

UNIT HISTORY
666TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)
39TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TRUCK)
26TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, PHU BAI

C.Y. 1970

prepared by

STANLEY GRABIA, 1LT

666TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)

15 April 1971

approved by


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APO SF 96308

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
666TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)
APO San Francisco 96308

15 April 1971

SUBJECT: Unit Annual Historical Summary 1970

TO: Chief of Military History
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20315

1. Introduction:

The 666th Transportation Company (Light Truck) was activated at Camp Rucker, Alabama, on 31 August 1943, and was designated 666th Quartermaster Troop Transport Company. The unit was redesignated several times and finally on 1 July 1953, the unit received the designation of 666th Transportation Company (Light Truck) which is still in effect today. The unit is presently located at Gia Lo Combat Base, I Corps, near the city of Hue, Republic of Vietnam. By December 1970 it had completed its third full year of service in Vietnam. In I Corps it has hauled in excess of 150 tons of cargo and traveled 85,000 miles on the average per month in its predominately local haul mission.

2. Mission and Resources:

a. Mission of the Unit: The mission of the 666th Transportation Company is to provide transportation for the movement of general cargo and personnel by motor transport. At present the unit is providing direct administrative support to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) in northern I Corps: The 1st Brigade at Camp Eagle, the 2nd Brigade at Phu Bai Combat Base, and the third Brigade at Camp Evans.

b. Assignment: From 1 January 1969 to 4 June 1969 the unit was assigned to the 54th Transportation Battalion (Truck) located in Cha Rang Valley near Quin Nhon, Republic of Vietnam. From 5 June 1969 till the present the unit has been assigned to the 39th Transportation Battalion (Truck) located at Gia Lo Combat Base near Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam.

c. Capabilities: Under ideal conditions with 75% of its 60 task vehicles making 4 round trips a day in local hauls or 2 round trips a day in line hauls, a 2½ ton truck company can transport the following:

(1) For local hauls: 720 short tons of cargo (4 tons per truck) or 3600 passengers (20 per truck), daily on or off the highway.

(2) For line hauls: 360 short tons of cargo (4 tons per truck) or 1440 passengers (16 per truck), daily on or off the highway.

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(3) 112.5 short tons of cargo (2½ tons per truck) in one lift off the highway.

d. Organization: The unit was reorganized under MTOE 55-17GP22, effective 25 June 1969. The company consists of 3 light truck platoons, 1 maintenance section, and a headquarters section. The parent company is located at Gia Le Combat Base, with one truck platoon stationed at Camp Evans, about 40 miles north on QL #1, where separate living quarters, day room/operations building, and maintenance facilities are maintained.

e. Personnel: The unit is authorized 167 EM, 4 Officers and 1 Warrant Officer.

f. Vehicles and Equipment: Under MTOE 55-17GP22, the unit is authorized 66, 2½ ton cargo trucks, 60 of which are used as task vehicles, and 6 for administrative purposes. The unit is also authorized 1, 5 ton wrecker and 5, ½ ton trucks. Under this MTOE we are authorized the various items of equipment for the standard operations of a truck company of our type.

3. Operations and Training:

a. Training Exercises: Because of its tactical mission the unit participated in no training exercises during 1970.

b. Mandatory Subject Training: All personnel are given assistance in adjusting knowledge gained during their MOS experiences stateside to fit our tactical mission. Cross training programs are emphasized in all areas. As many men as possible are licensed as drivers. In addition, a weekly training schedule is maintained, with mandatory participation by all available E-5's and below. The unit holds daily safety briefings and conducts periodic CBR exercises and weapon firing familiarizations.

c. Combat Service Support Operations: The company works 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to meet its tactical mission requirements. The maintenance and mess personnel work day and night shifts. Frequently limiting factor is cargo capability being the number of trucks on hand in the company.

d. For the year 1970, the unit has operated out of 2 places: Gia Le Combat Base and Camp Evans, supporting the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Brigades of the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile). The company runs

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daily passenger shuttles from Phu Bai Aerial Port to Gia Le Combat Base, Camp Eagle, Phu Bai, and Camp Evans. Cargo is transported along highway #1 to FB Roy Phu Bai, LZ Sally, Camp Evans, LZ Nancy and Quang Tri. Additional runs are made to Tan My Ramp and Eagle Beach along highway #551 and to FB Birmingham and FB Bastogne along highway #547.

