

DA SP PHOTO DIV, (PAC)

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TRAN (C)

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Commanding Officer  
US Army Photographic Agency  
Room 5A-470, The Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

N/A

DCS 200-370/677R

N/A

OPERATION PERSHING (ARAS)

90 KM NORTHEAST OF AN KHE

PC, CHARLES W. ABBOTT			NONE		9 JUL 67
ENED 5A16468 5251	600 ft.		NONE	X	X
NONE	DAY/NIGHT	25	8	AIR FREIGHT	10 JUL 67

#### SUMMARY

9 JUL 67 - 25 KM NORTH OF LANDING ZONE #20 RITHY, APPROX. 90 KM NORTHEAST OF THE 1st GAV (ARMED) DIV BASE CAMP AT AN KHE.

SUPPORTING ELEMENTS OF THE 1st GAV (ARMED) DIV ON "OPERATION PERSHING", UH-1B AND UH-1C HELICOPTERS, AERIAL ROCKET ARTILLERY SHIPS (ARAS), WENT OUT ON TWO SUPPORTING FIRE MISSIONS. ONE TO DESTROY ENEMY POSITIONS, THE OTHER TO ELIMINATE A VIET-CONG PLATOON CAUGHT IN AN OPEN FIELD. THE SHIPS, (HELICOPTERS) ARE ASSIGNED TO THE 2nd, 20th ARTILLERY, 1st GAV (ARMED) DIV.

THE CREW, CONSISTING OF A PILOT, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND ENEMY CHIEF, ACTING AS A GUNNER. THEY WORK IN TWO SECTIONS. EACH HELICOPTER HAVING A ROCKET LAUNCHING POD ON EACH SIDE HOLDING 24 ROCKETS, A TOTAL OF 48. THE GUNNER, USES THE 7.62mm MACHINE GUN. THE ROCKETS, A ~~W~~ <sup>F</sup> <sub>107</sub> VAN JORD TYPE, CAN BE FIRED IN TWO'S, FOUR'S, SIXES, OR TWENTY FOUR AT ONCE.

IF NEEDED, AN SS-11 GUIDED MISSILE CAN BE FIRED FROM EITHER TYPE OF THIS HELICOPTER.

ANSWERING CALLS FROM OMEAD UNIT, WHERE SUSPECTED VIET-CONG ARE BELIEVED TO BE LOCATED, THE CREW CAN BE AIRBORNE IN TWO MINUTES AND AT THE GIVEN AREA IN A MATTER OF MINUTES. BECAUSE OF SPEED, AND BEING ABLE TO SEE WHERE THE ARTILLERY ROCKETS LAND, THE (ARAS) IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN GROUND ARTILLERY.

THE USE OF THE 7.62mm MACHINE GUN IS TO FIRE UPON THE AREA, AS THE AIRCRAFT DIVES TO FIRE ROCKETS, TO KEEP ANY VIET-CONG FROM FIRING UPON THE AIRCRAFT WHILE IT IS IN ITS' DIVE.

AFTER RETURNING TO THE HELIPORT, THE CREW GOES THROUGH A SHORT CHECK OF THE AIRCRAFT AND LOADS AMMUNITION AS NEEDED. THE ROCKET PODS ARE THEN LOADED.

ONCE THEY ARE LOADED AND READY, THEY NOTIFY THE FLIGHT OFFICE, AND ARE SOON BACK ON THE TWO MINUTES, "STAND-BY" DATES. A 24-HOUR JOB FOR THE 1st GAV (ARMED) DIV. IF A NIGHT OPERATION IS TO BE USED, THE AREA IS ILLUMINATED WITH FLAMES, HAVING 20,000 FOOT CANDLE POWER.

DURING THE HOURS OF 0600 and 0700, THE VIET-CONG, AT TIMES, NOTAR THE HELIPORT. A NOTAR PATROL, EQUIPPED WITH THE SAME AS MENTIONED ABOVE, PATROLS THE AIR. IF NOTAR IS FIRED, THE AIR PATROL CAN SPOT THE NOTAR FLASHES, AND IMMEDIATELY MOVING TO THE AREA AND DESTROY THE ENEMY.

A GROUND SUPPORT CREW, KEEPS THE HELIPADS IN THE HELIPORT AREA, WELL SUPPLIED WITH ROCKETS AND AMMUNITION.

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DA SP PHOTO, TEAM (C)

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DCS 200-870/67VN

OPERATION PERSHING (ABAS)

90 KM NORTHEAST OF AN KHE

PPG. CHARLES W. ABDOTT

9 JUL 67

5251

800 ft.

None

XX

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10 JUL 67

ROLL BREAKDOWN

ROLL # 1

SHOWS AIR TO GROUND SHOTS, CU's OF MACHINE GUNNER FIRING WEAPON, AREA AFTER ROCKETS WERE FIRED.

ROLL # 2

SHOWS MORE AIR TO GROUND SHOTS, MACHINE GUNNER FIRING WEAPON, ROCKETS BEING FIRED, PILOTS IN COCKPIT FIRING ROCKETS, AREA AFTER ROCKETS HAVE BEEN FIRED.

ROLL # 3

MORE AIR TO GROUND SHOTS, ROCKETS FIRING, SECOND HELICOPTER GOING INTO DIVE AND FIRING ROCKETS, AREA AFTER ROCKETS HAVE BEEN FIRED.

ROLL # 4

CREW CHECKING THE AIRCRAFT AFTER FLIGHT MISSION, LOADING ROCKETS AND AMMUNITION.

ROLL # 5

CREW LOADING AMMUNITION, AIRCRAFT STARTING, AIRCRAFT LIFTING OFF.

ROLL # 6

AIR CRAFT LIFTING OFF HELIPAD, AIR CRAFT MOVING ONTO RUNWAY AREA, AIR-CRAFT MOVING DOWN RUNWAY AND INTO THE SKY.

ROLL # 7

SHOTS SHOWING GROUND CREW OPENING ROCKET BOXES, DUMPING ROCKETS AND WAR HEADS ONTO GROUND FROM BOXES, MEN PICKING UP SEALED TUBES, MEN TAKING ROCKET MOTORS FROM TUBES AND WAR HEADS FROM TUBES.

ROLL # 8

SHOTS OF MEN TAKING ROCKET MOTORS AND SCREWING WAR HEADS TO THEM, PAN SHOT OF THE HELIPORT, SHOT OF SKIN, SHOT OF FLIGHT OFFICE AREA.

DCS: 200-870-67

DATE SHOT: 9 JUL 68

LOCATION: VIET-NAM

DATE SCREENED: 20 JUL 67

PHOTOGRAPHER: ABBOTT

REMARKS:

Underexposed throughout, indications of lost loop again, check camera.  
No slates in shipment understandable during aerials, but not on ground.  
This requires immediate correction. Aerials okey.

John H. O'Connor, MAJ, SIGC,

CHIEF, DASPO

SCREENED BY:

DCS 200-87C-67

Date Shot 9 Jul 67

Location Vietnam

Date Screened 20 July 1967

Photographer Abbott

REMARKS:

Underexposed throughout, indications of lost loop again, check camera.

No slates in shipment understandable during aerials, but not on ground.

This requires immediate correction. Aerials okey.

US Army Special Photo Det, Pacific	Info		1st SGT	3 OPEN	SUP	FILE
	Act	CO				
		XO				
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Screened 7 Aug 67. Agree with above critique.  
Not very much continuity for a complete  
story. JOHN H. O'CONNOR Captions poor.

JOHN H. O'CONNOR, MAJ, SIGC, CHIEF, DASPO

(SCREENED BY)