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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96384

OPN SGM

A O 1701

S - 3

AVBAGG

7 June 1969

MEMORANDUM THRU: CHIEF OF STAFF

FOR: DEPUTY BRIGADE COMMANDER

SUBJECT: Reassignment of Selected Aviation Units

1. (C) Problem: To determine if the 214th Combat Aviation Battalion with the attached and assigned units should be reassigned to the 164th Combat Aviation Group.

2. (C) Assumptions:

a. The 214th Combat Aviation Battalion will continue to operate primarily in the IV Corps Tactical Zone.

b. Tactical operations will continue at or near the present level in the III and IV CTZs for an indefinite period.

c. Either the 135th or 335th Assault Helicopter Companies may relocate to the IV CTZ by 1 July 1969, with the remaining unit relocating as soon thereafter as facilities become available. (This is being handled by two separate actions.)

3. (C) Facts Bearing on the Problem:

a. The units under consideration for reassignment and their current locations are as listed at Annex B.

b. The 214th Combat Aviation Battalion provides aviation support to units as shown at Annex C.

c. The 164th Combat Aviation Group has sufficient personnel and equipment to provide adequate administrative support for the units being considered for reassignment.

3-3 File Copy 201-45 Reorganization

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4. (C) Discussions:

a. Advantages in reassigning the units under consideration are that it will provide:

(1) Greater flexibility for Commanding Officer, 164th Combat Aviation Group.

(2) More responsive support to Commanding General, Delta Military Advisory Command.

(3) More efficient functioning of the 12th Combat Aviation Group in that all efforts can be directed toward tactical operations in the III CTZ.

(4) Eliminate the 12th Group of administrative burden of supervising the 214th Battalion which conducts operations outside of the 12th Group's section.

b. No disadvantage of military significance is apparent to reassigning the units under consideration.

c. For detailed discussion see Annex A, Discussion.

5. (C) Conclusion: Units listed at Annex B are presently operating in the IV CTZ in support of DMAC and should be reassigned to the 164th Combat Aviation Group.

6. (C) Recommendations:

a. That the units listed at Annex B be reassigned to the 164th Combat Aviation Group.

Approved _____ Disapproved _____

b. That orders releasing the subject units from their existing assignments and reassigning them to the 164th Combat Aviation Group be approved and dispatched to the organizations involved (RED Tab).

Approved _____ Disapproved _____

7 Incl

1. Annex A - Discussion
2. Annex B - List of Units
3. Annex C - Current Mission

WILLIAM C CHAMBERLAIN
LTC, FA
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- 5. Annex E - G1 Comments
- 6. Annex F - G4 Comments
- 7. Tab RED - Request for Orders

Coordination:

CO, 12th CAG	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
CO, 164th CAG	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
G-1	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
G-4	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
AO	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
Signal	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
Surgeon	Concur_____Nonconcur_____
Safety	Concur_____Nonconcur_____

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DISCUSSION

1. (C) The 214th CAB, 162d AHC, 191st AHC, and the 147th ASHC were placed under the operational control of the 164th CAG in November 1968. The aforementioned units were relocated to Dong Tam with the exception of the 147th ASHC which remained at Vung Tau. Additionally, the 135th AHC and the 335th AHC were tasked to support the same operation. The 135th AHC and 335th AHC are currently based at Bear Cat but continue to support combat operations in the IV CTZ. The situation exists where units are assigned to both the 12th CAG and 17th CAG while under the OPCON of 164th CAG and supporting operations in the IV CTZ.
 - a. The 214th CAB is organized under standardized MTOE 1-2560 and is capable of providing command and control for three to seven aviation companies. It is assigned to the 12th CAG by 1st Avn Bde General Order 1539, dated 28 April 1967 (Appendix I to Annex A). The 214th CAB was placed under the operational control of the 164th CAG by the IV CTZ OPLAN 1-66 "Dry Weather Campaign," dated 29 October 1968.
 - b. The 147th ASHC with its sixteen CH-47 helicopters is capable of providing 66% of the medium helicopter support for a U.S. division or 100% for two ARVN divisions (Annex D). The 147th ASHC is currently assigned to the 12th CAG by 1st Aviation Brigade General Order 7900, dated 23 November 1968 (Appendix 2 to Annex A). It is further assigned to the 214th CAB and provides general support for the INAC (Annex C). The 147th ASHC can continue to provide effective support from Vung Tau.
 - c. The 162d AHC is a standard assault helicopter company and is organized under MTOE 1-770. It is capable of providing 33% of the utility helicopter support for a U.S. division or 66% of the utility helicopter support for an ARVN division (Annex D). The 162d AHC is assigned to the 12th CAG by 1st Aviation Brigade General Order 7892, effective 10 February 1968 (Appendix 3 to Annex A). The company is further assigned to the 214th CAB by 12th CAG General Order 82, dated 1 November 1968. The unit normally supports the 2d Brigade, 9th U.S. Infantry Division which operates primarily in Kien-Hoa Province (Appendix 1 to Annex C).
 - d. The 191st AHC, like the 162d AHC, is a standard AHC and capable of providing the same level of support. The 191st AHC is assigned to the 12th CAG by 1st Aviation Brigade General Order 3797, effective 25 May 1967 (Appendix 4 to Annex A). The organization is further assigned to the 214th CAB by 12th CAG General Order 26, dated 21 June 1967. The 191st normally supports the 1st Brigade, 9th U.S. Infantry Division which operates primarily in Dinh-Tuong Province, but occasionally operates in Co-Cong, Kien-Tuong and Kien Phong Provinces (Appendix 2 to Annex C).

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e. The 135th ARC is a standard assault helicopter company and capable of providing 66% of the utility helicopter support to the unit it supports (Annex D). This organization is assigned to the 12th CAG by 1st Aviation Brigade General Order 5319, effective 6 October 1967 (Appendix 5 to Annex D). It is further assigned to the 222d CAB, then is placed under the operational control of the 214th CAB by 12th CAG General Order 104, dated 29 December 1968. The 135th is presently based at Bear Cat, and normally operates in the northern part of IV CTZ supporting the 7th ARVN Division (Appendix 3 to Annex C).

f. The 335th ARC is capable of providing 66% of the required utility helicopter support to the unit it supports. This company is assigned to the 17th CAG by 1st Aviation Brigade General Order 6074, dated 31 December 1967 (Appendix 6 to Annex A), attached to 12th CAG by 1st Aviation Brigade General Order 8063 (Appendix 7 to Annex A), dated 5 December 1968 and further attached to the 214th CAB by 12th CAG General Order 94, dated 8 December 1968. The 335th ARC is presently based at Bear Cat and provides support for the 9th ARVN Division (Appendix 4 to Annex C).

2. (C) The reassignment of the aforementioned aviation units to the 164th CAG will result in more workable command and control arrangement. This proposed re-alignment will be even more desirable if the 135th and 335th ARC's are relocated to the IV CTZ. Present construction of the additional facilities at Can Tho will permit one or both of these units to relocate to that location on or after 1 July 1969. The relocation of these units is presently under study by this headquarters. The greatest gain would come in a reduction of "dead blade" time by approximately 770 flying hours per month. Even though the 135th and 335th have provided satisfactory aviation support from their home base at Bear Cat since December 1968, the conservation of flying hours alone appears to make the relocation and re-assignment highly desirable. Contingent upon the relocation of the 135th and 335th ARC's, all units now under the operational control of the 214th CAB, (excluding the 147th ASHC), will be physically located in the IV CTZ. The normal areas of operation of these units are in the IV CTZ. Accordingly, it appears desirable to effect their reassignment to the 164th CAG.

3. (C) Limited additional administrative and logistical support will be incurred as a result of the proposed reassignment.

a. A total of 1261 personnel spaces will be added to the 164th CAG personnel allocations. Personnel actions, promotion allocations, awards and decorations, courts-martials, congressionals, R&R allocations and port calls are functions in which an increase will occur. No adverse impact on the current administrative functions is anticipated as a result of the proposed reassignment (Annex E).

b. There are no foreseeable general supply problems associated with

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the proposed reassignment. Additional facilities at Can Tho are presently under construction with an expected completion date of 30 June 1969. This project will provide adequate facilities for the relocation of one AHC. Facilities for the second AHC should be completed on or about 1 September 1969 (Annex F). The engineer effort and subsequent relocation of the two assault helicopter companies further supports reassignment to the 164th CAG.

4. (C) The reassignment of the units under consideration will provide the Commanding Officer, 164th CAG with greater flexibility, quicker response and increased efficiency in supporting combat operations in the IV CTZ. The battalion headquarters provides a control element that may be employed in support of U.S. and/or ARVN forces any place in the IV CTZ as the impetus on battle shifts.

Organizations being considered for reassignment to the 164th CAG are as follows:

Unit	Current Assignment	Current Location	Proposed Location
BHC, 214th CAB	Asg 12th CAG OPCON 164th CAG	Dong Tam	Dong Tam
758th Med Det	Asg 214th CAB	Dong Tam	Dong Tam
162d AHC	Asg 214th CAB OPCON 164th CAG	Dong Tam	Dong Tam
191st AHC	Asg 214th CAB OPCON 164th CAG	Dong Tam	Dong Tam
135th AHC	Asg 223d CAB OPCON 214th CAB OPCON 164th CAG	Bear Cat	Can Tho
335th AHC	Asg 17th CAG Atch 12th CAG Atch 214th CAB OPCON 164th CAG	Bear Cat	Can Tho
147th ASHC	Asg 214th CAB OPCON 164th CAG	Vung Tau	Vung Tau

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Current mission assignment of units under consideration for reassignment is as follows:

Unit	Primary Support	Normal Area of Operation
HHHC 214th GAB	DMAC	IV CTZ
147th ASHC	DMAC	IV CTZ
162d AHC	2d Bde, 9th US Inf	Kien-Eda Province
191st AHC	1st Bde, 9th US Inf	Dinh-Tuong Province
135th AHC	7th ARVN Div	*Northern IV CTZ
335th AHC	9th ARVN Div	*Northern IV CTZ

*AO may be shifted to central and southern IV CTZ after relocation to Cao Tho.

Source: 164th CAO Conf msg AVBACE-C 825, DTG 260935Z May 69.

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Number of aviation units by type required for supporting tactical units:

	ANC	ANC(A)	ASHC
US Div	3		1.5
US Sep Bde	1		.5
SOI	1	1	
5th Spec Forces	1		
MACV GS	1		
ATF/RTAFV	1		
ARVN Div	1.5		.5
CORDS	3		
ROK Div	2		1

Sources: USAFV Avn Support Study 1967