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TAIL #

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'DUST OFF'
AIR AMBULANCE PLATOON
326TH MEDICAL BATTALION
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

Commanding Officer: Major Robert R. Cloke
Platoon Sergeant: SFC Thomas L. Ross, Jr.

Monthly News Letter

1 January 1969

Would you believe it? We hardly can ourselves. This past month we had twenty-four (24) enlisted men receive well earned promotions and two of our pilots moved up in rank, also certainly well deserved. Being promoted from WO1 to CW2 were CW2 Woodrow M. Nesbitt and CW2 Loren P. Skarie, pilots who have been with this unit since February of 1968.

Promoted to Specialist Four to Specialist Five were the following:

SP5 Stephen P. Bebich	SP5 Gary E. Munoz	SP5 Thomas E. Rolls
SP5 Richard C. Crim	SP5 Michael J. Outwater	SP5 Michael F. C. Crim
SP5 Stephen B. Francis	SP5 Richard L. Oberg	Thoroughgood
SP5 Clement G. Grillo	SP5 David N. Pritt	SP5 Larry E. Wagoner
SP5 Michael P. McLane	SP5 Daniel G. Pugh	SP5 George H. Winans
SP5 Henry R. Miller	SP5 Edward T. Selander	SP5 David L. Woods

Moving up from PFC to Specialist Four were:

SP4 Anthony T. Burdo	SP4 Jerry A. Jordal
SP4 Thomas E. Collins	SP4 Richard G. Runion
SP4 Brian R. Fox	SP4 Karl T. White
SP4 Lawrence Harris, Jr.	

During the month of December, we adopted two more ships to make our family now ten in number. The two brand new "babies" are 515 and 518. SP5 Pugh is the crew chief on 515 and SP4 Cutler crews 518. Right now our family is increasing a little faster than we had planned, so parking room is a bit hard to come by. But the enlarged helipad will soon be finished.

Speaking of new construction in the area, this month we have started on an Enlisted Men's Club. Being built by Vietnamese labor, the club should be finished in 3 to 4 weeks, and that's not any too soon. Some of the larger airlines have been nice enough to furnish us with travel posters, so we won't have any lack of decorations for the club.

All of the hooches and the CP were painted between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Instead of a weather-beaten gray plywood look, they are now a sharp, blue-gray color. (Now if we can just get some grass to grow.)*

Last month we made a promise so we'd better keep it. Mr. Blessing's wife had a little girl and we'd like to pass along these vital statistics: Dawn Rayn Blessing, 6 lbs, 1 oz, born at 4:59 a.m. on 23 Nov. Incidentally, The Sheriff and Mr. Dillard had a bet going on whose baby would arrive first, and The Sheriff won by about half an hour.

*Lieutenant Evans and Lieutenant McCrary, please note.

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This month we've had two more little tax deductions, er, babies born. Warrant Officer Frank Hichens became a father on the 22nd of December to a baby boy, Francis Henry Douglas Hichens, IV. He weighed 4 lb 5 oz.

Just five days later PFC Thomas T. Lounsberry was notified his wife delivered a baby girl, Tisha Lounsberry. Tisha weighed 7 lb 2 oz.

Now that we've added two, it's time we lost some. SP5 Henry R. Miller was the lucky fellow this month as he DEROSED in time for Christmas. After a 30 day leave, he'll be assigned to Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

We had three more people who left during the month, but they're coming back. SFC Thomas L. Ross, Jr., SP5 Michael J. Outwater, and SP4 Richard G. Runion all spent Christmas with the folks on special thirty day leave earned for extending their tour of duty here for six months. And congratulations to Sergeant Ross, who on the 28th of the month married Miss Elizabeth Ann Weller in Burney, California.

But we did have some replacements this month, too. One was a pilot, WO1 John W. Whitaker. The EM's, all medics, are:

SP5 Thomas E. Rolls, who came from Bravo Company, 326th Med Bn.

SP4 Roy M. Mayberry, from stateside.

SP4 Kenneth D. Ramsey, from the states.

PFC Steven E. Arnold, from the radio shack.

PFC Joseph H. Campbell and PFC James A. Margro from the States.

Just before Christmas, we recovered five pilots who had been down South on TDY with two Dustoff units, the 45th Med Company and the 82nd Medical Detachment (HA). CPT James C. Danby, 1LT Otis D. Evans, WO1 John E. Blessing, WO1 John H. Shirley, Jr., and WO1 Michael L. McKenna came back to a very large assortment of Christmas mail.

As far as statistics go this month, we've got two sets for you. One set of figures shows the usual monthly total, and a second set shows the records of the past six months, or totals since the unit became the Air Ambulance Platoon under the 101st Airborne Division.

PATIENTS EVACUATED:		DAY/NIGHT PTS		MISSIONS	
	(Dec)	(6 mo)	(Dec)	(6 mos)	(Dec)
US	721	3,279	Day	921	3,926
FMAF	0	37	Night	88	628
ARVN	91	399		1,009	4,554
VN Civ	116	536			
POW	11	172			
MED CAP	79	138			
total	1,009	4,552			
HOIST USAGE		MEDICAL RESUPPLY HOURS		FLIGHT TIME	
	(Dec)	(6 mos)	Dec	6 mos	(Dec)
Missions	36	219	Day	8	383
Patients	60	333	Night	55	244
					432
					1,802
AVIATOR FLIGHT TIME					
	(Dec)	(6 mos)			
High		69			
Low		20			
Average		34		35.5	

A FEW WORDS FROM DIRECTOR OF

With one year ending and another in its infancy, we think it only fitting for December to be our biggest month.

The Christmas spirit was prevalent throughout the area as Christmas trees and decorations arrived from all parts of the US and free world. Christmas greetings from many old friends were read and reread. The Christmas cards were surpassed only by the volume of packages. More hooches are needed to handle the many gifts. Christmas dinner was just as delicious as Thanksgiving. Something about the holiday season and new year has brought out the "back yard barbecue chef" in many. The grills are really beginning to get a workout.

Until next time, "keep those cards and letters coming."

During December, the men of our unit, both present and past, received twenty-one (21) awards, ranging from the Bronze Star with "V" device to the Army Commendation Medal for service and including a Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star.

Bronze Star with "V" device

SP5 David L. Woods
SP4 Roger D. Pharris

Army Commendation Medal

Major Donald C. Jones
CW2 Woodrow M. Nesbitt
CW2 Loren P. Skarie
WO1 Dilliam T. Dillard
WO1 Frederick C. Whitney
SFC James T. Ratliff
SP4 Keith F. Zuck

Bronze Star

SP5 Thomas E. Kelley

Air Medal

14th OLC with "V"
12th OLC with "V"
11th OLC
10th OLC
5th OLC
1st OLC
Basic Air Medal

Vietnamese Gallantry
Cross w/ Bronze Star

Cpt Peter M. Hansen

CPT Charles H. Lewis
SP5 E. J. Clark
SP5 Roger W. Goodwin
CW2 Loren P. Skarie
WO1 Michael McKenna
WO1 Francis Hichens
WO1 John Blessing
SP5 Stephen Bebich
SP5 Richard Oberg
SP4 Anthony Thompson

Karl T. White
KARL T. WHITE
SP4
Newsletter Editor