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**AUTHORITY**

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Information of actions initiated as a result of subject report should be forwarded to AGSPOR OT UT 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:

[Signature]

VERNON L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 145TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96227
"FIRST IN VIETNAM"

2 November 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion,
Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS CSPOR-65(R-2)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. OPERATIONS: Significant Activities:

a. Mission: The basic mission of this Battalion did not change during this
reporting period. This mission is to augment the capabilities of II Field Forces
Vietnam and the Republic of Vietnam Forces which operate in Military Region 3.
The battalion assumed the additional mission of training VNAF aviators and
maintenance personnel for the VNAF Improvement and Modernization program (OPLAN
70-51).

b. Organization:

(1) No organizational changes took place during this reporting period.

(2) As of 31 October 1970, The Battalion was organized as shown by
enclosure 1,

c. Personnel:

(1) Command and Staff Changes and Present Status

(a) Commanding Officer, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion:
   LTC William H Dillard  226-30-2072 IN

(b) Battalion Executive Officer:
   Outgoing: Maj Bobbie G Ptdigo  405440-3223 AR (10 Oct 70)
   Incoming: Maj Lyman C Culver  567-52-7158 IN

(c) Battalion Adjutant:
   Outgoing: Cpt Michael J Scanlon  228-62-8011 AR (26 Sep 70)
   Incoming: 1LT Thomas A Raamovich  367-46-1569 AR

FOR OR UT
706255
Inclosure

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOE DR 5200.10
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2 November 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS 03FOR-65(R-2)

(d) Battalion S-2:

Outgoing: Cpt Thomas A Stogren
Incoming: Cpt Howard W Clark
506-52-4374 AR (26 Sep 70)
481-64-0473 IN

(e) Battalion S-3:

Outgoing: Maj Lyman C Culver
Incoming: Cpt John W Levering
567-52-7158 IN (29 Oct 70)
142-36-2439 FA (Acting)

(f) Battalion S-4:

Cpt Jerry R Hill
466-68-3051 IN

(g) Commanding Officer HHC:

Outgoing: Cpt Thomas A Stogren
Incoming: Cpt Michael J Scanlon
506-52-4374 IN (26 Sep 70)
228-62-8011 AR

(h) Commanding Officer 68th Aslt Hel Co

Outgoing: Maj Mitchell G Thompson
Incoming: Maj Bobbie G Podigo
413-50-5178 FA (10 Oct 70)
405-40-3223 AR

(i) Commanding Officer 118th Aslt Hel Co

Maj Robert H Smith
257-52-2769 IN

(j) Commanding Officer 190th Aslt Hel Co

Outgoing: Maj Dale W Pierce
Incoming: Cpt Gary R Martin
261-44-1425 IN (3 Aug 70)
518-54-8731 IN

(k) Commanding Officer 334th Atk Hel Co

Outgoing: Maj John R McQuestion
Incoming: Maj Richard G Rounsville
264-52-3902 IN (17 Oct 70)
134-30-3600 FA

(l) Commanding Officer 324th ASD:

Outgoing: Maj Jack A King
Incoming: N/A
144-22-0270 IN (21 Sep 70)

(2) Unit Strength: As of 31 Oct 70, the Battalion was at 91% total strength. Unit strengths are shown by inclosure 2.

(2)

CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970 RG3 CSFOR-65(R-2)

d. Aircraft Status: At the end of the reporting period the Battalion had on hand 37% of total aircraft authorized. Aircraft status as of 31 October 1970 is shown in enclosure 3.

e. Significant Events:

(1) 1 August 1970 marked the beginning of stand-down for the 190th Assault Helicopter Company in preparation for turn over of assets to the 223rd Tactical Helicopter Squadron (VNAF). By 16 August 1970, the 190th Assault Helicopter Company was in complete stand-down.

(2) On 18 August 1970, an intensive turn-in program was initiated. T.I.'s from the 135th Maintenance Battalion assisted the 190th Assault Helicopter Company by inspecting vehicles, weapons, trailers and engineer equipment prior to turn-in to Long Binh Depot. Three aircraft belonging to the unit were designated for turn-in to 34th General Support Group for further assignment to the VNAF. A composite of all other aircraft assigned to the unit was turned in to 1st Aviation Brigade C-4 Maintenance. On 24 August 1970, 17 units from various locations throughout Vietnam began arriving to pick-up and sign for the new excess aircraft. This operation continued through 1 Sep 70. By 1 September 1970 all unit property had been turned in to the appropriate authorities. A ceremony was held on the west ramp of Bien Hoa Air Force Base on 2 September 1970. This marked the first time in the history of Army Aviation that the assets of an American Helicopter Company were transferred to the Vietnamese Air Force.

