

52nd AVIATION BATTALION
(COMBAT)
PLEIKU



ORLL

1 NOV 71 - 27 APR 72

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 52D AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)
APO San Francisco 96318
"FLYING DRAGONS"

AVBAVB-C

30 April 1972

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 52d Combat Aviation Battalion
Period Ending 27 April 1972, (Redeployment) RCS: CSFOR-55 (R2) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities

a. Personnel

(1) Awards and Decorations: During the reporting period the following awards have been approved for members of the Battalion: 3 Silver Stars, 31 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 1 Legion of Merit, 25 Bronze Stars for Service, 22 Air Medal w/V, 3 ACM for Achievement, 32 ACM for Service, 24 Purple Hearts and 516 Air Medals.

(2) Reenlistment: Because the Army reenlistment program was in a state of flux, only 10 reenlistments were accomplished. The breakdown by grade was as follows: one E3, two E7's, two E6's, and five E5's.

(3) PIO: A total of 32 news stories were submitted to 1st Brigade, and 123 hometown news releases were accomplished throughout the reporting period.

(4) Education: During this reporting period an education center consisting of trailers was moved from Tuy Hoa to Camp Holloway. The Education Center provided the following:

- a. 4 college level courses with an enrollment of 56 students.
- b. Conducted 28 MOS tests.
- c. Evaluated the military schooling of 33 personnel and indicated the number of college credits for which they were eligible.
- d. Administered CLEP, CED, College Entrance Exams, Graduate Record Exams, and end of course exams for 112 individuals.
- e. Enrolled 85 personnel in correspondence courses.
- f. Counseled approximately 250 personnel on various educational benefits available to them.

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b. (C) Operations:

(1) During the period the battalion performed normal missions. The VAF were responsible for conducting combat assaults in the area of operations. Most of our missions were single ship C&C type missions. Although the first part of this reporting period was quiet, the past two months have seen a significant increase in enemy activity. During the month of March the battalion's commitment to Task Force II ended. During the months of February and March several of the battalion's O-1 pilots were requested to fly VAF O-1's to monitor the enemy build-up in the Kontum area. These pilots did an outstanding job and were able to locate many enemy targets for airstrikes.

(2) On 12 April this battalion started standdown. D Troop 7/17th and HHC, 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) started standdown on the same day. 17th Group Headquarters moved from Artillery Hill to Camp Holloway during the first two weeks of April. They assumed the battalion mission of command and control of the 57th AHC, 361st AWC, and B Trp 7/17th Cav. The transition was smooth as the Group Headquarters picked up the battalion responsibilities to include camp defense. The Battalion conducted its final ceremony in Vietnam on 12 April 1972. This was a redeployment and award ceremony during which 33 Vietnamese and 9 U.S. decorations were awarded for the action around Fire Support Base 421.

c. (C) Historical Events

(1) On 1 November 1971 several aircraft from the battalion were hit by small arms fire. The 57th AHC lost one UH-1 while supporting Task Force II. The aircraft was shot down west of Dak Lak and totally destroyed. The crew was rescued without injury and two M60 machine guns were recovered. One AH-1G from the 361st AWC was hit with small arms. There were no friendly casualties. B Troop 7/17th had one OH-6A shot down and destroyed. The crew was rescued and had minor injuries.

(2) On 4 November 1971 one UH-1H from the 57th AHC received one hit from small arms while supporting Task Force II. No injuries were reported. B Trp 7/17 destroyed 35 bunkers and 29 hootches while supporting the 2nd RGR Group.

(3) On 6 November 1971, lift ships from the 3rd AHC and guns from the 57th AHC extracted 231 troops for Kontum Sector from LZ AS 959004 to the Kontum airfield. B Troop 7/17th Cav flew in support of the Pleiku Sector with 4 UH-1H's, 4 OH-6A's and 4 AH-1G's at MR 082429. The operation resulted in 10 detainees captured and 4 KIA's.

(4) On 7 November 1971, the 3rd AHC, in support of 42d Rgt, 22 ARVN Div extracted 51 troops from LZ 959004 to the Kontum Airfield.

