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MAY
1968

"DUST OFF"
50TH MEDICAL DETACHMENT (HEL AMB)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96308

Commanding Officer: Major Ronald C. Jones

First Sergeant: SFC James T. Ratliff

Monthly News Letter

1 June 1968

"The sum of wisdom is that time is never lost that is devoted to work"

"The reason why people who mind their own business succeed so well is that they have so little competition."

NEWS

On 1 May 1968, the unit had received official word that it would be reassigned to I Corps, 67th Medical Group, Commanding Officer, Colonel Norman J. Cole.

The advance party consisting of Captain Peter M. Hansen, WO1 John Lama, Staff Sergeant Allen C. Williams, and SP4 Roger W. Goodwin who made preparation for departing Phu Hiep enroute to Gia Le, Republic of Vietnam. While the main body of the unit packed and made all the necessary arrangements for moving, the advance party initiated the ground work to receive the unit upon arriving at it's new home. The smooth manner which this move was accomplished is a direct result of the team work and Esprit De Corps demonstrated by each member of this unit. On 15 May 1968, the 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) assumed its mission in I Corps.

By the end of May our home at Gia Le was well on it's way to completion. The heliport had been leveled with one coat of penepime, six aircraft revetments with metal planking pads were constructed, and the maintenance tent was erected and operational. The personnel bunkers had been reconstructed with minor repairs being made on the sea huts, our living quarters.

ADDITIONS

This month we welcomed one new team member. Arriving from the states was: SP4 James W. Martin — Helicopter Mechanic

To the Dust Off family was added a boy as SP4 Russell L. and Mrs. Christine Wright became proud parents of their first son — "Troy Edward Wright." Congratulations to the parents of our newest family member. (DOB 15 May 1968)

To the left seat crew was added "Dust Off 94" as Captain Ronny E. Porta became an Aircraft Commander.

To our fleet of birds we added Aircraft Number 66-16822 who replaced one of our originals number 66-16669.

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VIPS

On 16 May 1968, the "Red Carpet" was placed in our VIP ship for Major General Bryon L. Steger, USARPAC Surgeon, Hawaii, who paid a visit to the I Corps medical facilities. The usual praise for the 50th Medical Detachment (Hcl Amb) was given the unit by General Steger. "Above the Best".

AWARDS

The following individuals were decorated by Major Ronald C. Jones, Commanding Officer, during the monthly awards ceremony.

The Basic Air Medal and Clusters for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight over hostile territory were awarded to:

WO1 John Lama	Basic Air Medal with 1st thru 3rd Oak Leaf Cluster
Captain Charles H. Lewis	Basic Air Medal
WO1 Woodrow M. Nesbitt	Basic Air Medal
WO1 Loren P. Skarie	Basic Air Medal
SP4 Roger W. Goodwin	Basic Air Medal

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

Major Ronald C. Jones	21st thru 24th Oak Leaf Clusters
Captain Ronny E. Porta	6th thru 8th Oak Leaf Clusters
Captain Ottis G. Turner	5th thru 7th Oak Leaf Clusters
CW2 Randy L. Patchett	7th thru 11th Oak Leaf Clusters
SP5 B. J. Clark	1st thru 3rd Oak Leaf Clusters
SP5 Amador G. Sanchez	1st thru 3rd Oak Leaf Clusters
SP5 Levander Watson	3rd thru 4th Oak Leaf Clusters
SP4 Hugh L. Howell	5th thru 6th Oak Leaf Clusters
SP4 Neal A. Stanley	4th thru 6th Oak Leaf Clusters
SP4 Russell L. Wright	6th thru 7th Oak Leaf Clusters

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

The permanent Aircraft Crowman Badge was awarded to:

SP5 B. J. Clark
SP5 Curtis L. Dierdorff
SP4 Patriamor E. Agullana
SP4 Edward T. Riegol
SP4 David Woods

MISSIONS

The unit performed the following mission during May. With our move north the patient load increased while our flying hours remained about the same.

<u>US</u>	<u>FREE WORLD FORCES</u>	<u>Patients Evacuated</u> <u>ARVN</u>	<u>OTHER (CIVILIAN AND POW)</u>
484	51	94	94


Total patients evacuated during month: 723
Day flying time: 295 Aircraft Availability: 69%
Night Flying time: 33 Hoist Missions: 32
Total Hours: 328 Average Aviator Time: 54 hours

Weather

During June the entire Republic of Vietnam is under the influence of the southwest monsoon and the weather begins to follow a somewhat regular daily pattern. Precipitation and cloudiness increase over most of the country. A normal day will find cumulus clouds forming by mid morning, lowering and increasing in amount to become broken up at night. Afternoon showers occur over parts of the country almost everyday.

"It isn't so important how long you live. The important thing is how well you live it".

FOR THE COMMANDER:


PETER M. HANSEN
CAPTAIN, MSC
Public Information Officer