

The Bridge

On one of our many trips to the field at Fort Campbell, we were out with the engineers. They were installing a bridge across a ravine and had completed installing it.

We were monitoring their communications as good COMSEC people do. They were doing a lot of chattering and not using any authentication. Lt. Collins was our OIC at the time. He sat there and listened to the chatter, then, picked up a mike and using one of the call signs that hadn't been used for some time, went into the net and established contact. I believe he did some chattering and advised them that he had just received word that the inspection of the bridge would not take place the next day as scheduled. They were to tear down the bridge and return to main camp. This seemed to have been done with great joy by the engineers.

When the General arrived the next day there was no bridge to inspect.

A few days later at the debriefing of the field exercise, it was not a pretty sight. We were not on the best of terms with the engineers. However, there was not much they could do to us.

The next time the engineers went to the field. They didn't want us to go with them, but we did. There was very little communications, and extreme authentication and proper procedures were followed.

Of course it did not help that we were not an airborne unit. But we still were part of their everyday life.

At times COMSEC was fun.

Doug Barchus.