

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER

AD505950

CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

TO: UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: CONFIDENTIAL

LIMITATION CHANGES

TO:  
Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

FROM:  
Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors;  
Administrative/Operational Use; 08 AUG 1969.  
Other requests shall be referred to Office of the Adjutant General (Army), Washington, DC 20310.

AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN DELIMITED  
AND CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE  
UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.20 AND  
NO RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON  
ITS USE AND DISCLOSURE.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;  
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED.

# **SECURITY**

---

# **MARKING**

**The classified or limited status of this report applies to each page, unless otherwise marked.**

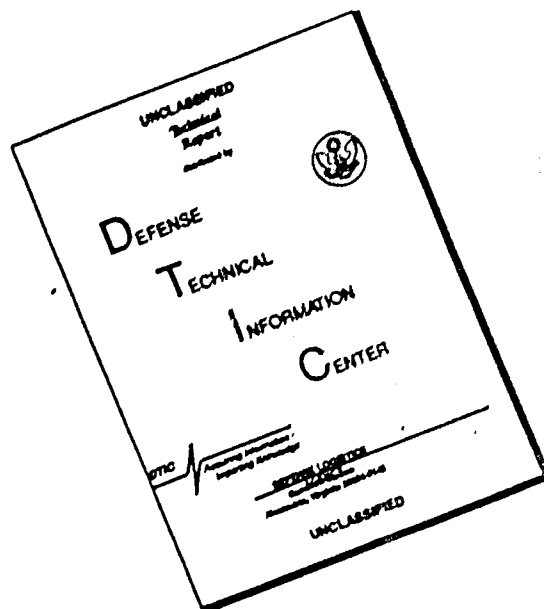
**Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.**

---

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

NOTICE: When government or other drawings, specifications or other data are used for any purpose other than in connection with a definitely related government procurement operation, the U.S. Government thereby incurs no responsibility, nor any obligation whatsoever; and the fact that the Government may have formulated, furnished, or in any way supplied the said drawings, specifications, or other data is not to be regarded by implication or otherwise as in any manner licensing the holder or any other person or corporation, or conveying any rights or permission to manufacture, use or sell any patented invention that may in any way be related thereto.

# DISCLAIMER NOTICE



THIS DOCUMENT IS BEST QUALITY AVAILABLE. THE COPY FURNISHED TO DTIC CONTAINED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PAGES WHICH DO NOT REPRODUCE LEGIBLY.

CONFIDENTIAL

20



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

18, CAS FOR

IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGDA (M) (17 Nov 69)

FOR OT-UT-69 3200

24 November 1969

AD505950

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 214th Aviation  
Battalion (U) - Landing 31 Jul 67

SEE DISTRIBUTION

*Operational report. See quote by general  
Landing 31 Jul 67.*

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:

11 8 Aug 61

*Robert E. Lynch*  
ROBERT E. LYNCH  
Colonel, AGC  
Acting The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

12 23p.

DISTRIBUTION:

- Commanding Generals
  - US Continental Army Command
  - US Army Combat Developments Command
- Commandants
  - US Army War College
  - US Army Command and General Staff College
  - US Army Air Defense School
  - US Army Armor School
  - US Army Aviation School
  - US Army Chemical School
  - US Army Engineer School
  - US Army Field Artillery School
  - US Army Infantry School
  - US Army Missile and Munitions School
  - US Army Ordnance School
  - US Army Quartermaster School
  - US Army Special Warfare School
  - US Army Transportation School

REGRADLE INCL WHEN SEPARATED CLASSIFIED INCLOSURE

AD 11

DEC 11 1969

CONFIDENTIAL

003 650

mt

FILE COPY

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DISTRIBUTION (Cont'd)

Copies furnished:

- Office, Chief of Staff, US Army
- Deputy Chiefs of Staff
- Chief of Research and Development
- Assistant Chiefs of Staff
- Chief of Engineers
- Director, Defense Research and Engineering
- Office, Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Commanding Generals
  - US Army Materiel Command
  - US Army Weapons Command
  - US Army Flight Training Center
- Deputy Chief of Staff, Air Force, Plans & Operations
- Commandant of the Marine Corps
- Senior Army Representative, Marine Corps Development & Education Command
- USAF Air Ground Operations School
- The Air University Library
- Defense Documentation Center
- Security Officer, Hudson Institute
- USAF Project RAND
- Commanding Officers
  - US Army Limited War Laboratory
  - US Army Logistics, Doctrine Systems & Readiness Agency
  - US Army Aviation Test Activity
  - US Army Mobility Equipment Research & Development Center
  - 214th Aviation Battalion



CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 214TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)  
APO San Francisco 96370

Corrected Copy  
8 August 1969

AVGC-EC

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat)  
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1) (U)

See Distribution

1. (C) Section 1. Significant Unit Activities

a. Mission

There were no changes or additions to the Unit Mission during this reporting period.

b. Organization

(1) There were no changes to the FOE of the Unit during this reporting period.

