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<td>AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980</td>
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

AGDA (H) (22 Aug 69) FOR OT UT 692156

IN REPLY REFER TO

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 1969 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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 UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

ROBERT E. BUNCH
Colonel, AG
Acting The Adjutant General

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  268th Combat Aviation Battalion
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 268TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96316

AVBACB-EC

12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1969, PCS CSFR-65 (R1) (U)

TO: See DISTRIBUTION


a. (C) General. This report covers the period 1 February through 30 April 1969, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15, US Army Regulation 525-15. During the report period the mission of the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to be to provide aviation support to Free World Military Assistance Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone as directed. This support was mainly provided in Pleiku, Binh Dinh, Phu Bon and Phu Yen Provinces.

b. (U) Personnel. An infusion program was started in the newly arrived 238th Aerial Weapons Company to eliminate the rotational hump in March of 70. However, further infusion of the Battalion may be necessary to reduce the rotational hump of March 1970 at Battalion level.

(1) The following Battalion changes of command occurred:

15 March 1969  LTC Garry H. Farmer  087 738  IN

VICE: LTC Orlando E. Gonzalez  079 304  TC

(2) The following Company changes of command occurred:

HHC 13 Mar 69  CPT Stuart M. Schram III  05 337 460  IN

VICE: CPT Dale Toler  05 528 881  IN

61st HHC 17 Apr 69  Maj Maurice G. Hillard  087 165  IN

VICE: Maj Kenneth E. Hebrank  04 041 310  FA

FOR OT ut

692156

Inclosure

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DOD DR 5200.30
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AVIUC01-60

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 26th Combat Aviation Battalion for period ending 30 April 1969, HHC COFC-65 (RI) (U)

134th ASHC 25 Apr 69 Maj Charles E. Toeter 083 497 FA

VICK: Maj Robert L. Charcellor 084 138 IN

129th ASHC 5 Mar 69 Maj Emmott R. Conrow 02 291 837 TN

VICK: Maj Curtis R. Dassonville 088 042 AT

196th ASHC 12 Mar 69 Maj Ralph H. Stone 04 C42 913 TC

VICK: Maj Edmund L. VerDerwot 073 911 AT

(3) The following were changes within the Battalion Staff:

S-2 7 Apr 69 CPT Jerry L. Chaplain OF 100 090 IN

VICK: Maj Melville D. Gibson 05 402 503 IN

S-3 23 Apr 69 Maj Lewis E. Kaufman 05 312 299 IN

VICK: Maj Charles E. Toeter 083 497 FA

S-4 5 Mar 69 Maj Melville D. Gibson 05 402 503 IN

VICK: Maj Charles G. Freeman 0404 489 IN

S-1 1 Feb 69 Maj Charles T. Buggs 05 313 519 AG

VICK: Maj Douglas E. Haviland 05 301 865 IN

(4) Unit Strength appears as Inclosure X.

c. (C) Intelligence: L2 English, the location of the 61st, was mortared three times resulting in eleven aircraft damaged and three destroyed. The repair and replacement time due to enemy action against the 61st has caused the Battalion to overcommit other units to pick up the 61st missions. The result has been high flying time and an increase in maintenance problems and crew member fatigue. Aircraft of the Battalion have been hit by hostile fire 46 times with 6 aircraft destroyed by ground fire. The Battalion has been credited with 80 KBA. During the latter part of the reporting period the enemy reinforced Phu Yen and Khan Hoa Provinces with a Regiment size force estimated at 1500 troops. In the northern part of the AO the enemy has tried to avoid contact but has greatly increased his use of mines and booby traps.

d. (C) Operations.

Inc
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AVB.GB-SC 12 May 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 202nd Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1969, ROC COMFOR-65 (HL) (2)

(1) Units of the Battalion engaged in combat operations each of the 89 days of the report period. Two major combat airmobile assaults were conducted by the battalion during this period as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Aircraft Supported</th>
<th>Aircraft Employed</th>
<th>Sorties</th>
<th>Cargo Hauled</th>
<th>Troops Lifted</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Feb 69</td>
<td>Tiger Div</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1,822</td>
<td></td>
<td>307.9 Tons</td>
<td>3,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Apr 69</td>
<td>Tiger Div</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1,255</td>
<td></td>
<td>152.1 Tons</td>
<td>2,821</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(2) The Capitol ROK Infantry Division (C-ID), 173d Airborne Brigade, and the 82d Division (AIVN) continued to be the major units supported by the battalion. The 4th Infantry Division has received substantial support from the CH-47 and CH-54 units. Numerous other support requirements were filled on a mission basis.

