



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 11TH INFANTRY BRIGADE
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96217

XICO

1 May 1968

Commanding Officer
59th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)
Fort Gordon, Georgia 30905

The Americal Division has informed us that your unit will be attached to the 11th Infantry Brigade (Lt) upon arrival in the Republic of South Vietnam, sometime in the latter part of May. The Division has further designated the Brigade as your official sponsor. In this capacity, we have begun to prepare for your arrival and have laid the preliminary groundwork for the reception of your unit and the establishment of your unit area here at BRONCO Base Camp.

BRONCO Base is located near DUC PHO, which is approximately 70 km south of CHI LAI, RVN. When your unit arrives, transportation will be arranged from your in-country point of entry to the DUC PHO area. Initially, housing and mess facilities for your personnel will be provided by HHC, 11th LIB. Construction of your unit area and dog kennels should be well under way by the time you arrive in-country.

Although our experience with scout dogs has been limited, we have used them in a few of our operations with relatively good success. The nature of the enemy within our area of operations lends itself to the use of scout dogs. In most cases, our contacts have been with squad and platoon size forces, who upon contact disappear into tunnel complexes or break up into two or three man groups and evade. The cordon and search operation is one of the principal techniques we use to accomplish our mission. We feel that your unit will be able to aid us considerably in the detailed searching that is characteristic of the cordon and search operation. Although we have not engaged a large enemy force, we know that the enemy can attack our installations with a sizeable force at a time and place of his own choice. This fact dictates that we maintain a high degree of readiness at all times and I am sure that your unit will help us to retain this capability.

Plans are being made to enroll all personnel assigned to your unit in the Americal Division's Combat Center. This is a six day school which is designed to acquaint you with the tactical and social environment found

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within the Division's area of operations. The S3 of the Brigade also plans to give you a detailed briefing on Brigade operations and will schedule some additional training for your unit subsequent to completion of the combat center. I am sure that your unit has received much valuable training during the last few weeks, however, I recommend that you devote as much time as possible to training of your unit in the detection and destruction of enemy mines and booby traps. These devices, ingeniously and indiscriminantly employed by the enemy, have accounted for a high percentage of our casualties.

I am sure that you have many questions regarding your new assignment and in anticipation of this I have taken the liberty of enclosing some information which will prove beneficial. Please feel free to correspond with this headquarters should you decide that there is a need for further information.

We look forward to the arrival of the 59th Infantry Platoon and feel that your unit can contribute a great deal toward accomplishment of the Brigade's missions. I am sure that this assignment will be a rewarding one for you and the members of your platoon.

Cran K. Henderson

CRAN K. HENDERSON
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

- 7 Incl
1. Brigade Unit History
 2. Brigade Tactical SCP
 3. Brigade Organizational Chart
 4. Area Study: Duc Pho, RVN
 5. USARV Reg 11-2, War Dog Program
 6. Officers Poster, 11th IIB
 7. POI, Americal Combat Center