



WEST OF WEST



4TH BATTALION 31ST INFANTRY

VOL 1 NUMBER VIII

CHANGE OF COMMAND 30 NOV 69

DELTA GETS "CHIEU HOI"

On a recent morning, an NVA soldier turned himself in to Delta Company. He had set off a trip flare while approaching the unit's night defensive perimeter, about two miles northwest of LZ West, and immediately began shouting "Chieu Hoi" and waving a Chieu Hoi leaflet.

When the "Polar Bear" troopers brought him into their perimeter he was extremely happy. "He threw off his pack and sandals and pointed to our trucks and boots with admiration saying, "Number One", related PFC Chip Hummel (Reading, Pa.).

"As we fed him 6 rations he told us about the very small daily ration of rice he had been receiving and happily showed us pictures of his wife and children," said LT Armond M. Derrin (Long Island, New York).

The defector revealed that he was a PFC in a Supply and Transportation Battalion of the Second NVA Division. Since joining his unit in September by infiltrating through Laos, his mission had been to carry rice from caches in the mountains along the ridge line of Nui Chan Mountain and into units located in the Hanoi Valley Area, four miles north of LZ West.

Small groups of 3 to 5 men make this trip in a 15 day period and it was while on one of these trips that he eluded his companions and turned himself in. He had carried the Chieu Hoi leaflet with him for a month looking for a chance to come over.

The Hoi Chan related that the morale in his unit was very low. There was very little food for the 120 men in his battalion and only one medic while ten percent of the unit has malaria.

CPT Gabriel Almona (Ewa Beach, Hawaii), Delta's commander, commented, "The lack of food in the NVA is further proof that the rice denial program the battalion has been participating in is successful."

The defector related that the war doesn't really mean anything to him. He had a good life in the north and enjoyed working on his farm, but all of that is gone now.

In recent ceremonies conducted by the Battalion Commander, LTC Cecil M. Henry (Rome, GA.), Three 4/31 companies received new commanding officers.

CPT Sheldon D. Hittelman (New York City) has taken command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company from CPT Anthony W. Hall Jr. (Houston, Tex.). CPT Hall is the new commander of Bravo Company. CPT William H. Gaylor (Mineral Wells, Tex.), taken charge of the battalion S-1 Section.

CPT Gabriel Almona (Ewa Beach, Hawaii) has turned over command of Delta Company to CPT Thomas J. Lynch (Boston, Mass.). CPT Almona has left to DE-RCS.

OPEN SEASON ON DEER, ETC.

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) --The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department released Friday its deer season score card:

A total of 7,304 deer killed, four moose, two porcupines, and undetermined number of domestic livestock, 20 deer shot at night by artificial light, 10 deer stolen from nooses at crossroads, and undetermined number of accidental gunshot wounds, 15 lost hunters, and one boy wounded.

NUMBER ONE KILL CABBON

NUMBER ONE KILL CABBON

NUMBER ONE KIT CARSON

The Kit Carson Scouts have proven their abilities to the Infantryman in the field many times in numerous ways. A case in point is Myu-en Quy, a scout in the 4th Bn, 31st Infantry.

The Recon Platoon credits Quy, their Kit Carson, with saving them from walking into a disastrous ambush while on a recent mission in the Que Son Valley two miles southeast of LZ West.

The platoon was moving along a recently used trail when they received five shots from a carbine approximately 250 meters to their left. "Quy immediately told us we should move to the right off the trail, because the shots were the signal to trigger an ambush," explained MSG August L. Gerber (Tucson, Ariz.).

The element moved out to higher ground and set up security. MSG Gerber took a squad to check out the area of the kill zone. "I observed three enemy personnel lying on an embankment 10 meters to the left of the trail," he said.

The "Pol-r Bear" Infantrymen opened fire and received carbine and AR fire in return before the enemy disappeared into tunnels.

"I am certain that without Quy's warning and quick advice, several of my men would have been wounded or killed," said Gerber.

SP4 Gerald Blanchard (Sunnyvale, Calif.) added, "Quy has shown his capabilities many times in the past, warning us of likely ambush spots, snipers, and other possible enemy positions as well as the enemy himself on occasion."

All of the men in the platoon are glad to have Quy with them and are well aware of the value of a Kit Carson.

2627 RECON RECON SEEMS OUT "CHARLIE"

Rest "Pol-r Bear" Infantrymen have heard of the Battalion's Recon Platoon but not many very few know what its purpose is.

