

Hoy

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

SUBJECT: Commander's Notes Number 18

28 November 1971

INFORMATION

1. Approved Awards. During the week 20 Nov - 26 Nov, the following approved awards were received by Squadron Headquarters and forwarded to the troops for presentation:

Silver Star	1
Distinguished Flying Cross	2
Air Medal "V"	3
Bronze Star	45
Air Medal	5
ARCOM	23
Combat Infantryman's Badge	1
Combat Medic's Badge	7

2. Qualification for CIB. AR 672-5 and the USARV Supplement to this regulation, prescribe the qualifications for the award of the CIB. Participation on a dismounted patrol, alone, is not sufficient for awarding this badge, nor should the PIR roster be juggled to accomodate a soldier who wants one. 11B's, 11C's, and 11D's may qualify for the badge, but 11E's cannot.

3. MACV Command Information Guidance. Every three months, MACV puts out subjects for presentation to the troops during that quarter. The topics listed below should be covered informally through the Chain of Command. The complete MACV fact sheets can be obtained through the S-1:

a. Vietnamese - American Relations:

- (1) Cultural differences are mutually bewildering.
- (2) Be concerned with effective communication.
- (3) Vietnamese may laugh or smile at unexpected times.
- (4) Avoid derogatory language.
- (5) Avoid inappropriate questions.
- (6) Control anger.
- (7) Show respect for local authorities, governmental and religious.
- (8) Don't abuse shrines.

POLICY

1. Daily Mileage and Main Gun Rounds Fired. Units in the field will maintain a record of daily mileage and main gun rounds fired. The form attached will be signed by the track commander and turned in to the troop maintenance section weekly. These completed forms will be consolidated in the TOC and sent to Phu Loi after Saturday evening's briefing.

2. Road Wheels, Bearings, and Arms. Vehicle commanders must insure that lubricants are being maintained at appropriate levels. The supply system cannot maintain stockage to support our high mortality rate. Let's take a closer look at our track PM indicators.

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3. Log Book Records. The fact that we keep log books in the rear does not relieve commanders of the responsibility to insure that vehicle and weapon records are kept accurately. I am particularly concerned about weapons for the four of the Sheridans. Failure to record firing data could result in poor weapon performance or constitute a safety hazard.

4. Safety. Personal and supervisory efforts toward accident prevention remains unsatisfactory as we continue to send troopers home disabled, and in some cases dead, because of accidents. One trooper suffered broken ribs on the hook pad at Andrews. Another was seriously injured at Loc Ninh while sleeping behind a truck (the driver did not check to the rear or use a guide, and supervisors permitted the man to sleep behind the vehicle). Despite the conditions of the roads at Cu Chi, people ride the running boards of vehicles; they should be in the cab or the back. In Cu Chi, a near-tragedy occurred recently when a Sheridan "can" round was fired in the motor-pool. Are we, the officers and NCO's doing all we can to eliminate accidents?

5. Paragraph Field Orders. As both a training vehicle and to improve clarity and completeness, I want officers and NCO's to give their operations instructions using the 5-paragraph format.

6. Need for Readiness. Are you really ready to move out? You're not if you haven't topped off or you don't have batteries for your mine detector. You're not, if you didn't bring a map. You're not, if you don't have MORGAS for a generator. You're not, if you don't have a platoon medic. I expect greater attention to be paid to the details of readiness before we move out in operations.

7. Door Policy. Doors in billets are not to be locked from the inside. Rooms also require ventilation, reference Headquarters, 2/11th ACR letter dated 12 August 1971. Let's get into your troop billets and check frequently.

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

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