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AVBACB-CC (10 Nov 69)

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 52nd Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

(3) Personnel turnover for the reporting period was as follows:

MONTH	OFFICERS			EM		
	GAINS	LOSSES	CHANGE	GAINS	LOSSES	CHANGE
AUG	35	49	-14	190	167	+23
SEP	27	44	-17	162	117	+45
OCT	38	77	-34	136	147	-11
TOTALS	100	170	-65	488	431	+57

(4) The Battalion Total Strength is 1814, short 42 Enlisted Men, 35 Warrant Officers, and 15 Commissioned Officers as of 31 Oct 69. Unit strengths are shown in Inclosure 3.

(5) Public Information Office Activities:

- (a) Printed Releases 17
- (b) Pictorial Releases 3
- (c) Hometown Printed Releases 180
- (d) Hometown Pictorial Releases 15

(e) Civic action projects continue to receive much attention from the battalion. The Pat Smith Hospital in Kontum, the Tu Tam Orphanage in Pleiku, the Pleiku Catholic Parrish, and The Church in the Village of Plei Monu have all received financial assistance totaling approximately \$2,300.00. Frequent visits are made to the villages, orphanages, churches, and similar organizations within the area by MEDCAPS with food, clothing, and other contributions.

c. (C) Intelligence. The S-2 Section continues to publish a daily intelligence summary of significant activities in the Pleiku-Kontum area. Intelligence information is gathered from II Corps and 4th Infantry Division G-2 offices, other supported units, liaison visits to other S-2 offices and debriefings submitted by aviators and air mission commanders.

(1) Enemy Activity. There were three attacks by fire against 52nd Aviation Battalion (Combat) facilities during the reporting period. The enemy employed 82mm mortars in the first attack. In the second attack, he employed 82mm mortars and RPG-7s. The RPG-7s

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were all airbursts. In the last attack, he employed 140mm rockets. All of the attacks occurred at Camp Holloway while the 57th Avn Co at Kontum Airfield didn't experience any attacks. Significant activities during the period are listed in Inclosure 4.

(2) Movement. The 24th NVA Regt with the 4th and 6th Battalions moved back into the northern part of Fleiku Province to the North of Flei Mrong. This was substantiated by contacts, captured documents, prisoners and IR missions in their area of operations. There have been reports that the 408th Sapper Battalion has moved into Base Area 202 which is southeast of Fleiku City. The 4th Bn, 95B NVA Regt is reported to be in the area southwest of Oasis. Their mission has been reported to be that of transporting rice and supplies to the rest of the 95B Regt.

(3) New Units. There was one new unit confirmed in the Fleiku Province during the last three months. The 966th NVA Bn and K-31 Arty Bn have merged to form the K-631 NVA Bn. It is divided into six companies with a strength of 385 men. Its area of operation is to the northwest of Fleiku City. There have also been reports that a new Artillery Regt has been formed. It has taken the designation of 40B Artillery Regt and consists of the K41, K42, K46 and K47 Bns.

(4) Situation. NVA units have come back into Fleiku Province. They have the same mission as before, i.e., to interdict Hwy 14N. They have also conducted attacks by fire on RF/FF units, OPs and poorly defended hamlets. The K-631 Bn has been conducting attacks by fire against Allied and ARVN units and installations. The ground to air fire on helicopters has decreased from the last reporting period.

(5) Capabilities:

(a) Kontum Province. In Kontum Province the enemy forces can conduct standoff attacks or combination standoff/sapper attacks against US/Allied installations anywhere in the province. The enemy can employ mortars up to 120mm, 75mm recoilless rifles and rockets up to 140mm, 85mm/100mm/105mm artillery may be employed against installations near the Cambodian border. He can conduct ground attacks against friendly installations in up to reinforced battalion strength with supporting artillery, primarily in the area of Dak To, Ben Het and Dak Seang. The enemy also has the capability to interdict QL 14N and Route 512 as well as other lines of communication. Friendly air activity may be restricted with fire from small arms, automatic weapons, 12.7mm, 14.5mm and 37mm anti-aircraft weapons. A limited armor threat still exists in the vicinity of Ben Het.

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(b) Fleiku Province. Fleiku Province is also confronted with a variety of enemy capabilities to include: selective attacks on Fleiku City, Plei Djereng, Plei Me, Plei Mrong, Duc Co CIDG Camps or Edap Enang, Than An and Le Trung in multi-battalion strength, supported by mortar, rocket and recoilless rifle fire; attack Fleiku City, US/ARVN bases, CIDG camps, district headquarters and resettlement areas using 82mm mortars, recoilless rifle and 122mm/140mm rocket fire and sappers; set ambushes along QL 19E and QL 14, supported by 75mm recoilless rifle and 60mm/82mm mortar fire; attack lines of communication 509, TL6C, 437, TL7C and LTL 7B with VC elements using anti-tank grenades, recoilless rifle and mortar fire. The possibility of a limited armor and artillery capability exists in the vicinity of Duc Co.

d. (c) Operations.

