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Unit history of the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry
Division (MECH) 1917-1971

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MILITARY MUSEUM FROM AN ALL BUT ILLEGIBLE
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The 5th Infantry Division was organized in December 1917, and by May 1918 was seeing action in the trenches of France. It was instrumental in driving back the Germans in the St. Die sector and reducing the salient at St. Mihiel. The greatest contribution, however, was made in early November 1918 when the 5th Division made an assault crossing of the Meuse River establishing a wide bridgehead, and allowing adjoining divisions of the First Army to cross the river unopposed. By Armistice Day, 11 November 1918, the 5th Division had advanced further east than any other allied division. The Germans came to call them "Die Rote Teufel" and they have been the Red Devils ever since. The Division received campaign participation credit for the following battles in World War I:

Alsace 1918

Lorraine 1918

St. Mihiel

Meuse-Argonne

In World War II the 5th Division was serving the allied cause as early as September 1941 when it was sent to Iceland to protect the inland from invasion and to allow the British troops stationed there to be employed elsewhere. The Division was serving in Iceland when it was first committed to combat in July 1944 at Utah Beach. It was initially assigned to the First Army where it contributed to the significantly crucial breakthrough in the St. Lo area. It soon passed to the control of General Patton's Third Army and accompanied it on its historic dash across France. The Red Devils had more than their share of fighting as they captured Cathedrals, Etamps, La Chapelle, Fountainbleau,

crossings, including hard fought ones across the Seine, Marne, Meuse, Moselle, Seille, Sauer, Enz, Prum, Nims, Kyll, Mosel, and finally the Rhine. The 5th Division fought through six countries and when it received its final cease fire order, the Division was in Czechoslovakia heading east. The combat record of the 5th Infantry Division in Europe during World War II was second to none. The Division was awarded participation credit for the following campaigns:

- Normandy
- Northern France
- Rhineland
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Central Europe

A total of 2,929 decorations for valor were awarded to Red Devils, including 602 Silver Stars, 34 Distinguished Service Crosses, and 1 Medal of Honor. The Division captured a staggering total of 71,002 prisoners, not to mention immense quantities of enemy material. In November 1945, General George S. Patton wrote the following to the officers and men of the 5th Division:

"Nothing I can say can add to the glory you have achieved. Throughout the whole advance across France you spearheaded the attack of your Corps. You crossed so many rivers I am persuaded many of you possess webbed feet. To my mind history does not record incidents of greater valor than your assault crossings of the Sauer and the Rhine."

In answer to the motto of the 5th Division, "WE WILL", the Red Devils could proudly respond "WE DID". Shortly thereafter, the Division was deactivated.

The 5th Division was recalled to active duty at Fort Jackson, North Carolina, on 15 July 1947, to take over the post replacement center. A new Department of the Army policy was designed to build up the morale and esprit de corps of the recruits by permitting them to identify with ~~units that had distinguished combat records. However, the Division~~ conducted branch immaterial basic training until it was deactivated in May 1950.

Replacement training problems caused by the Korean War were partially solved by the recall of the 5th to active duty as the 5th Infantry Division (Training). Their mission was to conduct branch immaterial basic training and infantry replacement training. After the Korean Armistice, the 5th was again removed from the active army rolls. Less than a year later, however, the Division was reconstituted and sent to Europe as part of the Seventh Army, VII Corps. During the first three months of 1956, the 5th Division changed places with the 11th Airborne Division as part of Operation Gyroscope and was sent to Fort Ord, California. While there, the Division also served as a training unit until it was replaced by the Fort Ord United States Army Training Center.

The Division remained on the inactive rolls until February 1962 when it was recalled to active duty as the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. At that time, it was reorganized under the ROAD (Reorganization of the Army Division) concept. Its basic job from 1962 to 1968 was troop training in Basic Combat and Advanced Individual Training, providing support for the American armed forces committed in the Republic of Vietnam. On ~~25 March 1968~~, the 1st Brigade of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

was alerted for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam. Considerable tailoring had to be applied to its organization to prepare it for combat as a separate brigade. Among the units initially assigned to the Brigade were the following:

- 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry
- 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry (Mechanized)
- 1st Battalion, 77th Armor
- A Troop, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry
- 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery (155 SP)
- 75th Support Battalion
- A Company, 7th Engineer Battalion
- 517th Military Intelligence Detachment
- Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized)