(5) On 8 November 1971, the 3rd AHC and the 57th AHC, in support of the MR II Ranger Group, inserted 176 troops from PZ Duc Co into LZ 040190. A Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry became O'CON to the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion, moving 5 UH-1H's, 5 OH-6A's, 5 AH-1G's and 70 troops to Camp Holloway.

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(6) On 12 November 1971, 6 UH-1H's from 3rd AHC and 4 AH-1G's from the 361st AHC extracted 362 troops of the Pleiku RF from LZ BRO35354 and LZ AR956377. B Troop, in support of the 47th Regt, 22 ARVN Division, picked up 3 detainees at YA 998403.

(7) On 14 November 1971, 137 troops of the Ranger Command were airlifted by elements of the 3rd AHC and 57th AHC from Duc Co to LZ YA749370.

(8) On 16 November 1971, in support of Kontum Province, 6 UH-1H's from the 3rd AHC and 2 AH-1G's from the 57th AHC inserted 195 troops from LZ ZBO43224 into LZ ZB146233 and LZ ZBO43224. B Troop, supporting Kontum Province, was credited with 1 KBA at ZB161286.

(9) On 18 November 1971, 52d CAB had four aircraft downed by enemy fire: 1 AH-1G from both the 57th AHC and the 361st AHC and two UH-1H's from B Troop 7/17th Cav. All aircraft were recovered without injuries to personnel.

(10) On 19 November 1971, 2 UH-1H's from the 57th AHC and 5 AH-1G's from the 361st AHC supported Plei Dierang which was under a ground attack. Six casualties were extracted.

(11) On 20 November 1971, the 57th AHC with two AH-1G's in support of Task Force II was credited with 21 KIA at YA8753.

(12) On 20 November 1971, 1 UH-1H from the 57th AHC was hit by enemy fire with major damage. Two personnel received minor injuries.

(13) On 22 November 1971 A Troop 7/17th Cav began its move back to Binh Lang. During the two week OPCON to the 52d CAB, the Troop uncovered several enemy locations during scout operations.

(14) On 24 November 1971, the advance party from C Troop, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry arrived at Camp Holloway and became OPCON to the 52d CAB.

(15) On 26 November 1971, the 57th AHC had two UH-1H's hit by enemy fire. One aircraft was shot down, but was recovered. One of the crew was wounded in both arms.

(16) On 28 November 1971, B Troop 7/17, in support of Kontum Province, had two OH-6A's go down at YB340050 due to enemy fire. The crew was extracted.

(17) On 4 December 1971, B Troop 7/17 Cav in support of Kontum Sector, expended at AS321033 resulting in 4 KIA's, 3 weapons and 51 pounds of food destroyed.

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(18) On 7 December 1971, B Troop 7/17 Cav in support of Kontum Sector, destroyed 50 bunkers and had 2 NVA KIA'S.

(19) On 11 December 1971, B Troop 7/17 in support of the 22d ARVN Div had 2 OH-6A's shot down by hostile fire at coordinates YA 978370 and YA 73854. The observer in one aircraft received minor injuries. Both aircraft received major damage.

(20) On 16 December, the 57th AHC supported a TAC-E with 2 AH-1G's at coordinates Y 9119 and expended 3,000 rounds of 7.62, 192 rounds of 2.75 rockets and 322 rounds of 40mm, with a total of 9 hours flown. A CH-47 aircraft of the 68th ASHC received shrapnel damage in support of the TAC-E at Phu Nhon, but had negative injuries.

(21) On 28 December, B Troop in support of the 47th Regt, 22 ARVN Div, received one B40 in an OH-6A aircraft. The aircraft was totally destroyed; the pilot and crew chief received major burns and were medevaced.

(22) On 3 January, while in support of II Corps, 2 AH-1G's from 57th AHC destroyed 10 structures and in the process 1 AH-1G received one AK-47 round causing minor damage. B Troop 7/17 Cav, working for Pleiku Sector, destroyed 30 hootches at BR 075005.

