

THE 592ND Unit History 1966-Present

The 592d Transportation Company (Light Truck) was activated on 1 June 1966, under T/O/E 55-17F, dated 10 June 1964, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. General Order 156, Headquarters Third United States Army, was amended to read, effective date 18 May 1966 by amendment TO 370. General Order 195.1 "The 592d Transportation Company was one of units formed at Fort Campbell to come under the Command of the 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport), with Col H.E. Tistadt Commanding.

On 1 June 1966, Captain Kenneth G. Scott took command of the company at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The company strength at that time totaled four commissioned officers, one warrant officer, and 18 enlisted personnel.

The company established working and billeting facilities under the sponsorship of "B" Troop, 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, and 101st Airborne. Upon prior notification, "B" Troop had prepared a portion of the building which they occupied, facilitating the establishment of the new company. As sponsor, "B" Troop had also requisitioned a large amount of the unit's T/O/E and T/equipment.

The newly-formed company continued to increase in strength, and on 23 June 1966, there were 113 personnel present within the unit. On this date the company received Letter Order Number 6-98, a movement directive alerting the unit under CINCSTRIKE and a port call. "

Thereafter, much of the unit's time was spent in establishing administrative, operational, supply and maintenance records and working areas, and obtaining supplies and equipment relative to POM.

Unit Training had been initiated on, 20 June 1966, in preparation for the anticipated oversea movement. At this time, the first task vehicles received a total of, 114, MS4A2 5 Ton cargo trucks.

Concurrent with its own field training the company had the mission of supplying elements of the 101st Airborne Division with troop transport while engaged in training exercises. The company also participated in special recon training exercises dealing specifically with guerrilla and counter guerrilla tactics.

Outstanding portions of this training included detailed instruction in bobby traps, a Vietnamese village orientation, and night escape and evasion course. Vietnam experienced officers and noncommissioned officers administered this training.

On 15 July 1966, the unit received a Special Citation and a Gold Citation, presented by the Third United States Army in recognition of outstanding accomplishment in achieving 100% participation in the Army Savings Program. On 28 August 1966, 19 additional 5 ton cargo trucks were picked up at the Kaiser Corporation in South Bend, Indiana, and convoyed to Fort Campbell. Again, on 2 September, 1966, twenty-two, 5 ton cargo trucks were convoyed to Fort Campbell, Ky., giving the unit a total of 55 task vehicles.

All administrative and task vehicles were then readied for rail shipment and shipped to Mobile, Alabama, where they would sail at a later date on the cargo vessel Thunderhead, destined for Southeast Asia.

With unit training completed and these vehicles and equipment which were to be shipped by rail departed, the company submitting its final morning report to Headquarters, Third United States Army on 19 September 1966, and on 25 September, the unit departed Fort Campbell by air for Oakland Army Terminal, California.

Remaining behind to depart on 2 October 1966, were 2LT Frederick C Barr, CWO Samuel Keck, SFC Earl O. Rustin, SGT. Oliver S. Lee and SGT Thomas O. Ashe, who were all members of the advance Liaison Party.

After arriving at Oakland Army Terminal the unit boarded the troop ship USMS General William Weigel, and at 1300 hours, 28 September departed CONUS in route to USARPAC.

On 14 October 1966, after 16 days at sea, the William Wiegle stopped at Naha, Okinawa for refueling and pickup of supplies. While ship was moored the passengers were allowed shore leave for approximately six hours. The Ship Departing Okinawa at 21400 hours that same night, the vessel entered the territorial waters of Vietnam at 3500 hours, 16 October 1966.

Those units scheduled for debarkation left the ship at the port of Vung Tau.

At 1100 hours, 18 October, 1966 the 592d Transportation Company debarking the USNS General William Weigel at Camn Ranh Bay, Republic of Vietnam. Debarking with the unit were the 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport) and the 545th Transportation Company. Thus, from a total of 10 units formed at Fort Campbell, only three were to remain together in Vietnam.

The following two weeks found the company establishing its billeting facilities, mess hall, and administrative headquarters. The unit's task vehicles were still in route to Vietnam. The company had the mission from time to time of convoying drive-a-ways to their destination, usually the coastal city of Nha Trang.