Basically, the unit provides reconnaissance for 4/31's area of operation by surveying the area for information on enemy activity. LTC Cecil L. Henry explained, "They are the eyes and ears of the battalion."

As an example, on 4 April, Recon was recently sent into the heart of the valley south of LZ West to look for a new enemy position. In particular they were trying to locate the headquarters of the 3rd RVN Regiment.

MSG Roger Lee, 4/31 Operations Officer, commented, "We use Recon on missions where a larger unit such as a line company would attract too much attention. By using a small element like Recon the unit can move around a stand and easter without being detected."

Recon Platoon Leader 2LT William L. Lynn said, "We are to avoid contact with the enemy. The purpose of most of our missions is to observe the enemy's movements and activities and then pull out."

Formerly, the Recon platoon's strength was 10 men then down to the line companies in the battalion. "Now Recon is strictly volunteer and recruited when we need for volunteers from a group of new men, we had more than we needed," said LTC Henry.

"By being a small unit the men work together more and it is, therefore, very close knit group," emphasized 2LT Lynn.

The "Pol-r Bears" have good reason to be proud of Recon; they are a core unit and play an important part in the security of the battalion area.

WALK DON'T RIDE

Somewhere in the Phuoc Son area someone is doing a lot of walking lately which he hadn't planned on. The probable Viet Cong hiker would rather be riding his motorcycle, but Bravo Company confiscated his wheels.

While on a routine sweep of the area south of LZ Spax, the "Pol-r Bear" Troopers came across the 150 model Suzuki cycle hidden in a ditch. Bravo's Corporal Officer, CPT Henry W. Hall, Jr., called in a report to 5th Bn of his discovery. "We have one suspected VC motorcycle, that is."

LTC Cecil L. Henry, who has been the 5th Bn commander since 4/31's arrival, will be seen "buzzing" around the battalion's Solo Zu Zui.

NOTICE

A word from the Administrative Department

All personnel intending to leave their tour in Vietnam to become ineligible for the 150 Army must submit their request for separation 60 days prior to their normal DARS.

Also people going on leave are now required to have at least \$250.00 in their possession before they will be permitted to leave their company.

DON'T FORGET TO TAKE YOUR PILL!

AWARDS PRESENTED FOR NOVEMBER

SILVER STAR

1. 1LT ROBERT H. WILLIAMS
2. CPT JAMES J. CONDON

BRONZE STAR "V" DEVICE

1. SGT ROGER L. BURNS
2. PFC MAX J. EBERTON
3. PFC RONNIE E. WINGARD
4. SGT MICHAEL K. DAMERON
5. SP4 CARL ENLOE
6. CPT NORMAN B. MEKELSON

BRONZE STAR

1. SGT RICKY D. JAY
2. SGT PAUL J. PERRIEN
3. SP5 GLENN R. MEADOWS
4. 1LT JOHN L. JACENOW
5. SSG DENNIS EDWARDS
6. SGT GORDAN G. CUTWELL
7. SGT DONALD W. FRANK
8. SGT LINSEY LEWIS
9. SGT THEODORE CATTIN
10. SGT JOSEPH PALMERI
11. 1LT ROBERT H. WILLIAMS
12. SGT ALLEN HOLTZMAN
13. SP5 RICHARD WOLF
14. SP4 GEORGE HENRITT
15. SP4 ALLAN ALLAGAR
16. SP4 JOHN M. DOMAHUE
17. SP4 CORNELIUS CROUCH
18. SP5 REYNALDO PACHECO
19. CPT GABRIEL AKONA
20. SSG RODNEY F. DUTTON
21. SGT JAMES E. HANNAH
22. SGT MICHAEL K. DAMERON
23. SGT DANIEL R. GRIM
24. SGT HENRY VANCE

AIR MEDAL

1. CPT STANLEY F. YATES
2. SSM ANTONIO GUITERREZ
3. MSG PATRICK C. MOLLONEY
(1-3 OAK LEAF CLUSTERS)
4. SP4 CALVIN B. EVANS
(1 OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL "V" DEVICE

1. 1LT JUAN F. GONZALES
2. SGT ALLEN PETTINGILL
3. SP4 ROBERT L. FRENCH
4. SP4 ROBERT M. MORRISSEY
5. PFC BENJAMIN T. ORRIS
6. SP4 RONNIE E. STARS
7. SGT RICHARD ALLISON