(23) On 4 January, B Troop 7/17 Cav, supporting Pleiku Sector, destroyed 15 bunkers, 8 hootches and 20 lbs. of rice.

(24) On 5 January, B Troop 7/17 Cav, in support of the 47th Regt, 22d ARVN Div, destroyed 7 bunkers, 10 structures and killed 1 NVA at YA 7385.

(25) On 6 January, while in support of 42d ARVN Regt, 1 UH-1H from the 3rd AHC was shot down and destroyed by enemy fire at AS 82627. Two AH-1G's from the 361st engaged enemy targets while covering the rescue. The crew was recovered but sustained minor injuries.

(26) On 13 January 1972, C Troop, 7/17th Cav returned to An Son and would remain there for a seven day operation. A rear detachment was left behind to safeguard their remaining equipment and area.

(27) On 15 January 1972, while in support of Ranger Command, B Troop 7/17 Cav destroyed 10 hootches, 2 bunkers, 20 lbs of rice and captured 1 field phone and one weapon. One OH-6A received ten .30 cal hits, was forced to land, but later recovered. The crew sustained no injuries.

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(28) On 17 January 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav, supporting Aleiku Sector destroyed 40 hootches, 7 cav complexes and 300 lbs of rice.

(29) On 21 January 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav had one OH-6A destroyed by B40 while in support of the 2nd Rangers. The observer was killed and the pilot injured. The aircraft was a total loss.

(30) On 26 January 1972, one OH-6A was hit with one WIA in the aircraft. B Troop, supporting Kontum Sector with 4 UH-1H's, 4 OH-6A's and 4 AH-1G's destroyed 10 bunkers, 10 hootches and captured a quantity of medical supplies and clothes.

(31) On 30 January 1972, while in support of Task Force II, 1 UH-1H from the 3rd WVC was shot down by AK47 fire over Chu Shang. The aircraft and crew were recovered with negative injuries.

(32) On 2 February 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav destroyed 7 hootches and 12 bunkers while in support of Kontum Sector.

(33) On 4 February 1972, while in support of Kontum Sector, B Troop, 7/17 Cav destroyed 2 hootches and inserted troops into AS 305149. One OH-6A was shot down and destroyed in the action, resulting in one crew member injured.

(34) On 7 February 1972, 10 hootches and 2 bunkers were destroyed by B Troop, 7/17th Cav while in support of Kontum Sector at BS 0314.

(35) On 8 February 1972, 1 OH-6A was downed by AK-47 fire while B Troop, 7/17th Cav was working in support of Kontum Sector at BS192762. The aircraft sustained minor damage and was recovered with negative injuries to the crew.

(36) On 10 February 1972, 3 sandbans, 20 bunkers and 15 hootches were destroyed by B Troop, 7/17 Cav while in support of Kontum Sector at BS1936.

(37) On 11 February 1972, a package of 6 UH-1G's conducted practice exercise in which troops of the 1/12th Inf were transported from Arty Hill to selected LZ's in the HAF area. The purpose of this exercise was to test rapid means of reinforcing Camp Holloway.

(38) On 12 February 1972, 1 OH-6A was damaged, one bridge, and 3 bunkers were destroyed by B Troop 7/17 Cav in support of Kontum Sector at BS 115498.

(39) On 13 February 1972, while in support of 22 ARVN Div, B Troop, 7/17th Cav killed 41 NVA, wounded 15 and captured 3. They also destroyed 20 hootches and 10 bunkers, damaged 10 hootches and captured 1 K 47 and 3 ruck sacks. In the process one OH-6A was hit by two AK-47 rounds sustaining negative casualties with minor damage to the aircraft.

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(40) On 19 February 1972, B Troop had two aircraft sustain minor damage due to small arms and B-40 fire while engaged in the extraction of med-vac patients for the 1st Airborne at ZB012109.

(41) On 25 February 1972, the 351st AWC, while in support of Pleiku Sector, was credited with 3 enemy KIA. B Troop 7/17 Cav in support of Kontum Sector destroyed 300 lbs of rice and 20 hootches at BR 1046. C Troop 7/17 Cav had an OH-6A shot down at PSB 95. The crew was recovered with negative injuries.

