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Aug/Oct '70

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

MH

ACDA-A (M) (7 Jun 71) FOR OT UT 704240

28 June 1971

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

CLASSIFIED BY

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652

AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR

INTERVALS

1. The attached report is forwarded for review and evaluation in

accordance with para 4b, AR 525-15.

DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER 1976.

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:

Verne L. Bowers
VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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BY AUTHORITY

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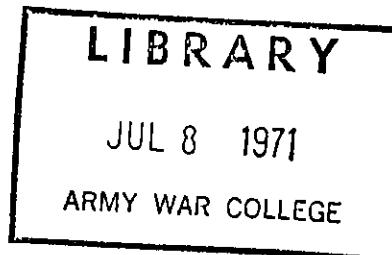
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 10TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO 96377

AVBACB-AE

NOV 13 1970

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

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1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities

a. Historical Events

(1) During the period 1 August 1970 to 31 October 1970, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion provided the majority of aviation assets utilized by units in the seven southern provinces of MR 2. The major units supported were as follows: Task Force South until 3 October when support terminated due to its deactivation, 9th (White Horse) ROK Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN), I Field Forces Vietnam (IFFV) Artillery, the seven DSA of Military Region 2, 38th Engineer Brigade, "C" 75th Rangers, and 5th Special Forces Group.

(2) On 3 August, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion augmented by eight (8) VNAF UH-1H's and two (2) CH-47G's from the 52d Battalion lifted elements of the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) from Buon Ea Yang into 14 landing zones in the vicinity of BP 197878. A task force of 17 UH-1H's, eight (8) UH-1C's, and six (6) CH-47's inserted 1100 troops, two (2) fire support bases, and 79 tons of cargo. Forward refuel and rearm points were established at Buon Ea Yang by the Battalion C-100.

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

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CH-47's. Gunship rearm and two POL points were established by Battalion S-4 and functioned throughout the operation. After completion of the troop insertion, specific targets were attacked by UH-1C aircraft using 2.75in flechette rockets and by CH-47's dropping sling loads of fугас from 2000 feet 'GI. This was the first time that the Battalion had dropped fугас on enemy cave and tunnel complexes. Target hits were accurate but results were unknown. Operational results included the following: 28 enemy KIA, 13 small arms captured, and two (2) crew served weapons captured. Friendly forces sustained nine (9) wounded. Battalion gunships were accreditied with five (5) VC killed by air, 10 VC wounded, one 60 mm mortar destroyed, and two B-40 rockets destroyed. The 48th Assault Helicopter Company and 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company assumed the role of resupply until the extraction was performed on 24 September. On 3 September, the 155th Assault Helicopter Company augmented by ten (10) VNAF UH-1H's began an insertion of the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) into the vicinity of RP8580. The total Task Force consisted of 18 UH-1H's, 6 UH-1C's and 4 CH-47s. Insertions were completed into only three landing zones of the proposed nine landing zones due to weather. Difficulties with VNAF aircraft caused by continued bad weather delayed the completion of this operation until 10 September. Operations were conducted in an area west of Nha Trang when intelligence revealed an enemy buildup in that area. On the 8th of September, the 22d Ranger Battalion (ARVN) from Pleiku augmented by "C" 75th Rangers were inserted into the mountains west of Nha Trang. 15 UH-1H's, six (6) UH-1C's and two (2) CH-47's inserted 537 troops, 22 Ranger Bn (ARVN) 163 troops "C" 75th Ranger (US), and one artillery support base. Twenty eight combat assaults were flown in support of these troops through 17 September 1970. The 9th ROK Infantry Division Operation Dong Ba 18, began 18 September in an area west of Dong Ba Thin in the vicinity of RP 7830. 49 UH-1H's, 14 UH-1C's and six CH-47's were utilized to insert 1800 troops, three (3) 105 artillery pieces and 82 tons of cargo of the 30th Regiment reinforced by elements of the 29th Regiment. The operation was staged from two pickup zones into 13 landing zones. Simultaneous gunship preparations and troop insertions were made into five (5) of the landing zones. Phase II of the operation began on 29 September. On that date a task force of 34 UH-1H's, eight (8) UH-1C's and four (4) CH-47's extracted 1397 troops, three (3) artillery pieces, and 65 tons of cargo from three (3) pickup zones, each with a capability to accommodate only two (2) aircraft into six (6) landing zones. Preparation began ten days prior to the operation to construct landing zones on two heavily wooded mountain tops. This was accomplished by the Special Forces Company and RECON Company of the 30th Regiment, 9th ROK Infantry Division. They were assisted and advised by the Pathfinders of the 10th Aviation Battalion. Several aircraft came under fire during the operation, but only one sustained hits and incurred minor damage. Weather was marginal in the afternoon and prolonged the operation until sunset. Ground forces had compiled the following statistics by the end of the month: 82 enemy KIA, one (1) POW captured, 36 small arms captured and five (5) crew served

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

weapons captured. Phase III, the extraction, took place on 3 October. The 155th Assault Helicopter Company inserted the 45th Regiment of the 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) into the "Happy Valley" (coordinates BP4065) area on 29 September. The operation was staged out of Boun Ea Yang and the 45th Regiment made a search and clear sweep of the area southeast of Boun Ea Yang. Aircraft received ground fire in two of the ten (10) LZ's, but no damage or injuries were experienced. Results of the operation were unknown.