(1) During this reporting period, the 52nd Aviation Battalion (Combat) supported Combat, Combat Support, Combat Service Support and Pacification Operations throughout the II Corps Tactical Zone. The "Flying Dragons" flew a total of 37,306 hours during this period, including 14,321 hours of combat assault. The majority of this aviation support was given to the U.S. 4th Infantry Division in Kontum, Fleiku, Darlac, Quang Duc and Binh Dinh Provinces. Other units or activities receiving daily aviation support include the Highway 19 Coordinator, CORDS, MACV, 5th Special Forces Group, ARVN 24th Special Tactical Zone, IFV Artillery, RVN II Corps Headquarters, and Fleiku, Kontum, Phu Bon, and Binh Dinh Sector Advisors. Six UH-1C and two CH-47 provided support to the Ban Me Thuot area during most of this period in support of the 4th Infantry Division, 23rd ARVN Division, IFV Artillery and the 5th Special Forces Group. Mission accomplishment has been satisfactory. Some units continue to use unimproved landing or pick up zones for their operations, reducing the capabilities of the supporting aircraft and causing blade strikes and other aircraft damage. Tabulated data of operational results is shown in Inclosure 5.

(2) The following 4th Infantry Division operations were supported during this period:

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>TERMINATION</u>	<u>START</u>
Hines	Continues	31 January 1969
Wayne Javelin	18 October 1969	
Putnam Tiger	22 September 1969	
Greene Orange III	15 August 1969	

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Wayne Breaker	Continues	19 October 1969
Putnam Wildcat	Continues	31 October 1969
Greene Bear	Continues	18 October 1969
Greene Bullet	Continues	20 October 1969
Hartle Green	Continues	14 October 1969
Kramer White	Continues	16 October 1969
Hodges Black	Continues	21 October 1969

(3) The 57th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) primarily supported the 24th STZ, Command and Control Central, Kontum Sector, B-24 and the 4th Infantry Division during this period.

(4) The 119th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) had the primary mission of supporting the 1st Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division. They also provided support to the Capital ROK Division and Binh Dinh Province.

(5) The 170th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) supported the 2nd Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division. Support was also provided to the 23rd ARVN Division in Quang Duc Province and other Free World Military Assistance Forces within II Corps Tactical Zone.

(6) The 189th Aviation Company (Assault Helicopter) provided support to the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, II Corps Headquarters, 23rd ARVN Division, 5th Special Forces Group and other FWMAF within the II Corps Tactical Zone.

(7) Medium helicopter support was provided throughout the II Corps Area of Operation by the 179th Aviation Company (Assault Support Helicopter). The majority of support was to the 4th Infantry Division and lesser support going to IFFV Artillery, II Corps (ARVN), 5th Special Forces Group and the 17th Aviation Group. During this quarter the 179th Avn Co flew 3,124 hours, delivering 16,772 troops and 12,547 tons of cargo in 6,968 sorties. Augmenting the 179th Avn Co is the 1st Platoon, 355th Aviation Company (Heavy Helicopter) which is OFCON to the 52nd ABC.

(8) The 361st Aviation Company (Escort) flew a total of 2,469 hours of which 2,071 hours were in support of combat assault missions. Armed helicopter support was provided for FOB II operations by four AH-1G aircraft daily. Two to four additional aircraft were provided daily for general support of units within the II Corps Tactical Zone.

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(9) During the period from 10 October to 18 October 1969, this battalion participated in an extensive search for two missing O-1 aircraft belonging to the 219th Aviation Company (Utility Aircraft). A total of 42 UH-1H, 4 UH-1C, 17 AH-1G, 3 CH-47 and 1 CH-54 were committed in the search. On 13 October the wreckage of one of the O-1's was found and later recovered. There was no sign of the aircraft occupants. The other O-1 was never sighted and the search continues in conjunction with normal missions.

(10) Pathfinder teams from the 52nd ABC continue to be extremely valuable in company size lifts. During the search for the two missing O-1 aircraft the Pathfinders were used to the fullest extent possible both in the aerial search and for the initial insertion into the O-1 aircraft wreckage location.

e. (C) Training. All battalion units and headquarters sections continue to use on-the-job (OJT) training due to the tactical and administrative mission requirements. Planned AR 350 series training is conducted as prescribed with makeup classes scheduled as necessary.

(1) During this quarter 35 quotas were requested for the Army Aviation Refresher Training School. 5 officers and 31 Enlisted Men attended and completed this training.

(2) One officer attended the Jungle Environmental Survival Training School.

(3) One officer attended the AH-1G IP course and four officers attended the UH-1 IP course.

(4) During this quarter additional training was given to all personnel concerning Drug Abuse and the recent changes to the UCMJ.

f. (C) Logistics.

(1) Class II:

(a) Significant improvements have been noted in the availability of Flight Safety items such as Nomex flight suits and gloves and body armor. Sufficient quantities of these items were received during the past quarter to satisfy initial issue requirements. It is expected that minor existing shortages will be filled in the near future.

