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Harpooners Leave Annex

CMAC IO--After completing a move from the MACV Annex last week, CMAC personnel from the G-1, G-4, AG and Information sections were just one jump away from a permanent home.

Staff sections located on the third floor of the Annex building, including Hq. Commandant Supply, CI and MACV Advisory Team 100, found themselves packing records, regulations and forms and carting them across the street to their new "temporary" home. Residence was quickly established and operations resumed in good order.

The move was necessitated because of new construction in the Annex area which calls for the destruction (Cont'd on Page 7, Column 2)

RF, PF Heroes Presented Medals

By Sp4 Brian Wickham

CMAC IO----Impact awards of two American Bronze Star Medals with 'V' and seven Army Commendation Medals with 'V' were presented recently to nine Vietnamese Regional (RF) and Popular Forces (PF) soldiers near Saigon. The awards gave instant recognition to the soldiers who were

Thayer Now Col.

Colonel James L. Thayer, CMAC Artillery Officer was recently promoted to his present rank. Major General F.K. Mearns, Commanding General, CMAC, pinned the insignia of rank on the colonel's uniform in ceremonies Jan. 16 at CMAC Headquarters.

Colonel Thayer arrived in Vietnam in May, 1968 and was assigned to the 41st Artillery Group. One month later he was reassigned to the newly formed CMAC.

A native of Belfast, Maine, Col. Thayer now makes his home in Hampton, Va. with his wife and three children.

cited for gallantry in action which had taken place only three days before the ceremony.

CG PRESENTS MEDALS

Major General F.K. Mearns of CMAC awarded the Bronze Stars to Captain Nguyen Van Mai, 131st RF Company and Squad Leader Doan Van Tu, 149th PF Platoon, at ceremonies in Bam Hom, Binh Chanh District, six miles west of Saigon. Gen. Mearns presented the Army Commendation Medals to Tu's squad members.

Capt. Mai was cited for his role in defeating a VC force on January 18, 1969.

(Cont'd on Page 7, Column 1)

EDITORIAL

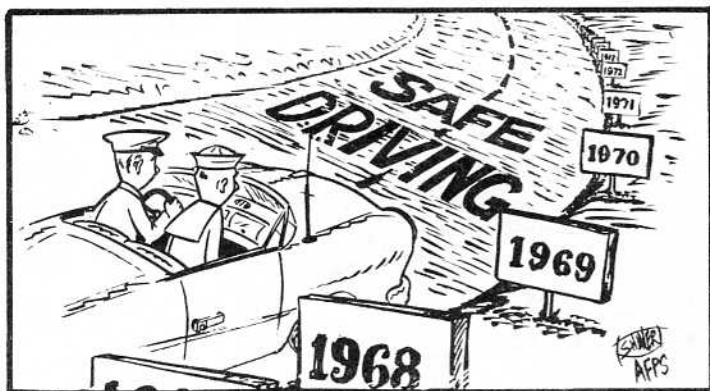
Auto Safety Diagnosis—1969

American automobile manufacturers are out-doing themselves year after year. Their products seem to be better engineered and more beautiful in appearance as time evolves, and they are being purchased in record numbers.

We might add that safety consciousness on the part of the manufacturers, and Congressional involvement in this area, are promoting more rigid precautions. Hundreds of autos are being recalled each year by manufacturers to repair equipment deemed unsafe.

But be this as it may, it is the driver of the automobile, in most cases, who causes the accidents. A car with faulty brakes, inadequate windshield wipers or headlights can be taken to a garage to correct these deficiencies. But how about excessive speeding, doing 75 miles an hour on a 55 mile an hour highway?

A check with the legal office of the National Safety Council in Washington early this month produced some astounding figures.



In the first nine months of last year more than 40,000 Americans died on our highways and byways. The projected figure for deaths on our roads for the remainder of 1968 will be in excess of 54,900.

While you're trying to digest those figures, add 1,900,000 Americans who were injured, many so seriously they will be maimed for life.

