

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY1975

Headquarters, 1st Battalion 26th Infantry
1st Infantry Division (Forward)





1975



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1st Infantry Division (Forward)



1 January - 31 December 1975



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry
APO 09137

AETSGVA

24 March 1976

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Summary

Chief of Military History
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20315


PREFACE

The enclosed document is the annual historical summary of the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry - "The Blue Spaders". During the period covered by this summary, the Blue Spaders (a mechanized infantry battalion) served as part of the 1st Infantry Division (Forward). The battalion is stationed at Cooke Barracks, Goepingen, Germany.

The primary mission of the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry is:

"To maintain the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry in a state of combat readiness which will insure the successful conduct of United States unilateral and NATO military operations."

This annual historical summary is written in the form of four annexes with appropriate appendixes, covering the areas of administration, intelligence, operations/training, and logistics.


GEORGE A. JOULMAN
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

ANNEXES: A - Administration
B - Intelligence
C - Operations/Training
D - Logistics

ANNEX A (Administration) to Annual Historical Summary 1975, dated 19 March 1976

S-1

The year began with two companies, Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Charlie Company, successfully completing one full year without an AMOL. January also saw the battalion achieve 157% of its re-enlistment goal for the month, with 11 soldiers re-enlisting. In addition, 11 bars to re-enlistment were initiated.

On 25 February the battalion participated in the 3rd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division (Forward) change of command ceremony; the Blue Spaders received some special comments for their outstanding performance at this event. The battalion again went over the 100% mark in re-enlistments in February, achieving 129% of its goal with nine soldiers re-enlisting. Further, 11 bars to re-enlistment were initiated during this month.

February also saw the resumption of the urinalysis program on 24 February. In February 13 soldiers were referred, of which three were placed in programs. Of the 13, four were for alcohol abuse.

A new kind of promotion board was initiated in February. The Blue Spader E-5 promotion board tested 28 soldiers in seven MOS's. Day one was a typical, formal board except that a great deal of care had been placed on the number and type of questions to be asked. The questions were directed into areas this command feels to be most critical for junior NCOs. The second day was performance oriented.

The battalion began the month of March by capturing the Division Commander's Quarterly Re-enlistment Trophy after achieving 128.5% of its March goal with nine soldiers re-enlisting. April saw the battalion reach 100% of its re-enlistment goal with four soldiers re-enlisting. In addition nine bars to re-enlistment were initiated during March and four in April.

The Grafenwoehr MTA was highlighted by squad testing. The top squads were: SGT Roel, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, Company A; SSG Baker, 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company B; SSG Matthews, 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, Company C. After the Grafenwoehr MTA, six members of our Medical Platoon under the command of WO1 Crabtree walked 280 kilometers back to Cooke Barracks.

May saw a diversification of activities within the S1 section. The battalion document which prescribes the implementation of the battalion NCO professionalism program was published. A representative from the Deputy Community Commander's office briefed the NEO program, to include specific unit responsibilities to all company commanders, first sergeants, the battalion executive officer and adjutant. A remedial driving class was held for members of the battalion and Goeppingen community.

A commercial photographer took formal pictures in May of all soldiers and officers in the battalion. These pictures were printed individually and

were placed in a company composite as well. As a service to the soldiers of the battalion, the battalion administrative bus and a 5-ton truck have been transporting soldiers to Robinson Barracks and Patch Barracks on Saturdays. The Goeppingen Community Contact Club sponsored a trip to Spain in which 11 Blue Spaders participated.

A SIDPERS instructional team visited the battalion and instructed appropriate personnel on the changeover to the new system. The battalion provided pallbearers and firing squad for a military funeral in the Goeppingen area on 16 May. Reports from Chaplain Nelson indicated the soldiers performed in an outstanding manner.

June began with German/American Week, which received full support of the Blue Spaders. The battalion entered a parade float, provided vehicles for display and a free APC ride and supported most other activities.

Following a German/American Week the S-1 section moved to Hohenfels MTA with the battalion from 15 June to 14 July. Highlighting the S-1 area at Hohenfels MTA was the battalion change of command ceremony on 1 July during which COL Tyson accepted the Blue Spader's colors from LTC Cross and passed them on to the new battalion commander, LTC George A. Joulwan.

