
Charged with escorting Negro James H. Meredith to the University of Mississippi campus, the marshals began deplaning here in force by mid-afternoon at University Airport. They quickly boarded vehicles for the encampment prepared by men of the 70th Engineer Battalion from Ft. Campbell, Ky. Others were leaving the Memphis Naval Air Station by cars and busses.

Maj. William V. Koch, information officer for the battalion, said that 25 paratroopers were attached temporarily to the engineers. He emphasized that the paratroopers had been detached from airborne duty and assigned as individuals to perform specific functions required by the engineers. The major, a paratrooper himself, cited his position as information officer as an example. Commander of the unit is Maj. Ralph S. Kristoferson of Pittsfield, N. H.

"We have no mission in regard to Mr. Meredith's admission to the University or in the maintenance of law and order," Maj. Koch said.

"Our assigned mission is the erection of a tent city for use by federal marshals — if required. If they are moved in, we are here to provide logistical support for feeding, housing, and medical care.

Fifty vehicles were in the caravan which brought the battalion from Memphis to the National Forest. Included were command cars, jeeps, trucks, water and gas trailers, and command vehicles. Fifteen tents had been raised by noon and preparations were underway for others; each tent