

The Observer

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SAIGON, VIETNAM

Aug. 14, 1965

Pilot Makes Jet Bomb Run With Crippled Craft, Ditches In Sea

Tan Son Nhut (CIB)— Recently, four U.S. Air Force F-100s screamed off the runway at Tan Son Nhut Airbase and nosed southwest towards Ca Mau, about 100 miles from Saigon.

The Government of the Republic of Vietnam had requested an air strike. Intelligence reported the location of a Viet Cong village and the Supersabres were to smash it.

For USAF Capt. John F. Parker, this was another mission like several he had been on, but the outcome would be something long in forgetting.

When the village was

sighted, the jets went in for a low-level pass. Parker flew tail in a flight of four. The first passes were napalm drops.

As Parker approached the target, he heard several thumps but gave no notice. Coming out of his dive, he saw the flight control system failure light was on.

He called to the flight leader and reported a sys-

tems failure. The controls felt sluggish. The flight leader told him he was streaming fluid from his right wing.

"It was evident I had to head towards the South China Sea," said Parker, "But I chose to make another pass to drop the rest of the napalm."

A second pass over the target and... "I dropped the napalm," he continued, "and left three shacks burning then headed for the Sea. By this time my radio was out."

"I glanced back and saw fluid streaming out. The wing was hot because it was scorched black on top."

"Then the fire broke out. It looked like a blow torch was being applied to the wing, cutting it in half."

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Air Conditioned Helmets Tested For Vietnam Pilots

Washington, (AFPS)— The Army is seeking greater safety and comfort for aircraft pilots and crew members. Research and development of an "air conditioned" flight helmet is included.

Officials are working at Natick Laboratories, Mass., perfecting a safer flight helmet, more flexible and comfortable body armor and a cold weather boot that lets pilots feel the foot controls. Natick is an Army Materiel Command field agency.

Creation of the new 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) with some 400 helicopters has focussed attention on the Army's increased safety and comfort needs.

Progress has been made on a new nylon helmet protecting wearers against small arms fire and shrapnel, officials disclosed, and research is continuing on an unbreakable, shatter-proof visor completing the assembly.

Improvements are also being made in body armor and cold weather boot research is continuing, an official said.

Crewmen in Vietnam have asked for a cooler flight helmet, but officials say the solution is not readily at hand. Methods being

studied include forcing outside air through the helmet and installing battery or electrical cooling units.



DRAINING LAST DROP— A U.S. Army OV-1 Mohawk of the 1st Cavalry Division has the last drop of aircraft fuel drained from its tanks as part of preparation for movement with the Division to Vietnam. Before it is ready to go, the aircraft must undergo an intensive preparation and preservation process.



TAKE-OFF— USAF Capt. John F. Parker boards an F-100 Supersabre for another mission. Parker was flying a similar craft when shot down 100 miles southwest of Saigon.

1st Cavalry Div. Prepares For Vietnam Deployment

Washington (ANF)— In firm tones on July 28, President Lyndon B. Johnson said, "I have today ordered to Vietnam the Air Mobile Division..."

Six hundred miles to the south, at Ft. Benning Ga., the officers and men of the Army's new 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) turned from television screens and radio sets and began in earnest the massive job of moving to Vietnam.

Just 27 days earlier, the division officially joined the Army's troop list. It is a direct descendant of the now disbanded 11th Air Assault Division (Test), the unit created in 1963 to develop and evaluate the principles of Army airmobility.

The gigantic task began. CONEX containers and corrugated cartons are packed and placed on the ready line for shipment. During processing a complete check is made of each man's records, ID cards, personal affairs and — the most painful part — shots.

U.S. Army troopers, civilian personnel of the U.S. Navy and civilian contractors combine their know-how to ready the aircraft for the long trip. Engines, fuel tanks and other equipment are treated with preservatives. Aircraft are

(Continued on page 7)

DATELINE VIETNAM VC Lose 844

Saigon (CIB) — Communist ranks continued to thin during the week ending Aug. 7, as the Viet Cong lost some 844 of their number, a U.S. military spokesman announced.

Friendly troops killed 525 of the communists on the battlefields and captured another 60 during the week, while 259 VC military personnel rallied to the Government cause through the Chieu Hoi "Open Arms" program.

Meanwhile, government forces lost 265 killed and 100 missing in action, which maintained the friendly forces' favorable kill ratio over the VC at 2-to-1, the spokesman said.

American combat losses for the week totalled 2 killed, 26 wounded and two missing in action or captured.