(2) UP of General Order 2885 Hq 1st Avn Bde dtd 22 Jul 69, this Battalion and attached units, which included the 135th Avn Co (Aslt Hel), were released from assignment to the 12th Avn Gp (Cbt) and assigned to the 164th Avn Gp (Cbt), effective 1 Jul 69.

c. Personnel Changes and Status

(1) Commanding Officer - LTC Ronald J. Stevens 150 26 2757 (no change).

(2) XO - CPT Gregory Petrakis 125 26 7963 replaced Maj Edward L. Harris 423 24 4476 on 19 Jun 69, Maj William A. Beasley 467 52 6582 replaced CPT Petrakis on 11 Jul 69.

(3) S-4 - CPT Henry G. Girard 053 28 0510 vacated S-4 24 May 69, Maj John F. Gallun 044 24 0967 assumed S-4 duties 23 Jun 69.

(4) S-3 - Maj Gary P. Bergeron 043 26 8208 replaced Maj William H. Overholser 535 24 4795 on 16 Jun 69.

FOR OT UT  
693200  
Inclosure

1

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

(5) S-2 - CPT Larry V. Eads 444 40 0932 replaced 1LT James A. Knarr 193 36 4690 on 23 Jun 69.

(6) S-1 - CPT Gregory Petrakis 125 26 7963 replaced CPT Walter H. Yates 425 78 5054 on 22 May 69, serving as Bn XO 22 Jun 69 - 10 Jul 69, in addition to S-1 duties.

(7) 135th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) - Maj Harry T. Woodmanssee 430 48 5998, no change.

(8) 147th Avn Co (Aslt Sup Hel) - Maj Frank R. Moegan 259 50 3809 replaced Maj Gordon M. Hunt 031 29 0064 on 29 May 69.

(9) 162nd Avn Co (Aslt Hel) - Maj George W. Venti 033 24 0802 replaced Maj Robert K. Wright 284 24 9217 on 5 May 69.

(10) 191st Avn Co (Aslt Hel) - Maj Erwin A. Schmidt 462 46 4721, no change.

(11) 335th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) - Maj Howard J. Stiles 081 32 5577 replaced Maj Paul R. Riley 053 28 0315 on 25 May 69.

d. Unit Strength as of 31 July 1969.

(1) The authorized strength of the 214th Avn Bn (Cbt) is 114 officers, 242 warrant officers, and 1,247 EM, for a total authorized strength of 1,603. A critical MOS shortage continues to exist in the supply sergeant area. It is now considered more acute than it was 3 months ago. The Battalion is authorized 7, 76Y40 supply sergeants. At present 4 are assigned with 2 that are 30 day losses. Mess sergeants are also critically short with 6 authorized, 4 assigned and one a 30 day loss. The 164th Avn Gp (Cbt) has indicated immediate relief cannot be expected in either of these MOS's.

(2) MILITARY

	<u>OFF</u>		<u>WO</u>		<u>EM</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HHC	19	18	3	6	85	96	107	120
135th	19	13	51	43	218	209	288	256

INCL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGCEC  
 SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

8 August 1969

	<u>OFF</u>		<u>NO</u>		<u>ET</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
147th	*18	*10	*35	*29	*283	*248	*336	*287
162nd	19	24	51	41	218	184	288	249
191st	19	22	51	39	217	193	287	254
335th	19	24	51	42	218	192	288	258
758th	1	1	0	0	8	5	9	6

\* Cobra Training Team Included

(3) CIVILIAN

The 214th Avn Bn (Cbt) is under the freeze imposed by USARV on the hiring of Direct Hire and Program 6 personnel. With the departure of the 9th Infantry Division, this Battalion should be able to fill its direct hire allocations in the near future.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DAC</u>		<u>VN</u>		<u>3 Nat'l</u>		<u>Contractor</u>	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HHC	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0
135th	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
147th	0	0	9	9	0	0	0	0
162nd	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
191st	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
335th	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
758th	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

e. Administration

(1) Casualties in the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat)

INCL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVTC-EC

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

<u>HOSTILE</u>		<u>NON-HOSTILE</u>	
Lightly wounded	33	Lightly wounded	4
VSI	1	VSI	1
KIA	0	KIA	4
MIA	0		

(2) During this period the Battalion had 16 emergency leaves and no compassionate leaves.

