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May 1970

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

U.S. ARMY MILITARY HISTORY INSTITUTE  
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PA 17013-5008

AGDA-A (M) (27 Jan 71) FOR OT UT 703095

2 February 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 10th Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1970 (U)

CLASSIFIED BY

SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION  
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652  
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR  
INTERVALS

DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1976.

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. The attached report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with para 4b, AR 525-15.
2. The information contained in this report is provided to insure that lessons learned during current operations are used to the benefit of future operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.
3. Information of actions initiated as a result of your evaluation should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, ATTN: FOR OT UT within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

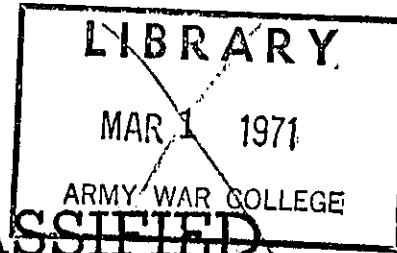
*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 10TH AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)  
APO San Francisco 96377

AVBACB-AE

13 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10TH Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS: GSFOR-65(R2)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Historical Events.

(1) During the period 1 May 1970 to 31 July 1970 the 10th Aviation Battalion (Combat) provided the majority of aviation assets utilized by units in the seven southern provinces of the II Military Region. The major units supported were: Task Force South (TFS), 9th (White Horse) Infantry Division (WHRID), 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN), I Field Forces Vietnam (IFFV) Artillery, DSA II Military Region, RECONDO, and 5th Special Forces Group.

(2) At the beginning of the reporting period (1 May 70) the 10th AB(C) was committed to the resupply effort of Operation Eagle 70-1 in which the 9th ROK Div (-) had been airlifted into an AO NW of Tuy Hoa on 28 April 70. The operation continued until 18 May 70. The 10th AB(C) furnished eight (8) UH-1H's, four (4) gunships, and two (2) CH-47 aircraft on a daily basis for resupply, command and control and fire support. The operation was considered successful and resulted in 275 enemy KIA, 3 POW's captured, 168 small arms and 20 crew served weapons captured. A large ammunition cache was found and destroyed. The AO was a staging area from which enemy units directed attacks against the coastal regions of Tuy Hoa and Phu Hiep. In mid April the 10th AB(C) began rendering support in the Pleiku, Kontum, Dak Seang area and was heavily committed on 1 May 70 to the Cambodia Campaign. The 10th AB(C)'s most significant contribution to that effort was made by the 281st Avn Co (AH) which moved its entire operational assets to Pleiku. The duration of the operation was from 4 May 70 to 17 May 70, and during this period the unit was in support of Operation Binh Tay I in Cambodia. This operation was supported by twenty (20) UH-1H's, eight (8) gunships, and four (4) CH-47's on a daily basis. The 10th AB(C) losses included two (2) aircraft destroyed and five (5) personnel killed. On 20 May 70 the 23rd Inf Div (ARVN) began the first phase of Operation Binh Tay III which took place west of Duc Lap in Cambodia. The 45th Regiment and one FSB were air lifted into the AO by twenty-four (24) UH-1H's, eight (8) gunships and ten (10) CH-47 aircraft. The 8th Cav Regiment marched into the AO. The 10th AB(C) provided all aviation support for the assault with the exception of six (6) CH-47's. Initial enemy contact was light, however, the operation was considered successful due to the numerous weapons, ammunition and medical caches found. The 155th Avn Co (AH) experienced two stand-off attacks during May which resulted in minor damage to four (4) UH-1H aircraft. A new type of personnel bunker was constructed in several areas of the battalion headquarters. DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS; FOR OFFUT 703095

Inclosure

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.

DDN DTM 5700-12

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AVBACR-AE

13 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion  
(Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS: GSFOR-65(R2)

The bunker was constructed of half-round steel culvert, heavy timbers and Solid Plate Steel (SSP). The bunkers appear to withstand weather conditions much better than those of sandbags or conex containers.

