

146th



# PROFESSIONALS

VOL 1 NO 5 22 JULY

1969

## CHAPLAIN BLACK IN COPTER CRASH NEW COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Chaplain Wayne Black was seriously injured on 2 July 1969 when the helicopter in which he was riding experienced a mechanical malfunction and crashed. Chaplain Black was on his way to pay a visit to the men of Company "A" when the mishap occurred. He sustained a broken right arm, a fractured pelvis and back and internal injuries. Chaplain Black is now recovering from his injuries at the 106th General Hospital in Japan, and is reported to be in satisfactory condition there. The helicopter crew chief and door gunner were also injured in the crash.

Chaplain Black joined the "Profess-

Cont. on pg 6 col. 1

The "Professionals" of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry have gained the experience and knowledge of Command Sergeant Major Vinson N. Rose of Clarksville, Tennessee. He entered the army on 3 February, 1948 taking his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. With the completion of basic he went to Fort Benning, Georgia for Airborne training. His first assignment was with the 82nd Airborne Division which he spent the early part of his army career. Later he worked with the ROTC program for approximately 2 1/2 years in the Indianapolis High School System. Returning to an airborne unit he was assigned to the 101st Air-

Cont. on pg 6 col. 2

# 1/46TH ORGANIZES COMPOSITE MORTAR PLATOON

On the 5th of June 1969 the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry's 81 mm mortar platoon, who occupy a segment of LZ Professional, took on a new face. Now each of the four line companies has on the hill a 81 mm mortar gun crew made up of some of the 11 Charlies from out of that company. The gun crew is stationed on the LZ for about two weeks where-upon they rotate back out to the field and other 11 Charlies from that company take over the responsibilities of operating the gun.

The purpose of these men is to provide close and continuous fire support to LZ Professional, its men, and equipment. The role of these essential and unmatched men becomes critical when, due to the closeness of the firing range, the 4.2 mortars, and 105's are at a disadvantage. Thus the 81 mm mortars can bring under fire an enemy who has moved in close to the bunker line. To add support to the fact of their close firing ability, efficiency, and accuracy it can be asked of any man on the LZ, who while on guard at night, has felt the need to call for illumination.

The 81 mm mortar gun crews are made up of four men for each gun, a squad leader, gunner, assistant gunner, and ammo bearer. Each of these four men holds one of the specific jobs that he must fulfill to the utmost of his ability. For this reason SFC. Candido Pantoja (Cantano, Puerto Rico) said that each man is carefully hand-picked, and to remain a member of this special unit, he must show a knowledge unequaled in the operation, cleaning, and maintenance of the 81 mm mortar, he must be willing to work long and hard hours, and he must train and practice frequently to improve this proficient purpose. With these high standards to maintain it is no wonder that within the 81 mm mortar gun crews there is a lot of competition. This spirit has made the members of the 81 mm mortar platoon a very useful and effective combat organization.

When this rotation system was first instituted Section Sergeant James Draper (Norcross, Georgia) a member of the FDC, was a little skeptical on the idea of bringing a new group in every two weeks to work as a gun team. He also had his doubts as to whether it would work bringing in men from different companies and forming them into a complete effective unit. However, he says that he has been pleased to see the progress achieved by these men thus far. He further added that everyone seems to be glad to get back into their MOS, and that men on the LZ enjoy coming around to watch their firing missions.

For the fine job and support that the first group of men to take over the control of the 81 mm mortars under the new rotating system are doing, the rest of "the Professionals" want to give a special thanks to the members of the gun crews from:

## Alpha Company

Squad Leader - Sp/4 Robert Bush  
(Carbondale, Ill.)  
Gunner - PFC John Wilinski  
(Detroit, Mich.)  
Assistant Gunner - PFC Gerald Schofield  
(Jackson, Florida)  
Ammo Bearer - PFC James Leddy  
(Philadelphia, Pa.)

## Bravo Company

Squad Leader - SGT. Prentiss Long  
(Knoxville, Tenn.)  
Gunner - Sp/4 Richard Ayres  
(Long Beach, Calif.)  
Assistant Gunner - Sp/4 Leonard Gager  
(Plainville, Kansas)  
Ammo Bearer - Sp/4 Ron Cekowski  
(Detroit, Mich.)