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FORM

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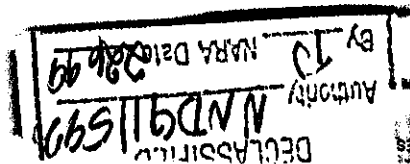
## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND STATION LIST

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APO</u>
52nd Avn Bn (Cbt) "Flying Dragons"	LTC Patrick J. O'Grady	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
HQ & HQ Company	CPT Robert Burdette	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
52nd Scty Det	CPT Vernon L Klinger	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
68th Radar Det	SSG Carl F Anderson	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
57th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Gladiators"	MAJ John D Charles	City Airfield Kontum, RVN	96499
119th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Alligators"	MAJ John P Fernald	Camp Radcliff An Khe, RVN	96294
94th Med Det	CPT Curtice T Martin	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
170th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Bikinis"	MAJ Douglas H Snell	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
755th Med Det	CPT Joseph F Homann	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
179th Avn Co (ASH) "Shrimpboats"	MAJ John E Pirkle	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
189th Avn Co (Aslt Hel) "Ghostriders"	MAJ John Ratliff	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
361st Avn Co (Escort) "Pink Panthers"	MAJ John Deryck	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
665th TC Det	CPT Charles J Savage	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
621st Sig Det	SSG Ronald L Ewing	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494

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Inclosure 1

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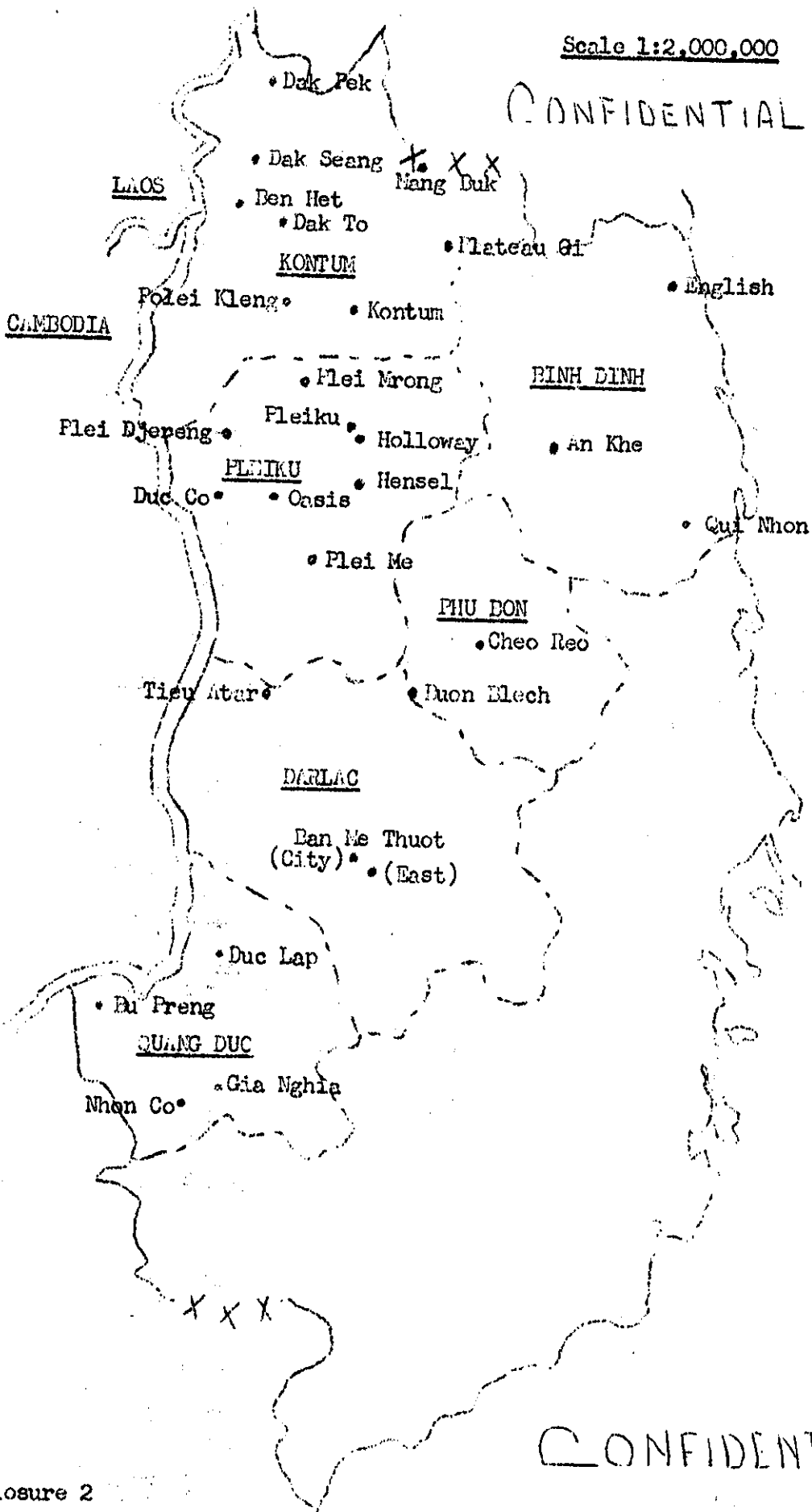
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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>COMMANDER</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APO</u>
344th ASD	LTC Velma Parker	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494
1st Plt, 355th HHC "Workhorse" (OPCON)	CPT Charles W Eliason	Camp Holloway Fleiku, RVN	96494

