

U.S. Army



**8th Special Forces Group (ABN)
146th Engineer Detachment
1971-72**



**193th Infantry Brigade
518th Engineer Company (Combat)
1972-74**


Panama Canal Zone

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Prelude to Panama

I studied Spanish at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA for six months beginning in fall 1970, with a follow-on duty assignment to the 8th Special Forces Group (ABN), 146th Engineer Detachment at Fort Gulick, Panama Canal Zone




Defense Language Institute
West Coast Branch

☪ ☪ FRANCAIS ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΑ ΜΑΓΥΑΡ
PORTUGUÊS עברית POLSKI ☪ ☪
ESPAÑOL KISWAHILI 中文 CZEŠKY
СРОСКОСРЯТСКЕ ភាសា

☪ ☪ ROMÂNĂ 德文 DEUTSCH
BAHASA INDONESIA КРАСНАСКА ☪ ☪
РУССКОЕ ITALIANO ☪ ☪ TURKCE
TIẾNG VIỆT NAM ភាសាខ្មែរ

This is to certify that CAPTAIN GARRY V. COOPER, USA,
has successfully fulfilled the prescribed requirements for the Twenty-Four
weeks' course of instruction in the SPANISH *language*

In testimony Whereof and by authority of the Department of Defense, We confer this
Diploma
Given at the Presidio of Monterey, California, this 1st day of April 19 71



DLIWC FORM 88
15 JAN 71

R. S. Watson
MAJOR, USA
ADJUTANT

William M. Home
COLONEL, USA
COMMANDANT

About the Panama Canal Zone



The Panama Canal Zone is a former unorganized US territory. In 1904 the Republic of Panama granted to the US (in perpetuity) the use, occupation, and control of a zone of land and land under water for the construction, maintenance, operation, sanitation, and protection of the canal. The US controlled the canal from 1903 to 1979. In 1977 the Torrijos–Carter Treaties established the neutrality of the canal; from 1979 to 1999 the canal was under joint US–Panamanian control; and in 1999 Panama assumed complete control of the canal.



The canal zone is 553 square miles (1,430 km²) in area. Although it is only 64 km long, the shipping channel is 82 km long because the canal zigzags across the isthmus to take advantage of geographic features.

The canal zone is entirely within the Republic of Panama. It includes the shipping channel and also an area extending generally five miles (8 km) on each side of the channel (except near Madden Lake and excluding Panama City and Colón).

Because of the geographic configuration of the Isthmus of Panama, the canal runs northwest–southeast from the City of Colón to Panama City.

Three artificial lakes provide a controlled water supply for the canal: Gatun Lake near the city of Colón terminus, Miraflores Lake near the Panama City

terminus, and Madden Lake near the center of the zone. Gatun is the largest of the three lakes; Madden was built as a large supplemental reservoir to keep water levels up in the canal during the dry season; and all three lakes are sources for maintaining ship channel water levels in the canal locks and passage over the continental divide at Gaillard Cut.

8th Special Forces Group (ABN)



Symbolism of the Special Forces patch – the teal blue arrowhead alludes to the American Indian's basic skills in which Special Forces personnel are trained to a high degree; the yellow dagger represents the unconventional nature of Special Forces operations; three yellow lightning flashes indicate the ability to strike rapidly by air, water, or land; and Special Forces personnel are required to successfully complete airborne school as part of developing qualification skills

The 8th Special Forces Group was established in 1963 at Fort Gulick, Panama Canal Zone. The full designation was 8th Special Forces Group, Special Action Force (SAF), Latin America. In addition to two line special forces companies, the SAF included a military intelligence detachment, a medical detachment, a

military police detachment, an army security agency detachment, the **146th Engineer Detachment**, and a psychological operations battalion.

The primary mission of the SAF was counter-insurgency training for the armies of Latin America (some of which

was performed under the sponsorship of the School of the Americas, also located at Fort Gulick). A Mobile Training Team (MTT) from the SAF trained and advised the Bolivian Ranger Battalion that captured and killed Che Guevara in the fall of 1967. In addition, various MTTs provided training, construction, maintenance, and logistical support to several South and Central American countries.

The SAF operated an NCO Academy, Airborne School, and Underwater Operations School for the US Army

Southern Command (USARSO) and also provided support for the Jungle Warfare School at Fort Sherman (later renamed the Jungle Operations Training Center).

The 8th Special Forces Group was deactivated on 30 Jun 72. A major reason for the deactivation was the draw-down during the waning years of the Vietnam war.

During this same time, the Army Special Forces reorganized into battalions (rather than companies), and the residual force in Panama became the 3rd Battalion of the 7th Special Forces Group.

While assigned to the 8th Special Forces Group (ABN), I completed airborne qualification training at Fort Sherman and led – with the assistance of a non-commissioned officer in the detachment – a Mobile Training Team (MTT) to Chile.

The MTT consisted of two mission components. One was maintenance training for a unit in a desert region north of Valparaiso. The other included maintenance and construction practices involving an extension of the Pan American Highway through a remote area south of Puerto Montt.

Santiago was the base city for the MTT operations. The Chilean government at the time had a large socialistic element, and the influence of Fidel Castro was significant in many parts of Chile, to include Santiago.

Airborne School — Shades of Basic Training

Ft. Sherman — “Shades of basic training — only much rougher.” Those are the remarks of soldiers taking part in the three week airborne school being conducted by the 8th SFG at Ft. Sherman.

A day's airborne training is long and hard. At 6:30 a.m. the trainees must be ready for inspection and their daily dozen. Being an airborne unit means boots must be spit shined from top to bottom and uniforms must be clean (because of the amount of perspiration, the fatigues do not have to be starched.) During the inspection the students' haircuts are also checked.

After the daily dozen the future jumpers take off on a four or five mile run. Once the training begins, getting from one spot to another is all accomplished in double time.

Some 39 officers and men started the course March 13th (at least 34 students are needed before a class can begin). After the first week of training only 19 remained. Of this number one was dropped for medical reasons and 18 graduated.

Monday of the first week the students are given a Physical Training (PT) test. Here is where they separate the men from the boys as the exam consists of: six chin ups; 20 airborne sit ups (knees raised and hands behind the head); 22 four count push ups; 80 knee bends within two minutes and a one mile run in less than eight and a half minutes.



GERONIMO — A trainee gives the airborne yell as he prepares to exit the 34 foot jump tower.



34 FT TOWER — Getting up the 34 foot jump tower is only part of the problem — leaping out is another important venture.

The PT test is where many of the would be jumpers fall by the wayside. Nine men in the present class failed their test and were dropped from the course. The other students were disqualified for medical reasons.

Eight officers and 22 enlisted men started the 128 hour course. One of the officers was Air Force Capt. Epharian Barnard who is assigned to the 605th Special Operations Squadron at Howard AFB. Upon return to his unit, he became the Air Force Liaison Officer to the 193d Inf. Bde. at Ft. Kobbe.

Although the school is only three weeks in duration, many months of preparation and training are behind the men when they arrive at Ft. Sherman.

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Airborne training is strictly a volunteer thing. Before a soldier is accepted for this specialized and vigorous program he must submit a DF through channels requesting airborne training and list the score attained on the PT test given at the unit level. Last but not least, he must have a statement from the doctor stating he is physically fit to undertake the strenuous course.

Once the training starts, everybody is treated the same – identified by numbers rather than rank and name.

The first week of jump school is called "ground week" and is devoted mainly to getting the trainees in shape for the arduous tasks ahead of them. Also the students are introduced to the Parachute Landing Fall (PLF) and the 34 foot tower. The PLF is where the men learn proper landing techniques to avoid injury and how to recover quickly so they won't be dragged by the wind.

The second week of instruction is called "tower week." Here, using a mock door, the students learn to exit a plane. This is followed by a trip up the 34-foot jump tower, which next to the PT test, is one of the most critical periods of the training. This is where personnel who cannot overcome their fear of heights are dismissed. The tower jumps are all graded exercises.

Also during the action-packed second week, the trainees, with the aid of suspended harness, are taught canopy control and emergency landing procedures in order to avoid trees, high tension wires and water landings. Students are taught the proper landing techniques by use of the swing landing trainer.

The third week is the real "biggie," the one that all the hard work and perspiration was for. During "jump week," their final part of the training, all the students make five jumps



QUICK RELEASE – Students observe a member during the recovery and "quick release" training.

Continued on next page

from an Air Force C-123 at an altitude of 1,250 feet. The first four are what the instructors call "Hollywood" jumps. During these the students do not carry any extra equipment. However, on their fifth and final training jump, the men carry their full combat gear.

