



WELCOME TO “A WALK WITH THE 35TH”



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Operation Blue Light, Setup and Training



Col Everette A Stoutner took command of the 3rd Brigade in June 1965. At that time the major units of the Brigade were: 1st Bn, 35th Infantry commanded by Lt. Col. Ed Callanan, 2nd Bn, 35th Infantry commanded by Lt. Col. George Scott, 1st Bn, 5th Mech Inf commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Greer, 2d Bn 9th Artillery commanded by Lt Col Saul Jackson.

On December 12, 1965 Col Stoutner was directed by Col Tom Mellon, 25th Inf Div. C/S to meet Major General Fred Weyand, CG 25th Infantry Division, at his quarters at 1800 hours that evening. Gen Weyand, who had just returned from a meeting at CINCPAC, informed him that the 3rd BDE was to be deployed to Pleiku, Vietnam and that an Advanced Party should leave within a week. This information was, of course, TOP SECRET at that time.

The 3rd Brigade was tailored as a Separate Brigade Task Force and would be under the Operational Control of the CG First Field Force Commanded by Maj Gen Stanley "Swede" Larsen whose Headquarters was some 100 miles Southeast of Pleiku on the Coast at Nha Trang.

Before leaving Schofield Barracks, the 1st Bn 5th Mech was moved to the 2nd Brigade and the 1st Bn, 14th Infantry commanded by Lt Col Gilbert Proctor was assigned to the 3rd Bde. The 3d Bde Task Force was thus composed of the 1d Bn 35th Infantry, 2d Bn 35th Infantry (Cacti) and 1st Bn 14th Infantry (Golden Dragons); 2 Bn 9th Artillery (Mighty Ninth); C Troop., 3/4th Cav (MacKenzie's Raiders); D Co., 65th Engr. Bn. (First In, Last Out); 3rd Provisional Support Bn. and small detachments from the 125th Sig. Bn., 25th MP Co. and the 25th MID. The overall strength of this separate brigade task force was about 4200 people.

The 3rd Bde, less the 1/14th and the large armor and engineer equipment, deployed by air. The code name of the airlift was "Operation Blue Light". The Air Force dedicated twelve C-141 and four C -133 aircraft to this operation. The Advance Party, utilizing three C-141 aircraft, departed for Pleiku on or about December 16th. The Main Body started deployment on December 25th, and I departed Schofield Barracks at that time. Major Phil Feir was the Brigade Executive Officer. He remained at Schofield to supervise the movement and to close out the brigade responsibilities as the last elements of the brigade departed.

The 1/14th Inf, after spending 12 days at sea, arrived at Cam Ran Bay on January 17th, 1966. The 3d Brigade's initial mission was to build a Base Camp about 4 miles East of Pleiku (LZ Oasis), establish communications, and to ensure the protection of the base as the units phased in. A plane arrived about every six hours. In addition, we had the mission of securing Highway 19 from the coast to Pleiku as our out sized and logistical elements moved via that route to Pleiku.

The 3rd BDE completed its move to Pleiku during the 3rd week in January 1966 which was eight days ahead of the target date that had been set by MACV.

Operation Blue Light was completed without incident and was, at that time, the largest Air Force/Army movement in point of number troops moved and the amount of ton miles flown. The 61st Military Air Lift Wing flew 225 missions, transporting more than 4700 Tons of cargo plus approximately 4000 troops. (Col. Everette Stoutner)

25th Division to leave in 2 weeks

By LYLE NELSON
Military Writer

set of the 25th Infantry Division will leave for Vietnam within two weeks. Many officers at Schofield Barracks will say nothing, activity at the base, however, indicates something is in wind and that a troop movement is imminent even though official channels won't talk.

Reportedly ships and planes will soon converge on it to transport between 8,000 and 10,000 men to the zone by the first of the year.

There were indications everywhere that soldiers had

been tipped by their superiors to prepare for deployment.

Soldiers having a quiet beer in Wahawa bars were

tipped. As one bartender said, "They're sure well red. They don't talk."

Speculation mounted all through the week that deployment wheels are grinding.

