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FROM: Detachment 13, Cen AFRC

SUBJECT: Corona Harvest Study

TO: ARXDC (Lt Colonel Crozier)

1. Reference your letter, same subject, 27 Sept 68.

2. The following information is forwarded as requested:

a. Period assigned to SEA: 20 Oct 1965 to 18 Oct 1966.

b. Designation of unit to which assigned: Det 6, 38th ARRSq,
Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam.

c. Duty assignment while in SEA: Detachment Commander.

d. Type of aircraft assigned unit: Three (3) HH-43F Helicopters.

e. Problem areas encountered during tour, i.e., maintenance,
facilities, operational concepts, etc:

While numerous problems were encountered in all areas during my tour of duty in SEA, the majority of them are considered common to the area and general conditions prevailing at the time. However, one problem area considered especially significant related to our involvement in the unexpected mission of recovering multiple wounded Army personnel by hoist from inaccessible jungle areas.

The primary problem in this mission resulted from the obvious inadequacy of the HH-43F helicopter. Most of these Army rescue missions involved numerous litter cases. The cabin space in the HH-43F limited us to one or two stokes litter pickups per sortie. This necessitated repeated sorties which resulted in considerable delay in evacuating severely wounded personnel; exposed flight and ground crews to enemy action for extended periods; and increased helicopter maintenance and repair work beyond what we were equipped and manned for.

Maurice G. Kessler
MAURICE G. KESSLER, Major, USAF
Commander

SMC

PROJECT CORONA HARVEST

DO NOT DESTROY

No 0005615

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ARXER

R 318, 28151
Kessler, Maurice G.
20 Oct 65 - 18 Oct 66
RETURN TO:
28 October 1968
Director
Aerospace Studies Inst
AFM: Archives Branch
Maxwell AFB, Alabama

18 SEP 1990