

Mohawks Join in Viet Battle

TAN SON NHUT, Vietnam (IO)— The United States Army Support Group, Vietnam, has received a unit of OV-1C Mohawk aircraft, previously in the experimental stage, and assigned it to support combat missions in the delta region of the Republic of Vietnam.

A five-month evaluation of the new aircraft, flown by the 23d Special Warfare Aviation Det. (SWAD), has proved the Mohawk's combat capabilities in mountainous areas of the Republic of Vietnam. Similar tests will be made of the unit's capabilities in flatlands.

The primary mission of the Mohawk is to provide Vietnamese security with a "flying tripod" for both day and night intelligence photography.

Flying in support of the Vietnamese I and II Corps in the morning, the highly mobile 23d SWAD immediately crossed Vietnam to come to the aid of III and IV Corps troops fighting the Viet Cong in the rice paddies of the Mekong River delta.

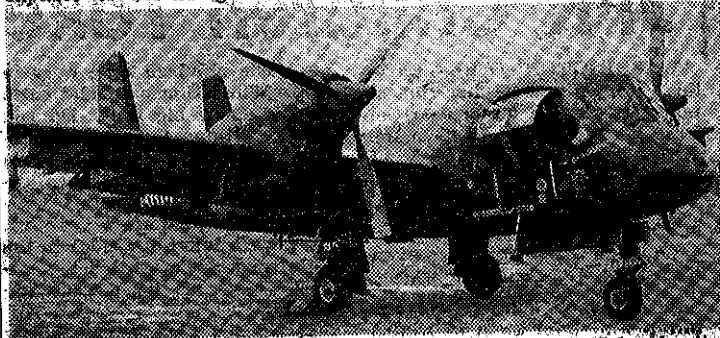
Extremely happy with the successful evaluation in the north, Brig. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, commanding general, U.S. Army Support Group, Vietnam, is studying the reassignment with interest. The reassignment was made to further prove the mobility, fire power and shock action of this versatile combat support unit.

On occasion, the 23d has been fired upon by the Viet Cong. It has proved more than capable of defending itself.

In addition, the Mohawk provides Army aviators with a stable platform in the sky for their support operations. Heavy ordnance loads of up to 4,000 pounds are carried to enemy positions to safeguard transportation of Vietnamese soldiers.

Each of the Mohawks has been flown over 100 hours monthly in support of combat missions.

The 23d is commanded by Maj. William J. Morris.



The 23d Special Warfare Aviation Det.'s OV-1C Mohawks sit at its new home in Bien Hoa, Vietnam. (USA Photo)