

PER NEWSLETTER ARTICLE
ASKING FOR HELP ON /
HELICOPTER COMPANIES .

MIKE:

THE U.S. AIRCRAFT FERRY "CORE"
ARRIVES IN SAIGON WITH 32 U.S. ARMY
H-21 HELICOPTERS AND 400 MEN OF THE
8TH AND 7TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES
(LIGHT HELICOPTER) ON 11-DEC-1961. ON
DEC 17, AN ELEVEN-MAN TEAM FROM
THE U.S. ARMY 9TH LOGISTIC COMMAND
ON OKINAWA ARRIVES IN VIETNAM TO
SET UP A SUPPLY SERVICE FROM U.S.
ARMY, RYUKYU ISLANDS FOR THE NEWLY-
ARRIVED AVIATION UNITS.

DEC-23 - IN THE FIRST USE OF
THE NEWLY ARRIVED U.S. HELICOPTERS,
OPERATION "CHOPPER" LIFTS ABOUT
1000 SUN PARATROOPERS TO AN ASSAULT
ON A SUSPECTED VC HEADQUARTERS
COMPLEX ABOUT 10 MILES W. OF SAIGON.

ON 7-FEB-1962, TWO U.S. ARMY
AIR SUPPORT COMPANIES TOTALING 300
MEN ARRIVE IN SAIGON. ON 8-FEB,
THE U.S. REORGANIZES ITS MILITARY
COMMAND STRUCTURE BY ESTABLISHING
THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND
UNDER GEN. PAUL D. HARKINS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED HERE, THAT IN DECEMBER OF 1960, THE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND ADVISORY GROUP (MAAG) SECURED APPROVAL FOR DELIVERY OF ELEVEN EX-U.S. ARMY H-34C CHOCTAW HELO'S AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THE UNAF H-19'S. THE FIRST FOUR H-34'S WERE AIRLIFTED TO SAIGON BY US TRANSPORTS ARRIVING IN DEC-1960 FOLLOWED BY THE REMAINING SEVEN.

THE UNAF HAD ESTABLISHED IT'S FIRST ROTARY-WING UNIT (1ST HELICOPTER SQUADRON) IN 1956 WITH H-19'S FROM THE FRENCH. THESE HELO'S WERE USED TO FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO THE ICC TO GAIN HELO OP EXPERIENCE. 10 H-19'S WERE IN COUNTRY AT THAT TIME STATIONED AT TAN SON NHUT ALONG WITH ~~ONE~~ THREE SUD AVIATION ALOUETTE III HELO'S.

YOU DO KNOW THAT BY MAY 1962, THE U.S. MARINES HAD HELO UNITS IN SVN.

OCT 15, 1962 IS FIRST TIME ARMED UH-2A'S ARE USED

HOPE THIS HELPS YOU OUT.