(3) 63 EM were promoted: 17 to E4, 41 to E5, and 5 to E6.

(4) Reenlistment. The following is a breakdown by category of reenlistment during the quarter:

<u>RA 1st Term</u>	<u>RA Career</u>	<u>RUS</u>	<u>US Army NG</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
6	7	0	0	13

(5) Awards and Decorations

(a) The Awards and Decorations program has shown a marked increase in the number of awards submitted and received.

(b) Awards for the Quarter

	<u>S</u>	<u>R</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>R</u>
SM	3	2	ACM"V"	75	35
SS	2	2	ACM"S"	50	40
DFC	34	18	ACM"A"	0	0
AM"V"	75	35	AN	450	20
BS"V"	4	2	PH	35	20
BS"S"	33	18	LON	0	0
BS"A"	0	0			

(6) Discipline:

(a) Administrative punishments for this reporting period were:

Article 15's	102
Special Courts Martial	6
Summary Courts Martial	4

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

(7) Special Services:

(a) Units of this Battalion have continued to increase their use of special service facilities in spite of the numerous construction projects in process at this time.

(b) Units continue to utilize the numerous post facilities, i.e., library, swimming pool, etc., in addition to the motion picture distribution center, volley ball and basketball equipment. The availability of special services equipment has continued to be satisfactory during the past quarter.

(8) MORALE

(a) Troop morale remains high even though many of the units have to work under austere conditions.

(b) The transition of the 135th AC(AH) at Bear Cat from the 222nd AB(C) to the 214th AB(C) was carried out in an outstanding manner thus enabling the units morale to remain high.

(c) The addition of competitive athletics in the form of volley ball and softball has enabled the companies to better understand each other.

(9) CIVIC ACTION

The CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM for the months of May, June and July accomplished the following projects:

(a) Treatment of 189 persons in the refugee village of Nam Dong by MEDCAP personnel.

(b) Rodent control at Nam Dong and Bien Duc received attention in the form of furnishing rat poison.

(c) A 20' by 20' wooden building was erected at the Binh Duc Hamlet to be used as a day nursery.

(d) Various amounts of fruit, vegetables and candy were delivered to Nam Dong.

(e) The committee sent out letters to various organizations requesting assistance in obtaining materials and clothing. Thus far Allstate Insurance Company has responded by setting up a state wide campaign in New Jersey for the collection of used clothing.

5

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

8 August 1969

(10) CHAPLAIN ACTIVITIES

(a) With the departure of the 9th Division from Long Tan, plans for the construction of a Chapel in the local area were dropped.

(b) The new Battalion Chaplain arrived 20 June 1969 and the opportunities for worship have been increased.

(c) Chaplain's activities may be summarized as follows from 20 June to 31 July.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>OCCASIONS</u>	<u>ATTENDANCE</u>
Group Worship	12	190
Character Guidance	12	1430
Visits to Hospital	0	0
Stockade & Duty Stations	824	
Memorial Services	1	233
Counseling	125	

(d) A new program of troop orientation by the Chaplain for all incoming troops was begun. The orientation includes:

1. A briefing on the purpose of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.
2. Briefing on religious activities.
3. Briefing on the use and misuse of drugs.

(e) A letter is sent by the Chaplain to the families of new personnel informing them that their son/husband has arrived. Religious activities, how they can help keep the soldiers morale high, and how they can best reach him in case of an emergency are outlined in the letter.

(f) Cooperation with the 9th Division Chaplains continues.

(g) Weekly visits to the 335th AC(AH) and the 135th AC(AH) at Bear Cat and the 147th AC(ASH) at Vung Tau have been rewarding.

f. Intelligence.

