

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D SQUADRON, 11TH AIRBORNE CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257

SUBJECT: Commander's Notes Number 7

5 September 1971

SEE DISTRIBUTION

INFORMATION

1. Use of Notes. This is the 7th edition of the Commander's Notes. It is recommended that the troops keep file copies available for reading by incoming personnel.

2. Early Release Policies (COMUSMACV message 271720Z AUG 71). The reference announced that DA has temporarily increased the following voluntary 90-day and Three-month Early Release Policies to six months:

a. Separation of personnel assigned to installations or units scheduled for inactivation or permanent change of station (para 5-15, AR 635-200).

b. Enlisted personnel eliminated from service academies (para 5-16, AR 635-200).

c. Separation of enlisted members in medical holding detachments (para 5-19, AR 635-200).

d. Separation to attend school or to accept a teaching position (para 5-20, AR 635-200).

e. Separation to accept seasonal employment (para 5-21, AR 635-200).

These policies are applicable to all personnel whose ETS is 30 Jun 72 or earlier. Requests for exception beyond the six month time element will not be considered.

3. Urinalysis Results. Results are beginning to arrive from the DEROS Urinalysis Test. Unit commanders will be supplied with a list of their personnel whose results were positive. The results should show what crews/sections are weak as far as drug abuse is concerned.

4. I.G. Complaints. About three or four troopers a week want to see the IG; in many cases it is because their leaders are unwilling or unable to help solve personal problems of the soldier. Let's make it clear to your troopers that you are willing to discuss problems starting at the lowest level within the chain of command, and that they may use other elements, e.g., MARS and ARC.

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5. MOS Evaluation Testing. DA Message 122128Z Aug 71 (retransmitted as USARV message 221128Z Aug 71) requires all eligible enlisted personnel in grade E-3 and above, including E-9 personnel formerly exempt, who were not tested in their PMOS during November 1970 or one of the later test periods, to be tested NLT 15 November 1971. All eligible enlisted personnel must have a current PMOS evaluation score recorded by 20 November 1971. The only exception to this requirement is for individuals administratively excused by virtue of being in a patient or transient status. Career personnel who were reclassified into a new PMOS and who do not have a PMOS evaluation score within the year must be tested. Individuals not tested by 15 November 1971, and who have no current PMOS evaluation score recorded, will be considered as having failed to verify their PMOS. They will be ineligible for promotion and reenlistment, and their records subject to review under the Qualitative Management Program. Personnel desiring information concerning PMOS testing should consult Mr. Phillips, UPO.

6. Clubs. The Blackhorse Club will be open from 1700-2230 nightly. This club will be supervised by Captain Cathey and SSG Roberts. The Thunderhorse Officers Club and the Rubber Boots NCO Club will serve soda and snacks from 1200-1700 hours daily; the bar will be open from 1700-2200 hours. These clubs will be supervised by WO1 Douglas and SGT Swedlund.

7. Elimination of Exchange Abuses. A program has recently been implemented at the major exchange facilities in the Saigon, Long Binh, Bien Hoa and Plantation areas in which US military, civilian, and third country national personnel wishing to gain access to the exchange facility are being required to present their identification card, ration card, and MACV Form 5 card to a military policeman at the entrance to the facility. The purpose of this program is to eliminate abuses of the exchange system and to reduce the flow of exchange items to the blackmarket. The program has resulted in apprehension of approximately 15 deserters or AWOLs while they were trying to utilize the exchange facility and five bad check writers. A large number of stolen, altered, or mutilated ration cards have also been confiscated. At each exchange where this program has been initiated, there has been a significant decrease in total sales. This reduction in sales may represent the amount of goods that had previously been diverted to the blackmarket by individuals abusing their ration and exchange privileges. Commanders should make their personnel aware of this program and insure that their identification cards and ration cards are current and valid, and that this minor inconvenience at the PX door serves their interests in the long run.

POLICY

1. Police of Cu Chi. The OIC of Cu Chi has supervisory responsibility for the police of Cu Chi. All units, separate sections, and standdown elements are tenants and are responsible for the police of their assigned areas. The OIC is responsible for insuring that: (1) a daily trash pick-up vehicle is available and makes a scheduled run; (2) the trash is properly segregated into classified and unclassified waste; and (3) areas of responsibility are designated.

