

ITEM: Air Mobile Operations - Advance Parties.

*APPENDIX*

DISCUSSION: Advance parties are an extremely important factor in a successful airmobile operation. Units have relied in the past upon infantry sorties to transport Artillery Battery Commanders and advance parties on initial lifts to the LZ. This method has never been 100% successful.

OBSERVATION: Every effort should be made by the artillery battalion to obtain its own aircraft for advance party insertion.

ITEM: Air Mobile Operation - LZ Selection.

DISCUSSION: On a recent battalion size combat assault to establish a FSBP, no reconnaissance was made by an artillery officer. Word was accepted from the supported Infantry unit who "had been there before" with an artillery battery. Upon arrival of the first CH-47, the LZ was

[REDACTED]

ITEM: Air Support for Combat Assaults.

DISCUSSION: It was determined after using TAC as an LZ prep many times, that an LZ cap was more effective, especially when used in conjunction with an LZ unprepped by artillery. On a number of operations a false LZ was prepped. This proved to be effective in establishing contact.

OBSERVATION: LZ air caps should be used as a method of increasing the chance of contact with the enemy. The FAC, however must not arrive above the LZ prior to LZ time so as not to give the location of the LZ away.

