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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED
AGDA (M) (5 Mar 70) FOR OT UT 694326. 12 March 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

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1. Subject report was awarded 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:

ROBERT E. LYNCH
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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PAGE 2
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT)
APO San Francisco 96240

AVC-69-50 15 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, NOS 65-FOH-65 (AD) (U)

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION:

1. Section I. Operations: Significant activities.
   a. (U) General. This report covers the period 1 Aug 1969 through 31 Oct 1969, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15 and USAMC Regulation 525-15. The report includes Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group (Combat); 231st Aviation Company (Corps); 56th Aviation Detachment (Support); and the 25th Medical Detachment (Combat) and contains certain information not reported by other subordinate units of the Group.
   b. (C) Personnel.
      (1) Infusion: The Group has continued an infusion program directed towards the reduction of rotational humps. There has been a slight reduction in the month of October but with the additional inputs of officers/warrant officers earlier in the year and the new replacements being reduced,
      (2) Replacements: The Group received 1779 replacements in the reporting period as compared to 1707 for the last quarter. Replacements have been arriving prior to the departure of the departing individual. The monthly replacement flow was: 700 in August, 523 in September and 590 in October.
      (3) Strength: The Group strength declined during the reporting period. The strength figures for the reported units and the entire Group are attached as Inclosure 1. There is a critical shortage of certain maintenance personnel, particularly Technical Inspectors and senior supervisory maintenance personnel. Inclosure 2 lists those shortages of skilled personnel that have the most affect on the aircraft maintenance rates.

FOR OFFUT
69/326
Inclosure

1

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10
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15 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned from Headquarters, 17th
Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, 
NCO CGPOA-65 (K)(u)

(4) Changes of Command: The following changes of command were made during this reporting period:


(5) The following changes were made within the Group Staff:


(c) On 20 August 1969, LTC James J. Kelly, 119-20-6842, became the Group S2, vice LTC Leroy F. Stevenson, 427-38-8741.

(d) On 28 August 1969, LTC William L. Crouch, Jr., 222-12-3481, became the Group XO, vice LTC Ulrich Hermann, 257-50-1256.


(f) On 5 September 1969, LTC David P. Tate, 203-12-3481, became the Group Chaplain, vice Maj Howard E. iondahl, 503-16-0636.

(g) On 8 September 1969, CPT Francis J. Stephenson, Jr., 426-35-8409, became the Asst. S2.

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15 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, ACS CSFHI-65 (Ml) (U)


(2) On 30 October 1969, LT Robert C. Rice, 297-36-9042, became the Personnel Officer, vice CW3 Walter V. Collins, Jr., 256-38-0913.

(3) On 23 October 1969, HJ James H. Langston, 252-44-0670, assumed duties as Liaison Officer to G2 TAF.

(1) On 23 October 1969, LT James W. Rooney, 021-34-5765, became the Group last S1, vice LT Robert C. Rice, 297-36-9042.

(c) Intelligence

(1) General: During this reporting period significant changes in the enemy order of battle holdings were as follows:

(a) The 10th INF. Infantry regiment disbanded. The 13th Battalion was redesignated the K-13 Local Force Battalion. The 11th Battalion merged with the 86th Local Force Battalion and the new unit was designated the 96th Local Force Battalion. The 12th Battalion is now carried as the 12th INF. Battalion subordinate to the Southern Sub Region Headquarters of Military Region 5.

(b) Major elements of the 40th INF. Artillery Regiment, the 66th INF. Infantry Regiment, and the 28th INF. Infantry Regiment were dropped from the Tri-Border area and are believed to be located in Cambodian base areas near Bu Prang and Due Lap. The change in INF units for this quarter is attached as Inclosure #3.

(c) Activity was generally light throughout the quarter, especially in September and early October. Total enemy strength in II Corps dropped approximately 725.

(2) Air Activity: While flying in support of II CTZ during the last quarter 17th Aviation Group aircraft were reported hit by hostile ground fire 203 times (Aug 84, Sep 47, Oct 72), for an average of 68 hits per month as compared to 30 per month in the previous quarter. 17th Aviation Group aircraft reported being shot at but not hit 152 times (Aug 53, Sep 28, Oct 71). The reduction in hits, though influenced by weather, reflects the low level of activity especially in September and the first 28 days of October. Activity increased sharply during the last 3 days of the reporting period with 19 hits and 18 "shot at's"
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AV36GR-3C

being reported in the 72 hour period.

