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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970 (U)

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2. The information contained in this report is provided to insure that lessons learned during current operations are used to the benefit of future operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

3. Information of actions initiated as a result of your evaluation should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, ATTN: FOR OT UT within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

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VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS: CSFOR-65(R2)

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1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities

a. Historical Events

(1) During the period 1 August 1970 to 31 October 1970, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion provided the majority of aviation assets utilized by units in the seven southern provinces of MR 2. The major units supported were as follows: Task Force South until 3 October when support terminated due to its deactivation, 9th (White Horse) ROK Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Division (ARM), I Field Forces Vietnam (IFFV) "tiller", the seven DSA of Military Region 2, 18th Engineer Brigade, "C" 75th Rangers, and 5th Special Forces Group.

(2) On 3 August, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion augmented by eight (8) UH-1H's and two (2) CH-47C's from the 52d Battalion lifted elements of the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARM) from Phu Do Yang into 1L landing zones in the vicinity of FP 19767P. A task force of 17 UH-1H's, eight (8) UH-1C's, and six (6) CH-47C's inserted 110 troopers, two (2) fire support bases, and 79 tons of cargo. Forward refuel and rearm points were established at Phu Do Yang by the Battalion S-6. On 13 August 1970, the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company relocated to Phan Rang Air Base from Phan Thiet. The area of operations for the 192nd "HO" remains substantially unchanged. On the 17th of August, the 185th Assault Helicopter Company aided by the 221st Assault Helicopter Company and the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company staged an operation out of Phu Do Yang for the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARM). 624 troopers were inserted into "Happy Valley" in the vicinity of FP 3080. Ground force operational results are unknown.

(3) The 9th ROK Infantry Division initiated operation Do Nao M1 18 on 1 September in the vicinity of FP 990 550. The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion inserted elements of the 28th Regiment into mountains N.W. of Tueh Hoc. 95 troopers and 111 tons of cargo were inserted from 6 LZ's into 6 LZ's. Initial simultaneous gunship prone and insertions were made into five of the LZ's by a task force of 33 UH-1H's, 12 UH-1C's and seven (7)

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CH-47's. Gunship rear and two POL points were established by Battalion S-4 and functioned throughout the operation. After completion of the troop insertion, specific targets were attacked by UH-1C aircraft using 2.75-inch flechette rockets and by CH-47's dropping sling loads of fuselage from 2000 feet. This was the first time that the Battalion had dropped fuselage on enemy cave and tunnel complexes. Target hits were accurate but results were unknown. Operational results included the following: 28 enemy KIA, 13 small arms captured, and two (2) crew served weapons captured. Friendly forces sustained nine (9) wounded. Battalion gashms were credited with five (5) 7.62mm killed by air, 10 VC wounded, one 40 mm mortar destroyed, and one 81mm rocket destroyed. The 4th Assault Helicopter Company and 23rd Assault Support Helicopter Company assumed the role of resupply until the extraction was performed on 21 September. On 3 September, the 155th Assault Helicopter Company augmented by ten (10) WVF UH-1H's began an insertion of the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) into the vicinity of PC580. The total Task Force consisted of 18 UH-1H's, 6 UH-101's and 4 CH-47's. Insertions were completed into only three landing zones of the proposed nine landing zones due to weather. Difficulties with WVF aircraft caused by continued bad weather delayed the completion of this operation until 10 September. Operations were conducted in an area west of Pho Trang when intelligence revealed an enemy buildup in that area. On the 8th of September, the 22nd Ranger Battalion (ARVN) from Pleiku augmented by 30 75th Rangers were inserted into the mountains west of Pho Trang, 15 UH-1H's, six (6) UH-101's, and two (2) CH-47's inserted 537 troops, 22 Ranger BN (ARVN) 163 troops, 30 75th Ranger (US), and one artillery support base. Twenty eight ordnance cases were flown in support of these troops through 17 September 1970. The 9th ROK Infantry Division Operation Dong Bo 18, began on 18 September in an area west of Dong Ba Thin in the vicinity of H-7730. 49 UH-1H's, 14 UH-101's and six CH-47's were utilized to insert 1600 troops, three (3) 105mm artillery pieces and 32 tons of cargo from the 35th Regiment reinforced by elements of the 29th Regiment. The operation was staged from two pickup zones into 13 landing zones. Simultaneous gunship operations and troop insertions were made into five (5) of the landing zones. Phase II of the operation began on 20 September. On that date a task force of 31 UH-1H's and four (4) CH-47's extracted 1397 troops, three (3) artillery pieces, and 65 tons of cargo from three (3) pickup zones each with a capability to accommodate only two (2) aircraft into six (6) landing zones. Preparation began ten days prior to the operation to construct landing zones on two heavily wooded mountain tops. This was accomplished by the Special Forces Company and RSCON Company of the 30th Regiment, 9th ROK Infantry Division. They were assisted and advised by the Pathfinders of the 10th Aviation Battalion. Several aircraft were under fire during the operation, but only one sustained hits and incurred minor damage. Weather was marginal in the afternoon and prolonged the operation until sunset. Ground forces had compiled the following statistics by the end of the month: 92 enemy KIA, one (1) POW captured, 36 small arms captured and five (5) crew served.
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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970, RQ: 157FOR-65(R2)

