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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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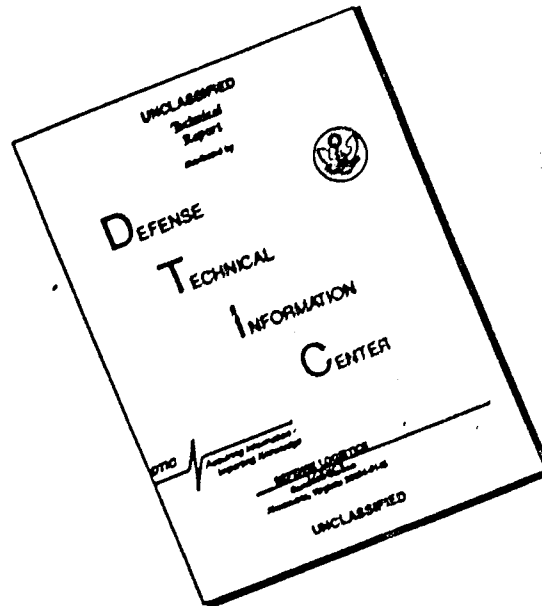
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (18 Feb 69)

FOR OT UT 684160

3 March 1969

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 268th
Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1968 (U)**

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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.

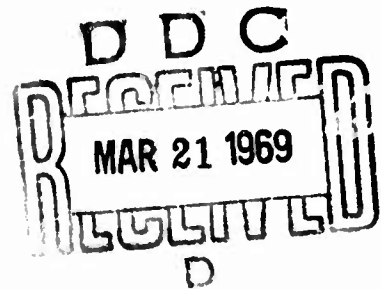
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 268TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96316

AVGD-E-SC

11 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (C) General.

(1) There has been no change in the mission of the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion.

(2) One organizational change took place on 15 September 1968 with the assignment of the 355th Aviation Company (Hvy Hel). (See Incl 1).

(3) The following personnel changes took place in the battalion command group and principle staff:

(a) BN CO. LTC Orlando E Gonzales, 079304 replaced LTC Wayne B Sargent, 061671 effective 4 October 1968.

(b) S-2. MAJ Carlton L Schelhorn, 072983 replaced MAJ Curtis S Crouch, Jr., 080222 effective 1 August 1968.

(c) EX O. MAJ Carlton L Schelhorn, 072983 replaced LTC Richard I Gillingham, 079299 effective 8 September 1968.

(d) S-2. MAJ Douglas E Haviland, 05301865 replaced MAJ Carlton L Schelhorn, 072983 effective 17 September 1968.

(e) S-3. MAJ William W Fraker, 0F117169 replaced LTC Bobby J Maddox, 082767 effective 4 October 1968.

(f) S-4. MAJ Charles W Freeman, 04049482 replaced CPT Carl J Pritzl, 08252279 effective 23 August 1968.

b. (C) Personnel. The authorized and assigned strength of the battalion as of 31 October 1968 was as follows: (See Incl 2)

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>DAC</u>	<u>VN</u>
AUTH:	135	285	1,641	0	83
ASSG:	107	194	1,391	0	73

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c. (U) Intelligence. None

d. (C) Operations. (See Incl 3)

(1) The 268th CAB provided aviation support for one major operation conducted by the Capitol ROK Infantry Division during this period. On 5 August 1968, the battalion furnished 30 UH1D/H, 8 UH1B, and 6 CH47 aircraft for a regimental size operation. The battalion aircraft completed 300 sorties lifting 1,953 troops and 50 tons of cargo.

(2) The subordinate units of the battalion continued normal operations with two assault helicopter companies in direct support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, one assault helicopter company in direct support of the Capitol ROK Infantry Division, and three assault support helicopter companies and one aviation company (Hvy Hel) in general support of II CTZ.

e. (C) Training.

(1) All battalion units are scheduling and conducting mandatory recurring training.

(2) Additional training emphasized during this period has been crew training to include aircraft emergency procedures, aerial machine gun firing techniques, familiarization with the 2.75 inch rocket 17 pound warhead, refueling and general aircraft safety, and instrument flying procedures.

