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D/A ltr., 29 Apr 1980

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (20 Nov 68) FOR OT UT 683276

26 November 1968

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 16th
Combat Aviation Group, [redacted]

AD 394157

SEE DISTRIBUTION

⑨ Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Jul 68.

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter. *⑪ 10 Aug 68 ⑫ 14p.*

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure that the Army realizes current benefits from lessons learned during recent operations.

3. To insure that the information provided through the Lessons Learned Program is readily available on a continuous basis, a cumulative Lessons Learned Index containing alphabetical listings of items appearing in the reports is compiled and distributed periodically. Recipients of the attached report are encouraged to recommend items from it for inclusion in the Index by completing and returning the self-addressed form provided at the end of this report.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

⑮ ACSFOR

1 Incl
as

⑰ OT-UT-

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 16TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP
APO San Francisco 96337

AVGM-SC

10 Aug 68

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th CAG for period ending 31 July 68, RCS, CSFOR - 65 (RI) (U)

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Forces Development
DA (ACSFOR, DA)
Washington, DC 20310

1. (C) SECTION I, OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

a. (C) Command:

(1) General:

(a) This quarter was characterized by the utilization of the group's assets to provide aviation support throughout the ICTZ. Major activities were highlighted by divisional operations along the mountain ranges bordering the coastal plains from Khe Sanh to Ba To. In support of these divisional operations the three battalions of the group were actively involved with combat assaults, troop lifts, resupply, repositioning of artillery units (including the 155 HOW battery by use of the CH-47B helicopter) and extensive use of the group's visual reconnaissance and surveillance capability.

(b) Enemy activities: On 27 June and 12 July 68, Marble Mountain Air Facility was attacked by enemy fire with 122mm rockets (8 on 27 June; 9 on 12 July). Resultant damage was the destruction of one building and minor damage to one vehicle. There was no significant aircraft loss or damage during the above attacks.

b. (U) Mission: 16th CAG continues to remain under operational control of CG, III MAF with the organizational mission of providing command (less operational control), administration, technical supervision and professionalism of all non-divisional US Army units in the ICTZ. There has been no change in this unit's mission during the period covered by this report.

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FOR OT UT
683276

Inclosure 1 |

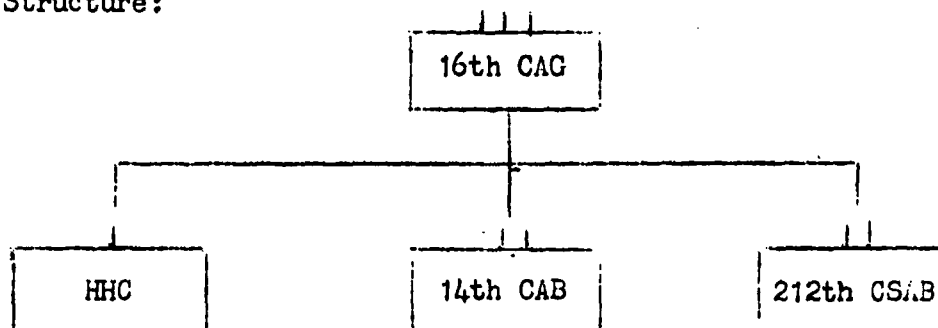
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c. (U) Organization:

(1) Structure:



(2) Organizational Changes:

(a) The 132nd ASHC was assigned to the 14th CAB on 23 May 68.

(b) The 272nd ASHC was assigned to the 308th CAB on 6 June 68.

(c) The 308th CAB was released from attachment to 16th CAG on 1 July 68, and assigned to the 101st Air Cav Div.

(3) Station List: (Inclosure 1)

d. (U) Personnel:

(1) Command Relationship

(a) Group Headquarters

CO: Col Daniel G Gust 036330 Thru 3 July

Col William C Tyrrell 070541 4 July - Present

DCC: LTC Thorvold R Torgerson 069818 Thru 29 June

LTC Ronnie M Cory 065207 30 June - Present

S1: MAJ James A Boyd 0402196

S2: MAJ Herdon Godfrey Jr. 01935345 Thru 31 May

CPT Jorj C Head 05218635 1 June - Present

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S3: LTC Rennie M Cory 065207 Thru 29 June
 LTC Milton Benz 01861990 30 June - Present
 S4: MAJ Franklin N Harris 089499 Thru - 30 June
 MAJ George P Johanknecht 074734 1 July - Present

