

Authority NNDG 115911
By TD NARA D21028699

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 52D AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)
AFO San Francisco 96494
"FLYING DR. GONS"

AVBACD-CC

5. August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat)
For Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR (R-1) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION:

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. (C) General. This report for the period 1 May through 31 July 1969 is submitted in compliance with AR 525-15, USARFAC Reg 525-15, USARV Reg 525-15 and 17th Aviation Group (Combat) Reg 525-15.

(1) Headquarters, 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat), LTC Patrick J. O'Grady, Commanding, remains at Camp Holloway, Fleiku, RVN. Inclosure 1 reflects Organizational structure and station list of all assigned, attached, and OPCON units, with location and APO, as of 31 July 1969.

(2) During this quarter, there has been no change of mission. However, the Battalion significantly increased its aviation support of ARVN Operations in the II Corps area. "Flying Dragons" continue to provide aviation support to the U.S. Fourth Infantry Division, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam; RVN II Corps Headquarters, Fifth Special Forces Group and other Free World Military Assistance Forces in the Central Highlands of Vietnam (See Inclosure 2). All operational and administrative functions and activities of Camp Holloway, Holloway Army Airfield, and Kontum Army Airfield are controlled by the 52d ABC.

b. (c) Personnel

(1) Awards and Decorations:

| | MAY | JUN | JUL | TOTALS |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| SILVER STAR | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS | 6 | 3 | 5 | 14 |
| BRONZE STAR "V" | 0 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| BRONZE STAR | 15 | 20 | 6 | 41 |
| ARMY COMMEND MEDAL | 19 | 26 | 15 | 60 |
| AIR MEDAL | 95 | 159 | 610 | 864 |
| PURPLE HEART | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| | | | | 902 |

GROUP - 4
Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years.

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(3) Personnel turnover for the reporting period was as follows:

| | OFFICERS | | | EM | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>Month</u> | <u>Gains</u> | <u>Losses</u> | <u>Change</u> | <u>Gains</u> | <u>Losses</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| MAY | 48 | 53 | -5 | 127 | 156 | -29 |
| JUN | 39 | 43 | -4 | 154 | 153 | +1 |
| JUL | 52 | 40 | +12 | 166 | 96 | +70 |
| TOT.LS | 139 | 136 | +3 | 447 | 405 | +42 |

CONFIDENTIAL

REF ID: A641541
Authority NND911541
By D NARA Date 22b 99

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACB-CC (5 Aug 69)

5 Aug 69

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat)
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CS FOR-65 (u-1) (U)

(4) The Battalion Total Strength is 181; short 91 enlisted men and over 53 officers and Warrant Officers as of 31 Jul 69. Unit strengths are shown in inclosure 3.

(5) Public Information Office Activities:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Printed Releases | 25 |
| (b) Pictorial Releases | 20 |
| (c) Hometown Printed Releases | 180 |
| (d) Hometown Pictorial Releases | 110 |
| (e) Taped Interviews | 1 |

(f) Civic action projects continue to receive much attention from the Battalion. Food, clothing and other supplies are consistently delivered to villages surrounding Camp Holloway. The Battalion Civic Action Fund contributed \$2,000.00 to the Fleiku Leprosy Center for supplies and equipment to build a much needed kitchen-dining hall facility. Aircraft from the battalion transported a 5,000 gallon water-storage tank to the Fleiku Civil Hospital, thereby greatly increasing their capabilities.

(g) The Public Information Officer is still limited by the lack of photographic equipment and supplies. These supplies have decreased throughout the Fleiku area: making it difficult to continue Public Information coverage in the desired manner.

c. (C) Intelligence: The S-2 Section continues to publish a daily intelligence summary of significant activities in the Fleiku-Kontum area. Intelligence information is gathered from II Corps, and 4th Infantry Division G-2 offices, other supported units, liaison visits to other S-2 offices and debriefings submitted by aviators and air mission commanders.

(1) Enemy Activity. There were four attacks by fire against 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) facilities during the reporting period. The enemy employed 122mm rockets, 82mm mortars, B-40 rockets and RPG rounds in the first attack. In the second attack the enemy employed 122mm rockets and 82mm mortars. In the third attack, 82mm mortars and B-40 rockets were employed. The last attack consisted of possible 75mm recoilless rifle rounds. In conjunction with the first attack, the enemy also employed a ground attack which was quickly disrupted because of the fast reaction time of the unit's gunships and fire support from a neighboring ARVN Cav unit. Significant activities during the period:

CONFIDENTIAL

Authority NND911544
 By 10 NARA Date 28699

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACD-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat)
 for PERIOD Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CS FO-65 (R-1) (U)

022120 May: Observation Post #31 at AR 815483 received small arms fire from the vicinity of AR 816489. Radar checked area with negative results. Mortar fired on the suspected enemy location. Results: Friendly - negative casualties or damage; enemy unknown.

041945 May: The 170th AC Perimeter received 6 to 10 rounds of sniper fire from the vicinity of AR 790464. Four more rounds of small arms fire were received at 2020. M-79 was fired at the suspected enemy location. At 2330 the 170th AC received another 5 rounds of small arms fire from the same vicinity. M-79 was again employed. At 042151, a 119th AC bunker at AR 794462 received 3 to 4 rounds of small arms fire. At 042343 received 4 more rounds of small arms fire from approximately 75 meters south of Highway #19; unable to take under fire because of housing area located in that direction. At 050023 received 8 more rounds of small arms fire. There were negative friendly casualties in the units concerned. At 042135, 52d Radar picked up movement towards east from vicinity of AR 817489. At 2215 52d Radar observed light in the same area. Mortars fired H & I on area. Enemy results were unknown on all engagements.

041630-1700 May: 119th AC gunships at YD 325325, in support of 4th Infantry Division, expended on a confirmed enemy location and destroyed 3 structures.

061300 May: 57th Gunships at YD 8227, in support of a "Dust Off" mission, received 4 rounds of automatic weapons fire resulting in 2 US WIA.

061800, 57th AC slick at YB782231, in support of 5SFGA on a "Dust Off" mission received 10 rounds of small fire resulting in 1 US WIA.

071600 May: 361st AC (E) gunships, in support of a slick at a landing zone, expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 5 KIA (estimate) and 5 WIA (estimate). There was no further information. From 1630 to 1700 the 189th AC in support of CIDG extraction had 4 slicks receive S/A resulting in 1 US WIA.

