

Hanks Sweeps "Soldier of the Month" Awards for May

Pfc William L. Hanks of Co. A, 70th Engr. Bn (cst) took all honors for May as the "Soldier of the Month". The 70th Battalion competition was held at Co. B on May 15 with a representative from each company participating. Contestants were quizzed on their knowledge of UCMJ, first aid, map reading, current events, and other military-related subjects. When the final results were in Hanks had won the Battalion award. Next in line was the 35th Group "Soldier of the Month" board at Cam Ranh Bay.

"I was in better form at Group because I had been through the Battalion board and had a more complete idea of what to expect". The 35th Group board, composed entirely of E-9's, again awarded Hanks the top honors selecting the 70th representative over the other four battalions in the Group. Victory at the Group level allowed Pfc Hanks to travel to the Brigade competition.

The "Soldier of the Month" Board for the 18th Engr. Brigade was made up of the Command Sergeant Majors the the Brigade's three Groups plus the Command Sergeant Major of the Brigade. The Brigade contest gave Hanks a chance to see more of Viet Nam than he had ever seen before. "During the five months I've been over here my travels have been restricted to Ban Me Thuet. Going to the Brigade Board was at Phu Bai was quite a trip and included a five hour stopover at Da Nang Air Base". The trip to Phu Bai was climaxed by Hanks' winning the title "Soldier of the Month" for the 18th Engr. Brigade. After having been absent from Co. A for 11 days Hanks returned "home" on May 31. For his three victories he received a new watch, \$75.00 in savings bonds, three 3 day in-country R&R's and a promotion to Sp/4. In addition the battalion, group, and brigade commanders each personally congratulated Pfc Hanks on his clean sweep of the awards.