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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND  
2929 DESERT STORM DRIVE  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310

April 7, 2011

Freedom of Information Act  
Office

Mr. John Greenewald  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) Case #11-012(J). You requested all documents pertaining to Operation Mount Hope III. On March 21, 2011, in an email, you agreed to accept a "releasable" (redacted) copy of the material.

A releasable copy of the documents is enclosed. Information was withheld under FOIA Exemptions (b)(1), as National Security Information; and Exemptions (b)(3) & (b)(6), for Privacy reasons.

While you have agreed to accept a "releasable" (redacted) copy of the information, you retain the right to request the records in their entirety. At that time you will be given a formal denial, and you will be advised of your right to appeal.

There is no charge for processing your request.

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Ms. Mary Bowling, the FOIA Officer, at (910) 432-9233, email: [bowlingm@soc.mil](mailto:bowlingm@soc.mil); or Mr. Ronald Corrado, FOIA Analyst, at (910) 432-2437, email: [ronald.r.corrado@soc.mil](mailto:ronald.r.corrado@soc.mil).

Sincerely,

Campbell P. Cantelou  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Deputy Chief of Staff, G-6

Enclosure



# Mt. Hope III

Regimental Officer Professional  
Development 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter





# CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~





# AGENDA

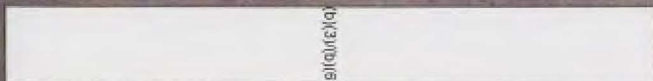
- Room Orientation
- SME Introduction
- Overview
- Background
- The Operation
- Post Mission Events
- Lessons Learned
- Questions



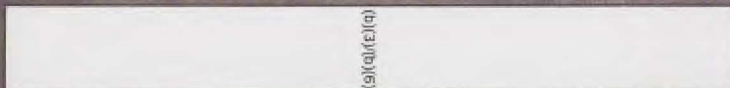


# Key Personnel Present

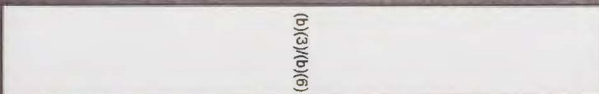
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# Overview

- Clandestine Action
- June, 1988
- Location: Northern Chad
- Heavy Lift Operation
- In and out in 67 Hours





# Background

- Government Administration (1988)
- Task Organization of the 160<sup>th</sup>
- 1988, Key Events
- Libya/Chad Political Situation
- Acquisition of Soviet Equipment
- The Target
- Alert and Order





# Background

## Government Administration

- President: Ronald Reagan



- Vice-President: George Bush

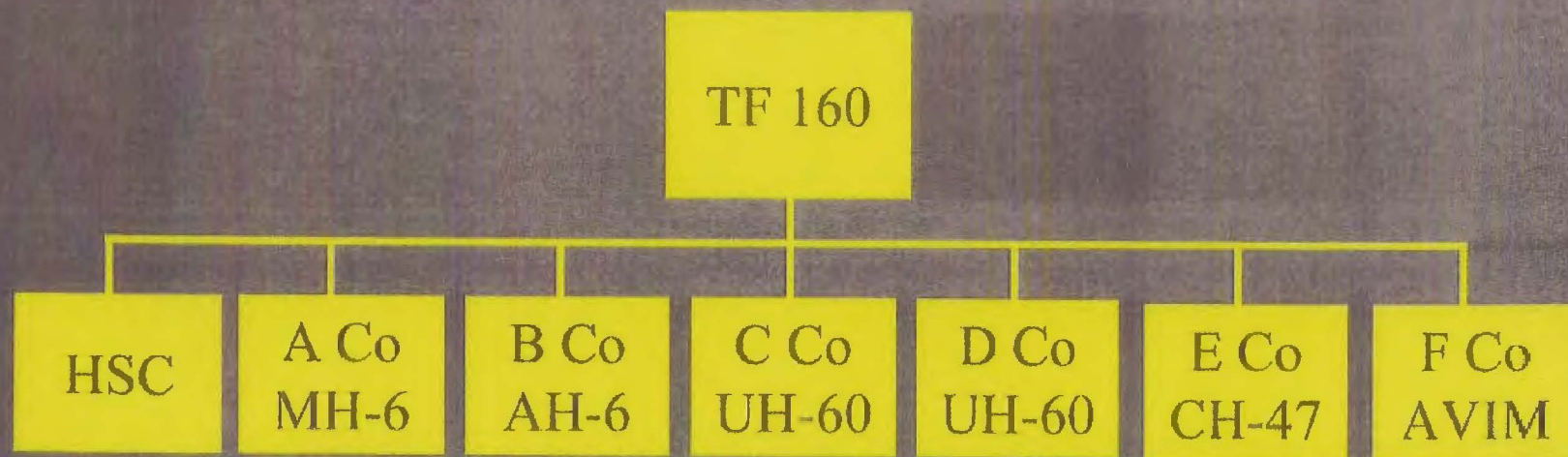




# Background

## 160<sup>th</sup> SOAG (A) Task Organization

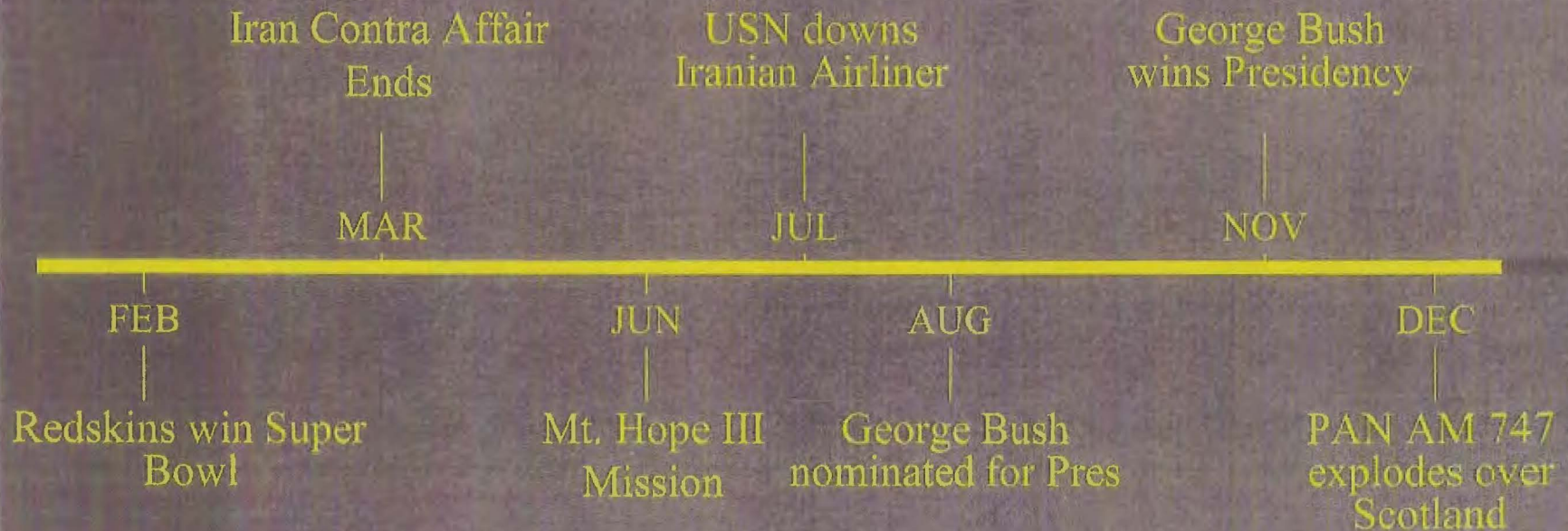
• [Redacted] (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(F)