081300-1330 and 1500-1530 May: at YD 8215 and YD 8418, a 189th AC gunship in support of 24th STZ, expended on a confirmed enemy location during a preparation for a troop assault resulting in 10 KIA (estimate).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACD-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS GS FOR (R-1) (U)

110150-0215 May: At 110150 the Kontum AAF received a mortar, 1 rocket, and ground attack. The airfield received 2x122mm rockets, 3xB-40 rockets, 3x82mm CS mortars, 15x82mm mortar rounds, and 1xRFG-7 round. The perimeter wire on the east side was breached by a B-40 round. Results: Friendly - 5 US WIA, 4 UH1H and 2 UH1C (A) destroyed, one maintenance hanger destroyed, the billets area was hit by 82mm CS mortar rounds; Enemy - 1x122mm rocket, 3x82mm HE mortar rounds, 5x82mm CS mortar rounds, 4xB-40 rockets, 3xB-40 rocket propellant charges, 40 powder increments for 82mm mortar rounds, 3 propaganda leaflets, 1 wicker carrying basket, 1 bamboo launching stand (3 parts), 1 plastic sheet (5'x5'), and 1x122mm rocket fuze wrench CIA. During the periods 1300-1330 at YD 8153 & YD 9815 1645-1715 at ZD 0015, and 1715-1730 at YD 8327 & YD 7823, 169th gunship expended when friendly troops made contact with enemy forces. Results: Enemy - 50 KIA.

120215, 0600, 0650 May: Camp Holloway received a total of 23x82mm mortar rounds and 5x122mm rockets. Results: Friendly - negative casualties, 4 UH1H had light damage and 1 UH1C had light damage; En - unknown.

131100-1130 and 1400-1410 May: at YB 801112 and YB 835265, 169th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ fired on enemy locations when friendly troops made contact with enemy forces. Results: Enemy - 20 KIA.

171530-1545 May: at YB 9815 a 169th AC gunship in support of 24th STZ, expended on a suspected enemy location resulting in 2 enemy KIA. 1700 at Z. 165761 a 170th AC resupply aircraft observed 3-5 enemy: C/2-1 Cavalry reacted and made contact with an estimated NVA company. Small arms fire was exchanged; friendly element employed .50 caliber machine guns and 90mm gun rounds. One tank hit by B-40 rocket. Contact broke at 1940. Results: Friendly - 2 KIA, 5 WIA; Enemy - 40 NVA KIA.

181500 May: YB 8517, 169th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 2 enemy KIA.

221445 May: YB 999130, 169th AC gunship in support of 24th STZ received 1-3 rounds of .50 caliber fire resulting in 1 US KIA and heavy damage to aircraft. From 1445-1530 at YB 999130, 4 personnel of the 52d Pathfinder Detachment in spt of 24th STZ during an insertion, made contact with an estimated 2 NVA platoons. Hand-grenades and small arms fire exchanged. Results: Friendly - 2 US WIA (slight); En - 25 NVA KIA (by count) and 15 KIA (estimate).

CONFIDENTIAL

Authority NND911547
By 10 NARA Date 2/26/99

CONFIDENTIAL

AVE.CB-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CS FOR 65 (R-1) (U)

230930 May: YB 891277, 57th C&C ship in support of 5th SFG, went into an observation post to evacuate wounded personnel. After ship was on the ground, it received damage from 1 mortar round. Results: Friendly 1 KIA (USSF), 3 WL (crew: 1 serious, 2 slight), 1 UMH rec'd light damage. 1145, YB 9319, a 361st AC (E) gunship expended on a confirmed enemy location. Results: Enemy - 5 KIA (estimate). No further information. 1515, YB 9114, 361st AC (E) gunship expended on a confirmed enemy location. Results: Enemy 5 KIA (estimate) and 5 WL (estimate). No further information.

250410-0913 May: YB 969121, 189th AC slick in support of RFFF (CORDS) expended on a suspected enemy location resulting in 2 enemy KIA.

260930-1000 May: AR 775123, 119th AC gunship in support of 4th Infantry Division, expended on a deserted village when fire was received from same. Results: Friendly - negative casualties or damage. Enemy - 1 KIA (confirmed), 5 structures destroyed. 1040, 361st AC (E) gunships were launched when a Fixed Wing A/C had received B-40 rockets and small arms fire from the same deserted village. Results: Enemy - 4 structures destroyed and 2 secondary fires burning. 1400, YB 0712, 361st AC (E) gunships expended on a confirmed enemy location when friendly troops made contact with an enemy force. Results: Enemy: 1 KIA (estimate) and 2 WL (estimate).

271020 May: YB 995142, 361st AC (E) gunships in support of 22nd ARVN Rangers, expended on a confirmed enemy location when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force. Fire team had 5 NVA KIA (estimate). No further information. 1200, YB 862254, 361st AC (E) gunships in support of 22d Ranger expended on a confirmed enemy location when a convoy was ambushed by an NVA force. Results: Enemy - 2 NVA KIA (estimate) and 3 NVA WL (estimate). No further information. 1530, YB 925123, 361st AC (E) gunships in support of 22d Rangers, expended on a suspected mortar position when a landing zone received rounds after a slick had landed. Fire team had 5 KIA (estimate) and 2 NVA WL (estimate). No further information.

281315-1320 May, YB 975143, 189th AC C&C ship in support of 24th STZ, received small arms and automatic weapons fire from a suspected enemy location and expended on same, resulting in 4 enemy KIA.

291000,1330,1530,1600 May: YB 9012 361st AC (E) gunships expended at all of the times listed above when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force. Results are unknown.

CONFIDENTIAL

Authority NND911541
By 10 NARA Date 22p 99**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVL.CB-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS C. F. R. (R-1) (U)

301500-1530 and 1800-1830 May: YB 9218, 189th gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended when friendly troops made contact with an enemy force. Results: Enemy - 10 KIA.

021900 Jun: AR 766689, 57th AC gunship in support of A/20 US Engineers and Hq, 3rd ARVN Cavalry, who received 3x122mm rockets fired on a suspected enemy location resulting in one secondary explosion.

041730-1800 Jun: ZD 023115, 189th AC gunship in support of 24th STZ, expended on a confirmed enemy location when friendly troops made contact with an enemy force. Results: Enemy - 5 KIA.

071000-0120 Jun: AR 7088, 57th AC received 6x 82mm mortar rounds and 1x 10-40 round resulting in 1 US WIA and 2/2½ ton trucks received flat tires.

081430-1445 Jun: AR 3626, 119th AC gunships in support of 4th Infantry Division, expended on an enemy location when friendly troops made contact. Results: Enemy - 3 KIA (estimate).

101655, 1705, 1715 Jun: At YB 9125, YB 7621, 361st AC(S) gunships expended on a confirmed enemy location when a fixed wing resupply aircraft drew fire during approach to landing zones. Fire team had 20 KIA (estimate) during the engagement. No further information. 1800-1830, YB 8727, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ fired on an enemy location when ships received ground fire. Results: Enemy - 10 KIA (estimate).

120058, Jun: AR 798465, Camp Holloway received 15x82mm mortar rounds which landed in the 604th Transportation Company area with 11 rounds inside the company area. Results: 1 maintenance hanger had one hole in it, 2 vans with light damage (both belonged to 604th Transportation Company) and 2 US WIA (slight). 1410, YB 914066, 170th AC slick while conducting a visual reconnaissance for a LRRP insertion observed an estimated enemy company of NV., gunships and artillery employed resulting in 20 NV. KIA.

