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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96384

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AVBAGC

26 JUL 1969

SUBJECT VNAF Gunship Training (U)

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHAV-OPT
APO 96384

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1. (U) Reference: Letter, Headquarters, USARV, AVHAV-OPT, dated 22 July 1969, subject as above.

2. (C) It is recommended that in-country gunship training of the 30 VNAF aviators be conducted in the VNAF armed UH-1H aircraft when they become available for the following reasons:

a. Neither the armed UH-1H helicopter nor the Air Force weapons system (Pintle mounted GAU-2-B) used on the UH-1H is in the 1st Aviation Brigade inventory. If the 30 VNAF aviators are trained in the UH-1B/C helicopter armed with the XM-21 system they will require almost a complete retraining cycle to qualify with the Air Force pintle mounted GAU-2-B system, planned for the VNAF armed UH-1H's.

b. The current shortage of UH-1B/C armed helicopters within the 1st Aviation Brigade is critical. At the present time the Brigade is at 75.8% of authorized strength in UH-1B/C. Through the month of October 1969 the percentage of authorized UH-1B/C helicopters can be expected to fall to 75.7% (Enclosure 1). At the present time 1st Aviation Brigade units are able to meet minimum mission requirements. With the additional losses forecast during the next three months, the Brigade's capability to accomplish this training and continue support of combat operations at the present level of intensity is questionable.

3. (C) If the 1st Aviation Brigade is required to conduct armed helicopter training with assigned UH-1B/C armed helicopters the proposed training program is as follows:

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a. Thirty aviators will be trained in five consecutive classes consisting of six students per class. The six students will be assigned to two different assault helicopter companies, each company training three (3) students per training cycle. Although this proposal differs from the five students per class concept of the referenced letter, this proposal will permit more effective use of resources and ease the management functions at unit level.

b. Each class of six (6) students will be trained for a period of 30 days. Phase I of the training cycle will consist of two weeks of ground school and training flights, to include 4 hours of controlled day firing of all weapons system on the UH-1B/C armed helicopter plus 2 hours of night controlled firing. In addition, each student will observe 5 hours of gunship support for airmobile and direct fire support operations. A copy of the proposed program of instruction is shown at Inclosure 2. Phase II will consist of two (2) weeks during which the VNAF aviators will receive actual experience participating in combat missions with Assault Helicopter Companies.

4. (C) Impact. During the first two weeks of each training cycle the armed helicopter platoon of each company will be released from all operational commitments and the company's transport aircraft will not be capable of performing tactical airmobile operations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Incl
asDAVID R ANDERSON
CPT. AG
ASST. AG

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USARV PROJECTED UH-1B/C GAINS/LOSSES

		<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
UH-1B/C	GAINS	0	3	24	28	
	LOSSES	28	33	27	31	<u>64 LOSSES</u>

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE PROJECTED GAINS/LOSSES

		<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
UH-1B/C	GAINS	12	13	12	14	
	LOSSES	13	16	13	15	<u>-6</u>

Note: 7 of the UH-1B/C helicopters presently assigned to the 1st Aviation Brigade are unable to mount any type weapons systems because of their electrical wiring systems.

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ARMED HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

SECTION I - GROUND INSTRUCTION

TITLE	RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME	SCOPE	REFERENCES
Rules of Engagement	1 hour	Thoroughly familiarize the aviator with all aspects of the Rules of Engagement.	1st Avn Bd Handbook,
Armament Subsystems Maintenance	4 hours	Training in the various unit armament subsystems to include: preflight, loading and unloading, trouble shooting, field expedient repair, care and cleaning, use of bullet catchers, and all safety precautions to be observed with each system.	TM 55-1520 TM 55-1520 TM 55-1520 TM 9-1010- TM 9-1010- TM 9-1090- TM 9-1005- TM 9-1055- TM 9-1400- TM 9-1090- TM 9-1005-
Boresighting	2 hours	Training the armed helicopter pilot in the correct procedure for boresighting the various armament subsystems in accordance with the appropriate TMs.	TM 9-1010- TM 9-1090- TM 9-1090- TM 9-1005- TM 9-1055- TM 9-1400- TM 9-1090- TM 9-1005-
Munitions	1 hour	Thoroughly familiarize the aviator with the functioning, operational capabilities and limitations, handling, storage and safety precautions of all munitions that may be used in the units applicable aircraft armament subsystems and ordnance delivery systems.	USARV Reg

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ARMED HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME</u>	<u>SCOPE</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
Air to Ground Gunnery	1 hour	Instruction in the principles of air to ground rockets and machine gun.	FM 1-40 (Ar Attack Helicopter Gunnery, 1)
Weapons Procedures	1 hour	Discussion of sighting techniques, switches and modes, firing triggers, and emergency procedures.	TM 55-1520- TM 55-1520- TM 55-1520-
Gunnery Support of Air-Mobile Operations	2 hours	Fire team procedures, techniques, and tactics used during airmobile operations.	1st Avn Bde Manual, 1 FM 1-100, 1
Direct Fire Support	1 hour	Assessment of friendly and enemy positions based on ground commander's briefing or fire team leader's briefing; selection of attack points and selection of proper ordnance.	1st Avn Bde Manual, 1 FM 1-100, 1
Reconnaissance	1 hour	Tactics and techniques used in performance of day and night reconnaissance missions.	1st Avn Bde Manual, 1 FM 1-100, 1
<u>SECTION II - FLIGHT INSTRUCTION</u>			
Controlled Firing-Day	2 hours	Firing of normal aircraft ordnance from all installed armament subsystems that may be fired from the pilot's seat.	
Controlled Firing-Day	2 hours	Firing of normal aircraft ordnance from all installed armament subsystems (Coastal/Gunner positions).	

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ARMED HELICOPTER PILOT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS (CONT'D)

TITLE	RECOMMENDED INSTRUCTION TIME	SCOPE	REFERENCE
*Controlled Firing-Night	1 hour	Firing of normal aircraft ordnance from all installed armament sub-systems. (Co-pilot/Gunner positions).	
*Controlled Firing-Night	1 hour	Firing of normal aircraft ordnance from armament subsystems that may be fired from pilot's seat.	
Observation of Gunship Support for Airmobile and Direct Fire Support Operations	5 hours	Fire team procedures, techniques, and tactics used during airmobile operations. Assessment of friendly and enemy positions based on ground commander's briefing or fire team leader's briefing; selection of attack paths and proper types of ordnance.	1st Avn B Manual, I FM 1-100, FM 1-40 (

*Controlled firing exercises may be conducted during operational missions except those missions in which direct fire support is provided to friendly troops.

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