The National Safety Council, U.S. Armed Forces, Congress and automobile manufacturers can expend all the energy in their possession to ask you to drive safely.....but you decide the end result. It's for your sake and your family's sake--- not theirs.

Remember, when the last squeal of burning rubber has faded away-----who will be an added statistical figure? You or them? For your sake and your family's sake, please drive safely during 1969. (AFPS)



**DON'T FORGET!
GIVE TO THE
OVERSEAS
COMBINED
FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN!**

Campaign Starts Soon

CMAC IO---- Department of Defense provides for the conduct of a single Combined Federal Campaign among U.S. defense personnel located in overseas commands, excluding those located in Panama, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. The single combined campaign under this program will be the only regular on-the-job solicitation by authorized voluntary health and welfare agencies at these overseas activities in Fiscal Year 1969.

The campaign will be conducted during the six-week period beginning February 15, 1969, and ending March 31, 1969.

The Secretary of Defense stated that an informal campaign will be conducted in Vietnam. He explained that "An organized on-the-job solicitation will not be conducted during this campaign among U.S. military and civilian personnel located in South Vietnam." Unsolicited voluntary contributions will be appreciated by the agencies.

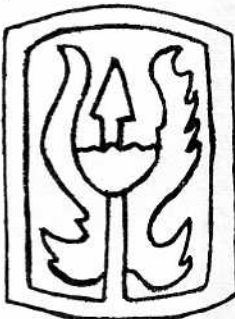
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Redcatchers Receive Bronze Stars On-the-Spot

199th LIE IO----"I didn't know what to think," was the reaction of Specialist 4 Ronnie Bales of Morristown, Tenn. and his two buddies, after Brigadier General Frederic E. Davison, commander of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, pinned them with on-the-spot Bronze Stars.

It all started when their company, D Co, 3rd Bn, 7th Inf was on a reconnaissance-in-force operation in the

"pineapple" region west of Saigon.



Towards dusk, a nearby supporting gunship suddenly

received fire as it was about to return to base, and was forced to make an emergency landing.

Crash-landing on a river bank in front of a manned VC bunker complex, the pilots were killed by enemy fire as they attempted to escape from the craft. The door gunners managed to slip into the river and escape into friendly hands.

"We were beginning to set (Cont'd on Page 7, Column 2)

Freeland's 'Best Friend' Isn't Charlie's

199th LIE IO----"He's issued to me; he's a soldier --you know, a career man."

That's how Specialist 4 Charles I. Freeland of Mampa, Idaho thinks of the

black Labrador retriever, Shane.

Freeland and Shane are members of a combat tracker team organic to the 76th Infantry Detachment which

helps infantry companies of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade find the enemy.

"When he tracks down the enemy, he doesn't start barking and running for them; he just perks up his head and points in their direction," said Freeland.

Freeland and Shane were enrolled in a two-month course at the Jungle Warfare School before arriving in Vietnam.

Recently Shane and Freeland have been responsible for the detection of sizable enemy elements.

Night and day these two Redcatchers are inseparable. "Once when I was sick and had to get to the hospital," recalled Freeland, "Shane came with me and slept under my bed. Later, I did the same for him. He needed a check-up at Long Binh and there we were."

Their paths will part, however, when Freeland rotates home. Shane will stay in Vietnam because of the strict U.S. health laws.

Urgent Radio Call for 82nd Abn: 'Require Help to Deliver a Baby'

3/82nd IO---It was a relatively quiet night until the radio started crackling. A Vietnamese medic was calling for assistance to deliver a baby. The mother was in labor and complications prevented a normal birth.

in the area and responded to the call immediately.

Specialist 4 Jack Rittenauer, the fourth platoon medic, was asked to assist in any way possible. After almost three hours of trying to help the mother-to-be, the platoon medic requested further assistance.

Within 20 minutes, C Co was providing security on a landing zone for a medivac to take the mother to a Saigon Hospital.

The company learned later that the child was the first son of a 65-year-old farmer who had previously fathered seven daughters. The 47-year-old mother and the child are doing fine.



Troopers of the 82nd Abn Div, Co C, 1/508 Inf, were

