

UNIT HISTORY
OF
42D INFANTRY PLATOON
(SGT DCO)
1966

Larry Limer
LARRY LIMER
1/A Infantry
Commanding

42D INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG)

The 42d Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog) was activated on 12 May 1966 by OO 113, TUSA, dtd 14 April 1966 as amended by OO 238 dtd 10 June 1966. 2nd Lt Larry Limer, 05329222, of Warrenton, North Carolina was assigned as commanding officer as of 9 May 1966 and immediately assumed command. Sixteen privates who had just completed AIT reported for duty on activation date along with SGT E5 John L. Locke, RA24281652 of Richmond Virginia who report from Fort Laxton Washington. A twelve week training program began almost immediately, although the first few days were devoted to requisitioning supplies and equipment.

Additional personnel began arriving on 13 June 1966 with arrival of the platoon sergeant, SFC E7 Bernard Cohanour, RA 16108121, formerly of Michigan and Georgia. He as well as all the other NCO's with the exception of Sergeant Locke, came directly from European assignments.

Soon the Platoon totaled one officer and thirty-two (32) enlisted men and upon receipt of sufficient dogs, the training effort reached a maximum peak. Instruction was conducted by NCO's of the 26th Scout Dog Platoon. The twelve weeks of training was climaxed by graduation day on 3 August 1966 and with PFC Richard H. Sanders, US55861973, of Rockford, Illinois being selected as honor graduate. The trophy presentation was made by Major General Robert H. York, Commanding General at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Since the TOE authorized a unit strength of only one officer and twenty-six (26) enlisted men, certain men were reassigned to other scout dog platoon begin activated. Those personnel remaining with 42d began packing for overseas movement and upon completion of packing, proceeded on two weeks leave, overseas movement began on 31 August 1966 by motor convey to Robbins Air Force Base, Warner Robins Georgia. The advance party departed Robbins AFB at 2000 hours 31 August, the second increment the following day and the last increment on 2 September 1966. Stopping points enroute were Elmendorf AFB Alaska and Yokota AFB Japan. Final destination was Tan Son Nhut, Republic of Viet Nam.

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The platoon remained at Tan Son Nhut for approximately one month while the OJ was trying to effect an attachment. Finally it was decided to assign the platoon to the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division whose main base camp was at Phan Rang. The platoon arrived at Phan Rang on 2 October 1966 and began training and conditioning of the dogs and completed a one-week training program conducted by the 101st which was extended to indoctrinate all new arrivals. The platoon departed for and arrived at the 101st forward base camp at Tuy Hoa on 21 October. Shortly later the assignment orders were revoked and new orders effecting attachment to the 101st were published.

On 31 October 1966 Operation Coronado I began and fifteen (15) dog teams were committed on that date. The first dog casualty occurred on 2 November when "Sarge" was killed. His handler, PFC

medic in bringing three wounded men to safety while under small arms fire.

Much earlier - in November SGT Edward M. Koyub (RA 12 591 286) of Buffalo, New York, was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device and prior to being wounded, PFC Owen and PFC Hawkins of Beatrice, Nebraska along with four others PFC John F. Fama (RA 19 872 965) of San Jose, California, PFC James W. Basham (US 55 861 863) of Cary, Illinois, Steven E. Heiss (RA 15 740 872) of Ft Lauderdale, Florida, and PFC Howard L. Webb (US 52 663 314) of Baboboth Beach, Delaware, were cited by Lt Col Dietrich and General Pearson for Outstanding Service.

New Year's day found the majority of the platoon unable to celebrate but with the satisfaction of knowing that they had already, in a two month period compiled an admirable record.

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