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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (H) (23 Mar 70) FOR OT UT 701071 25 March 1970


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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, 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:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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US Army Limited War Laboratory
US Army Logistics, Doctrine Systems & Readiness Agency
US Army Aviation Test Activity
US Army Mobility Equipment Research & Development Center
34th General Support Group

THRU: Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-DST
APO San Francisco 96375

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

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. (U) MISSION: Provide Army aircraft maintenance and supply support (aircraft repair parts, avionics, and aircraft armament) to United States and other Free World Military Assistance Forces within Southeast Asia.

b. (U) OPERATIONS: (1) During the 92 day period of this report, the 34th General Support Group (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply) continued to provide combat service support to approximately 4,500 aircraft of the U.S. and other Free World Military Forces in South Vietnam. The number of flying hours for the theater fleet of aircraft remained at approximately the same level as the past six months - 280,000 hours. The total requirement for aircraft maintenance and supply support by the 34th GSG has not decreased since there has been no draw down of aircraft in-country even though the redeployment of U.S. Forces from RVN continued during this report period.

(2) In this connection, however, the 34th GSG lost the 303rd Transportation Company (GS) on 31 January 1970. The personnel were assigned to other units within the 34th GSG. This unit was deactivated in anticipation of further reductions of theater aviation units and to provide real estate for
other units. In addition, the 303rd would have had to move to another
installation which would have resulted in a loss of approximately 90 days
of production time. The mission of the 303rd was transferred to the 330th
Transportation Company (GS) and the 539th Transportation Company (GS). The
impact of the loss of the 303rd on aircraft operational readiness has not been
realized at this early stage.

(3) The 34th GSG continued to function as an intersectional theater
aviation logistics support unit under the USARV Aviation Officer, and on
the same level of command as the major units in USARV. The advantages to
this command position of the 34th GSG are:

(a) The Group Commander is able to survey the logistic support as
required throughout the theater.

(b) The Group unit's mission can be changed as required by adding
customers or deleting them as the tactical situation dictates.

(c) The Group provides uniform staff and command supervision through-
out the theater.

(d) Aircraft and avionic assistance teams can be scheduled to support
the needs of the theater and not be compartmented by the restrictions imposed
by the various Field Forces and Division Commanders.

(e) As a major subordinate command of USARV, the Group Commander has
the authority to converse, correspond or directly assist every major command
in the theater.

(f) Most important, the Group has direct liaison and staff contact
through "STOVEPIPE" to USAVCOM and MICPS.

(g) Finally, the Group is capable of effective management of the
theater aviation logistics through the control of the subordinate Aviation
Material Management Center which has the Qui Nhon and Saigon Aviation Depots
assigned.

(4) In the future development of doctrine governing the command and staff
organization of theater aviation logistics, it would be well to consider
the command arrangements of the 34th GSG as a model. The Group's success in the
support of the 4,500 aircraft in this theater, while maintaining a low HDP
rate, is due primarily to the command/staff relationship existing between
the Group, USARV headquarters, and USAVSOM.

(5) During the period, the return of repairable parts continued to be
a problem that was difficult to resolve. Command action has been taken

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which should result in an improved program for the return of reparables. USARV Supplement to AR 711-45 was published and implemented in October 1969. The supplement provided the general guidance necessary for the development of a repair-return program. The Group appointed an officer as the Theater Aircraft Reparables Officer responsible for developing an automated program for control of reparables. Concurrently, command emphasis was given to the need for prompt and expeditious return of reparables. Three spot announcements over the AFVN stations throughout South Vietnam have been made; other announcements are under development. In addition, command emphasis has been given to need for developing positive direct unit-to-customer relationships stressing development of accounting methods. The successful voyage of the USNS Corpus Christi Bay (Floating Aircraft Maintenance Facility) (FAMF) up the coast of Vietnam during 12-18 November 1969, proved to be a tremendous asset of the reparables program by bringing the overhaul facility to the customer. Results to date indicate that the rate of return of reparables is increasing over that of the previous periods.