(42) On 4 March 1972, while in support of 22nd ARVN Div Fwd, B Troop 7/17 Cav captured 16 B-40 rockets, 9 boosters, with enemy 3 KIA.

(43) On 6 March 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav while supporting Phu Nhon Province destroyed 6 hootches and had 2 enemy KIA.

(44) On 9 March 1972, the 130th ASHC in support of the 22 ARVN Div Fwd had one CH-47 go down 10 Km SE of Tan Canh due to ground fire. There were negative casualties and aircraft was recovered.

(45) On 11 March 1972, 57th AHC had two AH-1G's in support of the 22 ARVN Div Fwd. One AH-1G received one round of small arms fire, causing a minor wound which injured the co-pilot in the foot.

(46) On 12 March 1972, the 361st AWC supporting the 2nd ARVN Airborne expended 30% on board ordinance at YB9215 resulting in 3 KIA's.

(47) On 13 March 1972, the 57th AHC supporting the 1st ARVN Airborne expended 65% on board ordinance at YB3011 resulting in 6 NVA KIA's.

(48) On 14 March 1972, three 2½ ton trucks were destroyed by the 31st AWC while supporting Kontum Sector.

(49) On 15 March 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav confirmed 6 KIA's: 3 at AS847308, and 3 at AS805206. They also had 1 detainee at AS847308 and captured 2 at AS818221, all while supporting 22 ARVN Div Fwd.

(50) On 16 March 1972, 57th AHC had 6 NVA KIA's at ZB0275 while supporting the 1st ARVN Abn.

(51) On 17 March 1972, while working for Pleiku Sector, B Troop 7/17 Cav confirmed 5 KIA's at ZB231226.

(52) On 18 March 1972, the 361st AWC had an AH-1G hit by one round of small arms fire while destroying a truck at YA703514 in support of 22d Div Fwd.

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(53) On 19 March 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav while in support of Kontum Province confirmed 1 KIA and had 1 OH-6A hit by small arms fire at BR139345.

(54) On 20 March 1972, 1 UH-1H of the 57th AHC received two .51 cal hits while supporting 22d ARVN Div Fwd. There were negative casualties and they landed safely.

(55) On 21 March 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav, while in support of Kontum Province, destroyed 3 hootches, 25 walk-in bunkers and confirmed 11 KIA's at AS 780225.

(56) On 25 March 1972, one AH-1G of the 361st AWC was hit by .51 cal fire while supporting 22d ARVN Div Fwd. They landed at PSB Hotel and were recovered the next day. The crew was not injured.

(57) On 27 March 1972, the 57th AHC had one UH-1H shot down and destroyed with 1 KIA, 2 WIA and 1 MI. The aircraft was working in support of the Ranger Command. One AH-1G working in support of 22d ARVN Div Fwd from the 361st AWC was hit twice by enemy ground fire. The pilot sustained a minor injury.

(58) On 30 March 1972, B Troop, 7/17 Cav, in support of the 52d Regt had one OH-6A shot down and destroyed by enemy fire. The observer was recovered. The pilot is missing in action and a member of the recovery team was killed. The 361st AWC, supporting the 2nd ARVN Airborne Bde, had two AH-1G's receive minor damage by small arms fire.

(59) On 31 March 1972, OH-47 of the 180th ASHC in support of the 2d ARVN Airborne Bde was downed by enemy fire at PSB 421. The aircraft was a total loss and the recovery of the crew was delayed due to the fire base being under heavy attack. B Troop, 7/17 Cav, in support of the 53d ARVN Regt, destroyed 8 hootches, 14 bunkers and had 6 confirmed KIA. In the course of the action one OH-6A was shot down and destroyed. The pilot was uninjured; the observer was severely burned. Both were extracted.

(60) On 3 April 1972, two AH-1G's of 361st AWC received .51 cal hits while in support of the 22d ARVN Div Fwd. There were negative casualties. The 57th AHC had two aircraft receive damage from enemy small arms fire. One UH-1H was in support of Kontum Sector and one AH-1G was in support of the 2d ARVN Airborne Bde. A crew member in the AH-1G was wounded.