(3) The arrival of 238th AWG to An Khe increased the gunship support available to the battalion in the northern half of the AO. The primary mission assigned the 238th AWG is support of the Highway Coordinator providing aerial coverage on QL 19 from Qui Nhon to Pleiku.

(4) Operational results appear as Inclosure 2.

d. (c) Training:

(1) Because of the low experience level among newly assigned aviators and enlisted personnel, Training was an area of continuous command emphasis during the report period. All units publish weekly Training Schedules and conduct mandatory training as required. Training is integrated with operational requirements to the maximum degree possible.

(2) Standardization Instructor Pilots (SIP) conducted 90-day standardization flights as required. Areas of aviation training emphasized were: Aircraft emergency procedures, crew duties and aviation safety.

(3) During the report period the following school quotas were filled:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
<th>QUOTAS FILLED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maint Test Pilot School (GP)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armament Officer</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UH-1 IP Course</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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12 May 1969

Subject: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

S kill

Armament EM
UH-1D/H Air Frame
T53-L11 Engine
T53-L13 Engine
UH-1B/C Air Frame
T55 Engine
T63 Engine

Tech Supply

3
3
5
4
1
4
1
6
1
1

f. (U) Logistics.

(1) The following are existing equipment shortages within the Battalion:

(a) 7.5 KW Generator
(b) M-16 Rifles (39)
(c) Wrecker
(d) Firetruck
(e) Leather boots
(f) Tool Kit, Aircraft Mechanics, Gen
(g) Truck, Tanker Fuel
(h) Helmet APH 6
(i) Gloves, Nomex
(j) Flight Suits, Nomex
(k) Container, spare parts, air mobile

(2) Aircraft status appears as Inclosure 3.

g. (C) Organization: Effective 25 March 1969, the 238th AWC and the 587th TO Det 4/C Maintenance was assigned to the Battalion and stationed at An Khe. Effective 24 Jan 69, the 134th Assault Helicopter Company reorganized under MTOE 1-77G by direction of 5033, Dated 2 Feb 69, 268th CABS. The order deactivated the 618th Transportation Detachment and the 832nd Signal Detachment.

h. (U) Civil Affairs: Population assistance programs were continued for numerous villages, and refugee camps near battalion units. In addition
to regular visits by medical personnel, numerous self-help items such as medical supplies, health items, and construction materials were distributed in nearby villages such as: 12 boxes of clothing, toys and books given by chaplain's office to the Tuy Hoa Buddhist Orphanage, $133.40 and 500 plasters to Tuy Hoa evangelical school.

1. (U) Chaplain:

(1) 23 weekday services, 24 Sunday Protestant services and 5 memorial services with a total attendance of 1,416 men were held this quarter.

(2) The Battalion Chaplain made 32 visits to units located at Minh Hoa, LZ English, An Khe, An Son and Tuy Hoa.

(3) The following programs were started this quarter:

   (a) Wednesday evening devotions
   (b) Wednesday evening choir practice
   (c) Marriage counseling class

2. (C) Safety.

   (1) Following is a summary of accident statistics during the report period:

   (a) Major accidents 8
   (b) Minor accidents 0
   (c) Incidents 9
   (d) Forced landings 4
   (e) Precautionary landings 10

   (2) Cumulative aircraft accident rate per 100,000 flying hours for the quarter was 18.0

k. (U) Surgeon: None

2. (C) Section 2, Lessons learned Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

   a. (C) Personnel. Intelligence NCO.
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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 256th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSRA-65 (R1) (U)

12 May 1969

(1) Observation. Under MIUS 1-776, the intelligence MOU allocation has been removed from the Assault Helicopter Company, and the mission of the intelligence section has now been absorbed by operations.

