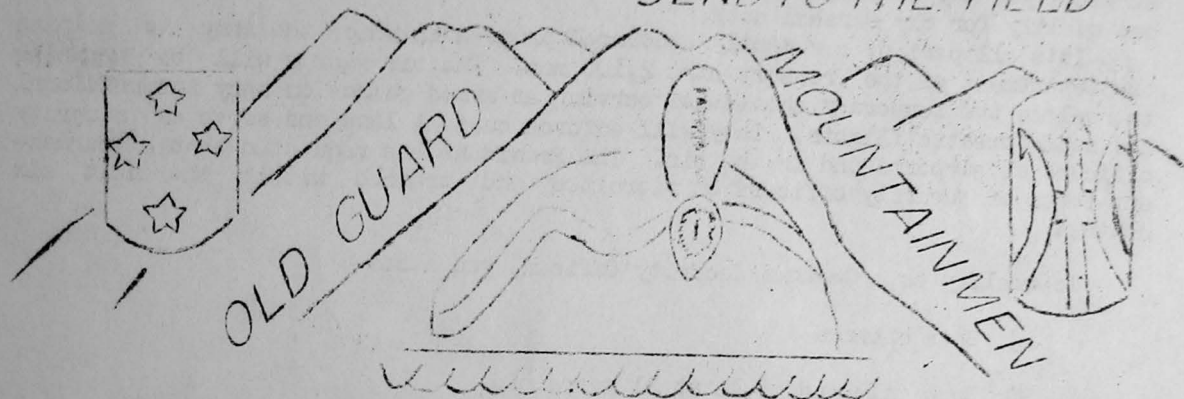


CAUTION DO NOT TAKE OR  
SEND TO THE FIELD



Vol. II No. 1

4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY 7 Jan 1970

## Alpha Springs Ambush

Enemy movement is not necessarily limited to the night hours as was learned by 11th Brigade Infantrymen, when an afternoon ambush was sprung five miles northwest of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill, netting one NVA.

The rain beat heavy as the Mortar Platoon of Alpha Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry waited in their ambush location. The men were set up just off a well used trail toward the top of a densely vegetated ridgeline. Wet and miserable yet aware of the situation at hand the Mountainmen waited patiently.

Signs of enemy activity had been found all through the area in which the company had been working. The day before the Third Platoon of Alpha led by 1LT John Sheridan (Spokane, Washington) entered an enemy camp which contained one ton of rice, 200 feet of white cloth, 20 pounds of mosquito netting, and eight NVA uniforms.

The enemy was definitely around as the men waited patiently through the morning and on into the afternoon. Suddenly, through the sounds of rain beating on the ground voices were heard on the trail moving toward the (Cont. on pg. 3, Col. 1)

## Face To Face

"I am thankful that we spotted the two NVA before they spotted us," reported PFC Rodney Barker.

PFC Barker from Riverside California was walking point when he encountered the two AK carrying NVA moving along the same trail while his squad of Delta Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry were working five miles northwest of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

"A lot of fresh Ho Chi Minh saddle tracks were seen as we made our way along the side of this thickly vegetated hill. Elephant grass was tall and grew from the top of the hill all the way down to the bottom. There was a trail but the elephant grass was growing all over, so we still made a lot of noise moving through the area." described PFC Barker.

Alertly spotting the elephant grass move a short distance to their front, the squad continued, slowly and cautiously forward. Suddenly rounding a small bend in the trail the alert Infantrymen came face to face with the bewildered enemy soldiers. "We knew someone else was on the trail so when I first spotted them we were ready for anything." added PFC Barker. "I opened up first and the slackman and the M-60 machine gunner following (Continued on page 3, Column 1)

## Is Sky Marshal Duty Your Bag ?

If you are interested in flying and you're nearing the end of your military service, you may be eligible for a 90-day early out---if you're interested and can qualify for Sky Marshal duty.

It's all part of a recently announced program in which the Army is helping the Department of the Treasury hire 2,100 men. The air guards will be training to replace the temporary agents now serving as armed guards on many international and some domestic flights. They will enforce customs laws and serve as security officers at airports and in the air. The President has requested that a permanent force of security officers be recruited and trained within the next six months.

To qualify as a Customs Security Officer, you must:

- A) Be a citizen
- B) Be a male and at least 21 years old.
- C) Have at least 20/40 - 2-/70 vision (correctible to 20/20)
- D) Be able to pass a civil service examination.

All applicants will be required to pass and pay for a civilian physical examination and pass a psychological test and an oral interview. If accepted, a background investigation requiring about 30 days, follows. Appointments as arms carrying Security guards will be made upon satisfactory completion of a four week training course in Washington D.C..

