

UNIT HISTORY 1 JAN 1970 31 DEC 1970

During the past year the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion has flown 133,702 hours and carried over 44,595 tons of cargo and 566,908 passengers. The battalion set a new USARV flight safety record of 161 days without an aircraft accident, and has recorded an excellent aircraft availability rate of over 84%. The battalion has restructured and modernized outdated SOP's and has introduced major innovations in the safety program such as the establishment of a battalion level accident investigation and prevention school.

The officers and soldiers of the battalion have provided aviation support for 42 regimental or larger sized combat assaults, including the divisional assault Operation Do Kae Bi 19. Tactical operation procedures have been revised and improved to make combat missions less hazardous and more effective. Furthermore, the battalion has supported extended combat operations of Korean and Vietnamese troops with outstanding effectiveness.

The Battalion has operated smoothly despite several organizational changes. Two companies have made major moves and two have inactivated. In addition, the Battalion has acquired two companies during the past year. Despite these potentially disruptive changes, the Battalion has, through thoughtful planning and foresight, kept running cohesively and at peak efficiency.

10th Battalion helicopters have provided security for the Vietnamese villages in the II Corp area and have flown numerous rescue and mercy missions. The Battalion Medcap Program is one of the finest in the Republic of Vietnam. Over the past year, the 130th Medical Detachment has treated over 5,489 Vietnamese patients. The Tenth Battalion has also provided

technical assistance to the Vietnamese in the building and maintenance of various structures and bridges and has physically relocated several Montagnards villages to more secure areas.

These outstanding achievements are a tribute to the team work and wholehearted support which all the Vagabonds have contributed towards the accomplishment of our mission.

## 10TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

### COMMANDERS

LTC SAMUEL W. PATELIOS

1 January 1970 - 15 June 1970

LTC JACK A. WALKER

15 June 1970 - 31 December 1970

### MISSION

The mission of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion is to provide aviation support as directed by the Commanding Officer, 17th Combat Aviation Group in support of airmobile operations designed to search out and destroy the insurgent enemy and to extend Government of Vietnam (GVN) control of the population; to provide general support aviation as directed by Commanding Officer, 17th Combat Aviation Group to First Field Force, Vietnam (IFFV), Deputy Senior Advisor (DSA) Military Region 2, 5th Special Forces Group (SFG); to provide command and control of assigned and attached units as directed by Commanding Officer, 17th Combat Aviation Group.

## UNIT COMMANDERS

### HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

CAPTAIN KARL W. MARROTT	1 January 1970 - 26 January 1970
CAPTAIN H. R. STRINGHAM	26 January 1970 - 1 June 1970
MAJOR JAMES F. ROBERTS, JR.	1 June 1970 - 5 December 1970
CAPTAIN DAVID J. REDDEL	5 December 1970 - 31 December 1970

### 48TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

CAPTAIN MANUEL J. SILVA	1 January 1970 - 8 February 1970
MAJOR DOUGLAS R. TERRELL	8 February 1970 - 7 August 1970
MAJOR PHILIP E. COURTS	7 August 1970 - 16 October 1970
MAJOR WILLIS R. BUNTING	16 October 1970 - 31 December 1970

### 92ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

MAJOR CHARLES W. QUATTLEBAUM	1 January 1970 - 3 March 1970
MAJOR BOBBY C. MOORE	3 March 1970 - 20 August 1970
MAJOR RODNEY D. LESTER	20 August 1970 - 31 December 1970

### 155TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

MAJOR GERALD H. LUISI	1 January 1970 - 15 June 1970
MAJOR ROWLAND G. STEELE	15 June 1970 - 17 December 1970
CAPTAIN CHARLES E. MARKHAM	17 December 1970 - 31 December 1970

### 183RD RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY

MAJOR JAMES L. MANLEY	1 January 1970 - 12 June 1970
MAJOR ALVIN L. SOLOMON	12 June 1970 - 31 December 1970

## BATTALION OPERATIONS 1970

During 1970, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion provided continuous aviation support to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and the Free World Allied Forces (FWAF) in Military Region 2 (MR 2). This summary of the major operations and activities during the year is, of necessity, a concise and condensed presentation. While providing aircraft for many missions which do not constitute a significant activity, these missions were an integral part of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's mission in the Republic of Vietnam.

### JANUARY

Major aviation support for January was provided to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Division, Deputy Senior Advisor for Military Region 2 (DSA MR2) and 4th Infantry Division.

The 48th Assault Helicopter Company, continuing to provide support to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division (WHRID), airlifted 1300 troops of the 30th Regiment into the Dong Bo Mountains north of Dong Ba Thin on the 12th. When the operation concluded on the 28th over 4500 troops had been inserted with the following results reported by G-2, WHRID: Seven (7) enemy KIA's, seventy-two (72) POW's and nine (9) captured weapons. On the 23rd, the 48th reinforced provided aviation assets for an airmobile assault for the 29th ROK Regiment for an operation in the mountains north of Ninh Hoa. This action resulted in thirty (30) enemy KIA's and fifteen (15) weapons captured. Thirteen (13) enemy KIA's and nine (9) weapons captured were the results of an operation conducted on the 28th by the 28th ROK Regiment which were airlifted by the Blue Stars reinforced into an area north of Tuy Hoa.

The 92nd Assault Helicopter Company located at Dong Ba Thin provided support to a variety of units in all of the seven southern provinces of Military Region 2. Support was provided to the 23rd ARVN Division, Deputy Senior Advisor for Military Region 2, 5th Special Forces Group, 29th and 30th Regiments of the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 18th Engineer Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, and Cam Ranh Bay Support Command.

Camp Coryell, home of the 155th Assault Helicopter Company, came under attack on 6 January when five (5) rounds of 82mm mortars impacted within the compound resulting in no casualties and one aircraft slightly damaged. Priority of support was to the 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku Province. In support of the 4th Infantry Division, the 155th flew twenty (20) combat assaults which resulted in the airlifting of 1984 troops and 11 tons of cargo.

The 192nd Assault Helicopter Company, located at Phan Thiet, conducted airmobile operations in support of Task Force South. Combat assaults were flown for "C" Company, 75th Rangers; 1/50th Mechanized Infantry; and 2/1st Armored Cavalry resulting in six (6) enemy kills by air (KBA's) credited to the gunships (Tiger Sharks). Throughout the month, sniffer, psyops and resupply missions were also flown for Task Force South.

The 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company brought improvements in the perimeter and security in the base camp at DBT. New concertina wire, two personnel bunkers, replacement of all trip flares, and two starlight scopes enhanced the security of the unit. Freight Train aircraft worked throughout the seven southern provinces of Military Region 2 with one aircraft being stationed at Ban Me Thuot and one at Phan Thiet to provide better support to the units in those

with one aircraft being stationed at Ban Me Thuat and one at Phan Thiet in efforts to provide better support to the units in those areas.

