

"DUST OFF"
50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb)
APO San Francisco 96316

Apr, 1
1968

Commanding Officer: Major Ronald C. Jones

First Sergeant: SFC James T. Ratliff

Monthly News Letter

1 May 1968

"It is when we forget ourselves that we do things that are long remembered."

"Success is the ability to get along with some people and ahead of others."

NEWS

A new phase of construction went under way during April. The maintenance section poured a new concrete ramp for their office and working area. A new maintenance office was completed and moved into, which has centrally located all aircraft maintenance in one area of operation.

The DECCA NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEM has been installed in our aircraft, and the beginning of its operational usage was begun at the completion of our pilot orientation given by the area Decca representative.

A day of glory came to the White Horse Division, Korean Army, on 8 April 1968, as operation Tokabi, was brought to a close. During the three day operation the ROK'S destroyed two NVA Battalions of the 95th NVA Regiment. Dust Off was given praise for the services rendered in support of the ROK's during this victorious operation.

AWARDS

The following individuals were decorated by Lt Colonel James W. Thompson, 43rd Medical Group, Commanding Officer, during the monthly awards ceremony.

Major Ronald C. Jones, Detachment Commander, received the 1000th HOUR COMBAT FLYING PLAQUE for distinguished service to his country while participating in sustained aerial flight, in support of the free world forces in the Republic of Vietnam during the periods:

28 May 1963 to 15 May 1964
14 October 1967 to 13 March 1968

Major Jones' outstanding degree of professionalism and devotion to duty has brought great credit upon himself, his organizations and the United States Army.

Captain Ronny E. Porta received the third and fourth oak leaf clusters to the Air Medal for meritorious achievement, while participating in sustained aerial flight, in support of combat ground forces here in the Republic of Vietnam.

For Valor, Captain Porta received the fifth oak leaf cluster to the Air Medal with "V" device. On 6 November 1967, Captain Porta received a request to attempt a hoist extraction of six seriously

wounded U.S. soldiers, under the conditions of an insecure extraction site and the requirement of positioning his aircraft between two entangled jungle canopies. He accepted the mission and courageously exposed his unarmed helicopter to the vicious fire from enemy small arms and automatic weapons. After extracting the two most seriously injured patients, he withdrew from the extraction site to reduce his exposure rate and permit his crew time to remove the patients from the forest penetrator. Realizing that the critical need of the remaining casualties demanded immediate attention, he skillfully maneuvered his ship three more times braving the hail of bullets to safely extract the six seriously injured soldiers. As our call word signifies, we give Dedicated Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting Forces — "Dust Off".

The following two individuals received the Basic Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight over hostile territory:

SP4 PATRIAMOR E. AGULLANA
SP4 PETER GOLDBACK

The Good Conduct Medal, (first award) was awarded to SP5 Thomas J. Kelly for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity while serving his country from: 13 January 1965 to 12 January 1968.

SP5 David R. Painter was awarded the USARV Certificate of Achievement, who, during the period April 1967 to April 1968, displayed singular perseverance, fidelity and professional competence while rendering meritorious service in support of the counterinsurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam.

Clusters to the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in repeated aerial flights over hostile territory were awarded to:

Captain Peter M. Hansen	— 10th and 11th Oak Leaf Cluster
Captain Ottis G. Turner	— 2nd, 3rd, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
WOL James D. Samones	— 7th, 8th, 9th Oak Leaf Cluster
SP5 David R. Painter	— 9th and 10th Oak Leaf Cluster
SP5 Gerald L. Sterns	— 3rd and 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
SP4 Hugh L. Howell	— 2nd, 3rd, 4th Oak Leaf Cluster
SP4 Neal A. Stanley	— 2nd and 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
SP4 Russell L. Wright	— 4th and 5th Oak Leaf Cluster

MISSION

The unit performed the following mission during April.

Patients Evacuated

US	FREE WORLD FORCES	ARVN	OTHER (CIVILIAN & POW)
135	130	116	79
Total patients evacuated during month:		460	
Day Flying Time:	278:00		Aircraft Availability: 78%
Night Flying Time:	51:00		Hoist Missions: 25
Total Hours:	329:00		Average Aviator Time: 53 Hrs

UNIT'S LINEAGE, HONORS, DECORATIONS, AND CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
LINEAGE
50TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HEL AMB)

50th Malaria Control Unit was constituted 1 September 1943.

Activated at Army Service Forces Unit Training Center, New Orleans, Louisiana 3 September 1943.

Assigned to the New Orleans Post of Embarkation effective 10 September 1943.

Transferred from Army Service Forces Unit Training Center, New Orleans, Louisiana to Hampton Roads Port of Embarkation, (Staging: Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia), enroute to Algeria, assigned to the North African Theater of Operations, 8 October 1943.

50th Malaria Control Unit was redesignated The 50th Medical Composite Unit and reorganized as (Malaria Control) under Services of Supply, United States Army Forces, China-Burma India, 21 August 1944.

50th Medical Composite Unit was redesignated the 50th Malaria Control Detachment, India-Burma Theater, 3 April 1945.

Reorganized under TOE 8-500, Services of Supply, India-Burma Theater, 24 April 1945.

50th Malaria Control Detachment was inactivated effective 10 October 1945 in India.