(4) On 9 October, the 155th Assault Helicopter Company inserted 409 troops of the 45th Regiment, 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN) from BQ 045295 into nine (9) landing zones north-east of Boun Ho (coordinates BQ 108470) on a search and clear mission. Results were unknown. The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion (-) inserted elements of the 28th Regiment, 9th ROK Infantry Division into mountains west of Tuy Hoa on 14 October 1970 while supporting operation Dr Kao Bi 19. A task force of 25 UH-1H's, eight (8) UH-1C's, and two (2) CH-47's inserted 900 troops, one (1) 4.2 mortar platoon and 70 tons of cargo from six pickup zones into six (6) landing zones in the vicinity of CQ 0444. Daily resupply was performed by the 43rd AHC and 243 ASHC until the extraction on 24 October 1970. The operational results included 55 VC killed, 13 small arms captured, four (4) crew served weapons captured, and numerous hand grenades and artillery rounds captured.

(5) The 281st Assault Helicopter Company stood down on 30 October 1970 and began preparations for deactivation on 14 December 1970.

(6) The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to support areas away from home stations with RON aircraft. On 25 October the 281st Assault Helicopter Company provided an aviation package of 6 UH-1H's and 2 UH-1C's to support the 223rd Combat Aviation Battalion at An Son for an indefinite period. The 192nd Assault Helicopter Company began RONing a package of 6 UH-1H's and 2 UH-1C's at Phan Thiet daily in support of the 1st Bn, 50th Infantry (US) and "C" Company, 75th Ranger Battalion (US). The 92nd Assault Helicopter Company continued to support the MACV Advisory Team at Bao Loc with 2 UH-1C's throughout the reporting period.

(7) The 339 ADD of Dong Ba Thin provided an air traffic control tower operator in support of large aviation battalion operations. The air traffic controller was utilized in the major pick up zone to control the heavy volume of aircraft. The battalion pathfinders did not have the training or experience to adequately control large number of aircraft entering the approach pattern from multiple directions.

(8) The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion instituted two training programs during the reporting period. The Battalion Pathfinders began a three (3) phase presentation to companies engaged in providing their own perimeter defense. The classes include perimeter barriers and alarm systems, weapons familiarization and General and Special Orders. The second program involved the presentation of classes to the 52nd Artillery,

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

9th ROK Infantry Division. Those classes included the techniques of cargo sling inspections, capabilities and limitations of different rigging components, and a demonstration of how to rig artillery pieces. All helicopter sling equipment of 30th Regiment, 9th ROK Infantry Division was inspected in conjunction with the classes.

(9) The enemy continuously made his presence felt in the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's area of operation. During the reporting period, 28 aircraft were hit by enemy fire, fifteen (15) were hit by small arms, nine (9) by antiaircraft weapons and five (5) were hit by a combination of small arms and antiaircraft weapons. 42 other battalion aircraft were shot at but did not sustain hits. The same intensity of enemy fire is expected to continue. The S-2 section granted 28 secret clearances to personnel in the battalion and 62 personnel received secret clearance validations during this reporting period.

b. (U) Changes in Unit Mission: There were no changes in the mission of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion during the reporting period.

c. (U) Organizational Changes: The 363rd 'vn Div (Div) was attached to Task Force South when the 192nd ANC completed its move to Phan Rang on 15 August 1970. The 183rd Utility Airplane Company was assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion effective 15 October 1970. An organizational information sheet is attached as Inclosure 1.

e. Unit Strength

Authorized and present for duty; civilian and military strength as of 31 October 1970 is listed below.

