

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
 HEADQUARTERS, 18TH AVIATION BATTALION  
 APO 09165

ANNUAL HISTORIAL REPORT

1. The 18th Aviation Battalion Commander and Staffs consisted of the following officers as of 31 December 1968:

Commander	LTC George W. Aldridge, Jr.
Executive Officer	Major Gerald D. Lippert
SI/Adjutant	CW2 James E. Campbell
S2	Captain David A. Villaume
S3	Captain Eugene C. McKay
S4	Major Jack E. Williams
Commander HHC, 18th Aviation Battalion	Captain Jack L. Barker
Commander 66th Aviation Company	Major William J. Head
Commander 90th Aviation Company	Major Helmut A.G. Roeder
Commander 350th Aviation Company	Major Leonard J. Spanjers

2. The Symbolism of the 18th Aviation Battalion consists of the raised wings and the arched blue of the crest in the background which represent the sky and indicate the 18th Aviation Battalion's readiness to provide swift air transportation. The five star-tipped arrows allude to the five campaign honors awarded the organization for service in World War II.

3. January: Our communications and signal section was involved with the V Corps total field exercise every month.

4. February: The airmobile qualities of the 18th Aviation Battalion were utilized in operation Rough Shoot.

5. March: The Battalion's 350th Aviation Company and the V Corps LRRP conducted an airmobile operation with the 23rd Missile Battalion of the Bundeswehr. Joseph R. Gaston assumed command of HHC from CPT Hildreth C. Gore on 6 March 1968.

6. April: During the early part of this month the battalion participated in operation Front and Center.

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7. May: Operation Sack I and II was undertaken during the middle of this month. The Headquarters and Headquarters company on the 17th celebrated its third anniversary. The 18th Aviation Battalion completed its Army Training Test.

8. June: On the 17th of June, CPT Jack L. Barker took command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company from CPT Joseph R. Gaston.

9. July: LTC George W. Aldridge assumed command of the 18th Aviation Battalion from LTC Patrick N. Delavan.

10. August: N/A

11. September: Operations Large Play (20-26) and operation Flying Start (9-12) were conducted and completed during this month.

12. October: Operation High Heels - Golden Rod engaged the entire battalion and was preceded by the communications and command post exercise on the 10th of October.

13. November: During this month elements of the battalion were sent to support the 3d Armored Division in retrograde, offensive and defensive divisional maneuvers. In Mid-November airmobile elements were sent to Exercise Southern Train. On 14th November CW2 Raymond Kerns 350th Aviation Company; received the Army Distinguished Service Cross for valor for services while in Viet Nam.

14. December: During this month preparations were made for utilization of the airmobile capabilities of the 18th Aviation Battalion in the large USAREUR Reforger I undertaking.

15. V Corps is considered the Army's first Airmobile trained Corps, owing this to the 18th Aviation Battalion, the Corps' Airmobile Arm.

16. During the first and second quarters of FY 69, the 18th Aviation Battalion concluded a program of airmobile training for V Corps units. The purpose of this training was to:

a. Provide the ground tactical commander, his staff, key officers and NCO'S with the guidance needed for planning an airmobile mission, employment of forces, and proper methods of transporting equipment and supplies by helicopter.

b. Acquaint V Corps units with organic aviation resources.

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c. Train the individual soldier in the techniques required for participation in heliborne operations.

d. Enhance the training of the units of the 18th Aviation Battalion to insure a high state of proficiency.

17. Phase III of the airmobile training program was conducted in three increments. A total of fourteen battalions completed this phase.

18. Airmobile assault training has not been completed for the 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry, due to weather and other training requirements; however, makeup training for this unit will be scheduled by V Corps. Overall training was considered a success and of great value to both the maneuver and aviation elements; however, problems were encountered in achieving all training objectives.

19. Six V Corps units displayed an unusually high degree of initiative and approached the airmobile training aggressively, thereby producing outstanding results. These units were: 509th Infantry (Airborne); 2nd Battalion, 36th Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 48th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry; and 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry. On 4-5 September 1968, the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 39th Infantry; and 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry combined efforts and conducted a brigade airmobile assault. These units clearly demonstrated the professional attitude of the V Corps soldier as it should be, through the outstanding battalion and brigade cooperation and the untiring efforts of the S3 personnel and the individual soldier.

