

# **STUDENT HANDOUT**

## **ARMY AVIATION IN RVN**

**5/69-549-5**



**OCTOBER 1968**

**UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL**  
**FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA/FORT STEWART, GEORGIA**

DEPARTMENT OF TACTICS  
UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL  
Fort Rucker, Alabama/Fort Stewart, Georgia

October 1968  
File No. 5/69-549-5

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

ARMY AVIATION IN RVN

1. KNOWLEDGES: When provided appropriate lists the student will be able, without error, to:
  - a. Rank units in order of size from platoon to division.
  - b. Match the primary functions of a coordinating staff with the responsible staff member.
  - c. Select the primary function the three (3) primary tasks and the five (5) elements of a Tactical Operations Center (TOC).
  - d. Match the three (3) command relationship terms with their definitions.
  - e. Match the three (3) unit type mission terms with their definitions.
  - f. Match the aircraft and tasks to the following aviation units:
    - (1) Assault Helicopter Company.
    - (2) Aerial Weapons Company.
    - (3) Assault Support Helicopter Company.
    - (4) Heavy Helicopter Company.
    - (5) Reconnaissance Airplane Company.
    - (6) Surveillance Airplane Company.
    - (7) Utility Airplane Company.
    - (8) Air Cavalry Troop.
2. SKILLS: None.

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ADVANCE SHEET

ARMY AVIATION IN RVN

**PURPOSE:** This instruction is designed to provide the student with a familiarization with the combined arms organization of US Army units operating in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN), and a general knowledge of the Army aviation units operating as part of the combined arms team.

**GENERAL:**

1. The military forces can be broken down into combat, combat support, combat service support, and command and control units. Each type of unit is tailored to perform a special skill or function. The size of the units vary in accordance with their mission, but all the units are built up in a logical sequence to provide the various special skills required for successful performance of the Army's overall mission, that is to preserve the peace and security and provide for the defence of the United States and territories through ground combat.
2. The combat arms branches of the Army are the Armor, the Infantry, the Artillery, the Corps of Engineers and the Signal Corps branches. The other branches of the Army (Transportation Corps, Ordnance Corps, Chemical Corps, etc.) are considered combat service support branches. The combat service support units in the RVN are frequently engaged in close combat to defend their installations against attack.
3. Army aviation in RVN is providing combat aviation support to all US forces and the Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF).
4. The Army aviation assets in RVN are limited. As economy of utilization is required in the assignment of missions to assure that the unit with the most serious requirement for aviation support receives it. Wherever possible the aviation support is either organic to or collocated with the supported unit to provide an immediate availability. The supported unit commander is given freedom to utilize his aviation support in the manner he desires to enhance his success on the battlefield. The Army aviation units normally operate under the operational control of the supported unit. This command relationship does not

impose a logistical burden on the supported unit. The aviation unit is responsible for providing its own fuel, ammunition and maintenance support. This arrangement provides the supported unit commander authority to designate the tasks to be performed by the aviation unit and to decide what weather conditions dictate a postponement of a mission. The aviation unit commander or his representative will act as the aviation special staff officer for the supported unit advising him as to the aviation units' capabilities.

**STUDY ASSIGNMENT:** Study Advance Sheet, Inclosure 1, 2, and 3 to Advance Sheet.

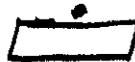
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STUDENT OUTLINE  
ARMY AVIATION IN RVN

1. Unit Size

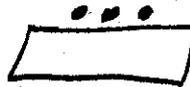
a. Squad



- (1) 11 men.
- (2) Squad leader - sargent E-6
- (3) Symbol.

b. Platoon

- (1) 40 men.
- (2) Platoon leader - LT.
- (3) 4 squads.
- (4) Symbol.



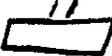
c. Company

- (1) 180 men.
- (2) Company commander - capt.
- (3) 4 platoons.
- (4) Symbol.
- (5) Equivalent to Cavalry troop and Artillery Battery.

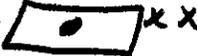
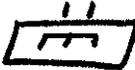


d. Battalion

- (1) 1000 men.

- (2) Battalion Commander - LTC.
- (3) 2-7 companies (4 in RVN).
- (4) Symbol. 
- (5) Equivalent to Cavalry SQUADRON

e. Division

- (1) 18,000 men.
- (2) Division Commander - MG.
- (3) Up to 15 maneuver battalions (9 in RVN).
- (4) Symbol. 
- (5) Command and Control
  - (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Division Headquarters Company
  - (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Brigade Headquarters Companies
    - 1. Controls 2-7 battalions.
    - 2. Symbol.
- (6) Combat Reconnaissance Element (Cavalry Squadron)
  - (a) \_\_\_\_\_ men.
  - (b) 3 Armored Cavalry and Air Cavalry Troops.
- (7) Combat Support Elements
  - (a) Division Artillery 
    - 1. 3 105mm Howitzer Battalions.
    - 2. 1 8"/155mm Composite Battalion.
  - (b) Engineer Battalion. 
  - (c) Signal Battalion. 