Other units which have been added to the Brigade since its arrival in the Republic of Vietnam include:

- 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry
- 298th Signal Company
- P Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry
- C Troop, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry (later redesignated D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry)
- 407th Radio Research Detachment
- 86th Chemical Detachment
- 48th Public Information Detachment
- 43d Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)
- 77th Combat Engineers

25 APR 1968

With a total strength of over 6,000 men and officers, the Brigade became one of the most potent fighting forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

Under Colonel Richard J. Gilkes, the Brigade conducted a 13-week intensive combat training program before leaving Fort Carson. The emphasis was on small tactics and individual proficiency with weapons organic to the Brigade. Many combined arms problems were conducted,

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An advanced part of the Brigade, led by Colonel Gilkes, arrived at Quang Tri on 2 July 1968. On 22 July 1968, the remainder of the Brigade arrived. During this period the Brigade Headquarters was located on the Quang Tri Combat Base; 1-11 Infantry was based at LZ Pedro; 1-61 Infantry Mech was based outside Quang Tri Combat Base at the present Camp Roberts Compound; 1-77 Armor was located at Wunder Beach along with A Troop, 4-12 Cavalry while 5-4 Artillery had its headquarters at LZ Sharon.

A/1-77 Armor was the first unit of the Brigade to be tactically committed. On 12 August 1968, it moved from Wunder Beach to A4 (Con Thien) to join the 1st Marine Regiment in action against North Vietnamese elements infiltrating through the DMZ. For ten days, Company A provided support for the embattled Marines. During this time they made five contacts, killing 80 NVA while sustaining only seven wounded. Their performance set the standard for the rest of the Brigade to follow.

On 26 August, the Brigade moved into "Leatherneck Square" (that area bounded by Dong Ha, Cam Lo, Con Thien and Cio Linh) to conduct operations in forces. The first heavy contact occurred on 31 August 1968 with D/1-11 making contact with an unknown size enemy force in a well fortified bunker complex. Utilizing artillery and tactical air support, D/1-11, reinforced by C/1-11 and a platoon from C/1-77, over-ran the bunker complex causing the NVA to break and run leaving 52 bodies behind.

Over the next two months the Brigade continued to conduct several battalion size operations with names such as Vernon, Sullivan, and Pioneer I. During phase operations in and around the _____, elements of the Brigade frequently were involved in heavy contact with North Vietnamese forces. On almost every occasion the fire power, mobility, and hard efforts of the Brigade forces routed the enemy and inflicted massive casualties upon him.

Between 23 - 26 Oct, 1/61 Mech conducted Operation Rich, a dismounted assault into the DMZ. It began with the crossing of the lines of departure outside Con Thien at which point B/1-61 received incoming mortar fire and attacked north toward the mortar position under short but intense army automatic weapons fire. During the next three days A, B and C/1-61 were in almost continuous contact with some of the elements outnumbered, pinned down, and cut off. On 25 October, B/1-77 moved out from Con Thien to relieve pressure on 1-61. Before reaching the besieged infantrymen the tankers routed an enemy platoon which foolishly tried to outflank them. Bursting through the 1-61 lines, the tankers moved on to the east flank of the battalion where they ran the startled

NVA out into the open where they were cut down by the men of B and C/1-61. On October 26, a sweep of the battlefield was made for weapons,

During the four days of the operation heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, killing 303 and capturing 258 individual and 16 crew served weapons, with minimal losses to the Brigade.

On 2 November 1968, the Brigade was directed to move to an area of operations in the vicinity of Quang Tri City. This AO was originally known as AO Napoleon Saline II; however, on 10 December 1968, it was modified and designated as AO Marshall Mountain. The Brigade's mission was to conduct strike operations in support of the pacification effort in Quang Tri Province. These operations also stressed close cooperation and coordination with sector forces as well as with the 1st Regiment, 1st ARVN Division, whose AO coincided with that of the Brigade. Initially, operations consisted of cordon and search, and strike missions. Cordons were conducted at My Chanh, Thuong Ya, and Mai Tong. These proved to be very successful. The remaining days of December saw the Brigade master the patience and persistence necessary for this small unit type of operation. By the end of February 1969, the Brigade had conducted 37 combined cordon and search operations in conjunction with its sister ARVN Regiment, regional and popular forces.

