

NWJ

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

SUBJECT: Commander's Notes Number 20

26 December 1971

SEE DISTRIBUTION

INFORMATION

1. Safety. A man was seriously injured Christmas Eve when he struck his head on the bottom of the swimming pool after drinking heavily. This accident resulted from personal negligence and failure of troops to look after their buddies.

2. Awards. During the week 18 Dec - 24 Dec, the following awards were received by Squadron Headquarters and forwarded to the troops for presentation:

Distinguished Flying Cross	1
Bronze Star	23
ARCOM	6

POLICY

1. MG Hollingsworth's Visit. Major General Hollingsworth, CG TRAC, visited FSB Andrews on the 20th of December and made a number of points which should provide guidance. Some we have already published; in other areas, my guidance will be forthcoming. Among his points were (my views are in parenthesis):

a. Use of searchlights. (S-4 is examining feasibility at this time.)

b. Insure 11E's are thoroughly familiar with M551 and its weapon's systems. (We still have some gun tubes to replace; on the other hand, I want all new crewmen trained in automotive and gunnery subjects and increased use of the main gun in order to increase the confidence in the system.)

c. We should be prepared to assist in further training of and operations with the R.F.

d. Excess materiel which can not be formally justified must be turned in during the next several weeks. (A major effort will be made in the Squadron to identify the needed excess and turn in excess that is not needed.)

e. DEROS orders should be received in adequate time for each Trooper to make plans. (S-1 is working on this now.)

f. Take care of the little guy. (This is a very basic leadership requisite. Take care of the Troops, both their personal needs and security needs. Keep them well informed and mission oriented; they are the guts of our organization.)

g. Vehicle Stowage. (Get rid of excess on vehicles; turn excess in properly and maintain only amounts of personal equipment, ammunition, and other supplies that are needed to operate effectively with a reasonable degree of personal comfort. Insure everything in the vehicle is carefully stowed.)

2. Patches. Patches are beginning to become available. I expect unit leaders to insure they are worn. I understand some exceptions may be required as long as we have bulk laundry. Also, bulk laundry will not be sent to the field with incorrect shoulder patches and other insignia; unit supply representatives will insure such items are removed before issuing them to the troops.

3. Vehicle Headlights. Vehicle headlights will be installed on all combat vehicles. You must be prepared to operate safely on public roads at night.

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4. Base Security. Enemy pressure is increasing (sapper and indirect fire attacks) on semi-permanent installation, for example Phu Loi and Jai Khe. We have no mission more important than destroying sappers who tempt to enter Phu Loi and to protect ourselves from indirect fire attack. Every trooper in the rear must view his roll in security as an important one, one that requires constant vigilance, good personal judgement, and aggressive counter-action when required.

5. Maintenance of Weapons Record Data - (DA 2408-4). This Squadron is being raked over the coals at the highest level for the failure of supervisors to insure that rounds fired from the Sheridans are recorded properly. A new LOI will be published on 29 December which announces precise procedures and responsibilities for recording the important weapon's data.

6. Radar. Many areas in our new AO lend themselves to radar usage. I want each troop CO to personally inventory his radar sets to insure completeness and operational readiness. In addition, you should monitor closely the training of 17K or other personnel being used in radar crews.

7. Distribution From the Field. It is a common practice for the field locations to place Squadron distribution in their outgoing mail bags. This should be stopped. Mixing the internal distribution with outgoing mail often results in this distribution being sent to the APO. This causes an excessive delay in delivery, if in fact the distribution is ever recovered. Distribution for the rear should be hand carried to the Squadron Commander's evening briefing and returned on the C & C ship.

8. Phu Loi Bunkers and Vegetation. I have directed that each unit within the Squadron have personnel out on the bunker line daily burning vegetation and refurbishing the bunkers. I consider the security of Phu Loi the primary reason for our move to Phu Loi. Commanders will get out and make sure your people are getting the proper guidance and supervision.

9. Authorized Weapons. The only weapons authorized to be carried by personnel of this command are U.S. government issue weapons which the individual has signed for on a weapons receipt register. Furthermore, personnel will carry only those weapons allowed by pertinent authorization documents (ie. ground troops will not be issued nor allowed to carry revolvers of any calibre). Commanders will take immediate steps to remove unauthorized weapons from the possession of personnel in their unit.

WILLIAM M. STOKES III
LTC, Armor
Commanding

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