The 21st Assault Helicopter Company provided support for units in central Military Region 2. During the month aircraft were furnished for a division combat assault and for regimental combat assaults for the White Horse ROK Infantry Division. Aviation assets of the 281st continued supporting the MACV Recondo School.

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion in its continuing support of Military Region 2 compiled the following statistics for January: 11,669 hours flown, 29,274 sorties, 59,275 troops airlifted and 4157 tons of cargo hauled.

#### FEBRUARY

Support of the seven southern provinces of Military Region 2 by the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion was continued in February. Though not tasked with daily support of the northern part of Military Region 2, battalion aircraft flew in support of the 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku Province, Capitol ROK Infantry Division at An Son, and the Support Command at Qui Nhon.

The 48th Assault Helicopter Company, whose primary mission is aviation support for the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, provided aircraft to the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion on the 12th in execution of an airmobile operation for the Capitol ROK Infantry Division (CRID) at An Son. On the 20th, the 48th airlifted 500 troops of the 30th Regiment, 1BRID into ten (10) landing zones (LZ's) west of Phan Rang. This operation yielded sixteen (16) enemy KIA's and eleven (11) small arms captured.

The 92nd AHC continued its general support mission of Military Region 2 with priority going to the 23rd ARVN Division. With the 23rd ARVN Division

frequently changing its area of operation, the 92nd was often called upon to provide aircraft for large troop moves. During the month the Sidekicks, the 92nd AHC Gun Platoon, recorded fifty (50) confirmed enemy KBA's, twenty-five (25) suspected enemy KBA's and one (1) structure destroyed.

The 155th Assault Helicopter Company conducted ten (10) combat assaults in support of the 23rd ARVN Division and Detachments B-23 and B-50, 5th SFG operations. The 155th sustained two mortar attacks during the month. On the 9th the Base Camp received six (6) mortar rounds causing damage to one structure and again on the 28th, six (6) mortar rounds impacted in the company area with negative damages.

February proved to be a busy month for the 192nd AHC Polecats as they continued providing support for Task Force South. Four Combat Assaults were flown for Task Force South and one combat assault for the 44th Regiment, 23rd ARVN Division. Tigersharks were credited with 14 enemy KBA's during the month. The 192nd guns were also launched at various times to provide cover for medevac aircraft.

The 243rd ASHC completed four personnel bunkers during February and also received new wiring for the perimeter lighting system as they continued their effort to improve the perimeter of the company area. Support was continued for Task Force South in the Phan Thiet Area and the 35th Engineer Group and 5th Special Forces Group in the Ban Ha Thout area. The following units also received aviation support from the 243 ASHC: IEFV Artillery, 1st BRID, 2nd BRID, 23rd ARVN Division, 1st CV, 22nd ARVN Division and 2nd BR2. Freight Train aircraft were called upon to recover six (6) downed aircraft during the month.



The 281st AHC (Intruders) was placed opcon to the 268th CAB. While working for the 268th CAB, Intruder aircraft flew in support of Qui Nhon Support Command and MACV. On the 2nd, the 281st completed support for a class of the MACV Recondo School and provided support for another class from 17 through 25 February. Ten sniffer missions were flown for the Installation Defense Command (IDC) at Nha Trang with frequent enemy contact encountered in the mountains west of Nha Trang.

Vagabond aircraft in supporting units in Military Region 2 during the month compiled the following statistics: 10,489 hours flown, 27,515 sorties, 55,336 troops transported, and 4154 tons of cargo hauled.

#### MARCH

Priority of support for the battalion aircraft again went to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division. The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion conducted a division operation on 1 March with aircraft from the 48th, 92nd and 281st AHC's and 243rd ASHC inserting the White Horse ROK Infantry Division into thirty-two (32) LZ's approximately 50 kilometers west of Dong Ba Thin. Vagabond aircraft inserted 5,875 troops and 75 CH-47 loads around the location of a suspected VC Base Camp. The 48th AHC lost one aircraft during the combat assault while making an approach to a pinnacle. The Blue Stars felt a personal loss in this crash when the pilot suffered fatal injuries. The operation lasted for two weeks with necessary logistical support being provided by Vagabond aircraft. Reports from the G-2, WHRID listed 129 enemy KIA's, 52 POW's and 40 weapons captured. Retaliation by the enemy forces resulted in Dong Ba Thin receiving a simultaneous mortar sapper attack on the 7th. The attack which resulted in one UH-1H

and one UH-1C destroyed, one UH-1H damaged, and one guard tower damaged plus four U.S. personnel WIA consisted of three hand grenades, two B-40 rockets, and twenty 82mm mortars.

While enemy activity was at a high point in the Dong Ba Thin area, the 155th AHC in Ban Me Thuot was relatively free of enemy attacks. Major support was continued for the 4th Infantry Division and other units in Pleiku Province. In flying 17th combat assaults during the month, Stagecoach aircraft also supported the 23rd ARVN Division and Detachments B-23 and B-50, 5th SFG operations.

The 192nd continued to support elements throughout the Phan Thiet region. The month started off with a combat assault for 1/50th Mechanized Infantry. The 192nd continued to support Task Force South and on the 17th, while conducting a combat assault for the 1/50th, had a UH-1H shot down by enemy ground fire. This action resulted in the door gunner being wounded. The aircraft was recovered by the 243rd ASHC. On the 25th, "C" Company, 75th Rangers made contact with the enemy and gave a call to the 192nd AHC for support. With guns always on stand-by for tactical emergencies, Tigershark, guns were launched immediately to provide support. The guns expended and were credited with three KBAs. The Polecats closed the month flying three combat assaults in one day. Aircraft were provided to the 1/50th Mechanized Infantry for two combat assaults and one for Binh Thuan sector.

The White Horse ROK Infantry Division commenced a two week operation on the 1st and the 281st was given the responsibility of supporting the 29th Regiment for the insertion and resupply. In support of the 23rd ARVN Division, the Intruders flew eight regimental combat assaults throughout the month as well as combat assaults for Mike Strike Company, 5th SFG.

On the 15th, a new class of the MACV Recondo School commenced with the 281st providing air support until the class ended on 19 March.

The 10th CAB's aircraft were tasked more in March than in the previous two months providing support to units in Military Region 2. The Battalion's aircraft compiled the following statistics for the month: 13,888 hours flown, 37,360 sorties, 68,854 troops transported, and 4469 tons of cargo hauled.

#### APRIL

The 10th CAB continued in general support of all FMAF in southern Military Region 2. Major operations during the month were conducted by the 4th Infantry Division in Pleiku Province and the White Horse ROK Infantry Division vicinity of Tuy Hoa. Aviation assets were provided by four companies to the 4th Infantry Division as enemy activity increased in that area.

