

HISTORY
OF
160ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
APO 96221
1 APRIL 1968 - 30 JUNE 1968

PREPARED BY
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COMMANDING

HEADQUARTERS
11TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96289

162ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY
ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

COMMANDING OFFICER..... Major Ronald K. Anderson
EXECUTIVE OFFICER..... Captain James P. Goldschmidt
CONSOLIDATED SUPPLY AND PBO..... WO1 Thomas A. Mays
OPERATIONS OFFICER..... Captain Michael R. Dennis
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER..... Captain Michael R. Dennis
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER..... 1LT Charles R. Brockway
FIRST SERGEANT..... 1SG Clyde L. Pine
FIRST PLATOON COMMANDER..... 1LT Frank A. Loturco Jr
SECOND PLATOON COMMANDER..... 1LT Harlan M. Schiebo
THIRD PLATOON COMMANDER..... Captain Bruce D. Robinson
SERVICE PLATOON COMMANDER..... 2LT John Davenport
COMMANDING OFFICER 407th Trans Det..... Major John A. Petric
COMMANDING OFFICER 758th Med Det..... Captain Ronald W. Case
COMMANDING OFFICER 450th Sig Det..... CW2 Claude W. Crossen

J. Mission and Resources

During the period 1 April 1968 through 30 June 1968, the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company continued to support commitments of the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion. All assigned missions were successfully completed in a professional manner, upholding the standards and tradition established by the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion and the "Vultures". The self-help construction program has made large advances throughout this period under the guidance of CMA Crousen. Thanks to the officer and enlisted men of the flight platoons, new PSP has been installed in all the slick revetments and the problem of mud has been almost eliminated. Other major improvements include:

1. The maintenance hangar has been completed and the mortar and rocket damage to the roof and walls repaired.
2. New drainage ditches and culverts have been constructed in the company area which greatly depletes the sanitation problem.
3. A new 100 KW generator has been installed which has solved many of our power problems.
4. A new shower has been built behind the service platoon.
5. The "Copperhead" alert hootch has been refurnished and a new shower and latrine built near it.
6. A concrete work area has been built behind the mess hall to diminish the sanitation problem and two new serving lines have been constructed inside the mess hall.
7. A vegetable storage area and a canned goods storage area have been added to the mess hall complex.
8. A new PSP walk has been constructed between the EM and NCO Clubs to combat mud problems.
9. Air conditioning has been installed in the EM club.
10. The patio adjoining the officers club has been enclosed and air conditioning installed.
11. A new roof has been built for the patio and a new floor installed in both rooms of the officers club.
12. The 758th Medical Detachment has air conditioned the dispensary which makes it more pleasant for all concerned.
13. Minor repairs have been made to most of the buildings in the company area and some of the bunkers have been reconstructed.

Numerous personnel changes have taken place within the company during the quarter. On 1 April, Major Paul Kreulen, the former 1st platoon commander, assumed the duties of operations officer due to Major Wenzel rotating back to the states. LT Demas replaced Major Kreulen as 1st platoon commander and LT Shannon replaced Captain Hays as 3rd platoon commander. Captain Hyes left the "Vultures" to go to battalion. CW2 Donald Welch assumed the duties of assistant operations officer.

On 5 April there was another rotation of personnel caused by Major Kreulen going to battalion. LT Demas took over the job of operations officer and LT Loturco took command of the 1st Flight Platoon until Captain Goldschmidt replaced him.

On 26 May Major Ronald K. Andreson assumed command of the Vultures, replacing Major James E. Thompson.

On 10 June Major Paul Raetz replaced Major Allen Brissette as executive officer when Major Brissette rotated stateside.

On 25 June Major Raetz moved to 12th Group and Captain Goldschmidt took over the position of executive officer. LT Loturco again assumed command of the 1st Flight Platoon.

LT Barrow replaced CW2 Welch as assistant operations officer when CW2 Welch rotated stateside and Captain Robinson replaced Captain Shannon as 3rd platoon commander when Captain Shannon was wounded in action while covering a combat assault.

