



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)



WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com

Volume 7

“A Soldier Once And Always”

June 2017

Commanders Corner: Well, my summer has officially started; the Indy 500 has been completed and I made it through the race without suffering any major injuries to my neck from looking at all the beauties that wander around the track during the month of May. I did manage to lose my cell phone at the race but, luckily, some guy that works for one of the AT&T outlets found it and took it to work and returned it to me. Good thing because, I hadn't backed up my list of phone numbers in a long time. If you haven't backed up your computer or phone numbers lately; do it to save yourself a major hassle if you ever have problems. There are still good people in the world and I'm lucky one of them found my phone. I'm still waiting for a response from the majority of our members as to whether or not they will be attending the Americal reunion in Minneapolis. We seriously need to hear from you so we can judge the size of our hospitality room. As mentioned before it's our election year and we would like to have your input on nominees for the offices of Commander, Vice-commander and Secretary/Treasurer. I hope you all enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend and were able to spend time with your families and friends remembering our fallen comrades and those that made the ultimate sacrifice before them. Once again, I implore you to submit some articles to Rich for the newsletters. I know he always busts his tail trying to find articles of interest to our members but, with your help we can take some of the burden off him by submitting our own stories. God bless America and all of you that served your country when called upon.



Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!

Chuck



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2017 ADVA National Reunion

Bloomington, MN – August 23-27

Attendees will stay at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America hotel at 3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, Minnesota 55425. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Hilton at 952-854-2100 or on the web at <http://group.hilton.com/americaldivisionveteransassociation>. Use the reunion Group Code: ADVA. The reunion room rate is \$114 per day plus 15.25% tax. The group rate will be offered three days before and three days after reunion dates. Call in your room reservation if you plan to use the extended dates or have any problems with the Hilton web site. There is free Hilton shuttle service from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) to the nearby reunion hotel. We have teamed up again with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR). AFR will provide web based reunion registration, pre-selected banquet seating with your friends, and on-site reunion support. You may register for the reunion, tours, and banquet by completing the online form and pay by credit card at afr-reg.com/americal2017. For more details visit the Americal Division Website; Americal.org/reunion, or 2/1 Inf Chapter website; b-2-1-196lib.com/reunion events.

Shane Ladner Convicted of 6 of 7 Charges: The background is fairly simple. Shane Ladner claimed he received a Purple Heart in Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama. After service he got a job as a police officer, and started getting purple heart license plates. A few years ago there was a wounded warrior type hunt in west Texas, and Shane and his wife Meg attended, based on his purple heart. Tragically a train hit a parade float they were riding on, and Meg lost her leg. That's when things got weird. Turns out that Ladner was still in High School during Just Cause. Then he changed his story to say that he was injured in Top Secret counter narcotics missions, although why they would take a 20 year old MP fresh out of basic training made no sense. Because Shane lied on his police applications, and because he got the free license plates, he was charged with a host of charges.

Real generosity is when you do something nice for someone who will never find out.

Honor & Remembrance Headlines: D.C. World War II memorial design approved The memorial will be located on Pennsylvania Avenue at Pershing Park, a 2-acre site one block from the White House.



Wounded Warrior Project Donations Drop \$70 Million: Donations to the Wounded Warrior Project veterans' charity plummeted in the second half of the 2016 fiscal year, down \$70 million, according to newly released financial records. The drop reflects a charity in crisis after last year's uproar that led to the ouster of the top two executives. But Chief Executive Officer Mike Linnington says the sharp decline in donor confidence has leveled out. WWP has a long, slow recovery ahead, he said, but it is no longer in freefall. "We have turned the corner, and donations over the last six months have exceeded the goal we set for ourselves," Linnington told Stars and Stripes, declining to release figures from the last seven months. Without the 2017 figures, it's difficult to assess the fiscal health of the charity. Linnington took the helm at WWP in August, six months after CBS News and The New York Times came out with reports that found lavish spending and a toxic organizational culture. The charity -- founded after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks -- had been growing exponentially for years and offered a myriad of programs for service members. But it came under fire for spending too high of a percentage on fundraising -- a criticism that landed it on the watch list of Charity Navigator, which evaluates nonprofits. That assessment was later debunked by a forensic accounting of WWP's finances, an independent examination by an expert on nonprofits and an investigation by the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance. But with donations in a tailspin over spending perceptions in March 2016, the board fired CEO Steve Nardizzi and Chief Operating Officer Al Giordano. Linnington came in last summer promising to right the ship and quickly announced a reorganization, cutting 85 of 600 employees and trimming excesses in event spending. The charity also cut a few programs and closed facilities in areas with smaller veterans' populations. The goal was to "cut deep, cut once, then restore whatever confidence was lost to quickly build programs," he said. "It was a tough time," Linnington said. "I get a little emotional just thinking about it. Folks were very uncertain."