The White Horse ROK Infantry Division was inserted by Vagabond aircraft into an area west of Tuy Hoa on the 28th. The 48th AHC and the 243rd ASHC continued to provide support for WHRID until completion of the operation in May. The operation proved to be quite successful as the final results were 275 enemy KIA's, 3 POW's and 188 weapons captured.

Efforts continued in the improvement of the defensive perimeter by the units located at Dong Ba Thin as new perimeter wire, new claymore mines, and new guard towers were installed during April. On the 1st, Camp Coryell was hit by mortars resulting in damage to three OH-10's and five UH-1H's belonging to 155th. LZ Betty, home of the 192nd, came under attack on the 4th as five 60mm mortars impacted within the compound. The 192nd had negative damages or casualties as a result of the attack. Enemy

activity remained at a high level when on the 6th the military installation at Nha Trang received eight 107mm rockets. The 281st AHC had negative damage or casualties. On the 8th the enemy hit Dong Ba Thin compound with 25 mortar rounds and one 122mm rocket damaging one building in HHC and wounding three. The 92nd AHC mess hall was destroyed in the same attack. The attacks were wide-spread as the 48th AHC received two rounds of mortar fire on the 10th with negative damage and casualties. Again on the 11th Dong Ba Thin received four rockets of unknown size with negative damage.

The 10th CAB aircraft continued to support units from the southern to the northern boundary of Military Region 2 and from the coastal areas to the plateau area next to the Cambodian and Laotian borders. "Soldiers of the Sky" continued to compile impressive statistics during April with the following recorded: 13,321 hours flown, 5,495 sorties, 58,500 troops airlifted, and 4092 tons of cargo hauled.

#### MAY

May was destined to be one of the busiest months of the year for the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. Increased support was required in the Pleiku-Kontum-Dak Seang area as the Cambodian operation began on the 1st. Support was continued for the units in southern Military Region 2, but the priority of support went to units fighting in Cambodia.

Operation Binh Tay I lasted from the 4th to the 17th. The 10th CAB's most significant contribution to this effort was made by the 281st AHC which moved all of its operational assets to Pleiku. The 281st AHC suffered personnel losses in this operation as five fatalities were sustained plus two aircraft destroyed during a rocket attack. On the 20th the

10th CAB's operation continued in Cambodia with the first phase of operation Binh Tay III taking place west of Duc Lap. The 10th CAB provided all of the aviation assets for this operation with the largest number of aircraft being supplied by the 155th AHC. Elements of the 23rd ARVN Division were airlifted into the area of operation. Initial enemy contact was light; however, the operation was considered successful due to the numerous weapons, ammunition and medical caches found.

Even though major emphasis was placed on the Cambodian operations, the 192nd AHC sustained a heavy and significant mortar and rocket attack on the 4th. Approximately 100 rounds of 60mm and B-40 rockets impacted within LZ Betty at 0155 hours. Tigershark guns were launched and were credited with 14 enemy KBA's.

The 243rd ASHC continued to provide medium lift logistical support making significant contributions during the Cambodian operations. Freight Train pilots exhibited the highest degree of professionalism, and all supplies and artillery pieces airlifted were necessary for the success of these operations.

Crews of Vagabond aircraft saw many long hours throughout the month of May. Many days the crews would return after having spent 12 and sometimes more hours in the air. Operational statistics for the month are as follows: 12,825 hours flown, 35,723 sorties, 52,376 troops transported and 4,508 tons of cargo hauled.

#### JUNE

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to provide support for operations in Cambodia. Daily support also continued to WHRID, 5th Special Forces Group, 23rd ARVN Division, DSA MR 2 and Task Force South.

The Pathfinders of the 10th C.B., using rappelling ropes, were inserted into several locations 20 miles southwest of Phan Rang to prepare LZ's for inserting the 30th Regiment, WHRID. The Koreans were inserted on the 6th with aviation assets being provided by several companies from the Battalion. Two ROK companies moved by foot into the area of operation with one company meeting unexpected heavy resistance. The operation was hindered due to unfavorable weather which limited close ground support with gunships.

The 92nd AHC sustained a stand-off mortar attack on the 12th resulting in negligible damage to maintenance equipment. Later in the month, the 92nd AHC was tasked to hanger two gunships at Bao Loc for an indefinite period of time. These guns provided air cover for the 19th Battalion, 35th Engineer Group and the MACV Advisory Team at Bao Loc.

The 155th AHC continued to provide support for units in the Darlac, Quang Duc, and Tuyen Duc provinces. Two UH-1H's and two UH-1C's were damaged when nine mortar rounds impacted in the revetment area at Camp Coryell in Ban Me Thuot on 9 June 1970.

On the 20th, the 281st AHC, supported by the 155th AHC and the 243rd ASHC, participated in the second phase of Operation Binh Tay III. Using Ban Don Special Forces Camp as a staging area, two battalions from each of the 44th and 45th Regiments, 23rd ARVN Division and two fire support bases (FSB's) were inserted 12 kilometers inside Cambodia. The 281st Intruders provided the air mission commander (AMC) and also supervised the rearming point plus assisting on POL, PZ control and recovery operations. Due to the distance separating the staging area and the 10th C.B., the POL capabilities were severely taxed; however, the S-4 called upon his

resources and provided the necessary forward POL and rearming points.

Again Cambodian operations proved successful as caches of weapons, ammunition and medical supplies were captured.

With the completion of six months of 1970, the 10th CMB aircraft had carried close to 350,000 passengers and over 25,000 tons of cargo. During the month of June the Battalion aircraft flew 11,170 hours and 27,091 sorties and carried 47,399 passengers and 4045 tons of cargo.

#### JULY

Aircraft of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to support on a daily basis the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Division, Task Force South and Deputy Senior Advisor for Military Region 2.

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion was tasked to insert Task Force South; the 44th Regiment, 23rd ARVN Division; and three fire support bases into an area of operations 25 miles north-northwest of Phan Thiet on Operation Hancock Gold. Aircraft from each company in the battalion were utilized with reinforcements being provided by the 268th CMB. The operation scheduled to start on the 4th called for simultaneous insertions into four areas of operation. The Binh Tuy and Binh Thuan Provinces, which covered the area of the operation, was still under the effect of the southwest monsoon, and weather conditions in the area forced a 24 hour delay until the 5th. On 5 July, the weather gradually started improving and the operation finally commenced at 1000 hours. Unable to complete the operation on the 5th and with weather conditions forecast to remain the same on the 6th, the AMC, LTC Jack A. Walker, advised the Airmobile Task Force Commander that it would be advisable to formulate an alternate plan. By 1300 hours on the 6th, an alternate plan was in effect. The 44th ARVN Regiment and 1/50th Mechanized Infantry Battalion were to be inserted into

the original area of operations with 3/506th Infantry Battalion being inserted southeast of their original area of operation. Weather continued to hamper the operation as low clouds and moderate turbulence were encountered during the insertion of the 3/506th. The final insertion was completed at 1800 hours on the 6th. Although the operation was 48 hours behind the scheduled time frame for completion and the element of surprise was lost, Vagabond pilots showed the ability to cope with the changes and the weather while performing the mission without any mishaps. This operation exhibits the professionalism demanded by the pilots of the 10th CAB. Support of the operation was continued for nine days; the operation was considered very successful.

