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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980	

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (15 Sep 67) FOR OT RD-670274

28 September 1967

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 52d  
Combat Aviation Battalion

**TO:** SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT 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*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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as

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11th Infantry Brigade (Sep)

## Commanding Officers

198th Infantry Brigade  
3d Battalion, 503d Airborne Infantry  
52d Combat Aviation Battalion

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION [U].  
APO 96318  
"Flying Dragons"

AVGD-CC

4 May 1967

SUBJECT: ⑨ Operational Report for <sup>the</sup> Quarterly Period, <sup>ending</sup> 30 Apr 67  
⑥67. (RCS-CSFOR 67)

⑱ OACSFOR

⑪ 28 Sep 67

TO: ~~SEE DISTRIBUTION~~

⑱ OT-RD-670274

⑫ 36 p.

**SECTION I - SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES**

1. (U) General. This report covers the period 1 February 1967 through 30 April 1967, and is submitted in compliance with Headquarters I Field Force Vietnam Regulation 1-3 dated 23 March 1967, and Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group Regulation 1-3 dated 24 April 1967.

a. The 52d Combat Aviation Battalion is stationed at Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN. Subordinate elements consist of the following units located as indicated: (Detail list of detachments is shown in inclosure 1)

- (1) Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment - Pleiku, RVN
- (2) 119th Assault Helicopter Company - Pleiku, RVN. Equipped with the UH-1D and UH-1C(A) helicopter.
- (3) 155th Assault Helicopter Company - Ban Me Thout, RVN. Equipped with the UH-1D and the UH-1C(A) helicopter.
- (4) 170th Assault Helicopter Company - Pleiku, RVN. Equipped with the UH-1D and the UH-1C(A) helicopter.
- (5) 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company - Pleiku, RVN. Equipped with the CH-47 helicopter.

b. Type aircraft authorized and on hand:

	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>
(1) UH-1C(A)	24	24
(2) UH-1C	2	0
(3) UH-1D	69	60

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	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>
(4) CH-47	16	16
(5) U-6A	1	1

2

2. (C) Intelligence. The Battalion S-2 section continued to publish a daily INTSUM which is distributed to each company within the Battalion, Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group, and other units on request.

a. Major enemy action during this period centered in the western and southwestern quadrants of Pleiku province. Enemy activity and movement has increased during the month of April and is expected to become greater during the monsoon period. Action during the enemy summer monsoon campaign is expected to center around the cities of Kontum, Pleiku, Special Forces camps (particularly Duc Co and Plei Me) and resettlement areas.

b. Ground to air fire was received on 50 occasions during this period resulting in 34 aircraft being hit. Twelve of these aircraft received major damage. Only one was totally destroyed.

### 3. (C) Operations & Training Activities.

a. The Battalion supported numerous operations to include Sam Houston, Thayer II, Pershing, Summerall, Francis Marion, Omega, Stark, Prairie Fire, Hancock I and Shining Brass. In addition aviation support was provided for II Corps, Special Forces, and the 9th ROK Inf Div. 44 per cent of the hours flown during this period were in support of the 4th Infantry Division in Operation Sam Houston and Francis Marion. Another 22 per cent of the total time was flown in support of the 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div. in operation Thayer II and Pershing. The remaining 34 per cent was flown in support of the smaller operation, Free World Assistance Forces and unit training. The battalion was in support of tactical operations every day during the reported period.

b. Operational statistics for the period appear below:

(1) Total number of aircraft hours flown during the reported period - 26,723.

(2) Total number of aircraft sorties flown during the reported period - 84,226.

(a) Tactical and logistical sorties flown in support of tactical operations - 79,350.

(b) Training and maintenance sorties - 4876.

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3 d. During the reported period the following subjects were stressed in the training conducted for the officers and enlisted personnel:

(1) Aviator Training

- (a) Escape and Evasion
- (b) Instrument Flying
- (c) Practice GCA and ADF Approaches
- (d) Night Flying
- (e) Formation Flying
- (f) Pre-Flight Inspections
- (g) Density Altitude
- (h) Use of "Go-No-Go" Chart
- (i) Flight Safety
- (j) Rules of Engagement
- (k) Safety Procedures of 2.75" Rockets

(2) Ground Training

- (a) Escape and Evasion
- (b) Defense Plans
- (c) Function of Claymore Mines
- (d) Weapons Familiarization
- (e) Troop Information
- (f) Medical Training

4. (C) Logistics.

a. Class I: No difficulties encountered during the period.

b. Class II, III, IV and V: Class II and V requirements were met during the quarter without difficulty. Class II and IV support continued to improve. Tool set, aircraft mechanics general were received in small quantities. In addition six more XM-21 armament systems were received

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during this period giving the Battalion a total of twelve presently on hand. Several experimental items were issued for test and evaluation; a smoke generator mounted on a UH1, new fire resistant flight suits, and the CAR-15 automatic rifle. A large number of the new APH-6 flight helmets were also issued during this period. The shortage of the following radac test sets continues to restrict the unit's capability to properly test avionics equipment:

	<u>FSN</u>	<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>QTY</u>
(1)	6625-973-3986	Voltmeter, AN/URM-145	1 ea
(2)	6625-885-5869	Test Set Gyromagnetic TS-1086/U	1 ea
(3)	6625-895-6646	Test Set Radio TS-1588/AIC	1 ea
(4)	6625-543-1356	Frequency Meter AN/USM-26	3 ea
(5)	6625-868-8352	Signal Generator AN/URM-103	1 ea
(6)	6625-581-2036	Multimeter AN/URM-105	1 ea
(7)	6625-066-2555	Oscilloscope AN/USM-140A	1 ea
(8)	5821-901-4327	Maintenance Kit MK-733	1 ea
(9)	6625-649-5193	Signal Generator AN/URM-25B	1 ea
(10)	6625-893-2628	Test Set TS-1836/U	1 ea

c. Two problems were encountered with the receipt of the APH-6 flight helmet. The helmet is issued in two sizes, large and medium. The large size equates to approximately 7 1/8 while the medium is smaller than size 7. Although the large size can be worn by most air crew-members it causes severe pressure and becomes extremely uncomfortable after several hours of flying. Another problem encountered with this helmet has been a high failure rate of the wiring harness. An EIR was submitted on this item on 2 April 1967. The non-availability of technical manuals for this helmet has prevented the units from requisitioning spare parts and establishing a PLL. The only source of repair parts has been through cannibalization of non-repairable helmets.