(3) Physical Security: There were 11 Installation Attacks (all standoff) reported during the quarter (Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 4) compared with 34 during the previous quarter, again reflecting the low level of activity during the period. Installations most frequently hit were Ban He Thout, Dong En Thin and Ho Trang. On 15 September the 17th Aviation Group Headquarters assumed responsibility for coordinating the defense of units in Sub Sector III, the Trang Installation Defense Command.

(4) Security Clearances: During the reporting period 59 clearances have been validated, 62 US Intelligence Checks made, 25 IC Checks initiated, and 3 Background Investigations initiated.

d. (U) Operations.

(1) Flight Operations: Total flying hours and performance figures for the units are listed in Inclosure 4.

(2) Unit Movement: There were no changes in the units' locations.

(3) Unit Missions: There have been no changes in the units' missions.

e. (U) Training.

(1) Army Aviation Refresher Training School: A total of 172 quotas were allocated to the group and 170 were reallocated to the battalions. Two allocations were filled by the 201st Aviation Company (Corps).

(2) Survival Courses: A total of 17 quotas were received for survival courses, 11 for the Escape and Evasion Course at Clark AB, Philippines and 6 for the Fighter Survival Course at Iwakuni AB, Okinawa. All quotas were allocated to the battalions.

(3) Headquarters Company Training: A total of 48 days were spent in mandatory training in subjects as prescribed by 12th V 350-1.

(4) Transition Training: The 201st Aviation Company (Corps) completed transition of three aviators in the U-21 during the reporting period. Two SIIs (one FA and one WA) orders were validated and they have begun transition and 90 day standardization training.

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WB-65-SC

15 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969

Cel. C:FOR-65 (KL) (U)

f. (U) Logistics.

(1) New Equipment: Units within the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) started receiving shipments of the HH-4 flight helmets to replace the AH-5 now in use by all flight crew personnel. The HH-4 helmet is designed as a crash protection device and will provide a maximum of sound attenuation and comfort. A total of 121 helmets are still needed within the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) to complete the transition from AH-5 to HH-4.

(2) Aircraft status is attached as Inclosure 5.

g. (U) Organization.

(1) Unit Organization: No change since last report.

(2) Station list: No change since last report.

(3) Unit Action: The 201st Aviation Company (Corps) submitted a change to the current TCOL 1-127D. Two major changes to the current TCOL were incorporated in the proposed change.

(a) Organization: A proposed change to form two separate flight platoons (HM / FW) was requested because of the number of aircraft and aviators. Operational procedures and methods differ by aircraft type and separate platoon. Operation of two separate platoons will increase unit efficiency and performance.

(b) Maintenance: The proposed change provides the unit with an organic direct support maintenance capability.

h. (U) Chaplain.

(1) Civic Actions: The 17th AG(C) Chaplain's Fund contributed $27,10 to the following activities: Overseas Christian Serviceman's Center, the Vietnamese Evangelical Bible Institute, publication of the Old Testament in the Vietnamese language and the Evangelical School, Orphanage, Poor House and Refuge Center. Medicines provided by St. John's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was delivered to Chai-Y-Vien Tien-Linh (Medical Clinic) in Nha Trang.

(2) Conference: The Group Chaplain attended the 1st
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AV:CD-SC

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, ICS 5/2/65 (a) (u)

Aviation Brigade Chaplains Conference on 6 - 7 October 1969 at Long Binh.

1. (U) A v i a t i o n Safety. The accident rate for the 17th AG(C) increased slightly during this quarter. A primary cause of this increase was weather. The cumulative accident rate per 100,000 flying hours increased from 19.9 to 20.3. The accident experience for the quarter is attached as Inclosure 6.

