

Apr 1970-  
May 1971

THE 363d TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM TRUCK)  
(1971)

228-08

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
363rd TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (MEDIUM TRUCK)  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96317

AVCD-B-57-363

19 MAY 1971

TO: Commanding Officer - 57th Transportation Battalion

SUBJECT: National Defence Transportation Association Award

Throughout the past year, the 80th General Support Group has provided support for many operations in Military Region I of South Viet Nam. As an integral part of the 80th Group, the 363rd Transportation Company has played a vital role in the successful accomplishment of its numerous missions.

From the period 1 April 1970 to 1 May 1971, the 363rd "Road Runners" provided 100% of the line haul missions from the Da Nang area. Throughout this period the 363rd Transportation Company has furnished support to Phu Bai and Chu Lai on a daily basis. In conjunction with this it organized and operated the trailer transfer point in Da Nang, and in April 1970 established a TTP in Chu Lai. To further enhance the 80th Group's support plan, 363rd made available, throughout the MR I, its organic trailers which were originally intended to be used for Chu Lai and local runs.

In the past year the 363rd has furnished virtually all recovery teams to units who have had accidents on the steep and treacherous Hai Van pass, between Da Nang and Phu Bai. Often the "Road Runners" would provide wreckers, guntrucks, and equipment to assist a unit who had overturned a load or had suffered disabling damage to a vehicle. To accomplish its mission the 363rd recovery crews often worked late into the night, under the threat of enemy attack.

Nevertheless, the 363rd Transportation Company has always been known as the line haul unit of Da Nang, and has been called upon numerous times to perform special missions. In November 1970, the Fourth Division at Anh Khe began standing down, and the "Road Runners" were given the mission to convoy supplies and retrograde from that area to Da Nang. To accomplish this the 363rd made two round-trips to Anh Khe in fourteen grueling days. But, during this same span of time the "Road Runners" continued its local and line haul runs.

In January 1971 line haul commitments nearly doubled, for operations Dewey Canyon and Lam Son 719 were about to begin. The drive began in early February 1971, and once again the "Road Runners" were called upon to provide necessary and vital support. The 363rd Transportation Company sent over thirty personnel to Quang Tri and Vandergriff, who would be convoying supplies to Khe Sanh. But the primary mission of the 363rd, in support of Lam Son 719, was exclusive line haul supply between Da Nang and Phu Bai. The "Road Runners" convoyed the much needed supplies over the Hai Van pass, and all too frequently came under heavy enemy fire. Due to outstanding driving and remarkable leadership, these enemy attacks resulted in minimal materiel damage and injury. At no time was any 363rd daily mission completely thwarted. The support role played by the "Road Runners" proved very essential in the success of Operation Lam Son 719.

Following Lam Son 719, the 363rd Transportation Company joined with the 572nd, 563rd, and 64th Transportation Companies to form the 57th Transportation Battalion at Red Beach. The operation of the trailer transfer point in Da Nang had proved to be so successful, under the direction of the 363rd, that a new TTP was established at Camp Haskins. And once again the 363rd Transportation Company provided sole control of its organization, in addition to a POL point.

During the period of 1 April 1970 to 1 May 1971, the 363rd Transportation Company has been an exceptionally integral part of the 80th General Support Group. Through unit pride, superior leadership, and an extreme devotion to duty, the 363rd has performed its many assigned missions in the finest tradition of any transportation company operating in Viet Nam.