The visits of the new Corps Commander, LTG Frederick J. Kroesen on 17 July, and of former Blue Spader MG Paul Gorman, DCS Training of TRADOC, on 29 July were most rewarding experiences. General Kroesen spent 2 1/2 hours with the battalion visiting our maintenance operation, while General Gorman met with a large group of officers and NCOs to discuss training.

With August came the Munsingen MTA and September saw preparation for REFORGER. During this time the S-1 section made considerable strides with development of techniques for field operations. Following the Munsingen MTA the battalion sent about 150 Blue Spaders to Berchtesgaden AFRC on the four day pass program.

The battalion also participated in the change of command ceremony for the 30th Panzer Brigade on 23 September and in the change of command ceremony of the 1st Mountain Division on 25 September.

The highlight of October was REFORGER VII (10-24). This exercise found the S-1 section moving to the field for 14 days of simulated combat. All administrative and personnel reporting procedures which would be used during combat were exercised.

One of the highlights of REFORGER '75 was the visits in the REFORGER area by General Haig on 22 October and General DePuy on 23 October.

Upon return from REFORGER over 100 Blue Spaders spent 13-17 November at Garmisch AFRC on the four day pass program.

This year's Combined Federal Campaign saw the battalion raise \$8,580. Company A led the way with \$3,079.

The Annual General Inspection was administered to the battalion from 2-5 December. The battalion received one of the highest ratings in recent memory; the inspecting officer, COL Wallace Tyson, said it was the best unit he had seen in over 24 years of commissioned service. In over 600 areas inspected only 15 were found unsatisfactory while 31 were rated commendable.

All companies were rated satisfactory. In the specific areas involving our ability to shoot, move and communicate the battalion was satisfactory across the board with the exception of Company B's maintenance of wheeled vehicles which was rated unsatisfactory. The inspection's results reflect real credit on each and every member of the command.

December was also full of Christmas activities with all companies having Christmas parties. Company C invited their traditional Christmas guests, the St. Michael Orphanage, to join theirs.

During the year the Blue Spaders also participated in organized athletic competition and have been well represented in Division, VII Corps, and USAREUR play-offs.

In basketball HHC entered VII Corps competition and lost in the play-offs. Three boxers participated in tournaments in Ulm and Mellingen. Our soldiers returned with two gold medals and one silver medal. In volleyball, Company C won the community honors but was subsequently defeated in a Corps tournament. CSC entered the VII Corps flag football play-offs but was defeated despite a fine effort.

Two Blue Spaders joined the ranks of only a specially chosen few when they were inducted into the SGT Morales Club. SGT Earl Cambra of Company C and SSG Jaime, of Company B, were nominated by the battalion and after facing excellent competition were inducted.

In the legal field the S-1 section processed the following during 1975:

COURTS MARTIAL:

General	<u>13</u>
Special (BCD)	<u>9</u>
Special	<u>16</u>
Summary	<u>5</u>

ARTICLE 15's:

Battalion	<u>58</u>
Company	<u>264</u>

ADMINISTRATIVE ELIMINATIONS:

Chapter 10's	<u>9</u>
Chapter 13's	<u>27</u>
EDP	<u>38</u>
QMP	<u>0</u>

Battalion soldier, driver, cook, and armorer of the month boards were held with the following selectees:

	<u>SOLDIER</u>	<u>DRIVER</u>	<u>COOK</u>	<u>ARMORER</u>	<u>HONOR COMPANY</u>
JAN	SP4 Giesler (C)	SP4 Hall (A)	SP4 Ripley	SP4 Browning (A) SP4 Reiter	C Co
FEB	SP4 Pidcock (HHC)	SP4 Davis (B)	SP4 Willis	SP4 Reynolds (HHC)	Co A
MAR	PFC Kozlowski (A)	SP4 Dunlap (B)	PFC Loring	SP4 Reiter (A)	CSC
APR	SP4 Stoney (C)	PFC Houghton (B)	SSG Smith	SP4 Dooley (C)	Co C
MAY	PFC Twitchell (CSC)	None	None	SP4 Bennett (B)	None
JUN	SP4 Mitchell (A)	None	None	SP4 Reiter (A)	Co B
JUL	SP4 Shandle (A)	SP4 Shandle (A)	None	SP4 Bennett (B)	CSC
AUG	SP4 Johnson (B)	None	None	SP4 Bennett (B)	Co B
SEP	PFC Radman (A)	PFC Coburn (B)	PV2 Murphy	SP4 Shullick (C)	Co A
OCT	SP4 Kelley (A)	None	PV2 Wilson	SP4 Johnson (CSC)	Co A
NOV	PFC Popejoy (A)	SP4 Gile (A)	SP4 Jordan	None	CSC
DEC	PFC Tarantino (CSC)	SP4 Montes (B)	PFC Wilson	PFC Gurgas (B) PV2 Cavanaugh (B)	CSC

ANNEX B (Intelligence) to Annual Historical Summary 1975, dated 19 March 1976

The S-2 section participated in three major training exercises, two command post exercises (CPX), one Division Map exercise and one Division Jeepex and REFORGER 75. The year began with a trip to Grafenwoehr in March, followed by a MAPEX in May. Hohenfels HTA came in late June and July. Just prior to the third major training exercise at Munsingen in late August the staff moved out from 4-7 August on Jeepex conducted by division. The two CPX's came in February and again in September.

The section held several briefings throughout the year, the first being a series of three to the battalion officers. These included a Warsaw Pact Threat briefing and classes on Warsaw Pact Anti-tank Weapons and Soviet Rifle and Tank training. In March a Warsaw Pact Combat Vehicle Recognition briefing was presented to the AT platoon and rifle company AT sections.

In January the section had approximately 123 prints made of photographs of combat vehicle miniatures. These prints were forwarded through 1st Infantry Division (Forward) G-2 to VII Corps for development into desired mosaic for use in vehicle identification and intelligence classes.

In May the battalion began sending groups on Border Tours conducted by the 2nd ACR. Combat Support Company, Company C, and Company A sent groups during the year.

May also saw the 7th Army's 66th MI group present a briefing on the Soviet soldier. The briefing was well presented and very well received by the troops.

In July a project was initiated whereby a "real world" unit was identified as a likely adversary of the battalion should a European conflict occur. All order of battle information available about this unit is being compiled; classified briefings are given periodically. This is now part of the USAREUR G-2's FOCUS program.

The classified reading file grew steadily throughout the year. Following Munsingen, counterintelligence personnel inspected the classified document holdings of the battalion. The official report rated the battalion's security posture as outstanding and commended the S-2 personnel.

The end of the year found the efforts of the section concentrated on upgrading the soldiers' awareness of Soviet equipment. Each dining facility now has a military intelligence bulletin board in front of where soldiers in line can read it.

ANNEX C (Operations/Training) to Annual Historical Summary 1975, dated 19 March 1976

The central theme of training activities in the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry for the month of January was the Expert Infantryman's Badge. Training and pretesting for this coveted badge were conducted in preparation for the test which was administered in February. Other areas of involvement by the S-3 section were specifically in the plane area, preparing for the battalion CPX (18-20 Feb) and the Grafenwoehr MTA (10 Mar - 11 Apr).

The central theme of training for the "Blue Spaders" during February was the preparation for squad training and testing at the March MTA. EIB testing continued through 7 February, with 31 Blue Spaders earning the award. Squad training commenced on 10 February.

On 28 February, the three day Blue Spader NCO Development Course was initiated. It is designed to compliment the brigade squad leader's course; it is garrison-oriented. The course is built around maintenance, barracks inspection standards and performance-oriented training.

During the first week in February a composite element of 58 Blue Spaders moved to Chiensee AFRC for down-hill and cross country ski adventure training. The second platoon of Company B participated in the Special Forces Confidence Course Training during the first two weeks of February. The training for both these groups was rugged, hardy, and highly worthwhile.

1. Weapons qualification and familiarization on the following weapons:

M60 machine gun	35mm subcaliber
50 Cal machine gun	M203 launcher
90mm recoilless rifle	81mm mortar
M72 LAW	4.2 inch mortar
20mm gun	

2. Adventure training: Rappelling and rope bridge construction.
3. Squad/Section tactical training.
4. Rifle squad tactical training.
5. Rifle squad live fire exercise.
6. Swim track exercise.
7. Drivers training: Cross country and blackout/infrared
8. Company/TM live fire exercise - Alpha Company.
9. Employment of new movement techniques, mounted and dismounted.
10. Mounted REALTRAIN exercise.
11. Employment of suppressive fires.

12. Development of junior leaders.

The following commander's evaluation for this training period was submitted:

"The Blue Spaders conducted one of their best MTA's ever. An ambitious and crowded training program was scheduled and with minor exceptions all the major objectives were met. The dynamic training conducted the day after arrival set the pace for the remainder of the MTA. Rugged and challenging, the rappelling training was thoroughly enjoyed by the Blue Spaders and raised morale to a high pitch which was maintained throughout the MTA.

Most of the battalion's organic weapons were fired, with the range firings being some of the most successful conducted by the battalion. The squad live fire exercise was well planned and executed by CPT Brown. In the opinion of company commanders and the soldiers themselves this was the best training at the MTA. In addition to the squad live fire, each squad was subjected to a comprehensive, 72 hour squad ATT climaxed by an eight hour mounted REALTRAIN attack. The track swim exercise was also quite successful with 90% of the battalion's swimmable assets being tested. This MTA afforded ample opportunity for leaders at all levels, but especially our junior leaders to work towards accomplishing positive training results."

Other activities included the formation of the battalion March of Arms teams under 1LT Mathew Kriwanek, an orientation briefing for Colonel Tyson on 5 March and a visit by USAREUR DCSOPS, MG Buckingham on 15 April.

May again found the battalion involved in preparing for an MTA. This time it was Hohenfels MTA, 15 June to 14 July, where the principle activity would be platoon and team testing. A majority of the training conducted during May was conducted in garrison and at local training areas. Company A and Company C did manage, however, to get in some mounted maneuvers training in the "Little Nellingen" area from 12 to 15 May and 26 to 28 May, respectively. This was our first use of the area for maneuver training for some time and the results were most favorable. Other training highlights included:

- a. Two sessions of the Blue Spader NCO Development Course run from 2-6 May and 20-23 May.
- b. Consolidated 81mm mortar training with 2LT John Nolen as OIC.
- c. Participation of the Redeye section in the USAREUR Redeye Live Fire Exercise with 1LT Perry Pielat serving as an evaluator on the exercise staff.
- d. Participation by the commanders and staff in the division MAPEX which proved to be very worthwhile training.

The battalion is pleased with the performance of the battalion March of Arms Teams which placed 1st and 4th during the division's competition held on 20 May and 7th and 14th in international matches in Senden, Germany.

S-3 activities for June centered around the Hohenfels MTA. The Blue Spaders departed home station by rail movement on 14 June and returned to home station on 14 July. The principle training activities conducted during this training period were:

1. Dynamic Training - Cliff rappelling and rope bridge construction.
2. Familiarization Qualification on the following weapons:

M16A1 rifle	90mm recoilless rifle
M72 LAW and LAW subcaliber device	M203 grenade launchers
M60 machine gun	81mm mortar
3. Rifle platoon live fire exercise.
4. 81mm mortar section tests (Grafenwoehr).
5. 4.2 inch mortar platoon test (Grafenwoehr).
6. GSR test.
7. Scout platoon test.
8. Rifle Platoon test.
9. Company team tactical training.
10. Company team test.
11. CBR training.
12. Intelligence training.

The commander had this evaluation for the training period:

"This MTA was an extremely valuable learning experience for the men of the Blue Spaders. The opportunity to conduct true combined arms training in an unlimited maneuver area is of particular importance to a unit stationed at a post without a permanent local training area or sister units of other branches.