(3) Unit SIP's are continuing to conduct 90-day standardization rides in conjunction with operational missions providing the maximum practical benefit to the pilots and efficient utilization of aircraft.

(4) The 355th Aviation Company (Hvy Hel) sent 10 officers and enlisted men to a 4 day course of instruction pertaining to the Special Purpose Module for CH54 aircraft.

f. (C) Logistics.

(1) The authorized and assigned aircraft as of 31 October 1968 were as follows: (See Incl 4)

	<u>UH1D/H</u>	<u>UH1B/C</u>	<u>OH6</u>	<u>CH47</u>	<u>CH54</u>	<u>U6</u>
AUTH:	94	32	3	32	9	1
ASG:	72	29	0	31	9	1

(2) The following are existing equipment shortages within the battalion:

- (a) Tool kit, Aircraft Mechanic, Gen
- (b) M49C Tanker
- (c) Compressor, Recip 4 CFM
- (d) Compressor, Recip 5 CFM
- (e) Generator, 1.5 KW
- (f) Riveter, Blind, Pneu
- (h) Glasses, Sun

INCL

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(i) Helmet, MPH 6

(j) Firetruck

g. (U) Civil Affairs. The 268th CAB conducted the following Civil Affairs projects during this reporting period:

(1) The 433rd Medical Detachment, 268th CAB conducted weekly visits to four villages and a refugee camp. The detachment treated a total of 1,620 patients and trained 5 nurses, as well as distributing food, clothing, and medical supplies. During these visits the medical personnel emphasized raising health standards and preventive medicine techniques to responsible village officials in an effort to improve overall living conditions.

(2) The 546th Medical Detachment, 268th CAB operates a clinic twice each week to treat local civilians. A marked decrease has been noted in gastric ailments among children since this clinic was started.

(3) The 268th CAB distributed the following items to various villages, hospitals, and refugee camps during this period:

(a)	Cement	125 bags
(b)	Corrugated roofing	160 sheets
(c)	Lumber	4,000 board feet
(d)	Food	250 pounds
(e)	Clothing	100 pounds
(f)	Health items (soap)	308 pounds
(g)	Medical supplies	

(4) The 61st AHC distributed 75 bars of soap and 40 pounds of candy to the Bong Son refugee camp, and 250 bars of soap, 40 wooden ammo boxes (for furniture), and 10 sheets of corrugated roofing to the 40th ARVN Regt.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observation, Evaluation and Recommendations.

a. (C) Personnel.

(1) OBSERVATION. A critical shortage of cooks, helicopter mechanics, and clerical personnel exists within the battalion. Further, the experience level of replacements is extremely low in all fields. This is especially true of aircraft mechanics and aviators.

(2) EVALUATION. The large number of personnel departing in late October has created a situation of shortages in all MOS's. Although replacements are expected, if the current trend continues, the low experience level will necessitate an enormous amount of time being spent in training new personnel, and result in longer down time on aircraft. This will detract immeasurably from the accomplishment of unit missions, especially since the bulk of inexperience lies in the maintenance and aviator MOS's.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That personnel replacement procedures be reviewed

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3

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in order to furnish a more equitable distribution of experienced replacements.

b. (C) Operations.

(1) Aircraft and Crew Capabilities and Limitations.

(a) OBSERVATION. Ground force commanders are not fully aware of the capabilities and limitations of supporting aircraft and crews.

(b) EVALUATION. The education of ground forces in the effective utilization of supporting aircraft continues to be a major problem. Commanders do not recognize the requirement for daily maintenance on aircraft, failing to realize that an aircraft which is not properly maintained on a daily basis will soon require extensive maintenance causing the aircraft to be grounded for a long period of time. Commanders often fail to consider the capabilities and limitations of aircraft crew members. Because of the relative inexperience of the majority of assigned pilots, situations continually arise which place aircraft and crews in precarious positions, needlessly endangering lives and leading to the loss of valuable equipment. The commander can avoid loss of life and equipment in many cases by simply heeding the advice of a pilot who feels his capabilities are to be exceeded in the performance of a mission; i.e., flying at night in mountainous terrain during marginal weather conditions.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That all aviation commanders be reminded of the absolute necessity of insuring that commanders of ground forces are fully aware of the capabilities and limitations of aircraft and crews. Further, that aviation commanders pursue the education of ground forces from the standpoint that it is a never-ending process of indoctrination concerning the conservation of valuable, nonexpendable resources.