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2. Basic Load. On 11 September 1971 all units will receive a copy of the squadron's prescribed basic load. It will be broken down into those amounts allotted for the forward tactical area and the squadron's combat trains. The quantity of ammunition composing each unit's basic load will be based upon a rounds per weapon quota. Upon notification of the basic load requirements, each unit commander will take action to insure that his forward tactical element brings its ammunition stocks up to the minimum level prescribed in the basic load. On 24 September 1971, each unit commander will be required to sign for his unit's basic load. Likewise, the support platoon leader at Cu Chi will sign for the basic load stored in the combat trains area. Since it is not accountable by lot number, the basic load will be maintained by requisitioning ammunition through the support platoon as needed.

3. Hitchhiking Off-Post (Reference USARV Suppl 1 to MACV Dir 190-11). Off-post hitchhiking via air or surface means by US personnel is prohibited. This does not preclude commanders from arranging use of space available modes of transportation and annotating any required travel documents as appropriate. Personnel apprehended for hitchhiking outside of designated installation/unit areas and/or travelling without proper inter-area documentation or appropriate personal identification will be detained for investigation and will be released only to his unit commander. If the individual is some distance from his assigned installation he will be issued a provisional pass (DD Form 460) and directed to return to his unit of assignment or place of duty.

4. Bars to Reenlistment. I want all commanders to be thoroughly familiar with AR 601-280 (Chap 1, Sect VIII), which outlines the procedures for bars to reenlistment. I have rejected several bars recently because they were not in compliance with paragraph 1-31a, which states: "(1) A bar to reenlistment procedure normally should not be initiated against an individual who has been assigned to a unit for less than 90 days. (2) A bar to reenlistment procedure should not be based on generalities or approximate dates and/or vague places and times but should be specific and substantiated by official remarks made at the time of each occurrence. It is essential that all instances are made a matter of official record when acts considered unworthy of a member of the United States Army are performed. (3) A bar to reenlistment is initiated without regard to an individual's ETS or his reenlistment intent. (4) Normally, a bar to reenlistment procedure will not be initiated against an individual during the last 14 days prior to his departure from the unit to which currently assigned. When a bar to reenlistment is initiated during this period, the commander's certificate will contain a complete explanation of why the action was not taken at an earlier date."

5. Article 15 Procedures. There are new changes to the Article 15 procedures implemented by DA on 26 February 1971 which are designed to bring greater fairness to the imposition of nonjudicial punishment. Troop-size units are required to post summaries of punishments on unit bulletin boards. Posting is required for personnel E-5 and below and is optional in the cases involving grades E-6 and above. The summaries will contain the name and grade of the offender and the name of the officer imposing the punishment; the date the punishment was imposed; a brief summary of the offense or offenses for which the individual is being punished; the punishment imposed; whether the

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individual punished has a record of prior punishment under Article 15 or conviction by court-martial; whether matters in extenuation, mitigation, or defense were submitted; and whether an appeal was taken and the action on that appeal.

6. AWOL Letters (AR 630-10). The absentee's unit commander will prepare a letter for immediate mailing to the absentee's nearest relative if the individual has remained in unauthorized absence for 10 consecutive days. "The letter will advise the relative that: (1) the individual is absent without leave and latest date of unauthorized absence, (2) continued absence may result in conviction for desertion with resultant loss in pay and allowances, confinement, dismissal, and dishonorable or bad conduct discharge, (3) allotments and allowances, if any, may be discontinued, and that dependents become ineligible for medical care, commissary privileges or other benefits if their sponsor is dropped as a deserter, and (4) the absentee be urged to return to military control if his whereabouts is known." A copy of the letter will be forwarded thru the S-1 to the UPO.

7. POL Problems. Units are complaining about dirty fuel. New bladders are being put into Cu Chi. Commanders should keep the bladders from being dragged in the mud as much as possible. Try not to let dirt get inside the bladders.

8. Maintenance (Backhaul of (DX) Unserviceable Parts). Units need to get these parts tagged and back to the rear on the first available transportation. Don't try to take DX parts apart and repair them. The 185th Maintenance Battalion claims that our DX parts are being destroyed by organizational mechanics.

9. Weapons Repair. The small arms repair team is back at Phu Loi. You need to check with your rear area people to find out the location of the team prior to sending people. The repair team will require 2407's (work requests) on all weapons. The weapons must be complete as possible and clean before the contact team will accept them for repair.

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

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