

1 June 1969

# EAGLE

Platoon Leader: Major Thomas W. Murphy  
Platoon Sergeant: SFC Thomas L. Ross

# DUSTOFF

Air Ambulance Platoon  
326th Medical Battalion  
101st Airborne Division

Uncle Sam needs you as a radio operator in today's Action Army! Radio operators get by that off-limits tag for all members of the 101st. They get to go places— fun, exciting places. Adventure! Travel! Excitement! Fresh air! For example, our radio operators now get to stay at a new relay station at Eagle's Nest, high above the Big Valley, close to Disneyland, where the view is great, the fresh air exhilarating, and where harassment is a dirty word. Sounds Good? Sounds great! Be the first to sign up. Sign up today. Uncle Sam needs you!



On the 6th, Special Forces Team B-52 Project Delta of the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne paid a surprise visit to Eagle Dustoff and presented the unit with a plaque for outstanding support while the SF group was in the area.

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Major Robert R. Cloke, Platoon Leader, left for an assignment to the Career Course at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, after a 30 day leave. We wish him well.

\* \* \*

SP5 Kenneth Ramsey, medic, was reassigned to Granite City Army Depot, to report there after an emergency leave.

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SP5 Larry Wagoner left for the States on an emergency leave.

PSG Lowell Bell left for a special leave in the states following an extension to serve with this unit.

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LLT Gerald Torba and SP4 Martin Hammert are in Japan awaiting transfer to hospitals stateside due to injuries received while flying.

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This month brought several new faces: Major Thomas W. Murphy, Platoon Leader, from Fort Rucker, Alabama

LLT Roy J. Leatherberry, pilot

W01 Dallas McKee, pilot

SP5 Gary Bryant, medic, from 158th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

SP4 Philip A. Gibson, crew chief, from 5th Trans.

SP4 Park R. Hancocks, crew chief, from 5th Trans.

SP4 Lee Leland, medic, from 82nd Airborne Division.

SP4 Robert H. Paul, crew chief, from the states.

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Several people took a short vacation during May, with an R&R or leave:

CW2 Irvin Reid—Tokyo

CW2 Max E. Tucker—Tokyo

W01 John Blessing—Hawaii

W01 Francis Hichens—Hawaii

SFC Thomas L. Ross—Tokyo

SSG Keith Forrester—Hawaii

SP5 James Johnson—Hong Kong

SP5 Karl White—Hong Kong

SP4 Thomas E. Collins—Tokyo

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# AWARDS

SILVER STAR

LLT Gerald M. Torba

## DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

CPT Charles H. Lewis  
CW2 Michael L. McKenna  
CW2 Irvin C. Reid  
SP5 Stephen P. Bebich  
SP5 Michael A. Thoroughgood  
SP4 Gary D. Runge

## BRONZE STAR

SGT Gareth E. Brookhart  
SP5 Lawrence Harris, Jr.

## AIR MEDAL "V"

CPT Charles H. Lewis  
SFC Thomas L. Ross

## AIR MEDAL

35-38th OLC	MAJ Robert R. Cloke
15-25th OLC	CPT Robert D. Sawyer
14-15th OLC	CW2 William T. Dillard
1-14th OLC	CW2 Max E. Tucker
BAM, 1-7th OLC	SP5 Michael P. McLane
1-5th OLC	SFC Thomas L. Ross
2-3rd OLC	PFC Richard G. Runion
1st OLC	SP4 Stephen B. Francis
EAM	LLT Jerry T. Lee
BAM	W01 Jose R. Villarta
BAM	SGT David N. Pritt
BAM	SP5 Lawrence Harris
BAM	SP5 Fritz C. Persijn
BAM	SP4 James R. Walters

## ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

2nd OLC SFC Thomas L. Ross  
1st OLC MAJ Robert R. Cloke  
ARCOM SP4 Thomas E. Collins

If you're lucky, you only get short once—if you're not lucky, well, maybe you get the pleasure of serving two tours of duty here and thereby have the added distinction of getting short twice (whoopie!).

