

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT  
HISTORY OF THE  
HHC, 17TH AVN GP (CBT)  
17TH AVN GP (CBT)  
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969

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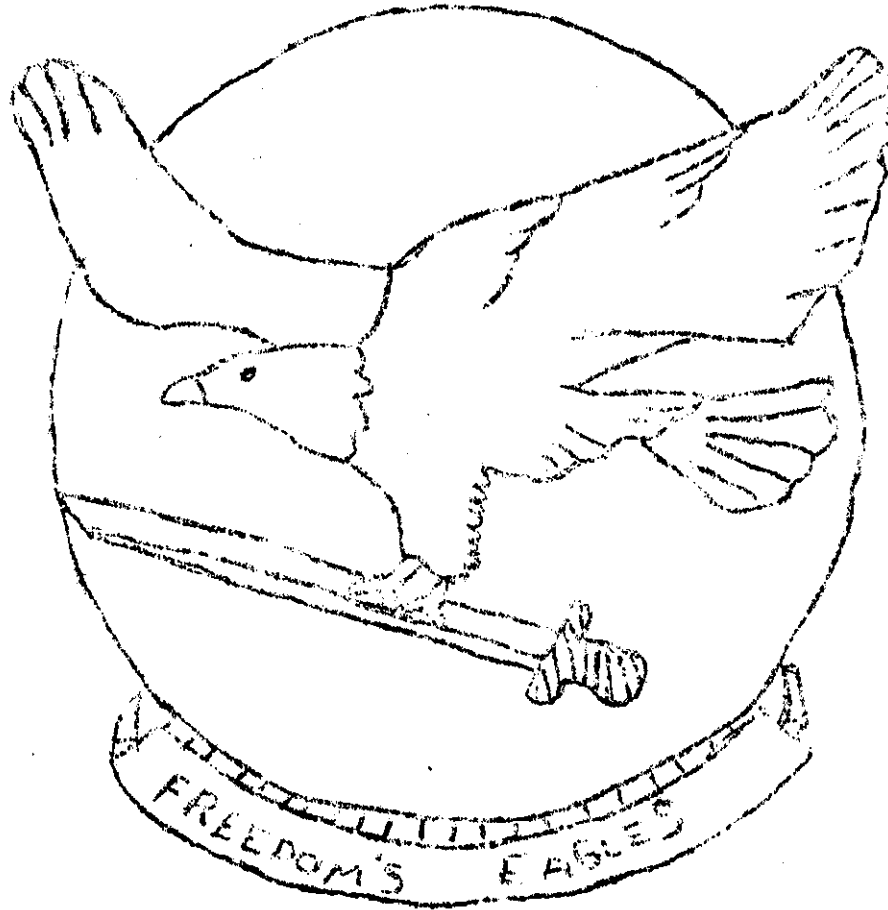
NHA TRANG, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
APO 96240

VHPAII

## V. REFLECTIONS

There were no casualties during the year of 1969 for HHC, 17th Avn Gp. Appropriate action was taken in seeing that all achievements were rewarded and that the proper medals and awards were bestowed on those that were deserving.

## I. HERITAGE



### Description of Unit Crest

The Freedom's Eagle is the official unit crest of the 17th Avn Gp (Cbt) and is approved and authorized for wear by members of this unit, consisting of a gold eagle flying through the sky grasping a sword with his claws of a blue background. Beneath the basis insignia is a gold scroll inscribed, "Freedom's Eagle", in red letters.

#### IV. UNIT OPERATIONS

The mission of Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group (Cbt) is to provide assigned and attached personnel with necessary administration, messing, billeting, and logistical support, also to maintain a high state of health, welfare, and morale and to provide the Group Commander with other support as directed.

Headquarters Company was not involved with engagements with the enemy during the year of 1969.

On 18 Dec 1969, 17th Aviation Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Company relocated from the Long Van Area of Nha Trang Airbase to the South side of the airfield, coordinates CPO3925149. The move was completed on 28 Dec 1969.

In summary HHC, 17th Aviation Group during the 12 month period processed 7,800 replacement personnel for further assignment to the five Aviation Battalions within the 17th Aviation Group. HHC, 17th Aviation Group was not involved in any combat assault missions; however, HHC, 17th Aviation Group had a total of 3,300 direct combat support operational sorties, carrying 4,513 troop passengers and 100 tons of cargo.