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UNIT STRENGTH AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1969

1. (C) Military:

UNIT	OFFICERS		WARRANT OFFICERS		ENLISTED MEN	
	Auth	Asg	Auth	Asg	Auth	Asg
HHC	19	18	3	7	87	110
94th Med Det	1	1	0	0	8	7
755th Med Det	1	1	0	0	8	6
52nd Scty Det	1	1	0	0	151	139
68th Radar Det	0	0	0	0	19	21
57th Avn Co (Aslt Hel)	19	16	51	44	219	216
154th Med Det	1	1	0	0	8	8
119th Avn Co (Aslt Hel)	19	16	51	37	219	213
170th Avn Co (Aslt Hel)	19	17	51	43	219	212
179th Avn Co (Aslt Spt Hel)	15	13	26	21	228	211
189th Avn Co (Aslt Hel)	19	16	51	39	219	222
361st Avn Co (Escort)	16	15	13	20	80	72
621st Sig Det	0	0	0	0	6	4
665th Trans Det	1	1	1	1	57	45
52ND ABC	131	116	247	212	1528	1486

2. (C) Civilian.

UNIT	DAC		VN		3D COUNTRY NATIONALS	
	Auth	Asg	Auth	Asg	Auth	Asg
52nd HHC	0	0	21	20	0	0
57th Avn Co (AH)	0	0	15	0	0	0
119th Avn Co (AH)	0	0	13	0	0	0
170th Avn Co (AH)	0	0	11	9	0	0
179th Avn Co (ASH)	1	1	10	10	0	0
189th Avn Co (AH)	0	0	14	13	0	0
361st Avn Co (E)	0	0	3	3	0	0
52ND ABC	1	1	87	55	0	0

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

011600-1630 Aug: 57th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ fired on a suspected enemy location vicinity of AS 9024 resulting in 1 structure destroyed.

021845-1915 Aug: 361st ACE gunships on a scramble for 17th AGC fired on hootches vicinity of YA 952322 resulting in 1 hootch destroyed. 1900-1920, 361st ACE gunships in support of IFFV Artillery fired on hootches in the vicinity of YA 953327 resulting in 1 hootch being destroyed.

031953-2352 Aug: 189th AC bunker #64, vicinity AR 803475, received a total of 6 rounds of small arms fire. Fire was not returned. Movement was also reported in front of the same bunker and M-79 fire was placed in the area with negative results. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown.

061130-1140 Aug: 361st ACE gunships in support of FOB fired on a suspected enemy location resulting in 1 structure destroyed. 1600-1615, 189th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ fired in the vicinity of AR 9090 resulting in 2 structures damaged and 7 VC KIA (By Air).

071300-1315 Aug: 361st ACE gunships in support of 4th Div fired on a confirmed enemy location vicinity ZA 0417 resulting in one small hootch with a bunker beneath it being destroyed and 2 VC KIA (By Air).

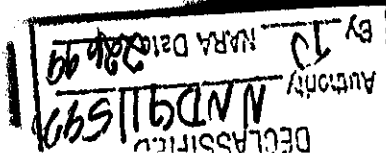
110048 Aug: 189th AC reported possible movement in front of bunker #64. 52nd Scty mortars fired illumination and the bunker employed small arms fire. The fire was not returned. The bunker lost sight of the individuals at 0120. The area was checked using the starlight scope and the Firefly aircraft with negative sightings. A check of the defensive wire found that it had been tampered with in front of bunker #57. The results of the nights activity were negative friendly casualties and unknown enemy casualties.

120135 Aug: 189th AC bunker #57 on Northeast side of perimeter received small arms fire; illumination was employed and M-79 fire was returned with unknown results. 170th AC on west side of the perimeter reported 10 individuals 150 meters to their front; illumination was employed and the individuals turned and ran. 0247, Camp Holloway received 15 82mm mortar rounds. Four rounds landed near the operations building of the 361st ACE and the remainder landed in the 170th AC motor pool and billets area. Gunships and the flareship were launched in support. The results of the attacks were as follows: Friendly - 361st ACE operations building received light damage from shrapnel; 170th AC had 4 US WIA (slight), 1 maintenance tent and 2 maintenance vans received light shrapnel damage, air compressor gas tank received holes in it from shrapnel, and the windshield and canvas of a 3/4 ton truck

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received light damage. A PA&E generator in the area received holes in the generator radiator. Enemy casualties were unknown.