(61) On 4 April 1972, two AH-1G's from the 57th AHC and two from the 361st killed 100 EVAs while in support of the 2d ARVN Abn Bde at ZB0503. Two of the aircraft received damage with no crew injuries. Two other aircraft received major shrapnel damage from enemy rocket fire; one UH-1H from the 57th AHC supporting the 42d ARVN Regt and one OH-6A from B Troop 7/17 Cav in support of Kontum Sector.

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(62) On 7 April 1972, B Troop, 7/17 Cav in support of Kontum Sector destroyed 30 fighting positions at AR 213979 and 10 bunkers at AR215976.

(63) On 8 April 1972, an AH-1G was downed by .51 cal fire north of 3B Hotel. The aircraft was from the 31st AHC and was giving close air support to a CH-47 supporting the 2nd AIVN Abn Bde. The crew was not injured, and the aircraft was recovered.

(64) On 9 April 1972, B Troop 7/17 Cav in support 22d ARVN Div Fwd had one OH-6A hit by small arms fire at 3B O 1235. There were negative casualties.

(65) On 10 April 1972, one AH-1G from the 57th AHC, performing armed escort for the 22d ARVN Div Fwd, was hit by small arms fire. The pilot sustained a flesh wound in the neck and shrapnel in the jaw.

d. (U) Changes in Unit Mission: The 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) was reduced to zero strength and the colors transferred to 8th U.S. Army, Korea.

e. (U) Organizational Changes: On 24 December 1971, the 219th Reconnaissance Airplane Company was inactivated. On 15 March 1972 the 3rd Assault Helicopter Company and the 60th Assault Support Helicopter Company were inactivated. On 27 April 1972 D Troop 7/17th Cavalry was inactivated. On 12 April 1972 B Troop 7/17 Cav, 361st Aerial Weapons Company and the 57th Assault Helicopter Company were reassigned to 17th Combat Aviation Group. On 12 April 1972 17th Combat Aviation Group assumed operational control of all assets at Camp Holloway and the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion began standdown procedures.

f. (U) Key Personnel Changes:

(1) On 27 November 1971, LTC Charles W. Bagnall, FA, 247-44-8391, assumed command of the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion from LTC Russell O. Nelson, CE.

(2) On 29 November 1971, CPT John F. Wilcox, FA, 498-44-1373 was appointed Battalion S5.

(3) On 5 December 1971 Major John L. Hardy, 045-22-6482, assumed duties as Deputy Post Commander from Maj. Richard Gogokiewicz.

(4) On 9 December 1971 Major Richard F. Peterson, AR, 283-28-1408, assumed duties as Battalion XO from Major Richard A. Jones.

(5) On 27 December 1971 Major Edwin R. Clubb, FA, 225-44-6598, assumed duties as BN S3 from CPT Jack L. Edwards.

(6) On 14 January 1972 CPT George H. Seldon Jr., AD, 213-45-5313, assumed command of HHC, 52d Avn Bn (Cbt) from CPT Charles W. Larson.

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(7) On 21 January 1972 CPT Ronald Doertner, TX, 392-44-0210, assumed duties as Bn S4 from C. T. Edward D. Atwell.

(8) On 24 January 1972 Major Irvin S. Dierking, IN, 459-62-1654, assumed duties as Bn S3 from Major Edwin R. Clubb.

(9) On 5 February 1972 1LT Marcellous Cooper, MI, 225-70-2551, assumed duties as Bn S2 from C. T. Dean Eldreth.

(10) On 1 March 1972, 1LT Harold S. Hashizume, GE, 575-44-5922, assumed duties as Bn S2 from 1LT Marcellous Cooper.

(11) On 7 March 1972, CPT John G. Heslin, IT, 036-28-5652, assumed duties as Bn S3 from Major Dierking.

g. (U) Unit Strength: On 27 April 1972, the unit strength was reduced to zero.

h. (U) Aircraft Status as of 27 April 1972 is shown in inclosure 2.

i. (U) Operational Statistics are shown in inclosure 3.