d. The Battalion has been without any means of reproducing orders and other type reports due to the breakdown of the only mimeograph machine. Numerous requests and liaison visits have been made to every known supply point in Vietnam in an attempt to obtain a duplicating machine. At this time all efforts have proven negative. All items must be reproduced at some other installation whenever a machine is available. Although this is a minor item in cost it has proven to be a major problem area.

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## 5. (U) Civil Affairs.

5 a. The civic action teams, headed by the Battalion S-5, began regular visits to the Montagnard villages in the battalion area. They have treated the village personnel for skin rashes and minor ailments and have distributed USAID packages. A dam and waterway has been constructed in Plei Bong Phun by the 405th Maintenance Detachment.

b. The Battalion sponsored, Tu Tam orphanage, was accepted by the Vietnamese government as a national home in a dedication conducted on 27 March 67. The home is now caring for 80 children and is guaranteed continued support by the Vietnamese government.

c. Civic action projects include a Little League Baseball team program and assistance to the boy scout troop for the Montagnard boys in Pleiku.

d. The 155th Assault Helicopter Company continued to provide medical assistance to the patients of the Ban Me Thout hospital charity ward. Assistance was also rendered in the construction of a new ward.

## 6. (C) Personnel.

a. In-country transportation of replacement personnel continues to be a problem. In most instances unit tactical aircraft had to be dispatched to pick up incoming personnel.

b. A shortage in replacement personnel with MOS 11B10 (basic infantryman) continues to exist. The Battalion is temporarily using MOS 67A10 (basic aircraft mechanic) as a filler in maintaining strength in the post security detachment and as aircraft door gunners.

## 7. (U) Religious Activities.

a. During this quarter the chapel attendance has risen. The officers and men of the Battalion continue to support every phase of the religious program.

b. The Easter season was the religious highlight of the quarter. Holy Week and Easter Sunday services were well supported.

c. The Catholic congregation has continued its support of the St Paul School in Pleiku.

d. The Protestant congregation continued to sponsor the Christian missionary alliance hymn sing for the men of the Pleiku area.

e. A Protestant men's organization was formed in the 155th Assault Helicopter Company at Ban Me Thout in February. This organization meets twice monthly.

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8. (U) Awards and Decorations. Total awards approved during this period:

Silver Star	2
Legion of Merit	3
Distinguished Flying Cross	19
Bronze Star	24
Bronze Star W/V	1
Air Medal	1295
Air Medal W/V	10
Army Commendation Medal	28
Army Commendation Medal W/V	2
Purple Heart	6

TOTAL 1390

9. (U) PIO Activities during the period.

a. Feature stories	17
b. Hometown news releases	165
c. Hometown tapes (Mothers' Day Messages)	31

d. Three issues of the Battalion paper "Dragon News" was printed with a circulation of 1000 copies monthly.

e. A daily summary of aviation activities is submitted to USAFV giving the daily aviation performance data and highlights.

f. On 4 February 67, the installation at the Ban Me Thout city airfield was designated Camp Coryell in memory of Warrant Officer Michael N. Coryell, who was killed in action on 30 October 1966.

10. (U) Special Services. Four special service shows appeared at Camp Holloway during the reported period.

11. (U) Safety. During the period 15 February - 8 March 1967, the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion set an all time 1st Aviation Brigade Safety Record when it flew 52 consecutive days and over 15,000 hours without an accident.

## SECTION II - COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

#### 1. (C) Personnel.

\* a. Item: Shortage of Gunners

\* This item was discussed in the last quarterly report.

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Discussion: TO&E 1-258F does not authorize gunners for the 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company. These duties are presently being performed by personnel with other MOS's and duties within the unit.

Observation: The use of these personnel continues to be detrimental to the unit's efficiency. Six gunners were assigned to the unit during this reporting period, however, without an authorized TO&E position personnel can not be requested. MTOE 1-258F for the 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company was submitted by Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group on 21 November 1966.

## 2. (C) Operations.

### a. Item: Aircraft Utilization

Discussion: During this period, the assault support helicopter unit has encountered an increase in the number of missions flown between fixed wing bases.

Observation: In order to obtain a fixed wing transport aircraft the request must be processed 14-18 hours in advance. In a tactical situation this is not always feasible. To eliminate this situation a designated number of fixed wing aircraft should be made available on an area support basis to cope with unscheduled missions.

### b. Item: Command, Control and Communications

Discussion: The assault support helicopter company operates in widely separated locations. This method of operation results in communication problems with the unit operation officer and the aircraft. Many times an additional mission is received to be performed in an area where an aircraft is already operating. Due to poor communications the mission often times can not be relayed until the aircraft has returned to a point closer to home base.

Observation: The CH-47 has the ARC-102 radio installed, however, no ground set is available to the unit. With a ground mounted HF radio i.e. the MRC-95, this problem could be eliminated. This item was included on the MTOE 1-258F submitted by Headquarters, 17th Combat Aviation Group on 21 November 1966.