121300 Aug: 119th AC gunships in support of Hawkeye 1D fired when the team made contact with an enemy force in the vicinity of BR 224497 resulting in 10 NVA KIA (By Air) and 3 NVA KIA. 1700, 57th AC gunships in support of 5th SFGA fired on a confirmed enemy location vicinity of AS 4351 resulting in 3 structures destroyed. 2020, 52nd Scty patrol made contact with an unknown size enemy force vicinity of AR 845494.

131400 Aug: 170th AC gunship received intense automatic weapons ground fire causing the ship to crash and burn. Friendly casualties were one MIA and 3 WIA.

141700 Aug: 52nd Scty patrol on a search of the area of their contact on 12 August found the following items in the vicinity of AR 848494: 1 NVA belt with red star buckle, 1 first aid kit with bandages, 2 plastic ponchos, 1 khaki uniform, 1 pair of GI drawers, 3 pair of Ho Chi Minh sandals, 5 chemical type fuses (1 damaged) and blood trails leading to northeast.

151150 Aug: 119th AC gunships in support of LRRP 1G team fired when the team made contact with an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of BR 215404 resulting in 5 VC KIA (By Air). 0945-1410, 52nd Scty Det made sweep of the area vicinity AR 846505 to AR 870505 and from AR 854490 to AR 870494. At AR 846495, they found 1 pair of Chinese binoculars, bloody bandages and bloodstains on the ground. 1200 and 1530, 361st ACE gunships in support of 5th SFG fired when friendly troops made contact with enemy forces resulting in 25 enemy KIA (By Air) and 25 WIA. 2240, Camp Holloway bunker #64 on east perimeter received 5 - 6 rounds of small arms fire. Illumination was employed with negative results. No friendly casualties.

160050 Aug: Bunker #13 on the west perimeter of Camp Holloway received 5 - 6 rounds of small arms fire. Illumination was employed with negative results. There were no friendly casualties.

170900--0930 Aug: 119th AC gunships in support of 23rd ARVN Division fired on structure and sampans in the vicinity of BR 2731 resulting in one structure and one sampan being destroyed. 1345-1400, 119th AC gunships in support of 1st Bde, 4th Inf Div fired during LRRP team extraction in the vicinity of BR 146434 resulting in 1 NVA KIA (By Air).

181400 Aug: 57th AC in support of 24th STZ fired on a suspected enemy location vicinity of AS 8620 resulting in 4 structures being destroyed. 1400, 119th AC aircraft working for 5th SFG at Ben Het observed what appeared to be a YAK-24 helicopter landing vicinity of YB 8433. The aircraft did not pursue because of its low fuel load.

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191145 Aug: 361st gunships in support of FOB spotted one MIG-21 aircraft. The aircraft circled the helicopters and then left the area.

201100 Aug: 57th AC gunships in support of 4th Inf Div fired on a confirmed enemy location vicinity of ZA 0753 resulting in two structures being damaged. 1115, 57th AC gunships in support of 24th STZ fired on a confirmed enemy location vicinity of ZB 0832 resulting in three structures being damaged. 1125, 170th AC slick, while on a LRRP VR for 4th Div in the vicinity of ZA 0860 received intense automatic weapons fire resulting in 5 hits. The gunner fired on the area resulting in one enemy KBA. 1200-1320, 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Inf Div LRRP team in contact with the enemy observed an NVA company in the open and fired on the enemy resulting in 41 NVA KBA. 57th AC gunships in support of 17th AGC fired on a target resulting in one structure destroyed and one enemy KBA. 2132, Camp Holloway bunker #36 (88th POL area) received 3 bursts of AW fire, illumination and M-79's were employed; 2240, bunker #55 (219th area) received a burst of AW fire, illumination was employed and the area was checked by radar with negative results; 2243, bunker #35 (88th POL area) received a burst of AW fire, illumination and M-79's employed. There were no friendly casualties or damage when the bunkers received the AW fire.

211345-1430 Aug: 189th AC gunships in support of 4th Div fired when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of AR 9115 resulting in 9 VC KBA.

251145 Aug: 361st ACE gunships in support of the 4th Div fired on a suspected enemy mortar position when friendly troops made contact with enemy forces with results of 10 En KBA and 5 En WIA (est).

281530-1600 Aug: 119th AC gunships in support of 1/4 fired when friendly troops made contact with enemy forces vicinity BR 5855 resulting in 12 NVA KBA.

290200 Aug: Camp Holloway received 20 rds of 82mm mortar fire and 5 rds of RPG-7. All of the RPG-7 were air bursts. 361st ACE and 170th AC gunships fired on the confirmed enemy location vicinity AR 805455. 52nd Scty made a sweep of the area in the morning and found the firing positions. The results of the attack were as follows: Friendly - 1 UH-1H received light damage and 4 US WIA (slight); Enemy - unknown.