In addition to these operations, patrols and civic action projects were conducted by the Brigade. The Brigade provided transportation for refugees, hauled construction material, assisted in road building, and established a system of regular Medcap visits to the friendly villages.

On 24 February 1969, the Brigade took operational control of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry. Four days later, 3/B/3-5 established contact west of C2. By the end of the day, B and C Troops had been committed to the contact and 60 NVA were dead. During the night, eight batteries of artillery plus the battleship New Jersey bombarded the area of contact and likely routes of enemy withdrawal. Contact was re-established the next day by 3/C/3-5, and three additional companies were committed to the contact. The final result showed 118 NVA KIA; 3 US KIA and 35 US WIA.

The Brigade was again committed to a portion of the 3d Marine Division's AO on 16 March 1969. This operation called for an armor/mechanized infantry task force to re-open Route 9 to the Laotian border, to conduct reconnaissance in force and search and clear operations in the Khe Sanh Plain, and to cut Highway 916 in support of the 3d Marine Regiment's Operation Maine Crag. The task force known as Task Force Remagen assembled at Ca Lu on 16 March and departed for Khe Sanh the following day. On 20 March, Task Force Remagen continued west to the abandoned Special Forces Camp at Lang Vei, then turned south to interdict Highway 926. On 25 March, coordination was made with the 3d Marine Regiment in the vicinity of Highway 926. For the next three days an extensive search and clear operation was conducted, covering one hundred square kilometers. From 12 through 16 April, Task Force Remagen concentrated on search and clear operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh, Lang Vei, and along the Laotian border. On 29 April, Task Force Remagen began its move from Khe Sanh back to its home base, after accounting for 74 NVA KIA and numerous enemy supplies and equipment destroyed.

While Task Force Remagen had been working in the Khe Sanh area, 3-5 Cavalry again established contact in "Leatherneck Square". This operation, known as Operation Montana Mauler, was initially a squadron reconnaissance in force up the Khe Ghua Valley. Its purpose was to locate and eliminate elements that had been interdicting movements along Route 9 through mining and mortaring incidents. During Operation Montana Mauler, the Brigade had been in contact with at least two battalions of NVA. The NVA suffered losses of at least 274 killed, which greatly reduced their combat effectiveness as a threat to this area.

On 8 April, the Brigade kicked off Operation Ellis Ravine. This was a combined search and clear operation with a road building operation in Ba Long Valley. Task Force 3-5 Cavalry began its portion of the operations at Ca Lu, working east through the valley. They were reinforced with a platoon from A/7th Engineers. Task Force 1-11 Infantry, reinforced with A/4-12 Cavalry and a platoon from A/7th Engineers, entered the valley from the east. The task forces conducted search and clear operations which were designed to destroy the enemy caches in the valley. As the battalions moved into the valley, they built a road from Phuoc to Ca Lu. On 12 April, the engineer platoons met, but much work remained until the road was passable. On 13 April, TF 3-5 Cavalry departed the valley to resume operations in "Leatherneck Square". TF 1-11 Infantry remained in the valley until the road was trafficable; this was achieved on 15 April.

An event which was small in itself but of far reaching significance occurred on 25 April 1969. On that day Ranger Team 14 of P Company (Ranger), 75th Infantry, killed Eguyen Quyet, a notorious VC guerilla

leader. Quyet had operated primarily around the hamlet of Nhy Le, his home town. In 1965, he had been a popular forces platoon leader. At that time he defected to the Viet Cong, taking his whole platoon with him. During his VC career, Quyet held many important positions within the guerilla movement and armed forces. He was known to have been a village chief, a security chief, a terror and assassination cadre commander, and guerilla local force leader. Quyet had been accused of personally killing several government officials and pro-government civilians. His death was considered to be a major victory in breaking down the Viet-Cont infrastructure and influence in Quang Tri Province.

The operational name of the Brigade's rice denial effort was Massachusetts Bay. From 23 April to 25 May the Brigade's battalions conducted saturation patrolling and ambushes in the area of Base Area 101, and the Trien Phong, Gio Linh, Mai Linh, and Mai Lang Districts of Quang Tri Province. Their mission was to provide security for the friendly populace while the rice was harvested and to prevent NVA/VC access to rice producing areas. Following the collection and marketing of rice, the Brigade, ARVN and GVN forces conducted combined operations in the coastal plain area, in suspected enemy base camp locations and along enemy supply routes, to find and confiscate enemy caches.