### c. Item: Booby Trapped Landing Zones

Discussion: During the period covered by this report several landing zones were found to be booby trapped or mined. All these landing zones had been utilized previously by American Forces, but were abandoned for periods of three days or more. Investigation by the ground units

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indicated that some of these devices were fabricated from demolitions and ammunition which could have been abandoned by friendly units. On one occasion the booby traps were of the type set to explode in the air.

Observation: Areas selected as landing zones should have preparatory fires placed in the center of the landing zone to detonate any emplaced mines or booby traps especially if the landing zone had been previously occupied.

## d. Item: Use of Artillery Illumination

Discussion: When artillery is utilized as a source of illumination a hazard is created by the separation of the flare and cannister. The position of the flare can easily be ascertained by visual reference, however, the unlit cannister will continue for another 1000 to 1500 meters along the gun target line.

Observation: Aviators utilizing artillery illumination must remain informed of the gun target line to preclude flying through the trajectory of the cannisters. The gun target line should be made known to an aviator prior to departure for proper planning of flight routes.

## 3. (U) Maintenance.

### a. Item: Inspection and Cleaning of Fuel Filters

Discussion: During the period covered by this report several malfunctions with the T-53 engine were experienced. An intensive investigation disclosed that the present inspection and replacement frequency of the fuel filters was inadequate in the extremely dusty conditions encountered in the central highlands.

Observation: The frequency of inspecting and replacing the fuel filter was doubled. This practice is expected to reduce the engine problems encountered.

### b. Item: 600 Hour PE

Discussion: The 179th Assault Helicopter Company and its supporting maintenance detachment has completed eight, 600 hour PEs to date with the ninth one programmed for completion in the next few days. The normal number of 600 hour PEs should have been six. The increase in the number of these inspections is a result of an increase in the flying hours.

Observation: If the present flying hour program continues it is anticipated that eleven to twelve 600 hour PEs will be completed during the first year of operation in country. Adequate resupply of spare parts and an extremely high degree of professionalism among the maintenance personnel is the key factor in the outstanding aircraft availability rate of the CH-47 within this battalion.

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## PART II, Recommendations

### 1. (U) Personnel

a. Ref., section I, para. 6b, and section II, para. 1a. Recommend approval of MTOE 1-258F be expedited or an interim augmentation be authorized to assign personnel to be utilized as door gunners on the CH-47 aircraft. Further recommend that sufficient personnel in MOS 11B10 be made available to the aviation units to avoid utilizing aircraft mechanics for these duties.

### 2. (C) Operations

a. Ref., section I, para. 6a and section II, part I, para. 2a. Recommend additional fixed wing aircraft be made available to perform missions between fixed wing airfields.

b. Ref., section II, part I, para. 2b. Recommend approval of MTOE 1-258F be expedited or an interim augmentation be authorized to obtain the MRC-95 radio.

### 3. (U) Logistics

a. Ref., section I, para. 4c.

(1) Recommend that the APH-6 flight helmet be made in a larger size.

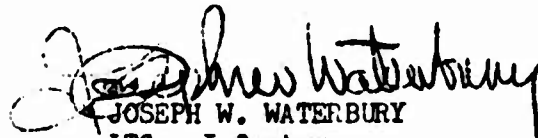
(2) Recommend that an immediate study be conducted to determine a modification for the wiring harness of the APH-6.

(3) Recommend immediate action to procure the technical manuals for the APH-6 flight helmet.

b. Ref., section I, para. 4d. Recommend mimeograph machines be included as a supply stockage item.

### 3 Incls

- 1-Organizational Structure
- 2-After Action Report (San Houston)
- 3-After Action Report (Period 1 Feb-30 April 67, except San Houston)

  
JOSEPH W. WATERBURY  
LTC, Infantry  
Acting Commander

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// AVCD-SC (20 May 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 17TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, APO 96240

20 May 1967

TO: Commanding General, I FFORCE V, APO 96240

1. The 52d Combat Aviation Battalion Operational Reports for Quarterly Period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded for information and action.

2. This Headquarters has reviewed this ORLL and concurs with Part II, recommendations, as modified herein.

1a. Personnel - Concur - MTOE 1-258F has been submitted to 1st Avn Bde.

2b. Operations - Concur - 1st Avn Bde has just recently submitted a plan to augment each Combat Aviation Battalion with a Fixed Wing Aircraft to alleviate administrative flight hours on UH-1 aircraft.

3a. Logistics

(1) Concur

(2) Concur

(3) Concur

b. Concur

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
as

A.R. ZENZ  
Major, CE  
Adjutant

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AVFA-GC-OT (4 May 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

8 JUN 1967

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96307

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the contents of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion operational report for the period ending 30 April 1967, and the preceding indorsement with the following comments.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part II - Recommendations:

a. Paragraphs 1a and 2b - Personnel: Concur. The ORLL is not a means to expedite action for approval of MTOE's for personnel or equipment. Appropriate administrative action should be taken in accordance with USARV message (U), 19073, DTG 251132Z March 1967, subject: Changes in Equipment Authorizations. The 17th Combat Aviation Group has been informed of this procedure.

b. Paragraph 2a - Operations: Non-concur.

(1) This recommendation is a generalization and may be misleading. The problem is one in which CH-47 aircraft requirements have increased sharply during the past quarter. Many relatively long distance missions are being performed by CH-47 aircraft to transport items of equipment between airfields which are capable of accepting C-123 and C-130 type aircraft. Even though it is recognized that fixed-wing aircraft are more economical for long distance missions, most users are apparently unwilling to accept the delay in the request to fill time for USAF fixed-wing aircraft. As a consequence, a number of urgent short notice requests for CH-47 aircraft are submitted.