Eventual commitment of the 25th in Vietnam was predicted from Saigon by Chicago Daily News correspondent Keyes Beach.

Last week the 25th confirmed that two large troop deployment-type exercises were scheduled to occur soon.

The exercises are called Hohokai II and III and involve the 4,220-man 2nd Brigade, which includes both infantry battalions of the 27th Wolfhounds, and the 3rd Brigade, which has two infantry battalions of the 25th Cavalry.

Not on the exercise schedule is the 1st Brigade.

The exercises are termed "outloading" exercises, meaning doing everything necessary to prepare for deployment.

This means immunizations, if needed, and making out allotments, and otherwise providing for families.

With Washington officials indicating that a continuous troop build-up in Vietnam is needed, the finger has to point to the 25th.

The "outloading" exercises and general military activi-

ties at Schofield add up to an Army, that has been held in

waiting, finally on the move.

The 18,000-man force has been located at Schofield Barracks since September 21, 1954.

That's when the "Tropic Lightning" Division returned here from occupation duty in Korea.

The division recently announced plans to add two infantry battalions to beef up the division's rifle-arm strength.

These men are expected to arrive in small groups from Mainland Army training schools shortly.

It may take several months to train these men.

With the 2nd and 3rd Brigades gone it would leave up to the remaining 1st Brigade to train these new and incorporate them into the ranks.

The 2nd and 3rd Brigades have the equivalent of three battalions.

The 2nd Brigade task force for the Hohokai exercises consists of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 27th (4th bound) Infantry and the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Cavalry, which is mechanized.

The 3rd Brigade consists of the 1st Battalion of the

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FINA

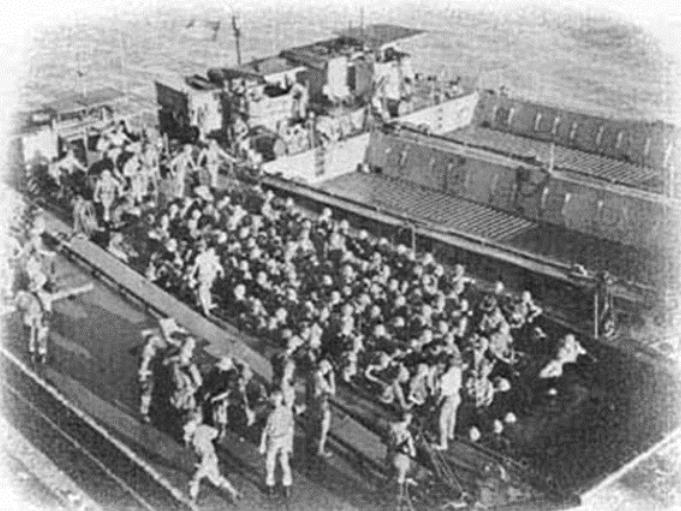
Hanoi Charge

Space champs down, in very good shape

ACE CENTER, Houston
D—Space champions
K. Borman and James
A. Lovell came home
from aboard Gemini 7
in "very good shape"
with a perfect splashdown
to end their two-week
marathon.

They were bearded, grumpy and tired, but lived to prove that man can exist in Space and rendezvous in the sky
by on the Moon.

Johnston, 100-100



Sparks, pictured last Tuesday as our "Dog of the Week," is the 863rd dog in one of the Star-Bulletin's oldest and most rewarding series. Every week