(b) Unit Commanders

14th CAB LTC Ray M Carson 0F106541 Thru 6 July
 LTC Charles A Klopp 071820 7 July - Present
 212th CSAB LTC Wilber A Middleton 070141 Thru 13 June 68
 LTC Bernard W Burns 073296 14 June - Present
 308th CAB LTC Charles S Steen 066513

(2) Unit Strength

(a) Military

Subordinate Unit

HHC	Off Auth	O/H	WO Auth	O/H	EM Auth	O/H	Total Auth	O/H
	17	22	2	3	51	98	70	123

(b) Civilian

HHC	DAC	VN Auth	O/H	3DNAT	Contractor
	0	5	3	0	0

c. (U) Aircraft Status

	UH-1D	U-21	OH-6A	U-6A
Auth	2	1	2	1
O/H	2	1	2	1

f. (C) Operational Results (See Inclosure 2.)

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g. (U) Intelligence

h. (C) Plans, Operations, Training

(1) Plans: None

(2) Operations: Group operational activities were coordinated through the three group Army Aviation Elements (AAE) located in the three major headquarters supported by the group. Significant activities occurring during the reporting period for these AAE are outlined below.

(a) AAE, III MAF:

1 Increased support of Prairie Fire operations from the Phu Bai FOB and the evacuation of Kham Duc Special Forces Camp.

2 Establishment of radio relay and command and control aircraft support for Prairie Fire operations.

3 Flight Following and Air/Fire Support Coordination instructions for ICTZ were updated.

4 Helipad directory for ICTZ was updated.

5 Coordinated helicopter support of 1st Marine Division operations Mameluke Thrust, Allen Brook and Swift Saber. These operations involved the clearing of areas 15-20 miles around DaNang.

6 Coordinated helicopter support of operation Eager Yankee in the TF X-Ray coastal area. This operation involved extensive helicopterborne operations in the 3rd Marine Division area.

7 Re-evaluation of aerial surveillance (OV-1) aircraft missions to effect improved support for PCV.

(b) I Corps AAE: Action undertaken by the I Corps AAE during the period 1 May 1968 through 31 July 1968 that are worthy of note follow:

1 Increased VNAF support of ARVN combat operations. Close liaison between the I Corps AAE, I Corps G3 Air Advisor and Air Force Advisory Team #5 (AFAT 5) has resulted in a marked increase of VNAF helicopter support of ARVN combat operations. VNAF helicopters have participated with 16th Gp Aslt Helicopters in all ARVN combat assaults during this reporting period with the exception of one operation where the LZ's were not capable of accommodating CH-34 helicopters.

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2 Increased helicopter support for Province Advisors. Senior Advisor of Quang Nam Province and Quang Tin Province are now being supported daily by helicopters OPCON to the Commanding Officer, I Corps Advisory Group. Senior Advisors of Quang Tri, Thua Thien and Quang Ngai Provinces are receiving helicopter support from Provisional Corps Vietnam and the Americal Division on a daily basis. This arrangement for helicopter support of Province Senior Advisors was approved by the Commanding General, III MAF and has resulted in a marked increase of helicopter flying time available to Province Senior Advisors.

(c) LAE, FMAW: The LAE, FMAW was actively engaged in the planning and execution of the following significant activities.

1 A UH-1 pilot exchange program between FMAW and 1st ACD (1/9th CAV) was effected during the period 1 May - 10 June 68. The purpose of this program was to evaluate operating procedures of the 1/9th CAV for possible adoption by Marine Forces. Although Marine reports were critical on some areas of operational procedures, they recommended that the exchange program be continued.

2 Operation Duckblind which was in the planning stage for two months became operational on 15 July 68. The Army has provided two officers and one EM to give technical assistance, equipment support and crew training to the Marine personnel involved in the operation.

3 Operation Thor: Army aircraft were used to support this operation as required visual reconnaissance aircraft requirements were beyond the capabilities of Marine assets.

4 The LAE is presently involved in a study to determine the visual reconnaissance/observation requirements for the 1st & 3rd Marine Divisions.

5 Conducted briefings for Marine Staff Personnel on the intelligence gathering capabilities of the OV-1 and the capabilities of the OH-6 observation helicopter.