(6) The Group assisted the 1st INF DIV during redeployment activities by giving technical and supervisory help in the disposition of all aircraft and aviation related items. No major problems have been encountered during redeployment primarily due to lessons learned on the 9th INF DIV redeployment.

(7) Enemy activity during the period against subordinate units was light and had little adverse effect upon the operational mission.

b. (U) TRAINING: As of 31 January 1970, the following number of students graduated from the Army Aviation Refresher Training School (AARTS) during FY 69 and FY 70:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLASS &amp; LENGTH</th>
<th>FY 69</th>
<th>FY 70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AH-1G, UH-1C R/W Repair (2 wks)</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UH-1D, H R/W Repair (2 wks)</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH-6A R/W Repair (2 wks)</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH-47 F/W Repair (5 wks)</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH-47 Maint &amp; Troubleshooting (2 wks)</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-53-L-11 Engine (2 wks)</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-53-L-13 Engine (2 wks)</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-55-L-7 Engine (2 wks)</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-63 Engine (1 wk)</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Armament Courses:
- Course # 1 Officer (1 wk)
  Enlisted (1 wk)
- Course # 2 Officer (1 wk)
  Enlisted (1 wk)

All Armament Courses 339 328

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Class & Length

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>FY 69</th>
<th>FY 70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tech Inspector (3 wks)</td>
<td></td>
<td>298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tech Supply (2 wks)</td>
<td>341</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XM-35 Armament Subsystem (1 wk)</td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-55-L-11 Engine (3 wks)</td>
<td></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ***</td>
<td>561</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tot. L.</td>
<td>4,139</td>
<td>2,414</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* New Course
** Discontinued
*** Non-Scheduled Special Classes

d. (U) Organization: (1) The five general support and ten direct support companies within the 34th General Support Group were reorganized respectively under TO&E 55-4580 and 55-4570 on 1 December 1969.

(2) Effective 1 December 1969, four provisional avionics signal companies were discontinued and three Maintenance Companies (Light Equipment) were activated to provide general support avionics capability. An additional avionics maintenance company needed in the northern III Corps area was established using spaces from the three newly activated Maintenance Companies (Lt Equip) (CS) and the five general support aircraft maintenance and supply companies. Personnel from the following discontinued units were reassigned to the three new avionics companies and the new provisional avionics signal companies:

- 2nd Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 8th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 19th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 69th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 143rd Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 203rd Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 241st Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 250th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 255th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 258th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 260th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 335th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)
- 458th Signal Det (Avionic Maint)

(3) Effective 1 December 1969, the newly established general support avionics companies are as follows:

(a) The 263rd Maintenance Company (Lt Equip) assigned to the 58th Transportation Battalion.

(b) The 317th Maintenance Company (Lt Equip) assigned to the 765th Transportation Battalion.

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(c) The 614th Maintenance Company (Lt Equip) assigned to the 14th Transportation Battalion.

(d) Aval Central (Provisional) assigned to the 520th Transportation Battalion.

(e) The 303rd Transportation Company (AM)(QS), 765th Transportation Battalion (AMQS), was deactivated on 31 January 1970. On 15 January 1970, the stand down data, the company started deactivation activities to include diverting in-coming aircraft maintenance work orders to other 34th GSG units. Personnel from the 303rd were reassigned within 34th GSG to fill existing shortages. The 330th Transportation Company (AM)(QS) assumed the mission of the 303rd Transportation Company with no serious interruption of mission capability.

(f) STRENGTH:

(1) The personnel strength of the Group on 31 January 1970 was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
<th>WARRANT OFFICER</th>
<th>ENLISTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authorized</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>4,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assigned</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>4,523</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NCTS: Strength figures, excluding the 1st Transportation Battalion (Depot) (Seaborn) which is attached for operation control, reflect Program Six Civilization reductions.