131400 Jun: YB 9704, 170th AC gunships in support of 4th Infantry expended when friendly troops made contact with an enemy force resulting in 10 KIA (by count). 1530-1600, YB 9228, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, fired on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 15 KIA (estimate). 1615-1645 YB 9222, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ fired on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 4 enemy KIA (by count).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVIATION-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CS FOR (R-1) (U)

151430 Jun: YB 9318, 361st AC(E) gunships fired on a confirmed NVA force, dug in on a hill side, when friendly troops made contact. Results: Enemy - 8 KIA (confirmed). 1600, YB 9318, 361st AC(E) gunships fired on a confirmed NVA location when a slick resupplying an RVN position received heavy ground fire. Fire team expended on the enemy bunkers and the ground commander confirmed 12 enemy KIA. No further information.

161530 Jun: YB 905273, one 361st AC(E) gunship in support of 24th STZ received heavy automatic weapons fire causing the ship to crash and burn killing both pilots. 1900-1930, YB 927, 189th AC gunships expended on a confirmed enemy location when a convoy was attacked after leaving Ben Het. Gunships received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire when attacking enemy positions. Results: Enemy - 10 KIA (estimate).

171030-1100, Jun: ZA 1274, 119th AC gunships in support of 4th Infantry Division, expended on a confirmed enemy location when troops made contact. Results: Enemy - 10 KIA (by count) and 4 KIA (estimate).

1530, 52d Security Detachment personnel on a visual reconnaissance of the 52d Aviation Battalion area of operation found 16 craters vicinity of AR 813476. Further check of the area by air revealed 2x75mm recoilless rifle sites at vicinity of AR 862498. Also found empty cannisters and shell casings in the area. 171600 the 52d Security Detachment personnel made a ground reconnaissance of the recoilless rifle sites and found 2 positions. One position was approximately one week old and the other approximately 3 days old. There were 3-5 fox holes in each area. There was a total of 24x75mm recoilless rifle cannisters and 24x75mm recoilless rifle expended shell casings found in the area.

181550 Jun: YB 8218, 361st AC(E) expended on a NVA element in the open, when spotted by the 7/17th Cavalry. Results: 36 NVA KIA.

191635 Jun: YB 922258, 361st AC(E) gunships expended on a known NVA location when friendly troops in a landing zone received B-40 rocket and mortar fire. The fire team of 2xM16G's expended on the enemy in a tree line with 10 enemy KIA (confirmed).

201400-1430, YB 9518, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on an enemy location when friendly troops made contact with an enemy force, resulting in 5 KIA (estimate).

211300-1330 Jun: YB 9419, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on an enemy location resulting in 5 KIA (estimate). 2131, AR 794456, Camp Holloway Tower reported small arms fire coming from

CONFIDENTIAL

REF ID: NND911541
Authority 10 NARA Date 2/26/99**CONFIDENTIAL**

Ave. CL-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CS FOR (R-1) (U)

the east side of the perimeter; 189th AC reported movement in front of bunker #63 and received small arms fire on bunkers #63 and 64; fired illumination and M-79 with negative results.

221400-1430 Jun: YD 825, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 1 VC KIA. (by count).

231410 Jun: YD 9125, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on an enemy location when friendly troops made contact. Results: 6 VC KIA (estimate). 242052, Camp Holloway mortar section reported receiving recoilless rifle fire from an unknown enemy; fire was returned by mortar and US & ARVN artillery. At 2105 Camp Holloway reported incoming rounds, possibly 6x75mm recoilless rifle. Results: Friendly - negative casualties or damage; Enemy - unknown.

261500-1530 Jun: YD 8227, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on a confirmed enemy location. Results: Enemy - 10 VC KIA (estimate). No further information.

271100-1130 Jun: YD 825, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on a confirmed enemy location. Results: 21 VC KIA (estimate).

041130- Jul: Z. 1967, 170th AC gunships enroute to Kontum, received automatic weapons fire and saw what was thought to be B-40 rockets explode. Gunships expended in the area where fire was received. The lead ship took 1 round in the tail boom and the wing ship received 4 hits in the main rotor blades and one hole thru the floor under the door gunners seat.

051100-1130 Jul: At 0540, a possible platoon size enemy unit was reported in the area, evaluated C/3. 170th AC aircraft and 52d Security Detachment element made a visual reconnaissance of the area with negative sightings.

071830-1845 Jul: At 8193, 57th AC gunships were called by 219th AC aircraft to expend on a suspected enemy location. Results: 6 structures damaged and 1 structure destroyed.

081330 Jul: At 1652, 119th AC gunships were called upon to destroy some structures; gunships received ground fire; gunship expended at enemy and structures. Results: 2 structures destroyed. 1630, At 8194, 57th AC gunships expended on a suspected enemy location with 2 structures destroyed.

091100-1200, Jul At 3414, 189th AC gunships, in support of COMUS, expended on a confirmed enemy location. Results: 5 VC KIA (estimate).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVR CD-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CC FOR (R-1) (U)

131940 Jul: AR 793464, Camp Holloway bunker #11 received 3 rounds of small arms fire from an unknown enemy; fire was not returned, Results: Friendly - negative.

151530 Jul: Coordinates classified, 361st AC(E) gunships in support of FOB II expended and destroyed 1 sampan. No further information.

160900-0915 Jul: ZB 087136, 170th AC gunships in support of 5th SFGs, expended on a confirmed enemy location when a helicopter received ground fire resulting in 1 US WIA. No further information. 0900-0930 YB 0813, 189th AC gunships in support of 4th Infantry Division expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 5 structures damaged.

1345-1410, ER 5368, 119th AC gunships in support of 4th Infantry Division observed enemy troops in a gully and expended. Results: Enemy - 17 KIA (confirmed). 161600-1615, YB 9223, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ, expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 5 KIA (estimate).

171130, Jul: YB 990022, 170th AC slick in support of 4th Infantry Division, expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 1 KIA (confirmed). 1715, ER491630, 119th AC gunships in support of 4th Infantry Division, expended on a confirmed enemy location with 8 enemy KIA (confirmed).

161845 Jul: ZB 0908, 57th AC gunships in support of II CTZ, were called to destroy a fixed target; the gunships expended resulting in 1 structure destroyed.

191115 Jul: ER 562656, 119th AC slick was shot down by enemy fire while extracting a LiMi team for the 4th Infantry Division. Five US were WIA (4 were crew members). 191100-1330, ER 5626, 119th AC slick in support of the above extraction and downed aircraft, expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 16 KIA. 1800, ZD0809, 57th AC gunships in support of II CTZ, expended when called by 219th RAC aircraft to destroy a newly built wooden structure. Results: 1 structure completely destroyed.

211615-1645 Jul: ER 5297, 189th AC gunships in support of 5th SFGs, expended on an enemy target. Result: 2 structures and 1 bridge destroyed. 1700-1715, ER 0205, 119th AC gunships in support of the 4th Infantry Division, expended on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 15 KIA (estimate).

221930-2015 Jul: Z. 0441, 189th AC gunships in support of the 4th Infantry Division, expended on a confirmed enemy location. Results: 10 KIA (estimate).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVIATION-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CS FOR (R-1) (U)

241600 Jul: ZD 1607, 57th AC gunships expended on a fixed target resulting in 1 bunker destroyed.

261400 Jul: AR 9186, 57th AC gunships in support of COADS, expended on a fixed target resulting in 2 bunkers destroyed and 2 bunkers damaged.

272345 Jul: AR 812473, 189th AC bunker # 62 reported movement; M-79 was employed; the movement ceased; results were unknown. The 52d Security Detachment made a sweep of the area on the following morning. A string, appearing to be a guide string, was found running from the outer strand of fence (150m from the main fence) into the main wire. One bottom strand of intermediate fence between the outer and main fences had been cut near where the string was located. A starlight scope was used to observe the area for the next 3-4 days. Results: Negative.

280900 Jul: AR 9091, 57th AC gunships expended to destroy a fixed target. Results: 2 enemy bunkers damaged.

311015 Jul: LR 553660, 119th AC slick received intense automatic weapons fire while on landing zone Toughie resulting in 3 hits (light damage) and 1 US WIA (slight).

(2) Movement. The NVN units moved back to the Tri-border area to resupply. This was substantiated by IED haze and IR missions undertaken in the Tri-border area, along with the absence of contact with any of the units in their normal area of operations. The 24th NVN Regt left two of its units in the Plei Meong area when it moved across the border. This information was obtained from PWS and Hoi Chanks. There have been reports that the 66th NVN Regt has moved South of the Tri-border area to the Duc Lap area. For a short time, the 4th Inf 95th NVN Regt was located South of Oasis. Its present location is unknown. The K-37 Sapper Bn has also moved out of the area and is reported to be in the Duc Lap area.

(3) New Units. There was one new unit confirmed in the Kontum/ Pleiku Provinces during the last 3 months. This unit was the 28th NVN Regt which was located in the Dak To/Den Het area. This unit was one of the units which took part in the attacks on the same area. Last reports on this unit now have it positioned in the 609th Base Area, which is located in the Tri-border area.

(4) Situation. NVN units have pulled back to the Tri-border and other safe areas. Two units of the 24th NVN Regt are reported to be operating in the Plei Meong area. The local force units are doing most of the harassing at the present time, with the primary targets being RF/F units, CI's and poorly defended villages.

CONFIDENTIAL

REF ID: **NND911541**
Authority **10** By **10** NARA Date **22/6/99****CONFIDENTIAL**

AVIACE-CC (5 Aug 69)

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The enemy is generally avoiding contact to conserve his strength and stores and to prepare for future operations.

(5) Capabilities

(a) Kontum Province: In Kontum Province the enemy can conduct standoff attacks or combination standoff/sapper attacks against US/Allied installations and Kontum City, employing mortars up to 120mm, 75mm recoilless rifle and 122mm rockets. 82mm/100mm/105mm artillery may be employed against friendly installations near the Cambodian border. He may conduct ground attacks against friendly installations in up to multi-regimental strength with division level support in the vicinity of Dak To and Ben Het, and he may interdict Highways QL 14N and 512, as well as other friendly LOCs. The enemy can restrict friendly air activity with fire from small arms, automatic weapons, 12.7mm, 14.5mm and 37mm anti-aircraft weapons. He has a limited armor threat in the vicinity of Ben Het.

(b) Pleiku Province: Pleiku Province is also confronted with a variety of enemy capabilities to include: selective attacks on Pleiku City, Plei Djereng, Plei Me, Plei Mrong, Duc Co CIDG Camps or Edap Nheng, Than An and Le Trung in multi-battalion strength, supported by mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle fire; attack Pleiku City, US/ARVN bases, CIDG camps, district headquarters and resettlement areas using 82mm mortars, recoilless rifle and 122mm/140mm rocket fire and sappers; set ambushes along QL 19E and QL 14, supported by 75mm recoilless rifle and 60mm/82mm mortar fire; attack LOCs 509, 1L6C, 437, TL7C and LTL 7D with VC elements using anti-tank grenades, recoilless rifle and mortar fire. The possibility of a limited armor and artillery capability exists in the vicinity of Duc Co.

(6) Miscellaneous. There were three information sheets on VC/NVA weapons or tactics distributed to the battalion units during the last quarter. One was concerned with local defense against sapper attacks. Another one dealt with the characteristics and employment of the over-caliber 122mm rocket. The last one dealt with the characteristics and employment of the "Lob" bomb.

d. (C) Operations Combat, Support and Pacification operations throughout the II Corps Tactical Zone have been supported by the 52d ABC during this reporting period. The "Flying Dragons" accumulated over 28,905 hours of flight including 9,512 hours of combat assaults in support of ARVN and Free World Military Assistance Forces. Tabulated data of operational results are shown in inclosure 4.

CONFIDENTIAL

Authority NND911541
 By TJ NARA Date 26-99

CONFIDENTIAL

AVMACB-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) For Period Ending 31 July 1969, ACS CS FOR (R-1) (U)

(1) The 24th Special Tactical Zone received more support than other single units. Aviation companies of the 52d AC supported the following 24th STZ Operations for the indicated periods:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Dan Quyen 38 | (24th STZ) | 08 May 69 - 15 May 69 |
| Dan Quyen 38A | (24th STZ) | 15 May 69 - 03 Jun 69 |
| Dan Quyen 40 | (24th STZ) | 03 Jun 69 - 08 Jun 69 |
| Dan Quyen 41 | (24th STZ) | 08 Jun 69 - 26 Jun 69 |
| Dan Quyen 42 | (24th STZ) | 20 Jun 69 |
| Dan Quyen 43 | (24th STZ) | 22 Jun 69 - 25 Jun 69 |
| Quyet Thang 1 | (24th STZ) | 26 Jun 69 - 05 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 2 | (24th STZ) | 05 Jul 69 - 07 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 3 | (24th STZ) | 06 Jul 69 - 10 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 4 | (24th STZ) | 15 Jul 69 - 20 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 5 | (24th STZ) | 16 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 6 | (24th STZ) | 23 Jul 69 - 31 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 6A | (24th STZ) | 23 Jul 69 - 31 Jul 69 |
| Quyet Thang 14/02 (24th STZ) | | 22 Jul 69 - 31 Jul 69 |

The majority of support for the 24th STZ operations was flown from 01 May 69 to 07 Jul 69 for which the following statistics were obtained:

| <u>Number of Aircraft Committed:</u> | <u>Number of Hours Flown:</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| UH1H - 1158 | UH1H - 6,427 |
| UH1C & AH1G - 362 | UH1C & AH1G - 2,027 |
| CH47 - 82 | CH47 - 243 |
| CH54 - 39 | CH54 - 141 |
| TOT.L 1641 | TOT.L - 8,838 |

Ammunition Expenditures:

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 7.62 - | 1,130,000 |
| 2.75 HE - | 8,302 |
| 2.75 Flesh - | 42 |
| 40mm - | 8,227 |

52d ADC Losses:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aircraft: Damaged <u>57</u> | Personnel: KIA <u>5</u> |
| Destroyed <u>2</u> | WIA <u>23</u> |

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AVBACD-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion (Combat) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R-1) (U)

The 52d ABC assaulted maneuver elements of the 24th STZ into possible enemy infiltration and withdrawal routes. Forward LZ resupply was primarily provided by 52d AEC aircraft, with some accomplished by truck convoy. During these operations, the 52d AEC also provided organic Pathfinder, ATC personnel, and its own Class V requirements. These additional missions were programmed into the daily mission requirements.

