

HEADQUARTERS
145TH AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96227

AVN-F

8 May 1966

Commander's Combat Note
Number 22

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 29 APRIL THROUGH 5 MAY 1966

This week the 145th Aviation Battalion provided combat aviation support to every major U.S. and ARVN unit located in the III Corps area.

On 29 April, the 118th Aviation Company supported the 1st Infantry Division by airlifting 460 troops in seven combat assaults in the vicinity of Tay Ninh.

The 68th Aviation Company supported the 25th (ARVN) Division by airlifting 210 troops and 15 tons of cargo.

On 30 April, the 145th Aviation Battalion supported III (ARVN) Corps with one airmobile company, the 25th (US) Division with three airmobile companies, and MACV with fifteen armed helicopters. During the operation of these armed helicopters in the Rung Sat Special Zone, a light fire team received enemy fire and retaliated with a strike which resulted in destroying five sampans and damaging one, and killing two Viet Cong. Cargo on sampans destroyed was observed to be web equipment and steel helmets.

On 1 May, the 118th Aviation Company again supported the 1st U.S. Division by extracting 190 troops from a location 30 kilometers north of Tay Ninh. The extraction was contested by the enemy.

In the same general area, the 68th Aviation Company supported the 25th (ARVN) Division by repositioning troops and supplies.

The 197th Aviation Company, performing a mission in the Rung Sat Special Zone, sank two sampans, destroyed one Viet Cong structure and damaged four others. Operating for the 5th (ARVN) Division, another light fire team of the company destroyed 25 Viet Cong structures which resulted in achieving large secondary explosions. During this strike the fire team leader overheard a radio transmission from Special Forces troops operating in the vicinity, stating that their supply of food, water, and ammunition was exhausted. The team leader having finished his assigned mission, diverted his gunship to haul 3000 pounds of supplies to this force. Results: Another aviation mission accomplished, and a ground combat element rendered combat effective.

On 2 May 66, the 118th Aviation Company again operated in the Tay Ninh area in support of the 1st (US) Infantry Division by extracting 390 troops in six lifts. Enemy small arms fire was encountered during the extraction.

Operation Sea Wolf

Captain Charles R. Williams has replaced Captain Brofer as Commander of Task Force Sea Wolf. Captain Brofer will be leaving soon on rotation. I wish to commend him for his outstanding efforts in organizing the Task Force and creating an effective combat aviation unit that is providing aerial fire support for the U. S. Navy.

The operations of the Task Force this week in the Rung Sat Special Zone consisted of providing aerial reconnaissance; medical evacuation; overhead cover for naval swift boats; strikes against Viet Cong concentrations, sampans and installations.

The scoreboard for the week is:

Possible Viet Cong KBA	18
Sampans Destroyed	2
Structures Destroyed	2
Structures Damaged	2

The operational statistics for aircraft performance for the Battalion this week are as follows:

Rotary Wing

Total Sorties	3705
Total Flying Hours	1128
Total Passengers	3896

Fixed Wing

Total Sorties	193
Total Flying Hours	280

Training

Training in the firing of the 20mm weapons system continues. The 197th Aviation Company is training in conjunction with Air Force forward air controllers in the use of night vision devices for detecting targets and developing techniques and procedures for engaging targets at night. The Battalion Pathfinder Detachment is training with the glide slope device to develop techniques aimed at improving the Battalions' capabilities to conduct night airmobile assaults.