301810-1830 Aug: 119th AC gunships fired when LRRP team made contact with an enemy force vicinity of BR 460325 resulting in 10 enemy KBA.

010035 Sep: 361st gunships in support of 230th RF Company and MACV Team #86 in the vicinity of AR 948377 who came under attack from an unknown size enemy force fired with unknown results.

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020625 Sep: Camp Holloway received two 140mm rockets. One landed outside the perimeter near OP #25 and the other landed near the 18th Avn Co located on the east side of the runway. ARVN and US artillery fired on the suspected enemy location. There were no friendly casualties or damage done. Enemy casualties or damage is unknown.

030900-1730 Sep: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired three times when friendly troops made contact with unknown size enemy forces in the vicinity of BR 2829, BR 2741 and BR 6855, resulting in 2 NVA KIA (By Air).

041155-1220 Sep: 361st ACE gunships, supporting 4th Div, fired when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of ZA 1966 resulting in 10 enemy KIA.

6 Sep: While on patrol to the east of 57th AC compound at Kontum, members of the 52nd Scty Det found 3 foxholes approximately one day old in the vicinity of AR 79238959. Also found in the area were 3 fibre plugs for 122mm rockets, 1 VC entrenching tool and one bundle of 20 bamboo strips for tying back wire. All items were evacuated to G-2 Kontum Sector. 061615-1645 and 1730-1800, 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired on a confirmed enemy location resulting in one structure damaged and one structure destroyed.

080204 Sep: 52nd Scty Det mortar section fired a H&I mission in the vicinity of AR 821502 and received a report of a secondary explosion in the area.

101100-1115 Sep: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 fired on a confirmed enemy location when one of the unit slicks on a Snoopy mission received intense small arms and automatic weapons fire from vicinity of BR 240746. Results were one secondary explosion and unknown number of enemy casualties. 1250, 170th AC UH-1H received intense small arms and B-40 rocket fire from the vicinity of ZA 060448 resulting in the ship crashing and burning. Casualties were 2 US MIA and 2 US WIA.

111310-1315 Sep: 119th AC slicks supporting 4th Div in the vicinity of BR 3076 received ground fire while landing in an LZ. Fire returned by ships crew resulting in 1 NVA KIA (By Air).

121015-1045 Sep: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired when friendly troops made contact in the vicinity of BR 2031 with an enemy force resulting in 2 NVA KIA (By Air).

131200-1215 Sep: 119th AC slick during extraction of LRRP 1A of 1/4 Div in the vicinity of BR 244183 had the door gunner fire on 2 NVA charging toward the aircraft resulting in 2 NVA KIA. At 1200-1300, 119th gunships fired in the same area for LRRP teams resulting in 10

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enemy KBA. 131430-1450, 361st ACE gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired on a confirmed enemy location resulting in one .50 caliber machine gun destroyed.

141510 Sep: 119th AC aircraft, on a Snoop mission for 1/4 Div, observed 24 water buffalo in the vicinity of BR 205945. Gunships fired resulting in 24 water buffalo killed.

161200-1230 Sep: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of BR 2532 resulting in 10 enemy KBA.

181630 Sep: 119th AC gunships and slicks supporting 4th Div fired on a confirmed enemy location in the vicinity of BR 409560 resulting in 3 enemy KIA (By Air).

261445 Sep: 57th AC slick on a Snoop mission for 24th STZ received moderate automatic weapons fire in the vicinity of ZB 217225 resulting in 7 hits on the aircraft and 1 US WIA. Gunners fired in the area with unknown results.

270850-0930 Sep: 57th AC gunships supporting 24th STZ fired on an acquired enemy location in the vicinity of ZB 0619 resulting in one structure damaged. 1100-1215, 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of BR 2886 resulting in 1 enemy KIA (By Air).

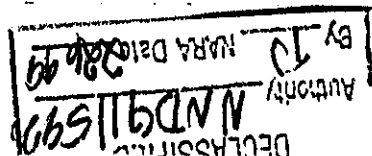
291145-1215 Sep: 189th AC slick received weapons fire and 1 RFG-7 air burst round while going into a pickup zone in the vicinity of YA 866530 resulting in 4 hits in the aircraft and 1 US WIA (slight). Gunners fired on the area with unknown results.

011315-1330 Oct: 57th AC gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired when friendly troops made contact with 20 VC/NVA in the vicinity of YA 861819 resulting in 1 VC/NVA KIA (By Air).

031100 Oct: 361st ACE gunships were scrambled to support 2/3 ARVN Cav unit which was under small arms and B-40 rocket attack in the vicinity of ZA 223745 from an estimated enemy squad while they were on a road security mission. The gunships fired on the confirmed enemy location and the Cav swept the area and found 3 NVA KIA (By Air) and 2 B-40 RL.

041630-1645 Oct: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired on bunker positions in the vicinity of BR resulting in 5 bunkers destroyed.