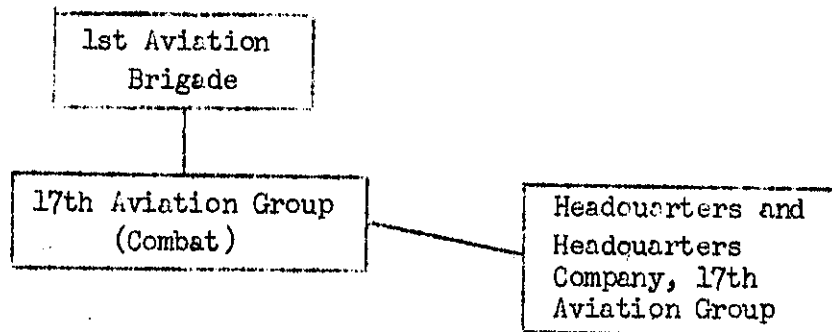
### Symbolism

The Eagle represents the Group's call sign and mascot, and the sword upon which it rides symbolized the military assistance to the Republic of Vietnam by the United States together with Free World Forces.

### Certificate of Lineage

Constituted 1 December 1965 in the Regular Army as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 17th Aviation Group is activated 15 December 1965 in Vietnam

### III. COMMAND AND CONTROL



During the course of the year HHC, 17th Avn Group enjoyed the leadership of three different Group Commanders and three different Company Commanders. Listed below are these commanders and the dates their command began:

#### 17TH AVIATION GROUP COMMANDERS

COLONEL JOHN A. TODD	13 May 1968
COLONEL NELSON A. MAHONE	13 Feb 1969
COLONEL BILLY R. WRIGHT	14 Sep 1969

#### HEADQUARTERS COMPANY COMMANDERS

CPT Garlind L. Reeves	30 Jul 1968
CPT Joseph D. Hibst	15 Jan 1969
CPT David B. Menig	21 Aug 1969

## II. Unit Background

The 17th Aviation Group (Cbt) is the newest of the Army's four aviation groups, and one of three such groups now serving in Vietnam and the only one ever created in a combat zone.

The 17th Aviation Group (Cbt) was created by General Order on 9 January 1965, and a USARPAC general order dated 9 December 1965, created Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 17th Aviation Group. The process of manning the new organization was held up until the following month by BG John C. Norton, USARV DDG, while the group colors were being made in a local Vietnamese tailor shop.

In Saigon on the morning of 1 January 1966, Colonel Gerald H. Shea former USARV Staff Aviation Officer was named commander of the embryonic headquarters and became its first member. Sergeant Major James R. McLin was added that afternoon.

On 7 January, BG Norton presented Colonel Shea with the 17th Group Colors. On 15 January, consisting of four officers, 12 enlisted men, the colors, a few pieces of equipment, no air or ground vehicles and one subordinate unit, the 17th Aviation Group deployed.

The destination was Nha Trang, 230 miles Northeast of Saigon, and here headquarters company was established.

On 12 March the Group was detached from USARV by General Order 1584 and reassigned to the U. S. Army Aviation Brigade (Provisional) the first aviation brigade ever and later to be so named.

In the first two years of existence the 17th Aviation Group (Cbt) amassed more than one million flying hours and transported three and one half million passengers, most of which was under combat conditions. Since 23 January 1969 the 17th Aviation Group has consisted of five battalions.

Headquarters Company is organized to provide the Commander, 17th Aviation Group, with the necessary tactical command and administrative support for all personnel assigned or attached to Headquarters, 17th Aviation Group (Cbt).

Opnl Results

Unit	Sorties Flown	Tons Lifted	Cargo Lifted (Tons)	Flying Hours
MHC, 17 <sup>th</sup> Gp.	783	1,583	10	714
201 <sup>st</sup> Avn Co	5,199	12,547	85	2,920
58 <sup>th</sup> Avn Det	opnl results are reported as combined totals by the 201 <sup>st</sup> Avn Co. & S			
17 <sup>th</sup> Avn Gp	5,982	14,130	95	3,634

Losses --- NONE