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

SUBJECT: Commander's Notes Number 14

31 October 1971

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INFORMATION

1. Approved Awards. During the week 23 - 29 October, the following approved award was received by Squadron Headquarters and forwarded to the troops for presentation:

Purple Heart 1

2. Use of Ear Plugs. A number of ear injuries have been treated recently, many of which might have been prevented by the use of ear plugs. Ear plugs are available from field medics and aid stations.

3. Flight Safety. We will be entering the dry season soon and will have an increase in density altitude. An increase in density altitude is the same as increasing the altitude for flight. The higher the altitude of flight, the less dense the air and the less efficient are your airfoils (rotor blades on a helicopter). Airfoils are also less efficient at the same altitude on a hot day when compared to a cooler day. Your helicopter isn't going to have the pep that it used to have. It will take more power to hover and climb, the rate of descent in autorotations will increase, and recovery will be more difficult. Barriers are going to seem taller. In general, more power will be necessary. There are no real solutions to this increase in density altitude other than decreasing weight. However, knowing how density altitude affects the flight of your aircraft should help you fly more safely.

4. Action to be Taken by Victims of Personal Theft in MR3. Incidents involving theft by Vietnamese "cowboys" from military personnel, particularly those who are traveling, are increasing in MR 3. Military personnel will not resort to the use of firearms except as a last resort to protect themselves or others from imminent threat of death or injury. There are established procedures whereby the Army will reimburse military personnel for the theft of personal property. Victims of theft under the above described circumstances should report the incident to their commanding officer (or MP's if the CO can't be located) as quickly as possible. While at the scene of the theft, they should make every effort to remain calm and to avoid over-reacting by open display of anger or hostility directed at the local community.

5. Visit by LTG McCaffrey. General McCaffrey's visit went very smoothly on 28 October, and I appreciate the efforts that went into the preparations for his visit. In addition to an S-2/S-3 update, we talked about the following subjects: drug abuse, AWOLs, maintenance, flow of various types of supplies, MOS testing, late DEROS orders, and personnel strengths. General McCaffrey spoke highly of the squadron and the contribution it's making to the defense of the Saigon River Corridor and the Long Binh area. Please pass General McCaffrey's comments on to your troopers.

POLICY

1. Enlisted Efficiency Reports (EERs). I recently reviewed all of the EERs prepared in conjunction with the MOS testing. Some of the common errors included: failure of reviewer to indicate concurrence or nonconcurrence, inconsistency between parts IIB and IIC, inconsistency between the narrative (IIE) and numerical scores, and raters not being in direct line of supervision over the rated individual. I want all officers and NCO's (E-6 and above) to be thoroughly familiar with AR 600-200 (Chapter 8, paragraphs 8-1 thru 8-8) which explains the policies and procedures governing the preparation and submission of EERs.

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2. Vehicle Commanders. Time and time again I have stressed the important role played by vehicle commander in terms of vehicle security and safety, yet driving violations continue to pile up. Each violation will be reviewed carefully and disciplinary action will be taken, when appropriate.

William M. Stokes, III
WILLIAM M. STOKES III

LTC, Armor
Commanding

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