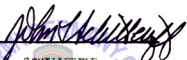


UNIT HISTORY
OF THE
HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS COMPANY
223D AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)
VII CORPS
1 January 1975 - 31 December 1975

APPROVED BY


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The year of the United States Army Bicentennial brought the members of HHC, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) many opportunities to prove that they possess the same esprit de corps for which the first American soldiers were famous.

On 3 February the Headquarters Company changed commanders. CPT Kenneth J. Gingras turned the company colors over to CPT John L. Schillereff. At the end of February, HHC moved to Kitzingen Army Airfield for a week of field training. Although the weather was cold, the ground wet and muddy, all was successful. During daylight hours many classes were conducted and the company functioned in a professional manner.

March began with a visit to our sister unit, the 200 Fernspah in Weingarten. CPT Anderson and CPT Schillereff renewed unit friendships and set plans for the coming year. On 25 - 27 March, members of Headquarters Company participated in a bivouac with the German Reserve Association. The remainder of the month was spent cleaning and repairing equipment from field exercise "WINTEX".

On 24 April, members of HHC flew to Weingarten to participate in unit training with the 200th Fernspah. On the 25th and 27th of April, enlisted men from HHC participated in a weekend field exercise with the VKK 511. Everyone had a good time and German American friendship marched on in good style.

Organization Day was celebrated on 17 May. Headquarters Company was in charge and we did many things. The 48th Aviation Company members came from Ansbach to join the battalion in this annual event. Later in the month, members of the 223d Para Cross Team traveled to Weingarten to begin training for the annual event.

In the middle of May, the battalion was officially told that it would take over operation of the Stuttgart Airfield by 1 July. That gave us just six weeks to accomplish the task. CPT Gingras was put in charge of the move and he was able to effect a smooth transition from Nellingen to Echterdingen with cooperation from all unit members. On 2 June, the staff sections, orderly room and billets residents relocated to the airfield. By 1 July, the 223d was "running" Stuttgart Army Airfield and only a few problems remained to be solved. A small reception was held for USAF LTC Zambiasi, departing airfield commander, and LTC Longarzo, the new commander. Members of the deactivated 7005 ABS, 200 Fernspah and the 223d Aviation Battalion attended the 1 July reception.

During June, the battalion's major Project Partnership event, PARA CROSS, took place. Members of HHC and 25th combined to make the event a success in terms of international relations. Although our team did not place in one CRRP competition, those who attended made great strides in engineering friendships with soldiers of five European nations.

Much of July was devoted to working toward a smooth-running airfield. The motor pool, POL and supply functions of HHC and 25th were consolidated. Members of HHC, 25th and 73d MI worked together to insure that the Dining Facility operated effectively. Many key personnel soon found that their job responsibilities were greatly increased since the move to the airfield. The problems were surmounted with a positive attitude and better service to airfield occupants was effected.

September started with our deployment exercise on the 8th. The unit itself moved out on the 8th and set up the encampment in record time. All missions were attacked with zeal and training accomplishments were at their zenith. The S-4 section set up a multiple fuel point from M49C fuel tankers. This increased the availability of fuel for aircraft refueling. This task was not only paramount to the rapid refueling of assigned aircraft but provided an excellent training situation for all concerned. Upon our return from the field, four men flew to Weingarten to participate in a mountain march. This event proved to be difficult and trying on the men. Marching at high altitudes, (10,000 ft) with full back packs, was a task our men were not trained for.

In early October we were ready to move out on our big exercise, "Reforger". On 8 October convoys moved out to set up the 1st field site, the remainder of the unit to follow in convoy on 12 October. This was the time to see how we performed as a combat unit. We made one night move in convoy, implaced immediately and set up normal business in an unbelievable short period of time. The S-4 section constructed and operated a FARE refueling system, the 1st test of one in the 223d. After the initial training/trial period, this refueling system proved to be exactly what was needed to supplement our aviation unit in a combat environment. Refueling was rapid, safe and easily camouflaged. The remainder of the month was occupied with equipment cleaning, repairs, and general garrison duties.

With the holiday season drawing near, members of HHC flew to Weingarten to train and socialize with their sister unit. The day was spent in the field with their commander and enlisted men. The S-4 section established a CIF point at the airfield when the Nellingen CIF terminated operation, thus consolidating our airfield's S-4/Supply operation totally. The Stuttgart Army Airfield Operations Section ended their year with astounding figures in total aircraft and missions processed. The following figures display their mission:

Total Aircraft Utilized during the Year.

Air Force	1,023		
Army	5,375		
Landings/Take Offs	12,796		
Flight Plans	Air Force 2,382	Army	11,706
VIP's	Army 209	Army	592

The Trans Alert Section ground handled large aircraft such as: C141's, C130's, KC135's, C5A's, and C118's.

The year for the company ended with an aggressive spirit and a feeling of accomplishment. There have been no AWOL's in the unit for over three years, and the company has won company of the quarter 2 out of 3 quarters. As we enter the new year, it appears that history will repeat itself and 1976 will be better than ever.