

COMMANDER'S ORIENTATION

1. Welcome to the 48th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog). You should find your tour here rewarding in certain ways, at least in the feeling of accomplishment of your assigned mission.
2. Unit History: The 48th IPSD was activated at Fort Benning, Georgia on 2 September 1966 with LT Ian L Jones in command. After training at Fort Benning the unit deployed to Vietnam on 11 January 1967 with a strength of 1 Officer and 14 enlisted men. Arriving in Vietnam on 15 January 1967, the platoon moved to Tay Ninh on 23 January to join the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. On 12 April 1967 moved with the 196th Infantry Brigade to Chu Lai to become part of Task Force Oregon, and later the Americal Division. In December of 1967, LT Gerald W Vosbury assumed command. The unit moved again in February of 1968 to its present location at LZ Baldy. For a four week period during April and May of 1968 the unit was located at Camp Evans near the DMZ where the 196th had moved to support the 1st Cavalary Division. On 22 November 1968 LT Robert Matzinski assumed command.
3. Why We Are in Vietnam: In Vietnam, an entire generation has lived with or under threat of violence and bloodshed. A shrewd and persuasive enemy lives among the people and makes it difficult to decide who is friend and who is foe. Because support from the people is essential to victory, the Viet Cong have variously indoctrinated, protected, terrorized and persecuted the Vietnamese. Farms, hamlets, villages and cities are the scenes of battle. The people who are hurt and hungry, dispossessed and bewildered, are slow to see the value of any cause. Our purpose in Vietnam is to support the South Vietnamese government in its exercise of authority over its own land and people. Effective government must exercise such authority so that order can be restored and justice can prevail.
4. Legal Assistance and Personal Affairs: For legal assistance do not hesitate to ask advice and assistance from your Platoon Leader and assistance from your local judge advocate, claims, transportation, or legal officer; or you may write the Chief, U S Army Claims Service, Fort Holabird, MD 21219. Personal Affairs are the many things affecting the welfare and personal and private lives of people present and future. Army assignments may require service far from home and in places where communications are difficult and facilities for attending to personal affairs are limited. By attending to personal affairs when it is convenient to do so, you have peace of mind and provide maximum protection and security of yourself and dependents for the unknown future. A good personal affairs program will minimize your fears and problems and increase your performance effectiveness. A soldier can do his best only when he knows that his affairs are properly arranged and that his dependents are safe from danger and financial insecurity. Experience has shown that the well trained man with low morale cannot win battles or accomplish missions as well as a well trained man with high morale. A major contributing factor to high morale is the peace of mind which results from keeping personal affairs in order. The Commander will be available to assist you in putting your personal affairs in order.