(2) Designation of a number of fixed-wing aircraft to provide support on an area support basis would seriously dissipate the resources to support airlift requirements in RVN. Fixed-wing transport aircraft have been and can be made available within a three to four hour period, dependent upon the priority of the mission. However, this does not relieve commanders of the responsibility of proper prior planning to prevent excessive use of tactical emergency and combat essential airlifts, which disrupts the scheduled airlift system in RVN.

c. Reference paragraph 3a (1) - Logistics: Concur. Electronic command recognizes the problem of helmet size. Removing a portion of the existing padding by the unit is an interim solution. 34th Group Avionics newsletter, dated May 1967, has an article on the APH-6 helmet which includes numerous federal stock number line items for assistance to the unit in requisitioning spare parts. This information has been furnished the 17th Combat Aviation Group.

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AVFA-GC-OT (4 May 67)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (U)

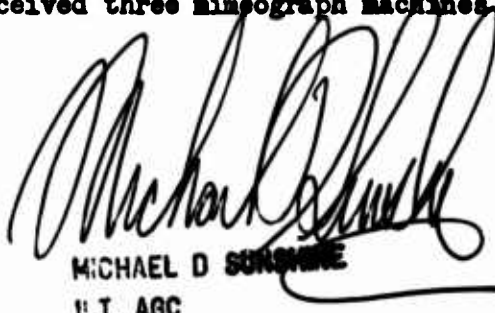
d. Paragraph 3a (2) - Logistics: Concur. Further investigation of this deficiency will be conducted by this headquarters.

e. Paragraph 3a (3) - Logistics: Concur. Technical manuals are required. Action taken by unit is considered adequate to initiate necessary measures to obtain technical manuals.

f. Paragraph 3b - Logistics: Concur. Mimeograph machines are available in limited quantities. These are procurement of equipment and missiles, Army (PEMA) items and are not stocked below depot level. The 52d Combat Aviation Battalion has recently received three mimeograph machines which has corrected this discrepancy.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

3 Incls  
nc

  
MICHAEL D. SUNSHINE  
1LT, AGC  
ASST AG

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AVBA-C (4 May 67)

3rd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned Period Ending 30 April 1967  
RCS-CSFOR 67)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96307

JUN 2 0 1967

THRU: Commanding General, U. S. Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96307  
Commander in Chief, U. S. Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-JH, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff Force Development, Department of the Army  
(ACSFOR DA), Washington D. C. 20310

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed subject report of the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion as indorsed and considers it to be adequate and concurs with the contents except as noted.

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

a. Reference Section I, Part I, para 4b, page 3: Shortage of avionics test sets. Three of the four avionics detachments assigned are collocated in Pleiku. Inventory records on file at this headquarters reveal that the majority of needed equipment is available, although not all assigned to one unit. It has been recommended many times in the past that units which are collocated pool resources until all test equipment becomes available. The 17th Combat Aviation Group will be advised to ensure that appropriate follow up action has been taken on all outstanding avionics equipment requisitions.

b. Section II, Part I, para 1a, page 6: This headquarters is acutely aware of the problem concerning absence of authorization for door gunners in the 179th Assault Support Helicopter Company. The space ceiling imposed upon USARV did not permit favorable consideration of the MTOE submitted by the 17th Aviation Group in November 1966. Since no space trade-offs could be identified which would permit the 17th Aviation Group strength to remain within authorized limits, subject MTOE was not forwarded for further consideration. Department of the Army has directed MTOE action on all Assault Support Helicopter Companies in RVN to accommodate new, light weight items of equipment previously approved for inclusion by DA. This proposed MTOE will also be used to realign the strengths of all CH-47 organizations. Each will now be provided with an identical structure which will include 13 door gunners, yet remain with total space authorizations of present force structure.

c. Section II, Part I, para 2a, page 7: Non-concur with discussion concerning utilization of CH-47 aircraft contained in 2nd indorsement. The concept of utilization of CH-47 helicopters to perform missions between fixed wing bases, regardless of separation distance, is certainly one which will rapidly deplete our medium helicopter assets. This problem extends beyond the scope of comparison of operating cost between

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AVBA-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS-CSFOR 67)

fixed and rotary wing aircraft. All maintenance spare parts and equipment are programmed and procured on the basis of the monthly flying hours established in FM 101-20. Rebuild turnaround times on major assemblies such as engines and transmissions are also keyed to this flying hour program. This ORLL indicates the CH-47 aircraft are already overflying the established monthly flying hours by approximately 30%. (Section II, Part I, para 3b, page 8) Although the supporting field maintenance detachment has done an outstanding job of keeping up with this accelerated flying program, it cannot be assumed that spare parts and rebuild assemblies will continue to flow at a rate far in excess of that established by DA planning. The 2d indorsement infers that when users have failed to completely anticipate their requirements, it is better to utilize CH-47 assets airfield to airfield than to dissipate or disrupt the scheduled airlift system in RVN. In fact, when compared with Army aviation support, the scheduled airlift system in RVN is sluggish and unresponsive. In order to conserve expensive rotary wing assets; responsive, economical, Army fixed wing support should be made available on an area basis to cope with unscheduled missions. Utility type fixed wing aircraft have been requested, as mentioned in 1st indorsement, to reduce the flying hours now being expended on rotary wing aircraft in the administrative support role. Supported units must carefully consider mission requirements and exercise extreme care in the management of this valuable asset if continuous, reliable support is expected.

d. Section II, Part I, para 2b, page 7: Command, Control and Communication. The HF SSB radio sets AN/VSC-2 are presently being issued to the field. This will eliminate the problem of long range communication.

e. Section II, Part II, para 3, page 9: Logistics;

(1) Natick Lab has already been informed concerning the difficulty encountered with the size of the APH-5A.

(2) A study was recently conducted by the brigade surgeon on all aspects of the new helmet; a copy of which was also forwarded to Natick Lab.