W01 Thomas Mays replaced CW2 Charles E. Weed as Consolidated Supply and PBO due to CW2 Weed's rotation to CONUS.

II. Operations and Training:

The following units were supported during the quarter:

101st Airborne Division
1st Infantry Division
9th Infantry Division
25th Infantry Division
5th ARVN Division
199th Light Infantry Brigade
1st Australian Task Force
5th Special Forces Group
II Field Forces Victor
MACV
CIDG
CMAC

Total Missions Flown	8,574
Total Sorties Flown	28,286
Tons of Cargo Carried	476
Passengers Carried	51,349
Total Flight Hours	8,543

	APR	MAY	JUN
Number of Aircraft Hit by Enemy Fire:			
UH-1C	2	4	3
UH-1D	4	9	5
Number of Aircraft Lost:			
UH-1C	0	0	0
UH-1D	0	0	0
Number of Aircraft Recovered:			
UH-1C and UH-1D	3	7	9
Crew Members Wounded:			
UH-1C and UH-1D	0	1	0
Number of Crew Members Killed:			
UH-1C and UH-1D	0	0	0
Hostile Injuries in Company area: (Shrapnel)	0	6	2

The 162nd "Vultures" started the month of April and the new quarter by playing an "April Fool" game on "Charlie". While supporting elements of the 1st Infantry Division out of Lai Khe and the fire support base at Normandy I, the "Vultures" encountered hostile mortar rounds and an "April Fool" surprise from "Charlie". The "Vultures" reversed the trick and flew the coop without a scratch, leaving "Charlie" with an empty bag.

On 2 April the 162nd was Ready Reaction Force (RRF) and utilized the day performing flight echelon maintenance on the aircraft and making improvements in the company area.

The following day the "Vultures" supported elements of the 101st Airborne Division and later in the day were on stand-by for the 1st Infantry Division.

On 5 April it was noted that the previous month had been a record setting one for 162nd. The "Vultures" flew 3,119 hours, breaking their previous record of 3,057, set in August 1967. The 407th Trans Det along with the service platoon helped the "Vultures" set the new record by providing the excellent maintenance required for UH-1's in Vietnam. A total of 32 PE's were pulled during March. Major Andreson, (then the commander of the 407th Trans Det) credited 18 of the PE's to his own men and 14 to the service platoon of the 162nd. 2LT John Davenport, platoon leader of the service platoon remarked that it was the best month he had ever seen for the "Vultures".

On 6 April the "Vultures" and "Copperheads" of the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company supported II Field Forces in Direct Combat Support. The 162nd flew over 97 hours, 354 sorties, and carried 514 passengers and 9 tons of cargo.

On 9 April the "Vultures" once again supported elements of II Field Forces all over the III Corps area. The missions were routine and for most of the "Vultures" it was just a typical day. However, WO James Wright had an unscheduled change in his mission when he heard a distress call from a aircraft just west of Vung Tau. WO Wright responded to the call and aided in a search for the stricken aircraft. The search of the choppy waters just off the coast lasted for over thirty minutes before any signs of the aircraft were found. Then a dust-off aircraft spotted a seat cushion and part of tail rotor. This sparked new hope and before long the crew of six was spotted on a Vietnamese fishing vessel. The dust-off aircraft landed on the unsecure beach. With WO Wright flying cover, the downed crew ran from the edge of the water to the rescue aircraft. After the excitement was over the crew safely evacuated, WO Wright's crew chief, SP4 Michael Grant, remarked, "Imagine how I felt with just one door gun to cover the dust-off".

On 9 April the 162nd supported infantry units in the Lai Khe and Quan Loi areas. The day was routine except for a light encounter with Charlie by CW2 Charles R. Sanders, a pilot of the armed platoon, the "Copperheads". CW2 Sanders reported that while flying south of Quan Loi, "Charlie" took a few shots at him. Although there was negative damage

by the aircraft he was later quoted as saying, "We returned the fire but didn't have time to take a close look for results."

