

196th Lt. Inf. Bde. Joins 25th Inf. Div.

VUNG TAU, (25th INF-10)—The 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate) from Fort Devens, Massachusetts, arrived here, last week, aboard the troop transport General Patch.

The new brigade, the first light infantry brigade in U.S. military history, has been attached to the 25th Infantry Division and was deployed to Tay Ninh under the command of Brig. Gen. Edward H. de Saussure Jr., formerly assistant division commander of the 25th.

With the attachment of the 196th, the 25th Infantry Division becomes the largest U.S. combat force in Vietnam. The Division's 1st and 2nd Brigades are located at Cu Chi, along with the 25th Division Artillery, Support Command and Division Headquarters. The 3rd Brigade Task Force of the 25th Division is located at Pleiku in the central highlands.

Activated at Fort Devens on September 15, 1965, the 196th Brigade underwent eight strenuous months of individual and unit training. Approximately 50 per cent of the brigade were inexperienced soldiers when they began training. The brigade trained their men as a unit all the way from basic combat training to advanced individual training through large unit tactical operations training. Colonel Francis S. Conaty Jr., deputy commander, took the brigade through the rigorous training program.

During the latter stages of the training program, heavy emphasis was put on counter-guerrilla, counter-insurgency training. To authenticate the training, the brigade secured the services of a Special Forces A team of Vietnamese veterans. The green berets organized and trained teams to act as the Viet Cong during brigade-size tactical training exercises.

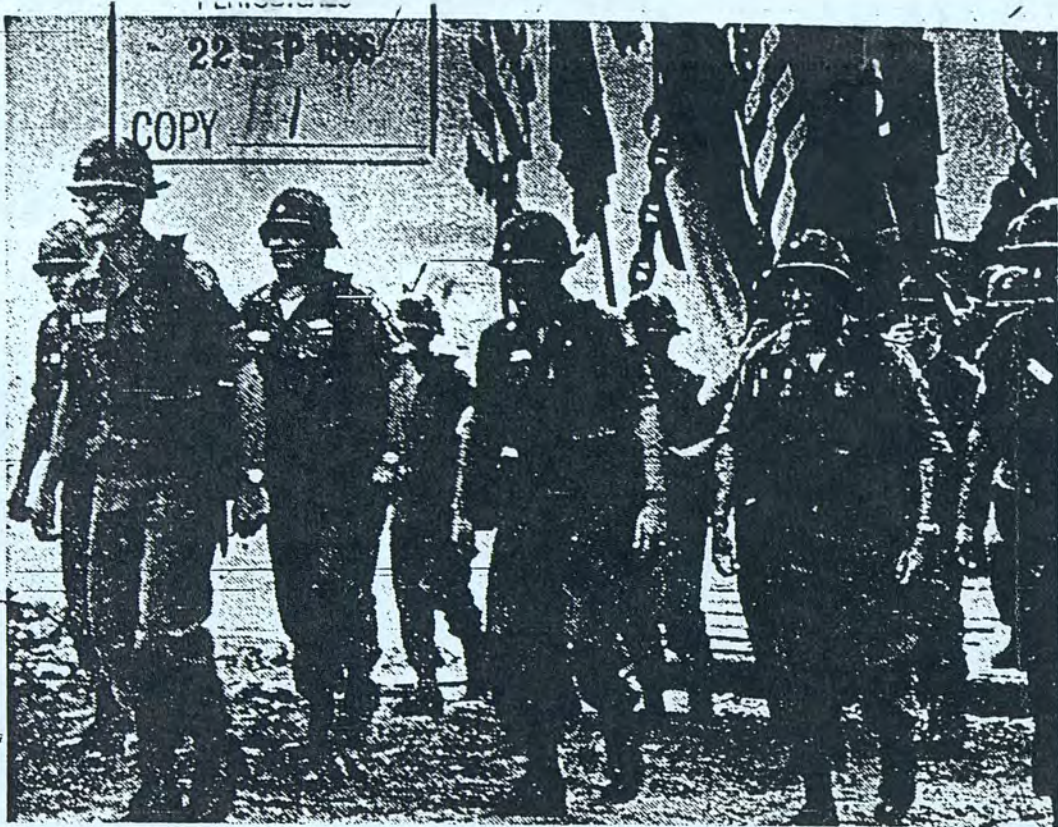
Major units of the new brigade are the 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry; 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry; 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry; and the 82nd Artillery Battalion.

The 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry "Polar Bears" was organized in the Philippines in 1916 and served in Siberia during the Russian Revolution in 1917. The "Polar Bears" whose motto is "Pro Patria — For Country" also served with distinction in Korea at Heartbreak Ridge and Pork-

chop Hill. The 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry "Gimlets" was born by proclamation of President Lincoln in 1862 and earned 11 battle streamers at such places as Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. As a member of the Hawaiian Division during World War II, the "Gimlets," whose motto is "Duty," served in New Guinea and the Philippines.

The 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry "Guardians of the Frontier" is the second-oldest regiment in the regular Army, having been organized in 1791. The "Guardians," whose motto is "Semper Primus" — Always First — have served in every major conflict except World War I since the War of 1812. The unit served in both theaters during World War II.

The 82nd Artillery Battalion, organized during World War I, has seen action in every major conflict since that time, gaining special distinction during World War II and the Korean War.