# Background

## 1988 Key Events





# Background

## Africa Orientation





# Background

## Libya Political Situation

- 1970: British and U.S. forced to leave Libyan Bases
- 1981: U.S. shoots down two Libyan fighters in Gulf of Sidra.
- 1982: U.S. places ban on Libyan oil imports
- 1986: Libyan sponsored terrorist attack in West Berlin
- 1986: Reagan launches air strikes against Tripoli
- 1986-1987: Libya attacks CHAD over Aozou Strip
- 1988 Chad forces Libyan forces north
- 1988 Mt. Hope III Mission

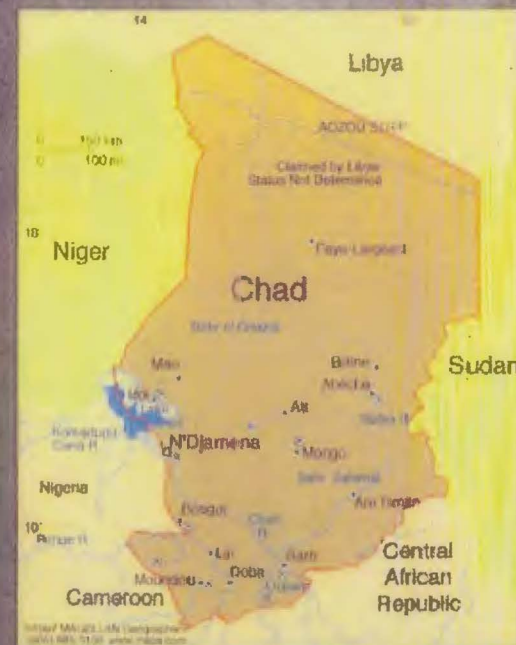




# Background

## Chad Political Situation

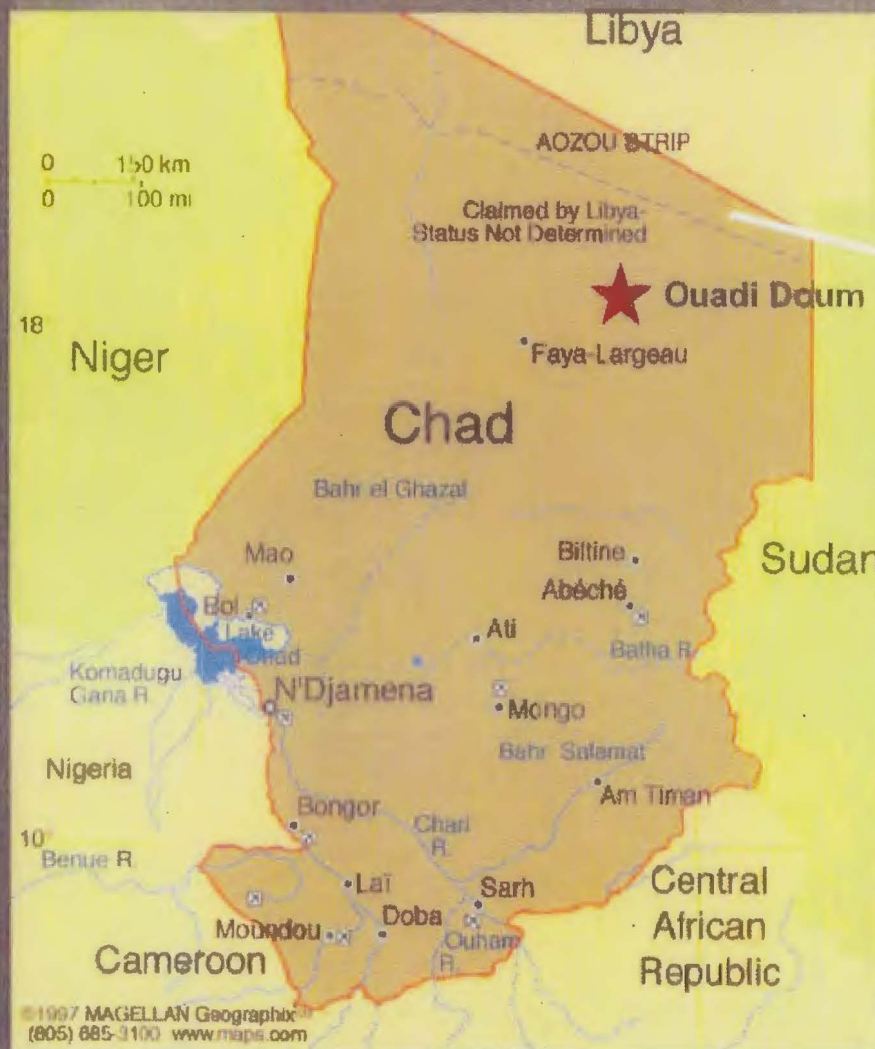
- 1890: French expeditions advanced into region
- 1913: Chad established as a French colony
- 1960: Full independence attained
  - Ngarta Tombalbaye first president
- 1966: Full scale guerilla war between Chadian government and Chad National Liberation Front
- 1975: Tombalbaye killed in coup
- 1987: Chadian gov and National Liberation Front unite
- 1987: Coalition forces drive Libyan Forces out of northern territories.