(2) Evaluation. Due to the varied missions performed and the large area of operations of an assault helicopter company, the importance of the intelligence section cannot be over emphasized. The present workload of the company level operations does not allow sufficient time or personnel to maintain the needed intelligence data.

(3) Recommendation. Return the intelligence MOU to the TOE of an Assault Helicopter Company.

(4) Command Action. A recommendation to make this addition to the present MIUS is being processed.

b. (C) Operations. Utilization of Aircraft.

(1) Observation: The hours flown by units of the Battalion have increased out of proportion to loads carried and missions flown.

(2) Evaluation: With one Assault Helicopter Company approaching 3000 hours a month and the Chinook and Crane flying hours rising, maintenance is becoming difficult and crew fatigue a problem. Debriefing of crews has revealed that often more aircraft are committed than are needed. Further, the receiving ground unit is often not prepared to use the aircraft at the time requested, i.e., a sling load not rigged for as much as two hours after the arrival of the lift aircraft.

(3) Recommendation. That using units justify the number of aircraft requested before mission can be approved and that tighter control be exercised by IFFW before approving mission requests.

(4) Command Action. Liaison Officers from Battalion have now been established at the headquarters of all major units supported.

c. (U) Training: None

d. (U) Intelligence: None

e. (U) Logistics: Perimeter lighting

(1) Observation. The Phu Hiep Army Airfield lighting system is currently powered by temporary loan and TOE generators.

-6-
S216-69
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(2) Evaluation: The temporary loan authorizations have been extended two times and under present guidance it is doubtful that the authorization will be extended a third time. The authorization expires on 23 Oct 69. Efforts to obtain tabular authority under Tuy Hoa Detachment, QMSS TDA, have proven unsuccessful because the PHAAF perimeter lighting is an interior perimeter system and is considered tactical lighting.

(3) Recommendation: That PHAAF or an organization with similar capabilities be assigned the mission supporting the fixed facilities such as mini-port releasing unit equipment and personnel for tactical use on the perimeter.

(4) Command Action: Request has been initiated to allow the Air Force at Tuy Hoa air Base to turn over several excess generators to the Army for use at PHAAF.

f. (U) Organization: None

g. (U) Rescue Techniques:

(1) Observation: Personnel are not receiving sufficient training on rescue techniques and equipment.

(2) Evaluation: There have been two incidents in this reporting period where individuals have been killed falling off rescue hoists. A contributing factor each time was the person not being properly strapped in the hoist.

(3) Recommendation: That classes on rescue techniques using training films or demonstration be part of the in-country training given all personnel.

(4) Command Action: One demonstration of the jungle penetrator and electric hoist by the Air Force "Pedro" rescue helicopter has been held for all personnel at PHAAF. Further demonstrations are planned for units of the Battalion.

(5) (U) Section 3, Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.

a. (U) General: None

b. (U) Escape and Evasion: None
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12 May 1969

Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSNK-65 (K1) (U)

U. (U) Survival: None

5 Incl

1. Unit Strength
2. Operational Results
3. Aircraft Status
4. Organization
5. Unit Stationing List

Incl 1, 3 - 5 wd Hq, DA

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Garry H. Farmer
ITC, IN
Commanding

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AVBAC-SC (12 May 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS GSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17th Combat Aviation Group, APO 96240 24 May 1969

TO: Department of the Army (AGSFOR, DA) Washington, D.C. 20310
Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96550
Commanding Officer, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion, APO 96318

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with contents as stated, except as indicated below.

2. (C) The following comments and recommendations are submitted.

   a. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities:

      (1) Paragraph 1c, Intelligence, Page 2: A more comprehensive intelligence picture could have been presented with just a few more details logically organized. Reporting the number of aircraft damaged by hostile action is considered appropriate. However, overcommitment of subordinate units, maintenance problems, and crew fatigue should not be commented on in this section. The objective of this paragraph is to present, in an organized manner, significant activities initiated by the enemy as well as those damages and casualties inflicted upon the enemy by Free World Military Forces.