Operations

Saigon (CIB) — U.S. and Vietnamese armed forces moved out on more large ground operations last week than they did the previous week, and more of these

(Continued on page 8)

EDITORIAL

Shutterbug Courtesy

We Americans cherish our Constitutional Rights, such as our right to privacy. Yet, today, throughout Vietnam, U.S. servicemen are invading the privacy of Vietnamese citizens.

Vietnamese citizens downtown shopping, visiting, or sightseeing are constantly being captured on the film of American shutterbugs. No one is immune to the clicking shutters — especially not the graceful Vietnamese women.

The vigor with which these wandering photographers record their visit to the orient is commendable, but their lack of consideration toward the Vietnamese who is being so indiscriminately photographed is deplorable.

A little more consideration for Vietnamese desires should be shown by our servicemen when snapping pictures in public places.

It doesn't take much effort to ask permission to photograph a person. Just hold up your camera, and if a Vietnamese doesn't want to be photographed, he will let you know. If he doesn't mind, he will more than likely be a willing and ideal subject.

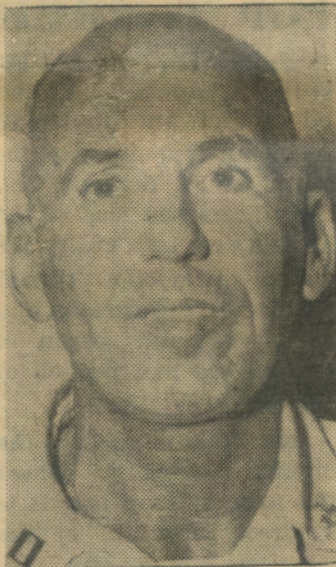
Most people like to have a copy of any picture of themselves. The Vietnamese are no different. If you photograph a Vietnamese, offer to obtain a copy for them. They will appreciate it, you will have your picture, and your mutual respect and understanding will be all the better for it. (CIB)

Man With A Mission

Cholon (CIB) — One man in Vietnam who holds down a "million dollar job," is Navy Lt. Gerry H. Young, disbursing officer at Headquarters Support Activity, Saigon (HSAS).

Through the HSAS Disbursing Office passes funds necessary to pay most of all American, Korean, Australian, Philippine and New Zealand personnel. "This office handles millions of dollars monthly because we also pay all the commercial bills," said Young.

Young, who had once been a Stores Officer ordering parts to repair Navy destroyers, was asked how it felt dealing with all the money, he said, "It's just like handling nuts and bolts!"



YOUNG

The Observer

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C. G. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland
Info. Off. Col. B. W. Legare
Ch., C. I. B. Lt. Col. C. D. Regelin

STAFF

EDITOR MSgt. Glenn E. Catt
ASS'T EDITOR JOI J. V. Dorman Jr.
FIELD CORRESPONDENT. SFC Carlton R. Brown Jr.
REPORTER. Sp5 Lee Antonello

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w/v

(Posthumous)

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BRONZE STAR MEDAL

w/v

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BRONZE STAR MEDAL

(Posthumous)

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BRONZE STAR MEDAL

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Sp4 Richard J. Tracy
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PFC Vincent R. Benedict
PFC Harvey R. Seyfried
PFC Allan K. Washburn

First-Class Citizens

I believe, as I have often said, that our country justly must and safely can accord to our American military men a place in our society long denied to soldiers throughout our history. I very much want our uniformed citizens to be first-class citizens in every respect, and I want their wives and their children to know only first-class lives.

I have in this regard directed the Secretary of Defense to speed up his present review of such matters as housing and medical care, pay and allowances, so that we can at the earliest possible moment take whatever steps both human equity and national defense may require to enhance the standing and the morale of those who defend us.

President Lyndon B. Johnson



Religious Contentment

By Chaplain (Capt) Virgil A. Ganz

Whether we like it or not this world we live in is as changeable as the weather about us. Some days everything goes just fine; our desires are satisfied. Then days present themselves during which nothing or very little pleases us. Consequently, man's emotional system can easily become like a roller-coaster. We very easily can be up or we can be down in how we feel about each day we live.

This condition perhaps is more true for the serviceman living under combat conditions. Such things as loneliness, living conditions, duty conditions, food and hostile fire tend to influence our outlook on life. Life in general in a combat zone is not the ideal as man desires it.

Thus we must adjust ourselves to the situation in order to live in this world. We can drift and be worldly, rebel and be bitter, jump out the window and quit, or adjust ourselves to our environment and be content.