WWII Veteran, 91, Receives Overdue Medals in Rhode Island: A 91-year-old World War II veteran received his overdue medals. Joseph Aquilante, of North Providence, sought the medals so he could leave them for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He says he wants to pass them on as a keepsake and part of history. Democratic U.S. Sen. Jack Reed presented them in Cranston. Aquilante was drafted in 1944 at age 18. He received the Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, WWII Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Medal, Japan Clasp. Aquilante began talking more about his service later in life when he built a model of the bomber he trained on for his grandson.

Bowe Bergdahl Scheduled for Trial in October: Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl is scheduled for trial in October on charges that he endangered comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan, according to a new timetable set after several delays in the case. The judge, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, said at a pretrial hearing that he intends to start jury selection and begin the trial in earnest on Oct. 23. Both prosecutors and defense lawyers indicated the timing worked for them, and the dates were added to the Army's electronic docket. Bergdahl walked off his post in Afghanistan in 2009 and was subsequently held by the Taliban and its allies for about five years. Three previous trial dates have been scratched largely because of the pace at which classified material has been handed over to the defense. "I'm getting a little gun-shy about setting trial dates," Nance joked. The military recently set up computers that allow the defense to access sensitive material, and defense lawyers expect to take several more months to complete their review of thousands of documents. One of the prosecutors, Maj. Justin Oshana, said he was glad to have a new trial date in place because of the logistics of arranging travel and lodging for a large pool of potential military jurors and witnesses -- potentially 100 or more people combined. Nance has agreed to give the defense wide leeway to question potential jurors for any signs of bias due to repeated criticism of Bergdahl. Nance rejected a motion to throw the case out because of the criticism and the defense has an appeal pending before a higher court. Other evidence discussed included debate over access to investigative reports of a mission the military undertook to find Bergdahl and target a Taliban leader, as well as video of Bergdahl in captivity that hasn't been seen publicly. Bergdahl's trial on charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy had been scheduled for April. The misbehavior charge carries a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Heather Wilson Confirmed as New Air Force Secretary: The U.S. Senate voted recently to confirm Heather Wilson, a former congresswoman and Air Force Academy graduate, to be the next Air Force secretary and first service secretary to serve in the Trump administration. Wilson will replace acting secretary Lisa Disbrow, who has been filling in since Deborah Lee James vacated the position in January. Wilson's confirmation comes days after President Donald Trump's second pick for Army secretary withdrew from consideration. Mark Green saw growing opposition in the last few weeks from Democrats who became worried his personal views wouldn't bode well for soldiers or potential recruits. During the review process, the decorated West Point graduate came under fire for past unfavorable comments about the LGBTQ community and Muslims. Trump's first Army secretary nominee, Vincent Viola, and Navy secretary nominee Philip Bilden withdrew from consideration, citing business and financial concerns. Wilson received relatively little pushback; the Senate Armed Services Committee advanced her confirmation. During Wilson's committee hearing, Democratic Senators made a point to register disapproval of Wilson's work for Sandia Corp., a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corp. that runs Sandia National Laboratories, after she served in Congress. Wilson, a Republican, served as a representative from New Mexico from 1998 to 2009. She later worked at Sandia and most recently served as president of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Wilson was questioned whether she had evidence of her work for the government-owned lab, which assembles and constructs parts for nuclear weapons, with the senators hinting she might have been paid simply to lobby for the subsidiary in contract negotiations.