On 10 April the 162nd and one of their sister companies, the "Robinhoods", were engaged in a large operation in support of the 1st Infantry Division. The two companies were assigned the task of extracting elements of the "Big Red One" from a hotly contested area six miles northwest of Lai Khe. The first five flights were extracted without incident, however the second flight of five encountered light enemy contact as they were on final approach to the pick-up zone.

Immediately, two light fire teams opened up on the area with suppressive fire to cover the slicks and additional fire teams were scrambled out of Lai Khe to give added protection for the slicks of the 162nd who were to have their turn at the hot PZ. As the first "Vultures" flights made their final approach, heavy automatic weapons fire was received from the enemy. The "Vultures" continued the approach and while in the pick-up zone the automatic weapons fire continued and RPG rounds began pounding the area. SP4 Michael Grant, a crew chief on one of the ships stated, "I saw the automatic weapon that was firing at us, but it was too close to our troops to risk firing at." The slicks were then put into an orbit south of the pick-up zone as air and artillery strikes softened up the area around the troops. Then, with seven fire teams on station the slicks were called back into the area to extract the remaining troops. Despite heavy enemy fire, the slicks continually descended through the enemy fire to complete their mission. The "Copperheads", and the other gun teams did an outstanding job of covering, but because of the complete devastation of the area the confirmed enemy dead was unknown. It was a long day for the "Vultures".

On 13 April the 162nd was on stand-by for the II Field Forces. Although they were not called out, the day was put to good use making improvements around the company area and working on the aircraft.

On 15 April the "Vultures" once again supported the 1st Infantry Division in combat assaults and resupply. WO Tom Mays was fortunate because his mission was to fly Miss Kentucky from Di An to Lai Khe to perform in a show for troops of the 1st Infantry Division. The day was climaxed with a formal supper in honor of departing "Vultures" and "Copperheads". LTC Hebb, "Red Dog 6", was an honorary guest as he was rotating stateside.

On 16 April the 162nd supported II Field Forces and performed single ship missions all over the III Corps area. Supplying ARVN compounds with rice, providing ground commanders the invaluable means of reconnaissance for upcoming operations, and providing for command and control of operations in progress was all part of the day of II Field Forces "ash and trash" for the "Vultures".

On 24 April the 162nd Aslt Hel Co broke another record. "While supporting the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Abn Div we airlifted more troops today than we generally do in a week," remarked Major James E. Thompson, commander of the 162nd. The "Vultures" airlifted two complete battalions of the 3rd Bde. into positions near Bien Hoa and in doing so broke their own record by transporting over 1700 troops in approximately six hours. This

and more troops than the 162nd had ever lifted in this amount of time. Sixty were arriving in country in 1966.

On 26 April the "Vultures" spent the day preparing for the upcoming IG insertion and working on the aircraft. It was the first complete main-land landing down the 162nd had experienced in months, and was put to good use. During the day the "Vultures" were visited by two distinguished guests. They were the 16th Group Commander, Colonel Lambert, and the now 11th Battalion Commander, LTC Bauman.

On 27 April Phuoc Vinh had a well known celebrity in the area. He was the star of the Daniel Boone television series, Fess Parker. Mr Parker was on his vacation and decided to visit the troops in Vietnam.

During the month of April six aviators departed the 162nd for CONUS. Among those leaving were Major Paul A. Wenzel, the former operations officers; Captain George L. Andrews, the former gun platoon leader; and four Chief Warrant Officers; CW2 William H Sheehan, CW2 Duncan K. Nosworthy, CW2 Gerald L. Racy, and CW2 Phillip D. Sharp.