<u>MILITARY</u>	<u>OFF</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>WO</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>EM</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>AUTH/ASGD</u>
FHC, 10th CAB	20/27	3/6	85/105	108/138
130th Med Det	1/0	0/0	7/10	8/10
48th AHC	19/16	51/41	218/184	288/241
286th Med Det	1/0	0/0	7/6	8/6
92nd AHC	19/18	51/44	218/184	288/246
155th AHC	19/19	51/48	218/215	288/282
8th Med Det	1/1	0/0	7/8	8/9
183rd RAC	32/26	2/7	89/87	123/120
192nd AHC	19/17	51/46	218/185	288/248
198th Med Det	1/1	0/0	7/8	8/9
243rd ASMC	15/11	26/17	227/205	268/233
281st AHC	19/15	51/40	218/161	288/216
TOTAL	166/151	286/249	1519/1358	1971/1758

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

CIVILIAN

UNIT	DAC AUTH/ASGD	VN AUTH/ASGD	3RD NAT AUTH/ASGD	CONTRACTOR AUTH/ASGD
HHC, 10th CAB	0/0	8/8	0/9	0/0
48th AHC	1/0	9/9	0/0	10/9
92d AHC	0/0	0/0	0/0	2/2
155th AHC	0/0	14/13	0/0	0/0
183rd RAC	0/0	1/0	0/0	0/0
192d AHC	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
243rd ASHC	0/0	8/8	0/0	0/0
281st AHC	0/0	3/3	0/0	0/0
TOTAL	1/0	43/41	0/0	12/11

There were no Technical Representatives working for Battalion at the end of the reporting period.

f. Aircraft Status as of 31 October 1970.

UNIT	O-1G AUTH/ASGD	U-6A AUTH/ASGD	UH-1C AUTH/ASGD	OH-58A AUTH/ASGD	UH-1H AUTH/ASGD	CH-47A AUTH/ASGD
HHC, 10th CAB	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/3	0/1	0/0
48th AHC	0/0	0/0	8/7	0/0	22/21	0/0
92d AHC	0/0	0/0	8/6	0/0	22/21	0/0
155th AHC	0/0	0/0	8/6	0/0	22/20	0/0
183rd RAC	24/23	1/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
192d AHC	0/0	0/0	8/7	0/0	22/20	0/0
243rd ASHC	0/0	0/0	0/0	2/2	0/0	16/16
281st AHC	0/0	0/0	8/7	0/0	22/19	0/0
TOTAL	24/23	1/0	40/33	5/5	110/102	16/16

g. Operational Statistics.

	HHC	48th	92d	155th	183rd	192d	243rd	281st
Sorties Flown	380	23,207	15,248	17,180	4,390	6,847	7,414	13,037
Hours Flown	120	6,991	6,120	5,836	4,437	4,878	2,245	5,334
Troops Lifted	0	27,977	22,510	27,796	0	16,148	16,320	18,341
Cargo Lifted	0	1,395	513	305	0	335	8,356	164
Enemy KIA(Susp/Confirmed)	0/0	0/1	9/11	0/29	0/0	0/5	0/0	0/7
Sympans(Dest/Damaged)	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Structures(Dest/Damaged)	0/0	0/0	8/7	0/0	0/0	0/7	0/0	0/0
Aircraft Lost	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Aircraft Damaged	0	4	2	0	2	0	0	1
Aircraft Recovered	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0

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

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

a. (U) Personnel. None

b. (C) Intelligence.

(1) Observations:

(a) The enemy continues to employ his forces in small unit operations in the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's Area of Operations. Many of the offenses are directed against the Vietnamization and Pacification Programs.

(b) Capabilities: The enemy is capable of using small units to employ and direct sapper attacks and indirect fire against allied installations in the Dong Ba Thin and Cam Ranh Bay Area.

(c) Tactics: The enemy continues to launch his attacks during periods of low illumination, and particularly during poor weather. It is believed that the enemy uses highway QL-1 as a supply route to transport materiel to enemy locations in the Dong Bo Woods (coordinates CP0045) and the Ba Cum Secret Zone (coordinates BP 7630).

(2) Evaluation:

The enemy has the ability to move undetected throughout the area and possesses the ability to successfully attack allied installations with both indirect fire and sapper attacks. However, the enemy will be extremely limited in his efforts if we remain aggressive and alert in our actions.

(3) Recommendations:

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion units must constantly improve and modify their defense posture in order to offset enemy plans. Variations may include the use of sentry dogs, sensors, radar, searchlights, changes in perimeter fences, H&I fire, visual reconnaissance, and interior patrols.

(4) Command Action:

During the last quarterly reporting period, numerous improvements have been made in the battalion defenses. Sentry dogs are now being used on the perimeters. A search light team utilizing a 23" diameter searchlight mounted on a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton vehicle is being employed. Eight duffle bag sensors have been approved and technical assistance will be received in their employment. H&I fire is employed each night with M-79 fire and a UH-1H helicopter equipped with a xenon searchlight, Infrared

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

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detection devices and a door mounted minigun is used to provide airborne surveillance during periods of darkness in the Dong Ba Thin area. UH-1C gunships are on a two minute standby and provide fire on call to augment perimeter defense.

c. (C) Operations:

(1) (a) Observations:

Due to the language barriers between allied nations, valuable time is often lost during the execution of combat assaults and normal resupply missions. Lack of effective communications results in personnel and supplies being transported to erroneous locations.