(3) 15 August 1970 marked the beginning of the 68th Assault Helicopter Company's participation in the Vietnamese Improvement and Modernization Program. On this date the 68th Assault Helicopter Company received 14 VNAF pilots. These pilots immediately began flying with pilots from the 68th Assault Hel Co to gain experience in air mobile operations. On 11 September 1970, 5 more VNAF pilots joined the unit and were immediately incorporated into the flying program. All VNAF pilots received the same training and ground instruction as their American counterparts.

(4) On 27 and 28 August 1970, the 118th Assault Helicopter Company was chosen to fly Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and his party. The Vice President's aircraft was flown by the company commander and the company operations officer. The remaining members of the party were flown by eight other "Thunderbird" aircraft. The armed aerial escort was provided for the Vice President and party by aircraft from the 334th Attack Helicopter Company.

(5) The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion Civic Action Team has been active in several projects in Bien Hoa Province. The 145th CAB provided the Tan Mai Orphanage with more than 1000 feet of 2 inch pipe.
The potable water system to be built with this pipe benefits approximately 1500 children. The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion Medical personnel held bi-monthly med-cap and dent-cap missions at Trang Bom Village. The medical personnel treated an average of 150 Vietnamese patients per visit. The Battalion also aided the people of Trang Bom Village with donations of surplus food and clothing.

(6) Throughout the reporting period subordinate units of this Battalion continued to supply aviation support to the major commands in Military Region III. The Battalion carries an average daily commitment of 25 UH-1 aircraft and 11 AH-1G aircraft.

(7) Bien Hoa Air Force Base had no rocket attacks during this reporting period. The Battalion held three practice red alerts.

(8) The following awards were submitted and received during the months of August, September and October 1970 by the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion:

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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Purple Heart</td>
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f. Effect of Weather on Missions:

(1) The 145th Combat Aviation Battalion experienced nine major mission delays due to weather. All missions delayed by weather had report times prior to 0900. Most mission delays involved ground fog or low ceilings. The only mission completely cancelled due to weather was the first light visual recon flown for Bien Hoa Sector.
2, LESSONS LEARNED:

a. Personnel: NONE

b. Intelligence: NONE

c. Operations:

(1) Personnel smoking in POL points.

(a) Observation: Pilots from the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion have reported several incidences of POL personnel smoking while operating fuel pumps.

(b) Evaluation: By ignoring basic safety rules governing the use of flammable liquids, the involved personnel are risking not only their own lives but the lives of the crew of any aircraft in the immediate area. It is the responsibility of any pilot observing an incident of this nature to make an "on the spot" correction; it does not insure that the basic rules of safety are followed when there are no aircraft in POL.

(c) Recommendations: POL personnel should be required to attend a minimum of one class on the safe handling of POL products. Closer supervision of all POL points is needed to insure that the safety rules are followed on a day to day basis. A check point or break area should be maintained a safe distance from all POL points. This area would be used as a depository for all matches, cigarette lighters and other flame producing devices. Personnel should be allowed adequate break time for smoking in the approved area.

(2) Notams (Notices to airmen)

(a) Observation: At this time NOTAMS received by the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion cover all of South Vietnam. No apparent attempt is made by the transmitting unit to group NOTAMS pertaining any particular area of operations or geographical region prior to transmittal.

(b) Present format for transmittal of NOTAMS makes prompt dissemination of pertinent Information difficult and flight planning unnecessarily time-consuming.

(c) Recommendations: That NOTAMS be grouped by Military Regions prior to transmittal to aviation units for use by operations and pilots.
CONFIDENTIAL

2 November 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS CSFOR-65(R-2)

a. Organization: NONE

b. Training:

(1) VNAF aviator flight training.

(a) Observation: The battalion was issued two additional UH-1D aircraft to be used in the training of the newly assigned VNAF aviators. Both of these aircraft were unsuitable for the training mission. One aircraft required turn-in to field maintenance and retrograde after only one day of service. The second aircraft was flown less than 100 hours before it required retrograding.

(b) Evaluation: On 15 November 1970 the 118th Assault Helicopter Company receives twenty VNAF aviators for training. The training will consist of at least five training hours per student, reviewing basic maneuvers, radio calls and area familiarization.