"SAD IS AN NATION WHO HAS NO HEROES - PITIFUL IS AN NATION WHO HAS HEROES BUT FORGETS THEM"
John F Kennedy

Band of Brothers: 3 Siblings Graduating from West Point: Brothers Noah, Sumner and Cole Ogrydziak entered West Point's grueling world of 6:30 a.m. reveille, 60-pound packs and rigorous course loads on the same day four years ago. The three cadets are now preparing to fling their caps together at graduation this month, marking a rare fraternal trifecta at this storied academy. The band of brothers from Nederland, Texas, will graduate with the U.S. Military Academy's Class of 2017 on May 27. The first duty stations for the future Army officers are still being worked out, but it's clear to the brothers that their years of being just a short march from one another are numbered. "It's kind of surreal to think that, 'Hey, all three of us actually made it here and we're kind of living our dreams, doing what we want to do,'" Sumner said. "And soon enough ... we'll be going off to our own separate duty stations." Cole and Sumner are 21-year-old twins. They are not identical but share the steady posture, close-cropped hair and old-school courtesy common among cadets. Older brother Noah just turned 23 and spent a year at West Point's prep school before entering the academy along with the twins on July 1, 2013. Cole compares their West Point experience to having "automatic friends." They got used to snowy northeastern winters together, learned how to stand in formation and maneuver in the field. They share the nickname "O.G.," which is easier for fellow cadets to say than Ogrydziak (pronounced oh-GREE'-zee-ak). But the Ogrydziaks are in different regiments and take different classes. They are three in a sea of 4,400 gray-clad cadets walking briskly among the imposing stone buildings here. Brotherly connections come when Cole asks Noah for help with a computer course or they share a pizza on the weekend.

Coast Guard Unloads \$500M in Cocaine from 20 Seizures: The U.S. Coast Guard unloaded cocaine in South Florida worth nearly \$500 million from 20 separate seizures in the eastern Pacific Ocean. Coast Guard officials said in a news release Thursday the seizures totaled about 18.5 tons (about 18.8 metric tons) of cocaine. The recently seized drugs were brought to Port Everglades by the cutter Hamilton. Authorities say the cocaine was intercepted along the Central and South American coasts by Coast Guard cutters and a Royal Canadian Navy ship sailing with a Coast Guard team aboard. The eastern Pacific is a prime smuggling route for cocaine headed to Mexico, where it is typically brought into the U.S. Numerous suspected smugglers are being prosecuted by U.S. attorneys in California, along the East Coast and elsewhere as a result of the operations.

Times Square Driver Says He Sought Mental Help at Veteran's Center: A man accused of mowing down pedestrians in Times Square, killing a teenage tourist and injuring 22 others, said he had been trying to get psychiatric help. In a jail-house interview, Richard Rojas told a New York reporter that he recently spoke to a mental health counselor at a local veteran's center but they never got back to him. "I was trying to get help," Rojas told the newspaper from Rikers Island. "I wanted to fix my life. I wanted to get a job. Get a girlfriend." Rojas, who lived with his mother in the Bronx, drove his car through Times Square, then made a U-turn and steered his car onto a sidewalk, plowing through helpless tourists for three blocks before crashing into protective barriers, police said. After he was detained, he said he wanted to "kill them all" and that police should have shot him. They said Rojas also admitted to smoking marijuana laced with PCP sometime before the crash. "I just want to apologize to all the victims' families ... I want to apologize to my mom," Rojas said tearfully during the interview. "The last thing I remember is driving in my car," Rojas recalled. "Then, I woke up in the precinct ... I was terrified."