(2) DA Form 759.

(a) OBSERVATION. A critical shortage of DA Form 759, part 1 and 2 exists at this time.

(b) EVALUATION. AR 95-64, dated 1 August 1968, requires all units to implement a new system of maintaining aviator individual flight records utilizing DA Form 759, part 1 and 2, dated 1 March 1968. At present these forms are not available for issue. Units are finding it necessary to modify the previous edition of Form 759 in an attempt to comply with AR 95-64, however, the modified form does not meet the requirements of the regulation. Other units are simply not complying with AR 95-64.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That immediate steps be taken to issue units the necessary supply of DA Form 759, part 1 and 2.

- c. (U) Training. None
- d. (U) Intelligence. None
- e. (C) Logistics.

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(1) OBSERVATION. Assault Support Helicopter Companies (TOE 1-253F), and Aviation Companies (Heavy Hel) (TOE 1-259G) are not authorized a Unit Property Book Officer (MOS 761A).

(2) EVALUATION. Units of the battalion not presently authorized a Property Book Officer encounter numerous problems in the complicated area of supply and property accountability. These units assign an officer or warrant officer with no supply training, the additional duty as Property Book Officer. This does not adequately compensate for the lack of well trained specialists in positions which are so critical to the successful accomplishment of the unit mission.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That TOE 1-258F (Assault Support Helicopter Co), and TOE 1-259G (Aviation Co, Heavy Hel) be changed to add the authorization for one Property Book Officer (MOS 761A).

f. (U) Organization. None

g. (U) Other. None

- 4 Incl
- 1. Organization
- ~~2. Unit Strengths~~ wd, Hq, DA
- 3. Operational Results
- 4. Aircraft Status

Orlando E. Gonzales
ORLANDO E. GONZALES
LTC, TC
Commanding

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AVGD-SC (11 Nov 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, MCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

DA, Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group, APO 96240 25 November 1968

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the basic letter from the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion. Pen and ink corrections of minor errors have been inserted.

2. (C) This headquarters submits the following comments.

a. Section 1, Operations.

(1) Paragraph 1a, page 1: CONCUR.

(2) Paragraph 1b, page 1, and inclosure 2: CONCUR. However, authorized strength figures are from MTOE and do not reflect actual manning level authorizations. The battalion is authorized a total of 1951 personnel under current manning levels.

(3) Paragraphs 1c through 1g, pages 2 and 3: CONCUR.

b. Section 2, Lessons Learned.

(1) Paragraph 2a, Personnel, pages 3 and 4:

(a) NONCONCUR with OBSERVATION. Following are personnel statistics for the battalion as of 31 October 1968:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASG</u>
Cook	42	30
UH-1 Mechanic	330	346
CH-47 Mechanic	146	180
Clerk	51	27
Supply	14	8

These figures indicate shortages in some areas but no shortage of helicopter mechanics.

(b) CONCUR with EVALUATION.

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AVGD-SC (11 Nov 68) 1st Ind 25 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(c) CONCUR with RECOMMENDATION. This headquarters reviews records of all incoming personnel. The 268th Combat Aviation Battalion has received its prorata share of experienced incoming personnel.

(2) Paragraph 2b(1), Aircraft and Crew Capabilities and Limitations, page 4: CONCUR. This headquarters is publishing an aviation orientation packet to aid in advising supported ground commanders.

(3) Paragraph 2b(2), DA Form 759, page 4: CONCUR. The 1st Aviation Brigade has been queried telephonically on the problem. Group units have sufficient stocks of DA Forms 759-1. No DA Forms 759 have been distributed to group units through the pinpoint system.