Most of the jumps are made during the morning hours while the wind is still rather calm. Training jumps cannot be made if the wind is blowing at more than 13 knots per hour because of the danger of injury to the jumpers.

The trainees make two jumps on Monday, another two on Tuesday and the final one Wednesday morning. After their final jump, the men assemble on the Gatun Drop Zone (DZ) where they are awarded their airborne wings.

While the students are in class they wear one of several type helmets. In addition to the regular steel pots and helmet liners, three other types of headgears are worn.

One is a white helmet with two large zeros painted on the back - this is for the student who is not putting out 100 per cent. Another is black with a big eight ball on the top - for the slow learner; and the third is a black helmet with a wide yellow strip running from the front to the back - worn by the novice who has trouble exiting the 34 foot jump tower.



JUMP TOWER - One of the many exits a trainee must make from the jump tower before he can advance to the next stage of his training.

The jump school at Ft. Sherman is the only Army Airborne school in the world outside of the one located at Ft. Benning, Ga. Both schools use the same lesson plan and training is exactly the same except that Benning has a 250 foot tower.

Story and Photos

by

SFC

Harold Summers

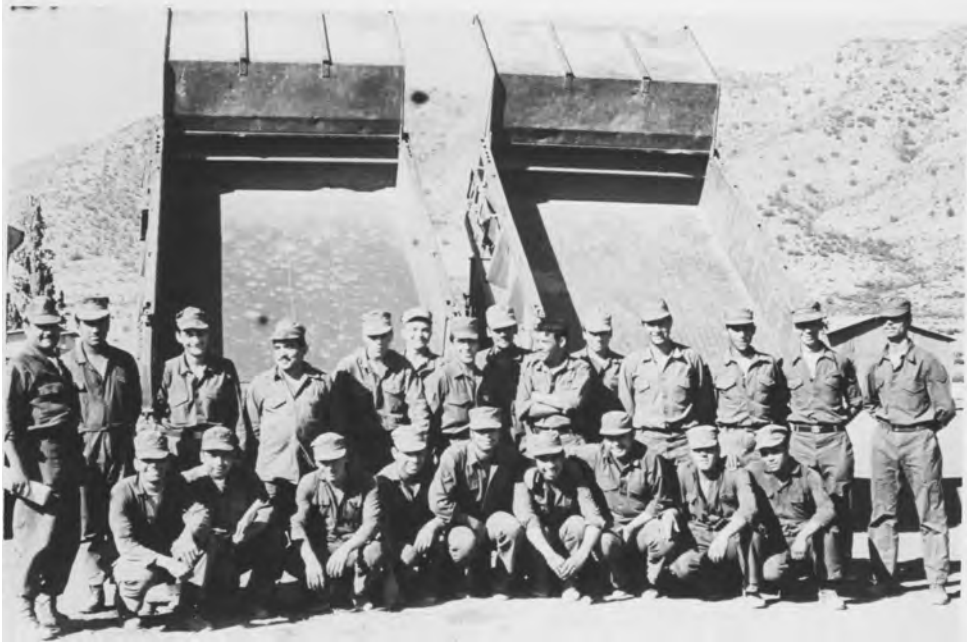






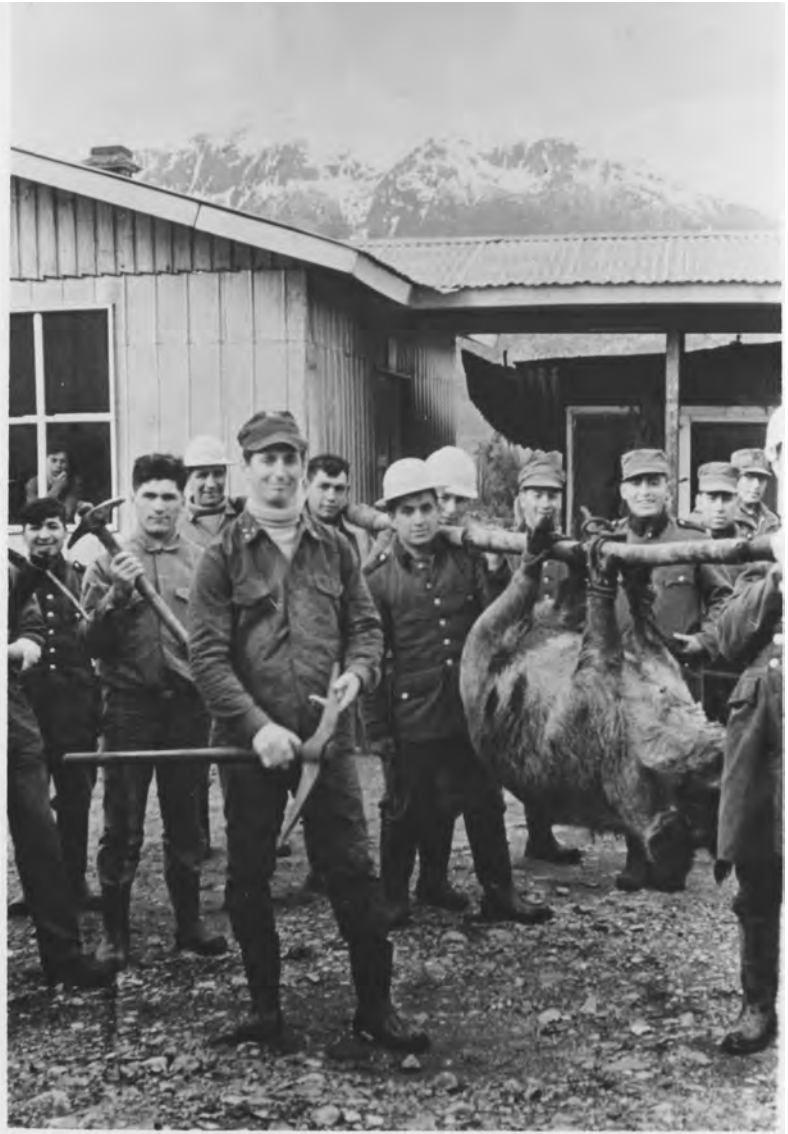


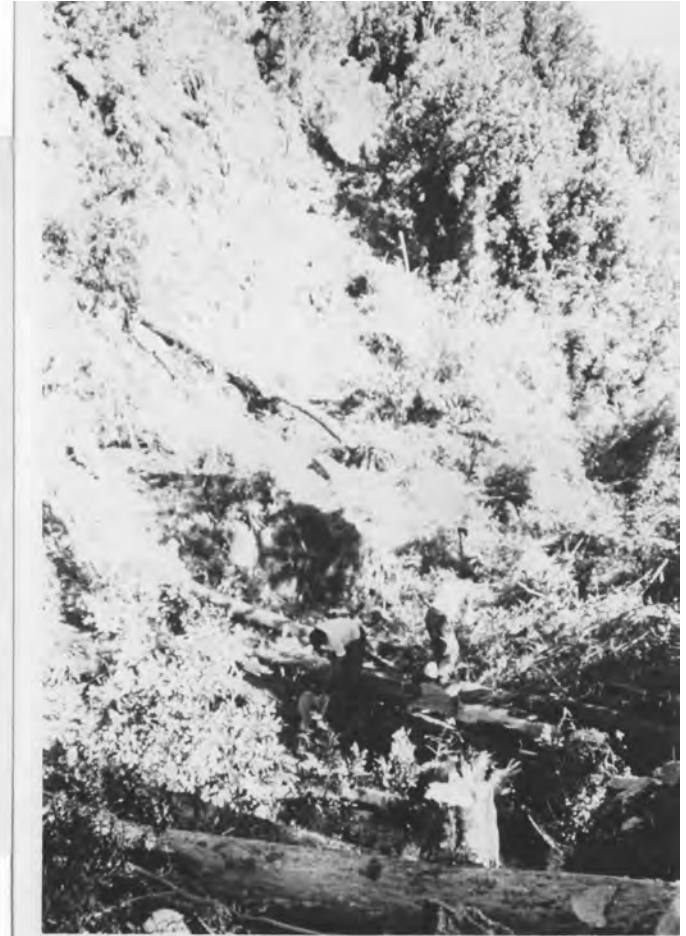




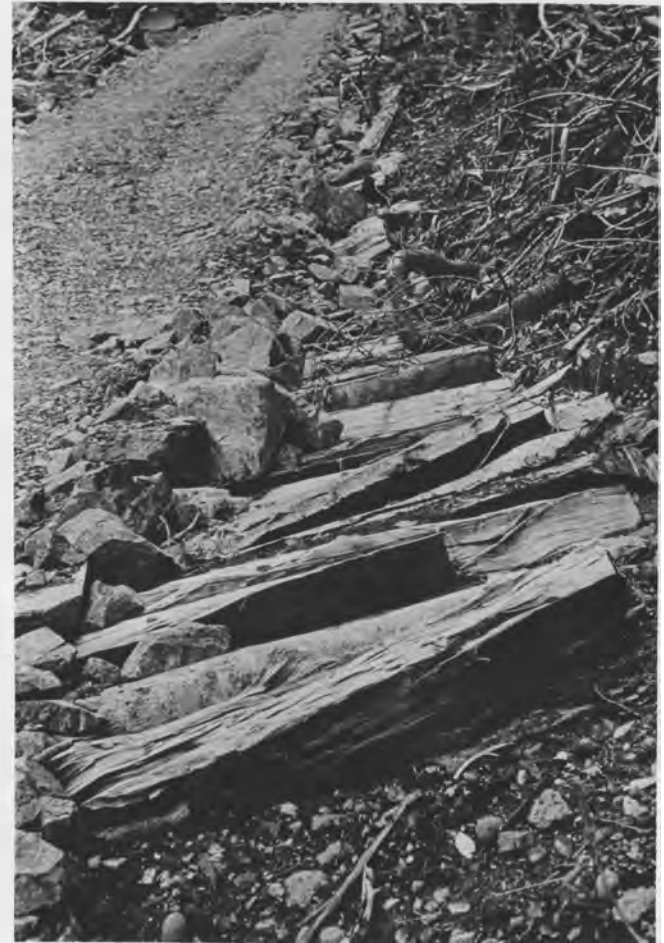














518th Engineer Company (Combat)



The Army first constituted the **193rd Infantry Brigade** on 24 Jun 22. The brigade was reorganized and reconstituted several times over subsequent decades. After the abortive Bay of Pigs Invasion and rumors of Soviet assistance to Cuba, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara decided to bolster US Army forces in the Caribbean area and in 1962 moved the brigade to the Panama Canal Zone.

During most of the Panama Canal Zone stationing period, the brigade consisted of three infantry battalions, an artillery battery, the **518th Engineer Company**, two military police companies, and a

transportation company.

A major mission of the brigade was protection of US military bases, family housing tracts, and Panama Canal Commission facilities that stretched over an area of 20 kilometers. This included protection of the Miraflores and Pedro Miguel lock complexes (that are part of the Panama Canal).

On 14 Oct 94 – after more than 32 years of providing ground defense for the Panama Canal Zone – the Army deactivated the 193rd Infantry Brigade as a result of the Panama Canal Treaty of 1977 (which mandated US forces be withdrawal from Panama by December 1999).



We moved from Colón (on the Atlantic side of the isthmus) to Panama City (on the Pacific side of the isthmus) shortly after getting married. Initially we lived in an apartment in Panama City, but moved to Fort Kobbe (the location of the 193rd Brigade Headquarters and the 518th Engineer Company) when military housing on base became available.

I commanded the 518th for about two years. Shortly after assuming command of the company, the unit completed operational readiness training (ORT) that CPT Phillip Gee (the previous commander) had started.

On Christmas Eve 1972, Laura and I hosted an evening get-together with one of the company officers at our apartment in Panama City. During the get-together I received a telephone call that on 23 Dec 72 there was a devastating earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua and that the Army would deploy my entire company and equipment to Nicaragua to perform disaster relief. The US Air Force flew in C5A Galaxy aircraft, and within 72 hours we were on the ground in Nicaragua. The unit remained in Nicaragua for about three weeks.

The success of the disaster relief operations was a major factor in the decision by the Society of Military Engineers to award the 518th Engineer Company (Combat) the Itschner Award for the year 1972.

Change of Command Ceremony







ENGINEER ORTT ENDS SIX MONTHS TRAINING CYCLE

The 518th Engineer Company was given its annual Operational Readiness Training Test recently. The ORTT was the culmination of a 6-month training cycle that included individual, squad and company training. The company moved out and set up a base camp in the abandoned Chiva Chiva rock quarry. After setting up in defensive positions, the company began receiving engineer missions. The main job was the upgrading of an old existing road leading out of the quarry into an all-weather two lane road. The construction on the rest of the road was hampered by the fact that a 48" culvert with concrete headwalls had to be installed before the equipment could gain access to the rest of the road.

While the road work was in progress, various