# Background

## Dispute over the Aozou Strip



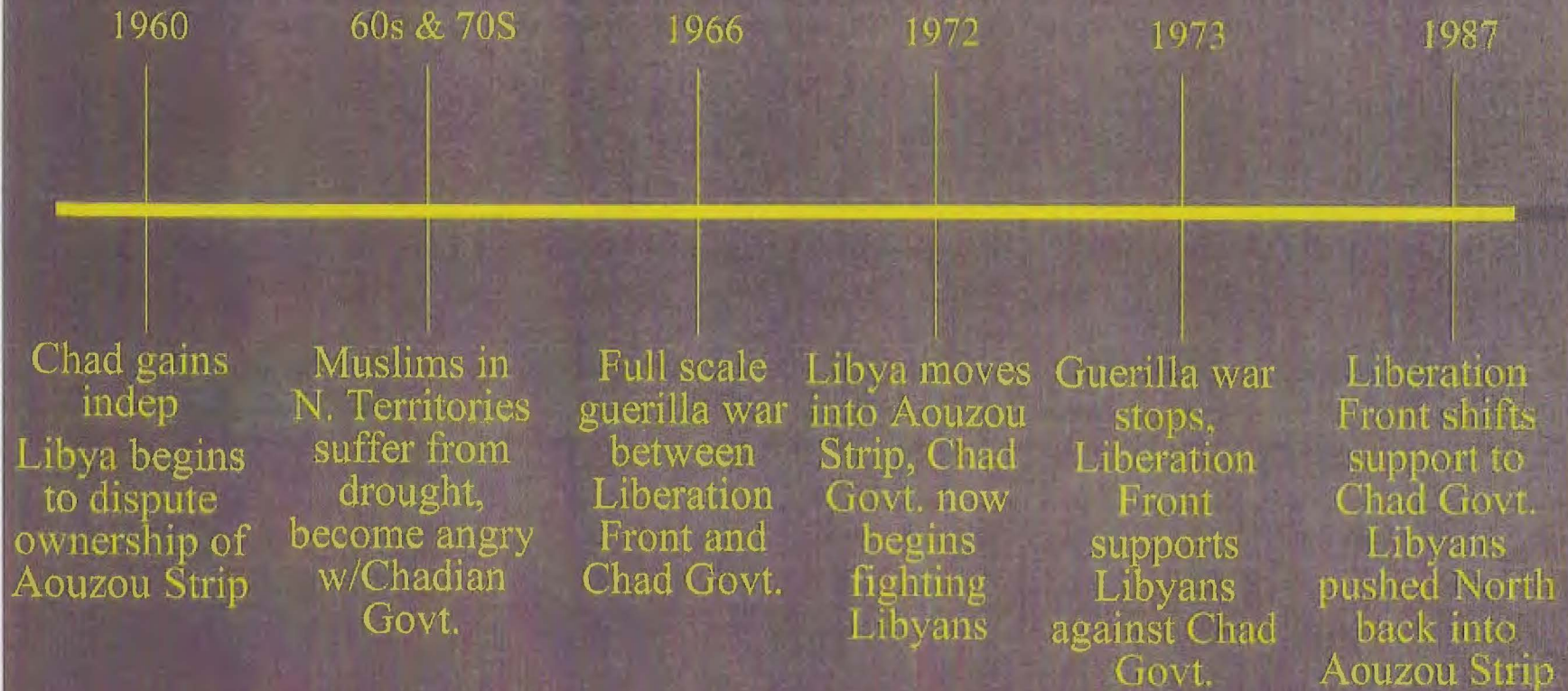
114,000 Square  
Miles  
Rich in Uranium  
and Oil Deposits





# Background

## Dispute over the Aozou Strip





# Background

## Enemy Weapons Systems Acquisition

- 1980s during the Cold War
- Berlin wall still standing
- Communism still the threat/enemy
- Enemy threat systems capabilities unknown
- Access to actual threat systems limited
- Acquisition of threat systems a high priority



Northern regions  
scattered with  
abandoned equip

- Libyan-Chadian war was the target of opportunity



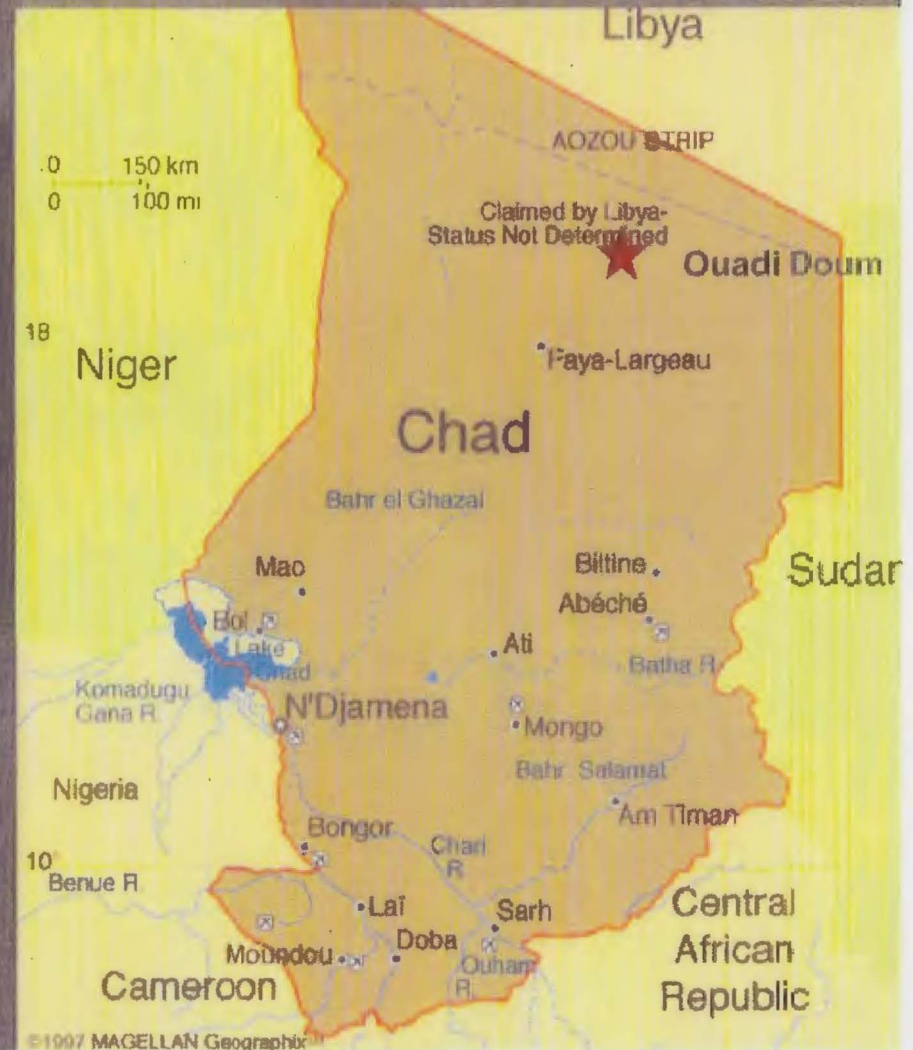


# Background

## The Target



MI-25 Hind





# Background

## Decision to Acquire Hind

- Months of negotiating
- Many political factors
- Mission Planning ongoing during political coordination
- Decision to execute!!!