(4) Paragraph 2c, Logistics, page 5: CONCUR.


(a) Recommend no action on Assault Support Helicopter Company pending DA publication of standard MTOE.

(b) Since Heavy Helicopter Company will retain present TOE under DA standardized MTOE program, the unit has been advised to submit MTOE under the provisions of USARV Circular 310-44.

c. Section 3, Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.
The 268th Combat Aviation Battalion had no input during the quarter for the DA survey on escape, evasion, and survival.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

4 Incl
nc


JOSEPH C. LE FLORE
1LT, AGC
Adjutant

CF:
2 ACSFOR, DA, Washington, DC 20310
8 CO, 268th CAB

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AVFA-GC-OT (11 Nov 68) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

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

(C) This headquarters has evaluated subject report and indorsement and makes the following comments:

a. Reference paragraph 2a, section 2 (C), page 3, Personnel. Non-concur with basic document for reasons stated in the 1st Indorsement. The main reason for the personnel difficulties described in the basic document appears to be the lack of a good infusion program. Infusion of the unit is being studied by the 17th Aviation Group and monitored by this headquarters.

b. Reference paragraph 2b(1), section 2, page 4, Aircraft and Crew Capabilities and Limitations. Concur. Reference paragraph 2b(2) of 1st Indorsement, same subject as above, additional distribution should be made to aviation units of USARV pamphlet titled Handbook on CH-47 (Chinook). This pamphlet also includes data on the CH-54 helicopter.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


ROBERT CRISWELL
CPT, MAC
AMC AB

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AVBA-C (11 Nov 68) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

DEC 1 5 1968

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHCO-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-CP,
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 as indorsed.

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

a. Paragraph 2a(1), page 3. The total strength of the 17th Group
has improved during the period 1-25 November and it is anticipated that
strength parity with other groups will be reached by 30 November. This
headquarters will continue to allocate replacements in such a manner as
to maintain parity of assigned strengths compared to authorized strengths
by MOS among groups. The experience level of replacements is low
throughout the command, but distribution of personnel assets is equitable
as pertains to experience level.

b. Paragraph 2b(1), page 4. USARV Regulation 95-26, published
10 November 1968, establishes a policy for indoctrination of commanders
and Army aviators in aircraft operating procedures. Capabilities and
limitations of aircraft and crews are specifically covered in subject
areas for commanders'/advisors' aviation orientation.

c. Paragraph 2b(2), page 4. DA Forms 759 and 759-1, dated 1 Mar 68,
are not yet available through normal supply channels in USARV or the AG
Publications Depot, Japan. As an interim measure, copies of the forms,
less the interleaved carbon, have been reproduced and distributed by
HQ, USARV. Recommend that necessary emphasis be placed on making these
forms available through normal publications supply channels.

d. Paragraph 2e, page 4. The standardized MTOE 1-258G for Assault
Support Helicopter Companies was submitted to DA proposing a Unit Supply
Technician, WO, MOS 761A. The approved MTOE 1-258G, implemented by
USARPAC GO 771, dated 22 Nov 68, does not authorize the Unit Supply Tech-
nician position. A unit Executive Officer, O3, has been added to the
Assault Support Helicopter Company. This officer could assume the additional

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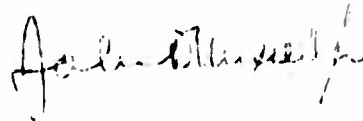
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AVBA-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1966, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

responsibilities as unit property book officer. The Aviation Company
(Heavy Helicopter) TOE 1-259G has been modified to standardize like
units. This MTOE proposes to add one Unit Supply Technician, WO, MOS
761A. The proposed MTOE has been submitted and is being staffed at
USARV.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JOHN D. MIXSELL
MAJ, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (11 Nov 68) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, LCS CSFOR-65 (R1)(U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: HQUART, APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1968 from Headquarters, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion.

