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July
1968

"DUST OFF"
50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb)
APO San Francisco 96308

Commanding Officer: MAJOR ROBERT R. CLOKE
First Sergeant: SFC JAMES T. RAJANET

Monthly News Letter

1 August 1968

The past month has brought many changes to the unit: our assignment to the 101st Air Cavalry Division as their role changed from Airborne to Airmobile, the change of command ceremony, the departure of old personnel and the arrival of some new.

With our coverage of the 101st in Northern I Corps area, we have five ships at our home base at Camp Eagle and one ship on 24 hour standby at Fire Support Base "Sally", about five miles northwest of the Imperial City of Hue. Our flying is about equally divided between the flat delta country near the coast and the mountains to the north.

As in the past we have been busy improving our living quarters, and adding some comforts to the area. Our unit shower was completed in record time with eight shower heads, facilities for shaving and space for washing clothes. July brought another happy event: "Hooch Maids", local nationals that do our washing, ironing and general cleaning. Since we don't speak Vietnamese, and they don't speak English, our instructions to them take on the appearance of a puppet show with sound, with mixed English, French, and Vietnamese and many gestures.

On 8 July our unit held it's first change of command ceremony with the unit colors passing from Major Ronald C. Jones to Major Robert R. Cloke. With his words to Major Cloke; "Take command of the best Dust Off unit in Vietnam". Major Jones completed his second tour in Vietnam and returns to Fort San Houston, Texas to attend the Masters Course in Hospital Administration. Godby and God speed, "Dust Off 96".

The Awards Ceremony, also held on 8 July, saw the 50th personnel presented a total of 53 individual awards for valor or service. Brigadier General Frank Clay of the 101st Air Cavalry Division presented the awards as follows:

Major Ronald C. Jones
Captain Peter M. Hansen
CW2 James D. Semmes

CW2 Fredrick C. Whitney

Captain Ronny E. Porta

Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal with "V"

Distinguished Flying Cross
Army Commendation Medal with "V"
and 10th thru 15th OLC to the Air Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross and 10th thru 12th OLC to the Air Medal
Army Commendation Medal with "V"
and 9th thru 11th OLC to the Air Medal

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As in the past we have been busy improving our living quarters, and adding some comforts to the area. Our unit shower was completed in record time with eight shower heads, facilities for shaving and space for washing clothes. July brought another happy event; "Hooch Maids", local nationals that do our washing, ironing and general cleaning. Since we don't speak Vietnamese, and they don't speak English, our instructions to them take on the appearance of a puppet show with sound, with mixed English, French, and Vietnamese and many gestures.

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Distinguished Flying Cross
Air Medal with "V"
Distinguished Flying Cross
Army Commendation Medal with "V"
and 10th thru 15th OLC to the Air Medal

Distinguished Flying Cross and 12th thru 12th OLC to the Air Medal
Army Commendation Medal with "V"
and 9th thru 11th OLC to the Air Medal

Captain Charles H. Lewis
 Captain Ottis G. Turner
 CW2 Randy L. Patchett

WO1 Woodrow M. Nesbitt
 WO1 Loren P. Skarie
 SP5 B. J. Clark

SP4 Hugh L. Howell
 SP4 Neal A. Stanley
 SP4 Russell L. Wright
 SP5 Jerry G. Foster
 SP5 Gerald L. Starns
 SP5 Charles T. Cahill
 SP5 Amador G. Sanchez
 SP5 Gerald L. Starns
 SP4 Peter Goldback
 SP4 Roger W. Goodwin
 SP4 Hugh L. Howell
 SP4 James W. Martin
 SP4 Edward T. Salandor
 SP4 Russell L. Wright
 PFC Anthony R. Thompson
 Major Ronald C. Jones
 Captain Peter M. Hanson
 CW2 Randy L. Patchett
 CW2 Fredrick C. Whitney
 CW2 James D. Somoros
 SP5 Charles T. Cahill
 SP5 B. J. Clark
 SP5 Gerald L. Starns
 SP4 Jerry A. Bigelow
 SP4 Roger W. Goodwin
 SP4 Neal A. Stanley
 SP4 David Woods

1st & 2nd OLC to the Air Medal
 8th thru 10th OLC to the Air Medal
 12th thru 14th OLC to the Air Medal

1st thru 3rd OLC to the Air Medal
 1st thru 3rd OLC to the Air Medal
 Army Commendation Medal with "V"
 4th thru 6th OLC to the Air Medal
 7th thru 8th OLC to the Air Medal
 7th thru 9th OLC to the Air Medal
 8th thru 10th OLC to the Air Medal

Army Commendation Medal
 Army Commendation Medal
 Aircraft Crewman Badge (Perm. award)
 Aircraft Crewman Badge (Perm. award)
 Aircraft Crewman Badge (Perm. award)
 Aircraft Crewman Badge (Perm. award)
 Aircraft Crewman Badge (Perm. award)
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Combat Medical Badge
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In many instances these awards are due to individual actions of Aircraft Commanders, pilots, or crew members, but none of the awards would have been possible without the support of all members of the unit, its a team effort all the way.

Immediately after the award ceremony, we held a unit party in the maintenance tent, with char-broiled steaks, all the extras and plenty of cold drinks. We had earned it!

Promotions during July

Anthony R. Thompson — PFC to Specialist Four

New Personnel: We welcome SP4 Henry R. Miller, a new medic, who came to us from the 101st Air Cavalry Division.

Departures:

Captain Peter M. Hansen, to civilian life
Major Ronald C. Jones, to Ft Sam Houston, Texas
CW2 Fredrick C. Whitney, to Ft Walters, Texas
CW2 Randy L. Patchett, to 350th Avn Co, Germany
CW2 James D. Samones, to Ft Walters, Texas
SP5 Curtis L. Diardorff, to civilian life
PVT Dennis Donnelly, to civilian life

During July the 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) performed the following tasks:

Patients evacuated:

US <u>450</u>	Free World Forces <u>36</u>	Vietnamese Army <u>64</u>
PCWs <u>29</u>	Vietnamese civilians <u>39</u>	Other <u>12</u>
and <u>4</u> Killer/Tracker Dogs	TOTAL <u>640</u>	

Average Aviator Time 51 hours % Aircraft Availability 90.7%

Warrant Officers John Lema and Woodrow Nesbitt joined the ranks of Aircraft Commanders during July. Congratulations "Dust Off 92" (Nesbitt) and "Dust Off 93" (Lema)

Words from our Commander:

The personnel of the 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) have looked upon their assignment to the 101st Air Cavalry Division as a new challenge. The 50th is doing with 6 aircraft what should be done with 12, 40% Officer and 50% Enlisted strength. To the men of the "Hell Cat Mighty" our new assignment is just another way of demonstrating the 50th Medical Detachment (Hel Amb) is the best Dust Off unit in Vietnam. Since the 101st Air Cav has retained it's nickname of "Screaming Eagles", we have adopted the call sign of Eagle Dust Off so the men of the Division can identify themselves with their own Dust Off. Eagle Dust Off has been readily accepted by the men of the Division in our effort to conserve the fighting strength.

July has been an exciting month, with many changes and new challenges. The 50th has met them all, and exceeded many. Our record Aircraft Availability of 90% is almost unheard of in a combat situation, and surpasses stateside expectations. "The best is not good enough" for the Dust Off team.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


RONNY E. PORTER
CAPTAIN, MSC
Public Information Officer

"For those who fight for it, life has a flavor the protected never knew"