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DA NANG, Vietnam AP - A high-ranking U.S. officer repeated today an official U.S. command denial that U.S. infantrymen balked for a time at taking to the field when ordered.

The officer said of the reported incident Wednesday: "When the order was given by their sergeant, there was not a single hesitation on anybody's part to get aboard those trucks and move."

The officer said he got his information from the commander of the battalion some of whose men, newsmen reported, had balked initially at going into the field because they feared enemy booby traps and possible overwhelming attacks.

The U.S. officer in making the new denial said he could not let his name be used because of standing orders on such things from the U.S. Command in Saigon.

Newsmen who said they witnessed the incident said men from one U.S. company when ordered to move into the field outside Phu Bai, 60 miles south of the demilitarized zone, had to be persuaded over nearly an hour before they boarded their trucks. One platoon of about 45 men held even longer, the newsmen said.

The senior officer seemed to confirm that some sort of difficulty had existed, but said: "There was no refusal. The reporters who made that kind of story did it by agitating a bunch of kids, many of whom had never seen combat."

He said fear was instilled by some of the questions asked by newsmen. These included questions dealing with mines, booby traps and the possibility of attack in the area the men were ordered to, he indicated.

There were no mines or booby traps and there were no casualties among the men sent there, the officer said.

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