squads worked on constructing a battalion command bunker, a four hole burn barrel latrine, four rope bridges, layed out a 250 man POW camp, installed and disarmed a nuisance minefield and prepared a target folder for destruction of a simple span bridge. During this construction, the aggressor activity kept building and when the enemy began its big push the engineers reorganized as infantry and assumed a defensive position.

The last evening of the exercise, under the strict light discipline, the company loaded up equipment and moved out by black march. Back at the company, the men received a technical inspection to determine the combat serviceability of its vehicles, weapons and communications.

518TH COMPLETES PROJECT

The 518th Engineers, at the request of the Tropical Test Center, have constructed a storage building in the Gamboa area. CPT Garry Cooper, 518th Commander assigned the 1st Platoon to build the 20' x 60' concrete pad and 20' x 20' block building.

Before construction on the building began a damaged bridge had to be repaired. One squad from the 1st Platoon worked on repairing the bridge and in a week's time had completed the project. With the bridge finished, work then began on the foundation of the building. Batterboards were set up, footers were dug and then the forms were put together in place. The next day the platoon was divided into two



Members of the 518th begin construction on building.

working parties, each having a different mission.

One party, consisting of two NCOs and ten Em, ran the cement mixer. A

second party comprising of two NCOs and four EM, screened and leveled the concrete as it was being poured. The men next began to cement blocks in

place to form the side walls of the building. Work progressed rapidly and the building took shape. The roof will be completed next week.

518th Engineer Co. Effort

To Eliminate Bug Problem

By 1LT Robert T. Askew
518th Engineer Company

FT. KOBBE--There are many people who have wondered why there are so many sandflies and mosquitos around the Howard, Kobbe and Rodman areas. This problem arose due to a large swampy area in back of Farfan. The area was used by dredges as a spoil ground into which dredge trailings were pumped. Eventually, the drainage structures became clogged when the soil from the canal channel was transferred to the bank. With the drainage blocked, large areas were under standing water during the rainy season thus creating ideal breeding places for the sandfly and mosquito.

In considering several alternatives of how best to drain the area, someone came up with the idea of using explosives to dig drainage ditches. Requests went out from the Panama Canal Company to USSOUTHCOM for demolition specialists to test the idea. The 518th Engineer Company, an integral part of the 193d Infantry Brigade stationed at Fort Kobbe, were called upon. The 518th had demolitions specialists who were ea-

ger to add a new dimension to their training. With careful guidance from the Panama Canal Company engineers and the USARSO engineer office, the 518th designed a plan of action.

Two objectives were foremost in the minds of those concerned. First, could a useable drainage structure result from the conditions existing in the Farfan area? Secondly, if a ditch was produced by blasting, would it be large enough and could the size be controlled? After several series of blasts of carefully implanted charges, the Engineers were completely satisfied on both counts.

"Along with learning a great deal about explosive ditching techniques, we gained some expertise in the use of commercial explosives which differs a great deal from military explosives," said 1LT Robert T. Askew. "Military explosives are insensitive to shock where as commercial mixes nitrogen glycerin with sawdust. Any slight disturbance could cause explosives to ignite."

Continued on next page



SGT Pedro Saenz, Jr., uses pole to punch borehole for dynamite to be placed. The entire area was under standing water. (Note mud on the pole).

A good ditch resulted from the experiment. It was also found that the size could be controlled relatively easy by varying the loading and spacing in the blasting patterns.

The Panama Canal engineers now have a prov-

en alternative method to drain the area. The combat engineers from the 518th gained valuable knowledge in the area of greater diversity while assisting their civilian counterparts in this demolition project.

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While boreholes were being prepared, these Engineers ready detonators to be inserted. Holes were carefully punched in charges so detonating wires could be fixed.



Charges are implanted after spacing and loading techniques are carefully examined. A "stacking" technique was also tried.



After charges are in place, detonating wires are secured to insure proper size of the blasting pattern is achieved.