(3) Technical manuals and spare parts were also requested. Spare parts have arrived, but as yet no manuals have been received.

(4) This headquarters concurs with the recommendation of maintaining float stocks of mimeograph machines. The present practice is to sustain the loss of a machine while it is being repaired under

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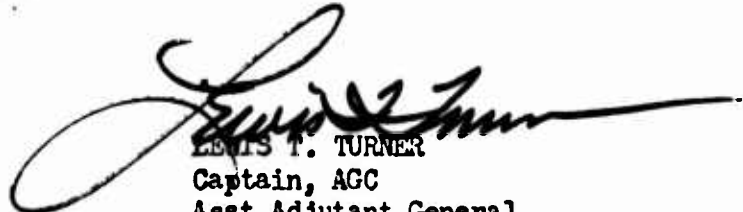
AVBA-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS-CSFOR 67)

local contract. This is particularly undesirable if the repairs are quite extensive.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

3 Incl  
nc



LEWIS T. TURNER  
Captain, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (4 May 67)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 JUN 22 1967

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 52d Combat Aviation Battalion as indorsed.


2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning aircraft utilization, paragraph 2a, page 7; paragraph 2b, 2d Indorsement and paragraph 2c, 3d Indorsement: Concur except for paragraph 2b, 2d Indorsement. The discussion presented by 1st Aviation Brigade in paragraph 2c, 3d Indorsement is valid and conforms with the policy of this headquarters in regard to utilization of CH-47 helicopters.

b. Reference item concerning cleaning of fuel filters, paragraph 3a, page 8: Concur. The additional effort and man-hours employed in doubling the inspection requirement undoubtedly reduces the over-all effort by eliminating a number of malfunctions in the T-53 engine which were previously encountered.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

3 Incl  
nc

  
E. L. KENNEDY  
Cpt. AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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GPOP-DT(4 May 67)

5th Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
from HQ, 52d Cbt Avn Bn (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

1 SEP 1967

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  
in the report as indorsed.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 2a, basic report;  
paragraph 2b, 2d Indorsement; paragraph 2c, 3d Indorsement; and  
paragraph 2a, 4th Indorsement. DA message 828870, DTG 211957Z  
August 1967, subject: Fixed Wing Aircraft, approved the loan of 60  
utility fixed wing aircraft in addition to those currently authorized  
to USARV. The aircraft are being prepared for shipment and should  
assist in reducing the flying hours now being expended on rotary wing  
aircraft in the administrative support role.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



3 Incl  
nc

HEAVRIN SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
1st AG

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## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE - 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment

52d Security Platoon

119th Assault Helicopter Company

545th Transportation Detachment (CHFM)

70th Signal Detachment

94th Medical Detachment

155th Assault Helicopter Company

165th Transportation Detachment (CHFM)

208th Signal Detachment

8th Medical Detachment

170th Assault Helicopter Company

405th Transportation Detachment (CHFM)

448th Signal Detachment

755th Medical Detachment

179th Assault Support Helicopter Company

402nd Transportation Detachment (MHFM)

344th Aviation Detachment (Arrived in country 19 Feb 67)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION  
APO 96318  
"Flying Dragons"

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AVGD-CC

24 April 1967

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation Sam Houston, 1 Jan 67 - 5 Apr 67

TO: Commanding Officer  
17th Combat Aviation Group  
APO 96240

1. The 52d Combat Aviation Battalion supported Sam Houston for the entire period of the operation.

2. Summary of events:

PERIOD 1-5 JAN 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn supported operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 2 Jan 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co supported by aircraft from the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co, moved 135 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn from ZA 103273 to YA 730505. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co also moved 135 troops of the 2/35 Inf Bn from the 3/25th Inf Bde base camp to ZA 103273, and 210 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn from ZA 105275 to YA 730505.

On 4 Jan 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co performed a combat assault with 36 troops of the 1/10 Cav Sqdn from ZA 105275 to ZA 001462. This unit was later extracted and returned to ZA 105275.

On 5 Jan 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co moved 30 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn from YA 730505 to Dragon Mountain base camp.

In addition normal command and control and resupply missions were completed during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVAC</u>	<u>COMBAT LOS ES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
868	59	1690	19		299

PERIOD 6-12 JAN 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

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On 10 Jan 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co airlifted 120 troops of the 1/12 Inf Bn into four landing zones in the vicinity of AR 7742. These troops were later extracted and returned to YA 853455. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 76 troops and 35,000 lbs of cargo of the 1/22 Inf Bn and the supporting artillery battery from YA 853455 to YA 765408. In addition 32 troops were extracted from YA 976352 and airlifted to YA 853455.

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Normal command and control and resupply missions were completed during this period of time.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVAC</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
1447	101	1798	0		525

PERIOD 13-19 JAN 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continues to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 16 Jan 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co airlifted 157 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from YA 688431 to YA 855455, and 183 troops from YA 765407 to YA 855455. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire base from YA 765407 to YA 865455.

On 19 Jan 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co moved 150 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn from the 4th Div Base camp to YA 850451.

In addition numerous resupply and command and control missions were completed during this week.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
2088	215	3350	1		618

PERIOD 20-26 JAN 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 20 Jan 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co, supported by the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co, extracted 126 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 054234 to ZA 032312.

On 21 Jan 67, an extraction of 90 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn was made from ZA 083164 to ZA 080212 by the 170th Aslt Hel Co and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 23 Jan 67, the 170 Aslt Hel Co performed a combat assault lifting 60 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 080212 to ZA 085155. Later the same troops were extracted to ZA 080212.

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On 24 Jan 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting 100 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 105275 to ZA 012155 and later extracted the same unit. The 155th Aslt Hel Co extracted 240 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 040249 and ZA 030228 to ZA 105275. Aircraft from the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co were utilized on this lift.