(3) Training: None

i. (U) Logistics: None

j. (U) Information: None

k. (U) Surgeon: None

l. (U) Signal: None

m. (U) Aviation Safety:

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th CAG for period ending 31 July 68, RCS, CSFOR - 65 (RI) (U)

(1) Aviation Safety: The group flew 66,282 hours during the quarter, with an accident rate of 24.13 per 100,000 flying hours. There were sixteen (16) major accidents: ten UH-1s, four O-1s, one OH-6 and one CH-47. Eight were pilot induced seven were material failures and one was supervisory error.

(2) Total accident experience is as follows:

	<u>R/W</u>	<u>F/W</u>	<u>Total</u>
Major accidents	12	4	16
Minor accidents	0	0	0
Incidents	13	4	17
Forced landings	8	1	9
Precautionary landings	13	7	20

2. (U) Section II LESSONS LEARNED: COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. (U) Personnel: None

b. (C) Operations:

(1) Night target tactical air support.

(a) Observation: Night tactical air support is difficult to obtain.

(b) Evaluation: It is extremely difficult to get responsive night Tactical Air to strike targets developed by Army SLAR/Infrared Systems in mountainous terrain. The present USAF/USA/USMC team concept only works for targets located on the coastal plains and for most daylight targets. It does not provide the responsiveness and reliability on night missions as that of organic assets.

(c) Recommendation: Evaluate present system for possible renovation to meet the requirement to provide support against night targets developed by night surveillance means.

(2) Aviation assets

(a) Observation: The drain on aviation assets is undermining the mounted warfare capability of III M.F. and the ICTZ.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th CAG for period ending 31 July 68, RCS, CSFOR - 65 (RI) (U)

(b) Evaluation: Based on a recent USARV study, there is a requirement for four additional AHC in the ICTZ. These Aviation Units are needed to support Prov Corps Vietnam, two ARVN divisions, CORDS and the Special Forces. In addition, one Armed Helicopter Company is needed to support the many US and ARVN operations which frequently extend beyond Arty range of fire bases.

(c) Recommendations:

1 To reduce the deficit of utility helicopters within the ICTZ, an additional four AHC should be assigned to the 16th Combat Aviation Group to provide general support to PCV units, two ARVN divisions, CORDS and the Special Forces.

2 Further recommend that one armed helicopter company be assigned to the 16th Combat Aviation Group for general support of tactical operations within I Corps.

c. (U) Intelligence: None

d. (U) Logistics: None

e. (U) Organizational: None

f. (U) Other

(1) Surgeon

(a) Ballistic Helmets

1 Observation: The greatest problem with the ballistic helmet seems to be in sizing which does not correspond with that of the AFH-5. Few can wear the medium-sized ballistic helmet and find it comfortable. This problem has resulted in a near depletion of the stock of large ballistic helmets and an abundance of medium and small sizes.

2 Evaluation: The role of the ballistic helmet in the prevention of head injury seems to have been fairly well established since its introduction into Vietnam. It has been found, however, that many crew members do not wear this helmet, preferring the older AFH-5. The most common reason given for not wearing the ballistic helmet is discomfort. It has been learned that the helmet can be modified for better fit and better wearability with no decrease in protection. By cutting out a semicircle in the polystyrene liner so the earphone can recess more completely, and removing a coil or two of the earphone springs, a more comfortable fit is possible. It also helps to tie the earphones fully out and to use the older sizing pads. A block of wood may be placed between the earguards when the helmet is stored to effect a slight increase in lateral size.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th CAG for period ending 31 July 68, RCS, CSFOR - 65 (RI) (U)

3 Recommendations:

- a Research be conducted on the ballistic helmet to afford overall wearability
- b Individual modifications be made on helmets which may improve the fit.

(b) Field Sanitation Teams

1 Observations: The role of the field sanitation teams in environmental health is an established fact in those remote areas outside fixed installations where PA&E or Public Works does not function.

2 Evaluation: In the fixed base operations where PA&E or Public Works is responsible for environmental health, the field sanitation teams appointed UP USARV Reg. 40-19 supplement the major duties of these contractual agencies. On occasion, as recently, PA&E loses certain of these contractual responsibilities and the field sanitation teams become immediately of instrumental importance in the areas of rodent control, insect control and field sanitation. The 16 hour instruction period set up by the surgeons section under the USARV Reg. 40-19 then becomes an invaluable asset in maintaining the health of the command.