LTC Charles N. Toftoy, 193d Bde Executive Officer presents 518th Engineers with Best Unit and Barracks streamers



CPT Garry V. Cooper, Commander, 518th Engineers accepts trophy and \$300.00 check for having the best Brigade Day-room. COL Richard Wm. Anson made the presentation.



518th AND HHC 193d WIN STREAMERS

Colonel Richard Wm. Anson presented the award streamers for the best Administrative Unit, Best Barracks, and overall Best Unit to CPT Garry V. Cooper, Commander, 518th Engineer Company on 28 February 1974. SP4 Aurelio Otero-Machado is the guidon bearer for the 518th.



CINC VISITS 518TH ENGINEERS – USSOUTHCOM CINC, GEN William B. Rosson gets a first hand look at the living quarters of the men of the 518th Eng. Co. on Monday at Ft. Kobbe. He is escorted by CPT Garry V. Cooper, the detachment commander. GEN Rosson's day-long itinerary included visits to other elements of USARSO's 193d Inf. Bde. HHQ and the 3d Bn., 5th Inf., all at Ft. Kobbe.

S M A VISITS BRIGADE



Sergeant Major of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve visited the 193d Infantry Brigade during his recent visit to Panama. Members of the 518th Engineers spoke with the Sergeant Major on a variety of subjects pertinent to the military.



CPT Garry Cooper, 518th Engineer Commander, presents new rank of SP4 to Franklin Carabelo who is in Gorgas Hospital with back injury.

193d Hosts 'County Fair' Wives' Orientation



ARTILLERY BRIEFING – A 105 mm howitzer crew chief explains the workings of the artillery piece from Battery B, 22nd Field Artillery. The women were participating in a Brigade orientation to learn what their husbands do for a living.

Ft. Kobbe – USARSO's 193d Infantry Brigade held a "county fair" for the wives of men assigned to the Brigade last week at the Ft. Kobbe complex. Nearly 100 women attended the orientation which began with a briefing on the missions of the 193d.

Then the guests toured the Dining Facility at Company C, 3d Battalion, 5th Infantry. "There's a big difference between what happens here and what goes through at home!" remarked Mrs. Michael Paster. "I'd like to have the variety of food and equipment they have here to work with," added Mrs. M.V. Hollaway.

Moving to the bleachers on the Kobbe ball field, the wives were given a demonstration on some aspects of the daily training in which their husbands are involved. "There's nothing glamorous about the Infantry," commented Mrs. Andree Charles. "It's a lot of hard work and long hours, but I'm proud my husband is a part of it."

An inspection followed of the various types of engineer equipment used by the 518th Engineer Company, to include pioneer kits, earth-moving and road building vehicles. The 518th was named the outstanding engineer company in the U.S. Army for the outstanding assistance it gave to the people of Nicaragua following the devastating earthquake that hit that country last Christmas time.

A look into communications systems was next on the agenda. "I've never been a switchboard operator before," explained Mrs. Randy Crews as she took a turn as an operator. "It's a lot more complicated than it looks," she continued as representatives of Headquarters and Headquarters Company walked the women through an array of intricate telephone and radio systems.

Refreshments followed at the Kobbe bohio where informal discussions on

the Brigade's operations with the various members of the chain of command were held.

Next was a stop at Battery B, 22d Field Artillery, complete with a display and explanation of the 105mm howitzer. There the ladies were screened for a volunteer to fire a blank round during the demonstration. "It's a good thing they issue ear protection while you're firing this weapon," said Mrs. Mondel Teuscher, "or I couldn't stay around it very long."

The USAFSO got into the act with a static display of vehicles and communications equipment used by the Tactical Air Control Party attached to the Brigade. A detailed outline of the joint cooperation between the Air Force and the Infantry and how air cover is coordinated to protect the ground troops was presented.

Airborne operations were the last item on the tour. A practical demonstration showed exactly how a parachute opens once a jumper leaves the aircraft and the actions that the trooper takes to insure safety during the jump. Para-troopers from Company A (Airborne), 3d Battalion, 5th Infantry, in full paraphernalia, pulled their static lines and opened their 'chutes to give the women a close-up look at what happens during a jump. The ladies then moved to the battalion's Parachute Maintenance Facility where they learned how the parachutes are kept in a perfect state of maintenance and how they are packed.

The County Fair was held to familiarize wives of all Brigade troopers with the duties, environment and training in which their husbands participate. As one wife summed up the feelings of the group, "Now I have a better understanding of my husband's job and just what we're doing here on the Isthmus. I'm glad I came to the County Fair today."



FIELD COMMUNICATION – Men of the Commo Platoon, HHC 193d Infantry Brigade, demonstrate various aspects of field communications to the 193d wives tour-orientation group.















When we landed near Managua, several buildings in the city center were on fire, streets were filled with rubble, and chaos existed.

We bivouacked on a soccer field, and unit personnel slept in small tents. We initially ate C-rations for meals. After establishing a potable water supply, we served meals from a mess hall tent.

Our work priorities were to clear debris from the streets (thereby providing access for emergency vehicles and construction equipment), provide potable water for limited civilian personnel, and construct a tent city for homeless civilians (using umbrella tents donated by Sears Roebuck and Company), establish a communal kitchen facility for those living in the tent city, and decontaminate a public area that could serve as a market place.

Earthquake Staggers Managua Dec. 23 . . .

Story and Photos by SFC Floyd O'Neal
3d Civil Affairs Group

Ft. Amador — Smoke billowed into the sky from raging fires amidst the chaos of what once was Managua, Nicaragua, when the first USARSO soldiers landed at the city's international airport. It was 1 p.m., December 23, 1972—only hours after an earthquake had tumbled most of that Central American capital to the ground.

These men were the DAST — Disaster Area Survey Team — from the 3d Civil Affairs Group (3d CA), Ft. Clayton and a medical augmentation team from the Canal Zone.

The call for help had come that morning about 5 o'clock. It wouldn't be a Merry Christmas in Managua. The night before, Friday, had kicked off the long Christmas weekend; Saturday had already been a long day, and now the real job for these men was just beginning.

"My wife answered the alert call," remembers SP4 Alfred M. Daniel, of Paraiso, "and later she kidded me that she just about didn't give me the message. She knew I wouldn't be home for Christmas."

As soon as word of Managua's tragedy was relayed to the outside world by ham radio, the DAST was activated. This team is specially designed to handle these types of emergencies anywhere in Latin America.

The DAST mission is to go into a disaster area (by parachute if necessary), survey the damage, provide the American ambassador in the host country with detailed reports, make recommendations for additional personnel and equipment needs, remain to coordinate and assist with the relief effort, establish a headquarters for all incoming augmentation, and provide logistical support as required.

The DAST commander, LTC Frank D. Simons of Noblesville, Ind., gathered his key staff members and departed to assess the devastation and confer with the ambassador.

Meanwhile, other DAST men started an immediate effort to aid injured residents. The Army doctors and medics joined with Nicaraguan medi-

cal staffs to help treat an increasing number of emergency cases flowing into the destroyed hospital areas.

"We started treating litter cases as soon as we got to what was left of General Hospital," relates PFC Robert E. Talavera, Jr., a medic from Dallas, Tex.

"Part of the hospital had caved in,

and the rest looked like it would fall if you touched it.

"They'd moved all the patients they could reach to the lawn in front of the hospital, and by the time we got there most of that area was filled.

"As more victims arrived we moved across the street to an open field and set up best we could there."

Managua's largest hospital, with a 520-bed capacity was virtually destroyed. Few risked entering the structure, and then only to attempt rescue of a trapped patient crying out that he was still alive. Many were never rescued. Some wards were completely sealed off by debris.

Afternoon turned to dusk, then to darkness. Talavera recalls that night well:

"We were just about keeping up with the flow of injured, but when it started to get dark we began to worry. We had a few flashlights, but it would be hard for the 'docs' to stitch a wound in that light, even if we would've had enough."

"Then, someone — one of the Nicaraguan medics, I think — found a box of gas lights behind the hospital. We were back in business!"

The medics worked until daylight before the flow of hurt and injured slackened. The small field had nearly filled with patients laying side-by-side on litters.

"I don't know how many people I treated," said SFC Ignacio Bocanegra, Corpus Christi, Tex., "but by the next morning, I knew that I had carried a few litters."

At the same time the medics were beginning, outside General Hospital, other 3d CA men were also going about their assigned tasks.

A logistics receiving point was established at the airport, and plans for-



MANAGUA ABLAZE — A 3d CA man surveys the burning ruins of Managua's central section.

