

Vietnam Communique

Action slows in all four corps

Americal Div

The Americal Division soldiers killed 141 enemy in a week of moderate contact.

Units of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, along with supporting elements, accounted for the major action of the week. In a series of scattered encounters, troopers of the various elements of the squadron killed 18 NVA soldiers and one VC, while apprehending three suspects and capturing two crew-served and six individual weapons in an area centered nine miles west of Tam Ky.

Units of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade killed eight Viet Cong when II Troop, 17th Cavalry called in artillery on a group of VC 18 miles northwest of Tam Ky, resulting in three enemy killed. A reconnaissance element of the 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry killed two VC seven miles south of Hoi An. The battalion commander and control helicopter killed three VC in separate contacts four miles south of Hoi An.

1st Avn Bde

The 1st Aviation Brigade crews killed 288 enemy in a week of scattered con-

tacts.

Helicopter crews of the 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry made scattered contacts with enemy forces during operations in the Mekong Delta. Gunship crews from A Troop of the squadron, flying in support of the 21st ARVN Infantry Division nine miles southeast of Can Tho, killed nine VC in the contacts. In addition, three sampans, one of which was carrying a cargo of weapons, were sunk and 15 enemy fortifications destroyed.

Gunship crews of the 118th Assault Helicopter Company, 145th Combat Aviation Battalion supported Vietnamese soldiers of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division when they encountered heavy action 20 miles south of Saigon.

The gunship crews supported the ARVN unit as they made contact with an estimated enemy battalion. Chopper gunners accounted for seven confirmed killed, eight estimated dead and eleven structures destroyed during the action.

101st Abn Div

The troopers of the 101st Airborne Division killed 106 with action termed as moderate contact with the enemy. Paratroopers of the 3rd Brigade, 82nd

Airborne Division continued reconnaissance-in-force operations in a suspected NVA regimental base area 17 miles southeast of Hue. Units from the 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry and the 2nd Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry found graves containing 23 NVA bodies. The troopers also uncovered several caches containing 25 weapons, assorted ammunition and 300 gas masks.

While operating northwest of Hue, troopers from the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry killed four enemy, detained one suspect and captured large quantities of supplies. Operating in conjunction with them, units of the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry killed two enemy and detained two suspects. Other elements of the 1st Brigade killed four NVA soldiers nearby.

1st Inf Div

Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division killed 36 enemy in a week of light contact.

The 1st Infantry soldiers conducted a village seal in the early hours of the morning, resulting in nine NVA soldiers killed.

The infantrymen from the three division units began the seal of Tan Binh, five miles east of Lai Khe. As they closed on the village, units from the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry observed an estimated 50 NVA soldiers. At the same time, they began receiving rocket rounds and small arms fire from a nearby wooded area. As the firefight continued, more enemy appeared from the village. Backed by two light fire teams and mortar fire, the infantrymen caused the enemy force to break contact. At the other end of the village, units from the 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry engaged 20 more NVA soldiers. The unit, along with troopers from the 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry, battled the enemy force until it fled into the surrounding jungle. Two suspects were also detained.

1st Cav Div

Skstroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division killed 37 enemy soldiers in light contact during the week.

In Operation Jeb Stuart III troopers of the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry and Popular Force soldiers killed 13 NVA soldiers. The combined force was conducting a search-and-clear operation seven miles southeast of Quang Tri.

Three NVA soldiers were killed by elements of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry when they called in artillery fire on the enemy.

Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry uncovered two caches containing five tons of rice northwest of Hue.

Operating in the plains southeast of Quang Tri, cavalrymen from the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry discovered a cache containing 10 tons of rice.

4th Inf Div

Ivymen from the 4th Infantry Division killed 43 enemy soldiers in light action during the week.

A 1st Brigade patrol observed 10 NVA soldiers three miles north of Dak To. The patrol was extracted and airstrikes were called in on the enemy. Three enemy were reported killed.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry made contact with eight NVA soldiers northwest of Dak To. One enemy was killed in the initial skirmish. The results of artillery fire called in later are unknown.

An aero rifle platoon inserted to rescue the crew of a light observation helicopter from D Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry was involved in a heavy firefight. Reinforced by elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry 10 enemy soldiers were killed.