196TH LT. INF. ARRIVES—Colonel Francis S. Conaty Jr. leads the members of the staff of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade ashore as the unit lands at Vung Tau. The 3800-man brigade arrived aboard the "General Patch" from Boston, Mass. (Photo by Sp5 Cal Puckett, USARV-10)



Vol. 2, No. 23

Tan Son Nhut, Vietnam

September 3, 1966

Sgt. Maj. Curtis Ramsey New USARV Top NCO

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)—A former 1st Infantry Division sergeant major, who has served in his country's Army since 1943, has assumed duties as Sergeant

Major, U.S. Army-Vietnam. He is Sgt. Maj. Curtis S. Ramsey, who entered World War II with the 82nd Airborne Division during the Normandy invasion and fought his way through Europe with that unit, being wounded in Germany in 1945.

Ramsey is the third sergeant major to hold the top enlisted position in this relatively new command, which superseded the U.S. Army Support Command in July 1965. He replaces Sgt. Maj. W.A. Craig, who left Vietnam for an assignment at Fort Benning, Ga.

He was welcomed to his new position by Lt. Gen. Jean E. Engler, deputy commanding general, USARV, Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, commanding general, USARV was in Hawaii at the time for conferences.

The new command-sergeant major was selected from all the sergeants major serving with every major tactical unit in Vietnam.

During an interview, Sergeant Major Ramsey said, "My primary concern in taking over the responsibilities of this command, is the enlisted men."

"This should also be the concern of every other non-commissioned officer over here," he added.

Of the 1st Infantry Division, Ramsey had this to say, "It (The Big Red One) is one of the finest units that I have ever served with, and it has the best esprit de corps and morale I have ever seen."

Ramsey was wounded in May while serving as a brigade sergeant major and was appointed division sergeant major after returning from a hospital in Japan, where he was convalescing.

He is the holder of the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman's Badge with star, Purple Heart with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Master Parachutist Badge and the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters.

Silver Star Awarded To Army Specialist

TAN SON NHUT, (USARV-10)—Specialist Four James F. Schatz, 13th Avn. Bn., has been awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions while serving as a helicopter gunner during operations in Vinh Long Province.

On their return from an airmobile assault operation, Specialist Schatz and the crew observed a downed helicopter 40 meters from Viet Cong positions.

Upon making contact with the downed chopper, Specialist Schatz's chopper and a med-evac chopper approached the burning aircraft to at-

Mother And Child Are Well

BEN CAT, (1st INF-10)—The woman was in shock and bleeding profusely.

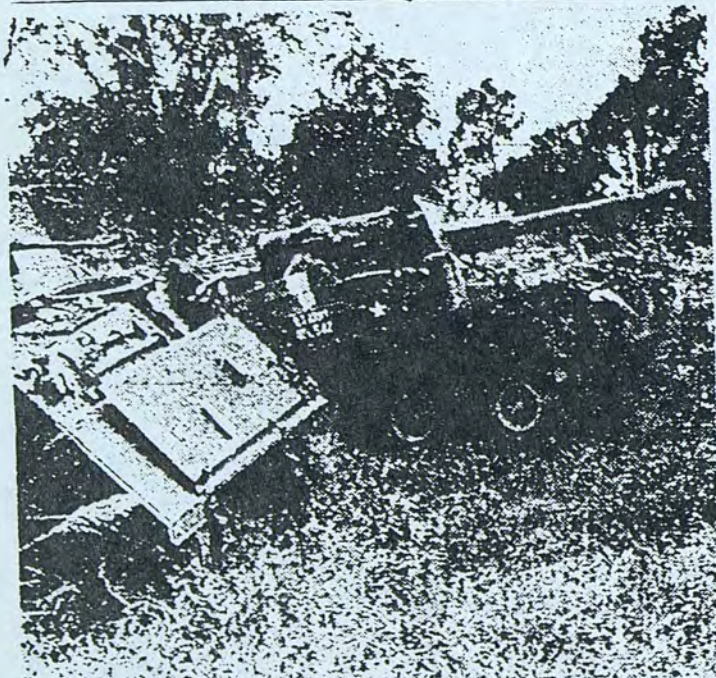
The woman, a refugee in the village of Ben Cat, had disobeyed the orders of the local midwife and returned to the refugee center.

There, unassisted by trained personnel, she gave birth. Uncontrolled bleeding began and Lt. Col. Gelmar S. Landry, 3rd Brigade Surgeon was called in to treat her.

Realizing the woman's serious condition, Colonel Landry radioed the brigade hospital at Lai Khe and requested whole blood. While waiting, the doctor moved the woman to a small maternity clinic in Ben Cat and began treatment with a blood substitute.

An ambulance from Company B, 1st Medical Battalion arrived with whole blood and an immediate transfusion was given. Two units were given before improvement was noticed.

Landry kept the woman under observation for three days and then allowed her to return to the refugee center.



DOUBLE TROUBLE—An APC and a Spat from Company D, 16th Armor, 173rd Airborne Brigade, blast away at suspected Viet Cong positions during recent operations in Long Khanh Province with high explosive rounds.

(Photo by Sp4 Berni Zawacki, 173rd ABN-10)

tempt to rescue the wounded. The two choppers were hit by Viet Cong fire, and were forced to back away. Then Specialist Schatz's chopper went in for an attempted single ship rescue.

As his pilot hovered the aircraft, Specialist Schatz and two others rushed through the intense hostile fire to the stricken men, dragged them to the aircraft, and loaded them aboard. He then resumed his position in the helicopter as his aircraft maneuvered out of the battle area and evacuated the wounded to medical facilities.