2. Reference item concerning DA Form 759, page 4, paragraph 2b(2) and 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2c. Concur. This headquarters has taken action on this matter with DA, USARPAC and USAFJ. The first shipment of these forms is due to arrive at USAFJ Publication Center in December 1968. They will be forwarded to USAFV.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. G. ARMIT
CAP, USA
Assistant Adjutant General

GPOP-DT (11 Nov 68) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 268th Cbt Avn Bn for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

24 JAN 1969

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

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

2. Reference 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2b: The ground commanders'
lack of appreciation of the capabilities and limitations of supporting
aircraft and crews is repeatedly expressed by aviation commands.
Since the problem appears to be universal throughout the Army, CONUS
branch schools and USACGSC should stress this subject.

3. Reference 4th Indorsement, paragraph 2: During the period 18 Sep 68
to 27 Dec 68 the Printing and Publications Center, Kawasaki, Japan,
shipped to USARV a total of 6,900 pads consisting of 345,000 sets of
DA Form 759. During the period 4 Sep 68 to 27 Dec 68, the center
shipped 5,000 pads, consisting of 250,000 sets of DA Form 759-1. The
current stock level of DA Form 759 is none, but the current stock level
of DA Forms 759-1 is 3,027 pads or 151,350 sets. All due-outs for
DA Form 759 established as of 23 Dec 68 have been released. However,
subsequent requisitions received from USARV supply accounts exhausted
stocks on hand and due-outs for DA Form 759 as of 27 Dec 68, totalled
287 pads. These due-outs will be filled as soon as additional stocks
are received from CONUS.

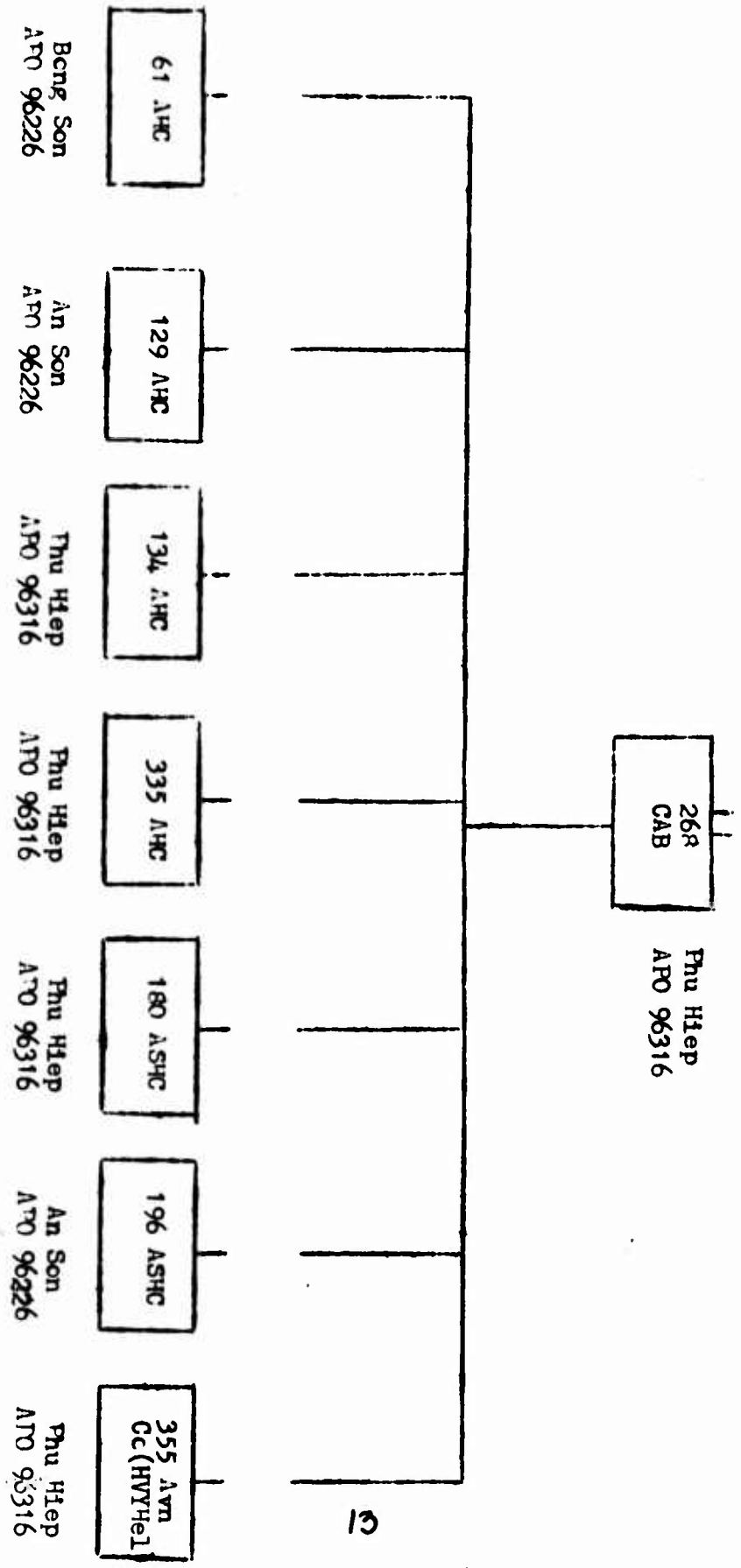
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART 26R CAB
31 OCTOBER 1968