5th Inf Div (M)

Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) killed 78 enemy soldiers in action near the Demilitarized Zone.

Rifleman of the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry were conducting a company-size patrol early in the afternoon when they came under artillery and mortar fire. As they swept the area, they engaged an NVA force occupying fortified positions.

The infantrymen called in artillery and airstrikes, then assaulted the positions. The enemy withdrew, leaving behind 65 bodies. Two U.S. soldiers were killed in the action and 24 wounded.

In two separate contacts around Con Thien, brigade units killed 13 NVA soldiers and captured three rifles and one light machinegun.

Friendly casualties in the encounters were one killed and three wounded.

9th Inf Div

During the week soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division killed 77 enemy soldiers in several actions.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry conducting a reconnaissance-in-force operation east of Rach Kien, received intense small arms and automatic weapons fire. The infantrymen supported by helicopter gunships, called in airstrikes and artillery on the entrenched enemy force. A sweep of the area yielded seven enemy bodies.

As the rifleman continued their sweep, they again came under fire. Once again artillery fire and airstrikes were called in and ten more enemy soldiers were killed. Ten rifles were also captured.

While flying support for ground troops of the 1st Brigade, helicopter gunship crews from the 12th Combat Aviation Group's 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry killed seven VC eight miles east of Tan An. A short time later soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry killed five Viet Cong and captured two rifles in the same area.

25th Inf Div

In a week of moderate action soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division killed 72 enemy soldiers and found the bodies of 150 others killed in earlier action.

Infantrymen of the 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry guarding Fire Support Base Rawlings east of Tay Ninh counted 27 enemy bodies after they had repulsed a ground and mortar attack. They recovered three machineguns and ammunition for mortars and small arms as well as grenades and bangalore torpedoes. Two wounded suspects were detained. There were no U.S. fatalities in the encounter but 15 Americans were wounded.

Sweeping the area of an earlier contact near Trang Bang, elements of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division operating under the control of the 25th found the bodies of 86 enemy soldiers killed previously. Mortar and small arms ammunition were also found. Seventeen suspects were detained. Another battalion unit apprehended five suspects after receiving heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire four miles north of Trang Bang.

Other action

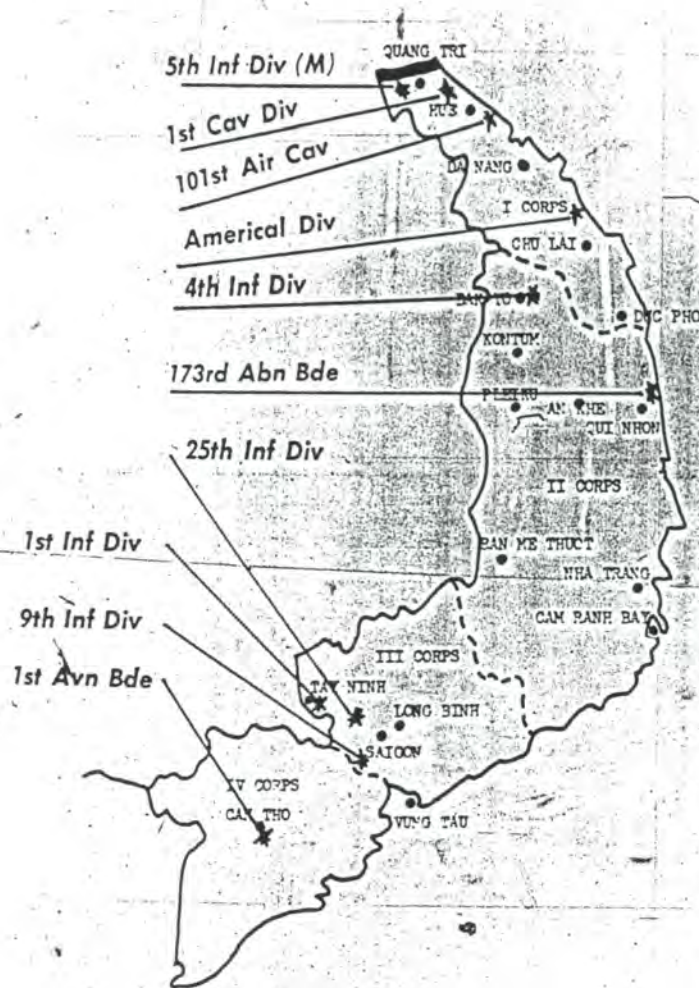
Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade encountered light action during operations south and west of Saigon during the week.

