

ENCLOSURE 8

CHANGE OF COMMAND PROGRAM

APR 1978

158th
AVIATION BATTALION



CHANGE of COMMAND

KIEF S. TACKABERRY
Lieutenant Colonel, Aviation

LTC Tackaberry, a native of Tacoma, Washington, entered the Army in 1968. He was commissioned in 1969 upon graduation from Infantry Officer Candidate School. LTC Tackaberry has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of South Florida and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Webster College. He has graduated from the Infantry Officer Advance Course and Command and General Staff College. His past assignments include Commander, Company B, 2d Battalion, 504th Infantry, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Company C, 158th Aviation Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Company C, 501st Aviation Battalion Combat, Germany. LTC Tackaberry's awards and decorations include the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with V-device and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Achievement Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Senior Aviator Wings, and the Air Assault Badge. LTC Tackaberry, his wife, Gretchen, and three children, Reynolds, Charles, and Frederick will depart for the Navy War College at Newport, Rhode Island.

JOSEPH A. FUCCI
Lieutenant Colonel, Aviation

LTC Fucci, a native of Melrose, Massachusetts, entered the Army in January 1969. He was commissioned in June 1968 upon graduation from Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont. LTC Fucci has graduated from the Armor Officer Advance Course and the United States Army Command and General Staff College. His past assignments include Rifle Company Commander, 25th Infantry, Republic of Vietnam; Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 158th Aviation Battalion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Area Commander, USAREC, Appleton, Wisconsin; S3 and Company Commander, 82d Combat Aviation Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Deputy G3, 24th Division (M), Fort Stewart, Georgia. LTC Fucci's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal with V-device, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Senior Aviation Badge, and the Air Assault Badge. LTC Fucci is married to the former Susan Eaheart and they have one son, Crisler A., a senior at the University of South Carolina.

OUR HISTORY

Under the command of Major Maurice Daugherty, the 158th Aviation Battalion (Aslt Hel) was activated 25 July 1968 by General Order 244 at Fort Carson, Colorado. Through the supervision of the 20th Aviation Battalion, the CHALLENGE Battalion was trained for combat and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam in February 1969. The 101st Airborne Division (Air Mobile) welcomed the battalion on 1 March 1969, and by 1 April the battalion was declared fully operational. From 1 April 1969 through 19 December 1971, when the battalion returned to the United States, the 158th Aviation Battalion compiled a combat aviation record matched by none. The unit lived up to its motto and was awarded among many valorous awards, three Presidential Unit Citations.

Since 1 January 1972, the 158th Aviation Battalion has supported the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell and around parts of the world in many varied and exciting training exercises. In the early seventies, the CHALLENGE Battalion negotiated many new concepts and techniques to include the Tree Handling Platform, Anti-Tank Warfare, Mortar Copter, and Mud Pattern Camouflage.

1978 was a banner year for the battalion, for on 13 April the battalion gained the "Blackhawk" colors in a history making ceremony marking the battalion as the first unit in the Army to be equipped with UH-60's and became the first operational UH-60 Aviation Battalion in the Army. The addition of the Blackhawk has greatly enhanced the combat mobility of this Air Assault Division. Under leadership from the CHALLENGE Battalion, Air Assault doctrine has been developed and fine-tuned making this Division fully capable to deploy worldwide and operate 24 hours a day as noted by highly successful exercises to the NTC for Gallant Eagle 85, and Puerto Rico for Ocean Venture 86. The CHALLENGE Battalion has successfully met each and every challenge in its decade and a half of existence, and now stands as ready as ever to accept the challenges of the future.

ENCLOSURE 9

YEARLY HISTORY REPORT

1981

YEARLY HISTORY REPORT

158TH AVIATION BATTALION (AH) TASK FORCE

FY 1981

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:



EDDIE M. HOLTON
CW2, US ARMY
Assistant Adjutant

JACOB B. COUCH JR.
LTC, IN
Commanding

BATTALION STAFF AND CHAIN OF COMMAND

BN CDR

BN XO

BN CSM

S-1

S-2

S-3

S-4

AMO

ASO

VMO

COMMO

HHC, CDR

HHC, 1SG

B CO, CDR

B CO, 1SG

C CO, CDR

C CO, 1SG

D CO, CDR

D CO, 1SG

LTC JACOB B. COUCH JR.

MAJ JOHN C. TALLAS

CSM FRANKLIN D. WYANT

CPT GARY J. FLEMING

CPT DELMA C. HENDRICKS

MAJ LAWRENCE D. BEARD

CPT ISAAC THOMAS

CPT JOHN M. PIERCE

CW4 WILLIAM C. THOMAS

WO1 ALBERT KAMINSKI

SSG WILLIAM A. SHAVER

CPT WILLIAM W. KANE

1SG DONALD JOHNSON

MAJ MARK L. KOGLE

1SG RONALD RIPLEY

MAJ LARRY C. KING

1SG RONALD R. OREBO

MAJ ROBERT STEWART

SFC JAMES A. DERICO

PERSONNEL STRENGTH

HHC, B, C, D

	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>
OFFICER	42	37
WARRANT OFFICER	94	87
ENLISTED	455	374
TOTAL	581	498

A/C FLIGHT HOURS (UH-60A)

	B	C	D	
1ST QTR	422.0	1,060.1	926.4	2408.5
2ND QTR	1121.0	584.0	667.7	2372.7
3RD QTR	N/A	927.0	823.0	1750.0
4TH QTR	N/A	966.0	1022.0	1988.0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	1543.0	3537.1	3439.1	

HISTORY REPORT

OCT 80 to Oct 81

This history report is to record the accomplishments of the Challenge Battalion during FY81. The 158th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter) was activated 25 July 1968 at Fort Carson, Colorado, under the command of Major Maurice Daugherty. The mission of the 158th Aviation Battalion (AH) was to provide tactical mobility for combat troops, supplies and equipment of the 101st Airborne Division and to provide security to their forces. Since that time the 158th Aviation Battalion (AH) has been at the forefront of Army Aviation through dedication and lots of hard work.