(1) Security: A total of one thousand and nineteen (1019) Classified Documents were processed by the S-2 Section during this reporting period, of which nine hundred and eighty (980) were Confidential and thirty nine (39) were Secret.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVG-3C

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

(2) Inspections: The S2 section received three (3) inspections conducted by higher headquarters, to include an AGL Inspection in which all areas were rated excellent. The Bn S-2 conducted a total of twelve (12) inspections of the subordinate units.

g. Operations and Training

(1) HHC, the 191st AC(AH) and the 147th AC(ASH) were operational for the 92 days of this reporting period. The remaining companies of the Battalion were operational as follows:

(a) 135th AC(AH) - 80 days. Twelve (12) maintenance stand-down days during this period.

(b) 162nd AC(AH) - 91 days. One (1) maintenance stand-down day during this period.

(c) 335th AC(AH) - 79 days. Thirteen (13) maintenance stand-down days during this period.

(d) Operations.

(a) The recent decision to re-deploy the 9th U.S. Division from Vietnam to CONUS provided the 214th AB(C) the opportunity to display its full understanding of the capabilities of Army Aviation. As originally planned by the 9th Division, the 214th was to shuttle troops from Dong Tam to Binh Duc airfield (XS 478 450), a distance of 5000 meters. From Binh Duc the troops were to board C-123's for the flight to Bien Hoa and at Bien Hoa they were to board C-141's for the trip to CONUS. The 214th staff immediately recognized the shortcomings inherent in this arrangement. First, the inconvenience to the troops was readily apparent. Secondly, the C-123's would require a turn around time of at least one hour and a half (1½) while the CH-47C's of the 147th AC(ASH) could make a round trip in fifty to sixty (50-60) minutes. The congestion at Binh Duc, which has no parallel taxi-way, would have been prohibitive with the C-123's and CH-47's attempting to land and take-off simultaneously. The 214th proposed making the move from Dong Tam to Bien Hoa an "All Army Show". Pointing out that the control of the troops would be greatly enhanced not to mention the increased safety and comfort afforded the troops, the 214th convinced the 9th Division that this

7

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

was the better arrangement. Since this movement has been in effect the 214th has met all schedules, delivering the troops in the proper order, to the correct location, and on time. This mission will continue until the 9th U.S. Division has completely closed out of Dong Tam.

(b) With the departure of the 2nd Bde 9th Infantry Division, the 162nd AC(AH) assumed support of the 9th AFDIV Division. The 162nd provides fifteen aircraft per day with a programmed blade time of 2700 hours during a thirty (30) day period.

(c) The 191st AC(AH) assumed to support the 1st Bde, 9th U.S. Division with ten slicks, one C & C aircraft and four gun ships on a daily basis. Search and destroy operations were conducted with the emphasis placed on the security of Dong Tam base.

(3) Training.

(a) The Battalion continued to take advantage of the 9th Division's Old Reliable Academy until that facility shut-down operations for re-deployment to CONUS. All new replacement personnel were sent to the Academy and received a five day Vietnam Orientation Course.

(b) The Old Reliable rifle range continues to be used by this Battalion for familiarization firing of all assigned personal weapons.

h. Logistics.

(1) During this period normal supply activities were conducted by the units of this Battalion. Several critical items were received during the quarter. One of these items was the truck, 3/4 ton M37, several of which were on requisition for up to seven (7) months.

(2) During this quarter the shortage of Nomex flight suits and gloves was solved by several hand carry requisitions directly to depot stocks.

(3) During the AGI, all units were found to be excellent to outstanding on the supply inspection and satisfactory in maintenance.

(4) The Battalion Headquarters and two companies are to be re-located. The 191st and 162nd AC's (AH) will move to Can Tho, while Battalion Headquarters will relocate in Vinh Long. It became necessary for the units involved to cancel all outstanding requisitions and re-establish accounts at their respective new locations. This will result in a need to hand carry high priority requests for urgently needed equipment.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

8 August 1969

AVGC-EC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

1. Aircraft Maintenance.

(1) A CMMI inspection of the 147th AC(AH), 162nd AC(AH) and the 335th AC(AH) was held by the Battalion during the months of July and August. All areas were satisfactory.

(2) Aircraft assigned as of 31 July 1969:

UNIT	UH-1B		UH-1C		UH-1D		UH-1H		CH-47C		OH-6	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HHC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	0
147th	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	2	0
162nd	0	0	8	6	0	0	23	17	0	0	0	0
191st	0	0	8	7	0	16	23	3	0	0	0	0
335th	8	7	0	0	0	0	23	16	0	0	0	0
135th	0	0	8	6	0	0	23	17	0	0	0	0

(3) Overall Availability of Assigned Aircraft.

