

1969

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
545TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LT TRK) (5T)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96316

25 February 1969

SUBJECT: Unit History

I. INTRODUCTION

The following supplement will cover the Unit History from 1 January 1969 to 31 December 1969. For the complete past history of the 545th Transportation Company, see Appendix 1, Lineage and Honors.

During this past year many changes have taken place in the unit. The changes have been in people and equipment as well as mission. One of the biggest changes was our transfer from 8th Transportation Group (MT) to the 593d General Support Group. We also changed equipment from 2½ ton cargo trucks to 5 ton cargo trucks. At this time we lost 1 platoon which was shifted to Qui Nhon.

Overall, the year has been a good one with the unit distinguishing itself in both maintenance and operations.

II. ORGANIZATION & ADMINISTRATION

A. ORGANIZATION

As of 6 November 1969 the 545th Transportation Company was transferred from the 8th Transportation Group to the 593d General Support Group. Coupled with this change we also came under the command of LSA 593-2 located in Phu Hiep, RVN. Another change followed closely. One platoon was detached and assigned to the 8th Transportation Group, 54th Transportation Battalion on 8 November 1969 Per General Orders 1543. This platoon is now known as Detachment 1 and is located in Cha Rang Valley, 5 miles west of Qui Nhon on QL-19.

B. MISSION

These changes affected our mission slightly but, overall, it remains the same: to provide transportation for the movement of general cargo and personnel by motor transport, more specifically:

- (1) Port and Beach Clearance of Vung Ro Bay
- (2) Overall Road Security for QL-1 from Vung Ro Bay to Phu Hiep
- (3) Railhead Clearance
- (4) Perimeter Security
- (5) Compound Duties
- (6) Local and Line Haul Operations as required

Major changes have occurred in 2 and 6 above. Previous to being assigned to the 593d GS Gp we just provided security for our own trucks. Now we have the mission of providing security for everyone traveling between Vung Ro Bay and Phu Hiep via QL-1. This is a big job and one we are doing well. Our 2 guntrucks and

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the 2 gunjeeps patrol QL-1 from 0600 until 1800 hours and occasionally until 2400 hours in support of pipeline operations. With our limited security authorized in TOE 55-17G and the fact that we only have two platoons, this is quite a task. The occasional convoys we run to Qui Nhon strain our capabilities even more; however, our line haul mission has been reduced to approximately 2 convoys a month or less. Our main duties are Port and Beach Clearance and Railhead Clearance, both involving a local haul of 25 miles or less one way. This task, in itself, is enormous as we are the only truck company in LSA 593-2 and move 80% of the cargo arriving in Vung Ro Bay.

Detachment 1, located in Cho Bang Valley, Qui Nhon has the same basic mission as the rest of the company: to move cargo and troops by motor transport. They are engaged in line haul operations between Qui Nhon and Pleiku, Bong Song or, occasionally, Tuy Hoa. 1LT James Himburg is the Detachment 1 Commander.

C. PERSONNEL

(1) Commander & Staff

4 January 1969 - 20 April 1969

CMDR: 1LT William Requa

STAFF: 1LT Richard J. Kehoe

1LT William Donald

20 April 1969 - 27 August 1969

CMDR: 1LT Brian M. Aspland

STAFF: 1LT Stephen P. Voorhies

27 August 1969 - 31 December 1969

CMDR: CPT Paul A. Sakach

STAFF: 1LT Obed P. Higgins, III

(2) List of NCO's (E-6 and above)

SEE APPENDIX 2

(3) Awards

The past year has seen at least three serious ambushes and several sniping incidents involving 545th vehicles. The first of the three incidents occurred on 18 April 1969. An engineer vehicle was blown off QL-1 by enemy mines and small arms fire followed. A 545th guntruck went into the kill zone and laid down a base of fire and aided the wounded engineers in escaping from the kill zone. Below is a list of awards received in this action:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1. SP4 Jerry D. Hughes | BS "V" |
| 2. SP4 Charles M. Utterback | BS "V" |
| 3. SP4 Charles V. King Jr. | BS "V" |

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The second of the three serious incidents occurred on 12 August 1969. A gunjeep was proceeding north on QL-1 when it became disabled. A wrecker was dispatched to recover the vehicle. Following the recovery both vehicles proceeded north toward Phu Hiep. While proceeding back they were ambushed and both vehicles were blown off the road. Guntrucks and gunjeeps arrived in the area shortly afterward and laid down a base of fire while removing the wounded. Dustoff and gunships were called in. Two men were killed in the action. Below is a list of awards received from this action:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. SP4 Melvin Green | PH, "KIA" | 4. SP4 Gerald W. Young | PH, ACM |
| 2. SP4 Ronald G. Quinn | PH, "KIA" | 5. SP4 Edward C. Moured | PH, ACM "V" |
| 3. SP4 Barry L. McNeely | PH, BS"V" | 6. SP4 Charles A. Noses | PH, ACM "V" |

The third ambush occurred on 9 December 1969. The morning troop convoy to Vung Ro Bay was proceeding south on QL-1 through mountainous terrain. A claymore mine went off beside a truck loaded with our drivers. This was immediately followed by small arms fire. The guntrucks laid down a line of fire and all vehicles were able to leave the kill zone. Below is a list of awards:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----|
| 1. SP4 Arthur Veliz, Jr. | PH, ACM"V" | 4. SP4 Steven L. Rocha | PH |
| 2. SP4 Carlos O. Santiago | PH, ACM"V" | 5. PFC Anthony R. Westover | PH |
| 3. SP4 Michael T. Hyatt | PH | 6. PFC Larry L. Lease | PH |