Continued on next page

mulated for off-loading the massive airlift of relief supplies which was to follow.

"After seeing Managua, we knew supplies would be pouring in soon," said SFC Fred F. Balderrama from San Antonio, Tex., the DAST logistics NCO, "and we had to be ready to get them moving to where they were needed, especially the medical items."

"It was a mess at first," pointed out SP5 Errol Dunn of Panama City, Panama, who was helping Balderrama. "The U.S. Air Force planes started coming in with supplies, all right, but we couldn't move them fast enough.

"We had pallets stacked all over the place and planes lined up on the runway to await unloading."

"The medical supplies we moved okay with the couple of trucks we could grab, and the rest of it was moved as soon as the Nicaraguans could get enough vehicles together to convoy the stuff out."

"Man," Dunn concluded, "you couldn't pay me enough to go through that again!"

By the time LTC Simons, his staff and Ambassador Turner B. Shelton were making relief recommendations to Nicaragua's Chief of Armed Forces, General Anastasio Somoza, ISG James Gordon, Jr., of Panama City, Panama, was erecting tents.

"I've put up a lot of tents before," chuckled Gordon, "but this is the first time I've ever done it on a General's front lawn!"

General Somoza had offered the spacious ground of his estate for use as a camp site, command post and operations center.

By late Saturday afternoon, with the initial surveys finished, the DAST staff had determined that potable water would probably be the most immediate problem, especially if large scale epidemics were to be prevented.



MAKESHIFT LAUNDRY TUB - One way to get laundry washed is by making your own tubs by splitting a 55-gallon drum, as was necessary at the 3d CA DAST camp site.

A call was dispatched to the Canal Zone for airlift of water purification equipment and water trucks to deliver the life-sustaining liquid. Also requested was a 100-bed field hospital from the States.

Upon the recommendation of the DAST, GEN Somoza ordered evacua-

tion of Managua to begin at noon, Sunday. This was done to avoid almost certain massive problems an epidemic of typhoid would cause, and also to disperse people to areas where food and water were available. Based on results of a survey by 3d CA engineer MAJ Dennis B. Bulger, Governor, N.Y., it was determined that most of Managua was going to have to be cleared by bulldozer before any reconstruction effort could begin. But first, streets must be cleared and firebreaks built. Another call went to the Canal Zone,

this time for an Army combat engineer company.

By Christmas Day most of the initial DAST mission of survey had been finished. The 3d CA was then to become the DAST - Disaster Area Assistance Team - to help the relief programs.

Finding and delivering potable water was not the only problem. Food distribution and furnishing shelter for the homeless were going to be trouble areas.

CPT John L. Welsh, Altamont, N.Y., helped devise a delivery system which trucked food to 19 locations daily.

"We had trouble at first," said Welsh, "because without public communications we couldn't get word to the people."

He added that until more streets became cleared and the city's population thinned, schedules were hard to meet and delivery times erratic. His system was so effective that GEN Somoza asked him to stay a few extra weeks to push the food and water distribution.

Arrival of a U.S. Army CH-47 *Chinook* helicopter unit from Texas helped solve the mounting problem of getting food from stockpiles at the airport to evacuees outside the city.

MAJ Luis O. Rodriguez, Miami, Fla., and CPT Dan E. Hammack, Hemet, Calif., had their problem too; construct shelter for an untold number of homeless people until their city and homes could be rebuilt.

The result of their efforts was a small tent city in its own right of over 3,000 population. Tents were readily available from disaster relief supplies, but electricity, sanitary, medical and messing facilities had to be constructed from whatever materials could be found.

Now, "tent city," as some call the resettlement center, can be readily expanded to accommodate many more than 3,000 persons; a dispensary has been erected, along with sanitary facilities and a food preparation point where all able residents share cooking and clean-up chores.

Continued on next page



TRAGIC SCENE – Youngsters pick among remains of a demolished glassware and china shop searching for any unbroken items. Many scenes such as these greeted 3d CA men in Managua.



INJURED CHILD – PFC Robert Talavera returns a young Nicaraguan boy to his mother at the resettlement center established for homeless victims of the quake. The child was slightly injured and developed pneumonia while being evacuated from the center of Managua. He recuperated in a U.S. Army field hospital.





Managua before the devastating earthquake of December 23, 1972.



Downtown Managua in March 1974 after debris has been removed. The Central Bank building (left) must be reduced to two or three floors, because of structural faults. Other buildings, such as the one to the right of the Banco de America tower (center), have been razed.











The US Embassy



























The Itschner Award

The Itschner plaque, first awarded in 1960 by SAME (the Society of Military Engineers), is in honor of LTG Emerson C. Itschner, USA. The plaque was initially presented to the **most outstanding US Army engineer company (active) during a year**. In 1974, SAME broadened the award competition to include two additional plaques, one each for a Army National Guard unit and a Army reserve unit.



1972 Itschner Award

518th Engineer Company (Combat), 193rd Infantry Brigade, Fort Kobbe, Panama Canal Zone, commanded successively by CPT Philip C. Gee and CPT Garry V. Cooper

518TH NAMED OUTSTANDING ENGINEER COMPANY OF 1972

The Society of American Military Engineers has named the 518th Engineer Company, U. S. Army Forces Southern Command, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone, winner of the Itschner Award for 1972.

Given annually by the Society, the award is presented to the Army Corps of Engineers unit it selects as the most outstanding during the year. The Itschner Award is named after the former Chief of Engineers and past president of the Society, Lieutenant General Emerson C. Itschner.

The 518th Engineer Company (Combat) is a separate unit in the 193rd Infantry Brigade without the support of an engineer battalion. It not only supported the 193rd but also was the sole engineer company supporting a theater army.

Lack of a parent engineer battalion did not handicap the 518th in 1972. Its leaders developed dynamic training, education programs, and devised realistic exercises and tests of the company's engineering skill. The company maintained an excellent readiness posture all year and when an earthquake almost destroyed Managua, Nicaragua, it was fully prepared and ready to lend a helping hand.

The 518th performed with distinction at Managua. The unit's efforts contributed to containing fires that swept portions of the ruined city and provided cleared roads for immediate emergency use and subsequent clearing and reconstruction activity.

When the company arrived at Managua last December more than 50 percent of the entire city had been destroyed by the 30 second quake.

The 518th swiftly went into action because prevailing winds were threatening to spread fire that was raging throughout the central part of the city. Bulldozers were used around-the-clock to clear a 12 block square fire break to segregate the city between sections that were considered destroyed and those considered salvageable. This action provided access roads for fire fighting equipment and also controlled further destruction.

When the fires were under control, 518th engineers began clearing more than 4,000 meters of city streets and, in many instances, entire city blocks. Their dozers stockpiled so much debris that the scooploader and dump truck drivers were able to remove an average of 293 loads daily.

Personnel of the 518th also launched a construction effort simultaneously with the clearing operations. With the help of local citizens, the engineers built a mess hall, latrines, shower facilities, dug a sump and erected tents for two refugee camps. The first camp was called La Ciudad de Esperanza (City of Hope) by refugees. Later, when the emergency diminished, the 518th turned to community action-type projects.

The true quality of the 518th Engineer Company was reflected in its outstanding performance at Managua. The reaction speed, professional and efficient work effort, and willingness to work long hours at arduous tasks, made a tremendous psychological as well as engineering impact upon relief operations in general and on the people of Nicaragua in particular.

The unit was praised by the U. S. Ambassador to Nicaragua, the Honorable Turner B. Shelton, the U. S. State Department, former Secretary of Defense, Melvin R. Laird, and the Nicaraguan government for its work at Managua.

Ability to get a job done with excellent results in a tense and demanding situation, combined with matchless esprit, made the 518th deserving of the highest recognition and this coveted award.

The Itschner Award Selection Committee also named two other companies to receive honorable mention for their fine engineering performances during Calendar Year 1972. These commendations as runnerup units for the Itschner Award went to Company B, 79th Engineer Battalion (Construction), 24th Engineer Group (Construction), U. S. Army Engineer Command, Europe, and Company D, 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Engineer Group, Eighth United States Army, Korea. ☺

518th Receives Itschner Award Today —



SHAPE CHARGE — A tug on the wire insures a good connection and denotation of a shape charge.



DUST AND DIRT — An earthmoving operation of the 518th is not a job for one who is afraid of a little dust and dirt.