50th Malaria Control Detachment was redesignated the 50th Medical Detachment, allotted to the Regular Army, assigned to the Far East, activated as a (Helicopter Ambulance Unit), effective 2 December 1952 in Korea.

Was reorganized as a (Helicopter Ambulance Unit) under TOE 8-500A, effective 1 April 1954, Eighth United States Army.

Reorganized as (Helicopter Ambulance Unit) under TOE 8-500R, effective 1 July 1955, Eighth United States Army.

Reorganized as (Helicopter Ambulance Unit) under TOE 8-500C, with authorized strength of 4 Officers and 17 Enlisted Men, effective 23 June 1957, Eighth United States Army.

Reorganized as (Helicopter Ambulance Unit) under TOE 8-500C, Change 1, effective 25 June 1958, Eighth United States Army.

Reorganized as (Helicopter Ambulance) under TOE 8-500C, Change 2, with authorized strength of 5 Officers and 17 Enlisted Men, effective 25 April 1960, United States Army, Pacific.

Was reorganized as (Helicopter Ambulance) under TOE 8-500C, Change 2, with authorized strength of 4 Officers and 17 Enlisted Men, effective 24 June 1960, United States Army, Pacific.

50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) was inactivated in Korea, effective 15 August 1962.

Assigned to Fourth US Army, was activated at Fort Polk, Louisiana as the 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) under TOE 8-500C, Change 4, with authorized strength of 5 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men, effective 25 March 1963.

Surface Echelon departed Fort Polk, Louisiana for Ludlow, California, 1 May 1964, to participate in joint exercise Desert Strike, for approximately 60 days, arriving Ludlow, California on 3 May 1964. The Air Echelon departed Fort Polk 27 April 1964 and arrived at Ludlow on 3 May 1964. At the completion of exercise Desert Strike the unit returned to Fort Polk, Louisiana, arriving on 9 June 1964.

Air echelon was transferred from Fort Polk, Louisiana to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, for approximately 30 days to participate in the Joint Exercise Gold Fire I, departing Fort Polk on 6 November 1964 and arriving Fort Leonard Wood on 8 November 1964. The surface echelon departed on 7 November 1964 and arrived on 8 November 1964. Upon completing the Joint Exercise the unit departed Fort Leonard, Missouri on 18 November and arrived at Fort Polk, Louisiana on 20 November 1964.

Reorganized as a (Helicopter Ambulance) unit under TOE 8-500C, Change 9 with authorized strength of 5 Officers and 22 Enlisted Men, effective 10 June 1965.

Transferred from Fort Polk, Louisiana to Fort Hood, Texas for approximately 23 days for participation in the Joint Exercise Silver Hand. Departed Fort Polk 23 April 1965 and arrived at Fort Hood 24 April 1965. Completing the exercise the unit departed Fort Hood and arrived at Fort Polk on the same date, 15 May 1965.

Reorganized as a (Helicopter Ambulance) unit under TOE 8-500D, Change 1, with authorized strength of 5 Officers and 28 Enlisted Men, effective 23 December 1965, Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Reorganization effective 1 October 1966, under MTOE 8-500D, with an authorized strength of 8 Officers and 28 Enlisted Men at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Transferred to permanent change of station from Fort Polk, Louisiana to Army Terminal enroute to the US Army, Pacific. Departed Fort Polk, Louisiana on 2 October 1967, arrived and departed Oakland Army Base on 3 October 1967 and arrived Vietnam 26 October 1967.

Effective 24 January 1968, under MTOE 8-500D the authorized strength is 4 Officers, 8 Warrant Officers, and 28 Enlisted Men.

HONORS AND DECORATIONS

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION, DA CO 73, 1953 1Jan53 to 30Jun53
MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION, DA CO 77, 1954 1Jul53 to 27Jul54

(Second Award)

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATIONS

KOREA

THIRD KOREAN WINTER 2 Dec 52 to 30 Apr 53
KOREA SUMMER-FALL 1953 1 May 53 to 27 Jul 53

ADDITIONS

This month brought the unit three new members. From the 498th Medical Company (Air Amb) we added:

PFC ANTHONY R. THOMPSON - Helicopter Mechanic

From the 91st Evacuation Hospital we received:

SP5 CHARLES T. CAHILL - Medical Specialist

And our arrival from the states this month was:

WO1 WILLIAM T. DILLARD - Aviator

With the addition of Mr. Dillard, our Aviator strength came to the authorized twelve. This is the first time the 50th Med Det (Hel Amb) has been privileged in having its complete authorization of Aviators.

VIPS

On 9 April 1968, the services of the 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) were given to LTC Nickles Conti, USARV Medical Consultant; LTC Gene Aaby, USARV Surgical Consultant; and LTC Rose Straley, USARV Assistant Chief Nurse, who paid a visit to the 91st Evacuation Hospital. The usual outstanding VIP service was rendered to these visitors.

PROMOTIONS

The 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) had the following promotions during April:

WO1 RANDY L. PATCHETT became Chief Warrant Officer W-2

WO1 JAMES D. SEMONES became Chief Warrant Officer W-2

WO1 FREDRICK C. WHITNEY became Chief Warrant Officer W-2

FOR THE COMMANDER:

PETER M. HANSEN
CAPTAIN, MSC
Public Information Officer