

1967

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

63rd Transportation Company (Light Truck)

1 January 1967 - 31 December 1967

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80th General Support Group (Forward)

Da Nang Sub Area Command

1st Logistics Command

United States Army Vietnam

A. ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

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The year 1967 was one of remarkable and praiseworthy achievement for the 63rd Transportation Company.

With the mission of port and beach clearance at Cam Ranh Bay, with line hauls and convoy operations to Phan Rang and Nha Trang, the 63rd Transportation Company started the year out on the right foot by hauling over 25,556 short tons for the month of January. It should be noted that the short tons moved by the 63rd Trans Co. was 45% of the total short tons moved by the 36th Transportation Battalion (Trk). The 63rd Transportation Company was in competition for the movement of cargo with one (1) light truck company and two (2) medium truck companies, all under the **operational control** of the 36th Transportation Battalion. The high performance obtained in the port and beach phase of the unit's operations was attributed to the high state of morale and discipline which manifested itself in the fact that drivers were capable of attaining a higher average turn-around rate and consequently move more cargo than other units.

1. January 1967 was the record breaking day for the 63rd Transportation Company by having hauled 2,024 short tons in a 24 hour period which was more than double the short ton requirement at Cam Ranh Bay for a light truck unit.

February 20th saw the departure of SGT Ferrel Van Housen and SFC Earl O. Rustin assuming the position as top-kick for the 63rd Transportation Company.

February 27th the company re-established its one day tonnage record with 2,315 short tons. Again the 63rd Transportation Company took a greater percentage (32%) of the cargo hauled by the transportation units assigned to the 36th Transportation Battalion by hauling 19,238 short tons for February.

The 63rd Transportation Company received a **Mustang Award** in February for achieving a 98.6% participation in the Army Savings Program.

March was another outstanding month in the hauling of cargo for the 63rd Trans Co. 21,495 short tons were hauled by the 63rd Transportation Company, taking 43% of the total short tons hauled by the 36th Transportation Battalion.

On 1 March 1967, 1LT Matthew V. Jublonka and 1LT Carl F. Fonash were reassigned to other units and 1LT Dan W. Ryan and 1LT John A. Thomson assumed their duties as platoon leaders respectively.

On 9 April 1967, CPT Stephen C. Haxon assumed command of the 63rd Trans. Co. from CPT Michael R. Corruz Jr. On the same day CW2 Donald R. Ender assumed the duty of Maintenance Officer. Also, on that day, the unit moved from Cam Ranh Bay to Chu Lai, the trail elements closing in by 16 April 1967. The 63rd Transportation Company came under operating and administrative conditions of the 30th General Support Group. The Third Platoon was assigned to Task Force Gallagher at Duc Pho for operational control. The mission of the unit remained the same, except for the locations, which now are as follows: port and beach clearance and line hauls to Hill 63, Hill 29, Van Ky, Duc Pho, Sa Haiyah, and Quang Ngai.

On 16 April 1967, WO1 Brian V. Newman was appointed to 2nd Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps and reassigned to the 57th Transportation Battalion.

On the 27th of April, 1LT Daniel G. Niclau and twenty-nine 1M from the 360th Trans Co (Medium Truck) were attached to the 63rd Trans Co, for duty as a medium truck platoon (Petroleum). The 360th platoon (-) was divided into two sections, one located at Chu Lai, and the other at Duc Pho.

On 28 April, the 63rd Trans Co. suffered the first combat casualty for the 36th Transportation Battalion at Duc Pho, Republic of Vietnam.

On 9 June, SFC (promoted to 1SG E-6 on 18 June 1967) James W. Mize Sr. was assigned as First Sergeant of the 63rd Trans Co, replacing SFC Earl O. Rustin.

On June 20th, the 36th Trans Bn under LTC Daniel K. Byrne, recommended the following personnel for:

Bronze Star Medal

CPT Michael R. Corruz Jr.	Commanding Officer
SGM Forrel Van Housen	First Sergeant
Army Commandations	

1LT John P. Morris	Platoon Leader
1LT Carl F. Fonash	Platoon Leader
WO1 Brian D. Newman	Maintenance Officer

On 28 June the 36th Trans Bn recommended the 63rd Trans Co for Meritorious Unit Citation for rendering outstanding meritorious service during the period 1 October 1966 to 31 March 1967.

1LT John P. Morris departed the unit on the 7th of July for COMUS; on that same day, 1LT Charles H. Russell assumed command of the 360th Trans Platoon at Duc Pho from 1LT Daniel G. Niclau.

On 11 July, 1LT Hector B. Mata reported for duty and assumed duties previously held by 1LT John P. Morris.

1LT John A. Thompson departed the unit for COMUS on 6 August.

On 12 August, CPT Donald K. Sadea went on emergency leave to COMUS and later was re assigned to another unit in COMUS.

On 17 September, 1LT Gary M. Mironman took command of the 360th Trans Platoon at Duc Pho.

On 26 September 1LT Harry J. Johnson (promoted to CPT 4 Nov 67) assumed command of the 63rd Trans Co. from CPT Stephen C. Maxson.

On the 27th of September, the 63rd Trans Co. was given the Mission by the 80th Gen Spt Gp (Fwd) to lead a convoy from Chu Lai to Duc Pho (43 miles) on Highway I, Republic of Vietnam. The purpose of this convoy was to test the various vehicles over the narrow, precarious bridges and roads to see if the assorted vehicles could in fact negotiate the difficult and dangerous route for further convoy planning. The convoy, under the command of 1LT Hector B. Mata did experience minor difficulties on the route, but the mission was a success in that all the vehicles selected for this convoy reached their destination safely and without any major incident.

On October 3, 1LT John A. Ciecierski was assigned to the 63rd Transportation Company.

On 11 October 1967, the 63rd Trans Co. was assigned by the 80th General Support Group (Fwd), the mission of leading the first convoy from Chu Lai to Hill 63 to resupply the elements of the 1st Cavalry Division operating in that area. Extreme inclement weather washed away several roads and bridges and presented a formidable obstacle for the convoy which lost several vehicles enroute to Hill 63. Because of the road conditions, other factors involved in the loss of equipment were poor visibility, inexperienced drivers, and poor coordination by all concerned with the convoy operations. The convoy managed to accomplish its mission despite the the problems that confronted it. The convoy did not return to Chu Lai for a period of 12 to 14 days due to the road being rendered impassible by the heavy rains that had partially destroyed it.

November 21, 1967 saw the arrival of 1LT Charles W. Mariotta to the 63rd Transportation Company with 1LT Dan W. Ryan departing for COMUS on the 26th.

During the month of December the unit experienced a drastic reduction in troop strength due to many personnel rotating to COMUS. The unit was operating at 62% of its authorized strength at the end of this period. The morale remained high during this trying period, though the work load increased with the reduction in troop strength.