2. (U) S i g n a l. The Signal Section, HQ, 17th AG(C) continued to provide radio, teletype, and telephone communications for Headquarters, 17th AG(C). Guidance and assistance were provided to Signal Sections of subordinate units to insure that the 17th AG(C) communication system was responsive to the units needs. Two Communications and Electronics Newsletters were published during the quarter. These newsletters contained information pertaining to Ground, Avionics, and General C and E operations. Implementation of DA Cir 750-49 has been accomplished as pertaining to Signal Equipment within the 17th AG(C). The 17th AG(C) and Battalion Signal Officers attended the 1st Aviation Brigade Signal Officers Conference on 13 and 14 September 1969. A liaison visit was made by the 17th AG(C) Avionics Officer to the 55th AG Calibration Agency, Okinawa, for the purpose of coordinating the calibration program within the 17th AG(C). Twelve avionics assistance visits were conducted by the Avionics personal of the 17th AG(C) to the Avionics Repair Sections of the subordinate units within the 17th AG(C). Avionics personnel shortages decreased during the quarter and units within 17th AG(C) have an adequate fill level in avionics personnel. Aircraft of the 17th AG(C) which had not previously been retrofitted with the IEC modification are now being modified. This program has been at a stand still due to the lack of the modification kits which are now on hand. The 17th AG(C) continues to implement the IESTON Program. All units have their authorized density of IESTON equipment on hand. The equipment is being used by most units on a daily basis.

3. (C) M e d i c a l. The 25th Medical Detachment continues to provide medical support to HQ 17th AG(C). Medical personal and equipment were adequate to provide Ist echelon medical support during the period. Serious shortages of organic medical personal in the near future are anticipated. A Dengue epidemic occurred in I Corps during the period. Increased preventive measures were taken throughout the Group. No cases of Dengue occurred in the Group. Policies and procedures regarding preventive medicine were reviewed and improvements in environmental sanitation continue.

   a. (v) Personnel: None
   b. (v) Intelligence: None
   c. (v) Operations: None
   d. (v) Organization: Combining of Standards, training, and operations (201st Avn Co).

   (1) Observation: The unit's operations officer and standardization officer were functioning independently. Training and standardization programs were conflicting with mission operations causing a loss in efficiency in both areas.

   (2) Evaluation: Opportunity for needed training and currency flights were often not utilized due to lack of communication. Instrument training, needed to prepare aviators for renewal and issue of instrument cards, was lost when mission requirements could have doubled as instrument training flights. Opportunity for implementation of major standardization decisions, procedures, etc., was available but not utilized in the operations section.

   (3) Recommendation: Both standardization, training, and operations functions be combined into the same section and be supervised by the same personnel. This implementation will combine associated and related functions eliminating inefficiency and lost training time. Dissemination of new procedures and changes will be expedited and more thorough.

   (4) Command Action: The operations section now includes standardization and training functions, all files, briefings, and records are maintained in and supervised by the same section.

   e. (v) Training: (201st Avn Co)

   (1) Notarying Instrument Qualification.

   a. Observation: Only one AV aviator held a current standard instrument card. Notary work aircraft were restricted to VH flights, which caused some delays and NO's on VIP flights.

   b. Evaluation: Having qualified instrument pilots will enhance the capability of the unit. The experience level of the
SU13ZCT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969,

November 1969

SU13ZCT:
17th Aviation Group (Combat)

pilots will be upgraded and weather delays and problems can be eliminated.

(c) Recommendation: an active rotary wing instrument training program be established. Instrument procedures are to be discussed and reviewed at pilot standardization and safety meetings. Special attention be given to VIP missions through assigning instrument qualified pilots to fly the mission.

(d) Command Action: The unit's instrument examiner is now assigned to the operations section and has implemented an active instrument program. Since the start of the program four standard rotary wing instrument cards have been renewed and two initial standard rotary wing instrument cards have been issued. Current information and procedures are reviewed periodically.

(2) Survival Escape & Evasion Training, (17th Avn Gp)

(c) Observation: That outside of a small number of out-of-country E2E school trained personnel, most aviators do not have adequate training in Survival, Escape & Evasion procedures.

(b) Evaluation: The use of trained personnel as unit E2E Officers is desirable. Those personnel, however, have only received a short course in personal survival procedures and often do not have the background or training aids necessary to instruct other personnel in the unit.

(c) Recommendations: That each Aviation Group and/or separate Aviation Battalion request an Air Force Jungle Survival Training Team. That the major aviation headquarters requesting a team make the team available for training the instruction down to company level.