2. (U) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. (U) Personnel

(1)(a) Observation: Numerous changes were made in enlisted curtailment criteria based on MOS and time in country. Changes varied from 120 day curtailments to 30 day curtailments.

(b) Evaluation: Personnel rosters were necessary for each change in criteria. These rosters were required immediately and took approximately 12 hours each to prepare. In order to comply with release dates as many as 75 personnel were processed out or in within one (1) work day. In addition, the changes in rotation criteria caused an adverse impact on morale in some cases with changes in plans for many personnel with STS or rotation.

(c) Recommendation: That criteria not be disseminated until finalized to preclude changes. That a predesignated format be used that would have all necessary information to insure rosters submitted are correct and would not require return for additional information.

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(2)(*) Observation: On at least 4 occasions this unit received in excess of 20 new officers with no prior warning that they would arrive on a particular day.

(b) Evaluation: The arrival of a large number of officers without warning temporarily overburdened transportation and billeting assets.

(c) Recommendation: That units transferring in excess of 10 personnel notify the gaining unit of their date of arrival.

(3)(a) Observation: Enlisted personnel turnover has required this unit to continuously train personnel on the job.

(b) Evaluation: Enlisted MOS requirements often times seem to have been a secondary consideration, causing many personnel to be misassigned and requiring them to be trained in a new MOS.

(c) Recommendation: That personnel management practices as directed by Army Regulations, pertaining to requisition and utilization, be applied at all levels of command.

(4)(a) Observation: Some personnel in standdown units have received up to 180 day drops while other units are short personnel.

(b) Evaluation: Personnel with the longest time left in country should be reassigned to units within the battalion in order to fill vacancies.

(c) Recommendation: That as soon as a unit within the Battalion is alerted to standdown, personnel with a late DEROS should be reassigned within the battalion and their place filled with personnel with an earlier DEROS. This would be a means of filling the TOE needs of the units and would also eliminate a lot of in country reassignments between other battalions. As the case is now, a person may receive a 180 day drop while his friend in another unit may well spend the entire 12 months tour in Vietnam.

b. (U) Intelligence

(1) Observation:

a. The enemy has directed his efforts against units from the Regional and Popular Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam utilizing small units emphasizing an economy of force philosophy. Many of the offensives have been directed against allied outposts and installations along the border separating Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam.

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(b) Capabilities: The enemy has, at present, adequate forces in the Contr 1 Highlands to initiate and sustain a major offensive for a limited period of time. He has sufficient supplies in spite of the bombing program directed against his major supply routes.

(c) Tactics employed by the enemy have centered around assaults by fire employing small arms, mortars, and rockets. His efforts at interdicting lines of communication have had limited success to date. Intelligence reports tend to substantiate the theory that the enemy is utilizing base area 609 just west of Ben Het to stage a number of their operations targeted against the B-3 front.

(2) Evaluation: Throughout the reporting period the enemy has been engaged in activities preparing the battle field for a main offensive against critical ARVN positions such as Ben Het, Fire Support Base Five, Six and Polad Klung. His timetable has twice been disrupted by B52 bombings and the rapid shifting of ARVN troops to key tactical positions. The addition of the 2nd Airborne Brigade has, no doubt, added to his problems.

(3) Recommendations: That aviation support continue for Allied forces in the Pleiku, Kontum area with the majority of the support coming from the VNAF. Commanders should be especially attentive to host security during times of rapid personnel turnover and periods during which units standdown.

c. (C) Operations:

(1)(a) Observations: During this reporting period the 52d Combat Aviation Battalion supported the 22d ARVN Infantry Division, II Corps Tactical Zone and Task Force II with lift helicopters, aerial guns and scout teams. The normal mission day was from 0800 hrs to 1700 hrs.

(b) Evaluation: Often aircraft were extended beyond normal release times. This situation had an adverse effect on unit maintenance.