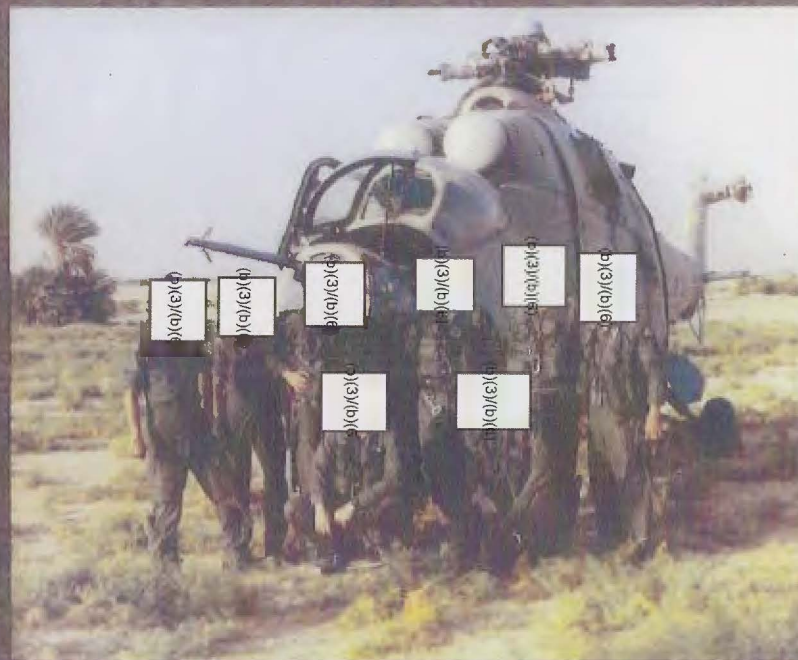
“Do it!”





# The Operation

- Planning
- Rehearsals
- Deployment
- Build Up
- Mission





# The Operation

## Planning and Rehearsals

- Planning on-going during early months of 1988 while U.S. negotiated the acquisition and extraction of the Hind.
- Performance Planning
- Flight distance and load validation completed prior to execute order
- Mt. Hope III execute order issued on 21 May 1988

Libyans Flee out of northern territories	U.S./Chad Negotiations on price & conditions 1987-1988
--	--

PPC Planning Feb-Mar 1988	Rehearsals Apr-May 1988	Mt. Hope III June 1988
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# The Operation

## Performance Planning

- How much load can be lifted?
- How much fuel required?
- How high will temperatures be?
- How thick will the air be?
- Can we do it?

—YES!!!

—Aircraft 24358—

Operating Weight: 23,958		Drag: 100 sq. ft.	
<b>TORQUE AVAILABLE</b>			
PRESS ALT/FAT	EMER.	10 MIN	30 MIN
2000 ft/+30	99%	91%	73%
2000 ft/+20	106%	99%	80%
			70%
<b>HOVER DATA</b>			
GROSS WT	PA/FAT or DA	WHEEL HEIGHT	TORQUE REQ'D DUAL SINGLE
46,000	2000 ft/+30 C	10'	73% N/A 82%
"	"	80'	83% N/A 91%
<b>MAX GROSS WEIGHT TO HOVER</b>			
PA/FAT or DA	HEIGHT	DUAL	SINGLE
2000 ft/+30 C	10'	50,000	32,000
"	80'	49,000	30,000
<b>CRUISE</b>			
PRESS ALT/FAT	GROSS WT	MAX RANGE A/S	MAX ENDUR A/S
2000 ft/+30 C	46,000	133 KTAS	78 KTAS
			41,500 #
<b>ENGINE</b>			
0 46,000 lbs. 2000 ft/+30 C	DUAL	SINGLE	100 KTAS
CRUISE (TQ)	67%	99%	
CRUISE FUEL FLOW	3100 PPH	1930 PPH	
<b>AIRPEED LIMITS</b>			
GROSS WT	PA/FAT or DA	CGI INOP	RETRACTED
46,000	2000/+30 C	134 KTAS	62 KTAS
<b>SINGLE ENGINE OPERATIONS</b>			
PA/FAT	GROSS WT	IAS	TQ REQ'D/AVAIL
2000 ft	46,000	78	104%/99%
+30 C			-125 EPR

FC Form 2843 (Rev) CH-47D PERFORMANCE PLANNING CARD



# The Operation

## Rehearsals

- Deployment to New Mexico
- Simulated load of 6 water blivets
- Actual mission distance flown
- Rigging validation with similar airframe





