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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980	

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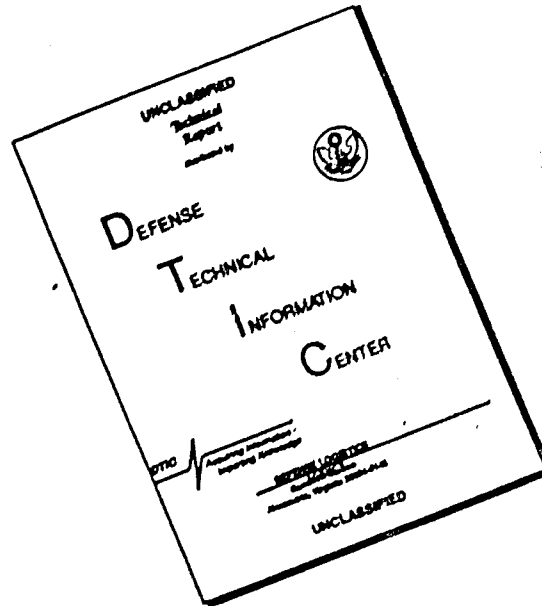
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (22 Aug 69) FOR OT UT 692156

15 September 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 1969 (U)

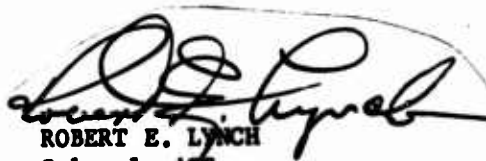
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AD 504488

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.

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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as

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268th Combat Aviation Battalion

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

AVBACB-EC

12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RGS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (C) General. This report covers the period 1 February through 30 April 1969, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15, USARV Regulation 525-15. During the report period the mission of the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to be to provide aviation support to Free World Military Assistance Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone as directed. This support was mainly provided in Pleiku, Binh Dinh, Phu Bon and Phu Yen Provinces.

b. (U) Personnel. An infusion program was started in the newly arrived 238th Aerial Weapons Company to eliminate the rotational hump in March of 70. However, further infusion of the Battalion may be necessary to reduce the rotational hump of March 1970 at Battalion level.

(1) The following Battalion changes of command occurred:

15 March 1969 LTC Garry H. Farmer 087 738 IN

VICE: LTC Orlando E. Gonzales 079 304 TC

(2) The following Company changes of command occurred:

HHC 13 Mar 69 CPT Stuart M. Schram III 05 337 460 IN

VICE: CPT Dale Toler 05 528 881 IN

61st AHC 17 Apr 69 MAJ Maurice G. Hillard 087 165 IN

VICE: MAJ Kenneth E. Hebrank 04 041 310 FA

FOR OT UT

692156

Inclosure

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AVD:CB-2C

12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 266th Combat Aviation Battalion for period
Ending 30 April 1969, HCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

134th AHC - 25 Apr 69 MAJ Charles E. Tester 083 497 FA

VICE: MAJ Robert L. Chancellor 084 138 IN

129th AHC 5 Mar 69 MAJ Emmett R. Conrow 02 291 837 TN

VICE: MAJ Curtis R. Dasonville 088 042 AT

196th ASHC 12 Mar 69 MAJ Ralph R. Stone 04 042 913 TC

VICE: MAJ Edmund L. Vandervort 073 911 AT

(3) The following were changes within the Battalion Staff:

S-2 7 Apr 69 CPT Jesse L. Chapman 0F 100 090 IN

VICE: MAJ Melville D. Gibson 05 402 503 IN

S-3 23 Apr 69 MAJ Lewis E. Kauffman 05 312 299 IN

VICE: MAJ Charles E. Tester 083 497 FA

S-4 5 Mar 69 MAJ Melville D. Gibson 05 402 503 IN

VICE: MAJ Charles G. Freeman 0404 489 IN

S-1 1 Feb 69 MAJ Charles T. Buggs 05 313 519 AG

VICE: MAJ Douglas E. Haviland 05 301 865 IN

(4) Unit Strength appears as Inclosure.I.

c. (C) Intelligence: LZ English, the location of the 61st, was mortared three times resulting in eleven aircraft damaged and three destroyed. The repair and replacement time due to enemy action against the 61st has caused the Battalion to overcommit other units to pick up the 61st missions. The result has been high flying time and an increase in maintenance problems and crew member fatigue. Aircraft of the Battalion have been hit by hostile fire 46 times with 6 aircraft destroyed by ground fire. The Battalion has been credited with 80 KBA. During the latter part of the reporting period the enemy reinforced Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa Province with a Regiment size force estimated at 1500 troops. In the northern part of the AO the enemy has tried to avoid contact but has greatly increased his use of mines and booby traps.

d. (C) Operations.