From December 1969 to December 1970, the unit carried about 55,000 tons of cargo and traveled about 1,202,000 miles. Since the mission of the 666th Transportation Company during this period was administrative support of the 101st Airborne Division, little tonnage was produced.

e. Combat Actions: The 666th Transportation Company has been directly involved in several major ambushes and sniper activities over the past year. In one such ambush over the Hai Van Pass, during a convoy, between Da Nang and Phu Bai, the unit received its first combat death in Vietnam. The convoy was returning from Da Nang on 18 December 1970 when it came under intensive small arms, mortar, and rocket fire. The convoy was forced to stop, and the passengers on the 666th Shuttle truck took cover. When the convoy started moving again, SP4 James Carter left the safety of a ditch to attempt to move the truck out of the kill zone. As he ran towards the truck, an RPG hit directly between the truck and SP4 Carter. He was killed instantly. For his Heroism, he received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for Valor. Of the men on the convoy several were wounded, but only SP4 Carter was killed.

There were three other Purple Hearts awarded to members of the 666th in 1970. SP4 McCollough was wounded slightly when his truck hit a VC land mine. SP4 Dobucki and PFC Miller were just returning from Fire Base Bastogne, when the truck they were driving was hit by small arms fire and RPG rounds. SP4 Dobucki received a wound in his hand, while PFC Miller was wounded in the arm and the shoulder. They refused aid and drove the damaged truck back to the company area.

Several of the unit's trucks have been demolished by enemy fire, yet with phenomenal luck, there were only these four casualties, with three of them being very minor wounds.

f. Weapons Training: The 666th Transportation Company is equipped with the M-16. The use of the Battalion of gun jeeps and gun trucks has necessitated that many personnel become proficient in the use of the M-79 grenade launcher and the M-60 machine gun, and the 50 cal. machine gun.

g. Mission Accomplishments: As an administrative support company for the 101st Airborne Division, the unit has been forced to maintain two separate bases of operation. The main company is located at Gia Le Combat Base in Camp Eagle, while the 1st Platoon is situated at Camp Evans about 30 miles further north. Twenty of the company's task vehicles are situated at Camp Evans. The 1st Platoon has to be run like a company in miniature. Facilities like operations, maintenance, and dayrooms, for example, had to be set up. The job could not have been done without the excellent leadership capabilities of 1LT Phillip E Davidson, and 1LT Daniel R Noonan who replaced Lt Davidson during the latter half of the year, and the excellent cooperation of the members of the 666th Transportation Company.

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The 666th Transportation Company has accomplished its mission with an excellent record. The unit was cited and received awards as the "BEST TRANSPORTATION UNIT IN THE DA NANG SUPPORT COMMAND" for the months of March, April, June, and July 1970.

4. Personnel and Administrative Activities: MTOE 55-17GF22 came into effect 25 June 1969 authorizing 172 personnel, 3 less than the 175 authorized under the superseded TOE 55-17G, in effect since 31 March 1966. The unit has had minor personnel shortages at times during the year, but nothing long enough to cause any prolonged problems. There have been problems of shortages of personnel among the enlisted men, NCO's, and officers. These temporary shortages did not prevent the 666th Transportation Company from accomplishing its mission in the best possible way.

5. Logistical Problems:

a. Logistical Activities: The unit mission has been hindered greatly at times by the shortages of, or non availability of such missions essential material and parts such as tubes, tires, brake shoes, and mirrors.

b. Supply Activities: There has been, and still is a severe shortage of many essential items in the supply system. These include; Weapons parts, #2 common tool set components, TA-50 clothing, combat boots, and rain gear. The unit supply has done a good job of keeping up the stock under the given conditions. Requisitions are being followed up at regular intervals.

c. Maintenance Activities: Maintenance facilities at both Gia Le and Camp Evans are well organized and run. The maintenance sections at both locations were built from "scratch" when the unit first arrived in the area. Steady improvements have been made and added on to the facilities. The maintenance section should be commended for its efforts to keep the deadline rate down as low as possible, and for its efforts to keep as many trucks as possible out on the road.

d. Transportation Activities: Because of its support role for the 101st Airborne Division, the unit trucks have no steady commitments as such. Instead, they are requested as needed by the 101st movement control. From there they may be sent anywhere that the 101st has troops. It is not uncommon to have 666th Trucks dispatched to dozens of places at once. Drivers quite often call up the orderly room from remote firebases to let the unit know that they must "RON" on that particular firebase.

e. Food Service Activities: In Gia Le the unit utilizes a combined 39th Transportation Battalion Mess. 666th supports the mess with TOE equipment, and personnel, including the mess Sergeant. They helped to get the mess hall awarded a plaque for the "Best Mess" in 26th Group.

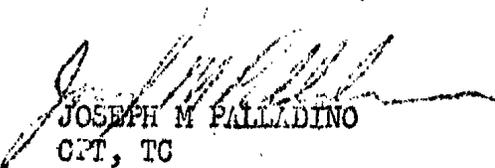
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6. Special Events:

1. Annual General Inspection (AGI): The company satisfactorily passed its AGI on 10 August 1970. There were no major deficiencies, in any areas.

2. Individual Awards and Presentations:

The unit members received a total of; 4 Purple Hearts
19 Bronze Stars
107 Army Commendation Medals.



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