On the inside

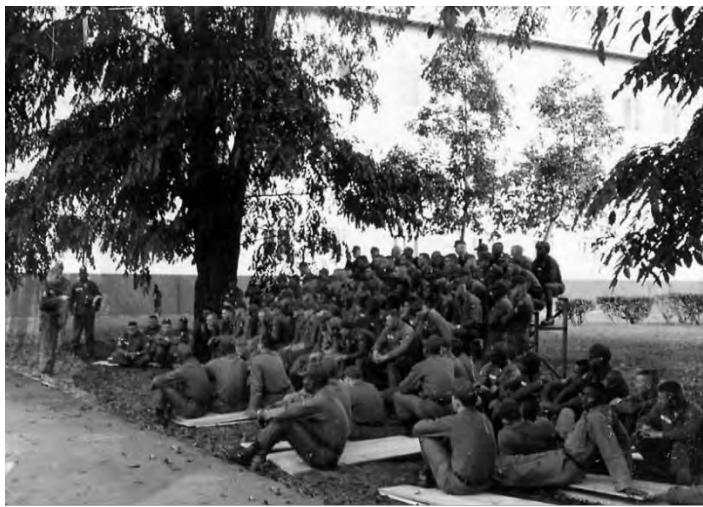
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Weather forecast: Honolulu and vicinity — Var cloudy today, tonight and Sunday. Sun may pe during the days. Scattered showers over the moon spreading to the city at times. Gusty trades 10 miles an hour. High today 78. Low tonight 68. rainfall at Honolulu Airport between 2 a.m. yesterday and 2 a.m. today, .17 inch. Yesterday's high temperature 78. Overnight low temperature 68. Sunset to 5:54. Sunrise tomorrow 7:04.

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READER

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Orientation



Getting...



Ready...



To Move Out



Loaded



And Ready to Move



As the Band Played



We Waited



**Until Finally it Was
Time to Load Up**

photos by Tony Bisantz

Pleiku Airstrip 'All Business' As Elements of 25th Division Land

PLEIKU, VIET-NAM (ARMY IO) - The huge C-141 Starlifter screeched to a halt at the New Pleiku Airfield. Its doors opened and 60 battle-clad and battle-ready soldiers leaped to the ground.



The first troops of the 3rd Bde, 25th "Tropic Lightning" Inf. Div. had arrived in Viet-Nam.

For World War II and Korean veterans of the 25th, it was like coming home again. The division has over a thousand days of combat time on this side of the world.

Tanned from the beaches of Hawaii, where the division has been stationed since 1954, and lean from the months and years of tough jungle training, the men looked like the combat veterans they will become in the days ahead.

At the Pleiku Airstrip, there was no time for small talk—no time for stretching legs after the long Pacific flight. As Col. Everette A. Stoutner, brigade commander, loaded his men on deuce-and-a-halves for a quick trip to their new home, a barren patch of land on the base of small mountains a few miles from the airfield, a crew of men unloaded the mass of equipment the men brought with them.

Command and "pup" tents went up. Barbed wire barricades surrounded the encampment. In a few short minutes, mortars were pointing at the mountain and valley to the brigade's right.

Men stripped down to their green T-shirts and began digging the soldier's second-best friend - his foxhole. His best friend, the rifle, was always within reach.

Pfc Prince Haynes, a supply clerk with A Co., S&T Bn., stopped digging for a minute to wipe the sweat from his eyes.

"Well, it's not as bad as I thought it would be," the Las Vegas soldier said. He thought a minute and added, "yet."

The man sharing Haynes' foxhole, Pfc Willie Goodloe, of Muscle Shoals, Ala., knew he had some exciting days ahead.

"Things are going to get worse," he said. "But we're ready. We know why we're here and we're well trained for the job facing us." He admitted that he missed his girl.

A young soldier from Neopit, Wisc., was standing guard at an entrance to the barbed wire camp. Pfc Francis Delabreau, B Co., 1/35th Inf., 25th Inf. Div., had missed Christmas in Hawaii. But it didn't seem to bother him. He looked like a man waiting for a fight.

More of the 3rd Bde is on its way to Viet-Nam. Some will come by ship, others by air. When they get here, they'll leave their camp at Pleiku and start hunting out the enemy in the surrounding highlands.



photos by Bill Grimes

Helicopter Training Begins



1st Cav Orientation



Loading



Landing



Disembarking

photos by Tony Bisantz

General Westmoreland Visits Tropic Lightning - Pleiku



PLEIKU, VIET-NAM--The first round of artillery fire by a Tropic Lightning unit in combat since Korea was sent off by the highest ranking American military leader in Viet-Nam, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, during his recent tour of the 25th Inf. Div. 3d Brigade area near Pleiku.

**Gen Westmoreland
autographs...**



**and then fires the first artillery
round to be fired by the 25th
Division in a combat zone
since the Korean War.**