Incl

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Ending 30 April 1969, ROK CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

(1) Units of the Battalion engaged in combat operations each of the 89 days of the report period. Two major combat airmobile assaults were conducted by the battalion during this period as shown below:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Supported Unit</u>	<u>Aircraft Employed</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Cargo Hauled</u>	<u>Troops Lifted</u>
2 Feb 69	Tiger Div	73	1,822	307.9 Tons	3,734
2 Apr 69	Tiger Div	57	1,255	152.1 Tons	2,821

(2) The Capital ROK Infantry Division (GRID), 173d Airborne Brigade, and the 22d Division (ARVN) continued to be the major units supported by the battalion. The 4th Infantry Division has received substantial support from the CH-47 and CH-54 units. Numerous other support requirements were fulfilled on a mission basis.

(3) The arrival of 238th AWC to An Khe increased the gunship support available to the battalion in the northern half of the AO. The primary mission assigned the 238th AWC is support of the Highway Coordinator providing aerial coverage on QL 19 from Qui Nhon to Pleiku.

(4) Operational results appear as Inclosure 2.

e. (C) Training:

(1) Because of the low experience level among newly assigned aviators and enlisted personnel, Training was an area of continuous command emphasis during the report period. All units publish weekly Training Schedules and conduct mandatory training as required. Training is integrated with operational requirements to the maximum degree possible.

(2) Standardization Instructor Pilots (SIP) conducted 90-day standardization flights as required. Areas of aviation training emphasized were: aircraft emergency procedures, crew duties and aviation safety.

(3) During the report period the following school quotas were filled:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>QUOTAS FILLED</u>
Maint Test Pilot School (GP)	6
Armament Officer	2
UH-1 IP Course	4

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ATTACH-PC

12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

SCHOOL

QUANTAS FILLED

Armament EM	3
UH-1D/H Air Frame	3
T53-L11 Engine	5
T53-L13 Engine	4
UH-1B/C Air Frame	1
T55 Engine	4
E&E	1
CH-47 Air Frame	6
Tech Supply	1
T63 Engine	1

f. (U) Logistics.

(1) The following are existing equipment shortages within the Battalion.

- (a) 7.5 KW Generator
- (b) M-16 Rifles (39)
- (c) Wrecker
- (d) Firetruck
- (e) Leather boots
- (f) Tool Kit, Aircraft Mechanics, Gen
- (g) Truck, Tanker Fuel
- (h) Helmet APH 6
- (i) Gloves, Nomex
- (j) Flight Suits, Nomex
- (k) Container, spare parts, air mobile

(2) Aircraft status appears as Inclosure 3.

g. (C) Organization: Effective 25 March 1969, the 238th AWC and the 587th TC Det A/C Maintenance was assigned to the Battalion and stationed at An Khe. Effective 24 Jan 69, the 134th Assault Helicopter Company reorganized under MTOE 1-77G by direction of SO33, Dated 2 Feb 69, 268th CAB. The order deactivated the 618th Transportation Detachment and the 832nd Signal Detachment.

h. (U) Civil Affairs: Populace assistance programs were continued for numerous villages, and refugee camps near battalion units. In addition

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Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

to regular visits by medical personnel, numerous self-help items such as medical supplies, health items, and construction materials were distributed in nearby villages such as: 10 boxes of clothing, toys and books given by chaplains office to the Tuy Hoa Buddhist Orphanage, \$133.40 and 500 piasters to Tuy Hoa evangelical school.

i. (U) Chaplain:

(1) 23 weekday services, 24 Sunday Protestant services and 5 memorial services with a total attendance of 1416 men were held this quarter.

(2) The Battalion Chaplain made 32 visits to units located at Ninh Hoa, LZ English, An Khe, An Son and Tuy Hoa.

(3) The following programs were started this quarter:

- (a) Wednesday evening devotions
- (b) Wednesday evening choir practice
- (c) Marriage counseling class

j. (C) Safety.

(1) Following is a summary of accident statistics during the report period:

(a) Major accidents	8
(b) Minor accidents	0
(c) Incidents	9
(d) Forced landings	4
(e) Precautionary landings	10

(2) Cumulative aircraft accident rate per 100,000 flying hours for the quarter was 18.0

k. (U) Surgeon: None

2. (C) Section 2, Lessons learned Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. (C) Personnel. Intelligence NCO.

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12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 258th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFAd-65 (R1) (U)

(1) Observation. Under MTOE 1-77G, the intelligence NCU allocation has been removed from the Assault Helicopter Company, and the mission of the intelligence section has now been absorbed by operations.

