

ARMY AVIATION MILESTONES

Fort Sill, Okla.

6 Jun 1942. Army Aviation is born with the establishment of organic air observation units for field artillery units.

1 Jan 1943. The U.S. Army Aviation School is established. (The School's official birthday is later changed to 6 June to coincide with the birthday of Army Aviation.)

Aug 1942. The first Army Aviation mechanic's class graduates.

Sep 1942. The first Army Aviation flight class graduates.

North Africa

9 Nov 1942. Army Aviation makes its initial entry into combat. Four Army Aviators fly to shore from the aircraft carrier **USS Ranger** in three L-4s to participate in the invasion of North Africa during World War II.

Korea

Jun 1950. While World War II proved the validity of the concept of Army Aviation, the Korean war brings out its unlimited potential, especially in the field of medical evacuation. Army Aviators evacuate over 21,000 casualties and contribute immeasurably toward achievement of the lowest mortality rate of wounded reaching medical channels of any previous major war.

Fort Rucker, Ala.

1 Nov 1954. The U.S. Army Aviation School is established in its own home at Camp Rucker, Ala.

13 Oct 1955. Camp Rucker is redesignated Fort Rucker and made a permanent Department of the Army installation.

24 Mar 1958. The 7292nd Aerial Combat Reconnaissance Company (Experimental) is organized as a result of Sky Cavalry experiments and studies which originated in 1956. ACR opened the way to further develop tactical doctrine and organization involving armed helicopters and airborne concepts.

Washington, D. C.

7 Jan 1955. The position of Director of Army Aviation is approved by the Chief of Staff. The Director is to be a general officer responsible for

coordinating Army Aviation matters in the General Staff and for centralizing control of aviation personnel.

Fort Wolters, Texas

26 Sep 1956. The U.S. Army Primary Helicopter School is established at Camp Wolters.

27 Apr 1957. The first rotary wing class trained at Wolters is graduated.

1 Jun 1963. Camp Wolters is redesignated Fort Wolters and made a permanent Department of the Army installation.

Fort Monroe, Va.

22 Oct 1956. An Army Aviation Section is established in Headquarters U.S. Continental Army Command.

Fort Hood, Texas

3 Feb 1962. The Army's first TOE ROAD aviation battalion—the 501st—is activated in the 1st Armored Division. The Army reorganized all divisions to include up to 103 aircraft, depending on the type division.

Republic of Vietnam

9 Dec 1961. The 57th Transportation Company (Lt Hel) and the 8th Transportation Company (Lt Hel) are the first Army Aviation units to arrive in the Republic of Vietnam.

23 Dec 1961. These units participate in the first combat support mission ever flown by U.S. Army helicopters. Since, the 57th and 8th have been joined by many other units which have consistently proved the validity of the Army's airborne concepts.

Fort Benning, Ga.

15 Feb 1963. The 11th Air Assault Division (T)—calling for 459 aircraft is organized to test concepts recommended by the Army Tactical Mobility Requirements Board (Howze Board) which was convened in 1962.

1 Jul 1965. The 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) with 434 aircraft is activated in the wake of successful 11th Air Assault Division tests. The 1st Cav begins deploying to Vietnam in August 1965.