20. Phase I, II, and III gave the basic knowledge for planning and execution of airmobile operations to maneuver elements of V Corps. It is recommended that continuous command emphasis be placed on the use of organic and V Corps aviation assets during ATT and other training exercises. This would eliminate the need for conducting subsequent phases of airmobile training and would afford the ground commander an opportunity to integrate airmobile assaults into his operations. With advanced scheduling of these airmobile missions, coordination and liaison between ground and aviation units concerned could be accomplished and necessary guidance given by experienced personnel form the aviation units.

21. Phase III of 18th Aviation Battalion Airmobile Training Program.

1. Training Sequence:

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b. Initial coordination for classroom presentation accomplished by 18th Aviation Battalion Liaison Officer.

c. Classroom presentation and static display was in two sections:

- (1) Two (2) hours of classroom presentation on airmobile planning.
- (2) One (1) hour aircraft static display on safety, loading and unloading.

d. The 18th Aviation Battalion Liaison Officer's final coordination visit was accomplished six (6) days prior to the actual lift.

e. Airmobile assault lift training was accomplished in three sections:

- (1) Airmobile assault
- (2) Movement of supplies and equipment
- (3) Medical evacuation

2. Phase III Flying Statistics:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>TROOPS LIFTED</u>
350th Avn Co (CH-34)	176	946	0	1712
90th Avn Co (CH-37)	59.5	81	48 tons	849
TOTAL	235.5	1027	48 tons	2561

22. The units listed have completed Airmobile Training with the 350th Aviation Company during the period of 26 July thru 30 October 1968.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
1/509th Inf, 8th Inf Div	240	26+50
2/48th Inf, 3rd Armd Div	100	08+50
3/36 Inf, 3rd Armd Div	112	13+45
1/13th Inf, 8th Inf Div	537	53+10
1/39th Inf, 8th Inf Div	Combined with the 1/13th Inf	

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>TIME</u>
1/87th Inf, 8th Inf Div	Combined with the 1/13th Inf	
2/509th Inf, 8th Inf Div	96	09+00
2/36th Inf, 3rd Armd Div	181	20+00
3/8th Cav, 8th Inf Div	84	12+4.5
3/12th Cav, 3rd Armd Div	81	07+15
1st & 3rd Sqd, 14th ACR	281	24+20
2/13th Inf, 8th Inf Div	150	24+00
90th Avn Co	1243	TONS 48.0 HOURS 88.5

4 Incl

1. 90th Avn Co Achievements
2. 350th Avn Co Achievements
3. Total Flying hours and Landings of aircraft in the 18th Aviation Battalion
4. Personnel Gains and Losses as Reported in Calendar Year 1968 (FY 68 3+4 quarters, FY 1+2 quarters)

*James B. Hennessy*  
BARRY R. SACKS  
2LT, AR  
Historial Officer



Total Flying hours and Landings of Aircraft in the 18th Aviation Battalion

Total Flying Hours	Landing of Aircraft
21 Jan - 20 Feb 1968 321.8	1276
21 Feb - 20 Mar 1968 558	1558
21 Mar - 20 Apr 1968 255	547
21 Apr - 20 May 1968 675	1732
21 May - 20 Jun 1968 270	514
21 Jun - 20 Jul 1968 648	1607
21 Jul - 20 Aug 1968 479	1113
21 Aug - 20 Sep 1968 543	1716
21 Sep - 20 Oct 1968 557	1989
21 Oct - 20 Nov 1968 464	1249
21 Nov - 20 Dec 1968 N/A	N/A
21 Dec - 31 Dec 1968 N/A	N/A

Personnel Gains and Losses as Reported in Calendar Year 1968 (FY 68 3+4 Quarters, FY 69 1+2 Quarters)

	Gains	Losses
FY 68 (3)	122	199
FY 68 (4)	112	103
FY 69 (1)	117	114
FY 69 (2)	114	111

Passenger Hours Hauled by 18th Aviation Battalion

21 Jan - 20 Feb 1968	2,691
21 Feb - 20 Mar 1968	10,803
21 Mar - 20 Apr 1968	2,945
21 Apr - 20 May 1968	9,743
21 May - 20 Jun 1968	3,300
21 Jun - 20 Jul 1968	12,244
21 Jul - 20 Aug 1968	14,135
21 Aug - 20 Sep 1968	13,327
21 Sep - 20 Oct 1968	15,020
21 Oct - 20 Nov 1968	22,442
21 Nov - 20 Dec 1968	N/A