Intelligence obtained in early June indicated the NVA 24th Regiment was again operating in force in the Khe Sanh area. Elements of 1-61 Inf and 1-77 Arm combined with elements of the 3d and 5th Marine Regiments and ARVN forces to form joint Task Force Guadalcanal. On 12 June 1969, this force kicked off Operation Utah Mesa in the Khe Sanh area. The operation ended on 9 July; but not before some very heavy

fighting in which the Brigade elements accounted for 147 NVA killed and numerous individual and crew served weapons captured or destroyed.

On 15 June, the Brigade terminated Operation Massachusetts Bay and began Operation Iroquois Grove. The new operation was conducted within the Brigade's normal area of operation. The mission was to protect the civilian population of Quang Tri Province and to assist the GVN in its accelerated pacification program. The Brigade maintained two battalion task forces in the AO assigned to Operation Iroquois Grove. These elements of the Brigade conducted search and clear, land clearing, rice denial operations, saturation ambushes, and patrols in AO's Red, Black, and Gold. These operations were conducted in cooperation and coordination with province and district ARVN and GVN forces to insure a unity of effort among US, ARVN, RF/EF units.

While TF 1-11 and TF 1-77 were conducting Operation Iroquois Grove, TF 1-61 had returned from Khe Sanh and had begun a separate operation on 12 July 1969. Their mission was to conduct a search and clear operation from the Dong Ha and Quang Tri Combat Base areas, southwest to Mai Lo and south to the Da Long Valley. During Operation Williams Glade, enemy forces avoided contact. Although there were minimal enemy contacts during Williams Glade, the operation was successful in that it denied or impeded movements of NVA/VC from the Mai Loc area into the populated area for rice collection and prevented the launching of rockets into Quang Tri Combat Base.

Meanwhile, the 1-11 Inf and one company of tanks participated in Operation Idaho Canyon with the Third Marine Regiment. On 18 July 1969, at 1300H, the entire Infantry Battalion and C/1-77 Armor moved from LZ

Sharon to establish their CP at Gon Thian. Their mission was to conduct reconnaissance-in-force and search and clear operations south of the DMZ in the vicinity of A4. During the next two weeks the task force accounted for over 100 NVA KIA and numerous weapons and ammunition captured.

TF 1-11 returned to the operational control of the Brigade on the 13th of August 1969 and the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) assumed responsibility for AO range which extended generally from the DMZ south to the Cam Lo River from the 05 north-south grid line, east to the Gulf of Tonkin. This area, referred to by the Marines as "Leatherneck Square", had been part of the Brigade's AO from 26 August 1968 to 1 November 1968. Many of the Brigade's first combat actions and major operations had been fought in AO Orange. For the next six weeks the Brigade conducted Operation Iroquois Grove within its traditional area of operation. The operation was marked by constant small unit contacts and almost daily mortar attacks on AO Orange and light contacts elsewhere. The highlight of the operation came when elements of TF 1-61 captured the VC district chief of Trisu Phong district along with two NVA Lieutenants. Results of Operation Iroquois Grove showed 135 NVA KIA and 66 individual and crew served weapons captured.

On 22 October 1969, the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (M) passed from the operational control of the 3d Marine Division to the Commanding General, XXIV Corps. In assuming the role of the 3d Marine Division, the Brigade took control of the defense of Quang Tri Combat Base and the defense of Dong Ha Combat Base in conjunction with the 1st ARVN Infantry Division. The Brigade launched its first combat operation

under the control of XXIV Corps that same day. The AO for Operation Fulton Square included the Trieu Phong, Mai Lang, Cho Linh, Cam Lo, and Mai Linh Districts. The Brigade's mission was to conduct reconnaissance-in-force, search and clear, and rice denial operations in support of the GVN accelerated pacification programs. The most significant action of the operation took place during an almost continuous contact which lasted from 11 November to 18 November 1969. The entire 1-61 Infantry Battalion, reinforced by D/1-11 and A/1-77, made contact with a large element of the 27th NVA Regiment. By 13 November, the 2d Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, and the 5th Battalion, 2d ARVN Regiment were committed to the fight. On the 15th, another ARVN battalion had been committed to further exploit the situation. By the 20th, 253 NVA had been killed and the 27th NVA Regiment was in retreat. The new year began with the Red Devils of the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) prepared to continue their mission of promoting the GVN pacification program and protecting the citizens of the populated areas of Quang Tri Province.