weapons captured. Phase III, the extraction, took place on 3 October. The 155th Assault Helicopter Company inserted the 45th Regiment of the 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) into the "Happy Valley" (coordinates BP4065) area on 29 September. The operation was staged out of Puan En Yang and the 45th Regiment made a search and clear sweep of the area southeast of Puan En Yang. Aircraft received ground fire in two of the ten (10) 12's, but no damage or injuries were experienced. Results of the operation were unknown.

(4) On 9 October, the 155th Assault Helicopter Company inserted 400 troops of the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) from BP 072955 into nine (9) landing zones northeast of Puan Ho (coordinates BO 108270) on a search and clear mission. Results were unknown. The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion (-) inserted elements of the 28th Regiment, 9th ROY Infantry Division into mountains west of Tuy Pho on 14 October 1970 while supporting operation D- Fiec B1 19. A task force of 25 TH-1's, eight (8) UH-1C's, and ten (10) CH-47's inserted 900 troops, one (1) 4.2 mortar platoon and 70 tons of cargo from six pickup zones into six (6) landing zones in the vicinity of OP 0444. Daily resupply was performed by the 43th UH and 243 UHICO until the extraction on 24 October 1970. The operational results included 55 VC killed, 13 small arms captured, four (4) crew served weapons captured, and numerous hand grenades and artillery rounds captured.


(6) The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to support areas away from base stations with ROY aircraft. On 25 October, the 281st Assault Helicopter Company provided an aviation package of 6 UH-1H's and 2 UH-1C's to support the 223rd Combat Aviation Battalion at An Son for an indefinite period. The 192nd Assault Helicopter Company began delivering a package of 6 UH-1H's and 2 TH-1C's at Phan Thiet Airfield in support of the 1st BN 50th Infantry (US) and "C" Company 75th Ranger Battalion (US). The 92nd Assault Helicopter Company continued to support the MACV Advisory Team at Bao Loc with 2 UH-1C's throughout the reporting period.

(7) The 330 LDO of Dong Ba Thin provided an air traffic control tower operator in support of large aviation battalion operations. The air traffic controller was utilized in the major pickup zone to control the heavy volume of aircraft. The battalion pathfinders did not have the training or experience to accurately control large numbers of aircraft entering the approach pattern from multiple directions.

(8) The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion instituted two training programs during the reporting period. The Battalion Pathfinders began a three (3) phase presentation to companies engaged in providing their own perimeter defense. The classes include perimeter barriers and alarm systems, weapons familiarization and General and Special Orders. The second program involved the presentation of classes to the 52nd Artillery,
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9th ROK Infantry Division. These classes included the techniques of cargo sling inspections, capabilities and limitations of different rigging components, and a demonstration of how to rig artillery pieces. All helicopter sling equipment of 30th Regiment, 9th ROK Infantry Division was inspected in conjunction with the classes.

(9) The enemy continually made his presence felt in the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's area of operation. During the reporting period, 28 aircraft were hit by enemy fire, fifteen (15) were hit by small arms, nine (9) by antiaircraft weapons and five (5) were hit by a combination of small arms and antiaircraft weapons. 42 other battalion aircraft were shot at but did not sustain hits. The same intensity of enemy fire is expected to continue. The S-2 section granted 28 secret clearances to personnel in the battalion and 62 personnel received secret clearance validation during this reporting period.

b. (II) Changes in Unit Mission: There were no changes in the mission of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion during the reporting period.

c. (I) Organizational Changes: The 363rd Air Det (Div) was attached to Task Force South when the 193rd TAC completed its move to Phan Rang on 15 August 1970. The 183rd Utility Maintenance Company was assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion effective 15 October 1970. An organizational information sheet is attached as Inclosure 1.

d. (I) Key Personnel Changes:

(1) On 1 August 1970, Major Arthur R. Griffin, 71, 626-44-7127, assumed duties as the Battalion S-3 from Major Rodney D. Lester, Inf, 229-50-7563.

(2) On 1 August 1970, Captain Carl J. Savard, GC, 399-40-4390, assumed the duties of the Aviation Medical Officer from Captain Stiles T. Jewett, Jr, MC, 335-35-0669.


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(7) On 10 September 1970, Captain Arnold C. Stover, CH, 577-24-2250 was redeployed due to re-occurring back injuries and the position of Battalion Chaplain was vacant.


