

## ANNEX B

## AIRCRAFT CONFIGURATIONS

During the period Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion was in Vietnam two kinds of helicopters, the UH-1B and the UH-1D "Iroquois" were used. The "BRAVO" models were used by the armed platoon "T-Birds" and the "DELTA" models were used by the two "slick" platoons.

The "T-Birds" "BRAVO" models were powered by the Lycoming T-53, L-9, or L-11 engine and had a 44 foot rotor blades. The crew consisted of a pilot and a co-pilot, a crew chief (gunner) and a gunner. The gunners carried modified M-60 machine guns, and fired their weapons from the side doors.

The armed ships had two configurations of weapons systems. One type armed ship was called the "Hog". It was equipped with an XM-3 rocket system carrying 48 rockets of 2.75 inch diameter mounted in two pods on each side of the helicopter. Each pod carried 24 rockets filled with either HE (high explosive) or WP (white phosphorous). The system was aimed and fired by the pilot. Also mounted on the "hog" was the XM-5, 40mm grenade launcher, it also was aimed and fired from the pilots compartment. The "Hog" was flown by "T-Bird Chief" the platoon leader. The other armed ship configuration incorporated a quad 7.62 caliber machine gun kit and 2 rocket pods, each having seven rockets and called the XM-16. The rockets were aimed and fired from the right seat while the machine guns were aimed and fired from the left seat.

The combined fire power of the "T-Birds" using all of weapons systems plus the fire from the door gunners rendered a devastating blow to the enemy in the target areas.

The "slick" platoons used the "DELTA" model which was powered by a Lycoming T-53, L-11 turbine engine. The rotor span was 48 feet. Though very similar to the "BRAVO", the "DELTA" is slightly larger and has an increased cabin capacity. The pilots' seats were improved, and were armor plated on three sides and underneath.

Besides the pilot and co-pilot, the crew of the "slick" ship was also a crew chief (gunner) and gunner. The normal positions for the gunners were in the rear most seats of the cabin extension when the XM-23 machine gun system was installed on the aircraft. Prior to the XM-23, the gunners used either an older type bracket or held their M-60's.

The "DELTA slicks" generally carried nine ARVN troops and their equipment. When the "Warriors" supported the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division at Tuy Hoa the "slicks" usually carried seven Americans, because they were much larger individuals and also carried more equipment.

The "DELTA" model had an easily accessible cargo compartment for internal cargo loads. Also the "DELTA" was capable of sling loading external cargo.

"Warrior-6" was a "DELTA" model used by the Commanding Officer. It had a slightly different internal arrangement enabling it to be a flying command post. It was equipped with a radio console, appropriate antennas and numerous headsets and the commander of the ground forces on an airmobile operation would ride with his staff and advisors and direct his units on the ground.

"Red Devil 6", also a "DELTA" model, was the maintenance aircraft from the 167th Trans. It was a flying parts and tool shop and carried a maintenance team. The aircraft accompanied the "Warriors" on airmobile operations.