On 25 Jan 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co performed a combat assault lifting a total of 400 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 105275 to ZA 040509 and ZA 028469.

On 26 Jan 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co performed an assault lifting 35 troops of the 1/12 Inf Bn from YA 793413 to YA 823386. Later the same troops were extracted.

In addition normal command and control and resupply missions were completed during this period.

The combined results of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
2279	92	3274	16		680

PERIOD 27-31 JAN 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 27 Jan 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co performed a combat assault lifting 35 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn from YA 768489 to YA 731471.

On 29 Jan 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co, supported by aircraft from the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co, performed an extraction of 124 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 055445 to YA 852452.

On 31 Jan 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 140 passengers and 3 sorties of cargo from ZA 062448 to YA 852453.

Normal command and control and resupply missions were completed during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
2130	142	2807	2		524

PERIOD 1-9 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

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On 3 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 124 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from ZA 142518 to YA 852453, 100 troops of the 1/69 Armcr Bn from AR 928565 to ZA 105275 and 94 troops of the Div Hq on several small administrative moves. 24

On 4 Feb 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co, with attachments from the 155th Aslt Hel Co, performed two combat assaults. A total of 352 troops of the 2/35th Inf Bn were moved from ZA 105275 to YA 940050 and YA 933033. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support base in 30 sorties.

On 7 Feb 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co, with two aircraft attached from the 4th Div Avn Bn, conducted a combat assault lifting 35 troops of the 1/12 Inf Bn from YA 757385 to YA 787353. A second combat assault was conducted in which 108 troops of the 1/8 Inf Bn were lifted from YA 773226 to YA 825266.

On 8 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co moved the 2/35 Inf Bn fire support base from YA 941055 to YA 940995 in 46 sorties.

On 9 Feb 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co evacuated 9 casualties from a landing zone which had been assaulted by elements of the 1/12 Inf Bn.

In addition normal command and control and resupply missions were conducted.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3888	853	6994	8		1170

PERIOD 10-16 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 11 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co performed numerous administrative troop lifts carrying a total of 246 passengers within the area of operation.

On 12 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 132 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from YA 855455 to YA 672541.

On 13 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co performed several administrative moves in which 315 troops of the 2nd Bde. were moved to the division base camp in the morning and returned later in the evening.

On 15 Feb 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co attached ten aircraft to the 4th Avn Bn for two secure troop moves. The first move airlifted 400 troops of the 1/22 Inf Bn from YA 848458 to YA 615602. On the second move, 400 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn were airlifted from YA 758386 to YA 602550. Enemy contact

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25 was received during the move and 8 aircraft from the 170th Aslt Hel Co received hits. In addition numerous med evac missions were performed during this period by the 155th Aslt Hel Co.

On 16 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co completed two fire support base moves and associated resupply requirements in a total of 86 sorties. The 1/22 Inf Bn fire base was airlifted from YA 706522 to YA 603547 and the 2/35 Inf Bn fire base was airlifted from YA 866135 to YA 782232. The 179th executed a night medical evacuation in which 10 WIA were lifted from YA 603547 to the 18th Surgical Hospital. The 170th Aslt Hel Co made a night extraction of 23 troops of the 2/35 Inf Bn from YA 866135 to YA 782232.

Numerous resupply and command and control missions were performed during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
2188	659	2986	25		607

PERIOD 17-23 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Co and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 17 Feb 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co, with elements of the 155th Aslt Hel Co and the 4th Div Avn Bn, performed a combat assault for the 2/35 Inf Bn lifting 263 troops from YA 782232 to YA 649503.

On 22 Feb 67, the 155th and 170th Aslt Hel Cos completed three combat assaults. A total of 230 troops were airlifted from YA 765495 and YA 671541 into landing zones located at YA 712601 and YA 640618. A total of 140 troops were airlifted from YA 765495 into YA 640618 and YA 666661. On the third assault, 180 troops were airlifted from YA 815464 to YA 666661. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support base from YA 815464 to YA 668662 in 37 sorties.

During this period normal command and control and resupply missions were completed in support of the operation.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3046	838	4792	241		1003

PERIOD 24-28 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

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On 28 Feb 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co completed numerous med evac missions. In addition, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 217 passengers on administrative troop exchanges in the operational area.

Command and control and heavy resupply missions were completed in support of operation Sam Houston during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
2642	714	3896	60		709

PERIOD 1-9 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 3 Mar 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co performed a combat assault airlifting 250 troops from YA 660550 to YA 760596. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support base in 33 sorties.

On 4 Mar 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co extracted 295 troops of the 1/8 Inf Bn from YA 668662 and conducted a combat assault into YA 761625. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support base in 37 sorties with an additional 36 sorties of resupply being airlifted upon completion of the move.

On 5 Mar 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 197 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn from YA 675537 to YA 750760.

On 7 Mar 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted 256 troops on administrative troop exchanges in the forward area.

On 8 Mar 67, the 170th and the 155th Aslt Hel Cos were attached to the 4th Avn Bn for a combat assault. A combat assault was conducted in which 526 troops were airlifted into three separate landing zones located at YA 707604, YA 639617 and YA 664661. Troop pick-ups were made at YA 676538, YA 612602 and YA 850451 respectively. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support base in 30 sorties.

On 9 Mar 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co extracted 32 troops of the 2/35 Inf Bn from YA 761598 and airlifted them to YA 677538. In addition, 115 troops of the 2/8 Inf Bn were extracted from YA 772518, and airlifted to several locations within the area of operation. An administrative move of 240 troops also was conducted. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the 2/35 Inf Bn fire support base from YA 761598 to YA 677538 in 30 sorties.

Normal command and control and resupply missions were performed during this period.