      (2) Paragraph 1g, Organization, Page 4: Reference to reorganization of the 134th ANC. Implementation instructions were received from the 1st Aviation Brigade in January 1969.

   b. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations:

      (1) Paragraph 2a, Intelligence NCO, Page 5: Concur. Command action is appropriate. Action will be considered upon receipt of proposed change to MTUE.

      (2) Paragraph 2b, Utilization of Aircraft, Page 6: Concur. Misutilization of aviation assets has created significant difficulties during this reporting period. Studies conducted by this headquarters indicated the problem resulted because ground commanders and their staffs were not sufficiently knowledgeable in techniques of aviation employment. The problem, however, remains one of education rather than establishment of rigid controls. Mobile Training Teams have been organized at battalion level to conduct orientation of tactical commanders and their staff. Liaison officers have been placed with all major units to promote proper utilization of aviation resources. Emphasis has been placed on submission of Unsatisfactory Mission Reports to enable this
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AVACB-SC (12 May 69) lst Ind 24 May 1969
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

headquarters to monitor and make recommendations for improved mission support to ground elements.

(3) Paragraph 2e, Perimeter Lighting, Page 6: Concur. Recommend that PA&E be tasked with responsibility to provide perimeter lighting for Phu Hiep Army Airfield and that the excess equipment at Tuy Hoa Air Force Base be obtained and provided to PA&E for use.

(4) Paragraph 2g, Rescue Techniques, Page 7: Concur. Orientation on rescue techniques should be included in Basic Combat Training for the individual soldier. A training film on survival was recently circulated to units of this command to facilitate familiarization with survival and rescue techniques. Recommend USARV establish requirement for rescue technique training as part of initial in-country orientation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

MARC L. TUMAS
CPT, ADA
Adjutant
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AVFA-GC-OT (30 Apr 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSPOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 6 JUN 69

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FREDERICK E. HOLLAND
1LT AGO
ASST AG

Copy furn:
2-ACSPOR, DA
1-268th Cbt Avn Bn

CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCs CSEOR-65 (R)(U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384, 11 JUN 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVEC-DST, APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: CPOP-OT, APO 96558
Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

1. This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to be adequate and concurs with the contents as endorsed except as noted below.

2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

   a. Paragraph 1j (2), page 5: Cumulative aircraft accident rate per 100,000 flying hours for the quarter should read 28.1 and not 18.0 as shown.

   b. Paragraph 2e (1), page 6: Concur. Action being taken to transfer Air Force generators to the Army at Phu Hiep is a good solution. These generators should be 60 KW or more so that PA & E will provide the maintenance for them. Presently, there is a project to provide high voltage power at Phu Hiep, but this is being held on a stop work order pending the outcome of a classified study that is being made by Commanding General IFFV and Commanding General USAH.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

DAVID R. ANDERSON
C&F, AGC
Asst AG
This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report—Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters 268th Combat Aviation Battalion.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Intelligence NCO," section II, page 5, paragraph a; concur. The requirement appears valid and will be evaluated when KTOE is submitted to this headquarters. Unit will be advised.

b. Reference item concerning "Rescue Techniques," section II, page 7, paragraph g; nonconcur. This training is not considered to be appropriate for all replacement personnel. These devices are not used in all areas of Vietnam. The appropriate unit commander should make the determination whether or not this training is applicable to personnel in his unit. The availability of classes to USARV ground units conducted by aeromedical evacuation units will be promulgated in the next USARV Commander's Notes.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. D. Wilson
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn: 268th CAB
1st Avn Bde
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 268th Cbt Avn Bn for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96550 8 AUG 69

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding endorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Ass AQ
OPERATIONAL RESULTS AS OF 30 APRIL 1969

1. RESULTS

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<th>UNIT</th>
<th>SORTIE FLN</th>
<th>TROOPS LFTD</th>
<th>CARGO LFTD</th>
<th>ENEMY KIA</th>
<th>STRYCTYRES DAM DEST</th>
<th>Sampans Dam Dest</th>
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<tr>
<td>61st AHC</td>
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<td>33,776</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>129th AHC</td>
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<td>2099.7</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>191,923</td>
<td>32,101.7</td>
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2. LOSSES

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Incl 2
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hq, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69.

CO, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion

12 May 1969

N/A

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

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