MONTH	UH-1B	UH-1C	UH-1D	UH-1H	CH-47A	CH-47C
MAY	79%	71%	79%	75%	55%	81%
JUNE	71%	70%	86%	80%	46%	87%
JULY	73%	70%	72%	83%	39%	85%

(4) Parts Procurement:

(a) EDP Requisitions Filled.

MONTH	147th	191st	162nd	335th	135th
MAY	88%	85%	22.5%	87%	
JUNE	75%	100%	93%	88%	85%
JULY	81.5%	85%	88%	83%	80%

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

8 August 1969

(b) Line Items Fill.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>147th</u>	<u>191st</u>	<u>162nd</u>	<u>335th</u>	<u>135th</u>
MAY	71%	82%	60.7%	77%	
JUNE	79.8%	81%	64%	78%	76%
JULY	72.8%	79%	70%	80%	75%

(c) Routine Requisition Fill.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>147th</u>	<u>191st</u>	<u>162nd</u>	<u>335th</u>	<u>135th</u>
MAY	17%	33%	53.1%	15%	
JUNE	32%	40%	61.5%	22%	75%
JULY	30%	37%	50%	27%	68%

(d) Number of Line Items.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>147th</u>	<u>191st</u>	<u>162nd</u>	<u>335th</u>	<u>135th</u>
MAY	1396	920	901	970	
JUNE	1396	920	905	1000	650
JULY	1396	920	905	1002	1032

(e) ASL Zero Balance.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>147th</u>	<u>191st</u>	<u>162nd</u>	<u>335th</u>	<u>135th</u>
MAY	350/39.2%	200/12.0%	75/8.3%	53/6.2%	
JUNE	343/38%	204/12.2%	68/7.4%	226/15.8%	427/41%
JULY	259/18.5%	128/17%	83/9.2%	228/16.3%	427/41%

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-4C

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report - Lessons Learned

(5) Aircraft flying hours by type indicate that approximately 297 periodic inspections were completed during this quarter.

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>UH-1B</u>	<u>UH-1C</u>	<u>UH-1H</u>	<u>UH-1H</u>	<u>OH-47C</u>
MAY	504	1371	1390	4961	1003
JUNE	538	1493	1558	4714	1116
JULY	521	1526	1587	5255	1055

1. Safety.

(1) During the past quarter the Battalion flew 31, 345 hours and suffered four accidents. The rate for the quarter is 12.8, a drop of 12.9 accidents per 100,000 flying hours.

(2) The primary cause factor in three (3) of the accidents was material failure; pilot error was the cause factor in the fourth.

(3) The tremendous improvement in the accident rate of the Battalion was caused by command emphasis at all levels. In addition the policy of company commanders having to reply by indorsement to the Battalion Commander, whenever a member of their unit is observed violating safety procedures, has aided in the decrease in the accident rate.

ii

CONFIDENTIAL

8 August 1969

2. (C) Section 2. Lessons Learned, Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

(1) Aircraft Utilization (CH-47)

(a) Observation: CH-47 aircraft conducting "Fly as Directed Missions" are being improperly utilized by the supported unit.

(b) Evaluation: Reported units utilize CH-47 aircraft on "Fly as Directed Missions" are not planning in advance to have loads ready for the arrival of the aircraft. The aircraft conducting these missions fly from 1 to 3 hours while being on station 6 to 12 hours. Other units requiring support could be utilizing the aircraft. Other aircraft are not being properly utilized; additional aircraft are required to accomplish necessary missions or some units are denied support.

(c) Recommendation: That "Fly as Directed Missions" be discontinued for cargo aircraft.

(d) Command Action: Unsatisfactory Mission Reports are being submitted through command channels.

(2) Helicopter Operating Areas (CH-47).

(a) Observation: Pick-up zones and landing zones for cargo helicopters are being positioned in close proximity to airfield runways.