On 2 May, while on ready reaction status for II Field Forces, the 162nd was scrambled to the area west of Loc Ninh. A company of CIDG soldiers was picked up at their base camp near Thu Duc and flown to Loc Ninh to stand by for further deployment. While airborne, the flight was briefed on the urgency of the mission, an insertion of a search party in an attempt to locate eight missing friendly personnel, 6 CIDG and 2 U.S. A long range patrol had stumbled into a heavily fortified NVA trench and bunker complex, and an attempted extraction under fire had resulted in two helicopters shot down and eight people missing. The "Vultures" arrived in late afternoon and began the insertion, one ship at a time, into the area where one of the helicopters from another unit had been downed and destroyed by enemy fire. Tactical air and artillery strikes had temporarily driven the enemy back, and it was decided by Major Thompson to begin immediately to get full utilization of the element of surprise. The first five ships inserted without drawing fire and shortly thereafter the search team located the eight missing KIA's in the vicinity of the destroyed helicopter. The extraction was then initiated, again one ship at a time due to the size of the landing zone. The first two ships in were loaded with the KIA's and miscellaneous gear and equipment. The task of carrying and loading was overwhelming the CIDG search team and in order to expedite and not over expose the ships by excessive ground time, the crew chiefs and gunners voluntarily dismounted and directed the loading. Their quick actions enabled the extraction to be completed. Had many more precious minutes been wasted in loading the first two ships, chocks 6 and 7, who drew heavy fire on take-off and reported a company-sized NVA unit closing fast on the LZ, might not have made it out. However, the mission was brought to a successful completion when the Vultures returned to Phuoc Vinh at 2200 hours that evening.

On 3 May the "Vultures" supported elements of the 1st Inf Div in a battalion-sized lift with another assault company of the 11th Battalion. Later in the morning, the "Copperhead" fire team spotted five North Vietnamese soldiers in the landing zone and ordered fire. Reports

recovered alive in the day confirmed that two were killed, one wounded, and one captured as a direct result of the "Copperheads" action.

On 6 May, Ronald R. Blanchette, a technical inspector for the 162nd ASW Heli Co re-enlisted under the Variable Length Enrollment Bonus program for a lump sum of \$10,000. Specialist Blanchette was the 1,417th man that SFC Robert Martin the original "pick up" NCO, had enlisted in the U.S. Army. SFC Martin is believed to be the last remaining original member of the 162nd. Coming to Vietnam with the unit in February of 1966, from Ft Benning, Georgia, he started his tour as a PFC serving as a crew chief on a "D" model Huey. Since then he has worked his way up to Specialist 6, E6 and the title of Technical Inspector for the "Vultures".

On 6 May the "Vultures" supported elements of the 25th Inf Div in the Cu Chi area. It was a hot day in more ways than one for the "Vultures". Throughout the day the ten slicks and three gunships were repeatedly subjected to intense small arms fire and mortars.

During the first insertion the flight received small arms and automatic weapons fire while on a wide left base into the landing zone. The flight continued the approach and upon touching down received mortar rounds in the immediate area. Displaying the professionalism and determination that the "Vultures" are noted for the flight calmly marked the enemy positions with smoke and diverted the area. The Copperhead fire team rolled in and helped to silence the enemy fire.

And so the pattern was set for the remainder of the day. Time and time again the "Vultures" flight received fire on final and continued the approach, only to receive mortars and RPG's in the landing zone. It was the professionalism and skill exhibited by each aviator and crew member that accounted for no injuries and the mission once again successfully completed in the outstanding manner that the 162nd is known for in the III Corps area.

On 8 May the 162nd combined competent flying ability with professionalism and flexibility to perform insertions and extractions in the hostile areas surrounding Saigon and Thu Duc area. Working continuously, the "Vultures" performed over 600 sorties, air lifted 1,295 troops and logged over 150 hours of flight time in the course of the day.