(d) Command Action: The 17th Aviation Group (Combat) 63 requested a Jungle Survival Training Team be allocated to this command for a period of 30 days. A message stating the request and reasons why the team was desired was sent on 5 Jul 69 to CO, 13th Avn, MTN: BOOTL, AFO 96474. 13th AF approved the request and allocated two teams consisting of two enlisted instructors each to 17th Group for two weeks each. One team for the first two weeks in Sept and the second for the last two weeks in Sept. Upon arrival in country the teams were provided with secure classrooms, a 16mm projector, blackboard, and a 35mm projector. Classes were presented to approximately 2000 aviation personnel including over 500 rated aviators. Subjects covered included:

Escape and Evasion, Jungle Survival, Use of Survival Radios and Equipment and related subjects. A survey conducted after the training had been completed, confirmed that the training had been both interesting and beneficial.

f. (b) Logistics. Ammo Pouch Cal .38

(1) Observation: A standard ammunition pouch for the Cal .38 pistol should be an item of issue.

(2) Evaluation: At present personnel equipped with the Cal .38 pistol are using various type pouches or holsters to carry ammunition.

(3) Recommendation: That the US Army procure a standard ammunition pouch for .38 Cal ammunition.

(4) Command Action: 54, 17th Avn Gp (Cbt) discussed procurement of the Air Force Cartidge, Holder Cal .38, FSD 1099-CL9-8591 with supply personnel from 1st Avn Bde Gp, who in turn contacted the Inventory Control Center, Vietnam. The requirement has been processed through 103-VH and sent to 00165 for further action.


(1) Observation: The 17th AG(C) is experiencing a shortage of signal personnel, which is beginning to affect the operation of the Group radio telephonc and teletypc system. The size of the corps area forces reliance on this system.

(2) Evaluation: The 17th AG(C) is authorized 266 signal personnel and, throughout the quarter, has operated at a level of 175-185 personnel. A break out of personnel shortages by MOS is attached as Inclosure 7. The most critical shortage is that of the OSC MOS. The 17th AG(C) places considerable reliance on High Frequency Radio Communications in both the voice and radio teletypc modes. The operation of high frequency radio requires qualified personnel. All communications systems of the 17th AG(C) operate on a 24 hour basis and the personnel authorization provides a minimum number of personnel to sustain this operation. Any further decrease in personnel will adversely affect the effectiveness of the 17th AG(C) Communications System.
AVB.CB-SC

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, No 0608-65 (AD) (U)

(c) Recommendations: That continued emphasis be placed on assigning personnel with signal MOS's to signal positions and that efforts be made to obtain personnel in sufficient numbers to fill existing shortages.

(d) Command Action: Notification of signal MOS shortages was made to the SigO, 1st AVN Bde via monthly reports, message and personal contact. The Signal Office, 17th AG(C) continuously monitors the signal personnel status to insure proper placement of personnel and to maintain an even balance of personnel between the units of the 17th AG(C). Subordinate unit commanders were reminded in the October Commanders Conference to utilize signal personnel in signal positions.

h. (U) Notification. Engineer Construction Projects (17th Group)

(1) Observation: Certain engineer projects have commenced but for a variety of reasons have not been completed.

(2) Evaluation: Projects that have been approved, funded, and Construction Directives issued are not started on time, or are not completed. The delays are due primarily to shifting priorities which result in uncompleted projects.

(3) Recommendation: That the construction projects be periodically reviewed with the goal of completing those deferred due to a change in priorities. The justifications for the projects are still valid and the units concerned still consider them as mission essential.

7 Incl

as

Colonel, R.

Incls 1, 2, 3 and 7 wd HQ, DA Censoring

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CO, 42AD AB(C) CO, 7/17TH AG
CO, 223AD AB(C) CO, 201st AG

10
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AVFA-GC-HIBT (15 Nov 69) 1st Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RG56 FOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 8 DEC 1969

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

1. (U) This headquarters has evaluated subject ORLL and concurs, except as noted below.

2. (C) Reference para 10(1)(a): Last sentence should read "The 12th Bn is now carried as the 12th Local Force Bn possibly subordinated to Khanh Hoa P.U."