# The Operation

## Execute Order

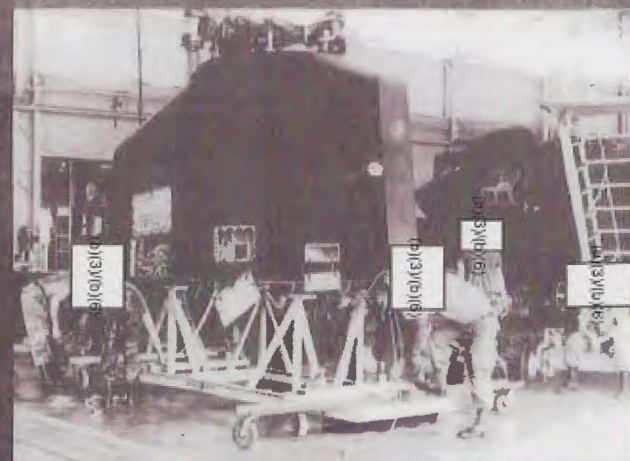
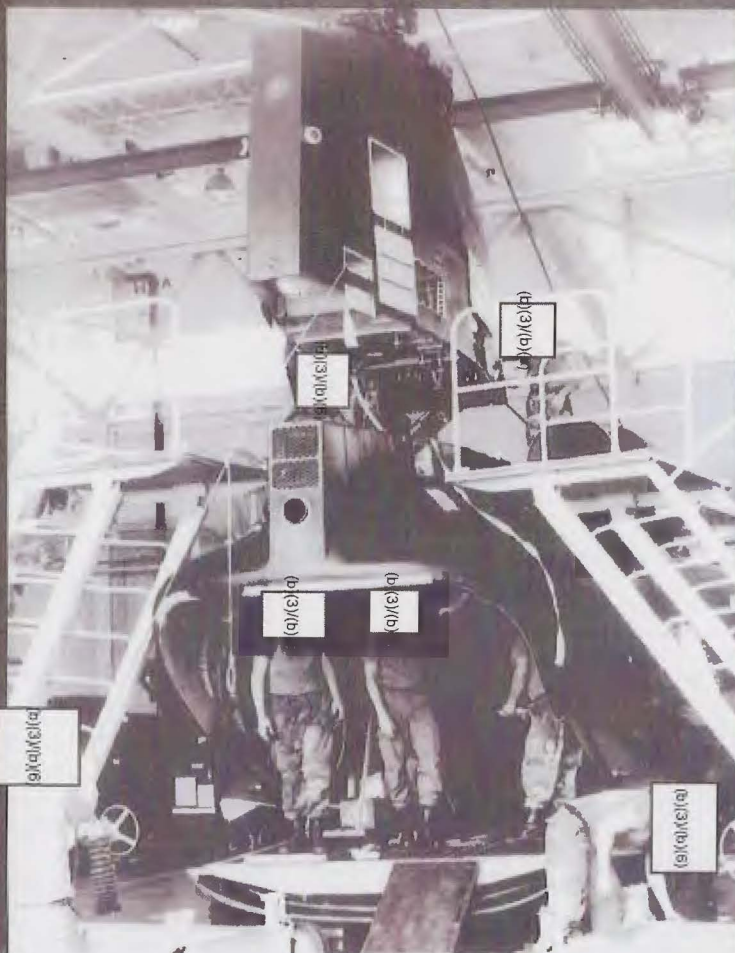
- 21 May 1988
- Advon Survey Team: D-2 Weeks
  - HOP-Germany-Chad
- Main Body
  - HOP-Chad





# The Operation Tear Down

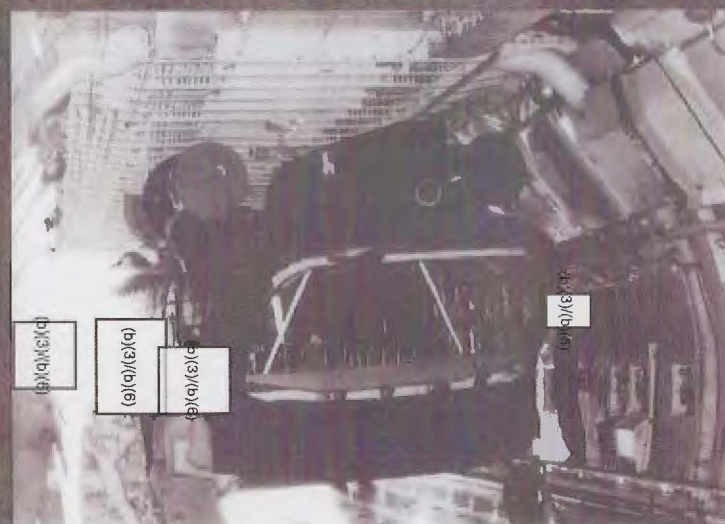
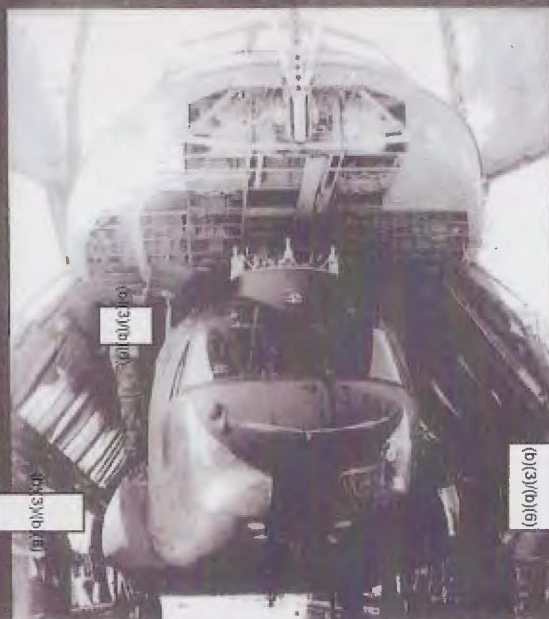
- 2 x CH-47 C5 Load Out





