

AMERICAL DIV UNITS

RELOCATION OF UNITS STUDY.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AVDF-CG

3 January 1969

SUBJECT: Aviation Organization for the Americal Division (U)

THRU: Commanding General
III Marine Amphibious Force
FPO 96602TO: Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
APO 96375

1. Reference is made to:

- Talking paper from AVHAB-OPT by Major Bliss dated 29 September, subject as above.
- Americal Letter, AVDF-AV, dated 8 October 1968, subject as above.

2. (C) The 16th Combat Aviation Group was attached to the Americal Division on 1 December 1968. The Group Headquarters became operational at Chu Lai on 15 December 1968. On 1 January 1969 the Phase I organization described in reference a will be completed. At that time, the 16th Group will have as major elements the 14th Combat Aviation Battalion, organized with three (3) Assault Helicopter Companies; the 123d Aviation Battalion, organized with Company A (Airmobile), Company B (Aero-Scouts), and two Assault Support Helicopter Companies; and the 335th Transportation Company (Aircraft Direct Support).

3. (C) In planning the reorganization of Americal Aviation assets a major consideration was that the division would receive a second air cavalry troop in addition to F Troop, 8th Cavalry. It was my understanding that this would be accomplished by returning D Troop, 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, currently attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), to its parent unit in Americal upon arrival of 2-17 Cavalry in March 69 for duty with the 101st. This consideration is deemed vital. The size of the Americal AO, the large number of committed units, and the extent of missions

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assigned by III MAF makes a two (2) air-cavalry troop capability essential.

4. (C) To date the requirement for a second air-cavalry troop has been satisfied by the creation of a provisional aero-scout company using the assets of the division GS aviation company (B/123d Aviation Battalion). This has been done at the expense of other missions normally performed by the GS company and at the expense of subordinate division units which have been tasked to provide personnel and equipment to augment the Aero-Scout Company. Moreover, the use of B/123 as an Aero-Scout Company has required that the division airmobile company (A/123d) be entirely committed to a GS role.

5. (C) As part of the directed reorganization of the division base and the continuing refinement of the 16th CAG organization, Americal plans to commit Companies A and B, 123d Aviation Battalion, to their intended TOE missions. This can only be accomplished by the early return of D/1-1 Cavalry to its parent unit. It is therefore requested that this headquarters be advised of the anticipated date of release of D/1-1 Cavalry from the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) for return to the Americal Division.

CHARLES M. GETTYS
Major General, USA
Commanding

Cy furn:
CG, 1st Avn Bde
APO 96378

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