(9) On 1 October 1970, Captain Thomas A. George, CH, 250-26-6118, assumed duties as Battalion Chaplain and filled the vacancy left by Captain Arnold C. Stover, CH, 577-24-250.


(11) On 12 October 1970, Captain Bobby D. May, EF, 268-30-2720 assumed the duties of Battalion S-4 from Captain Andrew M. Marker, OM, 290-40-9889.

(12) On 16 October 1970, Major Willis R. Hunting, EF, 221-24-0004, assumed command of the 48th Assault Helicopter Co. from Major Phillip E. Courts, Inf, 541-40-6298 who was wounded on 13 October 1970.


c. Unit Strength

Authorized and present for duty: civilian and military strength as of 31 October 1970 is listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MILITARY</th>
<th>OFF</th>
<th>M0</th>
<th>FN</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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</thead>
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<td>20/27</td>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>75/105</td>
<td>108/138</td>
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<td>130th Med Det</td>
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<td>0/0</td>
<td>7/10</td>
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<tr>
<td>48th HHC</td>
<td>19/16</td>
<td>51/41</td>
<td>218/224</td>
<td>288/218</td>
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<td>286th Med Det</td>
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<tr>
<td>92nd HHC</td>
<td>19/16</td>
<td>51/44</td>
<td>218/224</td>
<td>288/218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>155th HHC</td>
<td>19/19</td>
<td>51/48</td>
<td>218/225</td>
<td>288/217</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Med Det</td>
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<td>2/7</td>
<td>69/97</td>
<td>123/120</td>
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<tr>
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<td>218/225</td>
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<td>26/27</td>
<td>227/205</td>
<td>268/233</td>
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<td>16/15</td>
<td>51/40</td>
<td>218/120</td>
<td>288/216</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>166/141</td>
<td>286/249</td>
<td>1520/1383</td>
<td>1971/1750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Subject: Operational Report - Losses Incurred, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970, HCS: CSFOR-56 (HI)

Civilian

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>DLC</th>
<th>VN</th>
<th>3rd N.N.</th>
<th>CONTRACTOR</th>
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<td>HHC, 10th CAB</td>
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<td>0/6</td>
<td>0/6</td>
<td>0/0</td>
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<tr>
<td>48th AHC</td>
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<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/6</td>
<td>0/6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92d AHC</td>
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<td>1/0</td>
<td>0/6</td>
<td>0/6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>14/13</td>
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<td>13/41</td>
<td>0/6</td>
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There were no Technical Representatives working for Battalion at the end of the reporting period.

f. Aircraft Status as of 31 October 1970.

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<th>UNIT</th>
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<th>U-7A</th>
<th>UH-1B</th>
<th>OH-58A</th>
<th>UH-1H</th>
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<td>0/6</td>
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<tr>
<td>183rd RAC</td>
<td>24/23</td>
<td>1/0</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2/3rd ASHC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>5/5</td>
<td>21/5</td>
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g. Operational Statistics.

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<tr>
<th>Sorties Flown</th>
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<th>23,007</th>
<th>15,268</th>
<th>19,180</th>
<th>4,306</th>
<th>5,287</th>
<th>7,114</th>
<th>13,057</th>
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<td>Hours Flown</td>
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<td>6,120</td>
<td>5,836</td>
<td>4,637</td>
<td>4,787</td>
<td>2,245</td>
<td>5,334</td>
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<tr>
<td>Troops Lifted</td>
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<td>27,077</td>
<td>22,510</td>
<td>27,786</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16,1/3</td>
<td>16,320</td>
<td>18,341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cargo Lifted</td>
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<td>1,396</td>
<td>513</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>3,356</td>
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<td>Enemy KIA(Sur/Confirmed)</td>
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<td>0/1</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>0/26</td>
<td>0/5</td>
<td>0/6</td>
<td>0/7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Survivors(Dest/Damaged)</td>
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<td>0/0</td>
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<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aircraft Lost</td>
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<td>Aircraft Damaged</td>
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<td>Aircraft Recovered</td>
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</tbody>
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6
2. (U) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. (U) Personnel. None

b. (C) Intelligence.

   (1) Observations:

   (a) The enemy continues to employ his forces in small unit operations in the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's Area of Operations. Many of the offenses are directed against the Vietnamization and Pacification Programs.

   (b) Capabilities: The enemy is capable of using small units to employ and direct sapper attacks and indirect fire against allied installations in the Dong Ba Thin and Cam Ranh Bay Area.

   (c) Tactics: The enemy continues to launch his attacks during periods of low illumination, and particularly during poor weather. It is believed that the enemy uses highway QL-1 as a supply route to transport materiel to enemy locations in the Dong Bo Woods (coordinates CP0045) and the Ba Cum Secret Zone (coordinates BP 7630).