(b) Evaluation: Positioning landing zones and pick-up areas on or near the end of an active runway creates several problems. Approaching and departing traffic is often forced to fly over cargo aircraft operating in these resupply areas. Any emergency encountered on approach or take-off could result in damage to aircraft and possible loss of lives. Considerable time is often consumed waiting for clearances because of heavy traffic. Cargo helicopters cause severe turbulence which is extremely dangerous to fixed wing aircraft. The congestion of these areas often necessitates cargo helicopters with sling loads to fly over populated areas or to approach or depart downward.

(c) Recommendation: Evaluate all existing resupply areas as to safety. Determine the feasibility of relocating unsatisfactory resupply areas, or of making necessary improvements. Future resupply areas should be planned to eliminate these problem areas.

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC

8 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

(d) Command Action: All aircraft commanders are briefed on landing zones prior to landing. Operational Hazard Reports are being submitted on unsatisfactory areas.

(3) Rigging of external loads.

(a) Observation: Supported units continue to improperly rig external loads for CH-47 aircraft.

(b) Evaluation: Repeated violations of sling loading procedures have occurred in the following areas:

1. Rough and/or sharp edged material is not being wrapped to prevent cutting of sling equipment.

2. Loads such as barbed wire and PSP are being rigged in nylon cargo nets without wrapping.

3. Ammo rounds thrown loose in cargo nets.

4. Use of sling equipment not stamped with date put into use.

5. Use of unserviceable sling equipment.

All of the above have resulted in lost loads and could have caused extensive property damage and possible loss of life.

(c) Recommendation: That the supported unit personnel receive training in the proper methods of rigging external loads. That Pathfinders be utilized when available to rig or assist, rigging personnel.

(d) Command Action: When loads are not required to be moved by tactical necessity, the aircraft commander instructs the rigging personnel on the proper methods of rigging and does not haul the load until the load has been rigged properly. Dropped load reports are submitted when a load or part of a load is lost. The aircrews are briefed that to be effective a load must arrive at its destination intact.

c. Training: None

d. Intelligence: None

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC

30 JACT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

3 August 1969

e. Logistics.

(1) Smoke Grenades.

(a) Observation: The use of smoke to mark landing zones while the terrain is inundated by water, ie, the delta region of Vietnam during monsoons, is inadequate.

(b) Evaluation: Due to the high failure rate of smoke grenades in muddy water, air mobile operations are jeopardized.

(c) Recommendation: A standard issue floating smoke grenade should be developed. This would have application in paddies, as well as other bodies of water, ie, rivers, lakes and the ocean. This could also be used in search and rescue operations.

(d) Command Action: Two methods have been experimented with in this Battalion.

1. The cardboard container for the grenade is used as a flotation device and taped or wired to the smoke grenade. In field tests conducted from low-level to 1500 feet with approximately twenty (20) drops there were no failures.

2. In another method, the grenade fuse assembly is replaced on the outside of the cardboard container. A hole is made in the bottom of the container for the smoke to exit and flotation is achieved.

f. Organization: None

g. Safety:

(1) Crewchiefs and gunners seats.

(a) Observation: In investigating accidents during the quarter, one recurring equipment fault had been noted. The restraining device (seat belt) for door gunners and crewchiefs on UH-1 helicopters is inadequate.

(b) Evaluation: If the crewmembers keep their seat belts fastened they cannot adequately perform their job of clearing the aircraft and/or suppressing LZ's. Several accidents have resulted in injuries to

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGC-EC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned

8 August 1969

the crewmembers because they didn't have their seat belts on or tight.

(c) Recommendations: Recommend that an inertia reel system similar to the pilots be installed for crewchiefs and gunners.

(d) Command Action: Recommendations in aircraft accident reports have been listed so as to bring about a change in the restraining device. A letter has been sent through incentive awards channels to encourage the change.



RONALD J. STEVENS  
LTC, FA  
Commanding

~~2 Incl~~  
~~1 - Organization~~  
~~2 - Operational Statistics~~  
Incls wd HQ, DA

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Copies to CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96588
- 3 - Copies to CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC (DST), APO 96375
- 2 - Copies to CG, 1st Avn Bde, ATTN: AVGA-C, APO 96384
- 5 - Copies to CO, 164th AG(C), APO 96215

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBAGE-C (8 Aug 69) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS USAF-65 (AI) (U)

DA, Hq, 164TH AVIATION GROUP (CET), APO 96215, 3 September 1969

TO: Department of the Army, ATTN: ACSFOR  
Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBAGC-O, APO 96215