(Continued on page 3 Column 1)

## It Sounded Like A VC

Human beings are not the only creatures which utilize the numerous trails in Vietnam as was learned by Delta Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. The Mountainmen bagged a monkey while in ambush four miles northwest of Fire Support Base San Juan Hill.

The sun was just coming up as the Infantrymen remained in their ambush location, realizing that daybreak was the ideal time for enemy movement. The squad from the Third Platoon was set up at the bottom of a trail which moved up from a small valley to the top of a well vegetated hill. The rice paddies in the small valley were well kept and with fresh signs of enemy movement all along the trail, the men were quite optimistic when the ambush were first set up.

With daylight just breaking the men waited patiently in their ambush  
(Continued on page 4, Column 2)

## OLD GUARD

LTC ALBERT COAST  
1ST REED SIMMONS  
SP4 JAMES TABATA

CO  
SL  
EDITOR

This newsheet is published weekly under the supervision of SL 4th Bn. 3d Infantry, 11th Brigade, 23d Infantry Division APO 96217 as an authorized unofficial publication. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army, ARPS, AINE, and Command Information used.

Telephone Pointer Rear SL

This newsheet is mimeographed.



## Face To Face cont.

behind me also fired up the area." The NVA were obviously not anticipating contact as one NVA had his AK-47 slung on his shoulder and the other failed to get off a shot.

Both NVA were killed in the ensuing action as the Mountaineers set up security for a thorough search of the area to the high ground.

Confiscated from the scene were two AK-47's, magazines and ammunition, rice, medicine, and panchos. The rear end the men moved on in search of other enemy activity.

## Alpha Nets I cont.

ambush locations. As the voices grew louder the men grew impatient to end the task which was inevitably before them.

When the NVA entered the kill zone the detonation of a claymore mine initiated the action followed immediately by automatic rifle fire. The firing ceased as quickly as it began and the men instinctively moved out onto the trail. The Platoon led by acting Platoon Leader Sergeant Michael Hitchcock (Kenton, Ill.) describes the action that followed. "As we moved cautiously onto the trail we spotted the body of one dead NVA. Running down the trail was another enemy soldier with two weapons in his hands. We opened up as soon as we spotted him but failed to bring him down." Trying to follow his trail the squad moved 300 meters up the ridgeline, however found no trace of the evading NVA.

Moving back to the scene of the initial action the dead NVA was searched carefully to reveal one pistol belt, ammo pouches, canteen, and an NVA ID card.

Regrouping, the men moved back into ambush in hopes that the evading NVA would return for his buddy.

## Sky Marshal cont.

Men accepted for the positions will be hired at GS-4, 5, or 7 level and annual starting salaries will range from \$5853 to \$8998, depending on experience and qualifications. Further advancement is possible. Security officers will be paid overtime, will draw per diem when traveling and will spend about two of every three months flying. By rotating between extended periods of flight duty and ground assignments at the airports, the officers will gain experience in departures and arrival inspections of passengers will prepare them for officers of Customs teams. Those on foreign assignment will be paid for actual expenses, not to exceed \$40 a day.

Should you be selected for assignment as a customs officer more than 50 miles from your home, travel and transportation costs for you and your family to your new location will be paid.

Because the customs service is not equipped to interview and conduct tests overseas, soldiers currently serving overseas will take only civil service examinations. Any overseas soldier who wishes to apply should check with his unit First Sergeant and the installation project officer. The project officer will provide assistance and make arrangements for administering the tests. Immediately after returning to CONUS each overseas applicant should contact the installation project officer to arrange an interview with Bureau of Customs officials and take the required psychological tests.

All candidates will receive consideration without regard to race, color, creed or national origin.

For further information please contact the Editor of the Old Guard. All assistance will be given to those who wish to apply.

(Command Information Fact Sheet)

\*\*\*\*\*  
T-A-K-E P-I-L-L T-O-D-A-Y

\*\*\*\*\*  
W-A-I-T P-I-L-L N-O-W



## Project Help

With the help of Major General James L. Baldwin, the 23d Infantry Division opened it's new Project Help Center.

The center, directly across from Division Headquarters in Chu Lai will be just a telephone call away for soldiers with personal problems or questions on military life.

By calling Chu Lai and asking the operator for HEEP 4357 or 2323 or dialing directly, men stationed anywhere within the Division area of operation will be able to request information on a myriad of subjects involving pay, leaves, R&R, promotion's, assignments and numerous other matters.

All inquiries will be answered within a maximum of five days by the Project Help staff which will work on a 24 hour basis seven days a week under the supervision of SFC Jimmy Ray Miller NCOTC.