CAPT COOPER
-MY CONGRATULATIONS
AGAIN!!
ELMER M. DEBY
Colonel, CA
Engineer



THE OLD DRAFTING BOARD — Projects of the 518th begin on the drafting board.

Best of Army Engineers

Photos by SP5 Jeff Pearce
USARSO Information Office

Ft. Kobbe — CPT Garry V. Cooper, commander, 518th Eng. Co., Ft. Kobbe, is at Ft. Belvoir, Va., today to receive the Itschner Award as the most outstanding engineer unit in the Army during 1972. The 518th is the engineer element of USARSO's 193d Inf. Bde.

The award was established by LTG Emerson Itschner, chief, Army engineers, before his retirement in 1961.

The Society of American Military Engineers selected the 518th in recognition of its superior contribution to the professionalism of engineering.

You name it and the 518th probably built it last year — roads, ditches, culverts, bridges, bohios, fishing piers, even a house for a woman in Panama. And, they chopped a training area out of the jungle complete with buildings for troops training there.

In addition to their construction work, troops of the 518th conducted extensive demolition training for infantrymen of three battalions of the 193d.

What makes the company tick? CPT Cooper says, "I have top NCOs and officers and the men give them 100 per cent and that gets the job done." Obviously, the 518th did it in 1972.



MOTOR STAPLES — Cleaning and maintenance is an unending job to keep the equipment on the move and ready for the next job.

518th Engineer Company Wins Itschner Award

Fl. Amador – "I hadn't even heard of the Itschner Award until I found out that we'd won it," relates SP4 Hallie A. Poor, an equipment operator with USARSO's 518th Engineer Company here. "Many members of this engineer unit are new to the Army and never been in competition for this award," added SGT Pedro A. Saenz, a squad leader with the 518th.

The 518th Engineer Company at Ft. Kobbe, in its role as the engineer element of USARSO's 193d Inf. Bde., was selected as the most outstanding engineer unit in the U.S. Army in 1972 by the Society of American Military Engineers. The award, established by LTG Emerson C. Itschner, chief of Engineers prior to his retirement in 1961, is presented annually in recognition of a unit's superior contribution to the professionalism of engineering.

"Being the only engineer company in a command the size of USARSO," comments SGT Joel D. Greer, another squad leader, "means we are combat engineers, infantryman, construction engineers, demolition experts – the whole gamut. One day we could be building a road or bridge and the next day we're blasting a helicopter landing zone out in the jungle undergrowth."

SP4 William H. Barker says, "I think 'people' is what it's all about. We're here to help people and do things to make life better for them in any way that we can."

During 1972, the 518th lived up to its motto, "Do It Yourself." They carried the ball on all engineer activities requiring specialized skills and technical know-how. The engineers carved a complete training area out of the tropical rain forest and revamped existing facilities to house a company-size unit. At "Camp Bayonet", on the Pacific side, they built an obstacle-confidence course capable of testing even the most skilled jungle expert.

Road construction requirements often meant reclaiming traffic routes from the jungle. Replacement of culverts and water drainage emplacements is a constant factor in the tropics and field expedients are often necessary to facilitate work progress. Although the 518th does not have an organic bridge platoon, it scrounged enough surplus and scrap materials to build Bailey Bridge sites where required.

And, the 518th shared its knowledge of military engineering with infantry units of the 193d Brigade. Experts from the company conducted mine and countermine warfare plus demolition training for the infantry units and presented classes for brigade officers outlining the capabilities of the engineer company. These classes benefited the infantry battalions on how best to use the available engineer support.

Military training requirements are not the only area in which the unit showed its skills. Community action projects ranged from building fishing piers to recreational pavilions – from construction of a home for a needy Panamanian woman at their own expense and on their own time to renovation of local school buildings and playgrounds.

"There are some things you can't train for or program on a training schedule," SGT Saenz says. "Nobody was ready for the disaster that took place in Nicaragua just before Christmas and it really tested our ingenuity and technical skills."

The earthquake that demolished

more than fifty per cent of the City of Managua presented a real challenge to the engineers. The 518th opened roads, cleared away debris, resettled evacuees and fought the additional hazard of raging fires in the central city.

"At first there were a lot of complaints about breaking up all our Christmas plans," recalls SP4 Barker. "Leaving your wife and kids standing at the airport on Christmas Day is aggravating. Once we airlifted all of our equipment and personnel to Managua and saw what was happening, I'd say there was a 180-degree change of attitude. We were needed."

SGT Gree adds, "people had no place to stay. Homes, businesses, food, water – all gone. We saved the property and resources that we could and concentrated on the health and welfare of the people. The evacuees called the first camp we built 'La Ciudad de la Esperanza,' the City of Hope."

The Itschner Award will be presented to CPT Garry V. Cooper, commander of the 518th Engineer Company, at a ceremony to be held at Ft. Belvoir, Va., on May 4. The units accomplishments during the year were best summed up by SP4 Poor, "People! That's what it's all about. As long as we can see that our service is being used to help those who need it, then we know we're doing our job."

Continued on next page



EXPERIENCE IS WHAT COUNTS – Clearing infantry training area requires heavy equipment and experienced operators.

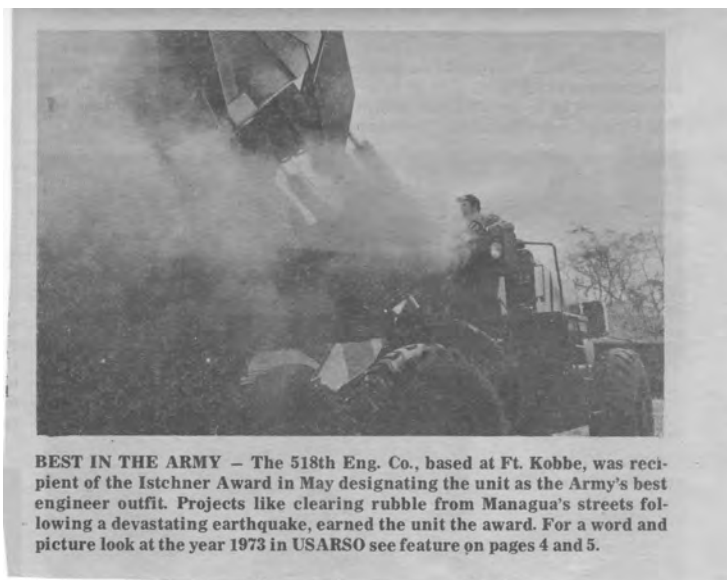


EXPLOSIVE TRAINING – After instruction on the use of explosives by 518th technicians-infantrymen put their knowledge to work.



COMBAT MOVEMENT – Helicopter airlift of the company's equipment stresses mobility of the 518th.

Continued on next page



BEST IN THE ARMY – The 518th Eng. Co., based at Ft. Kobbe, was recipient of the Istchner Award in May designating the unit as the Army's best engineer outfit. Projects like clearing rubble from Managua's streets following a devastating earthquake, earned the unit the award. For a word and picture look at the year 1973 in USARSO see feature on pages 4 and 5.



ENGINEERS DO THEIR JOB – Direction of construction of the Panama Canal passed from civilian to Army Engineers in 1907. A supporting force of engineers arrived in October 1911 to support the first troops of the 10th Infantry Regiment. Since then, they have been a vital element of USARSO in maintaining the security of the Panama Canal. Here, the 518th Engineer Company enlarges the drop zone at Venado Beach.



CAMARON RECREATION AREA – Men of the 518th Eng. Co., 193d Inf. Bde., put the finishing touches on the pontoon foot bridge over which visitors will stream across. The fun-filled day will open early in the morning on July 4 with a fishing contest and will culminate a night fall with a brilliant display of fireworks.

La 518ª Compañía de Ingenieros de USARSO Gana el Premio Itschner por su Acción en 1972

Fuerte Kobbe – El Capitán Garry V. Cooper, comandante de la 518ª Compañía de Ingenieros, Fuerte Kobbe, se encuentra actualmente en el Fuerte Belvoir, Virginia, para recibir el Premio Itschner por ser la Unidad de Ingeniería más sobresaliente del Ejército durante el año de 1972.

La 518ª Compañía de Ingenieros es un elemento de la 193ª Brigada de Infantería de las Fuerzas del Ejército de Estados Unidos, Comando Sur.

El Teniente General Emerson Itschner, jefe de Ingenieros del Ejército, estableció el premio antes de su jubilación en 1961.

La Sociedad de Ingenieros Militares Americanos escogió a la 518ª Compañía por haber contribuido ampliamente al desarrollo de la profesión de ingeniería.