1. (U) The attached 214th CAB ORLL for the period ending 31 July 1969 has been reviewed by this Headquarters.
2. (C) The following comments are made on the report:
  - a. Section 1, para. 1d (1), page 2: The shortage of supply sergeants, MOS 76Y40 is command wide. The unit's monthly MOS inventory submitted to this Headquarters reflects six mess stewards, MOS 94B20, authorized and five assigned.
  - b. Section 2, para. 2 (1), (c), page 12: This recommendation has merit; however, the two locations, Chi Land and Moc Hoa, where these type missions are scheduled are a great distance from an Army Airfield making it unpractical to wait until loads are ready for transport before dispatching the aircraft. Reaction time is too long. This Headquarters attempts to hold "Fly as Directed" missions to a minimum but must make an exception in these two locations.
  - c. Section 2, para. 2b (2), (c), page 12: Limited space remains a problem on airfields in the Delta. One resupply area was repositioned during the quarter eliminating a hazard at the approach end of the Can Tho Army Airfield. All airfields are being monitored on a continuous basis for such hazards.
  - d. Section 2, para. 2b (3), (c), page 13: Concur.
  - e. Section 2, para. 2e (1), (c), page 14: Concur.
  - f. Section 2, para. 2g (1), (c), page 15: Concur. Several accident reports have reflected injury was caused to crew chiefs and gunners when seats and/or restraining devices failed.
3. (U) The ORLL previously received from the 214th CAB dated 8 Aug 69 should be destroyed IAW AR 380-5.

*Jack M. Tomlinson*  
JACK M. TOMLINSON  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

16

CONFIDENTIAL

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5300.10

AVBAGC-0 (8 Aug 69) 2d Ind

14 SEP 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat)  
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

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

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the  
contents as indorsed.

2. The following additional comments are considered pertinent:

a. Paragraph 2e(1)(c), page 14, addresses the requirement for a  
standard issue floating smoke grenade. A floating smoke grenade is  
available within the US Army supply system; however, USARV G-4, Ammuni-  
tion Branch, advises it is not presently stocked in Vietnam. The 164th  
Aviation Group (Combat) has been provided the following information:

Nomenclature: Grenade, Hand, Floating, Smoke

<u>FSN</u>	<u>DOD Ammunition Code</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Model</u>
1330-113-0523	G902	Red	XM 63
1330-143-6846	G903	Green	XM 64
1330-113-0524	G904	Yellow	XM 65

b. Paragraph 2g(1), page 14, addresses the inadequacy of seat belts  
as a restraining device for crew chiefs and gunners and proposes instal-  
lation of an inertia reel harness. Concur in theory, however, testing  
should be accomplished to determine the restriction to movements in per-  
forming duties associated with these two positions. The unit has been  
advised to submit an EIR.

AVBAGC-U

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat)  
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, ACS CSFOR-65(1d) (U)

3. This OR-LL supersedes the OR-LL for the same period, dated 8 August 1969. All copies dated 8 August 1969 should be destroyed in accordance with AR 380-5.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ARTHUR W. LITTLE

CPT AGC

Asst AG.

Cy of 2d Ind Furn:  
CO, 214th Avn Bn (Cbt)

AVHGC-DST (8 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for  
the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

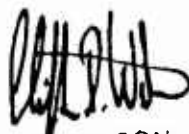
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 14 OCT 1969

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 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 214th Aviation Battalion (Combat).

2. Reference item concerning "Smoke Grenades", section II, page 14, paragraph 2e(1); concur. This headquarters has initiated action to stock the floating smoke grenades (XM63, XM64 and XM65) in RVN. The grenades are expected to become available in approximately six months.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON  
1LT, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
214th Avn Bn (Cbt)  
1st Avn Bde

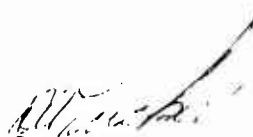
GPOP-DT (8 Aug 69) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 214th Aviation Battalion  
(Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS  
CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558'25 OCT 69

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:

  
D. A. TUCKER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL	
		2b. GROUP 4	
3. REPORT TITLE Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 214th Aviation Battalion			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 May 69 to 31 July 69.			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 214th Aviation Battalion			
6. REPORT DATE 8 August 1969		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 23	7b. NO. OF REFS
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO. b. PROJECT NO c. d.		9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 693200	
		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES N/A		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			

CONFIDENTIAL