Action was light throughout the first quarter of 1970 as the Brigade was engaged in Operation York Market, a pacification and security program with Regional and Popular Forces. The Red Devils continued to sweep and search to prevent the enemy from gathering supplies and equipment for an offensive. About the first of April, the Brigade joined elements of the 2d Regiment of the first ARVN Division in a drive against NVA about five miles west of 02. Following the initial ARVN encounter, troops of TF 1-61 sweeping west from 02 killed 60 NVA in three days of heavy combat. The battles, after continuing all day, were sometimes hand-to-hand

with well entrenched NVA. When the fight was over, one NVA company and command post had been overrun and large amounts of equipment captured.

As face-to-face contact began to trail off through the remainder of April, another hell was shaping up for Delta Company, 1-11 Infantry atop Dong Wa Mountain at Fire Support Base Fuller. Until they walked off on 10 May, the company took more than 600 pounds of predominantly 120mm mortar fire from NVA entrenched in the surrounding hill. They were relieved by elements of the 2d ARVN Regiment, who have controlled Fire Base Fuller operations.

Operation Green River began on 19 January 1970 as a continuation of the pacification program. The Brigade conducted reconnaissance-in-force, search and clear, and rocket suppression operations. Elements of the Brigade based at O2 and A4 conducted saturation daylight patrols and night ambushes. Mutually supported night defensive positions were initiated to restrict the enemy's movements. The Brigade successfully interdicted enemy infiltration and supply routes in the area of operations.

In reaction to a threatened ground attack on 5 or 6 February 1970 by an enemy force, Brigade elements were moved into the Mai Loc area, Operation Dakota Clint was initiated. The purpose of the operation was to enhance the security of the Mai Loc complex of villages; coordinate the operation of all forces involved with some aspect of Mai Loc security; and simultaneously upgrade and train RF/PF units in the area to enable them to perform their security missions. Brigade Infantry companies from 1-11 Infantry and RF/PF units were combined at platoon level and conducted search and clear, security and night ambush operations in the

A/3-5 Cav, with elements of the 14th Engineer Battalion, moved dismounted along QL 9 from Gala to open the road to wheeled vehicle traffic from Dong Ha to the Laotian border. At the same time, TF 3-5 Cav and A/7th Engineers cut a pioneer road from the Rockpile, up into the Punchbowl, and on to Khe Sanh. Also on the morning of 30 January, TF 1-11 air assaulted onto the high ground on either side of QL 9 from Calu to Khe Sanh. After QL 9 had been opened as far as Khe Sanh, TF 1-1 Cav moved from Dong Ha to the old Special Forces camp at Lang Vei and to open QL 9 to the border to Talsi.

After all of these moves had been made, a 20,000 man ARVN task force moved to the Laotian border. On 8 February, preceded by a massive artillery barrage and numerous air strikes, the ARVN moved into Laos in an attempt to interdict the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Brigade's mission was to secure QL 9 from Gam Lo to Tabat, and to provide a mobile defense for the huge forward support areas at Vandergrift and Khe Sanh. During 69 days of increasingly bitter fighting, the men of the Brigade kept the enemy off balance and confused and never let him mount a major offensive. When the last element of the Brigade pulled out of Khe Sanh, over 400 NVA had been killed; but more important was the fact that the Brigade had accomplished its mission in that QL 9 had been kept open and the forward support areas, while under moderate pressure from time to time, incurred only minimal damage and were kept fully operational at all times.

As the last of the support troops from Lam Son 719 returned to their home bases further south, the Brigade launched Operation Montana Mustang. This operation included search and clear, saturation ambush, rice denial

and road building operations in the eastern half of Quang Tri Province. Perhaps the most significant phase of the operation involved the rice denial effort in Hai Lang District. Elements of 3-5 Cal along with RF/PF territorial forces conducted joint ambushes each night in order to prevent the enemy from gaining food. The operation was so successful that activity by the North Vietnamese 7th Front units, normally committed against Quang Tri Province's lowlands, came almost to a complete halt.