(g) A civilian contract maintenance augmentation of 1,867 personnel is provided by Dynalectron Corporation, Lockheed Aircraft Service Company and Lear Siegler, Incorporated. These personnel are attached to each DS, GS and Aval Company within the 34th Group as well as division and non-divisional aviation and aviation support units providing an increased maintenance capability. Additionally, a complement of 39 Department of the Army Civilian personnel and 159 Field Service Representatives rendered aviation technical assistance to both organizational and DS/GS units throughout RVN.

(f) INFORMATION BRIEFINGS: During the reporting period, information briefings were presented to the following distinguished guests and visitors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Nov</td>
<td>COL Thomas Nicholson</td>
<td>CC, 1st Cav Div Spt Gmd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Nov</td>
<td>COL Benjamin S. Silver</td>
<td>Dep GMD for Logistics, USA Avn Spt Gmd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Dec</td>
<td>COL John Bergner</td>
<td>CC, USAAMC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendation (U)

a. PERSONNEL: Need for Authorized Technical Inspectors.

(1) OBSERVATION: The command has only 50 percent of the authorized helicopter technical inspectors. Throughout the past year, the strength has never risen above 66 percent. Helicopter technical inspectors are used for quality control assurance in the maintenance of aircraft. They determine serviceability of aircraft parts and repairability of aircraft components.

(b) EVALUATION: The following action has been taken to help alleviate this problem:

1. A review of personnel records has been made and all personnel with any previous training as technical inspectors have been assigned this duty. In addition, OJT is provided selected personnel to qualify them as technical inspectors.

2. A letter has been forwarded to the Transportation School, Fort Ruck, VA, recommending that the field be made more attractive by increasing the grade structure for the MOS. One possibility mentioned was to add grades E-8 and E-9 to the TI field.

3. The enlisted assignment branch at Headquarters, USARV, is advised on the status of each critical MOS by written and verbal reports.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: 1. That USARV make this critical shortage a matter of record with USCOMARC and Department of the Army.

2. That DA make a comprehensive study to determine why there is a continual short fall of technical inspectors.

3. That the study determine what action must be taken to increase the output of trained technical inspectors to alleviate the shortage as soon as possible.

b. OPERATIONS: Need for Trained Maintenance Test Pilots.

(a) OBSERVATION: The ORL from the 520th Transportation Battalion, dated 30 September 1968, reported a serious shortage of trained maintenance test pilots.
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This problem has not been corrected and is causing difficulty as the number of supported aircraft increase in theater. The CONUS training program appears to be inadequate to fulfill world wide requirements. Aviation units here are being assigned aviators with little or no experience in aircraft maintenance. For maintenance units, this is especially critical since field experience or school training is needed to produce a competent maintenance test pilot. There is only one flight period devoted to maintenance test flights in the Aircraft Maintenance Officer's course. It is left to the unit in Vietnam to train the majority of aviators in proper test flight procedures which detracts substantially from their primary mission.

(b) EVALUATION: The following chart indicates the current need for test pilots. The figures are based on one test pilot for each company sized unit or higher having direct or general support capabilities or requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>TEST PILOTS REQUIRED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34th General Support Group</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional Aviation Units</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divisional DS Maintenance Units</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Aviation Brigade</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>160</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is an excellent source from the CONUS training base of highly qualified maintenance test pilots. This output comes from Phase II of the Aircraft Maintenance Officer's course at Fort Eustis, VA. Phase II is a highly selective sub-course and only experienced aviators, many of whom are field grade, are allowed to attend. Present there are seventy (70) graduates of this sub-course in Vietnam. Of these, many are being utilized in command or staff positions and their skills as test pilots are rarely utilized. A deficiency of approximately ninety (90) trained maintenance test pilots exist in Vietnam.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That Phase II of the Aircraft Maintenance Officer's course be expanded to include all aviator graduates of Phase I.

 e. LOGISTICS:

   (1) Radio Frequency Radiation Hazards, Aircraft Ammunition.

