

2 FROM BDE GET DSC

Two 11th Brigade soldiers were awarded our nation's second highest decoration for valor in a special ceremony here Wednesday.

Major Patrick M. Trinkle, operations officer of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry and 1LT Douglas M. Falck of Company A, 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry were presented the Distinguished Service Cross by General Andrew J. Goodpaster, deputy commanding general of all U.S. Forces in Vietnam.

Also receiving the award was Platoon Sergeant Artenio Romero Jr., of the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 198th Infantry Brigade.

Major Trinkle, then a captain and commanding officer of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry was honored for exceptionally valorous actions on February 23 while leading his company on a search and clear mission near coastal My Lai in the old Operation Muscatine area.

When A Company began receiving heavy automatic weapons fire from a large enemy force, Major Trinkle braved the hail of fire to call in air and artillery strikes and helicopter gunship support.

Later, Major Trinkle spotted one of his men wounded and trapped in the open. Although seriously wounded himself, he began moving through the intense fire to the wounded man's aid, killing an enemy sniper who was firing on him along the way.

After carrying the casualty to safety, Major Trinkle refused medical aid and directed the attack in which his men overran the enemy positions. His citation reads in part: "His gallant actions in the heat of battle inspired his men to fight furiously and overwhelm the hostile enemy forces."

Lieutenant Falck was decorated for extraordinary heroism while an infantry platoon leader during a combat mission May 16 on hill 352, 15 miles (DSC Cont. on page 3)



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'REGULARS' KILL 31 NVA NEAR HA THANH THIS WEEK

Action in the 11th Infantry Brigade's portion of Quang Ngai Province decreased this week as "Jungle Warrior" soldiers killed 63 enemy, detained 24 suspects and captured 21 weapons.

This week's major clash with communist troops came September 22 as Alpha Co., 1st of the 20th killed 31 NVA and captured 20 weapons near Ha Thanh Special Forces Camp. The early morning action began as the "Sykes' Regulars" company, commanded by CPT William J. Adams, came across two NVA soldiers playing dead one mile west of Ha Thanh. Alpha Company played their game when the two enemy soldiers attempted to evade capture, killed them both and captured an M1 carbine.

Moving towards the base of a hill in the same area the company met heavy resistance from entrenched NVA soldiers. With supporting fire from "Shark" gunships A Co. quickly silenced the enemy. Sweeping through the area, they found 25 dead NVA in fortified bunkers and tunnels. Captured in the fighting were 12 AK-47s, two RPG launchers, one Chi Com 57mm recoilless rifle, two Soviet light machineguns, two flare pistols, and a bangalore torpedo. A Co. also captured a ChiCom field phone, a Japanese (WRAP UP Cont. on page 3)



VC MORTARMAN UNCOVERS CACHE

A Viet Cong mortarmen-turned-Chieu Hoi led elements of the 11th Infantry Brigade's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry to a large arms and medical cache ten miles west of Quang Ngai City last week.

The ex-enemy soldier surrendered to ARVN forces when his six-man mortar squad, which had been firing on Quang Ngai City, was surprised by the ARVN unit approaching their position. The other five VC fled, leaving the Chieu Hoi and a mortar tube behind.

During interrogation the mortarmen agreed to lead Allied forces to a large weapons cache, and was airlifted into the "Old Guard's" area of operation five miles north of Quang Ngai.

"The Chieu Hoi told us that the cache was on the mountain across the valley from our position," said (CACHE Cont. on page 3)

COMMAND INFORMATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a two part series on Influencing Your Next Assignment.)

The tours in Hawaii and Okinawa are the same as the tour in Japan. Guam and the Philippines are also within the USARPAC theater, but the amount of military personnel in these two areas is limited, consequently there are few assignments there.

The main thing to remember is that you should initiate your request for an intratheater transfer about five or six months before your DEROS date.

INTRATHEATER

So far we've talked only about intratheater transfers.

What about inter-theater transfers? There's a big difference. Inter-theater transfers apply to areas outside of USARPAC such as the United States Army, Europe (USAREUR) or United States Army Alaska (USARAL).

Intratheater transfers apply only to areas inside USARPAC.

If you are an E-6 or below, you can neither initiate nor can you request an intertheater transfer. You might be handed an involuntary intertheater transfer, but this is determined by the Department of the Army in Washington.

Enlisted men are frequently reassigned to Germany following a tour in Vietnam. This is an example of an involuntary intertheater transfer. Enlisted men sent to Germany must have six months remaining in the Army upon arrival in Germany.

About the only thing you can do about getting a specific assignment outside the USARPAC area is to fill out a preference sheet when you arrive in Vietnam.

For senior enlisted men, grades E-7 and above, an exception is made. Senior enlisted men may request an intertheater transfer through the Department of the Army, by using DA Form 2635, the senior enlisted preference statement.