On 9 July, the 92nd AHC received a 107mm rocket attack which caused damage to the operations building with negative casualties. On the 15th the 155th AHC, located at Ban Me Thuot, experienced a standoff mortar attack with three gunships sustaining moderate damage.

In support of the units of the seven southern provinces of Military Region 2, the 10th CAB aircraft compiled the following statistics during July: 11,780 hours flown, 27,689 sorties, 43,929 troops transported, and 3,383 tons of cargo airlifted.

#### AUGUST

During the month of August, large scale operations decreased but the 10th CAB continued to have many long days of flying in support of the units of southern Military Region II.

On the 3rd, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion augmented by WNAF UH-1H's and CH-47's from the 52nd CAB lifted elements of the 45th Regiment,



23rd ARVN Division from Buon Ea Yang into an area approximately 50 kilometers east of Ban Me Thuot. On 17 August, the 155th AHC supported by the 231st AHC and the 243rd ASHC, utilizing Buon Ea Yang as a staging area, inserted the 45th Regiment, 23rd ARVN Division into "Happy Valley" approximately 40 kilometers southeast of Ban Me Thuot.

In company size or smaller operations, the 48th AHC supported five combat assaults and three extractions for elements of the 28th and 29th Regiments, WHRID from 1 through 24 August. These operations were conducted in areas west of Tuy Hoa and west of Ninh Hoa.

On 13 August, the 192nd AHC and 198th Medical Detachment conducted a major air-sea and land movement from LZ Betty to a new home at Phan Rang Air Base. As a result of efficient and detailed planning, the move was made with little difficulty and the 192nd remained operational throughout the move. In inheriting a new home, the Polecats had many hours of work ahead of them as the buildings were in a low state of repair. Without a significant change in its area of operations, the 192nd AHC continued support for Task Force South, elements of 23rd ARVN Division, DSA MR2, and other units in the Phan Rang-Phan Thiet area.

The operations of the other companies in the battalion continued to be in general support of units throughout Military Region 2. Support requirements decreased in Pleiku Province in comparison with the large commitments of May, June and July. Vagabond aircraft compiled the following operational statistics for the month: 9,845 hours flown, 27,753 sorties, 44,708 troops airlifted, and 3522 tons of cargo hauled.

## SEPTEMBER

With the winter monsoons approaching, units supported by the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion planned operations during September in efforts to take advantage of the good weather before the monsoons. The 10th CAB was tasked to support operations for the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Division, 22nd ARVN Ranger Battalion, and "C" Company 75th Ranger Battalion.

The White Horse ROK Infantry Division initiated operation Do Kae Bi 18 on 1 September in an area northwest of Tuy Hoa. Elements of the 98th Regiment were airlifted by the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion into five LZ's utilizing initial simultaneous gunship preps and insertions. The Battalion S-4 was required to establish a forward rearm point and two POL points which functioned throughout the operation. After completion of the insertion, CH-47's dropped sling loads of fugas, similar to napalm, from 2000 feet above ground level on enemy cave and tunnel complexes. Target hits were accurate even though this was the first time the 10th CAB had conducted this type mission. Battalion gunships were credited with five enemy KBA's, ten enemy WIA's, one 60mm mortar destroyed, and two B-40 rockets destroyed. The 48th AHC and 243rd ASHC provided resupply for the operation until the extraction was performed on the 24th.

VNAF's UH-1H's augmented the 155th AHC in inserting the 45th Regiment, 23rd ARVN Division on 3 September. The operation was hampered by bad weather which resulted in only three of the proposed nine LZ's being used. Due to the bad weather, the operation was not fully completed until 10 September.

Intelligence revealed an enemy buildup in an area west of Nha Trang. On 8 September, the 22nd ARVN Ranger Battalion from Pleiku and "C" Company 75th Ranger Battalion were inserted into the mountains west of Nha Trang. The 281st AHC provided the Air Mission Commander for this operation and selected Trung Dung, located west of Nha Trang, as the staging area. Twenty-eight combat assaults were flown in support of these troops with primary support coming from the 281st AHC.

On 18 September, the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, utilizing 10th CAB's aircraft, began Operation Dong Bo 18 in an area west of Dong Ba Thin. The three phased operation began with the 30th Regiment reinforced by elements of the 29th Regiment being airlifted by Vagabond aircraft. Elements were inserted into five LZ's simultaneously. Phase II of the operation was commenced on 29 September; however, landing zone preparation began prior to this date. The Special Forces and RECON Companies of the 30th Regiment, assisted and advised by the Pathfinders of the 10th CAB, cleared these LZ's. This phase of the operation was delayed until the afternoon due to marginal weather conditions in the area of operations. Phase III, the extraction, took place on 3 October.

The 45th ARVN Regiment was inserted into the "Happy Valley" area on 29 September. Supported by the 155th and staging out of Buon Ea Yang, the ARVN's made a search and clear sweep of the area southeast of Buon Ea Yang. Troops were airlifted into ten LZ's. During the insertion several aircraft received ground fire; however, there were no injuries to personnel or damage to the aircraft.

The 10th CAB continued to provide support for units in the seven southern provinces of Military Region 2. Vagabond aircraft compiled the following operational statistics for September: 11,139 hours flown, 27,501 sorties, 44,393 troops transported, and 4,299 tons of cargo hauled.

#### OCTOBER

Requirements for aircraft decreased somewhat in the month of October. One battalion operation was conducted for the 28th Regiment, WHAID. Other operations were on company or platoon size level.

The 155th AHC continued to provide aviation support to the 45th ARVN Regiment in the Ban Me Thuot area. On 9 October the Stagecoach-Falcon team, staging out of Buon Ho, airlifted elements of the 45th Regiment into nine LZ's northeast of the staging area for a search and clear mission.

The White Horse ROK Infantry Division planned another operation in the mountains west of Tuy Hoa. The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion inserted elements of the 28th ROK Regiment on 14 October in support of operation Do Kae Bi 19. The operation continued through 24 October when the troops were extracted by Vagabond aircraft. During the ground operation, daily resupply was performed by Blue Star and Freight Train aircraft. Captured weapons and ammunition plus approximately 50 enemy KLA's were evidence of another successful operation.