(2) Evaluation. Due to the varied missions performed and the large area of operations of an assault helicopter company, the importance of an intelligence section cannot be over emphasized. The present work load of the company level operations does not allow sufficient time or personnel to maintain the needed intelligence data.

(3) Recommendation. Return the intelligence NCU to the TOE of an Assault Helicopter Company.

(4) Command Action. A recommendation to make this addition to the present MTOE is being processed.

b. (C) Operations. Utilization of Aircraft.

(1) Observation: The hours flown by units of the Battalion have increased out of proportion to loads carried and missions flown.

(2) Evaluation: With one Assault Helicopter Companies approaching 3000 hours a month and the Chinook and Crane flying hours rising, maintenance is becoming difficult and crew fatigue a problem. Debriefing of crews has revealed that often more aircraft are committed than are needed. Further, the receiving ground unit is often not prepared to use the aircraft at the time requested, i.e. a sling load not rigged for as much as two hours after the arrival of the lift aircraft.

(3) Recommendation. That using units justify the number of aircraft requested before mission can be approved and that tighter control be exercised by IFFV before approving mission requests.

(4) Command Action. Liaison Officers from Battalion have now been established at the headquarters of all major units supported.

c. (U) Training: None

d. (U) Intelligence: None

e. (U) Logistics: Perimeter lighting

(1) Observation. The Phu Hiep Army Airfield lighting system is currently powered by temporary loan and TOE generators.

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PHAF-EC

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(2) Evaluation: The temporary loan authorizations have been extended two times and under present guidance it is doubtful that the authorization will be extended a third time. The authorization expires on 23 Oct 69. Efforts to obtain tabular authority under Tuy Hoa Detachment, QNSC TDA, have proven unsuccessful because the PHAAF perimeter lighting is an interior perimeter system and is considered tactical lighting.

(3) Recommendation: That PA&E or an organization with similar capabilities be assigned the mission supporting the fixed facilities such as mini-port releasing unit equipment and personnel for tactical use on the perimeter.

(4) Command Action: Request has been initiated to allow the Air Force at Tuy Hoa Air Base to turn over several excess generators to the Army for use at PHAAF.

f. (U) Organization: None

g. (U) Rescue Techniques:

(1) Observation: Personnel are not receiving sufficient training on rescue techniques and equipment.

(2) Evaluation: There have been two incidents in this reporting period where individuals have been killed falling off rescue hoists. A contributing factor each time was the person not being properly strapped in the hoist.

(3) Recommendation: That classes on rescue techniques using training films or demonstration be part of the in-country training given all personnel.

(4) Command Action: One demonstration of the jungle penetrator and electric hoist by the Air Force "Pedro" rescue helicopter has been held for all personnel at PHAAF. Further demonstrations are planned for units of the Battalion.

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

a. (U) General: None

b. (U) Escape and Evasion: None

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

c. (U) Survival: None

5 Incl

- ~~1. Unit Strength~~
- ~~2. Operational Results~~
- ~~3. Aircraft Status~~
- ~~4. Organization~~
- ~~5. Unit Stationing List~~

Incls 1, 3 - 5 wd Hq, DA

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Garry H. Farmer

GARRY H. FARMER
LTC, IN
Commanding

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AVBACB-SC (12 May 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17th Combat Aviation Group, APO 96240 24 May 1969

TO: Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA) Washington, D.C. 20310
Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350
Commanding Officer, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion, APO 96318

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with contents as stated, except as indicated below.

2. (C) The following comments and recommendations are submitted.

a. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities:

(1) Paragraph 1c, Intelligence, Page 2: A more comprehensive intelligence picture could have been presented with just a few more details logically organized. Reporting the number of aircraft damaged by hostile action is considered appropriate. However, overcommitment of subordinate units, maintenance problems, and crew fatigue should not be commented on in this section. The objective of this paragraph is to present, in an organized manner, significant activities initiated by the enemy as well as those damages and casualties inflicted upon the enemy by Free World Military Forces.

(2) Paragraph 1g, Organization, Page 4: Reference to reorganization of the 134th AHC. Implementation instructions were received from the 1st Aviation Brigade in January 1969.

b. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

(1) Paragraph 2a, Intelligence NCO, Page 5: Concur. Command action is appropriate. Action will be considered upon receipt of proposed change to MTOE.

(2) Paragraph 2b, Utilization of Aircraft, Page 6: Concur. Misutilization of aviation assets has created significant difficulties during this reporting period. Studies conducted by this headquarters indicated the problem resulted because ground commanders and their staffs were not sufficiently knowledgeable in techniques of aviation employment. The problem, however, remains one of education rather than establishment of rigid controls. Mobile Training Teams have been organized at battalion level to conduct orientation of tactical commanders and their staff. Liaison officers have been placed with all major units to promote proper utilization of aviation resources. Emphasis has been placed on submission of Unsatisfactory Mission Reports to enable this

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AVBACB-SC (12 May 69) 1st. Ind 24 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

headquarters to monitor and make recommendations for improved mission support to ground elements.

