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General's Office ltr., 29 Apr 1980

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (11 Dec 69) FOR OT UT 693166

19 December 1969

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 268th
Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969 (U)**

AD506497

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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 268th Aviation Battalion

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

AVBACB-EC

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (C) General. This report covers the period 1 May through 31 July 1969, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15, USARV Regulation 525-15. During the report period the mission of the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) continued to provide aviation support to the Free World Military Assistance Forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone as directed. This support was primarily provided in Pleiku, Binh Dinh, Phu Bon and Phu Yen Provinces.

b. (U) Personnel.

(1) The following company changes of command occurred:

355th AC (HH) - 11 Jul 69 MAJ Paul M. Smith 490-34-3204 IN

VICE: MAJ David E. Baeb 389-32-1904 IN

129th AC (AH) - 16 Jul 69 MAJ Nelson J. Cooper 170-30-1765 AR

VICE: MAJ Emmett R. Conrow 597-26-7547 IN

238th AC (AW) - 22 Jul 69 MAJ Lewis E. Kauffman 456-70-9262 IN

VICE: MAJ David D. Dross 053-28-6108 CE

180th AC(ASH) - 10 Jun 69 MAJ Robert H. Raab 398-32-9814 IN

VICE: MAJ Philip D. Kaiser 313-38-1331 TG

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

Executive Officer - 19 Jul 69: Johnston, Francis E. III, MAJ, 225-52-5111, FA

VICE: Schelhorn, Carlton L., MAJ, 225-34-0539, TC

FOR OT UT
693166
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CONFIDENTIAL

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

S-1/Adjutant - 15 Jun 69: Chapman, Jesse L., CPT, 442-42-2773 IN

VICE: Buggs, Charles T., MAJ, 264-48-1356 AG

S-2 - 14 Jul 69: Watson, James G., CW2, 472-46-1963 AVN

VICE: Chapman, Jesse L., CPT, 442-42-2773 IN

S-3 - 24 Jul 69: Taylor, William R., MAJ, 227-46-9177 IN

VICE: Kauffman, Lewis E., MAJ, 456-70-9202 IN

c. (C) Intelligence. Activity remained at a fairly low level throughout the Area of Operation during the reporting period. In the coastal areas, the pattern of enemy activity was characterized by a continuation of attacks by fire on isolated elements, sniper and booby-trap incidents, terrorism and other techniques to disrupt the GVN Pacification effort. These attacks follow the current pattern for enemy activity, attempting to inflict maximum casualties on friendly forces at the minimum risk to himself. Another noticeable trend in the AO was the increase in the number of aircraft receiving ground fire. Aircraft of the Battalion have received hostile fire thirty nine (39) times and hits twenty nine (29). The Battalion has been credited with 95 KBA.

d. (C) Operations.

(1) Units of the Battalion engaged in combat operations each of the 92 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>AIRCRAFT SORTIES</u>	<u>CARGO HAULED (Tons)</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>
7 Jun 69	Tiger Div	61	1,099	76.15	1,962
7 Jul 69	Tiger Div Whitehorse Div	108	1,121	204.60	4,054

(2) The Capitol ROK Infantry Division (CRID), 173d Airborne Brigade, and the 22nd Division (ARVN) continued to be the major units supported by the Battalion. The 4th Infantry Division has received substantial support from the CH-47, CH-54 and gunships of the 268th Avn Bn (Cbt). Numerous other support requirements were fulfilled on a mission basis.

(3) The 61st Aviation Company was redeployed on 7 July 1969, from LZ English to Lane AHP, An Son, RVN, by authority of the Commanding General IFFV, under Frag Order 47-69 dated 071330Z July 1969. Closing date was

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

14 July 1969 at Lane AHP. This redeployment reunited the company and has greatly increased the company's availability due to consolidated maintenance.

(4) Operational results appear as Inclosure 2.

e. (C) Training.

(1) All units publish weekly training schedules and conduct mandatory training as required, with emphasis on aviation crew member standardization and safety (to include weapons). Training is integrated with operational requirements to the maximum degree possible.

(2) Instructor pilots conducted 90 day standardization flights as required. Aviator standardization in all units was evaluated and emphasized during safety and standardization meeting.

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

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>QUOTAS FILLED</u>
Armament Officer	2
Armament EM	2
Escape and Evasion	3
Tech Supply	8
Maintenance Supervisor	4
Tech Inspector	2
UH-1 Instructor Pilot	2
AH-1G Airframe	3
UH-1 D/H Airframe	3
CH-47 Airframe	3
T-53 L-11 Engine	6
T-55 Engine	9
AH-1G Transition	10

f. (U) Logistics.

