

HEADQUARTERS
145TH AVIATION BATTALION
APO San Francisco 96227

AVAW-F

13 March 1966

SUBJECT: Commander's Combat Note Number 9

TO: Sec Distribution

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 4 MARCH THROUGH 11 MARCH 1966

This week the 145th Aviation Battalion accomplished a variety of combat and combat support missions which contributed significantly toward beating Victor Charlie.

The battalion, or elements thereof, conducted three multi-ground battalion airmobile assaults or extractions; two airmobile assaults in which company sized ground elements were employed; and one airmobile company reinforced the lift of another aviation battalion.

The 197th Aviation Company, in addition to providing their normal armed reconnaissance and marking of LZ's, and armed escort for all airmobile operations, sank 6 sampans and damaged 9 sampans by their lightning Bug operations.

The 74th Aviation Company conducted 42 radio relay missions, 30 command and liaison missions, 26 artillery control missions, 2 flare missions, and one psy-war mission.

The battalion effort on the VC score board for this week is as follows:

An estimated 58 VC killed, a body count of 36 VC killed, 27 structures destroyed and 20 damaged, and 31 sampans destroyed and 31 damaged. This one week's toll is a commendable figure. It is especially significant when it is realized that some ground combat units of brigade size can't match this claim.

On 4 March, the 118th Aviation Company, reinforced by A/501st Aviation Battalion, supported the 1st Aviation Battalion with 15 UH-1D troop carriers and 6 armed helicopters to lift 405 troops of the 5th ARVN Division from Lai Khe into an operational area Northeast of Phu Loi.

On 5 March, the 118th Aviation Company reinforced by A/501st Aviation Battalion, employed 11 troop carriers and 4 armed helicopters to lift 111 troops of the 1st Bde, 1st U.S. Inf Div from a pick-up site fifteen kilometers North of Tan Uyen into a landing zone at Tan Uyen. In the afternoon the same ground element was lifted back to its original departure point.

A major operation was conducted by this battalion, reinforced by aviation elements of the 1st U.S. Infantry Division on 6 March 1966. The unit being

13 March 1966

SUBJECT: Commander's Combat Note Number 9 (cont'd)

Rotary Wing: Total Sorties - 4,948
Total Flying Hours - 1,818
Passengers Flown - 5,984

Fixed Wing: Total Sorties - 224
Total Flying Hours - 339

The aviation company of this battalion, thus far not mentioned is the 68th. In its silent, modest approach to mission accomplishment, it is already flying 293 hours over program for the month. This is 104 hours over the next highest company. It also has one aircraft less than the other companies.


This battalion has been assigned a new, unique, and challenging mission which will enable us to operate with the U.S. Navy. Plans are being developed at this time and more information will be released as the project develops. Captain Brofer, 197th Aviation Company has been assigned as the Battalion Project Officer.

SUMMARY OF CIVIC ACTIONS

During the period units of the battalion were active in the areas of Community Relations, Education and Training, Health and Sanitation, Construction and Communications. Personnel from the 197th Aviation Company constructed a fence within the An Lac Orphanage, along with organizing a drive to obtain materials to repair a perimeter fence damaged by Viet Cong. In addition the officers and men donated 400 pounds of cookies and candy, 1 case of body soap and 1/2 case of mosquito repellent. The majority of these donations were sent to members of the unit from supporters in the United States. The 118th Aviation Company performed loudspeaker and leaflet support for Psychological Warfare operations for Voice of America for a period of three hours. The officers and men also donated 3,000 \$VN to the Bien Hoa Orphanage along with 300 pounds of rice, 10 pounds of sugar and 1/2 case of wash soap. Doctor Altomonte attended to the sick at the Orphanage. Members of the 120th Aviation Company continued to provide support to the Go Vap Orphanage in the form of \$47.50 HPC, and 2,540 \$VN, one-hundred bags of cement for building projects, 2 cases of cornmeal, 4 cases of evaporated milk and 60 pounds of beans. Captain Wurster from the 129th Med Det surveyed the health needs at the orphanage and concluded that the children receive adequate treatment from their own doctor. A conversational English class was conducted by A/501st Aviation Battalion for the Bien Hoa National Police. Coordination has been made with the MACV Sector Advisor to sponsor a New Life Hamlet in the Ho Nai Refugee area. Many units work in this area but with 80,000 refugees and more arriving each day, there is a tremendous opportunity to help in the traditional American spirit. Our first project will be to field a MEDCAP team.

DISTRIBUTION:

"C" plus
10 - 12th Avn Gp
5 - Bn CO
50 - S-1
100 - Ea Co


HORST K. JOOST
Lt Colonel, Inf
Commanding