To get back to the point, getting short is the most pleasurable feeling in the world. In fact, it is rather easy to get carried away in ecstasy and become rather obnoxious to those around you who scorn your taunts of "Short" (shouted at all times of the day and night, in the shower, at the mess hall, both exuberantly and quietly, whenever deemed appropriate, which is to say, almost every time you open your mouth). This has a tendency to shorten your life span considerably if the short party is not careful in his last days present.

And memories, pleasant memories, dance in the mind, packing up the past in a suitcase and sending it with you wherever you go. At times like these you remember the funny, the odd occurrences:

Like the time just after a Red Alert, not a particularly terrifying one, but still very upsetting, when you hear a group of guys gathered in a single room across the street from you breaking down their tensions. Suddenly a song bursts forth—"We gotta get outa this place, if it's the last thing we ever do!"

Or you picture Joe, the S--- burner, humble Joe, whose sanitation wizardry leaves you breathless, the time he was given a bag of marshmallows to toast. Ah, did he pick a great place to toast them! Nothing like combining work and pleasure.

Perhaps you remember the time the radio operators got tired of having plain old water in their cooler and decided to make lemonade. They neglected, however, to clean out the innards before putting in the lemonade. No sweat though; the rather acid-like lemonade did a nice job of cleaning those pipes.

Maybe it's a frustrating incident—maybe a happy one; maybe the very sad Christmas time or some other special day you had to spend alone—whatever pops into your mind, you are glad it's almost over, and the coming year won't be like the past.

#### MONTHLY STATISTICS

##### PATIENTS EVACUATED:

US	1199
VN Civ	140
MED CAP	2
ARVN	65
POW/SUSP	10
CANINE	0
OTHER	0
TOTAL	1416

##### DAY/NIGHT PATIENTS:

Day	1242
Night	174

##### MISSIONS:

Day	697
Night	80
TOTAL	777

##### HOIST UTILIZATION:

Missions	88
Patients	128
Hours	110

##### FLIGHT TIME:

Day	612
Night	65
TOTAL	676

Avg No Aviators PSNT for Duty 22

HIGH TIME	101
LOW TIME	3
AVERAGE	60

ACFT COMBAT DAMAGE 4

A FEW WORDS FROM DUSTOFF 96

Having only been in country for approximately two weeks, I'm really still in the process of getting oriented to both the terrain and the position.

I had an opportunity to see the former Dustoff 96 in Bien Hoa as he was passing South and I was heading North. Major Bob Cloke and I served together at Fort Rucker prior to his assignment to RVN.

I requested this assignment eight months ago and I'm looking forward to commanding this fine unit during the next year.

One new innovation we hope to put to use in the near future is the utilization of the OH-6 Cayuse helicopter to cut down the number of hoist missions. This smaller helicopter can evacuate patients in hover holes where use of the Huey would be impossible save for a hoist mission. The Huey can then backhaul patients from the LZ where the OH-6 takes them.

My best wishes to all former and present Eagle Dustoff men and their families.

**EAGLE DUSTOFF**

is a monthly publication of the Air Ambulance Platoon, 326th Medical Bn

EDITOR: SP5 Karl White

CARTOONIST: SP5 Brian Foxx

With the departure of CPT Robert L. Mock, Battalion Maintenance Officer, a reorganization of our maintenance has now been put into effect, with aviation maintenance now working directly under the Air Ambulance Platoon. CPT William Smith is the new Bn Maint Off and serves in an advisory capacity concerning aviation maintenance as well as test pilot duties. CW3 William Brightwell heads aviation maintenance.

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Congratulations are in order for SGT David N. Pritt and bride, former Carroll H. Darden. While home on very special leave, SGT Pritt was married on Mother's Day.

With a deep feeling of regret we report that on 13 May 1969 an Eagle Dustoff ship crashed after receiving enemy fire while pulling a hoist mission. 1LT Gerald M. Torba, who was Ac, was wounded and has been medically evacuated to Japan on his way home. The other three crewmembers, 1LT Jerry T. Lee, SP4 James A. Margro and SP4 James R. Walters, are Missing In Action.

For his heroism above and beyond the call of duty, 1LT Torba was presented a Silver Star. Similar awards are being processed for the other crew members.