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

FREDERICK E. MOLLAND
1LT AG
4SST AG

CF:
2 - AGSFOR, DA
1 - CO, 17th Avn Gp (Combat)

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1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the contents as indorsed.
2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

   a. Paragraph 2f(1), page 9 discusses ammunition pouches for .38 caliber ammunition. Concur. This headquarters, in conjunction with the Inventory Control Center, Vietnam (ICC-V) processed a requisition to CONUS (United States Army Weapons Command) for the Air Force cartridge holder caliber .38, FSN 1095-819-8591. The requisition was rejected by the Weapons Command with instructions to requisition the item from the Air Force. The ICC-V has requested authority from USAW to order the item.

   b. Paragraph 2g, page 9 and Inclosures 2 and 7 discuss critical personnel shortages. The 17th Aviation Group (Combat) reports critical shortages in MOS's 67N30 (UH-1 Helicopter Repairman), 67U30 (CH-47 Helicopter Repairman) and 67X30 (CH-54 Helicopter Repairman). Existing resources are negligible. USAV has approached and partially resolved the problem through requisitions. USAV now requisitions 67W20 personnel (Rotary Wing Technical Inspectors) to fill positions designated for fill by Technical Inspectors with specific qualifications, i.e., 67N30, 67U30 and 67X30. The 17th Aviation Group (Combat) has received a proportionate share of 67W20 personnel. The 17th Aviation Group (Combat) also reports a critical shortage of 05B (Radio Operator) personnel. The 1st Aviation Brigade has not received inputs of 05B personnel during the past 90 days. This situation has been magnified in the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) due to large rotation losses during the same 90 day period. USAV is aware of the shortage and is taking steps to correct it where possible. Critical shortages reported by the 17th Aviation Group (Combat) will be acted upon as personnel arrive. All personnel within an occupational specialty are assigned on a pro-rata basis. The 17th Aviation Group (Combat) receives an
AVBAGC-O (15 Nov 69) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (XL) (U)

Every attempt is made to maintain equitable distribution throughout the 1st Aviation Brigade.

c. Paragraph 2h, page 10 addresses changes in Engineer Construction priorities. The USAFRV Facilities Review Board is in continuous session. All base development projects that were halted are under evaluation by the Board, and recommendations are being made to continue or discontinue projects in order of priority. In the case of Operational Support Construction, priorities are originally established by the respective field force commander. If projects are halted due to higher priority work, the project is reevaluated by the field force engineer, with respect to its degree of completion and feasibility of completing the work at the user level. If completion is not feasible on a self-help basis, the project is continued in an active status and work resumed as engineer support becomes available. The priority is determined by the field force commander.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ARTHUR W. LITTLE
CPT AGC
Asst AG

Copy 2d Ind Furni:
CO, 17th Avn Gp (Cbt)
TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1969 from Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) and comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

   a. Reference item concerning "Rotary Wing Instrument Qualification", page 7, paragraph 2e(1): Concur in the recommendation and command action. USARV Reg 95-25, 29 Aug 68, requires unit commanders to implement an aggressive and continuing instrument training program for all aviators under their command.

   b. Reference item concerning "Survival, Escape and Evasion Training", page 8, paragraph 2e(2); concur. Follow up action is being taken by USARV Aviation.

   c. Reference item concerning "Engineer Construction Projects", page 10, paragraph 2h; concur. Almost all US engineer troop effort is committed to the Highway Upgrade Program with operational support missions getting the bulk of the remaining resources. Units should review their projects, delete those not absolutely essential and use self help where possible to complete essential projects.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

L. D. MURRAY
CPT, ASC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cpl Furr
17th Avn Cp
1st Avn Bde
GPOP-DT (15 Nov 69) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 17th Aviation Group (Combat) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U)
HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 5 FEB 1970
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]
C. L. SHORT
CPT, AOC
AAG AG
# OPERATIONAL RESULTS

1. **Results.**

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| 17th AG(C)            | 5,922         | 14,130        | 95                  | 3,634        |

2. **Losses.** None

*Operational results are reported as combined totals by the 201st Avn Co. and the 58th Avn Det.*
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17
Accident Experience for the Quarter.

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Incl. 6
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 17th Aviation Group

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug 69 to 31 Oct 69.

CO, 17th Aviation Group

15 Novemb.. 1969

N/A

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310