   (a) OBSERVATION: The United States Navy Report of an inadvertent firing of a 2.75 Aerial Rocket was the basis of a 34th General Support Group investigation which included detailed technical discussions with the Naval Weapons Laboratory in CONUS. Their data sheets on the Radio Frequency (RF) hazards to ammunition were utilized to prepare recommendations. As a result

of this liaison, a USARV meeting was coordinated through the Aviation Logistics Division (AVHAV-LOG) to present the problem to the USARV staff.

2. Since this meeting, at least two incidents have occurred in which RF radiation is a positive suspect. One involved the launch of two 2.75 rockets from a UH-1C Helicopter operated by the 235th Assault Helicopter Company in Can Tho. This incident destroyed an ammunition dump, killed one soldier and wounded two others. The second incident occurred on 12 January 1970, at Phu Loi, in the lst Aviation Battalion. This incident involved an AH-1G Helicopter which launched a rocket and destroyed a UH-1C Helicopter, as well as wounding one crewman. It has not yet been determined if this incident was due to static electricity or RF Radiation.

(b) EVALUATION: Though most aviation personnel have seen or heard of such incidents, few formal reports have been made. This accounts for the lack of recorded data on this problem. As a result of our efforts in this area, United States Army Munitions Command (MUCOM) has published precautionary measures to be observed in the handling of 20mm ammunition. In addition, MUCOM and the 2.75 Aerial Rocket Project Manager's Office are initiating test programs to evaluate current equipment design and technical manual procedures for handling of aircraft ammunition. Picatinny Arsenal and the Naval Laboratory are participating in this effort which should produce data upon which sound operating procedures can be based.

The investigation has highlighted the difficulty of convincing tactical personnel of the dangers associated with this phenomenon. Commanders appear reluctant to accept any restrictions on their operation which are not based on visible problems. Each accidental firing was attributed to "a short in the aircraft wiring", or pilot error. The common reaction is that if the commander hasn't heard of the problem in the past, it must not be very important.

It was determined that the radiation hazard at any location could be accurately determined by a Radiation Survey Team. One such team is available at MACV and consists of Air Force Technicians from Wright-Patterson Air Base, Dayton, Ohio. A typical survey was accomplished at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon, which revealed several possible hazards to low flying helicopters loaded with 2.75 inch rockets or 20mm ammunition.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: United States Army Vietnam Aviation Logistics Division is currently developing procedures for the handling of 2.75 inch rockets and 20mm ammunition in a hazardous environment. These procedures will incorporate information received from both MUCOM and the Naval Weapons Laboratory. Because the 20mm ammunition is especially sensitive and has only recently been available to our tactical units, emphasis will be placed on this item to insure proper handling. Although the published procedures will be more detailed, they will generally consist of the following:

1. Do not load or unload rockets or 20mm ammunition from aircraft unless
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 34th General Support Group
for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

The firing pod cables are connected and the ship is adequately grounded
to a ground stake which has been electrically tested.

2. Do not handle or store this type of ammunition in the vicinity of
high frequency radio or radar equipment. The AN/TPN-8 control radar is both
the most commonly found item and the most dangerous. If doubt exists as to
safe distances, a survey may be requested from the MACV Radio Frequency Control
Team.

3. All aviators and support personnel should be made aware of this
problem and the preventive measures which have been or are being developed.
Commanders must be convinced of the seriousness of this problem and must
monitor their tactical operations to insure the safety of their troops.

(2) Increase in Maintenance Down Time Due to Corrosion.

(a) OBSERVATION: Corrosion to Army aircraft is becoming an ever increas-
ing problem.

(b) EVALUATION: The impact of corrosion became apparent when a RU-8 and
a U-21 aircraft were corroded to the extent that replacement of skin panels
was necessary. One aircraft, a RU-8D which had been operated primarily in
areas of salt water near Da Nang and Chu Lai, required evacuation to Clark A.B.
Philippines, for extensive treatment of corrosion. A second reason for the
extensive treatment was that the relief tube located directly under the
cockpit area evacuated refuse along the entire undercarriage of the aircraft
causing extensive corrosion of the Dappler Antenna system. This required
removal of large skin sections so that corrosion of bulkheads, longerons and
skin could be treated.