SFC Miller explained that every effort will be made to answer telephone inquiries immediately if possible.

Those individuals without access to a telephone can explain his question or problem in writing and address the envelope to:

### HELP

23d Infantry Division  
APO 96217

Project Help has been established to benefit the men of the 23d Infantry Division, use it whenever you have problems.

(23d Infantry Division Newsheet)

\*\*\*\*\*

"All the flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today."

Anonymous

Best wishes for the coming New Year to all the members of the 4th Bn. 3d Inf.

Editor, Old Guard

\*\*\*\*\*

## It Sounded Like A VC

location. It was at this time that movement was heard on the trail coming in their direction. "We heard funny sounding groans as we waited for the NVA to move closer to our location. We couldn't figure out what was wrong with the poor guy," reported Specialist Four Henry Brown (Chesspeck, Va.). The men waited as the movement grew louder. Suddenly the blast of a claymore initiated the ambush as the men added the fire-power of M-16's on automatic to the blast of the claymore. Moving quickly but cautiously out of their ambush location the men reconned the area as they moved into it.

"When we entered the trail we were shocked more then surprised to find a monkey instead of an enemy soldier lying their. The movement sounded just like a human being coming towards us," added Sergeant Lloyd Perbert (St. Joseph, Mo.).

The men although disappointed moved on to find a new ambush location and maybe next time a two legged NVA instead of a two legged monkey.

### THE VRB IS TAX-FREE IN VIETNAM

The purpose of the Variable Reenlistment Bonus is to provide an additional monetary incentive for first term personnel with critical skills to reenlist in the regular Army.

The Variable Reenlistment Bonus, (VRB) offers up to \$10,000 depending on the criticality of the individual's MOS, pay grade and term of reenlistment. The VRB represents ready cash, that may be used to buy a new car, place a down payment on a house, or if reenlisting overseas, invest in the Soldiers deposit with 10% interest. Also if reenlisting while still in Vietnam the VRB is Tax-Free.

These opportunities cannot be overlooked. For complete information on the VRB and other benefits see Staff Sergeant Johnson at Battalion S1 NOW.

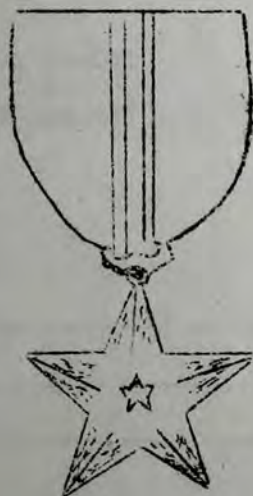


# VALOR AWARDS

The following is a list of those individuals in the Battalion who have recently received Valor Awards. They have distinguished themselves in valorous action on the battle field.

BY DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11046 24 AUGUST 1962, THE BRONZE STAR WITH "V" DEVICE HAS BEEN AWARDED TO:

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS SCOTT K. SMITH distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 24 November 1970 while serving as a Medical Aidman attached to Alpha Company 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date, a platoon of the company was conducting a combat patrol in the vicinity of Duc Pho when a well concealed



enemy mine was inadvertently detonated, inflicting several severe casualties. Reacting immediately to the urgency of the situation, Private Smith administered emergency first aid to his wounds suffered when the explosive device was triggered. Despite the danger involved, he unhesitatingly maneuvered through the heavily booby-trapped area and skillfully treated his fallen comrades until they could be evacuated from the area. Ignoring his own painful wound, Private Smith continued to assist his fallen



comrades aboard the evacuation helicopter until the friendly casualties reached a hospital. Through his timely and courageous actions, he saved the lives of several fellow soldiers and served as an inspiration to his comrades and the entire unit.

SPECIALIST FOUR DOUGLAS AYERS distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous action on 5 October 1970 while serving as pointman with Company C 4th Battalion 3d Infantry. On that date the company was conducting combat operations near Minh Long when Specialist Ayers detected movement near his location. Reacting immediately, he halted the Platoon and moved forward to secure the area. While maneuvering through the vegetation, he observed two Viet Cong soldiers. With complete disregard for his own personal safety he unhesitatingly engaged the enemy soldiers with a devastating volume of automatic rifle fire. Despite the dangers of hostile retaliation he effectively silenced the two enemy before they could place fire upon his fellow soldiers. Through his timely and courageous actions, he contributed greatly to the overall success of the mission, and served as an inspiration to his entire unit.

POSTAGE  
3d Class 4¢  
Air Mail 10¢

APO SAN FRANCISCO 96217

Mail your

Newsheet

Home Now.