



Y CROSS — Lieutenant General Nguyen Vietnamese Chief of State, pins the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry on Lt. Col. William J. Maddox, commanding officer of the 13th "Delta" Aviation Battalion. The 13th supports the Vietnamese (Photo by USARV-IO)

First Army Avn. Brigade Activated

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO)—Brigadier General George P. Seneff, Jr., U.S. Army Aviation Officer, recently assumed command of the newly formed U.S. Army Aviation Brigade, Vietnam.

The brigade, first in Army aviation history, will consist of all non-divisional aviation units in the Republic of Vietnam. It is the largest aviation unit ever serving with the U.S. Army.

From one company in December 1965, the number of aviation companies operating in Vietnam increased to 13 companies in April 1965. In the eight months from April to December 1965, the number of aviation units further

increased to 48 companies. During that same period the number of aircraft jumped from 430 to more than 1600.

Due to this 400 percent increase in aircraft and Aviation personnel, the formation of the new aviation brigade, for command and control purposes, was necessary.

The mission of the newly formed brigade is to provide aviation support to Free World Forces in the areas of combat, logistical support and other counter insurgency operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

The Army Aviation Brigade, Vietnam, will have control over the 12th and 17th Aviation Groups and is expected to include the 34th Aviation Group (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply) in the near future.

The importance and growth of Army Aviation in Vietnam is shown by the number of sorties flown. During the period of July to September, 165,000 sorties were completed, compared to 430,000 during October to December. The total number of sorties flown last year almost reaches the 900,000 mark.

Army aviation here is credited with inflicting more than 14,000

enemy losses while holding aircraft losses to one downed aircraft for every 18,000 sorties.

According to General Seneff, the activation of the brigade



Brig. Gen. Seneff

headquarters to supervise the employment of Army aviation here is a significant milestone in the recent growth of Army aviation.

General Seneff, a 1941 graduate of West Point, was promoted to Brigadier General in August while he was Director of Army Aviation in the Pentagon.



er 1 Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam March 11, 1966

Delta Battalion Given Cross Of Gallantry

O, (USARV-IO) — The Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm has been awarded to the U.S. Army's 13th "Delta" Aviation Battalion here.

The battalion was cited for its extraordinary heroism while working with Vietnamese forces in 1965. The 13th Avn. Bn. provides helicopters and crews to lift troops to battle and suppressive rocket fire.

The presentation was made by Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, President of the Republic of Vietnam. He pinned the unit color and uniform of Lt. Col. Maddox, Jr., battalion commander.

Brig Gen Smith—New 173rd Commander

BIEN HOA, (173rd-IO) — Brig. Gen. Paul F. Smith, a paratrooper with two combat jumps in World War II, has assumed command of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Brig. Gen. Ellis W. Williamson, who headed the brigade since its organization in

1963, passed the colors to the new commander at the Brigade's headquarters at Bien Hoa, last week.

General Smith, prior to taking command of the 173rd, served as Deputy Commanding General and Chief of Staff of U.S. Army Task Force Alpha, later designated as Field Force, Vietnam.

An enlisted reservist for seven years, General Smith was born in



Gen. Williamson Departs
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USARV Patch OK'd

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-IO)—A new shoulder insignia has been approved by the Department of the Army for wear by personnel of United States Army, Vietnam.

The three-inch high shield patch is divided vertically into three parts, colored, from left to right, gold, blue, and red. Emblazoned on the blue field is a white unsheathed crusader's sword, point up, with a gold-hilt. A one-eighth inch border surrounds the patch.

The red and yellow fields signify the Republic of Vietnam. The blue field and sword refer to the military assistance and de-

Cenotaph Honors 52nd Avn. Dead

PLEIKU, (USARV-IO) — A memorial in memory of sixty-four officers and men of the 52nd Aviation Battalion who died in Vietnam has been dedicated at Camp Holloway here.

The eighteen-foot-long stone and concrete memorial has inscribed, on individual plaques, the names of the deceased men. It was designed by Captain Timothy Stoddard, signal officer of the 52nd.

General W. C. Westmoreland, Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, and Vietnamese Major General Vinh Loc, Commanding General, II Corps, unveiled the memorial. Lt. Col. Robert L. Cody, Denver, Colo., Commanding Officer of the 52nd, and Chaplain (Maj.) Robert G. Swager, spoke during the ceremony.

General Loc also presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Vietnamese government's highest unit-combat



y Units 5th Div

(25th INF-IO)—of two troops and 1 Squadron, 4th Infantry Division, arrived in Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division. The "Lightning" Cu Chi, 20 miles from Saigon, completed the