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

- (a) Radio set VRC 10.
- (b) Truck platform, utility 1/2 ton.
- (c) Individual survival kits.
- (d) Mess hall equipment, i.e., stack ovens, stoves, etc.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

(e) Firetruck.

(f) Wrecker, 2 1/2 ton (2),

(g) 1/4 ton truck.

(h) M-16 rifles (39).

(i) 7.5 KW generator.

(j) Helmet, APH6.

(k) Truck, cargo, 314T w/winch.

(l) Light bulbs, 300 watt, small base, (Perimeter lighting).

(2) Aircraft status appears as Inclosure 3.

g. (C) Organization. Effective 14 July, the 61st Aviation Company consolidated at An Son, RVN. (See Section 1 d(3), and Incl 4)

h. (U) Civil Affairs. Populace assistance programs were continued for numerous villages, and refugee camps near battalion units. In addition, medical detachment officers have conducted weekly Medcap programs in surrounding villages.

i. (U) Chaplain.

(1) Thirty two (32) weekday services, twenty six (26) Sunday Protestant Religious services and three (3) memorial services, with a total attendance of 895 men, were held this quarter.

(2) Character Guidance was presented to 1233 men.

(3) Services and visits were also held at Tuy Hoa, Ninh Hoa, and Destroyer USS Higbee.

(4) The following programs were started this quarter:

(a) Latter Day Saints services.

(b) Seventh-Day Adventist services.

(5) \$236.00 has been donated to orphanages and schools in Tuy Hoa.

j. (C) Safety.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

report period:

- (a) Major Accidents - 5
- (b) Minor Accidents - 0
- (c) Incidents - 9
- (d) Forced Landings - 4
- (e) Precautionary Landings -14

(2) Cumulative aircraft accident rate per 100,000 flying hours for the quarter was 16.8.

k. (U) Surgeon:

(1) Cpt Michael C. Huntington, 563-54-6505, replaced Cpt Arthur M. Faris, 452-64-4574, as Battalion Surgeon on 16 June 1969.

(2) Cpt James R. Conrad, 219-38-3617, replaced Cpt Michael C. Huntington as Commander of 193rd Med Det.

(3) Cpt Allan R. Katz is commander of the 546th Med Det.

(4) The 193rd Med Det was permanently moved from An Son to An Khe to support the 238th AC (AW) and other aviation elements located there.

2. (C) Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluation, and Recommendations.

a. (C) Personnel.

(1) Property Book Officer.

(a) Observation: Aviation companies should have a qualified non-rated property book officer.

(b) Evaluation: Experience in RVN has shown the need for a non-rated officer/warrant officer at the company level whose sole duty is unit property book officer. Rated aviators have little knowledge of property book procedures, especially those with little time in service. The importance of property book procedures and custodial care of unit property demands more emphasis than as a secondary duty to a rated aviator.

(c) Recommendation: That a qualified quartermaster warrant be assigned at company level as property book officer.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

(d) Command Action: Suggesting unit has submitted a revised MTO&E incorporating non-rated warrant as property book officer.

(2) TO&E Personnel Change.

(a) Observation: TO&E and MTO&E CH-47 Assault Support Helicopter Companies need a modified TO&E when changing aircraft models, i.e., A model to C model.

(b) Evaluation: Two engine repairmen cannot support the needs of a assault support helicopter company of CH-47 C models. This is due to the increased hot end inspection requirement. The requirement is moved from 600 hours (A model) to 150 hours (C model). Two repairmen cannot meet the increased work load.

(c) Recommendation: MTO&E should be modified as follows:

Delete: 1 Senior Powertrain repairman (68D20, E-5)
1 Powertrain repairman (68D20, E-4)
Add: 1 Senior engine repairman (68B20, E-5)
1 Engine repairman (68B20, E-4)

(d) Command Action: Suggesting unit is currently preparing MTO&E change.

b. (U) Operations. . . None.

c. (C) Training.

(1) Observation: Experienced aviators should be utilized to the greatest extent possible.

(2) Evaluation: In most assault helicopter companies, the experience level is low. The few second tour assigned aviators are in key positions within the units. This results in less experienced aviators performing the majority of the flight missions. In order to maintain high safety standards, close supervision and constant standardization is required. It has been this battalion's experience that graduates of the USARV instructor pilot course prove to be highly effective as instructor pilots and standardization instructor pilots.