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The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

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<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3687	1625	6230	115		1288

PERIOD 10-16 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 10 Mar 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co, with attachments from the 155th Aslt Hel Co and the 4th Avn Bn, performed two combat assaults. One infantry company and the CP element was airlifted from YA 850451 to YA 771722 and two Inf companies were airlifted from YA 850451 to YA 808754. A total of 540 troops were moved during these assaults. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co moved the associated artillery fire support base in 22 sorties.

On 13 Mar 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co, together with aircraft from the 155th, 161st and 282d Aslt Hel Cos, performed two combat assaults. A total of 880 troops from the 1/8 and 3/8 Inf Bns were airlifted from YA 865706 and YA 738515 into landing zones at YA 649507 and YA 658478. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support bases from YA 865706 and YA 728515 into YA 730505, with a total of 76 CH-47 sorties.

On 14 Mar 67, elements of the 170th Aslt Hel Co were attached to the 4th Avn Bn in a movement of two companies from YA 655755 to YA 668662.

On 16 Mar 67, elements of the 155th Aslt Hel Co were attached to the 4th Avn Bn to conduct a combat assault in which two companies of the 1/12 Inf Bn plus the fire support base were moved from YA 667661 to YA 758385. On this move one UH-1D was destroyed and 4 others were hit resulting in 2 KIA and 2 WIA. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co also assisted in this move.

Normal command and control and resupply missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
4133	1429	6339	118	1	1370

PERIOD 17-23 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 119th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 18 Mar 67, aircraft from the 155th and 170th Aslt Hel Cos were attached to the 4th Avn Bn for a troop move of one Inf Bn from YA 612602 to YA 871366. The 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co airlifted the associated fire support

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base in 36 sorties. An additional troop move was conducted in support of the 2/35 Inf Bn. Two infantry companies were moved from YA 677538 to YA 709602 by elements of the 155th and 170th Aslt Hel Cos. 28

On 21 Mar 67, the 170th and 155th Aslt Hel Cos moved two companies of the 1/8 Inf Bn. Aircraft from the 155, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co were utilized to move emergency resupply and perform medical evacuation missions for the 2/35 Inf Bn.

On 22 Mar 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co moved 2 companies of the 2/35 Inf Bn and one company of the 3/8 Inf Bn.

On 23 Mar 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co conducted an extraction of "B" Co. 3/8 Inf Bn from YA 695480 to YA 730508 utilizing aircraft from the 4th Div and the 119th Aslt Hel Co. A total of 138 Pax were moved and 31 casualties were evacuated.

Normal command and control and resupply missions were performed during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3206	1154	4485	124		942

PERIOD 24-31 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 119th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

Normal command and control and resupply missions were completed during this week. In addition numerous med evacs were performed.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3081	1155	5685	41		1573

PERIOD 1-5 APR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Sam Houston with aircraft from the 155th, 170th, 119th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 4 Apr 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted an extraction of the 1/8 Inf Bn (-). The main body of troops and equipment were moved by the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co in 31 sorties. Final extraction was accomplished by the 170th Aslt Hel Co in one lift of 34 troops.

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Several med evac missions were performed plus normal resupply and command and control missions in support of the operation.

The combined efforts of the 52d Cbt Avn Bn's aircraft produced the following results for this period:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
2539	430	1640	18		779

SUMMARY: The 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following totals for the entire period of operation Sam Houston:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
37,224	9,466	53,868	788	1	12,087

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*James R. Reed*  
JAMES R. REED  
Major, Arty  
Adjutant

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION  
APO 96318  
"Flying Dragons"

AVGD-CC

1 May 1967

SUBJECT: After Action Report, 12 February - 30 April 1967. (Excluding Operation Sam Houston)

TO: Commanding Officer  
17th Combat Aviation Group  
APO 96240

1. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn provided support for Operations Thayer II, Pershing, Summerall, Francis Marion, Prairie Fire, Stark, Shining Brass, Omega and Golden Arrow during this period. Occasional support was also provided for the Special Forces, Republic of Korea Forces, and Republic of Vietnam Forces.

2. Summary of events:

PERIOD 1-9 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support Operation Thayer II, Stark and Shining Brass with aircraft from the 119th, 155th and 170th Aslt Hel Cos, and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 5 Feb 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting one company of the 1/35 Inf Bn.

On 6 Feb 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting one company of the 1/35 Inf Bn.

Numerous platoon size combat assaults, resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
5668	1048	9474	4	0	1693

PERIOD 10-16 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Thayer II, Pershing, Shinning Brass and Stark with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

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On 12 Feb 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted an extraction lifting the 1/35 Inf Bn from three locations in the vicinity of BR 765616 to BR 918741. One NVA armed with an AK47 surrendered to a helicopter from the 119th Aslt Hel Co. Operation Thayer II Terminated on this date and Operation Pershing began.

On 13 Feb 67, Operation Stark terminated.

On 14 Feb 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting one company of the 1/35 Inf Bn from BR 918741 to BR 864767.

Numerous platoon size combat assaults, resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3220	567	4654	11	0	1149

PERIOD 17-28 FEB 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Pershing and Shining Brass with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 18 Feb 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted several combat assault lifting one company of the 1/14 Inf Bn.

On 21 Feb 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted several combat assaults moving units of the 1/14 and 1/35 Inf Bns into landing zones vicinity of BR 858750.

On 22 Feb 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting 172 ARVN troops from BQ 095300 to BQ 045240.

On 23 Feb 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co conducted two combat assaults lifting 238 troops of the 23rd ARVN Div into landing zones in the vicinity of Bao Loc.

On 24 Feb 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting 357 ARVN troops from Bao Loc to Di Linh.