The concept of having attached tank platoons billet with the mechanized companies is excellent and should be continued. The team tests provided an excellent insight into the strengths and weaknesses of individual companies that will serve as a basis for planning training in preparation for REFORGER. The weapons qualification/familiarization conducted was training which was badly needed and should be conducted on a more frequent basis. The tests for the scout and 4.2 inch mortar platoons provided an excellent opportunity for challenging these platoons to prove their proficiency. The platoon live fire exercise proved to be a valuable aid in developing the individual soldier's confidence in his weapons as well as impressing upon junior leaders the real problems that exist in controlling their units amidst the noise and confusion of a simulated battle. Overall,

this MTA afforded ample opportunity for leaders at all levels to work with their units on a sustained basis to achieve progressively higher training proficiency."

Upon returning to Cooke Barracks the battalion conducted an airmobile exercise and escape and evasion training in local dismounted training areas during the period 28-31 July. The end of July also saw the battalion team move to Nijmegen, Holland to compete in the Nijmegen Marches. The battalion is very pleased with the performance of the team on this 100 mile march as they were the 5th U.S. military team to finish.

From 11-13 August the battalion was privileged to host six members of the British Army Staff College. The British officers were shown every possible aspect of the battalion and their interest and enthusiasm never waned.

The major portion of training was geared towards preparation for the Munsingen MTA which lasted from 21 August through 5 September. The principle training activities conducted by the Blue Spaders during the training period were:

1. Battalion FTX (21 Aug - 30 Aug)

Alert and dispersal procedures	Mass casualty procedures
Defense	Barrier planning
Delay	Fire support planning
Attack - day and night	Friendly and hostile aircraft
Night withdrawal	procedures
CBR reporting procedures	Long distance wire communications
Blackout terrain driving	

2. Weapons firing (2-4 September)

81mm mortar	M60 machine gun
M203	.45 cal pistol (qualification)
50 cal machine gun	

3. Physical Training (31 Aug - 4 Sep)

4. MILSTAKES Squad Competition (2-4 Sep)

The following commander's evaluation of the training was made:

"The opportunity to run an 11 day field exercise under adverse weather conditions is rare and I am grateful for the time to train this battalion. Combined arms training was emphasized and the battalion staff, as well as the company commanders gained a great deal of experience. The four days in the defense was the highlight of the exercise. Soldiers dug chest deep foxholes with overhead cover and camouflage. Realism was added to the exercise by the inclusion of a mass casualty evacuation. The last six days of Munsingen were also fruitful. Included in these last six days was a live fire of weapons as well as a very challenging MILSTAKES course.

The visit by MG Miller, Deputy Corps Commander, to our training was greatly appreciated."

The month of October was devoted to preparation for and participation in REFORGER VII and upon return to home station, maintenance and preparation for the AGI and hosting the Division EIB test in January.

On 10 October, the battalion departed home station conducting a movement to the Major Unit Assembly Area (MUAA). The time spent in the MUAA was 10-13 October devoted to maintenance of equipment; patrolling and tactical bivouac. The tactical phase began on 14 October and terminated on 23 October with the battalion returning to home station on 24 October.

The principle training activities conducted during REFORGER VII consisted of:

1. Specific tactical situations:

- a. Movement to and occupation of company assembly areas.
- b. Movement to and occupation of combat outpost.
- c. Conduct of defense on a broad front.
- d. Implementation of counter attacks.
- e. Conduct of the attack (day and night).
- f. River crossing operations.
- g. Withdrawal under enemy pressure.

2. The following special training was integrated into the tactical situations:

- a. Recognition and reporting of intelligence information.
- b. Handling of POW's.
- c. Evacuation of POW's, vehicles, sick and wounded.
- d. Mine warfare.
- e. Active and passive air defense.
- f. CBN warfare.
- g. Counterintelligence play.
- h. Camouflage, concealment, and light and noise discipline.
- i. Communications procedures.
- j. Employment of close air support.
- k. Employment of tactical air reconnaissance and aerial surveillance.

3. Other activities highlighted:

- a. Training or primary staff and staff procedures.
- b. Exercising logistical systems.