A night patrol from the 6th Battalion, 31st Infantry engaged two VC in a sampan south of Saigon. A brief firefight ended when a grenade sank the sampan. A search of the river failed to reveal any bodies.

On several days the 199th called in airstrikes to destroy enemy bunkers they had discovered.

Elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the ARVN 40th Infantry Regiment killed more than 100 enemy soldiers during the week in Operation Cochise Green east of Bong Son.

The combined search-and-clear operation has resulted in 371 suspects detained for questioning.



Joint Army, AF, Marine effort saves recon patrol

CHU-LAI, (AMERICA) — Army, Air Force and Marine units teamed up with a heroic helicopter pilot to save a Marine recon patrol surrounded by NVA troops, 20 miles west of Tam Ky.

When the eight-man Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP) from the 1st Recon Battalion, 1st Marine Division became surrounded by an estimated 50 NVA soldiers, they called for support from LZ Baldy, basecamp of the 196th Infantry Brigade. To aid the LRRP, the soldiers dispatched a gunship light fire team. A Spooky aircraft was also dispatched by the Air Force to provide additional fire support.

"Arriving at the LRRP location we had a difficult time coordinating between us and Spooky due to poor radio communications and the LRRP's lack of familiarity with gunship support," said Warrant Officer James Collins. "We initiated a target strike when we only had ten minutes left in the target area."

Superior force

The Recon Patrol was in close and intense contact with the superior-size NVA force, and requested to be extracted. Warrant Officer Leon Schoenborn volunteered to attempt the rescue.

"While waiting for a reply to Schoenborn's offer, the gunships and flare ship returned to the 196th basecamp to re-arm, refuel and replenish flares.

"We kept the time on the ground to a bare minimum," said Mr. Collins.

"We returned to station to find the situation rapidly deteriorating and the authorization for extraction granted by the Marines," he added.

The "gunships" continued close support of the LRRP, pouring heavy suppressive fire on all enemy muzzle flashes they spotted.

"After two cold passes over the Landing Zone, we informed Mr. Schoenborn of the severe obstacles in and around the area, but he said he wanted to give it a try," continued Collins.

Set for pickup

Spooky took over illumination as the three Army choppers set up for the pickup. The two gunships escorted the slick into the "hot" LZ and maintained

continuous fire all around it. As Mr. Schoenborn's ship set down about five NVA automatic weapons opened up from all sides of the small perimeter.

"I told Schoenborn to abort the attempted pickup, but he elected to stay and try," said Collins.

Loading was difficult as hostile fire grew more intense. Because of the delay in boarding, Schoenborn's aircraft was forced to leave with only three of the LRRP aboard.

Expend ammunition

Collins and his wingmen expended the remainder of their ammunition covering the departure of the rescue ship. Spooky took over the job when the choppers had to return to Baldy for fuel.

Again, they rearmed and refueled as fast as possible and after a quick meeting to determine the method for the second

rescue they were once again in the air.

Once more they returned to the area of contact. This time the LRRP reported the enemy movement had shifted to higher ground. The "gunships" changed their plan and attacked the enemy position under flare illumination.

When the Marines reported the enemy closing in on them from all sides, Schoenborn decided to go in after them.

"We set up and started inbound with all our guns firing," continued Collins. "The rescue ship quickly landed, picked up the Marines and climbed to a safe altitude while the gunships expended their firepower on the enemy positions."

Mr. Schoenborn and his crew, with close Army, Air Force and Marine cooperation, successfully rescued the trapped Recon Patrol and brought back valuable information on enemy activities in the area of contact.

Pavement foiling Charley's mining

PLEIKU, (IFF-10) — Paving a highway in Vietnam, according to Army Engineers, provides far greater service than just a comfortable ride. It makes the road more secure as well.