## Charlie Company

Squad Leader - Sp/4 Jay Barnes  
(Sacramento, Calif.)  
Gunner - Sp/4 Dave Manka  
(Buffalo, N.Y.)  
Assistant Gunner - PFC Gordy Gray  
(Detroit, Michigan)  
Ammo Bearer - PFC Perfecto Danbria  
(San Juan, Puerto Rico)

Cont. on page 3 col. 2

# "PROFESSIONALS" NO 1 IN REENLISTMENTS

The Commanding General's Trophy for the highest re-enlistment percentage for a quarter was awarded to the "Professionals" of the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry. In addition, Delta Company received the Commanding General's award for the highest re-enlistment percentage for a company. LTC. Craig Coverdale was honored with the presentation of the trophy and was pleased with the increased progress the re-enlistment program the 1/46th is making.

In April, the "Professionals" re-enlisted 16 individuals out of a possible 20 who were eligible, giving them a high percentage of 80%. For the month of May, there were 6 of 11 who were re-enlisted for a 54.5%. For June, 5 Re-enlisted from the 11 who were qualified giving the "Professionals" a 45.5%. During this second quarter of April, May, and June, the battalion achieved an overall high average of 60% re-enlistment by re-enlisting 27 of 42 individuals that were eligible.

Delta Company during this quarter re-enlisted 7 individuals of 7 who were eligible for an incredible 100% re-enlistment there-by capturing the company level award.

The re-enlistment decision is an area where an individual can really assert his independence. Individuals are needed who will be leaders or experts in their field or specialties. A willingness to assume responsibilities and promotional potentials are all that is required. The retention of qualified personnel is vital to the accomplishment of the Army's mission.

Advantages and benefits are numerous. In addition to getting large bonuses you may get a change in MOS. If qualified you may choose the job that you want. You will be removed from your present job immediately and reassigned to begin on-the-job training in your selected field. A 30 day reenlistment leave: a full month's leave authorized to the United States, Guam, Okinawa, and any

country where R&R sites are located. The time you are on leave counts on your foreign service tour. A reenlistment rest: It is the Brigade Commander's policy that you be sent to the rear (Chu Lai) area 3 or 4 days during the reenlistment processing. CONUS station of choice: Select your post in CONUS. You will be reassigned to the post of your choice after completing your foreign service tour. Overseas area of Choice: If you have over 21 months service and reenlist in an MOS you hold at present you are eligible for a Variable Reenlistment Bonus:

Example:

E-5 under 2 yrs. service MOS 11B \$4,584  
E-5 over 2 yrs. service MOS 05C \$9,414

These are still not all the advantages the army offers to re-enlistees. If you are interested and want to know more about the opportunities offered, you are urged to see your company commander. He will make an appointment for you to talk to the re-enlistment NCO SFC Campbell in the battalion rear. SFC Campbell will then see that you take the right steps in making this decision.

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## Mortars Cont.

Delta Company

Squad Leader-SGT. Robert Portridge  
(Ft. Smith, Ark.)

Gunner-SP/4 William Smith  
(Miami, Fla.)

Assistant Gunner-PFC Elbert Iwane  
(Kealaekus, Hawaii)

Ammo Bearer-PFC Fritz Smith  
(Pigeon, Mich.)

To the rest of the 11 Charlies who will be coming onto the hill to take command of the 81mm mortars, and to the permanent members of the FDC:

Platoon Sergeant--SFC. Candido Pantoja  
(Cantano, Puerto Rico)

Section Sergeant--SGT. James Draper  
(Narcross, Ga.)

Chief Computer-SGT. Anthony Waite  
(Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Computer--SGT. William Lager  
(Bakersfield, Calif.)

Computer--SP/4 Ron Warner  
(Salineville, Ohio)

Computer--SP/4 Raymond Powell  
(Miami, Fla.)

Computer--SP/4 Bob Rocchio  
(Buffalo, N.Y.)

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# AWARDS

FOR  
JULY



HHC

## BRONZE STAR

SFC. Maurice Morokawa (Honolulu, Hawaii)  
SP/5 Dennis Loper (Omro, Wis.)  
SP/5 Bernard Pine (Rockport, Mass.)  
SSG. Walter Sturge (Phoenix, N.Y.)  
SGT. John Harris (Lynchburg, Va.)

## ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Diamond T. Allen (Houston, Tex.)  
SP/4 Jerry Anderson (Vinita, Okla.)  
SP/4 Steven R. Bertsch (Ajo, Ariz.)  
SP/4 Truman Bradshaw (Richlands, Va.)  
SP/4 Cornell Brandon (Atlanta, Ga.)  
SP/5 Richard Cloud (Venice, Calif.)  
SP/4 Glenn James (Long Beach, Calif.)  
SP/5 Wilson L. Ohl (Bethlehem, Pa.)  
SP/5 Allison Parton (Troup, Tex.)  
SP/4 Jimmy W. Pickett (Del City, Okla.)  
SP/4 Blas Suardy-Solano (Flushing, N.Y.)

## ALPHA COMPANY

### BRONZE STAR

SP/4 John E. Barrow (Minneapolis, Minn.)

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Elwyn Buchanan (Albertville, Ala.)  
SP/4 E. Garcia-Quinones (Ponce, Puerto Rico)  
SP/4 Rowle Ruffin (Washington, D.C.)

## BRAVO COMPANY

### BRONZE STAR

SSG. George Burnett (Nashville, Tenn.)  
SGT. Ned Bennett (Lewistown, Ill.)

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SGT. N. Kratochvil (Virginia Beach, Va.)  
SGT. William Milhauer (McFarland, Wis.)  
SGT. Donald Reasor (Lorain, Ohio)  
SP/4 Bobby Pindleton (Cicero, Ill.)  
SGT. David Young (Houston, Texas)

## CHARLIE COMPANY

### BRONZE STAR

SP/4 Anthony Bove (Warminster, Pa.)  
SP/4 Donald Montgomery (Memphis, Tenn.)

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 John Haskell (Selma, Ala.)  
SP/4 Gozales Nieves (Hato Rey, Puerto Rico)

## DELTA COMPANY

### BRONZE STAR

SSG. Joseph Murray (Kansas City, Mo.)  
SGT. Anthony Waite (Brooklyn, N.Y.)  
SSG. Philip Weber (Cincinnati, Ohio)

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SSG. James Brown (Norfolk, Va.)  
SGT. Gilberto Manch (Laredo, Texas)  
SP/4 Jerry Ankton (Arkadelphia, Ark.)  
SP/4 John Fish (West Springfield, Mass.)  
SP/4 Rodney Aubutt (Southgate, Calif.)  
SP/4 Charles Hatch (Salem, N.H.)  
SGT. Jesse Seamon (Wetumpka, Ala.)  
SP/4 John Storen (Corinna, Maine)  
SP/4 Elworth Thomas (Richmond, Va.)  
SP/4 John H. Todd (Saginaw, Mich.)  
SP/4 George Watson (Springfield, Ill.)  
SP/4 Malvin Woods (Memphis, Tenn.)

## ECHO COMPANY

### BRONZE STAR

SGT. Herbert Chavis (McColl, S.C.)  
SGT. Norman Ellis (Kenny Sq., Pa.)

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

SP/4 Jacinto Laureano (Vega Alta, Puerto Rico)  
SP/4 Lois Muniz-Acevedo (Maya Guez, Puerto Rico)  
SP/4 Edward Cain (Roanoke Rapids, N.C.)

"The Professionals" welcome the following new men to the battalion.

#### HHC

CSM Vinson Rose (Clarksville, Tenn.)  
SSG Sotomajor Median (Puerto Rico)  
SP/6 Cecil Rainey (Franklin, Tenn.)  
SP/5 Micheal Kucer (San Leandro, Calif.)  
SP/5 Robin Surmont (Santa Clara, Calif.)  
SP/4 Phillip Atencio (Olathe, Col.)  
SP/4 Jerry Boward (Middletown, Ill.)  
SP/4 Mark Castelow (Gwinhurst, Del.)  
SP/4 Ernest Campa (Bellglade, Fla.)  
SP/4 Richard Clarkson (Deer Park, Wash.)  
SP/4 James Fagons (Obion, Tenn.)  
SP/4 George Melone (Chicago, Ill.)  
SP/4 David Vincent (Newfloreance, Penn.)  
PFC Larry Andrews (Wedowee, Ala.)  
PFC Ernest Baca (Tucson, Ariz.)  
PFC Eric Chesler (Miami, Fla.)  
PFC Felipe Gonzalez (Progreso, Texas)  
PFC David Herrmann (Webster Groves, Mo.)  
PFC Johnny Hunter (Philadelphia, Penn.)  
PFC Richard Jones (Petersburg, Va.)  
PFC Jeffrey Mulder (Grand Haven, Mich.)  
PFC Alvin Pope (Athens, Ga.)  
PFC Michael Shave (Grand Rapids, Mich.)  
PFC John Sullivan (Far Rockaway, N.Y.)  
PFC Ronald Vaught (Mentor, Ohio)  
PFC Billy Williams (Columbus, Miss.)

#### ALPHA COMPANY

SGT Walter Masdon (Luthersville, Ga.)  
PFC Lawrence Amos (Leland, Miss.)  
PFC Larry Burns (Lakeside, Calif.)  
PFC Dwight Dirk (Bismark, N. Dak.)  
PFC Lonnie Evey (Bank, Ore.)  
PFC Jack Furmonek (Chicago, Ill.)  
PFC Clifford Hefta (Lacrosse, Wisc.)  
PFC William McCormick (New Haven, Conn.)  
PFC Lawrence Pomrantz (Marshall, Minn.)  
PFC Jon Rhodes (Naperville, Ill.)  
PFC Michael Saunders (Miami, Fla.)  
PFC James Supinger (Centerville, Va.)  
PFC Steven Tracy (Painted Post, N.Y.)  
PFC George Williams (Roxabel, N.C.)

#### BRAGO COMPANY

PFC Thomas Rotterree (Astell, Ga.)  
PFC Thomas Turrey (Milpitas, Calif.)

#### CHARLIE COMPANY

1LT Jerry Reskin (Gary, Ind.)  
1LT Edward Miller (Annandale, Va.)  
SSG Elijah Yates (Bishopville, S.C.)  
SFC Lynn McKeo (Sloans Valley, Ky.)  
PFC Mario Gonzalez (San Angelo, Texas)  
PFC Allen Teten (Tonkawa, Okla.)

#### DELTA COMPANY

FFC Bruce Penson (Harkem, Mont.)  
PFC Richard Bowdy (Conway, Penn.)  
PFC Robert Conatser (Jamestown, Tenn.)  
PFC Donald Graham (Arcata, Calif.)  
PFC Hancil Howell (Farmland, Ind.)  
PFC Kenneth Matter (Crayville, N.Y.)  
PFC William Shaw (Monroe, Mich.)  
PFC Robert Shimmin (Monmouth, Ill.)  
PFC Balbino Soto (Gainesville, N.Y.)  
PFC Carlos Stump (Alexandria, Va.)  
PFC Jerry Swank (Otley, Iowa)  
PFC Robert Vasquez (Sterling Heights, Mich.)  
PFC Larry Walkins (Winchester, Ind.)

#### ECHO COMPANY

1LT James Seiler (Fort Wayne, Ind.)  
PFC Roberto Guerrero (Sinton, Texas)



**HOLLYWOOD MODEL** —  
Lovely Harriette Spears, em-  
ployed by the Sheriff's Depart-  
ment, is a top Hollywood Model  
and is launching an acting ca-  
reer. Lil Cumber Agency photo.

Chaplain Black Cont.

"Professionals" as the battalion Chaplain on 3 February 1969 and has become a friendly and welcomed face to everyone in the 1st Battalion 46th Infantry. Chaplain Black's presence in the field was a tremendous morale factor to the individual rifleman. He not only imparted spiritual guidance to the men but he also brought with him news of the other field companies as well as important bits of information from the battalions rear area. In addition to spending at least four days a week in the field, Chaplain Black conducted chapel services for three different battalions each Sunday. When the battalion forward fire-base was located on LZ Baldy, Chaplain Black took it upon himself to build a battalion chapel. After the battalion rear moved to Chu Lai, Chaplain Black again saw the men had no adequate place to worship, and another chapel was built. Chaplain Black was also instrumental in building the new "Professional" mess hall on LZ Professional.

All the "Professionals" will sincerely miss Chaplain Black and our prayers go out for him as so many of his have for us.

A SPECIAL THANKS

During the recent visits and inspections by the 196th Brigade Commander, COL. Thackerberry to LZ Tomasek and LZ Professional, this battalion's appearance, attitude, and performance were truly "professional" in every aspect. To every member of this battalion I wish to again express my sincere pride and appreciation for the outstanding job that you have done and are doing. There appeared to be little doubt in our new brigade commander's mind that the "Professionals" are the best that the 196th has. The professionalism displayed by the members of PROSERVCO contributed greatly to this overall impression.