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

1. SGT BOBBY ABBOTT
2. SP4 STEVEN P. DANIELL
3. SP4 ALLEN H. PIGFORD
4. SP4 ROBERT M. FERRIS
5. SP4 JULIUS HERON
6. SP4 WILLIAM B. DESCHER
7. 1LT CHARLES LOGGELL
8. SGT DAVID HOWARD
9. SGT ISAAC WASHBURN
10. SGT FORNIE ROSEY
11. SP4 RICHARD A. MILLER
12. SP4 ROSEY CHES
13. SP4 JAMES L. FORNMAN
14. SP4 ROBERT PARSONS
15. SP4 ROBERT L. FRENCH
16. SP4 JERRY LINCOLN
17. SP4 ALLEN CLADERON
18. SP4 PAUL BUSCHOFF
19. SP4 JAMES CLERTON
20. SP4 WILLIAM D. CARROLL
21. SP4 ALEXANDRO TADEO
22. SP4 ALFONSO REEVES
23. SP4 JOE STREB
24. SP4 SEVERIO CAPPOLA
25. SP4 RAFAEL TORRES
26. SP4 WILLIAM CRAWFORD
27. SP4 JOHN J. KIN
28. SGT ROBERT BURFIELD
29. SGT JAMES CLERTON
30. SGT CYRIL HASSELL
31. SGT WILLIAM SHIRLOW
32. SP4 WILLIAM WASHBURN
33. SP4 JACKIE D. ROUSE
34. SP4 ROLLY CHAMPION
35. SP4 RICHARD CUMBER
36. SP4 JAMES HEMINGWAY
37. SP4 DONALD TITSON
38. SP4 PETER PALAMIDIS
39. SP4 JOSEPH ZUNNO
40. SP4 LOUIS TERRY
41. SP4 RICHARD R. HUSMAN
42. SP4 THOMAS BARTLETT
43. SP4 MICHAEL LARKIN
44. PFC THOMAS L. WALDON
45. SGT JACK JOHN
46. SP4 WILLIAM KOBAYASHI
47. SGT HENRY TAPOTA

PURPLE HEARTS

1. SP4 CHARLES A. GAMIER
2. SGT RICHARD ALLISON
3. PFC DUANE REHA



Reenlistment accomplished during the month of November 1969, with option and reassignment shown after each name, were as follows:

- HHC:
1. BOWLING, Earl - Present duty assignment - Chu Lai
 2. JOHNSON, Willis - Present duty assignment - Chu Lai
 3. WATKINS, John E. - Present duty assignment - Chu Lai
- A Co:
1. HUFFMAN, Ray L. - Motor Transport - 23rd SGT Bn, Chu Lai
- B Co:
1. WEIGEL, Reading H. - Administration - 23rd Admin Co, dy/w Division Reenl Office
- C Co:
1. BAUMER, Robert - Supply - 518th PSC, Cam Ranh Bay
 2. ALLEN, Aaron L. - Administration - 518th PSC, Cam Ranh Bay
- F Co:
1. MEERS, Eddie L. - Wire Maintenance - 23rd SGT Bn, Chu Lai
 2. NICHOLSON, Noel - Aircraft Maintenance - 1st Avn Bde, Long Binh
- E Co:
1. SCHIFFLER, Wa H. - Aircraft Maintenance - 14th Avn Bde - Chu Lai
 2. GRANTON, Todd W. - Lg/w standdown - HHC, 19th Inf Bde, Chu Lai

RECAPITULATION:	Objective	Reenlistments	Percentage Attained
	4	10 + 1	250%

CUMULATIVE, FY 70	20	77 + 3	365%
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"THESE ARE THE DOGS THAT NEED A PARACHUTE - THEY'RE LARVEST!"

WEST OF WEST

LTC Cecil M. Henry
PFC Gerald Lamb

CO
Reporter

This newssheet is published monthly by the 4/31 Infantry, 19th Infantry Brigade APO 96374, as an authorized publication. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army. AFPO material used.

Effective December 1969, SSG Peterson will become the new Battalion Reenlistment NCO, replacing SFC Stice, who is due to rotate later this month. SSG Peterson - formerly the Medic 1 Platoon Sergeant, can be located at the SI, Chu Lai and will be most happy to discuss the various reenlistment options available to personnel within the battalion. It should be mentioned that for those interested, right now is a very good time to reenlist, in order to take advantage of reenlistment leave for the Holiday Season.

RAYMOND G. STICE
BATTALION REENLISTMENT NCO
4th Bn 31st Inf, 19th Bde
APO San Francisco 96374