

Jan-Oct 1967

FIRST BATTALION, SIXTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY

UNIT HISTORY - ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT  
( January 1967 - October 1967)

During the months of January and February 1967 the First Battalion, Sixth United States Infantry conducted Advanced Infantry Training in MOS 11B and 11C. Upon completion of AIT, the battalion began Basic Unit Training with Company C at full strength and Companies A and B organized with only a skeletal cadre to accept filler personnel as they were assigned to the battalion. The training cycle was accelerated, and the mechanized infantry company ATT's were completed by 30 April.

On 17 May 1967 the battalion was reorganized under the standard infantry TOE and was assigned to the newly formed 198th Infantry Brigade (Separate). Immediately officers and men began to report in to fill out the ranks of the battalion. Non-deployable personnel and mechanized battalion equipment were assigned to the newly activated Seventh Battalion (Mechanized), Sixth United States Infantry. Company tests were sucessfully completed during the period from 19 to 30 April.

Command of the Battalion passed from LTC Davil L Colaw to LTC William J Baxley on 17 July 1967. One week later the battalion successfully underwent its Army Training Test. Soon after, the Battalion was again reorganized under the Light Infantry TOE and the combat support company was activated as Company E. Unit training was completed when the companies of the Battalion led off the Brigade's participation in a combined arms exercise that employed the live supporting fire of mortars, artillery, and tactical air strikes.

Brigade level maneuver and qualification for POM requirements followed during the months of August and September. On 4 October 1967 men of the Battalion embarked on USNS Upshur for deployment to Vietnam. On 22 October elements of the First Battalion, Sixth United States Infantry were greeted by General William C Westmoreland as they arrived on the beach at the United States Combat Base at Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam. The 198th Brigade was immediately assigned to the Americal Division (formerly Task Force Oregon) operating within the I Corps.