Senior enlisted personnel are controlled directly by the Department of the Army and submit their preference statements directly to that headquarters.

Officers may also submit a Dis-

position Form requesting an intertheater transfer at any time. On arrival in Vietnam, officers fill out an Officer Preference Statement and may submit a new one at any time. This Disposition Form should be submitted about eight to 10 months before DEROS, along with the Officer Preference Statement.

The important point to be made is that your next assignment is not entirely up to the cold hand of fate. You definitely have something to say and a certain amount of influence concerning the determination of your next assignment and where you go from Vietnam.

Remember, get your paperwork in as early as possible.



REPORT FOR
ORDERS HERE

VIETNAM
RETURNEES E-6
AND BELOW
PLEASE SPIN
ARROW BEFORE
RECEIVING



VOTING STARTS WITH '76'

Voting is one important part of every eligible serviceman's obligation to himself and his country. For that privilege he is offering his life.

Congress has provided a simple absentee voting system for overseas servicemen. It is an official post-card ballot application form (Standard Form 76).

Although state laws vary as to the purpose of Form 76, they all agree that this is the starting point in an absentee ballot request.

Persons sending in this form without a specified time (also varying according to state) will either get in return an absentee ballot or a state form requesting a ballot.

For information concerning your state requirements, talk to your unit voting officer. Information on individual state requirements can be found in DA PA 360-503 titled "Voting Information 1968" or in the September 4, 1968 edition of the Army Times, page 2.



TRIDENT



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(WRAP UP Cont from page 1)
bullhorn, six RPG rounds,
14-57mm rounds and hun-
dreds of small arms rounds
in that action.

On September 20, sold-
iers of C Co, 4th of the
3rd, led by CPT Grady
Middleton, encountered
seven Viet Cong in separ-
ate actions north of Duc
Pho. The "Old Guard" in-
fantrymen killed two
and detained five sus-
pects.

Twenty miles south of
Quang Ngai City, Bravo Co,
1st of the 20th killed
six VC September 21. The
company, led by CPT George
F. Robb, netted the kills
in three separate actions
near Ha Thanh.

Patrolling Aero Scout
helicopters from the 123rd
Aviation Battalion drew
enemy ground fire 35 miles
northwest of Duc Pho Sep-
tember 23. The Scouts re-
turned fire killing six
Viet Cong.

That evening, support
fire from C Battery, 1st
Battalion, 82d Artillery,
killed four VC in a set-
tlement five miles north-
west of Duc Pho.

"Always First" soldiers
from Bravo Co, led by CPT
John P. Nolan, killed one
Viet Cong September 24,
four miles north of Duc
Pho. Found on the dead
enemy's body was a .45
caliber pistol, 7.62mm
ammunition, and documents.

THE PHOTO CORNER

Composition is the art of arranging the parts of a picture in a pleasing manner. Simple rules make this rewarding effect possible in the most amateur of photographs.

The first is the rule of thirds. One feature should dominate any picture, since we can only consider one thing at a time. By dividing the viewfinder into thirds like a tic-tac-toe board, and placing the subject at one of the lines of intersection, it easily dominates the photo. Never place the subject dead center in the composition of a photograph.



After placing the subject, consider the picture balance. This is simply taking a smaller subject, preferably one that has some relationship with the main subject, and placing it so the photograph appears even. The simplest way to do this is to place the main subject in one of the thirds mentioned above and the smaller, balancing object on another third.

Lines are a great aid in creating a mood or idea. Knowing the four basic lines and what they suggest will help in creating the desired mood.

The vertical line suggests strength; the horizontal renders a feeling of peace; and diagonal suggests action and the curved line implies grace and charm. The vertical line of a tree standing in a forest suggests strength. A wind bending the branches gives the feeling of action and if the wind blows the tree down we have the horizontal with the feeling of peace--the calm after the storm.

Finally, keep the picture simple--have just as little in the photo as possible. If a choice must be made between one or several subjects, decide on just one and eliminate and simplify to put more emphasis on the main subject.

(You and your camera not getting along very well? Let us know your problem. Address inquiries to: Editor-TRIDENT, Public Information Office, 11th Inf Bde. Representative questions will be answered in this column.)

BDE HEROES AWARDED DSC

(DSC Cont. from page 1)

northwest of Tam Ky. During a furious three-day fight for an enemy occupied ridge, LT Falck volunteered to lead a six-man patrol on a probe of an enemy held hilltop. He led his men through three barricades of barbed wire, established a small defensive perimeter, and set out to observe the hostile positions.

Receiving fire from an enemy guard in one of the bunkers, LT Falck charged the soldier's position and killed him with small arms fire. He then assaulted through a hail of point blank machinegun fire to silence a second bunker, and though wounded, maneuvered his men into position and eliminated three more enemy entrenchments, including several hostile mortars which had opened up on the rest of the advancing company.