(3) Paragraph 2e, Perimeter Lighting, Page 6: Concur. Recommend that PA&E be tasked with responsibility to provide perimeter lighting for Phu Hiep Army Airfield and that the excess equipment at Tuy Hoa Air Force Base be obtained and provided to PA&E for use.

(4) Paragraph 2g, Rescue Techniques, Page 7: Concur. Orientation on rescue techniques should be included in Basic Combat Training for the individual soldier. A training film on survival was recently circulated to units of this command to facilitate familiarization with survival and rescue techniques. Recommend USARV establish requirement for rescue technique training as part of initial in-country orientation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Marc L. Tomas
MARC L. TOMAS
CPT, ADA
Adjutant

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AVFA-GC-OT (30 Apr 69) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 6 JUN 1969

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FREDERICK E. HOLLAND
1LT AGC
ASST AB

Copy furn:
2-ACSFOR, DA
1-268th Cbt Avn Bn

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AVBAGC-0 (12 May 69) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384 11 JUN 1969

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

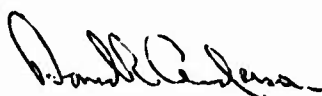
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

1. This headquarters has reviewed this report, considers it to be adequate and concurs with the contents as indorsed except as noted below.
2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Paragraph 1j (2), page 5. Cumulative aircraft accident rate per 100,000 flying hours for the quarter should read 28.1 and not 18.0 as shown.

b. Paragraph 2e (1), page 6: Concur. Action being taken to transfer Air Force generators to the Army at Phu Hiep is a good solution. These generators should be 60 KW or more so that PA & E will provide the maintenance for them. Presently, there is a project to provide high voltage power at Phu Hiep, but this is being held on a stop work order pending the outcome of a classified study that is being made by Commanding General IFFV and Commanding General USAHV.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



DAVID R. ANDERSON
Cpt, AGC
Asst AG

AVHGC-DST (12 May 1969) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Combat Aviation Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 963751 3 JUL 1969

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 30 April 1969 from, Headquarters 268th Combat Aviation Battalion.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Intelligence MCO," section II, page 5, paragraph a; concur. The requirement appears valid and will be evaluated when MTOE is submitted to this headquarters. Unit will be advised.

b. Reference item concerning "Rescue Techniques," section II, page 7, paragraph g; nonconcur. This training is not considered to be appropriate for all replacement personnel. These devices are not used in all areas of Vietnam. The appropriate unit commander should make the determination whether or not this training is applicable to personnel in his unit. The availability of classes to USARV ground units conducted by aeromedical evacuation units will be promulgated in the next USARV Commander's Notes.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


C. D. WILSON

1LT, ACC

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
268th CAB
1st Avn Bde

GPOP-DT (12 May 69) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 268th Cbt Avn Bn for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 8 AUG 69

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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OPERATIONAL RESULTS AS OF 30 APRIL 1969

1. RESULTS

UNIT	SORTIES FLN	TROOPS LFTD	(TONS)	ENEMY KBA	STRYCTYRES		SAMPANS	
			CARGO LFTD		DAM	DEST	DAM	DEST
61st AHC	24,561	33,776	363	12	2	7	0	1
129th AHC	33,704	43,543	2099.7	56	10	8	1	2
134th AHC	23,690	37,062	439	12	35	47	0	0
238th AWC	1,259	6	0	7	0	0	0	0
196th ASHC	11,147	39,338	11,168	0	0	0	0	0
180th ASHC	8,974	37,498	8,731	0	0	0	0	0
355th AC (HH)	3,820	700	9,301	0	0	0	0	0
268th CAB	107,235	191,923	32,101.7	87	47	62	1	3

2. LOSSES

UNIT	AIRCRAFT LOST		AIRCRAFT DAMAGED	
	TYPE	NO	TYPE	NO
61st AHC	UH-1H	2	UH-1H	10
	UH-1C	1	UH-1C	1
129th AHC	UH-1H	3	UH-1H	8
134th AHC	UH-1H	4	UH-1H	1
			UH-1C	2
238th AWC	--	--	UH-1B	1
196th ASHC	--	--	CH-47A	1
180th ASHC	---	--	CH-47A	1
355th AC (Hvy Hel)	--	--	CH-54A	1
268th CAB		10		26

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CO, 268th Combat Aviation Battalion		
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