One of the biggest problems in the II Corps Tactical Zone in the past has been the enemy use of mines along the roads. Mining has been quite prevalent, especially along routes which are heavily used by U.S. traffic.

In the past, very long, time-consuming sweeps have had to be conducted every day in order to open these roads to convoy traffic. Certain sections of the roads throughout II Corps have had at least two hundred to three hundred mines extracted from their beds per month.

The advantage in paving, other than the ordinary gain a smooth surface provides to any highway in comfort and ease of driving, is that it has reduced this mining considerably.

It is very obvious in a well-paved road when a mine has been placed in the surface layers. There have been a few

cases where the North Vietnamese Army has tunneled in under the road and placed a mine beneath the asphalt surface. But this is an undertaking which requires considerable time and therefore isn't a readily usable technique.

In II Corps, on the roads which have been paved, either with a permanent blacktop or even just a surface treatment, an old 'country road' type of asphalt treatment, mining has decreased considerably, according to I Field Force, Vietnam, engineer sources. This decrease has been as much as 70 per cent in some cases.

Cobwebs cleared away

Teams updating logistics

LAI KHE, (1st INF) — First Infantry Division personnel have been instrumental in recent months in initiating a new kind of advisory program.

Logistical Assistance Advisory

Teams (LAATS) were established early in 1968 with personnel from the division's support units. They were designed to help ARVN units at province level clear the administrative cobwebs out of supply channels. The teams have been so successful that MACV has adopted a program to use them throughout Vietnam, and 1st Division teams have recently been converted to MACV teams.

The three original LAATS teams were set up at sector headquarters in the provinces of Binh Long, Binh Duong, and Phuoc Long. The Americans were assigned to the sector administrative and logistical (A&L) companies.

Combined Function

As Captain Myron Poock, commander of the Binh Duong province team put it, "The A & L company functions exactly like a combination of the 1st Division's 1st Administration Company, 1st Supply and Transport Battalion and 701st Maintenance Battalion. It provides logistical, administrative and maintenance support to all Regional Force companies and

Popular Force platoons in the province."

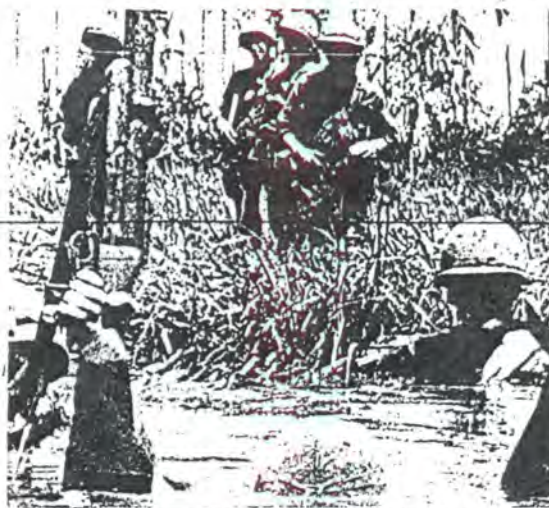
Major Thomas DeBlois of the Phuoc Long LAATS team, near Song Be, recalled some of the problems his team encountered seven months ago when it began work.

"Our mission was to assist the ARVNs in using their administrative channels to get supplies and maintenance materials. There was nothing here when we arrived in the way of supplies, so we had nowhere to go but up."

LAATS teams work on the premise that ARVN administrative channels are well-organized and can be made to work efficiently.

At the Binh Duong A & L Company, Captain Poock's team helps in the organization of contact teams that visit units in the field to complete on-the-spot repairs and collect items for shop maintenance.

The Phuoc Long Team, in similar efforts, found that many vehicles in the field had been immobile for years. "Repairs were made, and we sent them back out," said Staff Sergeant Alton Green.



Being the shortest member of a platoon can sometimes cause problems, especially when crossing a canal. First Lieutenant Leonard E. Denny is a platoon leader with the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division. The 5-foot-4-inch lieutenant maintains the policy that if he can cross a canal without the aid of a rope then the entire platoon can. (25th INF PHOTO)



Specialist 4 Phil Bayse of the 173rd Airborne Brigade inflates a balloon for Vietnamese children from the Protestant church in Da Nang. (173rd ABN PHOTO)

name children from the Protestant church in Da Nang. (173rd ABN PHOTO)

DA to promote top NCO grades

LONG BINH, (USARV-10) — A new centralized promotion system for the promotion to grades E-8 and E-9 was recently announced by the Department of the Army.