The U-21 aircraft, operated mostly in the Delta region and along coastal areas,
required extensive sheetmetal and structural repair to arrest the corrosion.
OH-6 aircraft operating around Chu Lai, Da Nang, Nha Trang, and Qui Nhon have
experienced extensive corrosion on Magnesium and alloy parts of the rotor
system and swashplate. Corrosion is caused by salt water, dirt and lack of
adequate cleaning facilities for preventive maintenance.

Most corrosion can be traced to the environment within which aircraft fly and
lack of preventive maintenance; i.e., washing and frequent inspection for
corrosion.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS: 1. Recommend that Army Technical Manuals be written
dealing with corrosion prevention, inspection and treatment.

2. Recommend that either an Army school be initiated or an ISSA negotiated
with the Air Force for Army personnel to attend the Air Force Corrosion Control
School at Clark A.B., Philippines or Kadena A.B., Okinawa.
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15 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operitional Report of Headquarters, 34th General Support Group
for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

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

Information required by USARV letter NVHCJ-DST, subject: Operations Report-
Lessons Learned: Escape and Evasion Information, dated 6 August 1968, is
negative.

1 Incl
1. Organisational Chart

SAMUEL G. COOK, H.A.
Colonel, TC
Commanding

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HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 7 FEB 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report—Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 34th General Support Group.

2. Comments follow:

   a. Reference item concerning need for authorized technical inspectors, page 6, paragraph 2a; concur. The shortage of helicopter technical inspectors has been addressed to Department of Army at frequent intervals during the past several months. This information is also included as a part of critical MOS lists and emergency requisitions which reflect USARV's shortage of helicopter technical inspectors.

   b. Reference item concerning need for trained maintenance test pilots, page 6, paragraph 2b; concur. The requirement that every officer graduate of the Aircraft Maintenance Officer's Course be a qualified test pilot on graduation from the formal course of instruction is considered valid. Limiting the input for Phase II to only highly experienced aviators clearly does not provide the requisite test pilot training that all aircraft maintenance officers must have in order to adequately perform in the field. Consideration should be given to combining Phase I and II into one course of instruction for all aviators attending the Aircraft Maintenance Officer's Course.

   c. Reference item concerning radio frequency radiation hazards, aircraft ammunition, page 7, paragraph 2e(1); concur. Based on information provided by MUCOM that the possibility of accidental initiation of electrically primed 20 mm and 2.75 FFAR ammunition through accumulated static electricity or induced voltage in the presence of RF fields exist, Hq USARV dispatched a message on 25 Jan 70 specifying detailed procedures to be used in the handling, loading, unloading, and storage of 20mm ammunition. A similar message is being prepared concerning 2.75 FFAR ammunition. Additionally, on 20 Feb 70, Hq USARV dispatched a message to all units, specifying the procedures to be used concerning the static grounding of armed aircraft.
d. Reference item concerning increase in maintenance down time due to corrosion, page 9, paragraph 2e(2); concur. That portion of the recommendation concerning the development of technical manuals should be addressed by Department of Army. Hq USAV is investigating the programs of instruction offered by the USAF schools cited to determine if they are applicable to USAV requirements. Quotas for USAV personnel to attend these schools will be requested if the courses are relevant to USAV needs. The 34th General Support Group will be informed by letter as to the results of the present inquiry.

FOR THE COMMANDER

[Signature]

C. E. MICHELS
MAJ, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy Furr:
34th General Support Group
GPOP-DT (15 Feb 70) 2d Ind


HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 2 MAR 70

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:

C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 34th General Support Group

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.

CJ, 34th General Support Group

DATE
15 February 1970

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