

52<sup>ND</sup>

# AVIATION BATTALION COMBAT



## FLYING DRAGONS

WELCOME

52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION  
AWARDS AND REDEPLOYMENT CEREMONY

12 APRIL 1972

REVIEWING OFFICER

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT N MACKINNON

GROUP COMMANDER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM T KASER

BATTALION COMMANDER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES W BAGNAL

COMMANDER OF TROOPS

MAJOR RICHARD N PETERSON

STAFF

S-1 CPT PAUL R FORSTER

S-2 1LT HAROLD S HASKIZUME

S-3 CPT JOHN G HESLIN

S-4 CPT GEORGE R POBORNER

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

CSM PETER BARILOVICH

, MISSION

TO PROVIDE AVIATION SUPPORT AS DIRECTED  
BY THE 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), 1ST  
AVIATION BRIGADE, TO U.S. FORCES, REPUBLIC  
OF VIETNAM FORCES, AND FREE WORLD ASSISTANCE  
FORCES IN THE II CORPS AREA.

52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

COMMANDERS

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES W. BAGWAL  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RUSSELL D. NELSON  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK O. MILLER  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RONALD H. MERRITT  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHARLES D. WITZMAN  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL PATRICK O'GRADY  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RICHARD L. STROSSNER  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM CHAMBERLAIN  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL RAYMOND G. JERMAN  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD P. LUCERT JR.  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH W. MATTERNEY  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL PAUL C. SMITHEY  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT L. CODY  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL FAY RICE  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL D. TOMMSEND  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM G. STBERT

## 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION HISTORY

THE LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION DATE BACK TO 1 JUNE 1940, WHEN IT WAS CONSTITUTED AS THE 204<sup>TH</sup> QUARTERMASTER BATTALION. REORGANIZED AND REDESIGNATED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE YEARS, IT WAS FIRST ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRESENT AVIATION MISSION ON 4 MARCH 1958 WHEN IT WAS DESIGNATED THE 52D TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (HELICOPTER). ON 20 DECEMBER 1962 THE UNIT WAS REORGANIZED AND REDESIGNATED THE 52D AVIATION BATTALION AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION.

DURING WORLD WAR II, THE BATTALION PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL CAMPAIGNS INCLUDING THE SALERNO BEACH LANDING. IT PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE KOREAN WAR CAMPAIGNS. DURING THIS PERIOD A MEMBER OF THE 52D BATTALION, LTC JOHN V. PAGE, WAS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION NEAR THE CHOSIN RESERVOIR. LTC PAGE, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION ON 11 DECEMBER 1950, WAS ALSO AWARDED THE NAVY CROSS.

THE 52D AVIATION BATTALION DEPLOYED FROM FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION, PLEIKU, RVN, IN FEBRUARY 1963. ITS BASE IS CAMP HOLLOWAY, NAMED IN HONOR OF WO1 CHARLES HOLLOWAY, A MEMBER OF THE BATTALION WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION, 22 DECEMBER 1962. INITIALLY THE BATTALION PROVIDED AVIATION SUPPORT TO II CORPS HIGHLANDS, WITH EMPHASIS ON SUPPORT OF MCV ADVISORS, ARVN AND GUDG FORCES. WITH THE ESCALATION OF THE VIETNAM WAR IN 1965, THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND THE 3RD BRIGADE, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION WERE DEPLOYED TO THE CENTRAL

HIGHLANDS, AND, DURING THEIR PRESENCE, RECEIVED THE MAJORITY OF THE 52D BATTALION'S AVIATION ASSETS. UPON THEIR DEPARTURE, THE BATTALION AGAIN ASSUMED ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF SUPPORTING THE ADVISORY EFFORT AND THE ARVN. THE 52D HAS PARTICIPATED IN ALL OF THE MAJOR OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN THE II CORPS HIGHLANDS AREA, INCLUDING THE BATTLES OF PLEI ME, DU GO, BEN HET, DAK TO, AND THE IN DRING VALLEY. IT HAS BEEN AWARDED NUMEROUS UNIT CITATIONS FOR GALLANTRY IN ACTION. THROUGH SKILL, DEPENDABILITY, AND DUTIFUL COURAGE, IT HAS WON THE PRAISE OF ALL THOSE WHOM IT HAS SERVED.

THIS CEREMONY MARKS THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. IT DEPARTS WITH A MAGNIFICENT TRADITION AND A PROUD HERITAGE.

PARTICIPATING UNITS

HHC 52D COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

COMMANDER           CPT GEORGE H SELDEN JR  
FIRST SERGEANT      1SG GEORGE W COPELAND  
ACTIVATED            4 MARCH 1968  
REDEPLOYED          27 APRIL 1972

57TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

COMMANDER           MAJ FRANK GAIL JR  
FIRST SERGEANT      1SG OLIN M JUDY  
ACTIVATED            10 FEBRUARY 1967  
REASSIGNED          8 APRIL 1972

361ST AERIAL WEAPONS COMPANY

COMMANDER           CPT JOHN R BAREFIELD  
FIRST SERGEANT      1SG WALTER J CORRY  
ACTIVATED            1 NOVEMBER 1967  
REASSIGNED          8 APRIL 1972

B TROOP 7TH SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY

COMMANDER           MAJ JAMES M GIBBS  
FIRST SERGEANT      1SG JAMES M REDING  
ATTACHED            16 FEBRUARY 1971  
DETACHED            8 APRIL 1972

D TROOP 7TH SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY

COMMANDER CPT RAYMOND W O'KEEFE

FIRST SERGEANT 1ST JOSE RAMOS - LOPEZ

ATTACHED 15 MARCH 1970

REDEPLOYED 27 APRIL 1972

II CORPS BAND

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. PRESENTATION AND HONORS
2. HONORS TO NATIONS
3. DECORATION AND AWARDS
4. REDEPLOYMENT ORDER
5. REMARKS FROM REVIEWING OFFICER
6. REMARKS FROM BATTALION COMMANDER
7. MEMORIAL SERVICE