanding Officer, 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Company: LTC James R. Mallard, OP12222, commanded from 1 December 1967 to 28 July 1968; Major Robert W. Hornaday, OP1873, assumed command 28 July 1968 to the present.


d. Unit Strength as of 31 July 1968 and Casualty Statistics for Quarter Ending 31 July 1968:

(1) (C) Military:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subordinate Unit</th>
<th>Officer Auth O/H</th>
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<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>221st</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>147</td>
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<td>147</td>
<td>3</td>
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CONFIDENTIAL
# Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom) Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFG-65 (RI)

**Subordinate Unit** | **Authorizations** | **Total**
--- | --- | ---
235th AHC | 16 10 | 26 161 2 0 0
24th SAC | 16 29 | 32 296 355 0 0 0
HHC 307th | 13 19 | 21 83 169 0 0 0
--- | --- | ---
**307th CAB Total** | **268 261** | **1019 983**

(2) (0) Civilians:

**Subordinate Unit** | **DAC VN Conductor**
--- | ---
197th RAC | 0 0 3 3 0 0 0 0
221st RAC | 0 0 3 1 0 0 0 0
235th AHC | 0 0 3 1 0 0 11 11
24th SAC | 0 0 33 33 0 0 10 10
HHC 307th | 0 0 4 1 0 0 0 0
--- | ---
**307th CAB Total** | **46 40** | **21 21**

---

**e. (U) Awards and Decorations for Quarter Ending 31 July 1968:**

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<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Purple Heart</td>
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<td>4</td>
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**f. (C) Aircraft Status as of 31 July 1968:**

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<th>OV-1</th>
<th>O-1</th>
<th>U-6</th>
<th>OH-6A</th>
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<tr>
<td>197th RAC</td>
<td>26 26</td>
<td>0 0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221st RAC</td>
<td>26 26</td>
<td>0 0</td>
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AVEN-P 15 August 1968

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<tr>
<th>Subordinate Unit</th>
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<th>OV-1</th>
<th>O-1</th>
<th>U-6</th>
<th>G-6A</th>
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<tr>
<td>244th SAC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>45</td>
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b. Operational Support Events:

(1) (U) The reporting period has been one of relative quiet in the Delta. Enemy-initiated incidents fell during the month of May and June to pre-Tet levels. The month of July saw a slight increase over May and June, but still the trend was downward. The battalion posture was offensive in nature during this period. Maximum use of the reconnaissance and surveillance capabilities were made with the battalion assets in an attempt to find and fix the enemy.

(2) (U) On 13 July 1968, the command of the battalion passed from LTC Charles F. Hutcheson to LTC Charles N. Allgood. The ceremony took place at Sot Trang Army Airfield, SVN, and was attended by Col Eugene B. Conrad, the Deputy Commander, 1st Aviation Brigade and Col Worthington M. Mahone, Commanding Officer of the 164th Cbt Avn Grp.

(3) (C) The major consolidated battalion offensive effort continued under the title of "Delta Falcon." This was a continuation of the day and night interdiction mission of the enemy infiltration and compo-liaison routes from Cambodia initiated at the beginning of March 1968. The assignment of 7/1 Air Cavalry Squadron (-) at Vinh Long in June 1968 enabled the battalion to be released from this mission of a true air cavalry type mission. The phase-in of the squadron was accomplished by placing a troop under the supervision of the 307th CAB for approximately a month until the Squadron was operational. The 307th CAB still supports this concept during the hours of darkness by teaming two Mohawks from the battalion with a heavy fire team of Cobras (3 AH-1G’s) from the air cav squadron on a mission basis.

(4) (C) With the release of the assets of the battalion from the Delta Falcon mission, the battalion shifted emphasis from the Cambodian...
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AVEN-P 15 August 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for the Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (Rl)

border area to the Ca Nan peninsula. During the early part of June,
Operation Phantom III was initiated. This concept was essentially the
same as Delta Falcon; however, no assets were immediately available for
follow-up ground action. The primary mission was to interdict and
harass the supply routes and communication routes originating in lower
An Xuyen Sector and proceeding northward. The operation is conducted in
random selected areas and unscheduled dates.