(3) On 8 June 1970, the 10th AB(C) inserted the 30th Regiment, 9th ROK Div into an area twenty (20) miles SW of Phan Rang. Using rappelling ropes the Pathfinders were inserted into several locations prior to the operation to blast out a landing zone. This practice has been terminated due to lack of fire support and security for the Pathfinders. One of the two ROK companies which marched into the AO met unexpected heavy resistance on D-3. This action forced several changes of plans and relocation of LZ's. The operation was not considered successful. The ROK units were hindered by a shortage of adequate LZ's, slow ground movement through mountainous jungles, and lack of close ground support due to unfavorable weather. Enemy forces in the area were well entrenched and had operated there unchecked for the past three years. During the operation an enemy radio intercept unit acquired an FM frequency of a friendly ground unit. An unsuccessful attempt was made by the enemy to direct gunships from assigned missions to fire on friendly elements. On 12 June 1970 the 92d Avn Co (AH) experienced a stand-off mortar attack. The unit sustained negligible damage to maintenance equipment. On 20 June 1970, the 2d phase of Operation Binh Tay III began in Cambodia west of Ban Don Special Forces Camp. Two battalions each of the 44th and 45th Regiments, 23rd Inf Div (ARVN) and two FSB were staged out of Ban Don, utilizing twenty six (26) UH-1H's, ton gunships and twelve (12) CH-47 aircraft. The ARVN units were inserted 12 kilometers inside Cambodia directly west of Ban Don. The mission requirements necessitated the establishment of a forward aviation fuel point at Ban Don. This requirement severely taxed the POL capabilities of the 10th AB(C). The operation was considered successful. Caches of weapons, ammunition and medical supplies were captured. The 155th Avn Co (AH) experienced a stand-off mortar attack on 9 Jul 70 and sustained damage to two UH-1H's and two gunships.

(4) On 4 July 1970 in support of Operation "Handcock Gold" the 10th AB(C) was to insert the 3/506 Inf Bn, 1/50 Mech Inf Bn, C Company 75th Ranger Bn and 44th Regt. (ARVN) and three FSB's within a twelve hour time frame into MR-6. Location of MR-6 was approximately 25 miles NNW of Phan Theit. Required Aviation assets for this operation were forty seven (47) UH-1H's, sixteen (16) UH-1C gunships and twelve (12) CH-47 aircraft. On D-Day weather conditions in the AO forced 24 hour delay. On the morning of D+1, weather conditions had not improved. However, at approximately 1000 hours improving weather conditions in the eastern sector of the AO permitted the operation to begin. At 1000 hours on D+2 the AMC advised the AMTFC that forecast weather conditions did not appear satisfactory for continuing the operation as originally planned and that it would be advisable to formulate an alternate plan. By 1300 hours on D+2 an alternate was in effect. The alternate plan required the 10th AB(C) to insert the 3/506 into LZ's along the SE edge of their original AO. Two companies from the 1/50 Bn were to be inserted into an alternate AO located 15 miles NE of Phan Thiet. The insertion of the 3/506 though hampered by severe weather conditions which included low cloud cover and moderate turbulence was completed at 1800 hours. The insertion of the 1/50 Bn began at 1500 hours and was completed by 1700 hours. The 44th Regt. (ARVN) was inserted into its original AO which was completed by 1730 hours. On D+2, the 1/50 Bn was inserted into original AO with few problems experienced.

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13 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS: GSFOR-65(R2)

<u>CIVILIAN</u> <u>UNIT</u>	<u>DAC</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>VN</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>3RD NATL</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>CONTRACTOR</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>
HHC, 10TH AB(C)	0 0	8 8	0 0	0 0
48TH AVN CO(AH)	0 0	10 10	0 0	0 0
92D AVN CO(AH)	0 0	10 10	0 0	0 0
155TH AVN CO(AH)	0 0	14 14	0 0	0 0
192D AVN CO(AH)	0 0	10 10	0 0	0 0
243RD AVN CO(ASH)	0 0	7 7	0 0	0 0
281ST AVN CO(AH)	0 0	3 3	0 0	0 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>62 62</b>	<b>0 0</b>	<b>0 0</b>

There are two technical representatives working with the battalion

f. Aircraft Status as of 31 July 1970.

	<u>UH1C</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>OH58</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>UH1H</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>CH47</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>
HHC, 10TH AB(C)	0 0	3 3	0 1	0 0
48TH AVN CO(AH)	8 6	0 0	23 22	0 0
92D AVN CO(AH)	8 7	0 0	23 21	0 0
155TH AVN CO(AH)	8 7	0 0	23 21	0 0
192D AVN CO(AH)	8 7	0 0	23 22	0 0
243RD AVN CO(ASH)	0 0	2 2	0 0	16 16
281ST AVN CO(AH)	8 6	0 0	23 22	0 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40 33</b>	<b>5 5</b>	<b>115 109</b>	<b>16 16</b>

g. Operational Statistics

	<u>48th</u>	<u>92d</u>	<u>155th</u>	<u>192d</u>	<u>243rd</u>	<u>281st</u>
<u>SORTIES FLOWN</u>	18,527	15,058	17,155	12,032	7,724	17,757
<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	6,315	7,022	6,605	5,837	3,038	6,292
<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>	22,389	22,279	27,590	16,858	22,568	28,892
<u>CARGO LIFTED(TONS)</u>	1,643	478	454	587	8,420	10,303
<u>ENEMY KIA</u>	25	60	17	31	0	12
<u>SAMPANS(DEST/DAMAGED)</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<u>STRUCTORS(DEST/DAMAGED)</u>	0	16	28	7	0	1
<u>AIRCRAFT LOST</u>	2	4	0	4	0	1
<u>AIRCRAFT DAMAGED</u>	6	10	11	7	0	14
<u>AIRCRAFT RECOVERED</u>	0	0	0	0	28	0

2. Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations

(a) (U) Personnel: None

(b) (C) Intelligence:

(1) Observations:

(a) The enemy has generally reverted to Phase I of Guerrilla Warfare in Southern Military Region II(MR II), employing his forces in small unit configurations.