Below are listed all other decorations awarded men of this unit. This list is as complete as possible although there may be some omissions.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. 1LT Brian M. Aspland | BS"V" | 9. SP4 William H. Jenkins | ACM |
| 2. SFC Taylor Porter | BS, ACM | 10. SP4 Richard A. Lakocy | ACM |
| 3. 1LT Stephen P. Voolhies | BS | 11. SP4 Barry L. McNeely | ACM |
| 4. CW2 Richard A. McClung | BS | 12. SGT Michael A. Maras | ACM |
| 5. SFC Melvin E. "unkhouser | BS | 13. SSG Chauncy S. Kelly | ACM |
| 6. SFC Edwin L. Vilholmsen | BS | 14. SP4 Michael R. Strainer | ACM |
| 7. SSG Larry L. Barnthouse | ACM | 15. SP4 Kenneth P. Spence | ACM |
| 8. SP5 Ellis R. Doyle Jr. | ACM | | |

III. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the past year the 545th Transportation Company distinguished itself in both operations and maintenance areas.

A. Operations: TONS HAULED

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DAY</u>	<u>HIGH PER DAY</u>
JAN	6,496	209.5	471
FEB	7,091	253.2	448
MAR	9,906	319.5	507
APR	8,939	291.3	457
MAY	12,048	388.6	596
JUN	11,213	415.3	755
JUL	7,674	247.5	554
AUG	8,336	277.8	546
SEP	6,478	215.9	415
OCT	7,613	245.5	506

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A. Operations (Cont'd)

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DAY</u>	<u>HIGH PER DAY</u>
***** NOV	15,823	527.4	1,029*****
***** DEC	11,641	388.0	688
<u>YEAR</u>	103,058	314.9	581

Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows tonnage hauled by the 545th in the year of 1969 by month with average per day and high for each month. As can be seen, in November we hauled the greatest in all categories for any time in 1969. Our hauling 1,029 tons in one day was written up and commended in the LOGMAN, 1st Log newspaper. We also received a letter of commendation from General Hunter, CG, USAUSPCOM, concerning our superior performance (see Appendix 2). We are justifiably proud of our operation in 1969.

B. Maintenance

DEADLINE RATES FOR 1969

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>VEHICLES ASSIGNED</u>	<u>D/L RATE</u>
FEB	45	6.7%
MAR	46	6.8%
APR	57	3.4%
MAY	54	5.6%
JUN	66	10.6%
JUL	66	6.1%
AUG	66	-0-
SEP	104	4.8%
OCT	104	2.9%
NOV	103	2.8%
DEC	100	1.0%

Our deadline rate has consistently averaged under 10% and in one month was 0%! We won the monthly maintenance award given by 54th Transportation Battalion for best maintenance in the battalion in all months beginning in March and going thru June. We also won the Best Maintenance award given by the 8th Transportation Group for our performance (See Appendix 4). It is with great pride we say our maintenance was the best in the 8th Transportation Group.

IV. EQUIPMENT CHANGES

Until September, the 545th was a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton truck company. These vehicles, however, did not have the hauling capacity in weight or cube for us to adequately perform our mission of port and beach clearance, especially with the wide variety of cargo we haul. In September we received 38 new 5 ton cargo trucks with dropsides. These were an important addition to the company and one most welcome. The 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton cargos have been turned in and we are now exclusively a 5 ton cargo company with the exception of two 5 ton tractors on hand receipt.

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There has been talk of making additional 5 ton tractors and S&P's available to us in addition to the 2 we have on hand receipt but only time will tell if this will come true.

APPENDIX 1

LINEAGE AND HONORS

APPENDIX 2

NCO'S (E-6 & ABOVE) OF THE
545TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY
PAST AND PRESENT

APPENDIX 2

NCO's((E-6) and above) of the 545th Transportation Company Past and Present
in 1969

1SG JAMES BRADFORD	SSG GROVER ADKINSON*
1SG JOSEPH A. PARENT JR.*	SSG LARRY I. BARNHOUSE
MSG JAMES H. THOMPSON	SSG RAYMOND A. BULLOCK
SFC WALTER T. BYRD	SSG RONALD E. BAUER
SFC CHARLES E. DAVIS*	SSG MELTON L. BROWN*
SFC MELVIN FUNKHOUSER	SSG THOMAS R. CORLEY
SFC CLARENCE KING*	SSG JAMES T. ESMONT
SFC WALTER D. PEARCE	SSG GEORGE I. CRUBAUGH*
SFC JOHN H. POE, JR.	SSG JOHN HOLLINGSWORTH*
SFC TAYLOR PORTER	SSG CHAUNCY S. KELLY
SFC FREDDIE L. UNDERWOOD*	SSG JAMES R. MIELS
SFC CHARLES WIPPERMAN	SSG CLIFTON M. PELT
SFC ELWORTH M. WINSTON*	SSG RAYMOND R. PREVIE
SFC JACKIE WORGAN	SSG ERNEST TRUJILLO
SFC CECIL A. VAN ARDAM*	SSG EDWARD A. SCHELK

* - Denotes NCO's Presently serving with the 545th.

APPENDIX 3

LETTER OF COMMENDATION

FROM

BG ALBERT E HUNTER

CG USASUPCOM QN*

* This unit received only one copy of the Letter of Commendation which is on file at this unit.

APPENDIX 4

BEST MAINTENANCE AWARD
FROM
8TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP*

* This unit received only one copy of this award which is on file at this unit.