Most significant lifts for the 24th STZ were conducted by the 189th Avn Co (Aslt Hel). The 189th provided a liaison officer and assistant liaison officer to the 24th STZ to aid in planning and execution of airmobile operations. In addition, they provided a maintenance team and an armament crew to insure more effective utilization of the assigned aircraft.

The 52d AEC provided most of its remaining support to the US 4th Infantry Division. The following operations were supported:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Mines | (4th Div) | 31 Jan 69 - Continues |
| Wayne Javelin | (1/8 Inf) | Continues |
| " " | (3/8 Inf) | Continues |
| " " | (1/69 Arm) | Continues |
| Putnam Tiger | (2/8 Inf) | Continues |
| " " | (1/12 Inf) | Continues |
| " " | (1/69 Arm) | Continues |
| " " | (3/12 Inf) | Continues |
| " " | (1/14 Inf) | Continues |
| Greene Orange III | (1/14 Inf) | Continues |
| " " | (1/10 Cav) | Continues |

Primary support of the 1st Brigade was provided by the 119th Aviation Company (Aslt Hel) during the entire quarter. A platoon minus supported the Brigade adequately at An Khe throughout most of the period. However during the last week in July the entire 119th Avn Co was moved to Camp Radcliffe to provide additional support for future Brigade operations, and minimize monsoon weather limitations experienced at Camp Holloway.

The 2nd Brigade, located at FSB Mary Lou, received continuous support from the 170th Aviation Company (Aslt Hel) during the quarter. A liaison officer has been furnished by the unit to provide a constant source of information and effect coordination for the Brigade's operations.

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AVR-CD-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR (R-1) (U)

Other division units, staff sections and command groups were supported by 52d ABC aircraft. These missions were scheduled by the Battalion AMCC and 4th Division AME, and included Division Artillery, Division Chemical, Chief of Staff, G-2 (LRMP) insertions, extractions and visual reconnaissance.

FOB II (CCC) clandestine operations were supported by the 57th Aviation Company (Aslt Hel) and the 361st Aviation Company (Escort) throughout this period.

Other units receiving daily or frequent aviation support from the 52d ABC include: II PV Artillery: RVN II Corps Headquarters, Pleiku, Kontum, Phu Bon, and Dinh Dinh Sector Advisors, 5th Special Forces Group, 20th Engineers, 937th Engineer, 45th General Support Group and USAF units.

(2) Medium Helicopter support throughout the II Corps area of operation has been by the 179th Aviation Company (Aslt Spt Hel) CH47 Chinooks. Although in a general support role, their primary effort has been directed to the U.S. 4th Infantry Division. During this quarter, the 179th Avn Co flew 2,364 hrs, delivering 16,979 passengers and 8,412.5 tons of cargo in approximately 5,161 sorties.

Other 17th ABC Chinook units augmented this support with an additional 1,115.5 hours of flight time. The 1st platoon 355th Aviation Company (Heavy Helicopter), 26th ABC, Phu Hiep, RVN AF 96316, which in CICO to the 52 ABC continues to provide the Central Highlands with outstanding CH54 general support.

(3) The 361st Aviation Company (Escort) originally had been tasked for two AH-1G Cobras to support FOB II Operations. However, after an extensive study of speed, armament, and mission capability an additional two AH-1G's are now being allocated in lieu of two UH-1C's. The remaining AH-1G assets are committed to 17th ABC directed missions, and to reinforce the other gunships in the Battalion.

(4) Operational highlights of the quarter includes:

07 May 1969 - 52d ABC aircraft executed an emergency extraction of two RVN companies from ESD 29 (VIC YL 839223) to Dak To). Intense enemy fire resulted in one aircraft being destroyed however no casualties were incurred.

21 May 1969 - Seven slicks and four gunships from the 52d ABC lifted 760 RVN troops from Dak To into the vicinity of an NVA regiment. Aircraft received heavy enemy fire which resulted in one pilot KIA and four aircraft damaged.

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AVIACB-CC (5 Aug 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 52d Aviation Battalion For Period
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R-1) (U)

25 May 1969 - Battalion aircraft participated in a combat assault west of Dak To. Ten slicks and four gunships inserted 1,254 ARVN troops into three LZ locations. Heavy contact and intense mortar fire caused the final portion of the lift to be conducted at night.

21 June 1969 - Ten slicks and four gunships inserted 600 ARVN troops into an LZ three miles Southeast of Ben Het. Two 52d ABC aircraft received minor combat damages.

28 June 1969 - Ten UH1H's and four AH-1G's, and 2 UH1C's extracted 1110 ARVN soldiers from heavy contact 9 miles west of Dak To. There was negative damages or injuries to 52d ABC assets during this operation.

25 July 1969 - On this date a warning order was issued by 17th Aviation Group for one aviation company, assault helicopter, to prepare for deployment to An Khe.

26 July 1969 - Confirmation of this movement to An Khe was received. The 119th Aviation Company moved its first contingent of personnel and equipment to Camp Radcliffe, An Khe, RVN.

30 July 1969 - Final movement of the 119th Aviation Company was completed.

(5) Pathfinder teams from the 52d ABC proved to be extremely valuable in company size lifts or larger. Both aviation and ground commanders recognized them as an indispensable part of any airmobile operation.

(6) The 52d Security Detachment continues to provide observation, illumination and fire support to the perimeter of Camp Holloway. In addition, they conduct patrols and ambush operations in the Holloway AO. A separate force from this unit reinforced the 57th Aviation Company compound defenses at Kontum.

(7) The Air Movement Control Center (AMCC) continues to provide flight consolidation, flight following, communications relay, passenger and cargo service, and aircraft liaison with supported units throughout the AO. It has proved to be a valuable coordination center in all types of operations in which the 52d ABC participates.

