

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY

(RCS CS HIS-6(R2))

87TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY (LIGHT TRUCK)

1 January 1966 to 31 December 1966

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission

Personnel

Peacetime Operations

Alerted

Preparation for Overseas Movement

Equipment

Overseas Movement

New Station

Ceremonies

Operations in Vietnam

Xuan Loc

Awards

## MISSION

The 87th Transportation Company (Light Truck) has a two fold mission. The unit is capable of providing transportation in general and direct support missions by motor transport.

## PERSONNEL

Most of the enlisted members of the unit are draftees. Many came to the 87th fresh from basic training centers through out the United States. As these personnel arrived to the 87th, the Officers and NCO's gave them AIT.

## PEACETIME OPERATIONS

The primary mission of the 87th at Ft Lewis, Washington was driving for the Transportation Motor Pool. Personnel drove military taxis and buses on post.

## ALTERED

The 87th was alerted for overseas deployment on 25 March 1966. Destination during this period was classified.

## PREPARATION FOR OVERSEAS MOVEMENT (POM)

June thru Sept 1966 the 87th Trans Co (Lt Trk) prepared for overseas movement. Training schedules were prepared and on 20 June 1966 the unit started it's POM training. Training was conducted by 87th cadre in weapons tactics, CBR, and Transportation. On 25 August thru 30 August the ORT, Operational Readiness Test, was given. The unit passed the ORT thus completing the training phase of the POM. The unit's packing was carefully supervised by the Officers and NCOs to insure that all personnel had a complete issue of clothing and equipment. TO&E equipment was packed on an assembly line basis. Trained crews completed a fully packed truck in 35-40 minutes.

## EQUIPMENT

The 87th left Ft Lewis one of the best supplied and equipped unit ever to leave the United States. Each individual had a complete issue of warm weather needs. TO&E was in good shape and by the Equipment Readiness Date, 16 August 1966, the 87th was ready to deploy with 66 new M35A2 2½Ton Multifuels and 5 M151A2 ¼Ton trucks with the new family series radios (AN/VRC-46).

#### OVERSEAS MOVEMENT

On 7 Sept 1966 the 87th Trans Co (Lt Trk) boarded the USNS General John Pope at the Port of Tacoma, Washington. Stopping briefly in Okinawa and Subic Bay, Phillipines the Pope reached Qui Nhon, RVN 1 Oct 1966. On 2 Oct 1966 the 87th landed on the beach of Nha Trang, RVN, only to reboard the Pope 4 hours later and ~~cruised~~ to Vung Tau, RVN due to a change in orders. The 87th arrived in Vung Tau on 3 Oct 1966 and flew to Bien Hoa Air Force Base. The 87th's final destination was Camp TC Hill, Long Bien RVN.

#### NEW STATION

On 3 Oct 1966 the 87th Trans Co (Lt Trk) became part of the 6th Trans Bn (Trk), 48th Gp (MT). The 6th Bn was commanded by LTC Oren De Haven and 48th Gp was commanded by COL Samuel Coggins.

#### CEREMONIES

A Change of Command ceremony was held for the 87th Trans Co (Lt Trk) on 5 Nov 1966. CPT David S. Robins presented the Guidon to CPT Frank N. Mancuso at Long Bien, RVN.

#### OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM

In accordance with the mission of the 87th, troops and general cargo were moved by motor transport. Much work was done in port clearance at the Port of Saigon and in clearing vital aircargo at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. In direct support missions, the 87th moved cargo to the 1st, 4th, 9th, 25th divisions, 196th, 199th, 173rd brigades and 11th Cav Regt. The 87th carried supplies in operation Attleboro in Tay Ninh province near the Cambodian border. In Operation Duck, the 87th, from 19 Dec to 23 Dec 1966, was called on to help move the newly arrived 9th Division to their base camp at Bear Cat from Vung Tau.

#### XUAN LOC

On 21 Nov 1966 the 87th sustained it's first combat casualties. A convoy to Xuan Loc, RVN, on a direct support mission for the 11th Cav Regt, was ambushed by the Viet Cong. PFC William E. Kennedy and PFC Dennis R. Lehman were killed instantly by a recoilless rifle round. SGT Ramon Melendez-Diaz SP4 Earl M. Sneed and PFC Craig E. Pfender were wounded in action. Two vehicles were completely destroyed and three others badly damaged.

## AWARDS

As a result of the Xuan Loc ambush PFC William Kennedy and PFC Dennis Lehman were awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

SGT Ramon Melendez-Diaz, SP4 Earl Sneed and PFC Craig Pfender were awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in the Xuan Loc ambush. SP4 Earl Sneed also was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" Device for bravery while under enemy fire.

On 19 Dec 1966 the 87th received a 100,000 mile Safe Driving Certificate.

  
FRANK N. MANCUSO  
Captain, TC  
Commanding

### DISTRIBUTION:

1-CO, 6th Trans Bn (Trk)  
1-CO, 48th Gp (MT)  
1-CO, USASCS  
1-CG, 1st Log Comd  
1-CG, MACV  
1-CC, USARPAC  
3-Chief of Military History