3 Recommendations:

- a That UP USARV Reg. 40-19 the Field Sanitation Teams continue to be appointed and properly instructed in field and environmental health.
- b That surgeons make full use of these teams as an invaluable aid, supplemental or primary, in maintaining the health of the command.

3. (U) SECTION III HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY SURVEY INFORMATION. NONE

2 Incl
1 15th CAG Sta List
2 16th CAG Operational Results

William C. Tyrrell
WILLIAM C TYRRELL
COLONEL, CE
Commanding Officer

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AVBA-C (10 Aug 68) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group
for Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (P1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384 SEP 5 1968

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOF-OT,
APO 96558

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to
be adequate, and concurs with the contents.

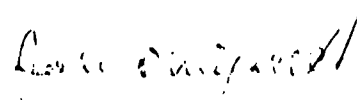
2. (C) The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Paragraph 1b, page 1. The 16th Combat Aviation Group's mission
is incorrectly stated. Correct mission as stated in the Brigade TOI is
to provide aviation support, as directed, to US, ARVN, and other Free
World Military Assistance Forces for the conduct of combat and logistical
counterinsurgency operations.

b. Paragraph 2b(2), page 6. This headquarters is unable to
evaluate the requirement for additional AHC in the I CTZ. Assignment
priorities for AHC are determined by MACV based on recommendations made
by major tactical headquarters.

c. Paragraph 2f(1)(a), page 7. Research on the anti-fragmentation
helmet has been and is being conducted by the appropriate Department of
the Army agency. Recommended individual modification to the ballistic
helmet is contained in DA MWO 10-8415-202-30/4 which has been repro-
duced in the October 1967 Supply and Maintenance Letter of the 1st
Aviation Brigade.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JOHN D. MIXSELL, JR.
CPT. AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (10 Aug 68) 2d Ind (C) MAJ Klingman/ds/LBN 4433
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 16th CAG for period ending
31 July 68, RCS, CSFOR - 65 (RI) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2 5 OCT 1968

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1968 from Headquarters, 16th Combat Aviation Group.

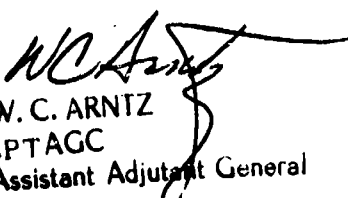
2. (C) Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning aviation assets, page 6, paragraph 2b(2): No additional assault helicopter companies are now available or forecast to be available in the near future.

b. Reference item concerning ballistic helmets, page 7, paragraph 2f(1)(a): Concur. Research is being conducted on the overall wearability of the ballistic helmet. Modification kits designed to correct deficiencies in helmets currently in RVN have been issued to using units.

c. Reference item concerning the use and training of field sanitation teams, under the provisions of USAF Regulation 40-19, page 8, paragraph 2f(1)(b): Concur. There is no plan to discontinue this program.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. C. ARNTZ
CPTAGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
HQ 1st Avn Bde
HQ 16th CAG

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GPOP-DT (10 Aug 68) 3d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 16th Cbt Avn Gp for Period Ending
31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 14 NOV 1968

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

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

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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STATION LIST

16th COMBAT AVIATION GROUP

Chu Lai:

14th CAB
21st RAC (212th CSAB)
71st AHC
132nd ASHC
176th AHC
178th ASHC

APO 96325
APO 96374
APO 96325
APO 96325
APO 96325
APO 96325

DaNang:

16th CAG
212th CSAB
245th SAC
282nd AHC

APO 96337
APO 96337
APO 96337
APO 96337

Duc Pho:

174th AHC

APO 96217

Hue Phu Bai

131st SAC (212th CSAB)
220th RAC (212th CSAB)
Corps Prov Avn Co (212th CSAB)

APO 96308
APO 96308
APO 96308

Incl 1

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16th CAG OPERATION
STATISTICS QUARTER ENDING 31 July 68

Subordinate Unit	Sorties Flown	Troops Lifted	Cargo (ton)	Enemy KIA	Structures Dem Dest	Airt Confid Loss	A/C Damage
Hq, 16th CAG	2832	917	10	0	0	0	1

* Aircraft Damaged: 1 - OH-6A

Incl 2

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5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)			
CO, 16th Combat Aviation Group			
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