(d) Aviation Battalion. 20

1. Headquarters Company.

2. Airmobile Company.

3. Aviation General Support Company.

(e) Military Police Company. M P

(8) Combat Service Support Elements - Support Command

(a) Hq, Hq and Band. SPT CMO <sup>11</sup> XX

(b) Supply and Transport Battalion.

(c) Medical Battalion.

(d) Maintenance Battalion.

(e) Administrative Company.

2. Nondivisional Units

a. Separate Light Infantry Brigade. *199th*

b. Separate Airborne Brigade. *173*

c. Separate Mechanized Brigade. *1st 5mech Division*

d. Armored Cavalry Regiment. *11th arm corp.*

3. ARVN

*Batt. 450*

a. Units.

b. Corps Tactical Zones.

4. Battalion Headquarters

a. Major concerns of the commander and his staff:

(1) *conduct of operation*

(2) *planning of future operations*

(3) *administration*

b. Commanding Officer.

c. Executive Officer.

d. S-1. adjutant

e. S-2. intelligence maps + photos

f. S-3. operations planning + training

g. S-4. supply + logistics

h. S-5. civil affairs officers (schools) (Medcap)

i. Special Staff HQ. CO

(1) not a officer

(2) communicators

(3) surgeon.

### 5. Tactical Operations Center

a. Definition - A command installation having centralized communications facilities and personnel necessary for the control and coordination of current Tactical operations

b. ~~elements~~ Functions of the TOC

- (1) S-2 4) precombat elements
- (2) S-3 5) army aviation elements
- (3) S-4 in + out, 6) tactical air command element.

c. ~~TOC elements~~ functions

- (1) act for the commander within the authority he gives
- (2) keep abreast of the situation
- (3) provide information on which the commander can base his decisions
- (4) provide information on which the commander can base his decisions
- (5) provide information on which the commander can base his decisions

192  
Do not thin

## 6. Command Relationships

### a. Assignment

- (1) Definition - The placement of units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively permanent.
- (2) Maximum command and control.
- (3) total logistical burden.

### b. Attachment

- (1) Definition - The placement of units or personnel in an organization where such placement is relatively temporary.
- (2) Maximum command and control.
- (3) total logistical burden.

### c. Operational Control

- (1) Definition - A relationship which allows a supported unit commander to exercise maximum command.
- (2) Maximum command and control.
- (3) no logistical burden.

## 7. Missions

### a. Direct Support

- (1) Definition - A mission requiring one unit to support another specific unit, answering the supported units direct request for assistance.
- (2) The supported unit commander is the final authority on technical aspects of operation.

### b. General Support

- (1) Definition - A mission requiring a unit to support a force as a whole, and not any particular portion there of.

- (2) supporting unit or its next higher headquarters establishes mission priorities.

c. Reinforcing

- (1) Definition - augmentation of the support capabilities of another supporting unit.

- (2) Missions are planned and controlled by the supporting unit.

8. Divisions

a. Infantry

- (1) Brigade Aviation Sections (3). *88 organic aircraft*

- (2) Air Cavalry Troop.

- (3) Division Artillery Aviation Section.

- (4) Division Aviation Battalion

- (a) Airmobile Company.

- (b) General Support Company.

- (5) Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company.

b. Airmobile

*2 units*

*{ 1st cav  
101st airborne*

- (1) Brigade Aviation Platoon.

*428 organic aircraft*

(2) Air Cavalry Squadron.

(3) Division Artillery

(a) Aviation Battery.

(b) ARA Battalion.

(4) Aviation Group

(a) Aviation General Support Company.

(b) Assault Helicopter Battalion

1. Assault Helicopter Company.

2. Aerial Escort Company.

(c) Assault Support Helicopter Battalion

1. Assault Support Helicopter Company.

2. Heavy Helicopter Company (Attached).

(5) Support Command



- (b) Tasks. *artillery displacement, movement of equine equip.*
- 10 companies (5) Reconnaissance Airplane Company (RAC)
  - (a) Aircraft. *24-36*
  - (b) Tasks. *reconnaissance + artillery adjustment*
- 5 companies (6) Surveillance Airplane Company (SAC)
  - (a) Aircraft.
  - (b) Tasks. *surveillance (electronic, photo, visual)*
- 2 companies (7) Utility Airplane Company (UAC)
  - (a) Aircraft. *16 beaver + carrier*
  - (b) Tasks. *carrier*
- 3 troops or companies (8) Air Cavalry Troop
  - (a) Aircraft. *squad 10 weapons 9 rifles*
  - (b) Tasks.

1 command airplane company  
 30 4-1 *notes*

- 1 provide support to everyone except 101st and first cav.
2. *lessor personnel to supported units*
- 3.