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Incl 1

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OPERATIONAL RESULTS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1968

1. Results.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Sorties Flown</u>	<u>Troops Lifted</u>	<u>Cargo Lifted (Tons)</u>	<u>Enemy KBA</u>	<u>Structures</u>		<u>Sampans</u>	
					<u>Dam</u>	<u>Dest</u>	<u>Dam</u>	<u>Dest</u>
61st AHC	23,691	35,962	442	45	68	115	3	6
129th AHC	33,238	48,639	2,866	58	25	14	0	0
134th AHC	14,385	13,792	386	32	72	78	0	1
335th AHC	19,935	41,122	901	6	5	7	0	0
180th ASHC	9,470	29,492	6,940	0	0	0	0	0
196th ASHC	8,210	38,954	8,601	0	0	0	0	0
355th Avn Co (Hvy Hel)	2,653	0	5,814	0	0	0	0	0
HHC	466	322	17	0	0	0	0	0
<hr/>								
268th CAB	112,048	208,283	26,017	135	170	214	3	7

2. Losses.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Aircraft Lost</u>		<u>Aircraft Damaged</u>	
	<u>Type</u>	<u>Nr</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Nr</u>
61st AHC	UH1H	2	UH1B	8
			UH1H	10
129th AHC		0	UH1B	5
			UH1H	3
134th AHC		0	UH1C	1
335th AHC	UH1H	2	UH1B	2
			UH1H	6
180th ASHC		0	CH47	1
196th ASHC		0		0
355th Avn Co (Hvy Hel)		0	CH54	1
HHC		0		0
<hr/>				
268th CAB		4		37

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Incl 3

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AIRCRAFT STATUS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1968

<u>Unit</u>	<u>UH1D/H</u>		<u>UH1B/C</u>		<u>OH6</u>		<u>CH47</u>		<u>CH54</u>		<u>U6</u>	
	<u>Auth</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>OH</u>	<u>Auth</u>	<u>OH</u>
61st AHC	23	19	8	8								
129th AHC	23	20	8	8								
134th AHC	23	13*	8	7								
335th AHC	23	18	8	6								
180th ASHC							16	16				
196th ASHC							16	15				
355th Avn Co (Hvy Hel)									9	9**		
HHC	2	2***			3	0					1	1
268th CAB	94	72	32	29	3	0	32	31	9	9	1	1

* One lift platoon is assigned to the Republic of Korea.

** Two aircraft, 68-18434 and 68-18450, are on hand as floats. Four aircraft are OPCON to 52d CAB and two aircraft are OPCON to 10th CAB.

*** One UH1H is on Hand Receipt to 17th CAG.

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