Sólo tiene que mencionarlo, y probablemente ya lo ha construido la 518ª Compañía de Ingenieros: tales como caminos, zanjas, alcantarillas, puentes, bohíos, muelles de pescar y hasta una casa para una pareja en Panamá. La 518ª Compañía de Ingenieros también despejó un área para adiestramiento en la selva y construyó edificios para las tropas que se adiestran allí.

Además del trabajo de construcción que realizan, las tropas de la 518ª Compañía dirigieron un amplio adiestramiento en demolición a los soldados de infantería de tres batallones de 193ª Brigada de Infantería.

¿Qué es lo que hace que la compañía tenga buen éxito? El Capitán Cooper lo explica de la siguiente manera: "Tengo los mejores soldados y oficiales y los hombres cooperan ciento por ciento para que el trabajo se realice."

Es obvio que la 518ª Compañía de Ingenieros realizó todo esto en 1972, razón por la cual el Premio Itschner es un merecido reconocimiento.

For USARSO — 1973 Was A Year of Meeting

By Spec. 5 Lee Ashton
USARSO Information Office
Ft. Amador — Managua, capital city of a Latin American neighbor, Nicaragua, lay in ruins when the year 1973 dawned. Thousands lay dead, an estimated 20,000 persons were injured, and 200,000 more were homeless as a result of a devastating earthquake that struck December 23.

It was a shocking tragedy, but, because members of USARSO reacted within a matter of hours to the crisis, the people of Managua were spared from even greater hardships and suffering.

Medical supplies, food, heavy equipment, shelter and manpower poured into Nicaragua aboard huge Air Force transports. Bearing the brunt of the



JUMPING AMBASSADORS — USARSO's Jumping Ambassadors parachute team, consisting of members of the 3-7th Special Forces, traveled extensively throughout Latin America displaying daring feats thousands of feet above the earth. Here, several members of the group prepare equipment in anticipation of a jump.

relief effort were USARSO's 3d Civil Affairs Group (Abn.), (3d CA), and engineers from the 193d Infantry Brigade's 518th Engineer Company.

Professionalism, dedication and readiness were vividly displayed by this command when the new year arrived. And Managua was just the beginning.

Major accomplishments resulting in numerous plaudits were garnered by USARSO as the year progressed. The 518th captured the first top award-of-the-year when in May it received the Itschner Award as the most outstanding Army engineer unit world-wide.

Capt. Gary Cooper, unit commander, attributed the 518th's success to top NCOs, officers and men who gave 100 per cent to get the job done. Roads, ditches, culverts, bridges, bohios, fishing piers and a jungle training area were among the projects the 518th engaged in prior to receiving the Itschner Award.

Next to be honored was the USA Logistical Support Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Company dining facility which won the "Philip A. Connelly Award" as the best small-unit dining facility Army-wide. Besides an excellent staff of cooks and fine food, the dining room featured a comfortable restaurant atmosphere with air conditioning, music, carpeting and padded armchairs.

Prior to receiving the Connelly Award, the HHC dining facility had been presented four USARSO Superior and three USARSO Best Dining Facility Awards. SSgt. Emmett Hicks, mess steward, commented "You watch what the troops eat and cut back on what they don't," in describing his philosophy regarding management of food preparation.

An honor that particularly pleased the command was the Army's first-term reenlistment award for fiscal year '73, presented to Maj. George L. Mabry, Jr., USARSO commander, by Secretary of the Army Howard H. (Bo) Callaway in November. USARSO led all commands world-wide with a percentage of 188.6 of the objective.

A total of 249 first-termers elected to stay in Army green during the fiscal year. Capt. David F. Borresen, command reenlistment officer, attributed the "professionalism" of USARSO units as the major reason behind so many young soldiers' decision to "stay Army."

Another feather in USARSO's cap came when it led the way in the 1974 Canal Zone Combined Federal Campaign with a whopping \$84,435. Heading the USARSO list were members of the 193d Infantry Brigade, who topped their goal by 259 per cent with a donation of \$34,721. Also going "all-out" for the campaign was the U.S. Army School of the Americas' 189 per cent effort for \$2,421; 3d CA's 147 per cent effort for \$509; and the Atlantic Area Command's donation of \$7,709 for 141 per cent of its goal.

While certain units managed to achieve superior results to capture much of the limelight, individuals as well were getting the job done in an enviable fashion. From the infantry grunts trekking over steaming jungle trails to the support clerks plugging away at typewriters in air conditioned offices, came everyday skills that kept the command going. A team effort, with each military and civilian man and woman doing his and her part, spelled out a year of success.

"Doing it the way it was done last year, and the years before" wasn't the order of the day for USARSO troops. The command showed its forward-thinking attitude at the start of the year when it began to adapt to the Base Operation Control (BASOPS) computer system to manage supply channels and financial accounting.

In implementing the new system, USARSO became the first overseas area to utilize the program. The BASOPS system has resulted in increased efficiency in the process of logistical requisitions and at the same



REENLISTMENT AWARD — Secretary of the Army Howard H. (Bo) Callaway presents the Army's First-Term Reenlistment Award for Fiscal Year '73, to USARSO commander, Maj. Gen. George L. Mabry, Jr., during his November visit.

time maintains a running inventory of stocks on hand.

Several new faces joined the ranks of those in command, most notably at the helm of the 193d Inf. Bde., 3d CA, Security Assistance Force for Latin America and the Pacific Area Command.

First to be welcomed as the new commander of a major USARSO unit was Col. Ernest W. Moore who took over the reigns of the 3d CA in January. In accepting his new post, Colonel Moore parachuted to the Venado Drop Zone to receive the group's colors. The jump was his first in 26 years since attending the basic airborne course in 1946 at Ft. Benning, Ga.



CHANGE OF COMMAND — Maj. Gen. George L. Mabry, Jr., USARSO commander, addresses audience during change of command ceremonies at the 193d Inf. Bde. Col. Richard W. Anson (l), was welcomed as new commander to succeed Col. Trevor W. Swett, Jr. (r).

Continued on next page

And Overcoming Every Challenge

Next to assume his new command was Col. William Norman, who was welcomed by members of the Security Assistance for Latin America (SAF) in February. The outgoing commander, Col. J.B. Pinkerton, was lauded for his efforts by General Mabry and was awarded the Second Oak Leaf Cluster to the Legion of Merit.

Highlighting change of command ceremonies for the year was the spectacle of Col. Richard W. Anson's assumption as commander of the 193d Infantry Brigade. Infantrymen from the unit massed in full regalia to welcome the new CO and wish outgoing Col. Trevor W. Swett Jr., all the best in his new assignment at the Pentagon.

In addressing his new charges for the first time, Colonel Anson cited the unit, declaring "The quality of leadership at all levels and the excellence of professionalism are very apparent today in the outstanding appearance and performance of the 193d Infantry Brigade."

Then Col. James A. Franklin assumed command of the Pacific Area Command (PAC), during ceremonies in July. He succeeded Col. V. William Bezich, who moved on to Washington, D.C.

The newest commander to join USARSO is Lt. Col. William A. Roosma, who took over the reigns of command of the 4th Battalion, 10th Infantry, 193d Inf. Bde., in early December. Outgoing commander was Lt. Col. G.L. Tippin whose new assignment is with USARSO's G-3 office as chief of training.

The first big event of 1973 was the annual Commander's Rifle and Pistol Matches which took place in January. The 3d Special Forces Battalion, 7th S.F.G., dominated individual and team matches. MSgt. Alvin E. Gunnell won the open class pistol competition, while SSgt. James Jarrett earned the "New Shooter" laurels. Only SSgt. Carmelo Rivera of PAC managed to infringe on the 3-7th's winning ways, as he placed first in individual rifle firing.

Rifle competition took on an international look in February, when some 200 marksmen from 19 nations of North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, participated in the 14th Pan American Invitational Military Rifle Match. The Colombians massed an enviable record of seven "firsts" in various categories.

If a single theme could be selected

to describe USARSO's relationship with its Latin American neighbors, it would probably simply state, "Doing things together."

And nowhere was that theme more in evidence than at the School of the Americas, where students from the Americas live and work together while studying various military curricula. After a quarter-century of service, the school reached a milestone in 1973 when the 30,000th student received his diploma.

The Jungle Operations Training Center at Ft. Sherman also hosted visitors from Latin American armed services who studied how to work with, not conquer their lush surroundings. One of the more interesting visits to the JOTC occurred in July when selected U.S. Military Academy cadets from West Point, N.Y., discovered that you practically have to be Tarzan to really master the jungle.

