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Dial Phones Due at Eagle

CAMP EAGLE – Soon telephone users at Camp Eagle will be able to pick up their telephones and dial – just like back in the world.

The 501st Signal Bn. (Ambl.) and a company from the 63rd Signal Bn. are currently installing equipment which will link all telephone sets at Camp Eagle and at Phu Bai into a direct-dialing net.

The net will be centralized, at Camp Eagle, in two semi-trailers. Depending on weather, the installation will be finished in “the near future,” says Sfc. Floyd F. Barnett of the 63rd.

Besides installing the trailer and its attendant lines, Sgt. Barnett’s men will switch over all telephone sets at Camp Eagle to accept the direct dialing service.

howitzer are lined up as men of the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 11th Arty., conduct an artillery raid west of Hue.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec. 4 Thomas Andrezsjewski)

A Co. Is ‘F Trp.’

CAMP EAGLE – When is an Alpha Company not an Alpha Company? When it’s an F Troop, of course. At least that holds true for A Co., 101st Avn. Bn. (Aslt. Hel.).

Unlike the F Troop of television fame, this one is a highly mobile and modern unit. Although there is no “uptight, out of sight” captain or Sgt. O’Rourke, the pseudonym’s are being adopted within the unit.

The troop, commanded by Maj. Charles D. James, Salem, Ore., is augmented with air cavalry-trained officers of the 2nd Sqdrn. (Ambl.), 17th Cav. whose operational control they are under.

According to Capt. Nathan K. Reed of Centreville, Miss., executive officer, “the increase in the division area of operation was too much for an organic squadron with three troops. So to increase visual reconnaissance capability of the division, Co. A was selected for conversion to a provisional air cavalry troop.”

Employing heavily armed Huey helicopters, the troop “will work in small elements to seek out, engage and determine the size of enemy units.” According to Reed, “we can find him and fix him, or we can harass or slow him down.”

With elements of an aerial rifle platoon provided on a daily basis from D Troop, the troop will be performing aerial and limited armed reconnaissance.

They will also provide security for designated major combat elements, in addition to engaging in combat as an economy-in-force unit.

Capt. Reed defined an economy-in-force unit as being “a unit comprised of the least amount of men and resource to accomplish the mission.”

“Use of air rifle platoon personnel from Delta troop, is to facilitate and shorten training time and at the same time provide qualified and trained personnel for cavalry reaction, without taxing division assets.”



QUICK HELP -- Spec. 5 Arthur R. DeWolf of Pittsburgh gives first aid to a Vietnamese soldier injured in a traffic accident along QL1. DeWolf is a medic with the 2nd Bn. (Ambl.), 327th Inf.

(U.S. Army Photo by Spec. 4 Robert Stuart)