While activity slowed in the southern half of the Province, the North Vietnamese applied heavy pressure against fixed US and ARVN installations in the northern part of the Province along the DMZ. During numerous indirect fire attacks against fire support bases A4 and 02, manned by Brigade elements, the 5-4 Artillery Battalion and its general support heavy artillery did outstanding work in combating and neutralizing the enemy threat. It was in one of those attacks on 02 that the Brigade encountered its heaviest casualties of any single engagement of the war. On 21 May 1971, at about 1745 hours, a single 122mm rocket, out of a valley of approximately twenty that were fired, crashed through the wall of a large bunker used as an EM club, exploding inside. Twenty-nine soldiers were killed and another thirty-three wounded in one of those freak tragedies for which no one can offer an adequate explanation.

In early June 1971, the Brigade received stand down orders, with the initial redeployment to begin on 1 July 1971. As the Brigade readied for redeployment, the Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Harold H. Dunwoody, indicated that the primary mission of the Brigade was to secure its base at Quang Tri and Dong Ha to prevent the enemy from achieving any sort of propaganda type of victory by getting in the

last blow at the departing Red Devils. The enemy was thinking along the same lines however, and in the early morning hours of 22 June, several large explosions ripped through the large ammunition supply point at Quang Tri Combat Base. Magnetic mine delay charges placed by skilled NVA sappers had touched off the explosions, and by the time the last fire was out late on the morning of the 22d, over 350 tons of ammunition valued at \$1,500,000 had been destroyed and rendered unserviceable.

The implications of this sapper attack were clear. The enemy would try to attack the Red Devils in an attempt to inflict embarrassing losses in men and equipment during the Brigade's last month in Vietnam. Using all the resources and manpower available, BG Dunwoody initiated an intensive effort to prevent a recurrence of the enemy's last successful attack. A mechanized infantry company was assigned to secure the ASP, and additional surveillance measures were initiated. These included the increased use of radars, a _____ Helicopter with searchlights which flew the base perimeters. At night, ambush patrols were put outside the base, and mortar and artillery illumination was fired during periods of low visibility. Other measures included increased use of sentry dogs, and wheeled vehicles parked with their lights on to illuminate darkened areas of the ASP. On 16 July, the enemy did try to repeat his earlier effort, but on a reconnaissance mission one of the sappers was observed by a bunker guard from the 1-61 Infantry and was killed by that guard and a member of the Brigade Security Platoon. This was to be the last NVA killed by ground elements of the Brigade during its three year tour in Vietnam.

Throughout July and the first part of August, the Brigade also concentrated on the complicated business of retrograding its equipment, reassigning its people, and turning over its facilities. This complex and sometimes confusing operation was to be the Brigade's last major endeavor, and like all the others before it, it was conducted in the typical REd Devil fashion marked by detailed planning and precise execution.

On 7 August 1971, in a ceremony held at Quang Tri Combat Base Camp Red Devil LTC Lam, CG _____, presented to the colors of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) the Unit Citation Ribbon "Color of the Gallantry Cross with Palm" and the Fourragere "Color of the Gallantry Cross". During the ceremony, Brigadier General Harold H. Dunwoody, CG, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) was presented the Fourragere "Color of the Gallantry Cross with Palm", the "Gallantry Cross with Gold Star" and the Armed Forces Honor Medal First Class. The Gallantry Cross with Silver Stars and Bronze Stars was presented to the outstanding members of the 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech).

In mid-August, its mission in the Republic of Vietnam accomplished, the Brigade Colors departed Quang Tri, their home since 1968 and returned to Fort Carson, Colorado. The 1st ARVN Division trained in large part by the Red Devils, were now charged with defending the DMZ. Local RF/PF forces after working with the Red Devils for three years now were fighting the NVA and VC on their own. The Vietnamization program was a success in Quang Tri Province because of the hard work of the Red Devils and the earnest desire of the Vietnamese people to

defend themselves to demask thier enemy. However, only the passing of time will determine the true measure of success of the Red Devil effort.

In a ceremony held at Fort Carson, Colorado, on 22 August 1971, the Brigade colors were deactivated there to await their next call to battle.