

1967

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The year 1967 saw the 515th Transportation Company involved in a variety of missions at several locations. The war in II Corps was beginning to show dramatic progress. War materiel from COTUS was being funneled into the massive Cam Ranh Bay facilities at a fantastic rate. Our trucks were committed heavily to the port and beach clearance effort. Operating around the clock seven days a week, the 515th continued to move cargo at a record setting pace. Complimenting these local operations were the daily convoys that channeled this cargo to the various subareas within II Corps. Routine convoys were made daily to Nha Trang, Ninh Hoa, Tuy Hoa, and Phan Rang. Under the weight of this awesome logistical base the enemy offensive was being crushed, with our convoys encountering only token resistance in the form of sporadic sniper fire and occasional land mines.

In September of 1967, all eyes focused on the northern most provinces of South Vietnam, as the United States forces began to mass troops there in an attempt to halt the heavy infiltration of North Vietnamese Regular Army troops into the South. On 20 September 1967, the 515th was alerted to move the entire company to Dong Ha, Quang Tri Province, some nine miles south of the Demilitarized Zone. Traveling by LST to Da Nang, and by truck convoy the remainder, the 515th arrived in Dong Ha on 29 September. We immediately began building a company area, however, a week later we were ordered to move to Phu Bai, 30 miles south. Having finally found a home, we began running convoys to several outposts strung out just below the DMZ. Traveling with heavy Marine security our trucks came under heavy mortar and artillery attack combined with frequent ambushes along Route #9. We suffered three wounded in action and several trucks lost to enemy fire during that period. The small outposts of Gia Lina, Con Thien, Camp Carroll, Cam Lo, and Calu became familiar places to the "Roadrunners". Typical of "Roadrunner" convoys were those to Con Thien. Occupying a strategic hill overlooking the DMZ, this tiny fortress was receiving upwards of one thousand enemy artillery and mortar rounds daily. Few of us will ever forget those frantic dashes into Con Thien, dumping our cargo and exiting the impact area within 15 minutes.

Late in November a detachment of trucks and drivers were deployed to Dong Ha; the remainder of the 515th remaining at Phu Bai. This then was how 1967 ended -- with the men of the 515th Trans Co very much in the thick of the battle.