The unit was attached to the 57th Transportation Battalion (Truck); commanded by Lt Col George N Reed, the battalion, in turn, fell under the command of Col H.E. Tistedt, heading the 500th Group. Eventually, the unit was hand receipted 10 task vehicles, 2¼ ton cargo trucks, with the mission of port and beach clearance. The company initiated a motor pool and became operational with 10 vehicles received from the Cam Ranh Bay Depot.

On 7 November the vessel Thunderhead docked at Cam Ranh Bay, and the company's 55 task vehicles and 65 trailers were taken to the company area within less than 12 hours, 10 vehicles were operational, performing the mission of port and beach clearance. During the next few days, all of the task vehicles were operational performing port and beach clearance, trucks were palletized. The unit quickly went to work building wooden decks to place within the bed of the majority of to task vehicles.

The truck decks were modified to bring the bed level of the vehicles even with its sides, facilitating ease in the loading and unloading of cargo.

The company's third platoon, led by Lieutenant Barr, departed for Cam Ranh Bay on 9 November 1966, with 15 task vehicles and trailers, destined for Phan Rang, Vietnam, which was located approximately 40 miles south of Cam Ranh Bay. The platoon was carried in a TDY status, with length of stay for an indefinite period of time. The primary mission of the platoon was to be port and beach working under the Phan Rang Sub-Area Command. In mid-December, the company's task vehicles were assigned a major responsibility: To transport the majority of cargo being taken off the ammunition pier at Cam Ranh Bay. Utilizing most of its vehicles at the ammunition pier, the unit's daily tonnage figures over a 24 hour period began averaging 800 tons. On December 26TH, the unit averaged 1,092 short tons during the 24 hour period.

Shortly thereafter, the unit sent five task vehicles and 12 enlisted personnel to Phan Thiet, Vietnam, with the mission of port and beach clearance.

On the 14th of January 1967, the Third Platoon returned from Phan Rang, Vietnam, to join the parent unit located at Cam Ranh Bay.

Thirteen (13) members of the third Platoon, along with 5 vehicles departed Cam Ranh Bay on the 4th of January, destined for Phan Thiet, Vietnam where they were put on TM Status for approximately 14 months.

On the 6th of February 1967, Sergeant first Class Alfred P Banash was assigned to the 585th Transportation Company (Med Truck) and was replaced by First Sergeant Marvin Bewley who was transferred from the 545th Transportation Company (Light Truck).

On the 23rd of Mar 1967, Captain Kenneth G. Scott was assigned to the Headquarters, 57th Transportation Battalion (Truck) and was replaced by Captain Harry Nelsen Jr. who was transferred from the 57th Transportation Battalion.

During the month of April 1967, the unit's strength was increased to 179 with the addition of 20 new privates fresh from the states.

On the 4th of April 1967, the unit was given a CMMI Inspection. Results of the inspection were very good.

On the 3rd of May 1967, the unit was given their Annual General Inspection for Fiscal Year, 1967. The AGI was given by the 1st Logistical Command. The results of the Inspection were Excellent

During the Month of June 1967, the unit was relieved of the Port and Beach operations at Pier 5 (Ammunition Pier) by the 36th Transportation Battalion. The unit was then given the mission of convoy duty outside the Cam Ranh Bay Area. During this mission the 592d Transportation Company Personnel traveled" much of South Vietnam as indicated on the attached.

On the 1st of July 1967, the unit was notified that another Annual General Inspection would be conducted for the Fiscal Year 1968. With a lot Of long hours of work the men of the 592nd Transportation Company (Light Truck) accomplished an almost amazing feat. With over half the personnel on convoys to Cong Sun, the remaining personnel prepared for this inspection, demonstrating a very commendable manner. The unit was again commended for the outstanding readiness of the unit.

At the present time (August, 1967), the personnel of the unit are awaiting their assignment orders which are expected to arrive in the next few days.

With a few weeks left in Vietnam, the men of this unit are anticipating" the day their Port Call will arrive. And when it does, the United States had better watch out because the 592d Transportation Company is coming home.

After a review by the author, in May, 2006, former Lt. Don Webster, the following update was added to this history report.

The 592nd Transportation Company, by Department of the Army General Order, was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal for service in , The Republic of South Vietnam.

The end