Numerous platoon size combat assaults, resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
7100	1006	10,434	38	0	2178

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PERIOD 1-9 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Pershing, Omega and Shining Brass with aircraft from the 119th, 155th 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 4 Mar 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co performed a combat assault lifting 140 ARVN troops from ZA 122286 to YA 909366.

Numerous small unit combat assaults, resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
4489	270	5042	51	0	1426

PERIOD 10-16 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Pershing, Omega, and Shining Brass with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 10 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting one company of the 1/35 Inf Bn into landing zone at BR 851800. The 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting 86 ARVN troops from Kontum to AS 815150.

On 12 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting two companies of the 1/35 Inf Bn into a landing zone at BR 879779.

On 13 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted two combat assaults lifting two companies of the 1/35 Inf Bn into landing zones at BR 966745 and BR 975775.

On 14 Mar 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault for the 22d ARVN Ranger Bn lifting 350 troops from Duc Co to YA 825050.

Numerous small unit combat assaults, resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
3798	166	4567	10	0	1114

PERIOD 17-31 MAR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support operation Pershing, Omega, Shining Brass and Golden Arrow with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

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On 17 Mar 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting 100 ARVN troops from Kontum to ZB 220186. The 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault moving the 1/14 Inf Bn into three LZ's in the vicinity of BR 765616.

On 19 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting one company of the 1/35 Inf Bn into an LZ at BR 864767.

On 22 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted several combat assault missions lifting two companies of the 1/14 Inf Bn into an area vicinity of BR 882580 and two companies of the 1/35 Inf Bn into an area vicinity of BR 746585. One of these missions for the 1/35 Inf Bn was conducted at night.

On 24 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting a company of the 1/35 Inf Bn into a LZ vicinity of BR 882580. The 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault lifting the 11th ARVN Ranger Bn into landing zones at AR 998107 and AR 988403.

On 25 Mar 67, the battalion assumed the mission of providing aviation support for II Corps at Kontum, Pleiku and Ban Me Thout.

On 26 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co conducted two combat assault missions lifting units of the 1/14 Inf Bn. One of these missions was a night assault.

On 28 Mar 67, the 119th Aslt Hel Co was released from support of Operation Pershing.

Numerous small unit assaults, resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
7531	647	8848	30	0	2033

PERIOD 1-6 APR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support II Corps Operation Omega, Francis Marion, Sam Houston, Summerall and Prairie Fire with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 2 Apr 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co assumed a reinforcing role of the 10th Cbt Avn Bn in support of Operation Summerall.

Operation Sam Houston terminated on 5 April 1967, and Operation Francis Marion began on 6 April 1967.

Numerous resupply and command and control missions were performed during this period.

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The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
1197	43	1344	0	0	474

PERIOD 7-13 APR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support II Corps, Operation Francis Marion, Omega, Prairie Fire and Summerall with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 12 Apr 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co terminated its support of Operation Summerall and assumed support of the 9th ROK Inf Div.

Normal resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined results of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
5958	982	8290	28	0	1785

PERIOD 14-20 APR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support II Corps, the 9th ROK Inf Div, Operation Francis Marion, Prairie Fire and Omega with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 14 Apr 67, the Battalion supported a tactical emergency for the 22d ARVN Div lifting 297 troops from Cheo Reo to a landing zone at BR 187269. The same force was extracted 2:35 hours later.

On 15 Apr 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault for the 5th Special Forces lifting 163 personnel from Pleiku to BQ 095450.

On 18 Apr 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co, utilizing 9 CH-47's, moved 144 personnel and 81.5 tons of cargo from Polesi Klang to Plei Ma in support of the 3/12 Inf Bn.

On 19 Apr 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault moving the 1/8 Inf Bn from YA 846104 to YA 917185.

On 20 Apr 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co supported by aircraft from the 176th Aslt Hel Co conducted a combat assault in the vicinity of Cheo Reo moving 240 CIDG troops.

Numerous resupply and command and control missions were performed during this period.

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The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
6274	1124	11,488	35	0	1845

PERIOD 21-30 APR 67. The 52d Cbt Avn Bn continued to support II Corps, the 9th ROK Inf Div, Operation Francis Marion, Prairie Fire, Omega, Hancock I and Golden Arrow with aircraft from the 119th, 155th, 170th Aslt Hel Cos and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co.

On 24 Apr 67, the 170th Aslt Hel Co and the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co conducted an extraction of the 1/8 Inf Bn moving 101 tons of cargo and 391 personnel from YA 924445 to YA 900380.

On 26 Apr 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co moved the fire support base for the 3/12 Inf Bn and the 1/8 Inf Bn. 127 sorties were flown in moving 267 passengers and 170 tons of cargo. In addition 258 personnel were moved from the 4th Inf Div base camp to AQ 980431. Operation Hancock I commenced on this date.

On 28 Apr 67, the 155th Aslt Hel Co, with seven aircraft attached from the 176th Aslt Hel Co, conducted a combat assault lifting 262 ARVN troops from Cheo Reo to a landing zone at BQ 010848. The same troops were extracted later in the day.

On 30 Apr 67, the 179th Aslt Spt Hel Co lifted a fire support base from AQ 987433 to BQ 122325. In addition the unit moved 423 troops from AB 992106 to YA 995415.

Numerous resupply and command and control missions were conducted during this period.

The combined efforts of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion's aircraft produced the following results:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
10,581	2271	16,173	11	0	3579

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31 The aircraft of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion produced the following results for the period 1 February - 30 April 1967, excluding the support produced for Operation Sam Houston:

<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>TONS OF CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	<u>MED EVACS</u>	<u>COMBAT LOSSES</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>
55,816	8126	80,314	218	0	17,276

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*James R. Reed*  
JAMES R. REED  
Major, Arty  
Adjutant