Training, training, and more training was the order of the day month in and month out for many USARSO soldiers. Often, that training was conducted with Panama National Guard troops who proved to be capable defense partners.

Perhaps the biggest test of individual readiness comes when the unexpected happens. Members of the Army Communications Command (USACC), and 3-7th Special Forces were called upon to demonstrate their skills in such instances.

The communications people were called upon to re-establish a cable link between the Federal Aeronautics Administration at Tocumen Airport in Panama City, and a vital weather teletype from Kansas City. The cable became severed early one Sunday morning in June at a low ebb in duty hours, yet within hours the situation was rectified.

The 3-7th committed 17 SCUBA divers in July to search for the wreckage of an A-7 Air Force plane that crashed into Panama Bay, costing the pilot his life. Muddy waters, strong currents and tides, overcast skies and the presence of sharks made the underwater search a grim one that challenged all the skills the divers could muster.

Equally challenging tasks, while no dangerous, taxed the energies of the 79th Army Band and USARSO's Jumping Ambassadors parachute team. Both groups traveled throughout

Latin America to entertain and win friends for the command. Bandsmen and parachutists alike have been to fairs, parades and civic events from Guatemala to Argentina, offering a unique blend of entertainment that earned generous applause from appreciative audiences.

Hard work and long hours were experienced more often than not by many members of the command, but they weren't alone in their vigil. For a great number of civilian and military members, somebody was at home waiting for the work day to end. No promotions, awards or medals are presented to the wives. While the command would have liked to have honored each of the ladies individually, one was chosen instead as the most complete example of a military wife.

Mrs. Shirley Ann McInnes, wife of Maj. Thomas J. McInnes, commander of the student company, U.S. Army School of the Americas, was chosen as USARSO's Wife of the Year for 1973. Engaged in numerous activities, the McInnes' are well known for their efforts in trying to find homes for orphans.

In singling out the highlight of the year, Secretary of the Army Callaway's visit to USARSO would have to be remembered as most significant. For it was during his November visit that the all-volunteer Army's future was made clearer to members of the command who attended a dinner given by the Isthmian Chapter, Association of the United States Army (AUSA).

Speaking to more than 400 persons, largest group to attend an AUSA function in the Canal Zone, Secretary Callaway pointed out that since the draft's end, 130,000 men and women entered the Army and 40,000 more reenlisted. The Army's strength, he said, was at 97 per cent. Secretary Callaway also noted that today there are 13 divisions in the Army.

As 1973 drew to an end, yet another crisis challenged the command. And it is far from being over. The energy crisis, as we know it, is a problem experts say will be with us for some time. People everywhere have been called upon to take measures to avoid wasting energy, and many members of USARSO have willingly complied. And no wonder - that spirit of cooperation, the feeling of "doing things together," is what USARSO is all about.

Continued on next page



SMOOTH LANDING - A member of the 193d Inf. Bde. guides a support helicopter of the 114th Aviation Company during a field exercise. Choppers and infantry units work closely in providing air and ground defense of the Panama Canal.



IT TAKES COURAGE - Rappelling down the side of a steep cliff overlooking a rocky pacific beach is not something you'd find the average Joe doing. Infantrymen from the 3d Bn., 5th Inf., aren't average by any means. Here, a member of the unit scales a cliff during a recent training exercise.

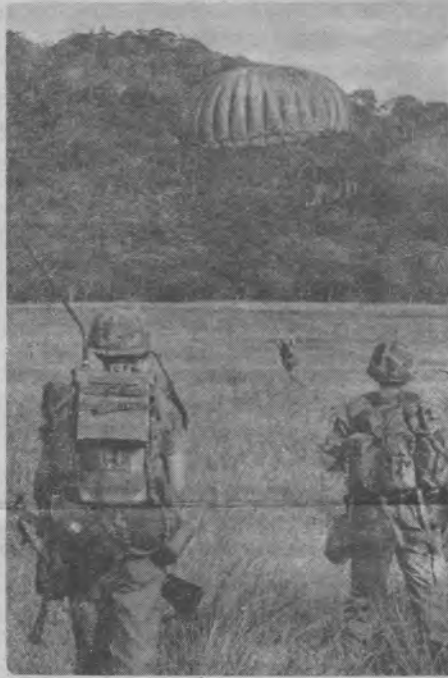


KEEPING SHARP - Artillerymen from the 193d Inf. Bde. fire a 105 mm howitzer during training exercise designed to test their skills. Brigade artillery plays an integral role in the 193d's defense effort in the Canal Zone.



TOP DINING FACILITY - Cooks from the HHC, USA Log. Supt. dining facility, stand prepared to serve another outstanding meal. The unit captured the "Philip A. Connelly Award," as the Army's best small-unit dining facility world-wide.

Continued on next page



TRAINING, TRAINING, TRAINING – Airborne and infantry elements of the 3d Bn., 5th Inf., participate in just one of many training exercises held during the year.



CIVIC ACTION – This medic from the 3d Civils Affairs Group (Abn.), renders medical attention to an inhabitant of one of Panama's more remote areas. The 3d CA engaged in numerous projects during the year to better the standard of living for many. The units activities have resulted in building bridges of understanding and friendship among the people of the americas.

Personnel Documents



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS, GREETING:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AUTHORIZED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER, 16 JANUARY 1969
HAS AWARDED

THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

TO

CAPTAIN GARRY V. COOPER
Corps of Engineers, United States Army

FOR

Meritorious Achievement
518th Engineer Company (Combat), Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone
26 December 1972 to 11 January 1973

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 21st DAY OF March 1973

George L. Mabry Jr.

Major General, USA
Commander, USARSO



Robert J. Frock

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



By direction of the President of the United States of America, under the provisions of Executive Order 11448, dated 16 January 1969, the Meritorious Service Medal is awarded to

CAPTAIN GARRY V. COOPER, UNITED STATES ARMY

for exceptionally meritorious achievement during Disaster Relief Operations in Managua, Nicaragua from 26 December 1972 to 11 January 1973.

Upon his arrival in Managua three days after the earthquake, Captain Cooper immediately directed his men to begin work clearing the streets and market places to enable emergency vehicles and work crews to proceed into the stricken area for the first time. In addition to efficiently and expeditiously accomplishing this task, he worked around the clock, under extremely adverse conditions, to plan and supervise the construction of a 12 block fire break that was very instrumental in halting the flames that were engulfing the city. After the immediate emergency had passed, he directed the attention of his men and equipment to civic action projects. Three refugee centers, equipped with showers and latrines, were constructed to provide housing for more than 3,000 homeless and destitute families. This display of exceptional dedication to duty and high standards of professional conduct greatly enhances the prestige of the United States in Latin America and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States Army.





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT
THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS AWARDED
THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

(FIRST BRONZE OAK LEAF CLUSTER)

TO
CAPTAIN GARRY V. COOPER
Corps of Engineers, United States Army

FOR
Meritorious Service
518th Engineer Company (Combat) Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone
November 1972 to June 1974

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON
THIS 13th DAY OF June 1974

George L. Maby Jr

Major General, USA
Commander, USARSO



Howard H. Callaway
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



By direction of the Secretary of the Army, the Army Commendation Medal (First Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster) is awarded to

CAPTAIN GARRY V. COOPER, USA

for meritorious service as Company Commander of the 518th Engineer Company, Fort Kobbe, Canal Zone, from November 1972 to June 1974.

During this period, Captain Cooper displayed exceptional executive ability, resourcefulness, initiative, and professional leadership, which contributed immeasurably to the consistently high quality of engineer support for the combined arms team of the 193d Infantry Brigade. Throughout his tenure, the Company completed many highly successful projects. These ranged from developing and testing demolition techniques for ditching and renovation of Camp Bayonet training area to construction of a 3,800 foot security fence at Fort Amador. These construction projects were instrumental in saving the Command thousands of dollars in construction monies. His steadfastness in the field of maintenance enabled the Company to keep a consistently high equipment and unit readiness posture in spite of the high vehicle mileage and equipment hours. His excellence in unit administration was exemplified by his unit winning the "Best Unit" streamer among the Brigade separate units two out of three times since initiation of the program. His sound, decisive, professional leadership and expertise were contributing factors to his Company being awarded the Itchner award as the outstanding engineer company in the US Army for 1972. Captain Cooper's outstanding service, unswerving loyalty and devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the 193d Infantry Brigade, and the United States Army.