(3) Recommendation: The USARV instructor pilot school program be expanded to provide more school trained instructor pilots for assault helicopter companies.

(4) Command Action: N/A

d. (U) Intelligence: None

e. (C) Logistics:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

(1) Observation: Army aviators flying AH-1G aircraft in RVN require a defensive weapon.

(2) Evaluation: Experience indicates that Army aviators flying the AH-1G require a defensive weapon in addition to the standard issue .38 cal. revolver. The M-16A1 cannot be carried in the cockpit because of its length. Due to its compact size and proven efficiency, the CAR 15 could fulfil this requirement. This additional weapon is particularly needed because of the diminished crew of the AH-1G.

(3) Recommendation: Each pilot flying the AH-1G be issued CAR 15 as a defensive weapon.

(4) Command Action: The suggesting unit has submitted an MTO&E incorporating this change.

f. (C) Organization.

(1) Observation: A company size aviation unit cannot successfully maintain aircraft availability when separated from its 2nd echelon maintenance.

(2) Evaluation: A company that maintains aircraft at a forward base, away from its primary maintenance capability, must deal with additional problems not encountered by the consolidated unit. Normally the forward base is relative insecure which also hinders availability because of enemy inflicted damage.

(3) Recommendation: Whenever the tactical situation permits, maintain only a skeleton force of aircraft at the forward base for security and Tactical Emergencies and retain the majority of the aircraft and personnel with the consolidated company.

(4) Command Action: Recommendation in (3) above was followed as the 61st AC (AH) was consolidated from LZ English to Lane AHP, 14 July 1969.

g. Other: None.

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11 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65, (RI) (U)

Garry H Farmer

GARRY H. FARMER
LTC, IN
Commanding

5 Incl

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

Incl 1, 4 & 5 wd HQ, DA

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 7 cy to: 17th Avn Gp (Cbt), AVBACB-SC

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AVBACB-SC (11 Aug 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96240 28 August 1969

TO: Department of the Army, (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
Commanding General, I Field Forces Vietnam, APO 96350

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

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

a. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities. None

b. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

(1) Paragraph 2a (1), Property Book Officer, Page 5: Concur. Qualified property book officers are needed at unit level. Command action taken is considered appropriate.

(2) Paragraph 2a (2), TO&E Personnel Change, Page 6: Concur with recommendation. Command action considered appropriate.

(3) Paragraph 2c, Training, Page 6: Concur. Repeated recommendations have been made for expansion of this program. Rather than delay training in anticipation of program expansion, this headquarters has instituted an extensive standardization program. It is envisioned that consistent extra effort by local standardization personnel will eventually alleviate the requirement for a large number of IP school quotas.

(4) Paragraph 2e, Logistics, Page 6: Concur. These weapons were previously requested by another unit utilizing AH-1G helicopters. The USARV G4 Section stated that the CAR-15 was an ENSURE item, has been adopted as a standard item of equipment, and a ROT has been developed. The USARV G4 Section further advised that the weapon is not in production because of increased emphasis on production of the M-16 rifle. Command action is deemed appropriate.

(5) Paragraph 2f, Organization, Page 7: Concur. Problems encountered when a unit is deployed to several locations are readily evident. Tactical necessity remains the governing factor and all

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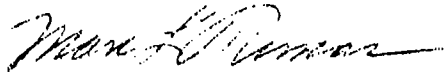
AVBACB-SC

28 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, HCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

moves are conducted accordingly.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



MARC L. TUMAS
CPT, ADA
Adjutant

CF:
CO, 268th AB (C)

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AVFA-GC-HIST (11 Aug 69) 2d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 15 SEP 1969

TO: CG, 1st Aviation Bde, APO 96384

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and 1st indorsement and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

F. E. Holland
FREDERICK E. HOLLAND
1LT AGC
ASST AG

Copy Furn:

- 1 - 17th Aviation Group (Combat)
- 1 - 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat)

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AVHAGC-O (11 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

27 SEP 1969

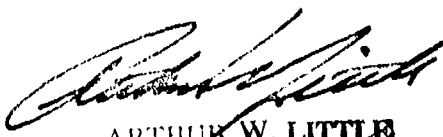
THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the contents as inforsed except as noted below.
2. (C) The following additional comment is considered pertinent:

Paragraph 2c(1), page 6, addresses the training of experienced aviators as instructor pilots. Nonconcur with the recommendation to expand the 1st Aviation Brigade Instructor Pilot School. (The Instructor Pilot School is conducted by the 1st Aviation Brigade rather than USAFV.) The mission of the Instructor Pilot School is to train highly qualified aviators as instructor pilots capable of training other instructor pilots for their respective units within the 1st Aviation Brigade. Due to the lack of training facilities, equipment and personnel, the expansion of the school is not feasible. Eighty two percent of all Assault Helicopter Companies assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade have graduates of this school. The 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat), with three Assault Helicopter Companies, has five graduates. The number of school trained personnel assigned to the 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) is considered adequate to train other instructor pilots for the battalion.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


ARTHUR W. LITTLE
CPT AGG
Asst AG.

Cy of 3d Ind Furn:
CO, 268th Avn Bn (Cbt)

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AVHGC-DST (11 Aug 69) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 13 OCT 1969

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

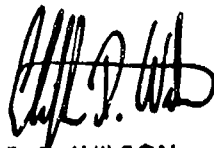
1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 268th Aviation Battalion (Combat).

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Training," section II, page 6, paragraph 2c; concur. The instructor pilot program in USARV is currently under study by this headquarters. Consideration is being given to the expansion of the 1st Aviation Brigade's school or the establishment of a USARV sponsored school.

b. Reference item concerning "Logistics," section II, page 6, paragraph 2e; nonconcur. No additional quantities of the XM177 SMG (CAR 15) will be procured. Units currently authorized the XM177 SMG in MTOE and TDA documents will change LIN Z76282 (XM177) to LIN R94977 (M16A1). The XM177 SMG will be supported through cannibalization when on-hand spare parts are exhausted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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

Cy furn:
268th CAB
1st Avn Bde


GPOP-DT (11 Aug 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 268th Aviation Battalion
(Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-
65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 20 NOV 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

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OPERATIONAL RESULTS AS OF 31 JULY 1969

1. RESULTS

UNIT	SORTIES FLN	TROOPS LFTD	(TONS)	ENEMY KBA	STRUCTURES		SAMRANG	
			CARGO LFTD		DAM	DES	DAM	DES
61st AC (AH)	38,223	39,698	712	14	6	8	0	0
129th AC (AH)	32,117	45,805	1,760.2	59	52	20	0	0
134th AC (AH)	28,423	45,329	686	21	10	0	0	0
238th AC (AW)	4,998	0	0	34	0	5	0	0
196th AC (ASH)	12,238	51,113	12,127	0	0	0	0	0
180th AC (ASH)	9,167	36,193	9,830.5	0	0	0	0	0
325th AC (HH)	3,731	0	9,463	0	0	0	0	0
268th AB (C)	128,897	218,138	34,578.7	128	68	44	0	0

2. LOSSES

UNIT	AIRCRAFT LOST		AIRCRAFT DAMAGED	
	TYPE	NO	TYPE	NO
61st AC (AH)	UH-1B	1	UH-1B	0
	UH-1H	3	UH-1H	6
129th AC (AH)	UH-1B	0	UH-1B	3
	UH-1H	2	UH-1H	5
134th AC (AH)	UH-1C	0	UH-1C	2
	UH-1H	0	UH-1H	3
238th AC (AW)	UH-1B	1	UH-1B	0
196th AC (ASH)	CH-47	0	CH-47	1
180th AC (ASH)	CH-47	1	CH-47	1
325th AC (HH)	CH-54A	0	CH-54A	0

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AIRCRAFT STATUS

UNIT	UH-1D/H		UH-1B/C		OH-6		CH-47		CH-54	
	AUTH	OH	AUTH	OH	AUTH	OH	AUTH	OH	AUTH	OH
61st AC (AH)	23	19	8	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
129th AC (AH)	23	19	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
134th AC (AH)	23	19	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
238th AC (AW)	-	1	12	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
180th AC (ASH)	-	-	-	-	2	-	16	16	-	-
196th AC (ASH)	-	-	-	-	2	-	16	16	-	-
355th AC (IH)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	9*
<u>HHC</u>	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
268th AB (C)	69	58	36	35	7	0	32	32	9	9

*Four aircraft are located at Pleiku, OPCON 52nd Avn Bn (Cbt)

16

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		2b. GROUP 4	
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5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 268th Aviation Battalion			
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