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13 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion

he can remain undected by friendly ambush patrols. The enemy has limited his attacks on Dong Ba Thin during this reporting period to that time immediately following the period of least lunar illumination, usually between the sixth and thirteenth of the month.

(c) Tactics: The enemy ambushes convoys to obtain necessary war materials. He also conducts stand-off rocket and mortar attacks combined with sapper attacks on U.S. and Allied Installations, and employs terror tactics on indigenous personnel to gain required support.

(2) Evaluation:

(a) An aggressive observation/surveillance program will hinder enemy movements into the Cam Ranh Bay/Dong Ba Thin area and will provide a ready reaction capability against hostile attacks on U.S. and Allied Installations. This program includes direct interdiction of known infiltration routes by helicopter gunships and indirect interdiction by aerial adjusted artillery.

(3) Recommendations: An airborne patrol be established during the hours of darkness to detect, monitor, and destroy enemy patrols infiltrating into local area.

(4) Command Action:

The 10th AB(C) is developing a Standard Operating Procedure for night deployment of the battalion assets contingencies. A nightly dusk patrol composed of an OH-58A Light Observation Helicopter and two UHIC armed helicopters perform reconnaissance of suspected infiltration routes in the Dong Ba Thin area. Night Observation surveillance is provided by an O-1 Bird Dog and a UH1H Helicopter with a Night-Hawk system which includes a door mounted mini-gun, a million and a half candle power xenon search light and an infrared night vision device. Surveillance is conducted from 2200 hours to 0400 hours nightly.

- c. (U) Operations: None
- d. (U) Organization: None
- e. (U) Training: None
- f. (U) Logistics:

(1) Observations:

Several recent operations have required refueling of aircraft at a PZ away from a major POL bulk distribution point. Minimizing blade time and turn around time for timely insertion of troops has necessitated the use of those remote POL sites. Due to the present doctrine of the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, logistics support of forward POL operations is virtually

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AVBACB-AE

13 August 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS: GSFOR-65(R2)

non-existent. Thus the task of providing POL equipment, personnel, and resupply of POL at forward refueling areas has fallen upon the 10th AB(C). This requirement for logistic support places a severe demand on the mission capability of the 10th AB(C) as the battalion is not authorized equipment and personnel needed to support it.

(2) Evaluation:

At present, all forward area refueling equipment is drawn on USARV 180 day loan and POL handlers must be provided by the personnel of the aviation companies. Twice the battalion has been required to furnish CH-47's to carry 500 gallon blivets to forward refuel area when an adequate road existed that would permit ground transportation via 5,000 gallon tankers. It is noted that the 45th General Support Group provides all necessary logistic support to the 52d Aviation Battalion in MR II North. This includes the provision of personnel and equipment and its installation at all forward areas.

(3) Recommendations:

- (a) It is desirable that the 54th General Support Group provide the POL equipment and personnel to install, operate, and maintain a forward area for a forward area refueling system, as well as the resupply of POL from the nearest bulk delivery point. Higher headquarters should initiate this action.
- (b) An alternative proposal is that the 10th AB(C) be authorized by MTOE the additional personnel and equipment necessary to sustain forward area refueling and resupply.

(4) Command Action:

This unit will retain and continue to operate 180 day USARV loan equipment until such time that a satisfactory arrangement has been devised. For this battalion to adequately accomplish its mission, it is necessary that forward POL points be available upon request.

g. Communications: None

h. Medical: None

i. Material: None

j. Other: None

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as

JACK A. WALKER  
LTC, Inf  
Commanding

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AVBACB-SC (13 Aug 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 10th Aviation Battalion  
(Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96240 23 August 1970

TO: Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20315  
Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

(U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it adequate and concurs with the contents except as indicated:

a. Paragraph 1(c), Operations: Significant Activities.

(1) The reference in Para 1a(2), to "Operation EAGLE 70-1", should read "Operation Dok Suri 70-1", the official title of the operation.

(2) The reference in Para 1a(4), to "Operation Handcock Gold", should read "Hancock Gold".

