

Trans Co Gives Ship-To-Shore Service

VUNG TAU, (USARV-10)—The 388th Transportation Company, 765th Transportation Battalion, 34th General Support Group processes new aircraft arriving in-country aboard ocean-going vessels.

The aircraft, both helicopter and fixed-wing, usually are shipped aboard reconverted aircraft carriers, the famed baby flat-tops of World War II.

The transportation company has created an assembly line production that normally clears a ship's cargo within three days of arrival at this port.

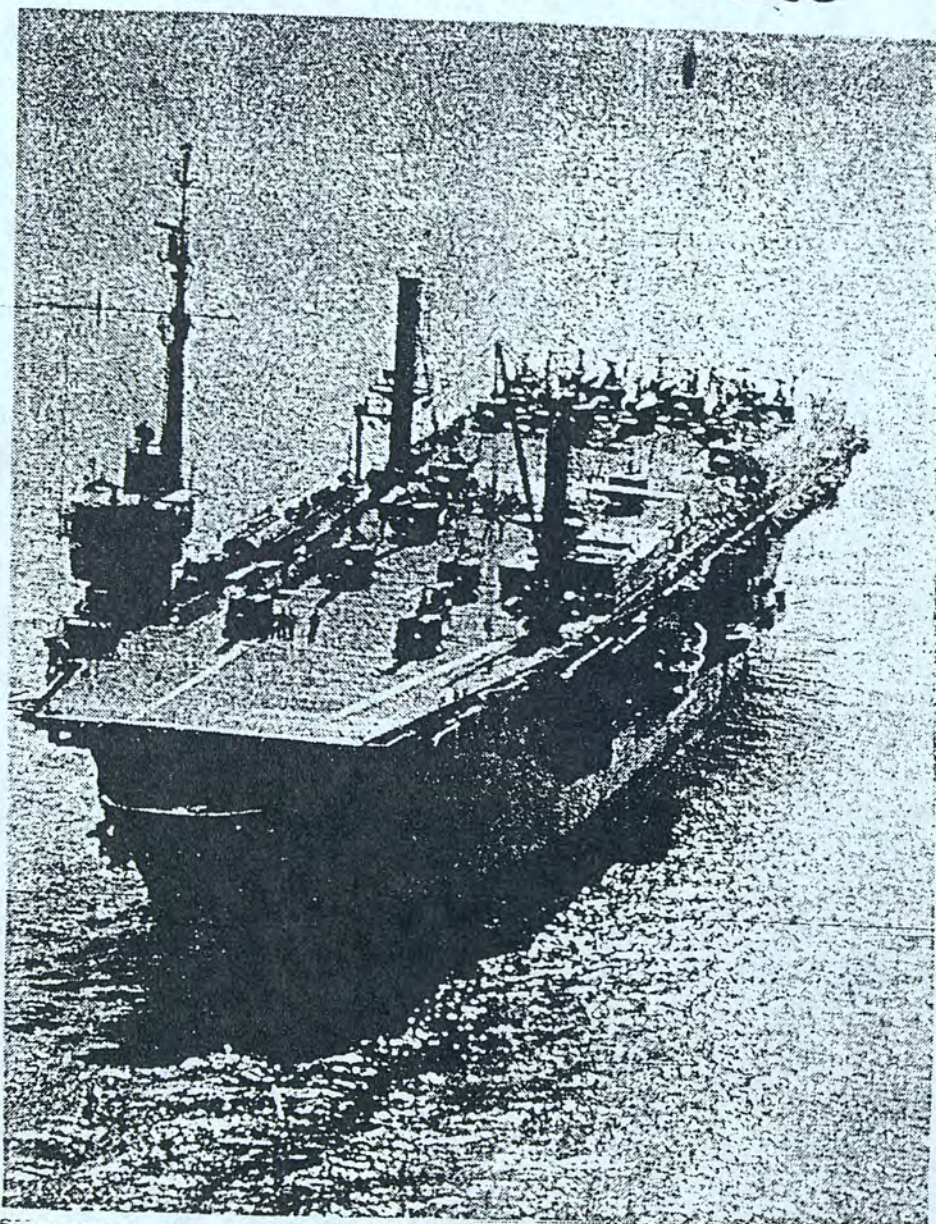
Maintenance crews from the 388th board the in-coming ship to service and fly the helicopters to the company's land facilities. Fixed-wing craft are lowered onto barges for the trip.

The crews average getting an aircraft off the deck every 40 minutes during a normal 12-hour workday.

Although the 388th has been in Vietnam little more than half a year, they recently flew the 1000th aircraft to be processed by the unit off the flight deck of the USNS Kula Gulf.



FINISHING TOUCH—Adding oil to the tail rotor assembly is the last step in the helicopter assembling process. Attending to this detail is Sp4 Jon E. Riecke, maintenance technician.

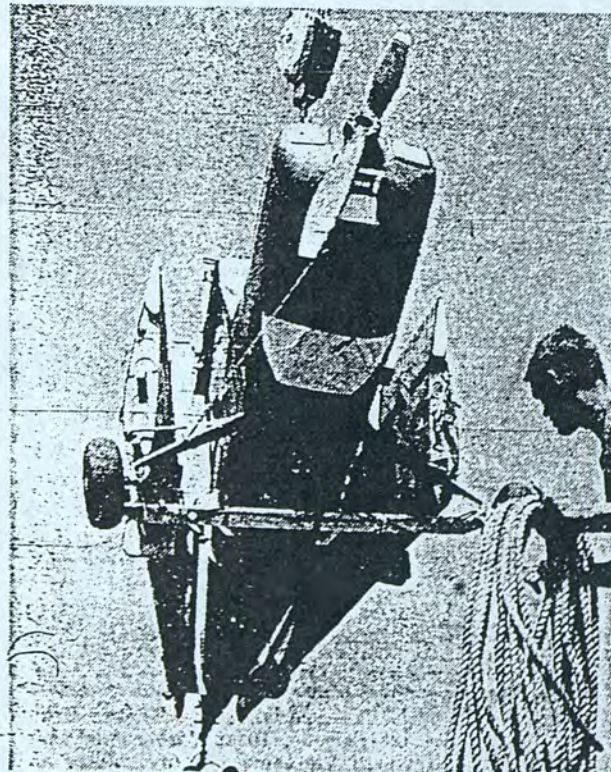


SHIP AHOY—The USNS Kula Gulf, a reconverted World War II aircraft carrier, lies at anchor in the South China Sea while U.S. Army maintenance personnel work to process incoming aircraft.

Photos By
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USARV-10



UP AND AWAY—The assembled helicopter lifts into the sky for a hop across the sea to the 388th Transportation Company's land facility. In seven months unit members processed more than 1000 aircraft for using units.



AIRCRAFT AWAY—A fixed-wing aircraft goes over the side onto a waiting barge.