The new procedure will roughly parallel the system currently used to promote officers to field grade. It will insure an equitable and uniform procedure for promotion to these two grades on an Army-wide basis. The system will eliminate the requirement for a position vacancy in the NCO's current unit and will insure that the best qualified NCO's are advanced.

Soldiers in grade E-8 who had promotion list status on July 31, 1968, or grade of E-7 with promotion list status on Sept. 30, 1968, will comprise those initially considered by a DA promotion board for promotion.

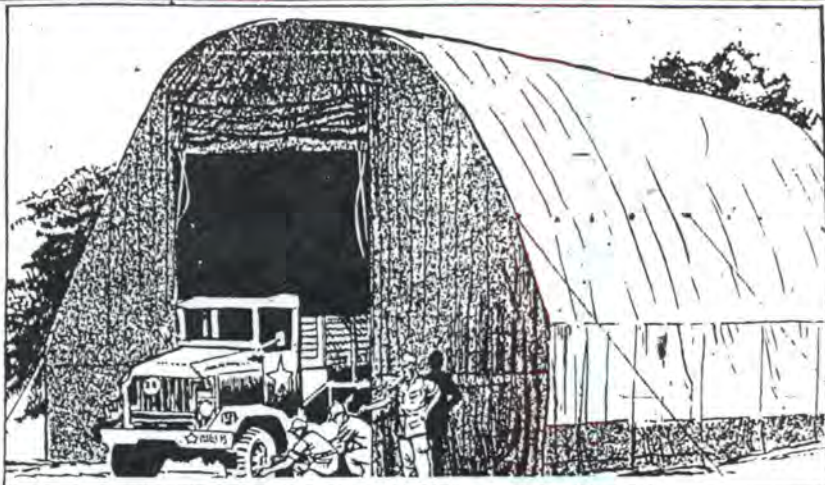
Commanders who maintain promotion lists for these two grades have been directed to forward to DA the names of those on the promotion list along with the following items: a new enlisted efficiency report, a copy of the individual's Form 20, copies of letters of commendation and appreciation, special recommendations if appropriate, copies of items from their 201 files that would have a bearing on promotion and a completed personnel data sheet.

A DA promotion board will meet in October and December to consider these individuals. In January 1969 a list of those promoted to E-9 will be published and similarly in March for promotion to E-8.

During the interim period, commanders will be authorized to promote from existing lists to fill vacancies, provided a promotion allocation is received. Commanders may not add to promotion lists except those soldiers who are transferred and had promotion list status at their old post will be integrated into the list of their new unit.

Those men who are considered by the first DA boards and are not selected will not retain their previous promotion list status. They will be considered by future boards along with all other soldiers competing for promotion.

The new system will insure that the individual is considered for Army-wide vacancies in the grades E-8 and E-9 rather than for the limited ones occurring under the old system of local promoting authority. Each man will be competing with others, with the same skills and knowledge of his chosen field in the Army.



Sketch shows artist's concept of enlarged maintenance shelter. (ANF)

Will house helicopters

Maintenance tent is designed

WASHINGTON, (ANF) — Army maintenance personnel in Vietnam had a problem: They needed a mobile shelter, large enough to use as a maintenance facility for wheeled and tracked vehicles and all types of Army helicopters.

Technicians at the U.S. Army, Natick Laboratories in Natick, Mass., responded to the soldiers' call for help with a quick adaptation of an item that already was standard issue.

They simply added an 8-foot 7-inch piece of straight metal tubing to each side of the supporting arch of the time-tested standard Army field maintenance shelter.

The Natick staff planned and organized the development of the frame supported shelter and built the first one. The adaption was immediately successful and met a prime goal: filling the need in the shortest possible time. The shelter is currently

being purchased for immediate use in Vietnam.

The new pieces expanded the shelter from 20 to 27 feet in width and from 14 feet to 22 feet in height. Just like the standard shelter, the larger, improved maintenance shelter is available in eight-foot sections that can be placed together to expand the shelter to any reasonable length. Six men can put together a 64-foot long shelter in eight hours.