On 9 May the 162nd was on Ready Reaction Force until a call was received to insert reinforcements into the ARVN compound at Bt Dop. The compound had been the target of repeated Viet Cong and NVA attacks since late the night before and the insertion was delayed almost an hour due to the continued heavy mortar and rocket attacks. The two flights of five departed the pick-up zone at Song Pe and headed towards the "hot" landing zone. The first flight went in and received light small arms fire on final. As the second flight of five, led by LT Harlan M. Schiebe, approached the landing zone a heavy barrage of mortars and rockets crashed down upon the area. LT Schiebe quickly led his flight away from the fire while again getting into position to land in hopes of releasing the much needed reinforcements. Again the landing was attempted, but again the ground erupted in a storm of enemy mortars. Realizing the need for the

reconnaissance, LT Sencio prepared a new landing zone at the foot of the hill and the compound was located on, and which the enemy were sporadically harassing. The flight made the same approach as if going to the former landing zone and circled down low prior to touchdown to successfully extract the troops in the newly selected area. Once again the former landing zone could be observed exploding in a hail of enemy mortars, but "Vultures" had been fooled. The two flights had been successfully completed and now the two crews, injured WO's were evacuated to the nearby hospital without incident. Once again the "Vultures" successfully completed a most difficult and dangerous mission by exhibiting the professionalism and skill that makes the name, "Vultures" stand out among all others.

On 10 May the 162nd was utilized most of the day by the 1st Inf Div performing combat assaults. Working in some of the worst weather in months the "Vultures" inserted over 930 combat ready troops in the rain drenched areas south of Saigon and the equally damp areas near Lai Khe with hopes of halting the new wave of fighting that commenced in early May.

While supporting II Field Forces on 12 May a "Copperhead" fire team was called on to fly security for a downed Navy Gunship in the Nha Be area until a Chinook could recover it. WO James Hart was also close by to lend a helping hand and diverted from his mission long enough to pick-up and return the downed crew to Nha Be.

On 13 May the 162nd supported elements of the 1st Inf Div in and around the Phu Loi-Lai Khe area in a rather routine morning. However, the afternoon brought new adventure to the 162nd as they were called upon to extract a unit of the 1st Inf Div that declared a tactical emergency after seven hours of heavy contact just south of Song Be. Performing in their usual outstanding manner the 162nd completed the extraction without incident although weather conditions were marginal. Red Dog 6 LTC Bauman 11th Battalion Commander was quoted as saying, "The Vultures have again performed in an outstanding manner in a difficult situation."

On 14 May the 162nd was on Ready Reaction Force for the 199th Light Inf Bde. At 1030 hours the call came for the 162nd to airlift troops into an area northwest of Binh Chanh. As the "Copperheads" fire team was preparing a heavily vegetated area 200 meters west of the landing zone, contact was made and one gunship received a hit in the left rocket pod. His wingman quickly silenced the fire and the mission was completed without further incident.

On 15 May the "Vultures" combined with the "Robinhoods" of the 173rd to extract 1st Inf Div troops from night defensive positions located in the Tan Uyen area and later inserted several units two kilometers north of Phu Loi for a sweep of the area.

The 16th of May saw the "Vultures" again involved in a battalion-size lift with the "Robinhoods". The day went without incident and the "Vultures" returned to the roost with 106 hours of flying time to their credit.

On 17 May the "Vultures" supported the 1st Inf Div in airmobile assaults. The day was routine for the 162nd, performing in their usual outstanding manner and being complimented by all of the ground commanders. After the flight had returned an awards and decoration ceremony was held in honor of certain members of the 162nd. The following is a list of those who received awards:

BASIC AIR MEDAL

CPT Clegg
CPT
SFC Clegg
SFC Clegg
SFC Clegg
2nd Lieutenant
WOS Clegg
WOS Clegg
WOS Clegg
WOS Clegg
WOS Greenhalgh
WOS Gresham
WOS Harpole
WOS Stowall
WOS Westmoreland
SSG Taylor
SSG Tomlin
SSG Powers
SP4 Chudacek
SP4 Harold
SP4 Havemann
SP4 Leo
SP4 Leo
SP4 Mewes
SP4 Morris
SP4 Muma
SP4 Reilly
SP4 Senecal
SP4 Smith, J
SP4 Sylvester
SP4 Weddle
SP4 Winch
PFC Bounds
PFC Bryan
PFC Dominy
PFC Gallagher
PFC Grant
PFC Johnson
PFC Rhca
PFC Theisson
PFC Ulrich