*Craig G. Coverdale*

LTC. CRAIG G. COVERDALE

New CSM Cont.

borne Division. On his first tour in Vietnam he was assigned to MACV working with the 47th ARVN Infantry as a battalion advisor. After his return to the United States he again was placed with the 101st Airborne Division where he became a company First Sergeant. On his next overseas tour he was stationed in Germany as a First Sergeant for the 327th Battle Group and then for the Second Battalion, 51st Mechanized Infantry. In 1966 while still assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 51st Mechanized Infantry he was promoted to E-9. On July 2, 1969, he returned to Viet Nam for his second tour of duty, and on 4 July, 1969 he was assigned to Headquarters Company of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry as the new Command Sergeant Major.

In 1964, he had the honor of being selected "Soldier of the Year." Among his other awards are the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry's Badge, and Glider Badge. Upon the completion of this tour he will return to his wife, Georgia, and their two daughters and two sons.

The men of the 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry welcome Command Sergeant Major Rose as a "Professional" and look forward to working with him during his tour.

Command Sergeant Major's Corner  
by CSM Vinson Rose

The importance of a well policed battalion area cannot be overemphasized. It is like a calling card, because it displays exactly what type of unit you have. It is also like reading in between the lines---telling a person whether your battalion is well-disciplined and how much pride each member has in his own unit. A clean area is the trade-mark of a professional unit. So shouldn't we who bear the name "Professionals" uphold this distinguishing mark to the highest degree? Does your area present an appearance of which you can be proud?

As a reminder, the uniform for the rear trains area (Chu Lai) are jungle fatigues with boots boused and steel helmets. When traveling outside the 1/46th battalion area, make sure you have in addition to the previous mentioned equipment; web gear and weapons.

# LEADERSHIP SCHOOL / FOUR "PROFESSIONALS" AMONG TOP TEN

"The Combat Center's Leadership School is highly informative, concise, well thought-out and presented fourteen days of classes having to do with military training and techniques." These were the comments of SGT. Frank Blanch Co. "C" (Espanola, N.M.), who just completed the Leadership Course. He, together with SGT. Ronald Ditchie Co. "D" (Detroit, Mich.), SP/4 Thomas Gatie Co. "B" (Denver, Colo.), BFC Ron Nereson Co. "C" (Hayden, Col.) did an outstanding job of representing the "Professionals" All four of these fine young leaders of the 1/46th placed in the top ten of their class of fifty-two.

With fourteen battalions from the Americal Division sending men to the Leadership School the competition was keen and the rivalry high. "All this did was increase our determination," said PFC Ron Nereson, who finished 6th in the class. LTC. Craig Coverdale also noticed the determination and will-power brought forth by these men and rewarded each with a three day in-country R&R. The four men were pleased with LTC. Coverdale's thoughtfulness and added that even without the R&R the course was well worth their time and effort. They all agreed that it was a most rewarding experience and that there should be more allocations sent down to the battalions in order for more men to have the opportunity to attend the school. SGT. Ronald Ditchie thought the instructors were exceedingly well qualified and possessed the experience needed to make them effective.

SP/4 Thomas Gatie summed it up by saying, "They reviewed a number of items we covered in basic and AIT plus giving us classes covering new material such as adjustment of artillery and the use of scout dogs." However, he went on, "the main theme of the two week instruction period was to be a leader."

# CALIFORNIA BOY NEEDS YOUR HELP

WASHINGTON (APPS) A 16 year-old highland, California boy -paralyzed for life as the result of a broken neck needs some help from the military units and veteran organizations.

The boy is Steve Baily, and he has developed a cheerful, positive attitude toward life that is an inspiration to those around him. As a matter of fact, he has been elected Senior Class President.

Steve has undertaken a hobby to occupy his time when he isn't reading, studying, or watching television - he collects military insignia of all kinds.

Steve is putting together a collection of division patches, regimental crests, MOS job patches, rank insignia, cap pins, "anything that is pinned or sewed on a military uniform," according to his friend, Alfred F. Adams.

Adams asked Steve's Congressman, Jerry L. Pettis of San Bernardino, Cal., for help in gathering up as many patches insignia, etc., as possible. Pettis was able to obtain a few from a manufacturer in New Jersey, but the list is far from complete, so he decided to appeal directly to military personnel through this newspaper.

Anyone who would like to contribute such items may send them to Steve, in care of Congressman Jerry L. Pettis, 427 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

## THE PROFESSIONALS

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