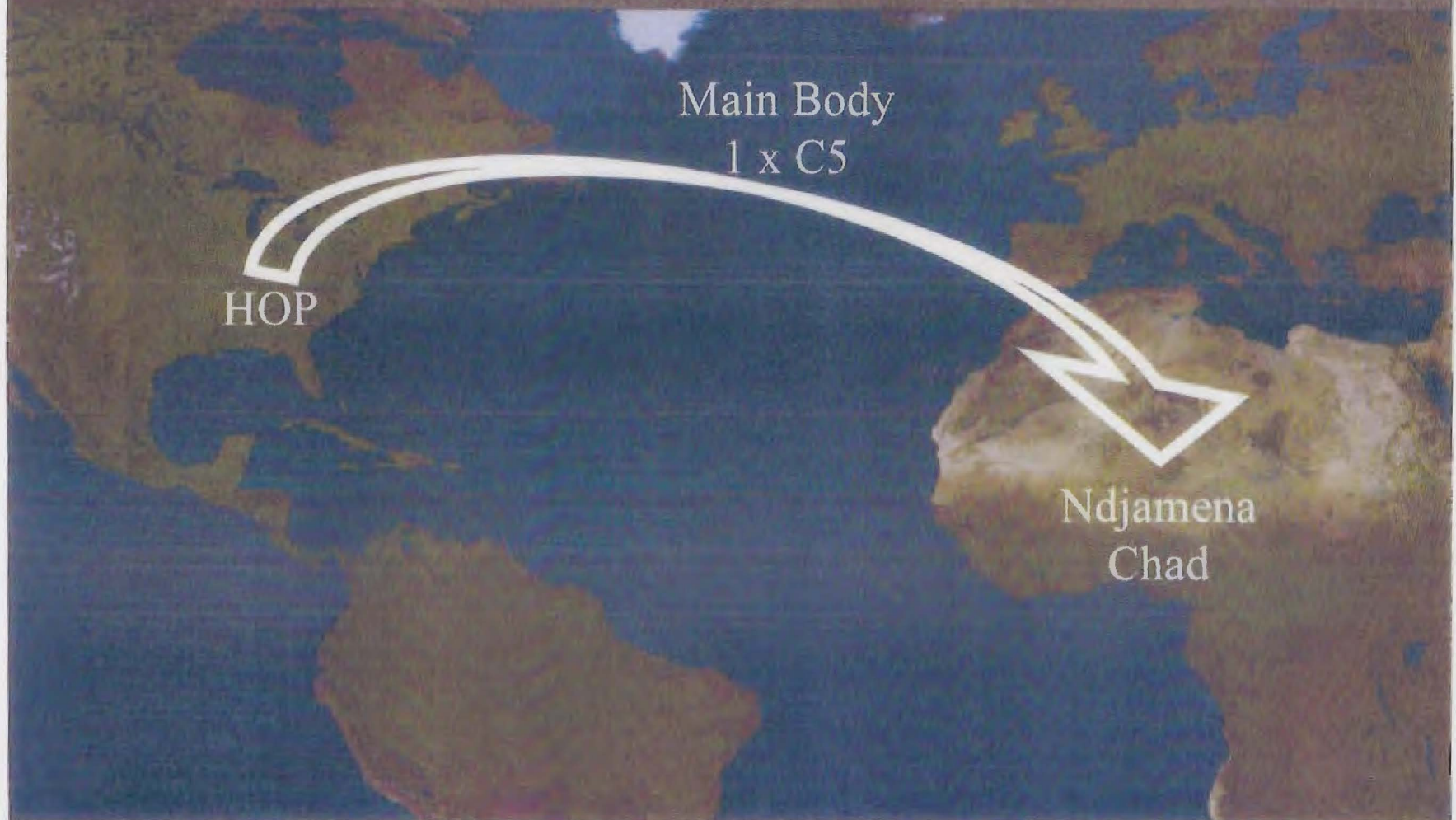
# The Operation

## Load Out





# The Operation Deployment

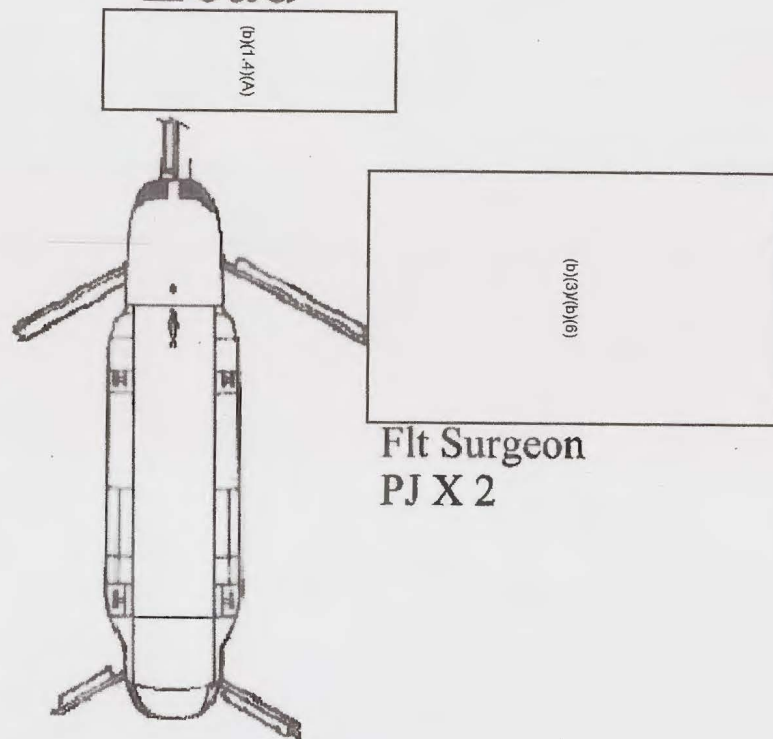




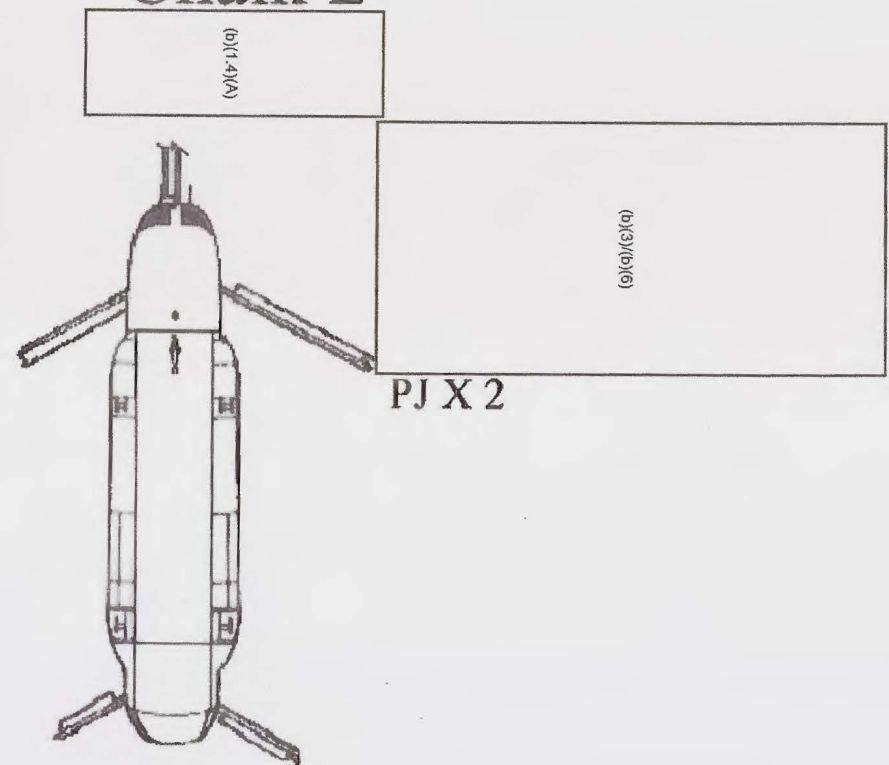
# The Operation

## Crews

### Lead



### Chalk 2





# The Operation Mission

(b)(1,4)(c)

(b)(1,4)(c)

Claimed by Lib  
Status Not Determined

Ouadi Doum  
Faya-Largeau

(b)(1,4)(A)

Chad

Bahr el Ghazal

Mao

Biltine

Abéché

Bol

Lake Chad

Ati

Moussoro

Batha R.