(3) Paragraph 1a(6) should contain more data on the disposition of enemy units and their movement.

b. Paragraph 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations: Concur with recommendations stated in Paragraph 2f(2). This problem should be resolved at Field Force level. Past attempts to coordinate support for forward refuel and rearm facilities with Cam Ranh Bay Support Command have been unsuccessful.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Billy W. Coughran*  
BILLY W. COUGHREN  
CPT, ACC  
Asst Adjutant

CF:

CO, 10th AB(C)

AVFA-GC-HIST (23 Aug 70) 2d Ind

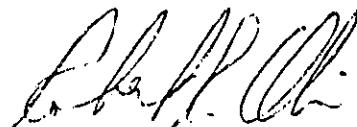
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 10th Aviation  
Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65  
(R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO S.F. 96350 2 SEP 1970

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384

This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsement and concurs, except para 2(f): The establishment and operation of forward refuel points is the responsibility of the predominant user. The support commands provide wholesale POL support only. The operation of retail refuel points by support commands in the past has been done as an exception to policy. The support commands do not have units authorized to draw the equipment necessary to operate a forward refuel point. Customers of the support commands may draw the equipment on a temporary loan basis or by modification to the TO&E. Recommend 10th Avn Bn (CBT) submit appropriate modification to the unit TO&E.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ROBERT R. OLIN  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

1 - CO, 17TH AVN GP (C), (LESS ORLL)  
1 - CO, 10TH AVN BN (C), (LESS ORLL)

AVHDO-DO (13 Aug 70) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10TH Aviation Battalion  
(Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS: GSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 10 NOV 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558

1. This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1970 from Headquarters, 10th Aviation Battalion (Combat) and comments of indorsing headquarters.
2. Reference item concerning "Logistics," page 6, paragraph 2f(1): Nonconcur with recommendation that 54th General Support Group provide POL equipment and personnel to install, operate, and maintain forward area refueling systems in support of the 10th Aviation Battalion. Units of the 54th GS Group are not equipped or staffed to operate forward Class III points. Concur that forward Class III points be supported by 5,000 gallon tankers when tanker assets and road/convoy security permit. Concur with proposal that MTOE action be initiated to authorize Class III personnel and equipment to provide for forward area refueling operations incident to the 10th Aviation Battalion's missions. The problem should not be resolved at I Field Force level but should be resolved by the 10th Aviation Battalion submitting MTOE action through the chain of command. Unit has been so advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



Clark W. Stevens Jr.

Captain AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
1st Avn Bde  
10th Avn Bn

AVBAGC-0 (13 Aug 70) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 10th Aviation  
Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65  
(R2) (U)

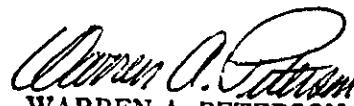
DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384 15 SEP 1970

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,  
APO 96375

1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the contents as indorsed.
2. The following additional comment is considered pertinent:

Paragraph 2(f) addresses problems associated with forward refueling points. This headquarters concurs with I FFV and is advising the major subordinate command of options available to resolve this problem.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



WARREN A. PETERSON  
CPT, AGC  
ASST AG

GPOP-DT (13 Aug 70) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation  
Battalion (Combat), for the Period Ending 31 July 1970,  
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 11 DEC 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department  
of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*L.M. Ozaki, 167*  
L.M. OZAKI  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APO</u>
HQ, 10TH ABC	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
HQ, & HQ Co, 10TH ABC	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
130TH MED DET O/A	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
339TH AVN DET (DIV)	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
<hr/>		
48TH AVIATION COMPANY (ASSAULT HELICOPTER)	Ninh Hoa, RVN	96240
286TH MED DET O/A	Ninh Hoa, RVN	96240
<hr/>		
92ND AVIATION COMPANY (ASSAULT HELICOPTER)	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
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155TH AVIATION COMPANY (ASSAULT HELICOPTER)	Ban Me Thuot, RVN	96297
8TH MED DET O/A	Ban Me Thuot, RVN	96297
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192ND AVIATION COMPANY (ASSAULT HELICOPTER)	Phan Thiet, RVN	96317
198TH MED DET	Phan Thiet, RVN	96317
363RD AVN DET (DIV)	Phan Thiet, RVN	96317
<hr/>		
243RD AVIATION COMPANY (ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER)	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
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281ST AVIATION COMPANY (ASSAULT HELICOPTER)	Nha Trang, RVN	96240
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3. REPORT TITLE

2b. GROUP  
4

Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 10th Aviation Battalion

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations 1 May to 31 July 1970.

5. AUTHORISI (First name, middle initial, last name)

CO, 10th Aviation Battalion

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13. ABSTRACT