FIGHTING HEART

SFC Petrone
SFC Petrone
SFC Petrone

ARMY COMMENDATION

SP4 Benair
SP4 Benair
SP4 Dooliu

On 19 May the 162nd supported elements of the 1st Inf Div in the Lai Khe and Quan Loi area. During the second lift near Quan Loi the lead gunship, flown by CPT Michael Shannon, was hit by heavy automatic weapons fire and CPT Shannon took a round through the leg. The aircraft was flown to Quan Loi and the mission was completed without further incident.

On 20 May the 162nd was on Ready Reaction Force until 1100 hours when they were called to the aid of the "Emus" who had come into contact with enemy forces near Tan An. The "Vultures" were utilized to insert ARVN troops into the area and extract the wounded. Landing within 75 meters of exploding enemy mortars, the "Vultures" medevaced over a dozen ARVN troops to Tan An and completed the mission without incident.

On the night of 21 May the "Vultures" were scrambled to support the 105th ARB on northeast of Bien Hoa. During the evening a heavy barrage of 105's and mortars, aimed at Bien Hoa, had come from this area. Two members of the Concord Fire Support team were inserted in the rice paddies in the "Vultures" back-yard in an effort to catch him red-handed.

On 22 May the 162nd provided gun ship coverage while "Shady" the first AC130 which action works with the 11th Combat Aviation Battalion, and two C-130's provide illumination for the night insertion.

On 24 May the 162nd supported elements of the 1st Inf Div. The first lift of the morning was a fifteen sorties insertion from the Thu Duc water plant to a landing zone two kilometers north of "VC Island". The "Vultures" then completed a twenty sortie extraction from a night defensive position seven kilometers southwest of Phuoc Hoa to Normandy I. After the completion of the twenty sortie extraction the "Vultures" diverted their attention to single ship resupply missions until late in the day when they reformed to extract some more 1st Div troops.

On 26 May the 162nd had a maintenance stand-down. The day was utilized to the fullest extent and at 1700 hours a change of command ceremony was held. Major Ronald K. Androsen, former commander of the 407th Trans Det assumed command of the 162nd Aslt Hel Co from Major James E. Thompson who was rotating back to CONUS. Major John A. Petric replaced Major Androsen as commander of the 407th Trans Det. Distinguished guests included Colonel Lambert 12th Group Commander; LTC Bauman, 11th Battalion Commander; Colonel Mowery, Commander of 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborn Division.

On 27 May the 162nd supported II Field Forces all over the II Corps area. During the day Phuoc Vinh was mortared and the "Copperhead" gun team was scrambled to Ap Bo La which was also receiving incoming rounds. The day was routine for most of the "Vultures", however WO James M. Wright and his crew had a rather unusual day. While making an aerial reconnaissance of a river near Bai Trai two sampans and VC were spotted and taken under fire in a restricted area. Due to of the dense jungle the results of that mission could not be confirmed. However, later in the day another sampan and several VC were spotted trying to hide from the aircraft. They also were taken under fire and it was later confirmed by the ground commander that the sampan was sunk and one VC killed by the precision shooting of Specialist's Grant and Woodson, the crew chief and gunner.

The month of May saw five "Vultures" returning to stateside. Among those were: Lt Sterling L. Linton, a former "Vultures" who had moved to battalion CW2 Charles E. Wood, who was the former supply officer; CW2 Charles R. Sanders; CW2 John O'Connor; and CW2 Phillip C. Wear.