   (2) Evaluation:

   The enemy has the ability to move undetected throughout the area and possesses the ability to successfully attack allied installations with both indirect fire and sapper attacks. However, the enemy will be extremely limited in his efforts if we remain aggressive and alert in our actions.

   (3) Recommendations:

   The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion units must constantly improve and modify their defense posture in order to offset enemy plans. Variations may include the use of sentry dogs, sensors, radar, searchlights, changes in perimeter fences, H&I fire, visual reconnaissance, and interior patrols.

   (4) Command Action:

   During the last quarterly reporting period, numerous improvements have been made in the battalion defenses. Sentry dogs are now being used on the perimeters. A search light team utilizing a 23" diameter searchlight mounted on a ½ ton vehicle is being employed. Eight duffle bag sensors have been approved and technical assistance will be received in their employment. H&I fire is employed each night with M-79 fire and a UH-1H helicopter equipped with a xenon searchlight, Infrared
detection devices and a door mounted minigun is used to provide airborne surveillance during periods of darkness in the Dong Ba Thin area. UH-1C gunships are on a two minute standby and provide fire on call to augment perimeter defense.

c. (C) Operations:

(1) (a) Observations:

Due to the language barriers between allied nations, valuable time is often lost during the execution of combat assaults and normal re-supply missions. Lack of effective communications results in personnel and supplies being transported to erroneous locations.

(b) Evaluations:

During this reporting period, a requirement was imposed to have an English speaking observer aboard resupply aircraft and all flight leads on combat assaults. With an observer on board, tactical ground units can be located and resupply effected in a transitory situation. Previously such units wasted valuable time waiting at specified locations or missed resupply altogether.

(c) Recommendations:

That coordination between the aviation unit and the ground unit be made so that an English speaking observer can be aboard each resupply aircraft and each flight lead aircraft. The observer will be able to pinpoint the desired landing zone and identify colors of smoke thrown by ground units.

(d) Command Action:

Supported unit Liaison Officers have been directed to provide English speaking individuals for all resupply aircraft and for flight leads on all combat assaults.

(2) (a) Observations:

CH-47 aircraft have been employed to drop sling loads of fougasse against point targets, such as tunnel complexes and cave emplacements.

(b) Evaluations:

(1) CH-47 aircraft are lucrative targets as they fly directly over fortified enemy complexes to drop the sling loads of fougasse.
These demolitions are not fuzed and must be ignited with tracer fire or with incendiary grenades dropped from a chase aircraft.

The chase aircraft must fly low level to effectively ignite the fougasse.

Aviators on low level chase aircraft have difficulty in locating exact fougasse drop zones in heavy wooded areas and hilly terrain. Additional aircraft exposure time is necessary to locate the dropped demolitions.

CH-47 aircraft have no sighting devices for dropping napalm on point targets and attacking fortified gun emplacements.

Recommendations:

CH-47 should not be utilized to attack targets such as well defended tunnel complexes and caves with fougasse. This type mission is normally assigned to USAF tactical aircraft. U.S. Army personnel are not trained and equipment is not designed to execute this type mission.

Command action:

Coordination has been made with higher headquarters to employ CH-47 aircraft to drop fougasse in only the most closely controlled conditions against undefended areas or in tactical emergencies.

Logistics: None

Communications: None

Material: None

Other: None

JACK A. WALKER
LTC, Inf
Commanding

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, APO 96316 23 October 1970

TO: Department of the Army (ACSPOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
    Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

(U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it adequate and concurs with the contents.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/s/ Robert T. Buisson
/t/ROBERT T. BUISSON
1LT, FA
Asst Adjutant

CF:
CO, 10th CAB

A TRUE COPY:

L.D. IN
CPT, IRE
Asst S-3
AVFA-GC-HIST (16 Dec 70) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

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

This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsement and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

\[Signature\]

RCBERT W. MAJOR
ILT, ACC
Asst AG

CF:
1 - CO, 17th AVN GP (C), (LESS ORLL)
1 - CO, 10th AVN BN (C), (LESS ORLL)
SUBJECT: Operational Report—Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96374  27 JAN 71

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHS-UST, APO 96375

(U) This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report—Lessons Learned for Period Ending 31 October 1970 and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

HAROLD C. PHILLIPS
1LT, AGC
Asst AG
AVHDO-DO (13 Nov 70) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS: CSFOR-65(R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 8 MAR 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, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

Clark W. Stevens Jr.
Captain AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
1st Avn Bde
10th CAB
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of HQ, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, for Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 24 MAR 71

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

[Signature]

L. M. Ozaki
CPT, AGO
Asst AG
## CONFIDENTIAL

### ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATIONAL SHEET

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Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion

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

CO, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

N/A

12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310