Task Force South, which received the majority of its support from the 192nd AHC, deactivated on 1 October; however, the 192nd continued to support 1/50th Mechanized Infantry, "C" Company 75th Rangers, and ARVN units in their area of operation.

Airmobile operations began to feel the effects of the winter monsoon in the latter part of October. Coastal regions experienced early morning low sailings with occasional clearing around mid-day. This occasional clearing invariably proved to be temporary as the weather started deteriorating at approximately 1400 hours every afternoon. As a result of the weather, many missions were aborted while others were never started at all.

The diversified aviation support characteristic of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion was further broadened when the 183rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company was transferred from the 223rd CAB to the 10th CAB on 15 October. This transfer was homecoming for the 183rd as it was a member of the 10th CAB in 1966. The 183rd provided aircraft for visual reconnaissances (VR's) for Khanh Hoa, Phu Yen, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Minh Thuan, Quang Duc, and Tuyen Duc Provinces plus convoy cover for Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, artillery observation for IFFV Artillery, and reconnaissances for "C" Company 75th Rangers.

Preparations were begun for the inactivation of the 281st AHC. The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion at the end of October was still composed of seven companies; however, the airmobile capabilities were reduced with the loss of one assault helicopter company. During the month Vagabond aircraft compiled the following statistics: 9,909 hours flown, 23,474 sorties, 34,042 troops transported and 2867 tons of cargo airlifted.

#### NOVEMBER

The month of November saw a decrease in activity for the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion due to the winter monsoons. Battalion aircraft again were required for missions in Pleiku Province along with the daily missions in southern Military Region 2.

Aircraft from the 48th AHC were sent to An Son to remain over night (RON) to support the 129th Assault Helicopter Company. The 155th AHC provided support to the 42nd ARVN Regiments in Pleiku Province which was outside their normal area of operations. Support by other companies to units in their respective areas of operation. Combat assaults continued to be flown, but were only company or platoon size operations.

With a decrease in large scale operations, the statistics compiled decreased respectively in comparison to previous months. Battalion aircraft compiled the following statistics: 9,168 hours flown; 20,000 sorties; 31,110 troops transported; and 2,707 tons of cargo airlifted.

#### DECEMBER

On 14 December, in a ceremony held at 10th CAB Headquarters, the 281st Assault Helicopter Company was officially inactivated and taken from the active rolls of the United States Army. Intruders had served in the Republic of Vietnam for four and a half years and compiled an impressive lineage of honors and awards.

With the implementation of the Vietnamization program, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion was chosen to provide combat flying experience to pilots of the Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) under the provisions of the Improvement and Modernization Program. The 92nd AHC and 243rd ASHC were designated to train the VNAF pilots. The VNAF pilots arrived on the 10th and 15th December at the 243rd and 92nd, respectively. Preparations were made for living and messing facilities as the VNAF pilots were to be part of the company during this training period. With careful prior planning and close liaison with The Vietnamese Air Force, the program has been an overwhelming success.

In mid-December, the 155th Assault Helicopter Company began standdown operation in preparation for inactivation in early 1971. With inactivation of two assault helicopter companies, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's aviation assets were almost cut in half.

As a result of greater command emphasis, better education and improved standardization, the 10th CAB was able to drastically reduce the number of accidents thereby saving lives and equipment. At the end of 1970, the 10th CAB had compiled 144 consecutive days without an aircraft accident.

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion closed the year by flying 8,628 hours and 18,781 sorties plus transporting 26,982 troops and 1,402 tons of cargo.

The year saw Vagabond aircraft flying throughout Military Region 2, but 1970 will always be remembered as the year of the Cambodian campaign. The Vagabonds compiled the following statistics during 1970:

HOURS FLOWN.....	133,702
SORTIES FLOWN.....	324,603
TROOPS CARRIED.....	566,908
CARGO HAULED (TONS).....	44,595

## FOREWARD

During the past year the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to support the ground units throughout Military Region II. Although several times throughout the year elements of the 10th Battalion were utilized in the northern provinces, sometimes for extended periods, the primary area of operation was the seven southern provinces. These seven provinces comprise 23% of the land mass of the Republic of Vietnam and was the largest AO for any aviation Battalion.

While supporting the following units; White Horse ROK Infantry Division (WHRID), 23rd Infantry Division (ARVN), Cam Ranh Bay Support Command (CRBSC), Civil and Rural Development (CORDS), Artillery and Engineer units, and the 17th Combat Aviation Group, the 10th Battalion flew 89,377 hours and carried 17,637 tons of cargo and 276,792 passengers.

The primary mission of a combat aviation battalion is to support the insertion, extraction and resupply of combat units in the field. While supporting the WHRID and 23rd ARVN Division the 10th Battalion conducted twenty-two (22) Regiment size, one (1) division size, and twenty three (23) battalion size combat assaults.

During the year the 10th Battalion experienced several organizational changes beginning with the 48th AHC being reassigned in January, followed by the acquisition of "A" Troop 7/17th ACS, D, "C, and D Companies 227th in late March, to the reassignment of B/227th in July, the stand-down of the 243rd ASHC and D/227th in August, the stand-down of the 183rd MAC, 92nd and 192nd AHC's in December, the



reassignment of the 60th AHC (formerly C/227th) and A/7/17th and finally the stand-down of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion Headquarters. Despite these potentially disruptive changes the Battalion has continued to function cohesively and at peak efficiency in the performance of its assigned mission.

Over the last five years the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion has provided the finest aviation support possible and has earned the reputation of being one of the best aviation battalions in Vietnam.

At the close of the year 1971 the 10th Battalion's role in Vietnam was finished and within a few days will be redeployed to CONUS where they will undoubtedly continue to provide the best possible aviation support.

## 10TH COMBAT AVIATION BATTALION

### COMMANDERS

LTC JACK A. WALKER	1 January 1971 - 18 April 1971
MAJ GEORGE A. HOOKER	18 April 1971 - 11 May 1971
LTC JAMES O. HEGDAHL	12 May 1971 - 31 December 1971

### MISSION

The mission of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion is to provide aviation support as directed by the Commander, 17th Combat Aviation Group in support of airmobile operations designed to search out and destroy the insurgent enemy and to extend Government of Vietnam (GVN) control of the population; to provide general support aviation as directed by Commanding Officer, 17th Combat Aviation Group to Second Regional Assistance Group, (SRAG), Deputy Senior Advisor (DSA) Military Region II, White Horse ROK Infantry Division (WHRID), 23rd ARVN Infantry Division; and to provide command and control of assigned and attached units as directed by Commanding Officer, 17th Combat Aviation Group.