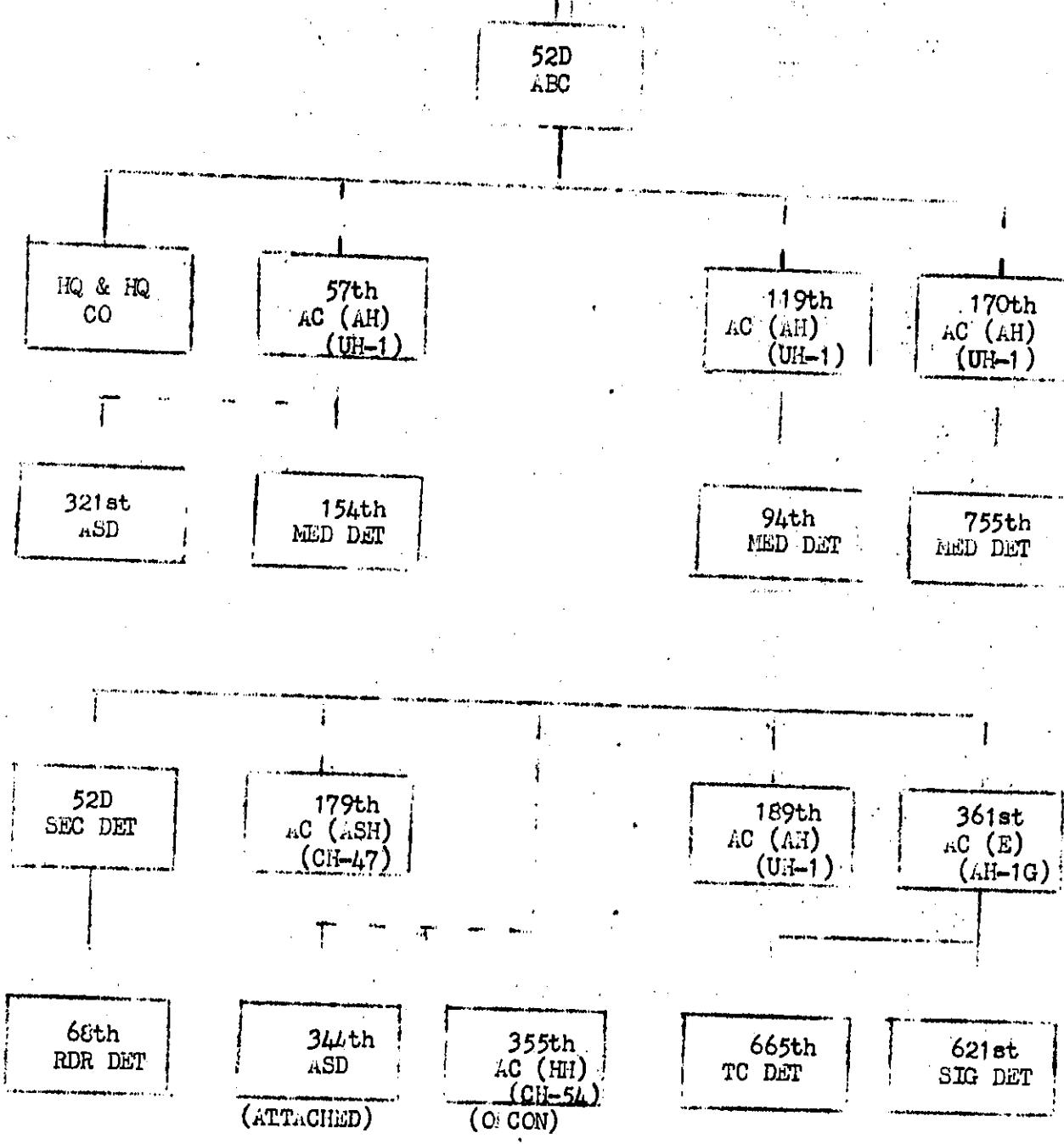
e. (C) Training: All battalion units and headquarters sections continue to use on-the-job (OJT) training due to tactical and administrative mission requirements.

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52D ABC ORLL

52D AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT) ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Incl 1

Page 1 of 2 pages

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STATION LIST

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>COMMANDER</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>APO</u> |
|--|--|-------------------------------|------------|
| 52D ABC "Flying Dragons" | LTC Patrick J. O'Grady | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| HQ & HQ Co | CPT Eugene H. Kobes | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 52D Sec Det 68th RDR Det | 1LT Michael C. Cooper None Authorized | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 57th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Gladiators" | MAJ James T. Kearnes | City Airfield Kontum, RVN | 96499 |
| 119th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Alligators" | MAJ Peter R. Harris | Camp Radcliffe An Khe, RVN | 96294 |
| 94th Med Det | CPT Curtice T. Martin | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 170th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Pikinis" | MAJ Raymond L. Hardy | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 755th Med Det | CPT Joseph F. Homann | | |
| 179th Avn Co (Aslt Spt Hel) "Shrimpboats" | MAJ Louis R. Jones | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 189th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Ghostriders" | MAJ Richard L. Lincoln | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 344th AD (D) | LTC David L Carson | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 361st Avn Co (Escort) "Pink Panthers" | MAJ Robert M. Furney | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |
| 665th TC Det 621st Sig Det | CPT Ralph E. Mullens None Authorized | | |
| 1ST Platoon 355th Avn Co (HH) "Workhorse" (OPCOM) | CPT Charles W. Eliason | Camp Holloway Pleiku, RVN | 96494 |

CONFIDENTIAL.