The companies of the battalion were each involved in their own special missions - B Company completed turn-in of UH-1's and pick up of UH-60A Black Hawk aircraft, thereby making the 158th Aviation Battalion the first operational UH-60A Aviation Battalion in the U.S. Army. C and D Companies continued in their role with special mission training, a good deal of which was sensitive, confidential and cannot be addressed here. Each company also continued their participation in the fielding, development, testing and evaluation program for the UH-60A Black Hawk.

The role of the helicopter in battle has grown from a few special combat service support operations in World War II to critical, intense missions of the Airland Battle field. To this end, the 158th Aviation Battalion (AH) has trained for rapid mobility and the capability to preposition and deploy a combat ready force. The 158th Aviation Battalion (AH) participated in joint service level special operations using night vision goggles in black out conditions over long range navigation routes. Training tactics and techniques used in these flight modes were developed for various mission profiles and have been adopted as a standard for Army Aviation. The flight crews of the C and D Companies are to be commended for their selfless devotion and many sacrifices to this mission.

After more than 13 months of command, CPT Ronald J. Reimers relinquished command of the HHC to CPT William W. Kane, who terminated his assignment as the BN S-4. CPT Isaac Thomas assumed the duty of BN S-4. 1SG Donald Johnson replaced 1SG Edward Shaffer as 1SG of HHC, the former to retire after more than twenty years of faithful service. HHC spent most of FY81 concentrating on individual and collective training, upgrading the talents of cooks, vehicle maintenance and operations personnel under field conditions. On 12 December, LTC Jacob B. Couch JR. began his second successful year as the "Challenge" Commander, and was selected as a guest speaker for an Air Assault School class graduation. CPT William Brophy relinquished the S-1 position to CPT Gary J. Fleming after 15 months of being the Battalion Adjutant. During that same time frame, the Battalion gained the services of CW2 Eddie M. Holton as the Battalion Assistant Adjutant coming over from D Company.

Because the 158th Aviation Battalion has always been known for its outstanding participation, it was selected to sponsor the Army Aviation Association Annual Christmas Ball, on 5 Dec at the Officer's Club. The occasion was one of the largest Holiday Greeting affairs on Fort Campbell.

On 2 February 1981, command of the B Company Lancers passed from LTC Charles H. Webb to CPT(P) Mark L. Kogle. The company assumed DRFI that same day and was deployed to Camp Bullis, Texas during the period 18 Feb 81-7 Mar 81, in support of 1/506th Infantry in EDRE MESA Strike II. Eight aircraft and 66 personnel deployed in the exercise and flew over 450 hours. Charlie Company "Phoenix" and Delta Company "Ghost-riders" changed posture and came back on line flying Air Assault missions. Both companies however continued night vision goggle training.

The 158th Aviation Battalion placed very high overall for the FORSCOM Commander's Aircraft Accident Prevention Award for FY80. The "Challenge" Battalion flew more than 24,204 accident free hours during the period for which the award was considered. The 158th Aviation Battalion compiled an impressive safety record, which is even more noteworthy, when one considers the demanding and potentially hazardous flight envelope in which its aircrews operate on a day-to-day basis.

April 1981 brought more changes to the 158th Avn Bn (AH) with the addition of B/229th Avn Bn. These culminated in the creation of the 158th Avn Bn Task Force. The 158th Avn Bn Task Force continued its role with special mission training. HHC said farewell to the BN XO, MAJ Melvin Anderson, as he PCS'd to Germany. Major John C. Tallas, D Company commander became the new BN XO. CSM Billy Cochran became the Aviation Group CSM. HHC welcomed CSM Franklin D. Wyant as the new Bn CSM. 5 June 1981 saw MAJ Brian Brown PCS to Fort Bragg. He was replaced by MAJ Larry C. King. C Company 1SG McGraw departed 25 June 1981 as he retired with over twenty years service. SFC Orebo took over 1SG duties. With June came the AGI inspection and all companies and staff sections successfully passed.

In July, the HHC "Raiders" set a 5 years AWOL free day record for the 101st Airborne Division. MG Macknall congratulated the Raiders on their fine accomplishments and presented a 5 year AWOL Free Day Streamer to the company colors. On 9 July, HHC sponsored a Battalion Family Night Dinner with outstanding participation. August and September were spent preparing for the change of command and separation of elements within the Task Force to form the new 160th Avn Bn (AH). The S-1 Section worked countless hours around the clock to provide concise and timely reports to foster the developmental process of the 160th Avn Bn while maintaining routine PAC functions.

As in 1968 at Fort Carson, Colorado and throughout the 158th's history, the "Challenge" Battalion has been called upon to lead the way in Army Aviation. Such is the case today with the 158th Avn Bn (AH) developing new Army helicopter tactics and providing a basis for the new 160th Avn Bn (AH) to be activated 16 October 1981. At that point LTC Jacob B. Couch JR. will relinquish command of the 158th Avn Bn (AH) to LTC Jack E. Easton. LTC Couch will then command the 160th Avn Bn(AH). The 158th's track record speaks for itself and when one hears the proud roar of our Black Hawks, you know that we're once again rising to meet the challenge!