In brief remarks to the officers and men of the 11th Brigade who gathered to witness the presentation, General Goodpaster emphasized the certainty that "these men are representative of many in this unit who have performed in similar fashion," and expressed the "greatest of admiration for the high standards of professionalism, gallantry and dedication which they have exhibited."

(CACHE Cont. from page 1)

1LT James A. Cooper, the company's 2nd Platoon leader. "As we walked down the trail toward the valley, he continually pointed out booby traps and punji pits to our point men."

Along the way, the platoon probed hootches and tunnels. "One of the men found a .30 caliber machinegun poised on a rock that overlooked the entire area," the lieutenant said. "Apparently the air and artillery strikes of the previous day and our presence in the area caused the VC to leave quickly, abandoning their supplies."

"As we approached the
(CACHE Cont. on page 4)

"OLD GUARD" CELEBRATES 184TH ANNIVERSARY

TOP EM, NCO
OF QUARTER
CITED BY COL

The 11th Brigade's 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry celebrated their 184th anniversary this week at LZ Dronco. The "Old Guard" unit holds title as the oldest infantry regiment in the regular army, winning their first battle streamer in 1794.

The occasion was celebrated September 21 as the battalion held a ceremony for some of its newest heroes. Fifteen awards were presented to "Old Guard" members, including a Silver Star and an Army Commendation Medal to 1LT Dan Dore, battalion liaison officer; Bronze Star Medals with "V" device to PSG Wayne Patterson, SGT Peter McGeough, and SP4 Peter Rico, all members of Delta Co.; and an Air Medal with "V" device to Major John McAnaw, battalion operations officer. Nine Purple Heart Medals were also awarded.

The 3rd Infantry was given the designation "Old Guard" by General Winfield Scott as it marched at the head of a victorious American army into Mexico City in 1847. As the regiment passed in review, Scott took off his hat and said to his staff, "Gentlemen, take off your hats to the Old Guard of the Army."

Today the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Infantry is stationed at Arlington, Va., and has the dual mission of guarding the Capitol and of being the official ceremonial unit in the area, including the guard for the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The "Old Guard's" 4th

BRIGADE AWARDS

The 11th Infantry Brigade recently presented the following awards for valor to the persons indicated.

BRONZE STAR MEDAL w/"V":
PFC Donald R. Dagne, D-1/20.

ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL w/"V":
SGT Francis W. Entrup, D-1/20; PFC Robert J. Mellon, Trp E-1st Cav; PFC Robert E. Voyles, Trp E-1st Cav.



Battalion, 3rd Infantry became part of the 11th Brigade when it was organized July 1, 1966 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, under the command of LTC Alvin E. Adkins.

The unit's present commander, LTC Albert L. Russell, began his military career in 1943. He received his ROTC commission in 1951 from Temple University. LTC Russell took command of the "Old Guard" in June, 1968.

Two 11th Brigade enlisted men, both from D Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry were named this week as EM and NCO of the quarter for the 11th Brigade.

Specialist 4 Cyril P. Shettleroe, a squad leader, and Platoon Sergeant Wayne O. Patterson were presented the awards by Colonel Oran K. Henderson, 11th Brigade commander, in a ceremony September 26.

They were selected from among the finalists of a brigade wide competition on the basis of military appearance and bearing, military courtesy, knowledge of 11th Brigade policy, knowledge, and proficiency in their military occupation.

Both were chosen by their company and battalion level boards before appearing before the brigade selection committee.

Included in the award is a three-day in-country pass, \$100 in cash and a Certificate of Achievement signed by Colonel Henderson.

4/3 'WALKS IN' TO ARMS ROOM

(CACHE Cont. from page 3)

cache," he added, "we found 30 rounds of armor piercing ammunition, 12 B-40 rockets and 400 rounds of .50 caliber ammunition."

CPT Middleton said, "one of the hootches was sandwiched between two large rocks. The Chieu Hoi said that that was the hootch in which he had been issued his weapon some months before."

When the "Old Guard" company got to the tunnel, they found it well-stocked with ammunition and medical supplies. The cache included seven individual weapons, a Chi-Com 7.62 anti-aircraft gun, 122 RPG rounds, 100 B-40 rocket rounds, 22-60mm mortar rounds, 450 rounds of heavy machinegun ammunition, two cases of .50 caliber armor piercing ammunition and an assortment of other explosives.

They also uncovered a starlight scope, five pair of binoculars, a radio, 46 bottles of penicillin and a large quantity of other medical supplies. Some of the weapons were still wrapped in their original protective packaging.

"The Chieu Hoi said that he used to operate out of this base camp," CPT Middleton said, "but he was never allowed near the main supply cave. We walked in like we owned the place."