

U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground
Support to Project **Apache Nickle Grass**

OV-1 Deployment to Israel

Dick Wolfe Col AV Ret.

I was assigned to USAEPG at Ft Huachuca, AZ in early 1972. My assignment was project officer, OV-1 aircraft. The USAEPG Aviation Branch was a very diverse test and support organization at that time.

USAEPG had a complement of (2) C-47 Laboratory/support aircraft, a U-8D special support aircraft, (2) UH-1H rotary winged aircraft, and up to (5) OV-1 aircraft. Originally the OV-1 aircraft were the pre-production "Super C" airframes. 67-18905, 67-18898, 67-18899. Later 69-17000 and 69-17004 were sequenced through the programs. In addition several short winged OV-1 C aircraft were used in various support roles. USAEPG performed many airframe, electrical system, surveillance and navigation system components tests for AAVSCOM, CECOM and TECOM.

In mid 1973 USAEPG also became involved in Remote Sensing operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal Agencies. Remote sensing operations included use of APS-94D SLAR, AAS-24 IR Scanner, and a suite of photographic components which included the KA-76 as well as modified Air Force KC-1, KC-4, and KC-6 camera systems. Additional systems were also modified and incorporated into the OV-1D for test and evaluation purposes.

USAEPG became involved with the NASA Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, OH in late 1973 after the NASA Ice Reconnaissance and Measurement missions on the Great Lakes had achieved success utilizing an on-loan OV-1 B flown by NASA. For the 1973-74 winter ice navigation season, USAEPG was tasked with providing OV-1 D support with the APS-94 D SLAR.

Without detailing the tremendous logistical and technical requirements of a winter mission on the Great Lakes, it can be stated that it was a great success, and led to the development of a