(b) Evaluations:

During this reporting period, a requirement was imposed to have an English speaking observer aboard resupply aircraft and all flight leads on combat assaults. With an observer on board, tactical ground units can be located and resupply effected in a transitory situation. Previously such units wasted valuable time waiting at specified locations or missed resupply altogether.

(c) Recommendations:

That coordination between the aviation unit and the ground unit be made so that an English speaking observer can be aboard each resupply aircraft and each flight lead aircraft. The observer will be able to pinpoint the desired landing zone and identify colors of smoke thrown by ground units.

(d) Command Action:

Supported unit Liaison Officers have been directed to provide English speaking individuals for all resupply aircraft and for flight leads on all combat assaults.

(2) (a) Observations:

CH-47 aircraft have been employed to drop sling loads of fougasse against point targets, such as tunnel complexes and cave emplacements.

(b) Evaluations:

(1) CH-47 aircraft are lucrative targets as they fly directly over fortified enemy complexes to drop the sling loads of fougasse.

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

(2) These demolitions are not fuzed and must be ignited with tracer fire or with incendiary grenades dropped from a chase aircraft.

(3) The chase aircraft must fly low level to effectively ignite the fougasse.

(4) Aviators on low level chase aircraft have difficulty in locating exact fougasse drop zones in heavy wooded areas and hilly terrain. Additional aircraft exposure time is necessary to locate the dropped demolitions.

(5) CH-47 aircraft have no sighting devices for dropping napalm on point targets and attacking fortified gun emplacements.

(c) Recommendations:

CH-47 should not be utilized to attack targets such as well defended tunnel complexes and caves with fougasse. This type mission is normally assigned to USAF tactical aircraft. U.S. Army personnel are not trained and equipment is not designed to execute this type mission.

(d) Command action:

Coordination has been made with higher headquarters to employ CH-47 aircraft to drop fougasse in only the most closely controlled conditions against undefended areas or in tactical emergencies.

f. Logistics: None

g. Communications: None

h. Material: None

i. Other: None

Jack A. Walker

JACK A. WALKER
LTC, Inf
Commanding

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AVBACB-SC (13 Nov 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 10th
Combat Aviation Group, Period Ending 31 October 1970.

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH COMBAT AVIATION GROUP, APO 96316 23 October 1970

TO: Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

(U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers
it adequate and concurs with the contents.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

/s/ Robert T. Buisson
t/ROBERT T. BUISSON
1LT, FA
Asst Adjutant

CF:
CO, 10th CAB

A TRUE COPY:


L.D. MORRIS
CPT, INF
Asst S-3

AVFA-GC-HIST (16 Dec 70) 2nd Ind

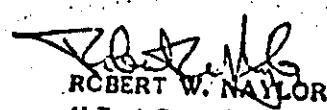
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 10th Aviation Battalion
(Combat), Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

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

This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsement and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


ROBERT W. NAYLOR
1LT, AGC
Asst AC

CF:

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

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AVBAGC (16 Dec 70) 3d Ind

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

DA, Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96384 27 JAN 1971

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

(U) This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for
Period Ending 31 October 1970 and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Harold C. Phillips
HAROLD C. PHILLIPS
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

AVHDO-DO (13 Nov 70) 4th Ind

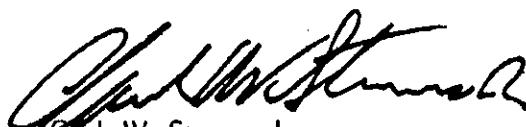
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, Period Ending 31 October 1970, RCS: CSFOR-65(R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 8 MAR 1971

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

This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1970 from Headquarters, 10th Combat Aviation Battalion and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



Clark W. Stevens Jr.
Captain AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
1st Avn Bde
10th CAB

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

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

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 24 MAR 1971

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
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CONFIDENTIAL**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION SHEET**

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APO</u>
HQ, 10TH CAB	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
HQ & HQ CO, 10TH CAB	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
130TH MED DET O/A	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
339TH AVN DET(DIR)	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
48TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER CO	Ninh Hoa, RVN	96240
286TH MED DET O/A	Ninh Hoa, RVN	96240
92D ASSAULT HELICOPTER CO	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
155TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER CO	Ban Me Thuot, RVN	96297
8TH MED DET O/A	Ban Me Thuot, RVN	96297
183RD UTILITY AIRPLANE CO	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
192D ASSAULT HELICOPTER CO	Phan Rang, RVN	96321
198TH MED DET	Phan Rang, RVN	96321
243RD ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER CO	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
281ST ASSAULT HELICOPTER CO	Nha Trang, RVN	96240

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Security Classification

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