Komadugu  
Gana R.

Ground Farp

N'Djamena

Mongo

Bahr Salamat

geria

Am Timan

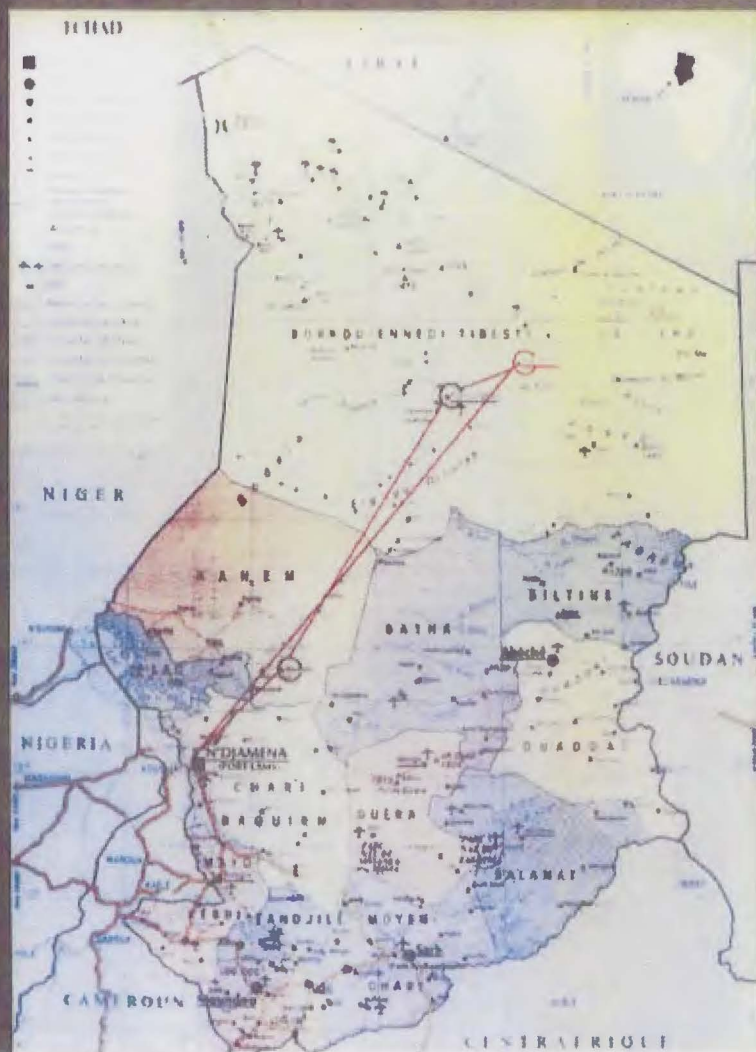
Bongor

Chari

(b)(1,4)(c)



# The Operation Mission





# The Operation

## FLIR Video





# The Operation

## Mission

Faya Largeau

(b)(1,4)(A)

FARP Site





# The Operation

## Mission





# The Operation Mission



(b) (3) (c)



# The Operation Re-deployment





# Summary

- Aircraft Involved
  - 2 x CH-47
  - 1 x C130
  - 2 x C5
- Total Distance: 994 miles
- Total Personnel: 67
- Tear Down: 2 Iterations
- Build Up: 2 Iterations
- Total Time In Country: 67 Hours
- High Gross Weight Operation
  - MI-25: 18,000 lbs
  - High Temp: 130 Degrees Fahrenheit
  - Max Gross Weight: 52,500 lbs





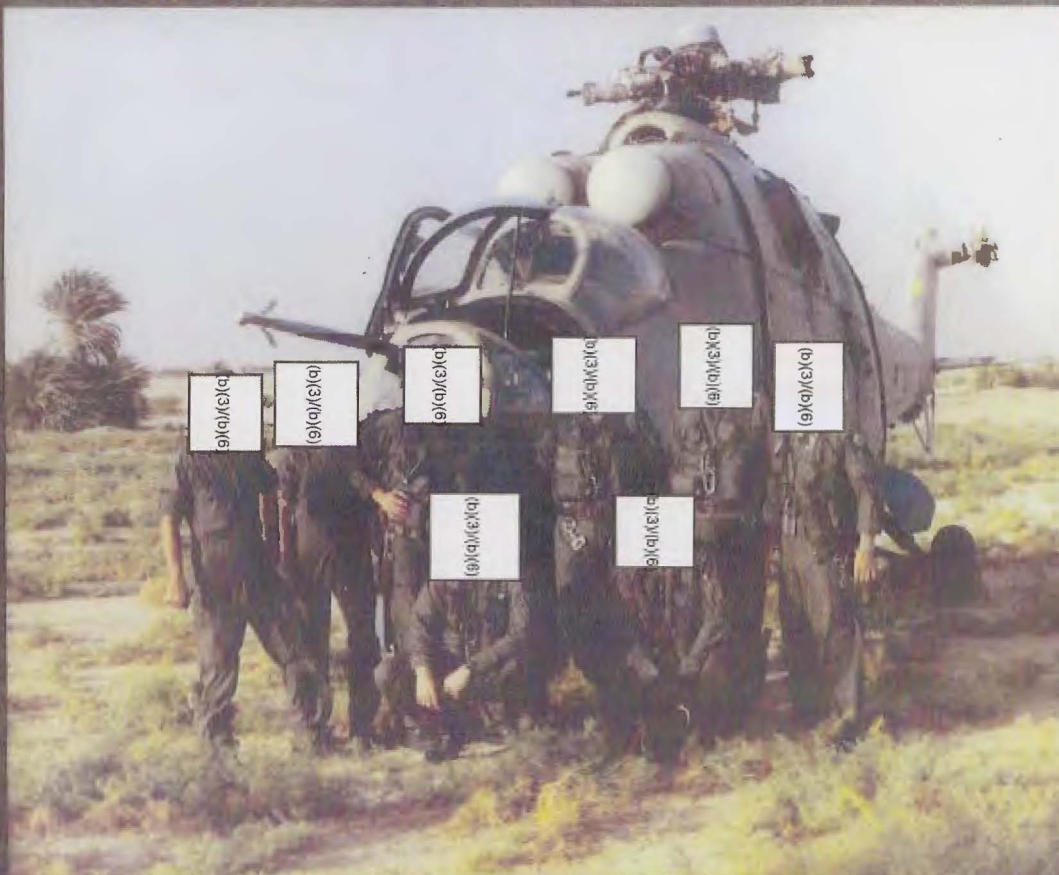
# Lessons Learned

- Long range deep penetration possible
- Heavy lift operations
- Teardown/Buildup capabilities
- Methodical mission planning pays dividends