Incl 1

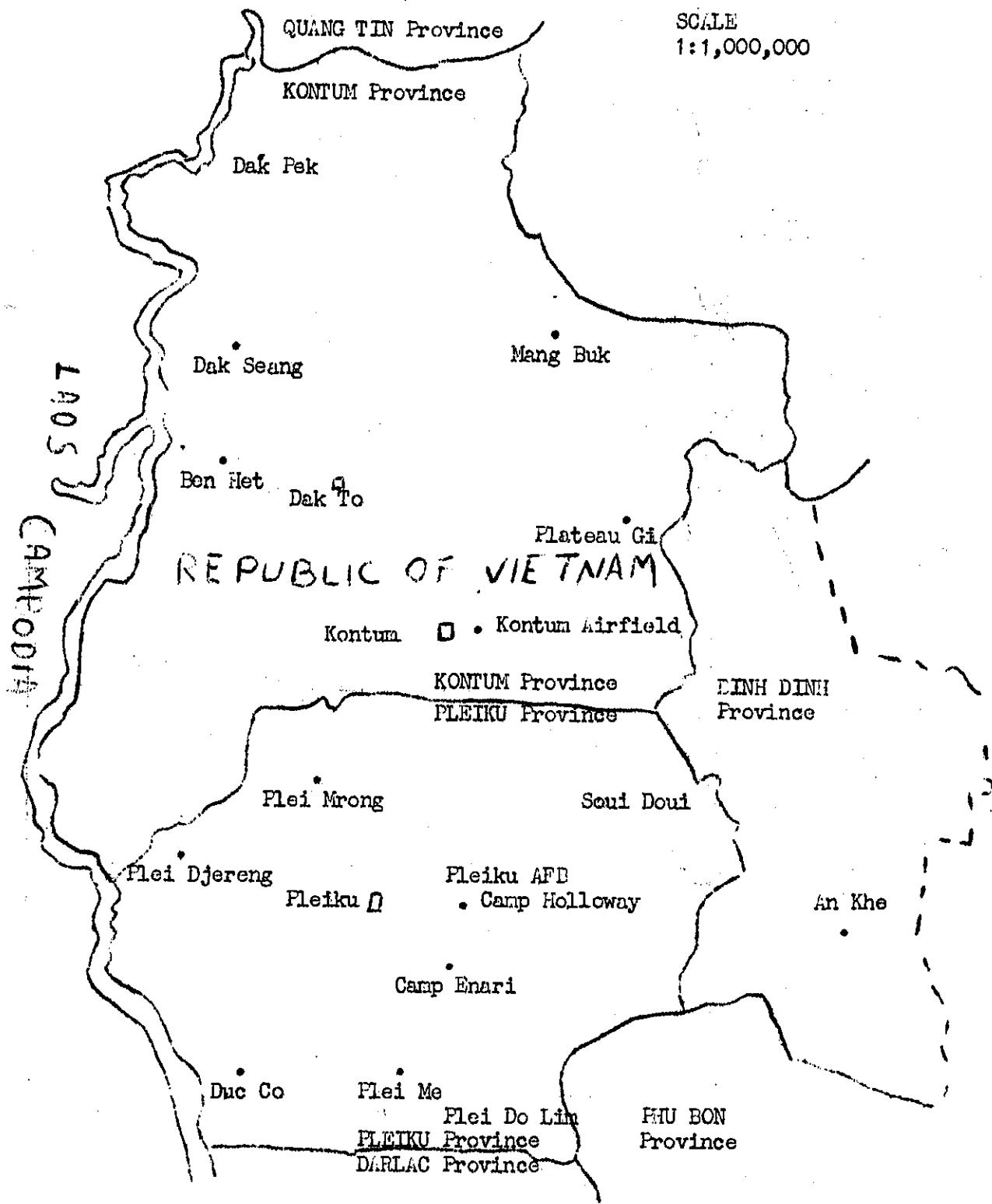
Page 2 of 2 Pages

Authority NND9116471
By 10 NARA Date 2/26/99

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52D ABC ORLL

52D AVIATION BATTALION (COMBT) AREA OF OPERATIONS



Incl 2

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Authority NND911594P
 By 10 NARA Date 28699

52D ADC ORLL

UNIT STRENGTH AS OF 31 JULY 1969

CONFIDENTIAL1. (C) Military:

| UNIT | CO | | WO | | EM | | TOTAL | |
|----------------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|------|-------|------|
| | AUTH | ASG | AUTH | ASG | AUTH | ASG | AUTH | ASG |
| HHC | 19 | 20 | 3 | 7 | 87 | 116 | 109 | 143 |
| 94th Med Det | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 7 |
| 755th Med Det | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| 52d Scty Det | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 151 | 117 | 152 | 118 |
| 68th Inf Det (Radar) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 13 | 19 | 13 |
| 57th Avn Co (AH) | 19 | 18 | 51 | 54 | 219 | 215 | 289 | 287 |
| 154th Med Det | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| 119th Avn Co (AH) | 19 | 17 | 51 | 54 | 219 | 209 | 289 | 280 |
| 170th Avn Co (AH) | 19 | 18 | 51 | 56 | 219 | 204 | 289 | 280 |
| 179th Avn Co (ASH) | 15 | 9 | 26 | 19 | 228 | 214 | 269 | 242 |
| 189th Avn Co (AH) | 19 | 20 | 51 | 57 | 219 | 209 | 289 | 286 |
| 361st Avn Co (E) | 16 | 7 | 13 | 21 | 80 | 63 | 109 | 92 |
| 621st Sig Det | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| 665th Trans Det | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 57 | 46 | 59 | 46 |
| 52D ADC | 131 | 114 | 247 | 269 | 1528 | 1435 | 1906 | 1818 |

2. (C) Civilian:

| UNIT | D.C | | VN | | 3rd NATIONALS | |
|--------------------|------|-----|------|-----|---------------|-----|
| | AUTH | ASG | AUTH | ASG | AUTH | ASG |
| 52d HHC | 0 | 0 | 21 | 21 | 0 | 0 |
| 57th Avn CO (AH) | 0 | 0 | 15 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| 119th Avn Co (AH) | 0 | 0 | 13 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| 170th Avn Co (AH) | 0 | 0 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 179th Avn Co (ASH) | 1 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| 189th Avn Co (AH) | 0 | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 361st Avn Co (E) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 52D ADC | 1 | 1 | 77 | 74 | 0 | 0 |

CONFIDENTIAL

Incl 3

Authority NND911591P
 By 10 NARA Date 28/6/99

CONFIDENTIAL

52D ABC ORLL

OPERATIONAL RESULTS AS OF 31 July 1969

1. (C) Results.

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>SORTIES FLOWN</u> | <u>TROOPS LIFTED</u> | <u>CARGO LIFTED TONS</u> | <u>ENEMY KBA</u> | <u>STRUCTURES DAM DEST</u> | <u>SAMPANS DAM DEST</u> |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 57th AC (AH) | 21,708 | 30,398 | 519 | 0 | 24 16 | 3 2 |
| 119th AC (AH) | 22,645 | 13,817 | 219 | 27 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 170th AC (AH) | 18,291 | 26,893 | 2,219 | 90 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 179th AC (ASH) | 5,161 | 16,979 | 5,412 | 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 189th AC (AH) | 24,144 | 43,121 | 363 | 15 | 0 0 | 0 0 |
| 361st AC (E) | 3,064 | 0 | 0 | 76 | 0 4 | 0 1 |
| 52D ABC | 95,033 | 131,208 | 11,732 | 206 | 24 20 | 3 3 |

2. (C) Losses

| <u>UNIT</u> | <u>AIRCRAFT LOST</u> | <u>AIRCRAFT DAMAGED</u> | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| | <u>TYPE</u> | <u>NR</u> | <u>TYPE</u> | <u>NR</u> |
| 57th AC (AH) | UH1H | 6 | UH1H | 12 |
| | UH1C | 2 | UH1C | 2 |
| 119th AC (AH) | UH1H | 3 | UH1H | 7 |
| | UH1C | 0 | UH1C | 4 |
| 170th AC (AH) | UH1H | 4 | UH1H | 4 |
| | UH1C | 2 | UH1C | 2 |
| 179th AC (ASH) | CH47A | 0 | CH47A | 0 |
| | CH47C | 0 | CH47C | 5 |
| 189th AC (AH) | UH1H | 1 | UH1H | 23 |
| | UH1C | 1 | UH1C | 3 |
| 361st AC (E) | AH1G | 1 | AH1G | 12 |
| 52D ABC | | 20 | | 74 |

Incl. 4

CONFIDENTIAL

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 By 10 NARA Date 28699

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AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