Reforger 75 was an extremely beneficial exercise for the Blue Spaders and served as a high point to a most productive training year. The successful five day defense of the Tauber River can be attributed primarily to aggressive action and a determined refusal to allow the enemy to fight on his own terms. Likewise, success in offensive operations can be attributed to boldness, flexibility and rapid response to developing situations.

The battalion also found that the combined arms approach does work and that smooth, quick integration of attachments, air, and artillery can mean the difference between success and failure. Exercises such as Certain Trek are the most valuable training vehicles available for mechanized units and should be conducted as frequently as possible.

On 5 November 1975 soldiers of the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry flew to Mons, Belgium. The mission was to honor those who died during the Battle of Mons in September 1944 and to officially dedicate a monument erected in their honor. Not only had the 1st Battalion 26th Infantry been the first unit to cross the Belgian border but also was the battalion that suffered more casualties than any other unit in the division. Therefore it was indeed proper and necessary for this battalion to officially dedicate a monument that had stood for nearly 30 years.

It was a journey that every member of the battalion will long remember because it brought together soldiers, patriots, citizens, and comrades from three nations -- France, Belgium, and the United States. As we mingled with this diverse but unified group of allies it was very clear to the American soldier what partnership was all about. True partnership is not merely a document or a phrase to use during reports or speeches but rather the mutual trust and confidence developed by personal contact and participation. This point was reinforced at the Mons ceremony when hundreds of World War II Belgian and French resistance fighters unexpectedly arrived at the ceremony site carrying their colors and wearing the medals earned for actions behind the lines during World War II. The young American soldier with the young Belgian soldier watched in awe as these gray-haired veterans stood erect and tall and paid homage to their comrades of the 1st Infantry Division who died on the exact spot so many years ago. "God bless you, liberators!" they would cry in French. The emotion for many of the former resistance fighters was so great that they affectionately touched the 1st Division patch on our shoulders and wept openly. These patriots knew true partnership 31 years ago when they fought side by side with the American soldiers and mutual trust was their common bond. Now they had arrived from the small villages to officially dedicate a monument to their "Big Red One" friends. Yes, it was a day that every American soldier who participated in the November ceremony would long remember.

Following REFORGER the S-3 section turned its attention towards preparation for hosting division EIB tests in January, the Annual General Inspection, and planning for Grafenwoehr MTA in March and April. Negotiations pertaining to the upgrading of Pell Range were initiated. Money has been identified to complete the project and plans are presently being drawn to allow us to zero and qualify on the M16, qualify with the .45 cal pistol and M60 machine gun and familiarize with the .50 cal MG. As a result of the readiness test muster on 22 December, we are revamping our SOP based on the lessons learned.

Project Partnership activities during December increased greatly. Thirty Blue Spaders participated in ski training from 7-12 December with the 231st Gebirgsjaegerbattalion at Bad Reichenhall. Our newest partnership

unit, the 281st Panzergrenadierbattalion in Ulm, invited us to join them for a rally on 12 December. The rally, which included navigation, negotiating obstacles, and feats of skill and daring was attended by executive officers and one team from each company. During EIB training both our partnership battalions sent soldiers to live and train with us in preparation for taking the EIB test in January.



Appendix 1 (Command and Staff Assignments, 1 Jan to 31 Dec 1975) to Annex C (Operations/Training) to Annual Historical Summary 1975, dated 19 March 1976

The following officers and command sergeant majors were in the following command and staff positions during this period:

<u>Commander:</u>	1 Jan to 30 Jun	LTC Ernest E. Cross
	1 Jul to 31 Dec	LTC George A. Joulwan
<u>Executive Officer:</u>	1 Jan to 31 Dec	MAJ Dennis J. Gillem
<u>Command Sergeant Major:</u>	1 Jan to 31 Dec	CSM Wilbert Smedley
<u>S-1/Adjutant:</u>	1 Jan to 8 Jun	CPT John W. May, Jr.
	9 Jun to 1 Jul	1LT James W. Kelleher
	1 Jul to 31 Dec	CPT Taylor C. Harvey
<u>S-2</u>	1 Jan to 31 Dec	1LT Shawn S. Conlin
<u>S-3</u>	1 Jan to 12 Apr	MAJ Francis X. Brenner
	13 Apr to 2 Nov	MAJ David Cejka
	3 Nov to 31 Dec	CPT William N. Ritch (promoted to MAJ on 1 Dec)
<u>S-4</u>	1 Jan to 27 Apr	CPT Charles Mitchell
	27 Apr to 15 Dec	CPT Michael M. Menser
	15 Dec to 31 Dec	CPT Boyd E. King
<u>HHC Commander</u>	1 Jan to 18 Aug	CPT David Prybyla
	18 Aug to 31 Dec	CPT Wayne Lombardo
<u>CSC Commander</u>	1 Jan to 7 Dec	CPT James E. Prewitt
	8 Dec to 31 Dec	CPT John Brown III
<u>A Company Commander</u>	1 Jan to 16 Dec	CPT Brandon C. Weathers
	16 Dec to 31 Dec	CPT Michael M. Menser
<u>B Company Commander</u>	1 Jan to 21 Jul	CPT John W. Matthews
	21 Jul to 31 Dec	CPT Duston E. Rose
<u>C Company Commander</u>	1 Jan to 9 Jun	CPT Ronald K. Adams
	9 Jun to 31 Dec	CPT John W. May, Jr.

Appendix 2 (School Attendance) to Annex C (Operations/Training) to Annual Historical Summary 1975, dated 19 March 1976

1. PREP. During 1975, 137 members of the battalion attended classes.
2. RR/EO. Phase II ended in June 1975 with 98% of battalion having attended. By December 478 personnel had attended Phase III for a 52% attendance rate.
3. USAREUR Schools. During 1975, 60 Blue Spaders attended USAREUR sponsored schools.



ANNEX D (Logistics) to Annual Historical Summary 1975, dated 19 March 1976

The S4 section began the year preparing for the inspection by the Commanding General of VII Corps of the Company C maintenance facility on 31 January 75. Highlighting activities in February was the announcement that Company C had the best maintenance upgraded facility in the VII U.S. Corps. The Corps Commander's trophy was presented to Company C's motor sergeant, SGT Paige, by BG Nutting at command reveille on 28 February. Other activities included the transportation and mess support of EIB and tactical training in preparation for the MTA. Special emphasis was given to preparation of the tracks for swimming. Further, the battalion hosted the division MAIT and a signal contact team.

Maintenance continues as a high priority. We have reduced our PLL zero balance to 13% at the end of February while increasing our line items. Our operational readiness at the end of February stood at about 90%.

March saw the return of Division MAIT and in April we were visited by the Corps Management Assistance Team. Maintenance continues to be a top priority item. Our PLL zero balance lines rose to 19% while our number of lines increased from 135 in February to 176 on 30 April.

On 12-16 May the battalion was visited by the VII Corps Maintenance Assistance Team, lending assistance in PLL, TAMMS, ANOPS, requisitions, and price indexing, and office management. Battalion maintenance conducted a driver training course 12-16 May which saw 13 soldiers finishing and receiving their licenses.

June and July saw the S4 support of Hohenfels MTA. Following the MTA began a three day recovery period which was capped by command inspections of the maneuver companies. The battalion responded well to the 72 hour limit to get our equipment inventoried, maintained, and back to a ready-to-fight condition. After the Munsingen MTA a command inspection on 11 September again proved that the battalion could recover in 72 hours.

Whenever the battalion went to a major training area such as Hohenfels or on a major training exercise such as REFORGER an inordinate amount of major assemblies would have to be replaced. As a result of the high usage of major assemblies the battalion developed in November 1974 an exercise course on post. The course allowed for the APC to properly go through the gear ranges at certain speeds. This program had a dramatic effect on our maintenance. At the Hohenfels MTA in 1974, this battalion used 35 major assemblies. During Hohenfels MTA in 1975, this was reduced to 15 or a reduction of 57%. REFORGER 1974 resulted in 32 major assemblies being used compared to only 14 in REFORGER 1975 or a reduction of 56%. This translates into an entire additional mechanized rifle company available to fight during REFORGER 1975.