When erected, the shelter, made of cotton duck supported by a magnesium tubing frame, is in the shape of an inverted "U." It has a venetian blind-type door 12 feet wide and 20 feet high at each end.

Arctic tests prove worth of Redeye

WASHINGTON, (R&D) — In its final Arctic environmental tests, the shoulder-fired Redeye missile achieved an extremely high reliability rating: over a three-month period at Fort Greely, Alaska, in temperatures that dipped to minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

More than 1,000 of the infrared homing missiles are now being delivered by the Romona division of General Dynamics to the Army and Marine Corps each month. Program management is provided by the Missile Command, Huntsville, Ala.

The world's smallest guided missile was easily carried by soldiers on both skis and snow shoes.

Tests were conducted to verify Redeye's operational capability after typical open storage (40 degrees below), transportation and field handling in the winter environments.

Transportation and field handling tests followed for the same weapons in armored personnel carriers, trucks and amphibian cargo carriers.

After completion of the preliminary conditioning tests, the same weapons were fired at target drones. Results were outstanding.

Redeye can be carried and handled by frontline soldiers in much the same way as an infantry rifle. It is four feet in length, three inches in diameter and weighs about 29 pounds. In the cross country handling tests the infantry gunners carried a full complement of Arctic field equipment and protective clothing in addition to Redeye.

Redeye provides the individual soldier with a portable guided missile system for action against low flying aircraft. The system greatly increases the effectiveness of the individuals or small patrols without adding a burden of heavy equipment.

Truck holster for rifle.

If your truck needs a "holster" for your rifle, try Bracket Assembly FSN 2590-045-9611. To get details on how to put it on see TB 9-2300-209-20.

War hero life saved by medal

OASIS, (4th INF) — Medals are awarded for heroism under fire or selfless acts of courage to save another man's life. A Bronze Star belonging to Sergeant William Cady seemed to be returning the favor during a fire fight in the mountains of VC Valley, 30 miles southwest of Camp Enari.

Sergeant Cady, a member of Company C, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry, was leading his squad on a reconnaissance-in-force operation, when the point element came under heavy automatic weapons fire. The NVAR well-hidden behind the large boulders and trees in the area, began lobbing grenades at the Ivymen as they scrambled for cover.

Sergeant Cady found himself pinned down by the steady bursts of fire and tried to maneuver himself into a better position.

"I tried moving very slowly to get out of the line of fire," remarked the sergeant, "when I felt two or three rounds slam into my rucksack."

Startled but unhurt, Sergeant Cady made his way to cover and stopped to examine his bullet-riddled equipment.

The rounds that tore into his rucksack had gone through the ammo can that he used to hold his personal effects. They punctured a can of lighter fluid, his girl friend's photograph and a tablet of writing paper, but were stopped short by the Bronze Star Medal he carried with him.

Examining the neat, round hole in the medal Sergeant Cady remarked, "I never placed much importance on this award until now. I'm awfully glad I received it when I did."

Enlistments top 200,000 mark

WASHINGTON, (ANF) — Nearly 200,000 men without prior military service enlisted in the Army during the last fiscal year.

The U.S. Army Recruiting Command said the fiscal year total of 196,098 enlistments was the highest number in 20 years. The total was 14,000 more than the previous year and more than 30,000 above the enlistments in fiscal year 1966.

In addition, nearly 8,000 enlistments by men with previous service, 4,531 Women's Army Corps enlistments and other categories of special enlistments raised the Recruiting Command's total enlistments for fiscal year 1968 to 210,101.

Commenting on the high number of enlistments, Brigadier General Frank L. Gunn, commanding general of the Recruiting Command, said:

"The Army has a great deal to offer in schools and other types of training options such as the warrant officer flight training and officer candidate school."

"Many of the young men selected a three-year enlistment with its choice of training rather than wait to be drafted and take their chances for two years."

Of the non-prior service enlistments, 8,364 were for officer candidate school and 4,201 for warrant officer flight training.

The Recruiting Command also announced that the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Stations, which it operates for the Department of Defense, examined more than 2,230,000 individuals during the year, an 11 per cent increase over the previous year.