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061240-1245 Oct: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired when friendly troops made contact in the vicinity of BR 290480 with an unknown size NVA force resulting in 7 NVA KIA (By Air). The gunships also received intense small arms and automatic weapons fire while attacking the target, but received no hits. 1300-1345; 361st ACE gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired when friendly troops made contact in the vicinity of YB 9269 with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 30 NVA KBA.

101520-1530 Oct: 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div were returning from a LZ preparation and observed 2 individuals in green fatigues running across a field in the vicinity of BR 455554. The gunships fired on the individuals resulting in two NVA KIA (By Air).

131000-1015 Oct: 189th AC slick supporting 17th AGC on an aircraft search mission in the vicinity of YB 850735 received ground fire resulting in one hit on the aircraft. The gunners fired on the area resulting in 5 VC KIA (By Air).

141130 Oct: 119th AC slicks supporting 4th Div observed 3 individuals wearing black pants and carrying baskets in the vicinity of BR 223342. 119th gunships fired resulting in 1 VMC KIA (By Air). They also observed 3 bunkers, cultivated fields and numerous trails in the area. 1145-1200, 119th gunships supporting 1/4 Div fired on enemy structures resulting in 3 structures damaged and one destroyed in the vicinity of BR 3035. 1550-1555, 189th AC gunships supporting 24th STZ fired on a confirmed enemy location in the vicinity of ZA 0750 resulting in 5 VC KIA (By Air).

151130-1230 Oct: 119th AC gunships supporting 4th Div fired on a confirmed enemy location from which one of the unit's slicks had received intense automatic weapons fire. The slick received 6 hits. The results were 15 NVA KIA (By Air). The location of the fire was in the vicinity of BR 692612.

161115-1117 Oct: 189th AC slicks supporting 17th AGC on a search and rescue mission in the vicinity of YB 870746 received intense small arms and automatic weapons fire resulting in 4 hits on the aircraft. The gunners fired on the area resulting in 1 enemy KIA (By Air).

190120 Oct: 170th AC flareship supported 466th RF Co in a sweep in the vicinity of AR 780470 after houses near the 422nd ARVN Engineers received a sapper attack. 191330-1400: 361st ACE gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 10 NVA KIA (By Air).

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201740-1800 Oct: 361st ACE gunships supporting 4th Div fired when friendly troops in the vicinity of ZA 1073 made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 18 NVA KBA.

202237 Oct: 68th Inf radar picked up movement in the vicinity of AR 820488. 52nd Scty Det mortars fired on the area. The radar checked the area again and movement had ceased. Results of the mortar firing is unknown.

251730 Oct: 119th AC gunships in support of 1/4 Div fired on a confirmed enemy location in the vicinity of BR 3032 when friendly troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 10 enemy KBA, 2 bunkers destroyed and one secondary explosion.

260915 Oct: 361st ACE gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired on a confirmed enemy location resulting in 2 NVA KBA.

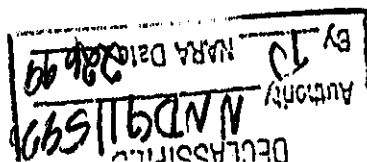
270750 Oct: 361st ACE gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired on a confirmed enemy location in the vicinity of ZA 205213 when Duc Co CSF troops made contact with 50-60 NVA. Results are unknown. 1620-1650, 119th AC gunships supporting 1/4 Div received intense ground fire from the vicinity of BR 775625 and fired on the same area resulting in 2 en KIA (By Air).

291705-1720 Oct: 361st ACE gunships supporting II CTZ fired on enemy bunker positions resulting in 4 bunkers destroyed and one secondary explosion in the vicinity of BR 3026.

301330-1345 Oct: 361st ACE gunships supporting 4th Div fired when troops made contact with an unknown size enemy force in the vicinity of YA 9560 resulting in 10 enemy KBA.

310623 Oct: 361st ACE gunships supporting 4th Div troops in contact fired in the vicinity of AR 835560 resulting in 15 KBA. 1215, 361st gunships fired on a suspected enemy location when the trail aircraft received small arms fire resulting in one hit and one US WIA. Fire received from the vicinity of YB 972547. 1230-1240, 361st gunships supporting a Dust-Off aircraft receiving fire while in an LZ fired on a confirmed enemy location in the vicinity of YA 962627 resulting in 7 en KIA (By Air). 1815-1845, 361st gunships supporting 5th SFGA fired on a suspected enemy location in the vicinity of ZB 093205 resulting in 10 bunkers destroyed and 7 enemy KBA.