(c) Recommendation: That unless it is absolutely necessary to keep aircraft later than 1700 hours, they should be released. Units that are supported should be advised of the aircraft maintenance difficulties.

(2)(a) Observation: This unit primarily supported ARVN units. These ARVN units have had American advisors who have worked closely with our aircraft.

(b) Evaluation: On many occasions aircraft have been misutilized because U.S. advisors did not understand aviation capabilities and limitations. One area where this has been most apparent is in OH-47 utilization.

(c) Recommendation: That all U.S. advisors assigned to units supported by the 52d Aviation Battalion receive briefing from the battalion S3 on capabilities and limitations of aircraft.

d. Organization: None

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e. Training

(1) Observation: Often times pilots are not able to receive standardization rides because of a lack of aircraft. Training aircraft are secondary to support missions.

(2) Evaluation: It is essential that pilots be given adequate training time. 90 day standardization and other training flights are necessary. Due to the heavy mission commitment and aircraft availability, training aircraft are difficult to obtain.

(3) Recommendation: When there is a need for a training aircraft this should take priority over some missions. Missions that are combat essential should not be considered. However, other support missions could be delayed to provide a training aircraft.

f. Logistics

(1) Class III Package Products

() Observation: During the reporting period a critical shortage of package POL products existed.

(b) Evaluation: The problem stems in part from the failure of this battalion's Direct Support Unit to properly project supply demands on a stable basis. In addition, wheeled transportation has sometimes not been available to transport the required items from the Qui Nhon Support Command to the LSA in Pleiku.

(c) Recommendation: That the 573rd LSA establish a stockage objective based on the known consumption rate of package POL products by this battalion.

(d) Command Action: This battalion has provided the 573rd with a monthly stockage objective with an information copy to the Support Command. This action has greatly improved the flow of POL package products to this battalion.

(2) Class II Flight Safety Clothing

() Observation: There has been a continuous shortage of flight safety clothing and equipment within this battalion throughout the reporting period.

(b) Evaluation: The shortage of clothing of the correct size has forced some personnel of this unit to wear improperly fitted clothing.

(c) Recommendation: That command emphasis be placed on this problem to insure that flight safety clothing is quickly distributed to all units and that the proper sizes are available.

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(3) Class IV Repair Parts

(a) Observation: The lack of repair parts has been continual problem in this battalion.

(b) Evaluation: Many of the vehicles and other items of equipment have been not operationally ready due to a lack of repair parts. In most cases the needed repair parts were not available even at DSU Tech Supply.

(c) Recommendation: That units be allowed to forecast anticipated requirements for repair parts, and be allowed to order and stock these parts. The anticipated requirements, admittedly in contravention of AR 710-2, have been made necessary because of the vast differences in equipment utilization of a CONUS based unit and a combat committed unit.

g. Communications: None

h. Material: None

i. Other: None

Charles W. Bagwell

CHARLES W. BAGWELL

LTC, FA

Commanding

3 Incl

as

DISTRIBUTION:

2-CONUSARMC, ATTN: POL-PT, APO 96558

3-SC, HQ AFM, ATTN: AFM-SC-PT, APO 96375

2-SC, 1ST AFM, ATTN: AFM-SC-0, APO 96384

10-SC, 17TH AFM, ATTN: AFM-SC, APO 96310

ORGANIZATIONAL INFO CHART (U)
27 APRIL 1972

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APC</u>
HHC, 52d Aviation Battalion	Meiku	96318

Reduced to zero strength 27 April 1972

Incl 1

AIRCRAFT STATUS (U)
27 APRIL 1972

All aircraft were reassigned or retrograded prior to 27 April 1972

Incl 2

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS (U)
27 APRIL 1972

SORTIES FLOWN	54,712
HOURS FLOWN	23,066
TROOPS LIFTED	83,791
CARGO LIFTED (TONS)	5,140
ENEMY KIA (SUSP/CONF)	178/284
STRUCTURES (DEST/DMAED)	1153/162
AIRCRAFT DESTROYED	11
AIRCRAFT DAMAGED	148
AIRCRAFT RECOVERED	36

Incl 3