## UNIT COMMANDERS

### HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

CAPTAIN DAVID J. REDDEL	1 January 1971 - 25 January 1971
CAPTAIN CHARLES E. MARKHAM	25 January 1971 - 25 April 1971
CAPTAIN BOBBIE D. MAY	25 April 1971 - 24 September 1971
CAPTAIN JOSEPH P. DAUGHERTY	24 September 1971 - 31 December 1971

### 48TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

MAJOR WILLIS R. DUNTING	1 January 1971 - 31 January 1971
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### 50TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

MAJOR CHARLES BARNES	25 March 1971 - 10 May 1971
MAJOR RUDOLPH OSTOVICH III	10 May 1971 - 14 November 1971
MAJOR DAVID E. HILL	14 November 1971 - 1 December 1971

### 92ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

MAJOR RODNEY D. LESTER	1 January 1971 - 15 March 1971
MAJOR RUDOLPH E. ABBOTT	15 March 1971 - 28 August 1971
MAJOR DONALD A. COLEMAN	28 August 1971 - 31 December 1971

### 183RD RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY

MAJOR ARVIN L. SOLOMON	1 January 1971 - 11 January 1971
MAJOR RICHARD N. KNUTSON	11 January 1971 - 1 July 1971
CAPTAIN DOUGLAS J. BELL	1 July 1971 - 2 August 1971
MAJOR JIMMY W. STINEBAUGH	2 August 1971 - 1 December 1971

### 192ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

MAJOR JAMES L. HIGGINBOTHAM	1 January 1971 - 18 January 1971
MAJOR ARTHUR R. GRIFFIN	18 January 1971 - 30 July 1971
MAJOR IRWIN S. DIERKING	30 July 1971 - 1 December 1971

# ORGANIZATION CHART

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APO</u>
HQ, 10TH CAB	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
HHC, 10TH CAB	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
130TH MED DET O/A	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
339TH AVN DET (DIV)	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
60TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY	Ninh Hoa, RVN	96240
430TH MED DET	Ninh Hoa, RVN	96240
*****		
92ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
183RD RECONNAISSANCE AIRPLANE COMPANY	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
192ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
198TH MED DET	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
243RD ASSAULT SUPPORT HELICOPTER COMPANY	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
B/227TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
D/227TH AERIAL WEAPONS COMPANY	Dong Ba Thin, RVN	96377
*****		
A TROOP 7TH SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY	Phan Rang, RVN	96321

## BATTALION OPERATION 1971

During 1971, the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion provided continuous aviation support to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Free World Allied Forces in Military Region II. This summary of the major activities during the year is, of necessity, a condensed presentation. While providing aircraft for many missions which do not constitute a significant activity, these missions were an integral part of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion's support in MR II.

### JANUARY

Major aviation support for January was provided to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Division, CORDS, and Cam Ranh Bay Support Command.

The 48th Assault Helicopter Company provided the majority of the support to the WHRID until 30 January when they were reassigned to the 223rd Combat Aviation Battalion at Dong Ha. The 92nd AHC continued to train VNAF aviators under the I&M Program. On 11 January 1971 Major Richard N. Knutson assumed command of the 183rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company. In addition, the 183rd Mess Hall was chosen as the 1st Aviation Brigade "Best Mess Hall" and is in contention for USARV "Best Mess". On 18 January 1971, Major Arthur R. Griffin assumed command of the 195th Assault Helicopter Company replacing Major James L. Higginbotham who became the 10th CAD S3. The 155th Assault Helicopter Company "Stagecoach" completed deactivation on 30 January 1971 thus eliminating aviation support for the Ban Me Thout area. One other unit, the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company continued to train VNAF pilots under the I&M Program.

## FEBRUARY

During February 1971, the 10th CAB continued to support units within the seven southern provinces of MR II. One major operation was conducted by the WHRID. On 23 February the 28th and 29th Regiments, totaling 3,000+ troops, were inserted west of Tuy Hoa. Training under the I&M Program continued in the 92nd AHC with no significant problems encountered. The 183rd RAC continued to provide visual reconnaissance and convoy cover for the southern half of MR II. In order to provide better aviation support in Ban Me Thout, a package of six (6) UH-1H and two (2) UH-1M aircraft from the 192nd AHC were sent to Camp Coryell at Ban Me Thout. The 243rd ASHC continued to provide medium lift support throughout the southern half of MR II. In addition the company successfully completed VNAF training under the I&M Program on 10 February. In early February A Troop was attached to the 10th CAB. A Troop moved to Phan Rang Air Base and within a few days were operational. Their primary mission was to conduct air cavalry scout support for the 23rd ARVN Division.

## MARCH

During the month the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion and its assigned units continued to support the various units throughout the seven southern provinces of MR II. There was one (1) major operation this month. On 24 March the 30th Regiment of the WHRID was inserted into an area northwest of Nha Trang, RVN. During the insertion one (1) aircraft received combat damage with negative injuries. On 15 March, Major Rudolph E. Abbott assumed command replacing Major

Rodney Lester of the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company. In addition the VNAF aviators training with the 92nd AHC under the I&M Program successfully completed their training program averaging 230 hours per aviator. The 183rd RAC continued to provide visual reconnaissance for MR II and on two occasions one of their aircraft received heavy enemy fire. During March the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company continued to provide general support for MR II. On 9 March two gunships were employed in a search for a missing Air Force F-100 fighter bomber. Unfortunately the results were negative. On two (2) occasions the Tiger Shark gunships were used to cover a Dustoff mission. On one of these missions, 16 March, one individual received a wound in the arm, and on the other, 23 March, one aircraft was destroyed and all four crewmembers were injured when the aircraft crashed into the side of a mountain due to IMC. In addition to providing aircraft for the 30th Regiment insertion on 24 March, the 192nd AHC also provided six (6) UH-1H and four (4) UH-1C aircraft on 30 March for an insertion of 410 troops of the 29th ROK Regiment. The 243rd Assault Helicopter Company continued its normal mission throughout MR II. "A" Troop 7/17th Cav enjoyed a very productive month while in support of the 23rd ARVN Division. During the month they were credited with three (3) enemy KDA's, seventeen (17) structures destroyed and seventy-five (75) bunkers destroyed. On 25 March 1971 three units, B, C, and D Companies of the 227th Aviation Battalion 1st Cavalry Division Airmobile were assigned to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion.

## APRIL

April brought several changes to the missions flown by the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. In addition to the normal units supported by the 10th CAB, WHRID, 23rd ARVN Div, CRESC, aircraft were sent to the Qui Nhon area almost on a daily basis to help support the Capitol ROK Infantry Division. There were two major operations this month when aircraft from the 10th CAB extracted the 30th ROK Regiment and on 25 April inserted the 26th Regiment into an AO west of Tuy Hoa, RVN.