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## OPERATIONAL RESULTS AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1969

### 1. (C) Results.

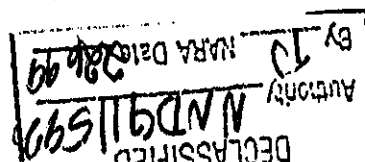
<u>Unit</u>	<u>Sorties Flown</u>	<u>Troops Lifted</u>	<u>Cargo Lifted Tons</u>	<u>Enemy KBA</u>	<u>Structures</u>		<u>Sampans</u>	
					<u>Dem</u>	<u>Dest</u>	<u>Dam</u>	<u>Dest</u>
57th AC	28,411	43,360	459	22	58	38	1	1
119th AC	28,858	36,588	1,154	150	Ukn	30	Ukn	6
170th AC	18,417	33,812	2,821	0	0	0	0	0
179th AC	6,968	16,772	12,547	0	0	0	0	0
189th AC	22,459	36,881	542	0	0	0	0	0
361st AC	3,854	50	0	49	0	6	0	0
HHC	190	220	2	0	0	0	0	0
52nd ABC	109,157	167,683	17,525	221	58	74	1	7

### 2. (C) Losses.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Aircraft Lost</u>		<u>Aircraft Damaged</u>	
	<u>Type</u>	<u>Nr</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Nr</u>
57th AC	UH-1H	1	UH-1H	16
	UH-1C	3	UH-1C	5
119th AC	UH-1H	4	UH-1H	6
	UH-1C	1	UH-1C	0
170th AC	UH-1H	2	UH-1H	2
	UH-1C	1	UH-1C	1
179th AC	CH-47	0	CH-47	2
189th AC	UH-1H	3	UH-1H	9
	UH-1C	1	UH-1C	1
361st AC	AH-1G	0	AH-1G	11
52nd ABC		16		53

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AH-1G

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MONTH</u>	<u>AVG NO. ON HAND</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>	<u>AVG HOURS</u>	<u>AVAIL-ABILITY</u>	<u>DA % PROGRAM</u>
361st	AUG	11.6	815	70.2	72.0	100%
	SEP	11.0	811	70.3	62.2	100%
	OCT	10.3	835	81.0	72.2	111%

CH-47

179th	AUG	15.0	1,123	74.8	61.5	125%
	SEP	14.6	896	61.3	68.6	101%
	OCT	10.9	1,109	101.7	70.1	116%

	<u>TYPE ACFT</u>	<u>HOURS FLOWN</u>			<u>AVAILABILITY</u>		
		<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
361st	UH-1H	35	65	43	49.9%	85.0%	11.1%
HHC	UH-1H	125	107	172	86.1%	91.3%	85.3%

Recapitulation: Availability, Mission Ready, EDP and EDM percentage taken from DA Form 1352 and Daily Aircraft Status.

<u>UH-1H</u>	<u>STD</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Availability	72	76.0	70.5	74.7
Mission Ready	63	73.1	61.2	49.0
EDM	20	16.9	11.7	21.8
EDP	8	7.1	14.9	12.6
<u>UH-1C</u>	<u>STD</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Availability	75	81.1	79.6	61.8
Mission Ready	64	74.6	77.8	55.6
EDM	20	16.2	16.4	19.6
EDP	5	2.7	4.0	5.9
<u>AH-1G</u>	<u>STD</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Availability	70	72.0	62.3	74.4
Mission Ready	60	67.9	58.2	46.6
EDM	20	22.3	27.2	45.0
EDP	10	5.7	10.5	4.0
<u>CH-47</u>	<u>STD</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Availability	65	61.5	68.6	70.0
Mission Ready	55	63.0	61.4	42.6
EDM	25	21.5	15.4	18.4
EDP	10	17.0	16.0	20.7

\* Percent of DA Program is based on a DA Flying Hour Program per aircraft as follows: AH-1G - 70 Hours, CH-47 - 60 Hours.

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INCL 6

DECLASSIFIED AUTHORITY NND 911599 28/09/99

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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ACCIDENT EXPOSURE

The following is a brief analysis of the accidents which occurred during this period.

1. 140950 Aug 69, UH-1H 68-15275 - Aircraft experienced hydraulic failure in flight. Pilot initiated an autorotation terminating in a hard landing. Aircraft repair cost was estimated at \$121,258.
2. 100935 Sep 69, UH-1H 66-17774 - Aircraft experienced material failure. The 90° gear box separated in flight. Pilot made an autorotational landing in trees. The aircraft was a total loss. One crewmember received minor injuries and has since returned to duty.
3. 141220 Sep 69, UH-1H 67-17316 - Aircraft crashed and burned, cause unknown. All four crewmembers suffered fatal impact injuries.
4. 211750 Sep 69, UH-1H 67-17009 - Pilot attempted to hover an over-gross aircraft out of ground effect, lost R.P.M. and crashed. The cost of repair for this aircraft is \$214,629.
5. 211745 Oct 69, UH-1H 68-16094 - Aircraft made a rapid descent into a bomb crater L.Z., lost R.P.M. and settled resulting in main rotor blade strikes on a 20 foot tree stump. Aircraft came to rest on its right side. One crewmember and one passenger suffered fatal impact injuries. Two passengers suffered minor injuries.
6. 281400 Oct 69, UH-1C 66-15129 - Aircraft crashed and burned. Four passengers suffered fatal impact injuries. Two crewmembers suffered serious burns. Cause of this accident is still under investigation.

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