(5) (U) The O-1 units have continued to provide the eyes down at
user level in the IV Corps. The assignment of the O-1's (Tmel 3) at
province and ARVN Division headquarters has materially aided the American
advisors in their attempt to evaluate and procure intelligence of immediate
value. Though the fragmentation of the O-1 company has created a
command and control problem not common to an aviation company, it is felt
the results and rapport obtained in support of the ground forces is worth
the extra effort expended to overcome the problem.

(6) (C) The battalion Mohawk company contributes heavily to the IV.
Corps intelligence effort in a highly professional fashion. The CV-1
coverage of the Delta averages 75% coverage nightly. Targets detected
are immediately called in to the province TOC's over which the aircraft
are flying. All of the information is forwarded to the IV Corps O-2 Air
during missions through the data processing station located at Can Tho.
The evaluation of imagery and photos is also processed at Can Tho
following missions and forwarded immediately to the O-2 Air.

(7) (C) The following statistics show the effort expended in
support of the Corps surveillance plan:

SORTIES FLOWN FROM 1 MAY TO 31 JULY 1968

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<th>Type</th>
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<th>IR</th>
<th>SLAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>CV-1</td>
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<td>148</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>492</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2421</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>492</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(8) (C) The 235th Armed Helicopter Company, still the Army's only
separate, non-divisional type, completely armed helicopter company, is
acquiring itself in a most admirable manner. The availability rate of
the AS-IG is fast increasing as a result of the build up of a proper
AS1/111. The AS-1G continues to be able to perform all missions.

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previously performed by UH1-B/C gunships; however, the ability to move in and conduct primary reconnaissance missions in a manner typified by the older gunships has resulted in a disproportionate share of combat damage. Shifting the emphasis to the attack role of the AH-1G and capitalizing on its stand off attack capability appears to hold good promise for even more satisfactory results. There still appears to be a need for a gunship which can remain down low supporting the ground forces, yet not becoming as vulnerable or susceptible to major combat damage.

(c) (U) The battalion has accomplished all assigned combat and direct combat support missions assigned during the reporting period. There is no doubt the battalion has contributed to the stabilization effort of IV Corps and can continue to operate in an effective and satisfactory fashion. Statistics generated in support of its mission are in Inc 2.

2. SECTION II LESSONS LEARNED: COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. Personnel: None.

b. Operations:

(1) (C) Transponder Equipment for O-1 Aircraft.

(a) OBSERVATION. The O-1 aircraft do not always paint a positive target for area radar control agencies.

(b) EVALUATION. The O-1 aircraft operate on the majority of missions day and night as single aircraft. The missions for the most part cover isolated areas far removed from friendly positions. The Army flight following agencies offer radio flight following only; however, the Air Force area radar can offer positive control when it becomes necessary to fly through IFR conditions or when flying over extremely isolated and remote areas. On many occasions the area radar service has had to be terminated when being vectored around weather or when the skin paint of the O-1 target becomes lost due to its relative small size. There exists a definite need to have transponders installed on the O-1 aircraft for flight following purposes and as an added advantage the identification of friendly aircraft under combat conditions.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That a retrofit program be initiated to install the latest, lightweight version of a transponder in the O-1 aircraft.
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AVBN-P 15 August 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 307th Combat Aviation (Phantom)
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RG3 CSFOR-65 (RT)

(2) (C) Aviation Assets Used to Maintain Contact During Hours of Darkness.

(a) OBSERVATION. The OV-1 sensing equipment can detect the withdrawal of enemy forces from the battle area after contact has been broken during the hours of darkness.

