

Air Ambulance Platoon
326th Medical Bn
101st Airborne Div

Platoon Sergeant: SFC ROBERT ADAMS
Platoon Leader: CPT FRED HARKER



A FEW WORDS FROM DUSTOFF "96"

Mid May found yours truly quite some distance from the environs of Laudstuhl, Germany. The idea of a division organic dustoff platoon was a new experience after a number of years in medical detachments under the area concept.

Shortly after my arrival Eagle Dustoff lost a ship and a crew. The unit sorrowfully bade farewell to WO Ed O'Brien, WO Bruce Graham, SP4 Bill Hawkins and SP5 Dave Johnson. An RPG round cut short the hoist mission they were on and their lives on 26 May. On 30 May WO Louie Lewis and LT. Dennis Story took a few rounds and were evacuated. 23 June CW2 Dan Smith and SP4 Randy Hall were wounded and evacuated.

Mean while the business of surviving in the heat and accomplishing the mission continues. So much for this issue from the new 96.

A PLEA FOR SAFETY

Thoughts on safety,
Of yours and mine.
To all of us,
And our sanctity of mind.

Raise your eyes and see.
Search now,
Afar of this dismal place.
Reach out your hand to touch,
Another's world of this war.

The mission is here gentlemen,
But it's there also,
Everywhere you look throughout this land.
Perhaps the time has come,
To starve the mouth, for
Which we are the only hand.

Laurence Rosen 1LT
Avn Safety Officer

OFFICERS LOUNGE ON THE GROOVE

People desire to spend time off in a nice place full of comfort. Well such is the case with the Officers Lounge at the 326 medical battalion, "Eagle Dustoff". Slowly but surely the lounge is taking shape. Now the lounge provides a nice place to sit down and relax, watch exciting T. V. programs and listen to good music. It's new stereo cassette player livens the once quiet lounge. Rock and roll music is the stuff favored by most lounge visitors however.

The Lounges raggedy bar stools have been recently repaired and are now being used and enjoyed by all the Officers.

Daily after noon meal without fail, the dustoff pilots as well as the rest of the Officers of the battalion engage in thrilling conversation at the lounge. Among the participants are WO Bob Pasco 999, whose good sense of humor keeps conversation alive. Bits of wisdom and helpful safety hints keep rolling in from 1LT Larry Rosen 91. WO Gary Mercer 92 our new unit IP, is frequently on hand to test our minds. And when it's time to celebrate a birthday or DEROS the lounge is the place we all gather.

WO Al Avina
Club Officer

	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
Total Flt Time	581	577	419
Day/Night	509/72	510/67	362/57
Total Miss	779	720	478
Total Miss Day/ Night	684/95	631/89	413/65
Total Hoist Miss	105	115	54
# Day Hoist/# Patients	101/183	112/181	48/55
#Night Hoist/# Patients	4/5	3/6	6/7
Total Hoist Time	115	129	51
Hoist Time D/N	108/7	125/4	45/6
Total Patients	1,017	1,084	515
Day/Night	879/138	913/174	429/86
U S	864	926	433
ARVN	67	88	43
RVN Civ	75	61	35
Canines	4	1	1
POW	7	5	2
Avg No Aviators Present	20	17	22
A/C Combat Damage	7	4	1

OPERATIONS

Since our last bulletin there have been many changes around the Platoon. Two of the more meaningful changes have been in the upper echelon, our Senior Pilot Capt Harker, Platoon Commander and a Junior Pilot (mc) LT Schwartz, Operations Officer. Together we have many ideas and plans to improve our overall performance. With the cooperation of all the aviators, old and new, we will improve this platoon.

During this period we also lost some very close friends and companions. Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Graham, and Specialists Johnson & Hawkins were killed in the performance of their duties. They gave their lives to save others and we will never forget them. They live on in the hearts of everyone who who knew and flew with them. Furthermore, we had four pilots wounded in action, LT Story, Mr Gese, Mr Lewis, and Mr Smith. LT Story and Mr Gese have returned to us, welcome back. The others are recuperating back in the States.

To all Pilots and Crews, I want to say you have and continue to do an outstanding job. You are the most dedicated people I have met and I am proud to be a member of this platoon.

Sincerely

Allen Schwartz
1LT MSC
Platoon Commander

