

ANNEX C

Aircraft Utilization

The activities of Company A, 101st Aviation Battalion involved basically four categories of missions. These included combat assault missions, command and logistics missions, administrative missions, and armed combat missions. Each type had its own peculiar characteristics, because of the diverse conditions existing in the Republic of Vietnam, seldom if ever, were any two missions exactly alike. However, there was a basic pattern to each type of mission. This annex will generally describe each of these basic missions.

Combat Assault Mission:

The concept of the airmobile assault as it had developed in the Mekong Delta involved one or more ARVN combat units and a sufficient number of "slicks" to carry them into a landing zone near a known or suspected Viet Cong position. In connection with the troop lift it was essential to have the "armed ships" available to perform an armed reconnaissance of the desired landing area; to choose an appropriate landing zone; if necessary; and to escort the "slicks" into and out of the landing zone while laying down protective suppressive fire to the front, flanks, or rear of the approaching aircraft. Also it was advantageous to have a "Dust Off" aircraft readily available to evacuate any personnel who might be wounded or injured during the operation. For maintenance and recovery purposes "Red Devil 6" which was described in the history was kept close at hand. To control all of the movements and activities necessary for a successful airmobile operation, the C & C ship carried the aviation mission commander