

Jun 1966 - Dec 1967

HEADQUARTERS
54TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION
APO 96238

AVCA QN-TG-54-2

28 March 1967

SUBJECT: Annual Supplement to Unit History 1 June 1966 to 31 December 1967

TO: Headquarters, Department of the Army
ATTN: Chief of Military History
Washington, D.C.

The 54th Transportation Battalion (Trk) was activated on 1 June 1967 at Fort Lewis, Washington and was given the mission to train for deployment to South East Asia. Assigned units included two medium truck companies, a car company, two trailer transfer point detachments, and six highway regulation points detachments.

Company size units were placed on an 8 week training cycle and the detachments were placed on a 4 week training cycle.

The Battalion headquarters was organized and commanded by LTC Melvin M. Wolfe. Other officers and key non-commissioned officers are as follows:

XO, Major Alberto Trevino
S1, Captain Harold D Moreland
S2, Asst S3, Captain William A Canelos
S3, Major Nicholas H Collins
S4, Captain Jerry Y Bell
Asst S4, Warrant Officer Harry K Truex
Maintenance Officer Captain Robert E Stenger
Sergeant Major, William J. Harris, and Bn Operations Sergeant
M/SGT Donald D Schuenemann

Major difficulties were encountered in the areas of personnel and supply, but with a great deal of persistence and determination the units of the Battalion were prepared for deployment.

Assigned units were deployed to the Republic of Vietnam during September. The Battalion Headquarters departed CONUS on 28 September 1966, from Oakland California aboard the USNS General William Weigel.

The Headquarters element arrived at Port of Qui Nhon on 23 October 1966 and went ashore the following day by BARC. The Headquarters element was welcomed by LTC Wolfe and moved to the contonment area which was located 16 miles North West of the city of Qui Nhon on National Route 19.

Units assigned to the Battalion upon arrival in the Republic of Vietnam included the 512th, 523rd, and 669th Transportation Companies (Light Truck) and the 563rd Transportation Company (Medium Truck). The light truck companies were activated on 1 June 1966 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and were equipped with the 5 ton cargo truck. The medium truck company was activated on 1 June 1966 at Fort Lewis and was assigned to the Battalion at Fort Lewis

All units became operational within 5 days after the arrival of their equipment. Operational Area was designated from the Qui Nhon port/depot complex, to Phu Cat and Bong Son on Highway 1; and to An Khe and Pleiku on highway 19.

During November the 505th Trans Det (TTPO) was assigned to the Battalion and took over truck terminal operations in the Qui Nhon area.

During December the 520th Trans Det (TTPO) was assigned to the Battalion and took over similar terminal operations at Pleiku.

The Battalion now operates the longest line haul operation in the Republic of Vietnam.

Since arrival in country task vehicles of the Battalion traveled slightly more than 1,320,000 miles and have hauled 80,000 tons of cargo.

In spite of the inexperience on the part of Battalion drivers, only four recordable accidents were charged against the battalion, which reflected the lowest accident rate in the 1st Logistical Command during the period.

The battalion received approval to construct a permanent cantonment area. As of 31 December 1966 the cantonment area was designated as Camp Addison in recognition of a transportation soldier killed in action in defense of his convoy. Permanent construction on a self help basis is planned to begin in the early part of 1967.

During the period covered the Battalion suffered no casualties.