(c) Recommendation: That the battalion mission requirements be reduced by three aircraft per day during the period 20 November to 4 December 1970. The mission reduction will allow for the availability of urgently needed training aircraft to enhance the unit training capability.

c. Logistics:

(1) Logistical support of missions being performed away from parent unit.

(a) Observation: Logistical support of mission aircraft and personnel conducting operations away from parent unit is extremely burdensome and impractical for the 334th Attack Helicopter Company.

(b) Evaluation: At the present time, this unit is conducting a special mission being staged from Quan Loi, requiring two light fire teams on a 24 hour standby basis. The primary difficulties encountered are as follows:

(1) Five enlisted personnel required to support the unit at the forward location. These personnel consist of two crew chiefs, one armament specialist, one POL specialist and one cook.

(2) The unit has provided one POL vehicle which is used to refuel the aircraft at the supported unit's forward staging area, currently at Loc Ninh, but subject to change on short notice.

(6)
(3) The supported unit has informed the 334th Atk Hel Co that they are unauthorized to supply their personnel with daily rations unless the unit places all personnel on a separate ration allowance, or supplies them with enough class "A" rations to feed the personnel at Quan Loi. The 334th Atk Hel Co is complying with the latter.

(4) Excessive blade time is required to transport personnel and equipment to Quan Loi.

(5) A great deal of time is lost for maintenance repairs due to transportation of maintenance crews and equipment to Quan Loi and/or Loc Ninh.

(6) There is a lack of ground communications between Quan Loi and Phu Loi at the present time. No telephone lines are in existence between these two locations, and satisfactory ground to ground radio communications has not been established at this time.

(c) Recommendations: That all unit aircraft be allowed to return to home station nightly for strip alert and daily maintenance. That adequate ground communications between Quan Loi and Phu Loi be established.

3. VNAF I&M Programing Plan 70-51 (OPLAN 70-51):

   a. Observation: The I&M plan is not a workable plan for turn-in of non-aircraft equipment.

   b. Evaluation: The 190th AHC was the first unit to participate in the VNAF I&M program. The equipment turn-in schedule established by OPLAN 70-51 did not account for the fact that the 190th AHC was not operating under the Keystone Robin Program, therefore coordination with depot had not been accomplished. This necessitated hasty coordination through depot to insure timely equipment turn-in. The 190th facilities had to be turned over to the new VNAF Squadron on the date of activation.

   c. Recommendation:

   (1) That all units participating in the I&M Program be informed, in writing, of the turn-in plan they will utilize, and that a new schedule be made for non-aircraft property. This schedule should be accomplished for each individual unit.

   (2) That coordination be made between higher headquarters, and the various support units to establish a workable turn-in schedule.
A7BACA-3C

2 November 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS CSFOR-65(8-2)

d. Command Action: Coordination was made with 12th Combat Aviation Group S-4 and a workable schedule for the next unit coming under the I&M program was made. A copy of this schedule was furnished to and approved by I Aviation Brigade. It has been established that all companies of the 145th Cbt Arm Bn will accomplish turn-in through normal channels. Coordination has been made with the direct support units and Depot for specific dates for T.I. and turn-in.

4. Property for Turn Over to VNAF

a. Observation:

(1) Buildings vacated by US personnel for any length of time are vandalized.

(2) Battalion was not relieved of responsibility for security and condition of buildings.

b. Evaluation:

(1) The 334th AHG was relocated and signed its real estate back over to PAE. Approximately four months later the buildings were transferred to the VNAF. In the four months that the buildings were vacant they had been vandalized. Consequently, the VNAF would not accept these buildings in their present condition. The Battalion was held responsible because the buildings were considered in the Battalion area. Numerous repairs had to be accomplished before buildings were acceptable.

c. Recommendation:

(1) That buildings be transferred to VNAF immediately upon being vacated. If immediate occupancy by VNAF personnel is not possible, a 24 hour guard must be posted until transfer is complete.

d. Command Actions:

(1) When buildings are vacated it is required that guards be posted at each entrance. A joint inspection is conducted by both gaining and losing units, the buildings are then signed for by the VNAF representative and VNAF guards replace the US guards.

e. Communications: Excess avionics modules and cases.

(1) Observation: Prior to sending an aircraft radio to the general support facility for repair, all modules are removed if the defective component is part of the radio chassis.

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(2) Evaluation: All modules, when removed, can then be placed in the case. The cases and modules are tagged and stored while awaiting the return of the chassis from the general support unit. When the general support unit is unable to repair the equipment it is evacuated to CONUS, and the unit is issued a DD 1340-1 for the operational modules in storage. When the equipment returns from CONUS, it is complete (chassis, module and case) and is given to the using unit. Obviously, when the unit is given the new radio, the equipment in storage becomes excess.