# Questions/Discussion





# Closing Comments

(b)(3)(C)(b)(6)



# Operation Mount Hope III

## Overview:

In June 1988, the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Group sent two CH-47 Chinook helicopters to Northern Chad to recover a Russian MI-25 Hind helicopter. An overwhelming success, the 160<sup>th</sup> completing the entire duration of the mission within 67 hours, which included a 490 nautical mile (nm) night vision goggle (NVG) flight to the extraction site, hooking up the sling load, and two refuel stops on the return to the forward support base (FSB). During the final leg back to the FSB, the pilots survived a massive 3,000-foot sand storm, lasting 22 minutes, reducing visibility to near zero at times, and containing winds up to 40 knots.

## Background:

Particularly concerned with reducing Western influences, Libyan leader Muammar Al-Qaddafi forced the 1970 U.S. abandonment of Wheelus Field, a U.S. Air Force base near Tripoli. Qaddafi's relationship with the West significantly declined in 1981 when Libyan fighter planes attacked U.S. forces in the Gulf of Sidra. As Libya began supporting international terrorist organizations, President Regan placed bans on Libyan oil imports in 1982 and later ordered air attacks in 1986 in retaliation to a terrorist attack in Germany that killed two American soldiers.

In 1960, Libya's neighboring country, Chad, gained its independence from France and began having military and political problems. Libya recognized this unrest and saw it as an opportunity to gain land with a great amount of resources, thus beginning the dispute over the ownership of Aouzou Strip, a 114,000 square mile area located in northern Chad, rich in uranium and oil. In 1987, after fighting for 15 years, the U.S. and France assisted Chad in ousting the Libyans, leading to a cease-fire agreement.

During the 1980s, the U.S. had limited access to actual threat systems and was unable to research and develop any method of counter measures, making the acquisition of threat systems a high priority. The Libyan-Chadian war provided a key opportunity to seize these systems after the Libyans abandoned the majority of their equipment in the Chadian desert at the onset of the cease-fire. One such piece of equipment was the Russian MI-25 Hind helicopter, which is where operation Mount Hope III begins.

## Preparing for the Operation

After months of negotiating with the country of Chad, the U.S. and Chad agreed to the MI-25 Hind extraction. During this negotiating period, the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Group (SOAG) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, began planning for this mission and when the execution order came, the Night Stalkers were ready.

In March of 1988, the 160<sup>th</sup> SOAG received a written exercise researching the Chinooks' ability to lift and transport the MI-25 Hind through the hot arid environment. Planners for the 160<sup>th</sup> SOAG determined that the Hind could weigh between 17,000 and 18,000 pounds and still allow for the required fuel loads.

They validated these findings by performing a dress rehearsal of the deployment. In April of 1988, two CH-47 Chinooks were loaded on an Air Force C-5 Galaxy transport aircraft at Fort Campbell. The aircraft, maintenance personnel, and crews flew to New Mexico, and prepared the Chinooks for the mission. Unlike the actual mission, the rehearsal was conducted under the hours of darkness, departing at approximately 6 p.m. and flying a 490 nm route to the target site. The first Chinook lifted the simulated target, six blivets filled with water, and then both Chinooks returned to the simulated Forward Support Base (FSB), requiring two re-fueling stops. After successfully completing this test, the 160<sup>th</sup> SOAG conducted load testing with a similar airframe, equal in weight to the Hind, and rigged exactly as it would be fitted to the Hind. Again, the pilots accomplished their mission as they lifted the tandem load. An overwhelming success, Mount Hope II demonstrated the CH-47 Chinook's awesome capability of executing long-range, heavy-lift missions.

## Mount Hope III.

Following the May 21, 1988 execution order issuance, several events occurred in rapid succession. After traveling to Germany until country clearances could be resolved, an advanced party survey team departed for the Ndjamenana airfield in southern Chad. This team, lead by (b)(3)/(b)(6) arrived in Chad almost two weeks prior to the mission. The main body and aircraft then moved via an Air Force C-5 Galaxy directly from the United States into Ndjamenana where they prepared the Chinooks for the mission.

Based on the threat analysis, they determined that the movement to the target area would have to occur under darkness and arrive at daybreak. Thus, the flight departed from the airfield at midnight on June 11, 1988. Without a refuel stop, they flew nearly 500 nm to the target location, the Ouadi Doum airfield in the northern territories of Chad, where Libyan forces remained situated just north in the Aouzou Strip.

The flight arrived at Ouadi Doum at approximately 5:00 a.m. The first chalk landed close to the target and configured the Hind, while the second chalk hovered over the Hind and sling loaded it. Once the crew determined the load was stable, the flight departed Ouadi Doum to return to Ndjamenana.

This flight differed from the rehearsal in that it was performed during daylight hours, but still proved to be successful en route to the planned refueling points at Faya Largeau and Mousorro, Chad. Departing from the latter location, a French foreign legion airfield, they began the most difficult leg of the entire mission.

Approximately 45 minutes outside of Ndjamenana, the flight encountered a 3,000-foot sand storm. At times, the flight had to slow to 40 knots to maintain visibility with the ground and each other. Fortunately, just before reaching the airfield, the pilots cleared the sand storm and raced to Ndjamenana. They set the Hind down just seconds before the sand storm overtook the airfield. After 22 minutes of being sand blasted at Ndjamenana, the storm passed and the crews were able to exit their aircraft, immediately preparing the Chinooks and the Hind for transport back to the U.S. Within days, both the MI-25 Hind and the CH-47 Chinooks were safely in the United States, marking it as one of the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment's earliest successes and the first major operation utilizing the mighty Chinooks.

Author: (b)(3)/(b)(6) is the (b)(3)/(b)(6) of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne), located at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.