**NOTES**  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 UNITED STATES ARMY AVIATION SCHOOL  
 Fort Rucker, Alabama, Fort Stewart, Georgia

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 File No. 2/69-249-2

PERFORMANCE CHECK

ARMY AVIATION IN RVN

1. List the following units by order of size from smallest to largest.

- a. platoon \_\_\_\_\_
- b. company \_\_\_\_\_
- c. division \_\_\_\_\_
- d. squad \_\_\_\_\_
- e. battalion \_\_\_\_\_

2. Match the following staff members with their primary function.

- |                         |       |                   |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| a. Operations           | _____ | Executive Officer |
| b. Intelligence         | _____ | S-1               |
| c. Aircraft Maintenance | _____ | S-2               |
| d. Civil Affairs        | _____ | S-3               |
| e. Personnel            | _____ | S-4               |
| f. Staff Coordinator    | _____ | S-5               |
| g. Logistics            | _____ |                   |

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PERFORMANCE CHECK

ARMY AVIATION IN RVN

1. List the following units by order of size from smallest to largest.

<u>d</u>	a. platoon
<u>a</u>	b. company
<u>b</u>	c. division
<u>e</u>	d. squad
<u>d</u>	e. battalion

2. Match the following staff members with their primary function.

Executive Officer	<u>f</u>	a. Operations
S-1	<u>e</u>	b. Intelligence
S-2	<u>b</u>	c. Aircraft Maintenance
S-3	<u>g</u>	d. Civil Affairs
S-4	<u>c</u>	e. Personnel
S-5	<u>d</u>	f. Staff Coordinator
		g. Logistics

3. Match the following terms with their correct definitions.

- |                     |          |   |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| General Support     | <u>b</u> | a. Belongs (temporary).   |
| Attachment          | <u>a</u> | b. One unit supports another specific unit.                           |
| Reinforcing         | <u>c</u> | c. Augmentation of support capabilities of a similar supporting unit. |
| Assignment          | <u>e</u> | d. Support provided to the force as a whole.                          |
| Operational Control | <u>f</u> | e. Belongs (permanent).   |
| Direct Support      | <u>d</u> | f. Unit supports as directed, but provided own supplies and services. |

4. Which of the following units are equivalent in size to an infantry company?

- a. Cavalry Regiment
- b. Artillery Battery - *company or troop*
- c. Signal Command
- d. Cavalry Troop - *company or battery*

5. Select from the following list, the three tasks of a Tactical Operations Center and the five component elements of a TOC.

- |          |                      |   |
|----------|----------------------|---|
| Tasks    | <u>b, k, l</u>       | a. Assistant Division Engineer (ADE).               |
| Elements | <u>c, f, g, h, m</u> | b. Keep abreast of the situation.                   |
|          |                      | c. S-2, Intelligence.                               |
|          |                      | d. Commit reserves only when necessary.             |
|          |                      | e. Act for the commander within established policy. |
|          |                      | f. S-3, Operations.                                 |
- (Cont)

- g. S-5, Civil Affairs.
- h. Army Aviation Element (AAE).
- i. Signal Support Element (SSE).
- j. Fire Support Element (FSE).
- k. Provide information for commander to base his decision.
  - l. Long range planning.
  - m. Tactical Air Control Element (TACE).

6. Who coordinates the activities of a battalion staff?

- a. Executive Officer
- b. S-1
- c. S-3
- d. Battalion Commander

7. Your company commander tells you to go to battalion headquarters to coordinate map supply procedures. To which staff member do you go for this coordination?

- a. S-1
- b. S-2
- c. S-3
- d. S-4

8. Which of the following is not a TOC function?

- a. Act for commander within established policy.
- b. Provide information for commander to base decision.
- c. Plan future operations.
- d. Keep abreast of the situation.

9. Which of the following units has the largest number of personnel?
- a. Infantry company
  - b. Cavalry troop
  - c. Artillery Battery
  - d. Cavalry Squadron
10. You are detailed to work in the Battalion Operations Center. Which of the staff members listed below will supervise your activities in this job?
- a. S-1
  - b. S-2
  - c. S-3
  - d. S-4
11. Which of the following units provide tactical air mobility for troops in airmobile operations using the UH-1?
- a. Assault Helicopter Company (AHC)
  - b. Aerial Weapons Company (AWC)
  - c. Assault Support Helicopter Company (ASHC)
  - d. Heavy Helicopter Company (HHC)
12. Which of the following units provides visual reconnaissance utilizing the O-1?
- a. Surveillance Airplane Company (SAC)
  - b. Reconnaissance Airplane Company (RAC)
  - d. Air Cavalry Troop
  - d. Utility Airplane Company (UAC)

13. Which of the following units provides direct fire support/armed aerial escort utilizing the AH-1G?

a. Aerial Weapons Company (AWC)

b Assault Helicopter Company (AHC)

c. Assault Support Helicopter Company (ASHC)

d. Utility Airplane Company (UAC)

14. Match the following tasks to the unit which would normally perform the task. (Tasks may be used more than once.)

           ~~Airmobile Company~~

~~a.~~ Armed aerial escort

e, d Surveillance Airplane Company

b. General aviation support for division artillery

a Air Cavalry Troop

~~c.~~ Visual reconnaissance

a, f Assault Helicopter Company

~~d.~~ Aerial reconnaissance and security

g, d Aviation Battery

~~e.~~ Electronic surveillance

b, c, d Reconnaissance Airplane Company

f. Tactical air mobility

g, f Aerial Weapons Company

g. Command, liaison and courier

**NOTES**