(3) Recommendation: If the general support unit evacuates the radio to CONUS, it should be sent as a complete unit. This would save time and equipment in addition to alleviating an excess equipment problem.

(4) Command Action: The general support unit has been informed of the problem but no action has been taken at this time.

h: Material: NONE
i. Other: NONE

WILLIAM H DILLARD
LTC, Infantry
Commanding
CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-SC (2 Nov 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 145th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS CSPOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 12TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96266 25 Nov 70

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-R&E, APO 96266
Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBA-C, APO 96384
Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 Oct 70 from Headquarters, 145th Aviation Battalion (Combat).

2. (C) The following comments are provided:

a. The report was submitted unsigned and paragraph 2g, 2h and 2i were not in the proper format. The attached report contains change 1 to the report which requires that page 9, change 1 replace page 9 of the original report. A copy of the change with a letter of transmittal has been forwarded to the listed distribution.

b. Reference: paragraph 2c(1), personnel smoking in POL points. Command action has been taken to make all POL personnel cognizant of safety requirements and regulations. The suggested break areas have been designated.

c. Reference: paragraph 2e(1), VNAF aviator training. This recommendation is being considered by this headquarters and will be considered with 1st Aviation Brigade and II FFORCEV as appropriate. However, future consideration should be given at USARV level in reducing the tactical mission requirements during this training phase.

d. Reference: paragraph 2f(1), logistical support of missions being performed away from parent unit. Logistical assistance is being furnished to the 334th AWC by the S-4, 12th Avn Gp (Cbt).
AVBACA—SC

25 November 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report—Lessons Learned, 145th Aviation Battalion
(Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS CSFTR-65 (R2) (U)

Operational requirements preclude implementation of the recommendation
at this time. The unit has been so advised and no further action by
higher headquarters is deemed necessary.

ALBERT J. PERN JR.
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding
AVFBC-RE (2 Nov 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS GSOFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA: Hq, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266 G.D.

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBC-G, APO 96384
Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96538

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1970 from Headquarters, 145th Aviation Battalion (Combat) and comments of the indorsing headquarters.

2. (U) Comment: Reference item concerning "Excess avionics modules and cases", page 3, 4e; concur. Procedures should be established by the general support unit for turn in of modules when the chassis is to be retrograded to CONUS.

FOR THE COMMANDER

W. C. BARTEL, JR.
This Headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the contents as indorsed, except paragraph 4(e) page 5, NONCONCUR. The situation described does not occur frequently. If thru this procedure the unit acquires an excess of modules and cases, the unit should turn in excess items to the DSU.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GENE R. WILLIAMS
CPT, AGC
Asst AG
AVHDO-DO (2 Nov 70) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970 RCS CSFOR-65(R-2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 18 FEB 1971

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 October 1970 from Headquarters, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion and concurs with comments of endorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Cy furn:
1st Avn Bde
145th Avn Bn

Clark W. Stevens Jr.
Captain AGC
Assistant Adjutant General
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 24 MAR 1971

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed with the following comment: Reference paragraph 2c(2), page 5: Notams are grouped alphabetically according to Flight Information Regions (FIR's). Grouping for the Saigon FIR (which encompasses all of SVN) is accomplished by the Tan Son Nhut Notam Facility. If the present grouping is unsatisfactory for Army Air operations, USARV should coordinate with 7th Air Force for a revised listing.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

CG furn:
CG USARV
145th COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
ORGANIZATION
31 October 1970

- 145th CAR
  - HHC 145th CAR
  - 145th Sec Plt
  - 145th Aslt Hol Co
  - 68th Aslt Hol Co
  - 116th Aslt Hol Co
  - 190th Aslt Hol Co
  - 334th Atk Hel Co

The 391st QM Det is located at APO 96376, the 334th Atk Hel Co is located at APO 96289, all other units are located at Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam, APO 96227
## Unit Strength

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<th>Unit</th>
<th>Officer Auth</th>
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<th>EM Auth</th>
<th>VN Auth</th>
<th>Officer O/H</th>
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Total: 74 74 132 126 709 721 1005 923 55 51
145th Combat Aviation Battalion  
31 October 1970  
Aircraft Status

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# Operational Statistics

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*190th Aslt Hel Co 1-16 August 1970*
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 145th Aviation Battalion

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug to 31 Oct 70.

CO, 145th Aviation Battalion

2 November 1970

704255

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310