

4TH INFANTRY DETACHMENT (WAR DOG (PROV))

THE PLATOONS OF THE WAR DOG DETACHMENT HAVE SERVED WITH THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION SINCE ITS DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE 33RD QUARTERMASTER PLATOON (SCOUT DOG) WAS ORIGINALLY ORGANIZED ON 5 MAY 1944 AT THE FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA, QUARTERMASTER DEPOT. LATER REDESIGNATED THE 33RD INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG), IT DEPLOYED TO THE EUROPEAN THEATER WHERE THE UNIT EARNED A PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION. IN NOVEMBER 1945 THE PLATOON RETURNED FROM EUROPE AND WAS INACTIVATED. IN 1951 THE UNIT WAS REACTIVATED IN GERMANY AS A TRAINING UNIT FOR DOGS AND HANDLERS UNTIL JUNE 1957 WHEN IT WAS AGAIN INACTIVATED. THE UNIT WAS LAST CALLED TO THE COLORS AT FT. BENNING, GEORGIA, IN JUNE 1966 AND DEPLOYED TO SOUTH VIETNAM WITH THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION LATER THAT YEAR.

THE 50TH INFANTRY PLATOON (SCOUT DOG) WAS ORGANIZED AND ACTIVATED IN SEPTEMBER 1966 AT PORT BENNING, GEORGIA AND DEPLOYED TO VIETNAM WITH THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION LATER IN THAT YEAR. IN JUNE 1967, THE 50TH INFANTRY PLATOON WAS AWARDED THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR OPERATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE 64TH INFANTRY PLATOON (COMBAT TRACKER) WAS ORGANIZED AND JOINED THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION IN 1966. ITS DOGS CAME FROM THE BRITISH TRACKER SCHOOL IN MALAYSIA AND THEIR HANDLERS FROM TRAINING AT PORT GORDON, GEORGIA. SOME OF THESE ORIGINAL DOGS ARE STILL WITH THE UNIT.

THE MEN AND THE DOGS OF THE FOURTH INFANTRY DETACHMENT (WAR DOG PROVISIONAL) HAVE ACCOMPANIED FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION SOLDIERS ON OPERATIONS IN ALL AREAS OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS --- CHU PA MOUNTAINS, DAK TO, KONTUM, TUY HOA, DRAGON

MOUNTAIN, VC VALLEY, THE AN LAO AND CAMBODIA. WHEREVER THE INFANTRY HAS GONE, THE MEN OF THE WAR DOG DETACHMENT HAVE GONE ALSO, USUALLY IN THE VANGUARD OF THE COMBAT FORMATIONS. IT IS A MEASURE OF THEIR SKILL AND TRAINING THAT SINCE JANUARY 1967 NOT ONE HANDLER HAS BEEN KILLED IN ACTION, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY WERE CONSTANTLY WITH THE LEAD ELEMENT OF INFANTRY UNITS.

THE VALOR AND COURAGE OF THESE MEN AND THEIR DOGS HAVE EARNED THEM THE TRIBUTE OF THEIR FELLOW SOLDIERS, AND AN EVERLASTING PLACE OF HONOR IN THE COMBAT ANNALS OF THE FOURTH INFANTRY DIVISION.