The 92nd AHC, 192nd AHC, 183rd RAC and 243rd ASHC all continued their normal missions. After being given time to get set up, the units from the 1st Air Cavalry Division began to operate under the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. C Company 227th was given the mission of providing support to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division. B Company and D Company were tasked for aircraft to be laagered at Pleiku for the increased enemy activity in that area. These aircraft were placed under the operational control of the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion. "A" Troop 7/17 Cav was also tasked to send aircraft to Pleiku under operational control of the 52nd CAB. "A" Troop supported both the 22nd and 23rd ARVN Divisions and were credited with fifty-five (55) enemy KBA's during the month.

## MAY

During the month of May there was only one (1) significant operation. Elements of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion extracted the 26th ROK Regiment which had been inserted the previous month.



There were three (3) administrative changes during the month. Major Rudolph Ostovich III took command of C Company 227th on 10 May 1971 replacing Major Charles Barnes. Major Frank T. Peterlin assumed command of the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company on 18 May replacing Major Eulus E. Evans. On 12 May 1971 LTC James O. Hegdahl assumed command of the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion replacing Major George A. Hooker who had been commanding the battalion since late March when LTC Jack Walker was called home on emergency leave. During the month the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company was also tasked to provide a laager package at Pleiku under operational control of the 52nd Combat Aviation Battalion. The 92nd AHC started training a new group of seven (7) VNAF aviators under the provisions of the Improvement and Modernization Program on 10 May 1971. At the end of May these VNAF aviators had an average of 56.1 hours. In addition to providing the normal visual reconnaissance support for the southern half of MR II, the 183rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company assumed a new mission. This being a coastal reconnaissance for Navy Intelligence. The 192nd Assault Helicopter Company continued to provide a laager package at Dan Me Thout in support of the 23rd ARVN Division. The 192nd AHC also began training seven (7) VNAF aviators under the I&M Program on 10 May 71. Troop A, 7/17th Air Cavalry Squadron continued to support the 22nd and 23rd ARVN Divisions in the Pleiku area. Also B Company and D Company 227th continued to laager aircraft at Pleiku while C Company 227th continued to support the White Horse ROK Infantry Division.

## JUNE

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to support the ground forces of the seven southern provinces of MR II and visual reconnaissance of Phu Yen Province. Vagabond aircraft provided support to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Infantry Division, DSA MR II, Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, SRAG Artillery, and 17th CAG. On 11 June, Major John Retterer took command of D Company 227th, replacing Major Calway C. Cauley. On 20 June the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company and C Company 227th were the primary assets used in the insertion of the 29th Regiment, White Horse ROK Infantry Division into the mountainous area approximately 20 kilometers west of Ninh Hoa. On 23 June, the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company was relieved of its mission in the Pleiku area and assumed the laager package at Ban Me Thout replacing the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company. Their primary mission was to continue support for the 23rd ARVN Infantry Division. The 92nd AHC and 192nd AHC continued to train VNAF aviators under the I&M Program. B Company and D Company were also released from their mission at Pleiku and returned to Dong Da Thin while "A" Troop continued to support units in the Pleiku area. Upon their release from the Ban Me Thout mission the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company became the primary support for the Civil Operations and Rural Development Support (CORDS) Program operated by MACV. C Company continued to support the White Horse ROK Infantry Division and the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company continued to provide medium lift support for southern MR II.

## JULY

This month Vagabond aircraft continued to support various units of southern MR II. In addition there were two major changes within the battalion. On 5 July the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company began stand-down for redeployment to CONUS. This eliminated the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion capability to provide medium lift support. The 10th CAB lost one other unit when on 17 July B Company 227th was reassigned to the 268th Combat Aviation Battalion and moved to Tuy Hoa, RVN. On 30 July Major Irwin S. Dierking assumed command of the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company from departing Major Arthur R. Griffin. There were three major operations during the month beginning with the extraction of the 29th ROK Regiment from an area 30 kilometers west southwest of Ninh Hoa. On 12 and 13 July C Company 227th and the 192nd AHC were the primary assets used to insert the 30th ROK Regiment into LZ's 40 kilometers west of Dong Ba Thin. Then again the same assets were used on 26 July to extract the 30th Regiment from the same area. The remainder of the 10th CAB units continued with their normal missions with the exception of "A" Troop 7/17th CAV. On 6 July they began preparations to move from Pleiku, where they had been operating for 95 days, back to Phan Rang Air Base.

## AUGUST

The month of August brought several changes to the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. On 2 August Major Jimmy W. Stinebaugh assumed command of the 183rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company replacing CPT Douglas J. Bell, who had commanded the company since 1 July 1971. Major Ronald

.. A. Coleman left his position as the 10th CAB S3 on 28 August to assume command of the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company from Major Rudolph E. Abbott. On 31 August 1971 C Company 227th was redesignated the 60th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter). There were two major operations this month which ultimately were the last regimental size operations to be supported by the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. On 10 August the 28th ROK Regiment was inserted into the mountains northwest of Tuy Hoa and on 24 August they were extracted from the same area. On 8 August the 243rd Assault Support Helicopter Company completed stand-down procedures and was redeployed to Ft. Lewis, Washington. Major Frank T. Peterlin, the commanding officer of the 243rd, was reassigned to the 10th CAB Headquarters as Battalion Executive Officer. On 10 August D Company 227th began stand-down proceedings and completed on 29 August. This eliminated the Aerial Weapons Company and reduced the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion to five (5) operational companies plus Headquarters Company. Both the 92nd and the 192nd Assault Helicopter Companies completed training the VNAF Aviators under the Improvement and Modernization Program averaging 225 hours per aviator. Other than this the 92nd and 192nd AHC's continued their normal mission along with the remainder of the battalion.

#### SEPTEMBER

The month of September brought a marked increase in the number of combat assaults supported by the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion. Although there were no regimental size operations, there

were 13 battalion size insertions and extractions. The primary units supported belonged to the White Horse ROK Infantry Division however there were two combat assaults, 2 September and 11 September, conducted for the 23rd ARVN Division. Beginning on 10 September the 60th, 92nd and 192nd Assault Helicopter Companies inserted six different battalions and extracted five of these battalions, the last on 30 September. In addition to the numerous combat assaults the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued its normal support for Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, 23rd ARVN Infantry Division, White Horse ROK Infantry Division, CORDS, and the 17th CAG.