During the month of June the "Vultures" lost a vast amount of experience. During the first month of June they were the most outstanding commandos in the world. They have ever known Major James J. Thompson, Major Alton L. Koenig, the former Executive Officer, and departed for CONUS. They were replaced with five Chief Warrant Officers. They were; CW2 James H. McLean; CW2 Kenneth Mackes; CW2 Joseph D. McIves, the former supply and CW2 John C. Johnson; CW2 William D. Brinkmann; and CW2 Donald L. Welch.

The "Vultures" started the month of June by supporting the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in a thirty sortie airmobile operation northwest of Trang Bon. The landing zone was prepared with artillery and gunship suppression by the "Copperhead" fire team. A total of 180 troops were carried in and at the completion of the mission the "Vultures" returned to Phuoc Vinh to stand-by on Ready Reaction Force.

On 6 June the 162nd supported elements of the 1st Inf Div in airmobile assaults and later with single-ship resupply missions. After the working day had ended the "Vultures" had two honored guests. Major General Williams, the CG of the 1st Aviation Brigade, paid a visit to the "Vultures" Roost and spent the night along with Colonel Powell the Director of Army Aviation. Prior to their departure the next morning they were confirmed honorary "Vultures".

On 16 June the 162nd was part of a Ready Reaction Force for the 3rd Corps area, and spent the day performing maintenance on the aircraft. The 11th Battalion courier was furnished by the "Vultures" and while on a mission received several rounds of automatic weapons fire just east of Saigon in the "Key Hole" area. The fire was coming from a heavily populated residential area, so no action could be immediately taken.

On 18 June the 162nd again supported elements of the 1st Inf Div. The airmobile assaults were from Lai Khe to a landing zone about twelve kilometers south of Phuoc Vinh. The day went well and without incidents and the "Vultures" returned to the roost to await another day.

On 20 June the "Vultures" flew combat assaults in support of the 1st Inf Div out of Lai Khe to a landing zone north and northwest of Lai Khe. A fifteen sortie lift from Di An to areas south of Thu Duc was also completed.

On 28 June the "Vultures" flew for II Field Forces. The 162nd "Copperheads" were called to cover an emergency extraction northwest of Nui Dat while working for an Australian Army unit. The Australians had several people wounded while in contact with the enemy, and the "Copperheads" got one confirmed VC kill. Later they were called in to cover a dummy extraction of a 12 man ambush team which had been spotted by the enemy. While the patrol changed positions, the "Copperheads" hit an enemy position 100 yards away.

Also on 28 June WO Gary Drotar, the 162nd Education Officer, arranged for an education advisor from Di An to be in the company area to give GED and college entrance exams. The turn-out was larger than expected and, needless to say, WO Drotar was pleased.

On 29 June the 162nd participated in the 1st Inf Div in the "Ba Ria, Ben Cat, and Phuoc Loc" area. The 162nd assault went well and withdrew. However, after the withdrawal was completed and the flight to Phuoc Vinh, the 162nd sustained damage from enemy ground fire. One of the aircraft was forced to land and the other returned to Da Nang. The "Copperheads" provided full coverage for the downed aircraft while two slicks landed and extracted the crew and equipment. No one was injured and ground troops were inserted into the area to secure the area while "Apache" was brought in to recover the aircraft.

Taking everything into consideration, it has been a hard but rewarding three months. The "Vultures" lost a vast seemingly irreplaceable, amount of experience, yet carried the load of a second enemy offensive without once faltering. Aircraft availability rates are unequaled by any company in the 12th Aviation Group, or the III Corps Area. Overall maintenance has been outstanding and out of reach of any other unit.

During the quarter the members of the 162nd continually displayed the skill, determination, and professionalism that has made, and will continue to make the 162nd, the finest assault helicopter company in the Republic of Vietnam.

III Maintenance and Supply

During the quarter Aircraft Availability Rates were as follows:

April:

UH-1C	78%	
UH-1D	80%	Overall: 80%

May:

UH-1C	76%	
UH-1D	84%	Overall: 82%

June:

UH-1C	78%	
UH-1D	86%	Overall: 84%

Consolidated supply reports that there were no shortages of critical items.