52D AFG ORLL

1. (C) Aircraft Status (Authorized/On Hand) as of 30 July 1969.

| UNIT | UH-1G | UH-1C | UH-1H | CH-47 A&C |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 57th AC (AH) | | 8/7 | 23/18 | |
| 119th AC (AH) | | 8/7 | 23/18 | |
| 170th AC (AH) | | 8/7 | 23/19 | |
| 179th AC (ASH) | | | | 16/3/12 |
| 189th AC (AH) | | 6/7 | 23/19 | |
| 361st AC (E) | 12/12 | | | |
| AHC | | | 2/2 | |
| 52d AEC | 12/12 | 32/36 | 94/76 | 16/3/12 |

2. (C) Aircraft Availability (Daily Average)

Recapitulation: Availability, Mission Ready, EDP and EDM percentage taken from DA Form 1352 and Daily Aircraft Status.

| TYPE | CRITERIA | ST. MD. % | MAY | | | JUN | | | JUL | | |
|-------|---------------|-----------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|
| | | | MAY | JUN | JUL | MAY | JUN | JUL | | | |
| UH-1H | Availability | 75 | 72.1 | 75.7 | 83.6 | | | | | | |
| | Mission Ready | 64 | 67.0 | 68.2 | 81.2 | | | | | | |
| | EDM | 20 | 22.0 | 18.6 | 12.4 | | | | | | |
| | EDP | 5 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 4.0 | | | | | | |
| UH-1C | Availability | 72 | 68.0 | 71.6 | 73.8 | | | | | | |
| | Mission Ready | 63 | 61.5 | 60.2 | 63.7 | | | | | | |
| | EDM | 20 | 21.8 | 23.1 | 17.6 | | | | | | |
| | EDP | 8 | 10.2 | 5.3 | 8.4 | | | | | | |
| CH-47 | Availability | 65 | 43.5 | 64.1 | 61.2 | | | | | | |
| | Mission Ready | 55 | 48.2 | 57.5 | 67.7 | | | | | | |
| | EDM | 25 | 14.3 | 13.5 | 16.0 | | | | | | |
| | EDP | 10 | 42.2 | 22.4 | 22.6 | | | | | | |
| AH-1G | Availability | 70 | 59.2 | 59.6 | 71.4 | | | | | | |
| | Mission Ready | 60 | 58.1 | 56.2 | 71.8 | | | | | | |
| | EDM | 20 | 23.2 | 15.6 | 14.3 | | | | | | |
| | EDP | 10 | 17.6 | 24.6 | 14.3 | | | | | | |

Incl 5

Page 1 of 3 Pages

52D ABC ORLL

AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE

3. (U) Recapitulation of Flying Hours: Average number of aircraft is based on those actually on-hand with the following provisions: Aircraft destroyed are dropped from accountability the day following destruction. Replacement aircraft are picked up on accountability on the first day that they become "mission ready" or within 72 hours following receipt, whichever occurs first.

UH-1C

| UNIT | MONTH | Avg No. On Hand | HOURS FLOWN | Avg Hours | Avail- ability | Percent On Program* |
|-------|-------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 57th | MAY | 6.5 | 371 | 57.1 | 74.0 | 98% |
| | JUN | 6.3 | 350 | 55.5 | 72.1 | 96% |
| | JUL | 7.0 | 320 | 45.6 | 73.4 | 79% |
| 119th | MAY | 7.0 | 386 | 55.1 | 75.9 | 95% |
| | JUN | 7.0 | 372 | 53.2 | 70.2 | 92% |
| | JUL | 7.0 | 303 | 43.2 | 65.7 | 75% |
| 170th | MAY | 6.4 | 265 | 44.5 | 57.0 | 79% |
| | JUN | 6.0 | 336 | 56.0 | 77.1 | 97% |
| | JUL | 6.3 | 242 | 38.4 | 88.7 | 66% |
| 189th | MAY | 5.8 | 369 | 63.6 | 65.1 | 110% |
| | JUN | 6.0 | 374 | 62.2 | 67.1 | 101% |
| | JUL | 6.3 | 215 | 34.1 | 67.3 | 59% |
| 52d | MAY | 25.7 | 1411 | 55.0 | 68.0 | 95% |
| | JUN | 25.3 | 1432 | 56.7 | 71.6 | 98% |
| | JUL | 26.6 | 1080 | 40.3 | 72.2 | 70% |

UH-1I

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|------|-------|------|------|
| 57th | MAY | 18.4 | 1262 | 68.6 | 67.2 | 53% |
| | JUN | 16.9 | 1655 | 97.3 | 78.5 | 131% |
| | JUL | 18.6 | 1509 | 81.2 | 85.0 | 110% |
| 119th | MAY | 18.9 | 1969 | 104.2 | 74.3 | 141% |
| | JUN | 18.7 | 1911 | 102.2 | 70.3 | 135% |
| | JUL | 18.4 | 1357 | 73.7 | 77.6 | 106% |
| 170th | MAY | 19.6 | 2124 | 107.3 | 75.0 | 145% |
| | JUN | 18.0 | 1678 | 93.2 | 85.0 | 126% |
| | JUL | 18.9 | 1517 | 80.3 | 77.8 | 109% |
| 189th | MAY | 18.7 | 2140 | 114.4 | 72.0 | 155% |
| | JUN | 19.0 | 1730 | 91.0 | 68.6 | 123% |
| | JUL | 18.9 | 1496 | 79.2 | 82.7 | 107% |
| 52d | MAY | 75.8 | 7495 | 98.8 | 72.1 | 134% |
| | JUN | 72.6 | 6974 | 95.9 | 75.7 | 129% |
| | JUL | 74.6 | 6079 | 81.3 | 80.6 | 108% |

UH-1G

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|-----|------|------|-----|
| 361st | MAY | 11.5 | 752 | 65.4 | 59.2 | 93% |
| | JUN | 11.5 | 699 | 60.8 | 59.6 | 87% |
| | JUL | 11.8 | 477 | 37.9 | 71.4 | 51% |

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Authority NND911547
By 10 NARA Date 28/6/99**CONFIDENTIAL**

| 179th | MAY | 17.6 | 675 | 49.6 | 43.5 | 83% |
|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------------|-------|-------|
| | JUN | 16.7 | 685 | 52.9 | 64.1 | 88% |
| | JUL | 15.2 | 604 | 39.7 | 61.2 | 66% |
| TYPE | HOURS | FLOWN | | AVAILABILITY | | |
| ACFT | MAY | JUN | JUL | MAY | JUN | JUL |
| 361st | UH-1H | 0 | 0 | 34 | 0 | 0 |
| | HHC | UH-1H | 7 | 69 | 62 | 52.7% |
| | | | | 51.6% | 72.7% | 97.7% |

* Percent DA Program on flying hours is based on the following Flying Hour Program per aircraft: UH-1C 50 hours, UH-1H 74 hours, AH-1G 70 hours, CH-47 60 hours.

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Incl 5

Page 3 of 3 Pages