

HISTORY

124TH SIGNAL BATTALION

THE 124TH SIGNAL BATTALION TRACES ITS HISTORY TO THE 4TH SIGNAL COMPANY, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED ON 1 JUNE 1940. DURING WORLD WAR II, THE 4TH SIGNAL COMPANY PROVIDED SUPPORT DURING THE NORMANDY INVASION AND THE BATTLES FOR NORTHERN FRANCE, THE RHINELAND, AND ARDENNES-ALSACE.

ON 23 FEBRUARY 1946, THE COMPANY WAS ~~IN~~ACTIVATED AT FORT BUCKNER, NORTH CAROLINA, ONLY TO BE REACTIVATED TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS LATER AT FORT ORD, CALIFORNIA. ON 1 APRIL 1957 AT FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON, IT WAS REDESIGNATED AND REORGANIZED AS THE 124TH SIGNAL BATTALION.

ON 7 AUGUST 1966, THE BATTALION DEPLOYED WITH THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION TO VIETNAM. THROUGHOUT THE FOLLOWING FOUR YEARS, THE SIGNALMEN PROVIDED UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE FOR UNITS OF THE 4TH DIVISION IN OPERATIONS PAUL REVERE IV, FRANCIS MARION, SAM HOUSTON, MACARTHUR, AND HINES. IN RECOGNITION OF ITS SERVICE FROM 1 JULY 1967 TO 30 JUNE 1968, THE 124TH SIGNAL BATTALION WAS AWARDED THE MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION FOR ITS EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT IN THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AREA OF OPERATIONS.

FROM THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY TO THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIETNAM, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 124TH SIGNAL BATTALION HAVE WRITTEN A BRILLIANT CHAPTER IN THE ANNALS OF THE U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS.

THE U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS WAS FOUNDED ON 21 JUNE 1860.

REMARKS

124TH SIGNAL BATTALION

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 124TH SIGNAL BATTALION--IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS MANY FINE UNITS OF THIS DIVISION, TWO OF THE BEST BEING COMPANIES B AND C OF YOUR BATTALION. ON THOSE OCCASIONS I THANKED THE TWO COMPANIES FOR THEIR COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT AND EXPRESSED MY RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE FINE JOB THEY HAD DONE OF KEEPING US ABREAST OF THE LATEST ADVANCES IN THE ARMY SIGNAL CORPS' HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY. NOW THE TIME HAS COME TO SAY FAREWELL TO THE REMAINDER OF THE BATTALION, AND TO CONVEY TO YOU MY SINCERE EXPRESSION OF THANKS AND RESPECT FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

THE 124TH'S MISSION IN VIETNAM WAS TO INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN ALL 4TH DIVISION COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS. THAT MISSION, SO SIMPLY STATED, REPRESENTED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF EFFORT ON THE PART OF EVERY MAN IN THE BATTALION. IN ADDITION TO PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPORT, IT INVOLVED THE INSTALLATION OF COMMO CENTERS, OF WIRE AND CABLE SYSTEMS, AND ^{OF} VHF AND FM RADIO NETS FOR THE ENTIRE DIVISION. BUT YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I, THE INSTALLATION OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS WAS JUST THE BEGINNING. THERE WAS STILL THE TASK OF OPERATING AND MAINTAINING ALL OF YOUR EQUIPMENT--A FURTHER GREAT DEMAND ON YOUR TIME AND ENERGY.

YOU MEN OF THE 124TH HAVE PROVIDED THIS SUPPORT TO THE DIVISION FOR THE PAST FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS, IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD, IN BASE CAMP AND IN THE FIELD, UNDER THE MOST ADVERSE CONDITIONS, ANYTIME AND ANYWHERE IT WAS NEEDED. YOU HAVE NEVER FAILED TO PROVIDE THE RELIABLE EFFICIENT SERVICE WHICH HAS COME TO BE YOUR HALLMARK. NO COMBAT UNIT CAN SURVIVE MODERN WARFARE WITHOUT

INSTANT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS. YOU MADE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO PROVIDE THE 4TH DIVISION WITH JUST THAT, AND IT IS NO EXAGGERATION WHEN I SAY THAT WE COULD NOT HAVE ACCOMPLISHED OUR MISSION IN VIETNAM WITHOUT YOU.

AND NOW, BECAUSE YOU AND OTHERS HAVE DONE SUCH AN OUTSTANDING JOB, THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION IS LEAVING THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. MOST OF YOU WILL BE GOING TO OTHER UNITS-IN-COUNTRY. WEAR THE IVY PATCH PROUDLY ON YOUR RIGHT SHOULDER AND SERVE THEM AS WELL AS YOU HAVE SERVED US. MAKE THEM KNOW HOW LUCKY THEY ARE TO BE GETTING AN IVYMAN. SOME OF YOU WILL BE GOING HOME, TO YOU I SAY CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING A SUCCESSFUL TOUR. TO ALL OF YOU, I SAY, THANK YOU, GOOD LUCK AND IT HAS BEEN AN HONOR TO HAVE SERVED WITH YOU.