#### OCTOBER

The 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to support the ground forces of the seven southern provinces of MR II during the month of October. On 6 October Camp Coryell at Dan Me Thout was closed which caused the aircraft package from the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company to disperse some of its aircraft. Three (3) UH-1H and two UH-1M remained at Dan Me Thout while two UH-1H went to Pleiku and one went to Gia Nghia. During the Vietnam Presidential Election period several aircraft from "A" Troop 7/17th Cavalry and the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company were sent to Bao Loc as increased security for that area. There were two battalion size operations this month. The 60th Assault Helicopter Company, with aircraft added from both the 92nd and 192nd Assault Helicopter Companies inserted the 2nd Bn of the 29th ROK Regiment on 9 October and the 1st Bn of the 28th ROK Regiment on 10 October. On 23 October

the 60th AHC extracted the 2nd Bn 29th RGT while the 1st Bn 28th RGT walked out of the field. Two units of the Battalion had very much success during the month inflicting heavy damage to the enemy. The 92nd Assault Helicopter Company gunships were credited with 3 bunkers destroyed and 38 enemy killed in action. "A" Troop 7/17th Cav was even more successful when they were credited with destruction of an enemy hootch complex, 10 bunkers destroyed and 25 enemy killed in action. Training of VNAF Aviators continued under the I&M Program in both the 192nd and 60th Assault Helicopter Companies who had five (5) aviators each.

#### NOVEMBER

During November Vagabond aircraft were again involved in several battalion operations. On 3 November elements of the 44th ARVN Regiment 23rd ARVN Division were inserted near Song Mao, 4 November an RFPF force from Dinh Thuan province was inserted near Phan Thiet, on 7 November 10 Vagabond aircraft linked up with VNAF elements to aid in the insertion of the 45th ARVN Regiment near Phu Nhon and on 17 November 12 aircraft again joined the VNAF to extract the 45th Regiment. The next two days, 18 and 19 November, the 60th Assault Helicopter Company acted as C&C for two insertions of elements of the 28th and 29th Regiments respectively and then again on 21 November for an insertion of the 2nd Bn 30th ROK Regiment. Then on 26 November the elements of the 29th ROK Regiment and on 27 November the elements of the 30th ROK Regiment were extracted while the 28th Regiment walked out of the field. This month found the

10th Combat Aviation Battalion strength cut even further when the 183rd Reconnaissance Airplane Company began stand-down on 1 November. This eliminated the Battalion's visual reconnaissance missions for the southern half of MR II. Both the 192nd and 60th Assault Helicopter Companies completed training the VNAF aviators attached to them under the Improvement and Modernization Program averaging just over 200 hours per aviator. Again the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company and "A" Troop 7/17th Cavalry enjoyed successful months when the 92nd AHC gunships were credited with 50 enemy KDA's and "A" Troop, after moving back to Pleoku for a few days, destroyed and damaged several bunker complexes.

## DECEMBER

During the month of December the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion continued to provide support for the seven southern provinces of MR II to include the White Horse ROK Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Infantry Division, Cam Ranh Bay Support Command and 17th CAG. As the month progressed the 10th Battalion's support was continually reduced until 31 December 1971 when the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion reassigned its two remaining units, the 60th Assault Helicopter Company and "A" Troop 7th Squadron 17th Cavalry, and began stand-down procedures for future redeployment to CONUS. During the month elements of the 10th CAB supported three (3) ROK battalion combat assaults in addition to the normal missions flown. On 1 December the 92nd Assault Helicopter Company began stand-down and completed on 31 December. There was only one major problem encountered, this being the late disposition of personnel and aircraft. On 20 December 1971 the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company began its stand-down. Their scheduled completion date is 20 January 1972.

## 60th AHC

During December the 60th AHC continued to provide the primary aviation support for the White Horse ROK Infantry Division. In this capacity they provided the majority of the aircraft and the C&C for three ROK battalion operations. The 60th AHC also assumed the Cam Ranh Bay Support Command mission on the 20th when the 192nd started stand-down. In order to provide the maximum support possible the 60th AHC acquired three (3) additional UH-1H aircraft and an aerial



weapons platoon consisting of six (6) AH-1G Cobra Gunships.

#### 92nd AHC

During the month of December the 92nd AHC did not provide aviation support due to the fact they began stand-down procedures on 1 December. Everything progressed on schedule and the deactivation was complete on 31 December 1971.

#### 192nd AHC

For the first twenty (20) days of December the 192nd AHC continued to provide aviation support for the combat and combat support units within the seven southern provinces of MR II. During the month the 192nd experienced three (3) minor aircraft incidents with no injuries to personnel.

#### A/7/17 ACS

During December A Troop supported elements of the 23rd ARVN Division in areas around Song Mao, Dalat, and Dao Loc. They also supported the Ninh Thuan Province Intelligence Platoon at Phan Rang and JDOC at Cam Ranh Bay. While in support of these various units A/7/17 spotted several structures, bunkers, and enemy personnel. The gunships expended their ordnance on several of these sightings resulting in many structures and bunkers destroyed or damaged. A Troop also inserted troops into many of these areas. On the 20th of December A Troop was required to maintain a package of two (2) Cobra gunships and one (1) OH-6A LOH at Dong Ba Thin for the Cam Ranh Special Sector defense. Later in the month two (2) UH-1H aircraft were also sent to Dong Ba Thin and after the 31st the entire package will come under the operational control of Cam Ranh Bay Support Command.

For the year 1971 the 10th Combat Aviation Battalion, while supporting the combat support units of Military Region II, compiled the following statistics:

Hours flown.....	89,377
Troops lifted.....	276,792
Sorties.....	171,677
Cargo hauled (tons).....	17,637

# AWARDS 1971

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>AWARD RECEIVED</u>	
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY			
WALKER, Jack A.	LTC	Legion of Merit	
LESTER, Rodney	MAJ	Distinguished Flying Cross	
ACEVEDO, Ramon A.	CPT	Distinguished Flying Cross	
Bronze Star for Service and Achievement			37
Army Commendation Medal for Service and Achievement			122
Purple Heart			7
Air Medal for Valor			3
Air Medal			88

## 60TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

DUBAY, Ronald E.	CPT	Distinguished Flying Cross	
GRIFFIN, James G.	CPT	Distinguished Flying Cross	
CROSBY, Tholon F.	WO1	Distinguished Flying Cross	
HAYES, Robert A.	WO1	Distinguished Flying Cross	
HOOD, Charles H.	WO1	Distinguished Flying Cross	
Bronze Star for Service and Achievement			12
Army Commendation Medal for Service and Achievement			51
Purple Heart			1
Air Medal for Valor			30
Air Medal			50

## 92ND ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY

DEREN, Larry R.	CPT	Silver Star (Posthumous)	
LUDBENHUSEN, Gerald M.	SP4	Silver Star (Posthumous)	
LITTLETON, John W.	SP4	Silver Star (Posthumous)	
COBB, Bernard A.	CPT	Distinguished Flying Cross	
SHANAHAN, John L.	CPT	Distinguished Flying Cross	
Bronze Star for Service and Achievement			75
Army Commendation Medal for Service and Achievement			221
Purple Heart			5
Air Medal for Valor			3
Air Medal			654