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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO SAN FRANCISCO 93357

SUBJECT: Commander's Notes Number 12

14 November 1971

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INFORMATION

1. Approved Awards: During the week 9 - 15 October, the following approved awards were received by Squadron Headquarters and forwarded to the troops for presentation:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Air Medal 'V' | 3 |
| Air Medal | 5 |
| Bronze Star | 8 |

2. Officer's Assignment Preference: The Officer's Assignment Preference Statement (DA Form 483) is designed to give officers an opportunity to express their assignment preferences to the Armor Branch. AR 614-100 requires that officers submit assignment preference statements approximately 9 months prior to completion of an overseas tour. The UPO (Officer's Records Section) will record your preferences. Officers in the field who desire assistance in filling out their preference sheets may contact the Adjutant. I am also available to discuss career planning with any officer, any time.

3. Interesting Facts From August "USARV Morale Indicators": Among the major combat units (23rd Inf Div, 101st Abn Div, 3/1st Cav Div, 1/5th Mech Div, 2/11th ACR, and 173rd Abn Bde):

- We were third worst in violent crimes (up from July).
- We were second best in drug abuse cases opened by MP's (down from July).
- We had fewest drug abuse cases opened by CID. We are getting the CID more involved in our drug abuse cases now which is O.K.
- We had no shooting incidents reported for August (down from July, however, some in September). We shared best rate for August with 173rd Abn and 101st Abn Div.
- We had no grenade incidents; only the 23rd Inf Div and 101st Abn Div.
- We were third worst in Army vehicle accidents (way up from July).
- We were worst in US - VN motor vehicle accidents (way up).
- We were worst in IG complaints for second straight month.
- We were second worst in AWOL's for the second straight month.
- We were third worst in desertions.
- We were best in reenlistments.
- We were worst in religious service attendance.

4. Blackhorse Association: My thanks again to all who have continued to support the Association which seeks to perpetuate the clan of our Regiment and provide scholarships to children of those who have fallen. We should continue our support of the Association. I don't want pressure applied, but I do expect new troopers to be afforded the chance to join the Association and that we make a continuing effort to obtain contributions for the Scholarship Fund.

DECLASSIFIED

NARA Date 4/10/01

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POLICY

1. Security of Vehicles: I hate to "beat a dead horse," but, frankly, I am displeased that officers and enlisted men have failed to comply with my instructions regarding the security of vehicles. If there is any question in anybody's mind about my policy, see the S-1. The circumstances surrounding lost/stolen vehicles will be investigated thoroughly, and disciplinary action will be taken when appropriate.
2. Reporting AWOL's: All commanders have been instructed to report men AWOL immediately when their authorized absence expires. Despite my obvious interest in the AWOL status (we have one of the highest rates among combat units in Vietnam), names are added almost daily which indicates that men have been AWOL for four or five days. I want this sloppy administration to stop now. Commanders are responsible for insuring that their morning report data are correct. Once we have determined that a delayed return was justified, appropriate steps will be taken to correct the previous AWOL entry.
3. Maintenance:
 - a. Batteries: It is common practice to stow items on the battery compartment cover. In many cases, the weight of items causes the cover to be depressed to the point that it makes contact with the battery terminals causing a short circuit that not only damages the battery, but presents a serious fire hazard. Additionally, drivers are reluctant to perform periodic battery maintenance if they have to move boxes and other items to gain access to the compartment. Therefore, I am requiring that the battery compartment be kept clear of heavy items and readily accessible for maintenance.
 - b. Preventive Maintenance: Spot checks of vehicles throughout the Squadron indicate that there is a great amount of neglect with regard to keeping lubricants at the proper level, changing oils when they become excessively contaminated, and keeping nuts and bolts tightened. These are some of the primary contributing factors to the high failure rate of major assemblies. I want all commanders to place special emphasis on correcting these deficiencies and insist on the timely, proper application of preventive maintenance.
4. Rank Insignia: I expect all troopers in the 2d Squadron to wear subdued insignia of rank. At the discretion of patrol leaders, rank insignia may be removed during dismounted patrol operations.
5. Mermites: Mermite cans are showing up in various and sundry places again. They are to be used only for the dispatch of food to the field. Once a policy is enunciated (Notes #3), I shouldn't have to harp on the subject again.



WILLIAM M. STOKES III
LTC, Armor
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

10 - ea unit
5 - ea staff section