



Two battalions of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment campaigned in Vietnam – The 2nd (1966 - 1970) and the 4th (1967 - 1971). The 4th Battalion was activated at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii on 1 July 1966 as part of the 11th Light Infantry Brigade. The unit conducted intensive infantry unit and air mobility training exercises throughout the Hawaiian Island chain, culminating in a combined Army/Navy landing assault on Molaki. The 4th deployed by sea on 6 December 1967, arriving in Vietnam on 19 December 1967. The battalion was assigned to the Americal (23rd Infantry) Division in the I Corps Tactical Zone under the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force (MAF).

Engaged in continuous combat operations for almost four years, the 4th participated in actions with the 11th, 196th and 198th Light Infantry Brigades, the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and units of the U.S. Marine Corps. At the conclusion of the 4th's Vietnam campaigns, it was deactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington on 30 November 1971.

For Vietnam service, the Battalion earned 11 campaign honors and four Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citations. Recon Platoon (E Company) received the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation, the nation's highest unit award. 1Lt. Donald B. Montgomery (Recon Platoon Leader) was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Military's second highest award for valor.

1Lt. Montgomery's and Recon Platoon's citations resulted from their actions in Quang Ngai province on 6-7 September

1968. On the 6th 1Lt. Montgomery and the 26 men of Recon Platoon were patrolling north of the Song Tra Khuc River. As they neared the hamlet of Phuoc Loc they were heavily engaged in exposed positions by an entrenched enemy force of battalion strength. Vastly outnumbered and suffering heavy casualties, the men of the platoon managed to return fire, protect their wounded and direct air and artillery strikes on the enemy. Cut off and faced with destruction, the platoon was able to resist until reached by the daring night advance of A and B Companies which forced the enemy to disengage. 1Lt. Montgomery's valiant attempts to organize his force, counter the enemy and retrieve his dead and wounded only ceased when he lost consciousness due to his wounds. Their actions were credited with rendering the opposing force ineffective and thus thwarting an offensive on Quang Ngai City.

In places such as: LZ Buff(Stinson), LZ Dottie, The Horseshoe, Happy Valley, Hiep Duc Valley, LZ Iceberg, Pinkville, Que Son Valley, The Rice Bowl, The Rocket Pockets, San Juan Hill, Sniper Alley, LZ Uptight, and many others, the 4th fought on against a determined and ruthless enemy. In the face of this and a divided country at home, these Old Guard soldiers nevertheless served their nation with individual courage, honor and distinction in the finest traditions of the Regiment and the U.S. Army. In so doing, 281 American soldiers paid the ultimate price and many more hundreds were wounded. Their personal sacrifices and those of their families and loved ones in service to their country should not be forgotten.