(b) EVALUATION. Utilizing the OV-1 and teaming with AH-1G's, contact with the enemy during retrograde movements can be maintained. It has been noted that ground forces making contact with the Viet Cong have habitually been extracted during the hours just prior to darkness. After surmounting the Viet Cong apparently board sampans and depart the immediate area. By using the "Snake Hunt" concept, contact can be maintained; destruction of the enemy and a slow-down of his movement will result.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That this concept be tested and given full dissemination as soon as practicable.

(3) (C) Use of the Proximity Fuze (XM-429) Against Selected Targets.

(a) OBSERVATION. Warheads fuzed with the (XM-429) proximity fuse are more lethal against sampans moving on water than the (M-423) point detonating fused warheads.

(b) EVALUATION. The attack helicopters of this battalion have flown numerous sorties on interdiction missions against water borne transportation. The use of the (M-423) point detonating fuzed rockets is effective primarily as an area fire weapon, and their use against single sampans has resulted in a waste of ammunition. The introduction of the (XM-429) proximity fuse has greatly increased the effect of the rockets and the shrapnel effect compared to the older fuse, which explodes only when it hits the water for sampan.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That the proximity fuse be used against individual type targets such as sampans which require a strike to neutralize. That mission commanders specify the type ammunition mix required to support their particular mission during pre-mission briefings.

c. Training: None.
d. Intelligence: None.

e. (C) Anomaly: Malfunction of the KS-61 System With Mk122A-1 Flash Cartridge.
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AVBN-P


(1) OBSERVATION. Difficulty has been experienced in night photography using the KS-61 camera system and the MK122A-1 photo flash cartridges.

(2) EVALUATION. This unit has had difficulty procuring usable imagery from night photography. Frames were either overlapped with others or large blank spaces occurred between frames. Checks of the film drive system produced negligible results. The unit received a rebuilt CV-1A, and checks were made of this system using a strobe light at night. This system worked correctly, and good imagery was obtained. It was determined that on aircraft that had been in RVN over six months, the photo flash detection system was deteriorated and would not detect the flash correctly. An EIR has been submitted.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That a cover be fabricated and placed over the cell detector to prevent deterioration during the day and when the system is not in use. That a system check be adopted using a strobe light at night halfway between the cell and tail of the aircraft to see if the detection system will activate itself.

f. (c) Organization: Lack of Organizational Signal Avionics Personnel.

(1) OBSERVATION. O-1 companies deployed in Vietnam are void of organizational signal avionics personnel (MOS 35K).

(2) EVALUATION. O-1 companies presently deployed in Vietnam are constituted by combining portions of several TCE's under a General Order. In some instances this order includes a signal avionics detachment (TOE 11 500D), in others none is authorized. The companies are not authorized organizational signal avionics personnel (MOS 35L). This is also true of the avionics detachment which is manned to perform "bench" repair of components (MOS 35L). Actually the detachment does perform organizational maintenance since they are normally the only signal personnel available. This situation does not exist in the Assault Helicopter Company (TCE 1-77G) where two organizational signal avionics personnel (MOS 35K) are included in the company headquarters. This situation becomes critical in units without avionics detachments or when assigned avionics detachments are detached.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That TCE's presently under study for Reconnaissance Airplane Companies include a minimum of two organizational avionics repairmen (MOS 35K) in their organizations.

g. (U) Other (Safety): Securing Smoke Grenades in the Cockpit.
15 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 3C7th Combat Aviation (Phantoms) Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSPOR-65 (RI)

(1) OBSERVATION. As a result of a fatal accident caused by a smoke grenade dropped in the aircraft cockpit, it was found that in many aircraft these grenades were secured merely by suspending them by their safety clip to the guard or bar protecting the instrument switches. Should the cotter pin become disengaged from the grenade, the safety clip would release and the grenade would ignite.

(2) EVALUATION. It was found that smoke grenades would fit securely into octagonal shaped rocket fin covers. Cutting these down to a size of 6" and installing them in the aircraft provided a secure and safe means of carrying smoke grenades and eliminated any danger should the cotter key become dislodged. The grenade safety clip will remain securely held in place in the container even if the cotter key is accidently removed.