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Army to Hold Steady on Force Size, Prioritize Missile Defense: The service has requested a total budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 of \$166 billion, an increase of about \$15 billion, or 10 percent, from the recently enacted fiscal 2017 spending plan, according of \$137 billion and a war budget into a budget overview released by the Pentagon. That topline figures includes a base budget of \$29 billion for overseas contingency operations, or OCO. Excluding revolving funds, the budget line with the biggest percentage increase year-over-year was military construction, at 44 percent; followed by research and development, 25 percent; operation and maintenance, 13 percent; family housing, 10 percent; procurement, 7 percent; and personnel, 4 percent. The spending plan "takes important steps to improve readiness and close some vulnerability gaps while supporting the groundwork for a future force ready to face the changing threats of tomorrow," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Horlander, director of Army budget. "The recently enacted fiscal 2017 budget and this fiscal 2018 request are consistent with this administration's goals for the U.S. Army to rebuild readiness, reverse end-strength reduction and prepare for future challenges," he added. The budget continues to support the increased end-strength of all components mandated in the fiscal 2017 National Defense Authorization Act, including the move to increase the active force from a previous target of 450,000 to 476,000 in fiscal 2017.

More Delays in Congress on Proposal to Have Women Register For Draft: The controversial proposal to have women register for Selective Service has gone nowhere in Congress thus far and now has been referred to a commission for more study. "We have appointed a commission to look at this," Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Tex.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said in response to a question on the status of women and the draft. "We'll see what they have to say," Thornberry said, but he gave no timeline for the study to be completed and no indication whether Congress would be prepared to act when the commission files a report. "The message is we need to step back and assess" whether the Selective Service system was needed at all in the era of the all-volunteer force before deciding whether to have women register, Thornberry said. The draft ended on Jan. 27, 1973, as the Vietnam war was winding down but the Selective Service System remained in place. Currently, women do not have to register for the draft but men between the ages of 18-26 are required to. In the past, opponents of having women register have pointed to a 1981 Supreme Court decision ruling that women were exempt from the draft since they did not serve on the front lines. The issue came into play again when former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter in late 2015 directed that all combat positions in the military be opened to women. Last year the Senate voted 85-13 to include a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act to lift the draft exemption for women.

Guardsmen Playing Larger Role in Domestic Drug Raids: In addition to playing a larger role in the Army's operational force, the National Guard is ramping up efforts to counter illegal drugs across the country. "The Guard has had a great program to eradicate marijuana in the remote hills of Appalachia where apparently it's a great climate for the growth of marijuana," he said. "They had eradicated 13 million marijuana plants; they have seized tons of marijuana, illegal weapons and so forth all to the tune of \$25 billion." Despite a grassroots effort to legalize marijuana, illegal marijuana in Kentucky is grown under high-tension electric wires, Rogers said, describing how the practice makes it difficult to prove who owns it and also hinders helicopter access because of the power lines. Rogers then asked General Joseph L. Lengyel, chief of the National Guard Bureau, "do you see that continuing and what can we do to help you see that?" Lengyel asked the committee for the \$234 million the Guard recently received for the counter-drug program. The funding helps the Guard work with law enforcement to "detect, disrupt and curtail illegal drug activities in every state," Lengyel said. "I consider the counter-drug program a huge part of the homeland security mission and homeland support mission that we do," Lengyel told lawmakers. "I think as you look across the nation, every state's program is individually tailored for the requirements that they have inside their state." The Guard relies on the Threat-Based Resource Model to decide how much money each state receives for its counter-drug needs, Lengyel said, who added that "states use those funds and develops their own plan ... so I want to continue to support that." The \$234 million "has not only facilitated a robust liaison with law enforcement, the ... additional schools that it funded has allowed us to build additional capacity to fight this this drug issue whether it is marijuana or opioids or heroin or synthetics," Lengyel said. "And we all know that significant toll that it has taken on our nation." Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio, asked Lengyel "Are you starting to make a distinction in prioritization in opiates versus marijuana? Lengyel conceded that "because of the rise and the devastating effects of the opiate piece, it had to take on a more important role in the Threat-Base Resource Model ... and we are going to apply the right authority response."

Vietnam War Vets Have Their Day: President Trump signed a proclamation into law that officially designates March 29 an annual national day of recognition for veterans of the Vietnam War. It recognizes the day in 1973, when the bulk of U.S. troops left South Vietnam and Hanoi released the remaining U.S. POW's. "This makes it official, which pleases veteran organizations. Vietnam War veterans deserve to be recognized with their own official day," said Carlos Fuentes, director of VFW's National Legislative Service. Public Law 115-15 – The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 – encourages citizens, businesses and other institutions to display the U.S. flag on March 29, Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN.) and Sen. Pat Toomey (Rep-Pa.) co-authored the legislation. According to statistics compiled by VFW magazine: 3,403,000 personnel (including 514,000 offshore) served in the Southeast Asia Theater, which included Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters. 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam from Jan. 1, 1965 to March 28, 1973. 303,704 personnel were wounded. 47,418 personnel died of hostile causes. 10,811 personnel died of non-hostile causes. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, as of March 29, a total of 1,580 U.S. military personnel are still unaccounted for from the war. (VFW magazine June/July 2017)

VFW Blasts Proposed GI Bill Enrollment Fee as 'Tax on Troops': The Veterans of Foreign Wars ripped the House Veterans Affairs Committee Tuesday for considering a proposal to slap troops with a so-called "enrollment fee" for access to GI Bill education benefits. "This new tax on troops is absurd," Brian Duffy, National Commander of the 1.7 million-member vets group, said in a release. "Ensuring veterans are able to successfully transition back to civilian life after military service is a cost of war, and not a fee that Congress can just pass along to our troops." In a statement, the committee didn't directly respond to the VFW charges but said that changes to the GI Bill and to benefits for survivors and spouses would be among a number of proposals considered next week at a hearing. The proposal on a fee for access to the GI Bill was first reported by Task & Purpose. Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), the committee's chairman, and other members welcomed feedback from witnesses and veterans service organizations "on whether all, some or none of the proposals under consideration advance through the Committee," the statement said. Prior to 2008, service members had the option of paying into the Montgomery GI Bill, an educational benefit created during peacetime that came with a \$1,200 non-reimbursable enrollment fee. The Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, or GI Bill, signed into law by President George W. Bush included funding to pay 100 percent of a public four-year undergraduate education to a veteran who had served three years on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001. The act also provided the ability for the veteran to transfer benefits to a spouse or children after serving (or agreeing to serve) ten years. The VFW charged that the proposal under consideration by the House committee would impose out-of-pocket fees on troops that could amount to \$2,400 for access to GI Bill benefits.

North Korean Threat: Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned Congress that North Korea is unlikely to negotiate away its nuclear weapons. "North Korea is an increasingly grave national security threat to the United States because of its growing missile and nuclear capabilities combined with the aggressive approach of its leader, Kim Jong Un," he told the Senate Intelligence Committee. "Kim is attempting to prove he has the capability to strike the U.S. mainland with a nuclear weapon."

Army: Change to Burial Eligibility Would Expand Life of Arlington: Extending the lifetime of Arlington National Cemetery will likely require further restrictions on which service members and veterans are eligible for burial there, the Army reported to Congress. Tightening the eligibility requirements is one of the options that the Army outlined in the report, asking Congress, veterans organizations and the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs for urgency in making decisions about changes to eligibility or the size of the cemetery. Arlington is expected to reach capacity in about three decades if nothing changes, meaning most veterans from recent wars wouldn't have the option to be buried there. The truth is that ANC is running out of space. ANC and those it exists to serve must... confront the reality that, at some point in the near future, the cemetery will no longer continue to operate as it does today." The Army, which manages the cemetery, has warned of space issues for years. Demand at Arlington is higher than at the 135 national cemeteries managed by the VA. Approximately 400,000 people are buried at Arlington, and it conducts about 7,000 funeral services each year. Even with the opening of a 27-acre expansion this fall, the cemetery is expected to reach capacity in the early 2040s. The cemetery now inters approximately 200 service members killed in action or on active duty each year, and fewer than 800 service members have received the Medal of Honor since World War II.

Operation Attleboro:
The 196th's Light Infantry Brigade Baptism By Fire in the Vietnam War:
Part three & the end of the series:

During the next 12 hours, Meloy ordered a night attack by C/2/1, commanded by Captain James P. Thompson, followed by a daylight attack by A/2/27, commanded by Captain Foley, in a continued attempt to rescue C/2/27. After a heavy engagement during the night attack, a crippled C/2/1 withdrew to the rear and took over security of the LZ from A/2/27. The next day, A/2/27 was given the mission of rescuing its sister company, C/2/27.

Higher headquarters had begun working on a new tactical plan to re-establish control over the rifle companies that had lost their way while maneuvering in the dense jungle. The priority from now on would be to consolidate and regain control over the fighting elements. The latest plan would eliminate separate companies moving through the thick underbrush, trying to reach ill-defined objectives, piecemeal deployment of maneuver units, and the unmanageable span of control that had been given to Major Meloy. The regrouping of forces and the final attack of this phase of Attleboro was to be under the command of the commanding general of the 1st Division, Maj. Gen. William De Puy.

During the early hours of November 5, evacuation of the wounded was given priority. As daylight came, the fire-fight resumed. At 0745, Captain Foley's A/2/27 moved out to the east, then north and then west to relieve the pressure on C/2/27. After moving 30 meters, the lead elements came under heavy fire and suffered eight casualties. The company laid down a base of fire and overran three bunkers, but could not breach the VC position. It was one of the most intense firefights during Attleboro. The fighting spirit of the troops was personified by Captain Foley and Sergeant (then Pfc) Baker of A/2/27, both of whom later received the Medal of Honor for their actions. Captain Foley's citation read in part, 'despite his painful wounds he refused medical aid...and...led an assault on several enemy gun emplacements and single handedly destroyed three such positions.' Sergeant Baker's citation read in part, 'as he returned to evacuate another soldier, he was taken under fire by snipers, but raced beyond the friendly troops to attack and kill the snipers.'

Meanwhile, to the east of this engagement, the commanders of A/2/1, A/4/31 and B/1/27, who earlier were supposed to establish a blocking position and then were told to move west and be prepared to assist the 1/27, were ordered to withdraw and establish a perimeter approximately 1000 meters to the southeast of the action. Captain Garrett, the B/1/27 company commander, did not withdraw, based on his own assessment of the situation. Together with A/2/1 and A/4/31, Garrett helped form an ad hoc task force with the commander of the 4/31 to go to the rescue of C/2/27.

By 0830, A/2/1, A/4/31, and B/1/27 had reached a position 1,000 meters to the northeast of 1/27's position. Ordered by Meloy to attack to the southwest to assist the 1/27 and C/2/27, the three companies moved abreast on different axes while coordinating their movements with one another. Sometime before 1000, the commanding general of the 196th made formal what had been a de facto arrangement by putting these companies under the command of the commanding officer of the 1/27. This gave Meloy command of 11 rifle companies. By 1200, B/1/27 had reached the 1/27's defensive perimeter after sustaining only one casualty. At about the same time, A/2/1 and A/4/31 had finally reached C/2/27 and were ordered to prepare to withdraw to the 1/27 perimeter.

At 0930, Major Henry R. Shelton, Colonel Barrott's replacement and the new commander of the 2/27th Infantry, arrived by helicopter from Cu Chi. He joined the operations officer of the 2/27 at Major Meloy's forward CP. By mutual agreement, Shelton immediately assumed control of A/2/27; he would assume control of B/2/27 as soon as they arrived by helicopter later that day and would assume control of C/2/27 when survivors returned to the perimeter. This plan would gradually relieve Major Meloy of his unprecedented span of control. Major Shelton's first concerns were to reassess the gallant but costly daylight attack of A/2/27, which had become bogged down. In Shelton's judgment, the spirited attack against prepared positions was doomed to fail because C/2/27's exact position and the actual maneuvers of A/2/1, A/4/31 and B/1/27 were all unknown. Given this situation, there could be no direct fire support. Even though the attack by A/2/27 had stopped, the company was still taking additional casualties trying to recover dead comrades-in-arms.

