

Det 9, 38ARRS Hist, Jan - Mar 68

SAFETY OF OPERATION

On 13 March aircraft HH-43F serial number 63-9717 suffered a control rod bearing failure while on a training flight. The failure occurred while Major Robert W. Hastings, the training pilot, was performing a 90 degree autorotation landing. The failure caused the aircraft to become nearly uncontrollable, however Captain Billy J. Johnson, the instructor pilot, assumed control and was able to land the aircraft with no injury to the crew. The nature of the failure caused the rotor blades to strike each other in flight, causing extensive damage to the rotor system. Captain Johnson received a "well done" message from General Wilson, deputy commander of Military Airlift Command, for his superior airmanship while dealing with this inflight emergency.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

During this quarter Sgt David R. Berrio was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force near Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam on 24 Nov 1967 (SO G-591, 23 Feb 1968, Hq 7AF). Sgt Berrio was also awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in an aerial flight at Camp Holloway, Republic of Vietnam on 6 Oct 1967 (SO G-338, 30 Jan 1968, Hq 7AF). Sgt Felipe A. Quiroz was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism involving voluntary risk of life at Camp Holloway, Republic of Vietnam on 7 Oct 1967 (SO G-636, 27 Feb 1968, Hq 7AF), and he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism