

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
1070 3rd Street, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

SUBJECT: Commander's Notes Number 6

29 August 1971

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INFORMATION

1. Extension in Vietnam. Army Regulation 614-30 and USARV Supplement 1 to this regulation state that individuals with disciplinary records, excessive letters of indebtedness, drug users, and those of marginal efficiency should not be recommended for extensions.

2. Padlocks. All units should utilize their self-service accounts to order padlocks. Each unit is responsible for procuring its own padlocks at the Self-Service Supply Store. Since padlocks are at zero balance, want slips should be submitted and renewed every 14 days for the items.

3. Maintenance Tips.

a. Oil levels have been reported very low when the ordnance contact teams arrive to check faulty engines.

b. Drivers do not need to steer the Sheridan from side to side to make both tracks spin; it puts an unnecessary strain on the vehicle's power train, resulting in faulty transmissions.

c. Drivers should never attempt to pivot-steer a vehicle when it is in motion, especially in heavy mud with maximum engine power being transmitted to the transmission. This causes the transmission problems.

4. VD Versus Prophylactics. 90% of the VD in the Squadron is coming from Vung Tau. 75% of these cases probably could have been prevented by the use of prophylactics.

5. Munitions Inspection. On 26 August Mr. Bryant, Saigon Support Command, inspected the ammunition holding area at Cu Chi. Summary of comments: (a) ICM ("Firecracker") rounds, WP munitions, and CS munitions must be stored separately from other types of munitions; (b) all unserviceable small arms ammunition and brass must be retrograded; and (c) some 155mm projectiles are being returned from the field minus the grommet that protects the rotating bands, thus exposing the bands to damage which results in an unserviceable projectile. Corrective actions: (a) work is underway to construct separate revetments for ICS, CS, and WP munitions; (b) retrograding of unserviceable small arms ammo and brass is continuing; and (c) all 155mm projectiles are being inspected for damage to rotating bands.

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6. Reenlistments. SP5 Donald E. Boley, 398th Transportation Detachment; SGT Bob R. Young, Air Cavalry Troop; SSG Henderson Ashworth, E Troop; SP5 Arthur R. Rohr, E Troop; and SSG Joseph H. Pomeroy, E Troop.

7. Newly Arrived Officers and NCO's (E-7, 8, & 9). MAJ Joseph Cizmada, Executive Officer; CPT James Norris, Aviation Section Leader; 2LT Michael Yeager, Howitzer Battery; WO1 Richard W. Williams, Aviation Section; and WO1 Freeman A. Davis, SSG.

SFC Ralph D. Jordan, Headquarters & Headquarters Troop, Maintenance Section.

POLICY

1. Flak Jackets. There is currently a problem in obtaining replacement flak jackets for those turned in on a direct exchange basis. Although the problem is not critical at this time, it could very possibly become so in the near future. Insure that your people properly care for and secure their flak jackets in order to help solve the problem. Excess jackets should be turned in to S-4.

2. Replacement of Maintenance Parts. As maintenance units and combat units stand down, the flow of repair parts into Vietnam has also been cut back. Critical items, such as track and road wheels, should be used to replace unserviceable units only. Don't request replacement items unless they are actually needed.

3. Maintenance. The major maintenance problem we've encountered is imperfect communications - coordination between the user, Squadron Maintenance, and our DS maintenance support. I believe that accurate reporting of our maintenance status will pay great dividends; in fact, it already is. PLL support is vastly improved. Transportation of repair parts is improving and fewer parts are being syphoned off enroute. I want greater emphasis to be put on crew/operator maintenance during the ensuing months; this applies to rear and field elements. I want more unit-level inspections of vehicles in Cu Chi and Phu Loi. Maintenance is a command responsibility; I am going to spend more time on maintenance matters and I want all supervisors to do likewise.

4. Counseling and Guidance. One of the primary responsibilities of all officers and NCO's is the proper guidance of their troopers. A good counselor must know his men, their problems and anxieties, and be ever-mindful of his unit's mission. Today's soldier is unlikely to be motivated by authoritarian guidance. I'm not saying there should be a relaxation of authority. I'm only saying that we must stress the personal relationship between the supervisors and their men in an effort to keep the troopers better informed, mission-oriented, and properly trained in order to solve problems satisfactorily at the lowest possible level.

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5. Retrograde of Ammunition. Unserviceable small arms ammunition will be retrograded in appropriate ammunition cans. Expended brass will be retrograded as much as possible and packaged in suitable containers.

William M. Stokes III
WILLIAM M. STOKES III
LTC, Armor
Commanding

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5 - ea staff section
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