The fighting to the east broke out again. The three companies, now under the operational control of the 1/27, were then ordered to withdraw with the survivors of C/2/27 to the north, west and then south to rejoin the main body. They carried out six dead and 19 wounded from C/2/27 alone. The survivors of C/2/27 were consolidated with B/1/27, which was assembled at an LZ south of the 1/27 perimeter. Captain Story was ordered to take command of C/2/27. The reconstituted 2/27, under the command of Major Shelton, was attached to the 1st Infantry Division that afternoon and ordered to airlift to Dau Tieng (about 1800) and secure the 1st Division's forward CP for the night of November 5. This was part of a new plan devised by the commanding general of the 1st Division. All forces were to be disengaged and withdrawn, and intensive artillery fire and air bombardment were then to be placed on the VC positions for the next 24 hours.

The commanding officer of the 3/21, Colonel Nulsen, who was at the Tay Ninh base camp, was alerted to have his battalion ready for air movement into the objective area. The 1/27 was given the mission of airlifting to and securing the Tay Ninh base camp that had been vacated by the 3/21. The 3/21 was airlifted into the area and closed about 1130. After coordination with the other 196th battalion commanders (the 2/1 and 4/31), the 3/21 commander established a defensive perimeter for the night. The orders for the next day's operation were: after intensive air and artillery preparations, the 3/21 would advance to the east and take the ground where the VC had their defensive positions. The battalion would hold that objective and evacuate the casualties that had been left in place overnight. One of the bodies yet to be recovered from within the VC defensive position was that of Colonel Barrott. The other two battalions would remain in reserve, prepared to help the 3/21 if needed.

The 3/21 crossed the line of departure at 1200, November 6, with A/3/21, commanded by Captain Emil 'Chuck' Gregg, leading. B Company, 3/21, was next in line, followed by the battalion command group. C Company, 3/21, which was still commanded by Captain DeVries, was placed in reserve because of its previous heavy combat engagements with the 1/27. The attack was preceded by one of the heaviest concentrated artillery and air bombardments of the war to date. It would have been a miracle if anything or anyone had survived that much punishment. To evacuate the dead and wounded, B and C companies were each given about a dozen medical field stretchers. Once the objective had been secured by A Company, one platoon from each of the other two companies was to come forward and evacuate the dead and wounded of the 2/27 and 1/27.

After the 3/21 captured the objective and the dead of the 2/27 and 1/27 (21 in all) were evacuated, the battalion commander walked throughout the position observing the details of the bunkers and fire lanes. To his surprise, he discovered that the VC position was strung out laterally for about 200 meters and had very little depth to it. That is why Colonel Barrott had been able to come within 100 meters of the 1/27 line before he was killed. About 1530, the 3/21 was ordered to withdraw and was given another mission for the next day, November 7—to attack north along the tree line from present locations. The 2/1 and 4/31 were also assigned other missions. This was the last major combat action for the 196th during Attleboro. In Phase II, the 1st and 25th divisions and a Special Forces-controlled Mike Force continued to be active around the Tay Ninh-Suoi Da area. The 173rd Airborne Brigade was deployed to Minh Thanh, 20 kilometers northeast of Dau Tieng. II Field Force Vietnam took control of the operation on November 6, 1966, and declared an end of the operation on November 24, 1966.

Operation Attleboro exposed the lack of clear understanding by some senior commanders of how to best use American troops to fight an elusive and determined guerrilla force in the jungle. Complicated maneuvers by company-size units in the heavy underbrush of the jungle were not successful. Radio and ground communications between commanders were neither well planned nor properly tested. Piecemeal commitments of forces were made seemingly without rhyme or reason. The principle of span of control was violated by giving one battalion commander command over a brigade-size force of 11 rifle companies on an ad hoc basis. And finally, the American units lacked adequate, timely intelligence on the VC and NVA units in the area of operation.

In spite of these tactical weaknesses, Operation Attleboro and its follow-on operations, Cedar Falls and Junction City, dealt the VC and North Vietnamese Army a blow from which they would not fully recover until the 1968 Tet Offensive. What began as a 196th LIB combat warm-up exercise ended in a massive corps engagement, supported by 22,000 troops, 12,000 tons of tactical air support, 35,000 artillery rounds and 11 B-52 strikes. The VC left 1,106 dead on the battlefield and had 44 captured. Friendly losses were 155 killed and 494 wounded.