3 Incl
1. Organization & Stationing
2. Operational Statistics
3. Station List

CHARLES N. ALIMOOD
LTC Commanding
AVGN (15 Aug 68) 1st Ind

DA, HQ, 164th Aviation Group, APO 96215 25 August 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. The attached 307th CAB ORLL for the period ending 31 July 1968 has been evaluated by this headquarters as required by USARV Reg 525-15.

2. Section II, Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations Evaluations and Recommendations.

   a. Transponder Equipment for O-1 Aircraft. Non-concur with recommendation to install transponders in O-1 aircraft.

   b. Although a transponder would be a most desirable accessory in the O-1 aircraft, it is not an essential piece of equipment. The space weight and power provisions are not available in the O-1 and a transponder modification kit would further complicate an already marginal gross weight condition. The principle behind the transponder is sound, however impractical for a visual reconnaissance aircraft which normally operates habitually over a small region with continuous flight following with a local ground unit or Army flight following facility. Since the aircraft was neither originally designed or equipped for 1FR flight, any attempt to upgrade the system would only lead to additional weight and performance penalties. Adequate radio flight following facilities are available on a continuous basis and search radars are available to assist in emergencies.

3. With the exception listed in paragraph 2 above, concur with the commander's observations, evaluations and recommendations.

(Worthington M. Mahone
(t)WORTHINGTON M. MAHONE
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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1 CG, 1st Avn Bde, ATTN: AVBA-C

A TRUE COPY:

[Signature]

HAROLD L. KLEINHAN
Major, GS
Ops Off, Doc Br, DGT Div
Office, AGOFF, GS
1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with the contents as indorsed except as follows:

Paragraph 1g(e), page 5. The 307th Combat Aviation Battalion is in error by stating that the 235th Armed Helicopter Company is still the Army's only separate armed helicopter company. There are in fact two additional armed helicopter companies now assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade.

2. (U) The following additional comment is considered pertinent:

Paragraph 2f(3), page 8. The standardized MTOE (1-257) for all RAC units submitted in late 1967 by this headquarters did not include MTOE 15X. This HQs is evaluating the problem to determine if avionics repairmen are required in all O-1 units assigned. If a requirement exists for MTOE 35X in all O-1 Companies, a change to the standardized MTOE will be initiated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JOHN D. MINKELL, JR.
CPT.  AG-C
Assistant Adjutant General
TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1968 from Headquarters, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion, and concurs with the report as modified by the preceding indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

W.C. Arntz
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy nurs:
HQ, 1st Avn Bde
HQ, 307th CAB
GPOP-DT (15 Aug 68) 4th Ind (C)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 7 OCT 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. (U) This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

2. (C) Reference 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2: For planning purposes, all aircraft in a combat zone should have a transponder incorporating the "Identification Friend or Foe" (IFF) feature. Under current combat operational conditions, with no enemy air threat, low flying, low performance light aircraft may be excluded.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

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CGUSARV
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**NOTICE:** The table above shows the population distribution by age groups for the years 1970, 1980, and 1990. The data indicates a gradual increase in the 50-59 age group, while other age groups have shown a slight decrease.
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**Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion (U)**

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 May - 31 Jul 68

CO, 307th Combat Aviation Battalion

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**Distribution Statement**

**Sponsorship Military Activity**

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

**Abstract**

N/A
The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Lessons Learned Index:

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* SUBJECT TITLE

** FOR OT RD #

*** PAGE #

ITEM 2

SUBJECT TITLE

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SUBJECT TITLE

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* Subject Title: A short (one sentence or phrase) description of the item of interest.

** FOR OT RD #: Appears in the Reply Reference line of the Letter of Transmittal. This number must be accurately stated.

*** PAGE #: That page on which the item of interest is located.