

1969 News Jan

**IVY LEAF**

***LTC Sulenski Takes Command***

***'Cacti Blue' Gets New Leader***

**OASIS — Colors of the Ivy Division's 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, changed hands in a ceremony at the Cacti Blue command post on Landing Zone Sabre.**

**The new commander, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph S. Sulenski of Vassar, Mich., promised "to continue in the same vein" as Lieutenant Colonel William C. Moore, who had led the battalion since June.**

**Both commanders praised the men of the Cacti Blue for their recent combat achievements and Colonel Moore noted that the battalion was the first to test the concept of the Short Range Patrol, now used throughout the Ivy Division.**

**The battalion is currently opposing NVA forces along the Cambodian border near Duc Lap.**

**Present at the ceremony were Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk of Washington, D.C., assistant division commander, and Colonel Stan L. McClellan of Ventura, Calif., commander of the 3rd Brigade.**

**"This is," said General Irzyk, "a simple ceremony. I think this is absolutely proper. From this firebase many thousands of artillery rounds have been fired, many individuals have gone off to fight the NVA in much hard fighting. It is a far more professional fighting battalion than when Colonel Moore assumed command.**

**"Thanks to this effort, the enemy threat has been lessened," he said.**

**Praises Battalion**

**Colonel McClellan further praised the battalion's efforts. "You have done credit to yourself and honored the commander you have served," he concluded.**

**The battalion's former commander, Colonel Moore, departed after the ceremony for his new assignment with Headquarters, USARV.**

**Colonel Sulenski joined the Army in 1945 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1946. He has served overseas tours with the 7th Army in Europe and as G-5 with the 8th Army in Korea.**

**Between 1960 and 1964 the Colonel taught social science at West Point, then attended the Command and General Staff College at Ft Leavenworth, Kan.**

**After returning from Korea he was assigned to the staff of the War Plans Division of the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in Washington, D.C. He subsequently worked with the Office of the Assistant Vice Chief of Staff as an operations officer and military operations analyst.**

In June, Colonel Sulenski joined the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Before taking command of the Cacti Blue he was the division's G-1.

His civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from the University of Illinois and an Master of Arts Degree In political science from Columbia University.

**IVY LEAF**

**19 JAN 1969**

### ***Scouts Aid 'Cacti Blue' In Ambush***

**BAN ME THUOT** - The discovery of an NVA bunker complex by troops of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, led to the killing of four enemy soldiers, the detention of a fifth, and the recovery of four individual weapons.

The unit, commanded by Captain Walter L. Cory of Concord, N.H., discovered the complex on the first day of a two-day patrol some 21 kilometers northeast of this Central Highland city.

The complex contained an assortment of equipment, including fatigues, black pajamas, quantities of food, documents and three AK47s.

#### **Scouts Advise**

Since the complex showed signs of recent occupation, the Kit Carson scouts attached to the unit advised the commander that the NVA would probably return to his abode. Captain Cory immediately deployed the unit in ambush formation to wait for the enemy.

Early the following morning, six NVA soldiers returned to the bunker to spring the ambush. Four NVA. soldiers were killed and one wounded.

Later in the day, with the aid of a scout dog team, led by Staff Sergeant Bill A Parsons of Lexington, Ky., the wounded NVA was found. In the woods a few meters from the ambush site.

He was given medical treatment and extracted by. helicopter for Interrogation.

Captain Cory attributed the success of the ambush to the discipline of his men. "They did a real fine job," he said. "They kept their cool and held their fire. Noise and light discipline were outstanding."

The captain also had great praise for the Kit Carson scouts saying, "They did an excellent job telling us where to put the Claymores. They were right on the button."

## **IVY LEAF**

**26 JAN 1969**

### ***Allies' Village Cordon Nets 59 VC Suspects***

**By SP4 Michael Tousey**

**BAN ME THUOT—One of the largest cordon and search actions ever carried out by the 4th Infantry Division led to the detention of 50 Viet Cong suspects north of here.**

**Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph S. Sulenski of Chicago, Ill., combined with ARVN National Police units to complete the mission.**

**The search by National Police forces yielded 59 detainees. Twenty-four enemy soldiers also rallied to the South Vietnamese Government under the Chieu Hoi program.**

**The village of Quang Nhieu was sealed off before dawn. No enemy resistance was encountered during the pre-dawn cordon action, or the search which began after daylight.**

**Delta Company, commanded by Captain Vaughn D. Brauer of Twin Falls, Idaho, and the Reconnaissance Platoon, led by First Lieutenant Charles R. Winn of Anaheim, Calif, assisted.**

**Following the search, the battalion civic action team, led by First Lieutenant Harry F. Bernard of Pittsburg, Pa., entered the village.**

**"We treated 250 of the villagers for different ailments and gave out food, candy, and soap to an additional 70," said Lieutenant Bernard.**

**Colonel Sulenski emphasized the importance of the cooperation of Colonel Lan Quang Phong, Darlac Province Chief and his advisor, Lieutenant Colonel Peter J. Hirsh of Medford, Wis., to the success of the mission: "Coordination of the Darlac Province National Police with our own unit was very effective."**

**The Observer**

**31 JAN 1969**

### ***VC Are Forced to Diet***

**BAN ME THUOT (USA) - A large cache of Viet Cong rice was discovered in a practically deserted village north of here recently by two Kit Carson scouts attached to Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry of the 4th Infantry Division.**

**The two scouts, Vung Van Loc and Dao Pham Xuan, found the rice in barrels hidden under the floors of huts throughout the village. When all of the rice had been collected, there were 52 barrels containing an estimated seven tons.**

**The unexpected find occurred during a routine cordon and search of the village of Mewal. Lieutenant Colonel Joseph S. Sulenski, commander of the 2nd Battalion, emphasized, "the**

alertness of the Kit Carson's triggered the finding of this important cache which might otherwise have been overlooked."

The men of Alpha Company were equally lavish in praising the scouts. The Kit Carson's just walked around saying there is rice here, here and here. They, were really squared away," said Sergeant David W Kemple.

Captain Walter L Corey, Alpha Company commander said that Interrogation of the few villagers present indicated that. Mewal has been used as a Viet Cong resupply center. "There has been a squad that comes in here to at night to rest and eat," he said.

"Any rice which is hidden belongs to the VC," continued the captain. "Rice is supposed to be stored in the open. If it is, we will not disturb it. We will give the captured rice to war refugees."

In addition to the rice, the search yielded one sight from a 60mm mortar tube. Five Viet Cong suspects were detained.