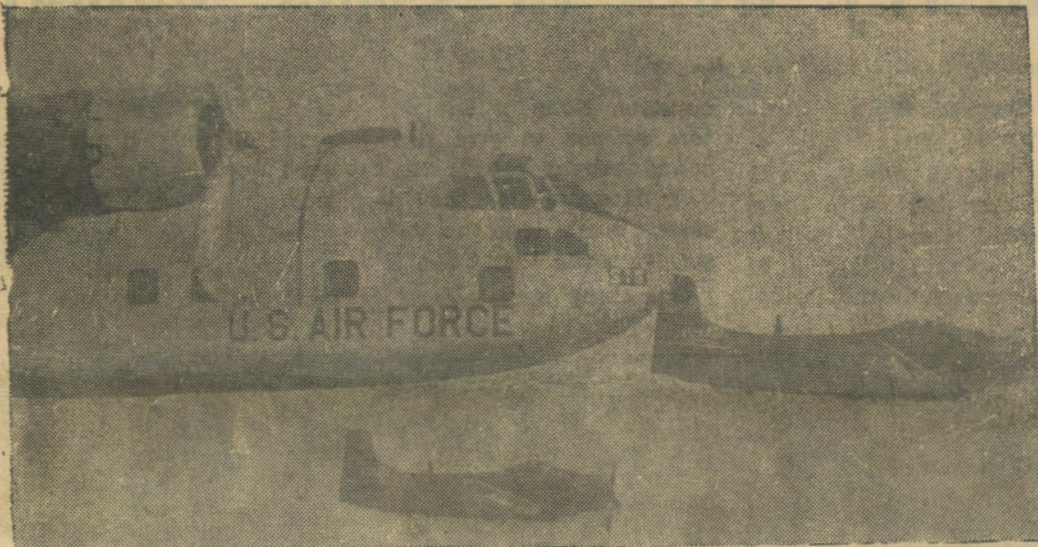
Our world is not designed for weaklings. Its inflexible natural laws and its maladjusted social order are severely testing men's relationship to the sum total of things — a relationship designed for peace and contentment.

The secret to this problem is to be able to build a world within a world, an inner temple of peace and harmony, a sanctuary where contentment can be had. This takes the ability to look on the brighter side of the situation. From every experience something can be gained. It may mean nothing more than to appreciate the little things that we so often take for granted in the ideal conditions.

This world within a world is a haven for us in our despairing moments where we can retreat with our thoughts for a renewed understanding and strength. Within this sanctuary one lives with what is easy to believe and accept, until he can easily accept what he has disliked. Here is where man's belief in God, however he wishes to believe, plays a role.

Man's religious life is not something to be taken lightly, instead it is one of man's greatest treasures. May we guard and use this treasure wisely. Then the storms of life will take on the sunshine of life for us.

American, Vietnamese Operation



RICE—A U.S. Air Force C-123 Provider, one of a flight of six Providers and a C-47 flies to Ban Me Thuot in Darlac Province with a load of rice for the Vietnamese. Escorted by four A1H Skyraiders flown by VNAF pilots, the flight airlifted 90 tons of rice in two days, USAF's 309th Air Commando Squadron of the 315th Air Commando Group provided the aircraft. (USAF photo by A1C Ernest LeClair)

Marine Chopper Resembles Large Hummingbird Feeding From Peak

Da Nang (USMC-IO)—A Marine Corps helicopter resupplying Wheeler's Landing looks like a giant hummingbird feeding off the top of a pyramid.

Wheeler's Landing is the sophisticated title of a decidedly unsophisticated landing zone hacked off the top of a 2,700-foot mountain nine miles northeast of Da Nang. The outpost (OP) is named for Col. E.B. Wheeler, commander Third Marine Regiment, which provides part of perimeter security for Da Nang's air, ground complex.

But, Wheeler's Landing is also an apt description of the zone itself, because helicopters, which are the only vehicles able to get to the OP, touch two front wheels to the ground. The rest of the chopper sticks out like a dart over the almost vertical sides of the mountain.

U.S. Marines man the remote outpost. Some of them are naval gunfire spotters who survey the valleys below with powerful field glasses and call in artillery or gunfire from a destroyer offshore when Viet Cong are seen. The remaining Marines are from a reconnaissance battalion. They provide security and additional surveillance of possible VC access routes in the river valley far beneath them.

Between the sandbagged

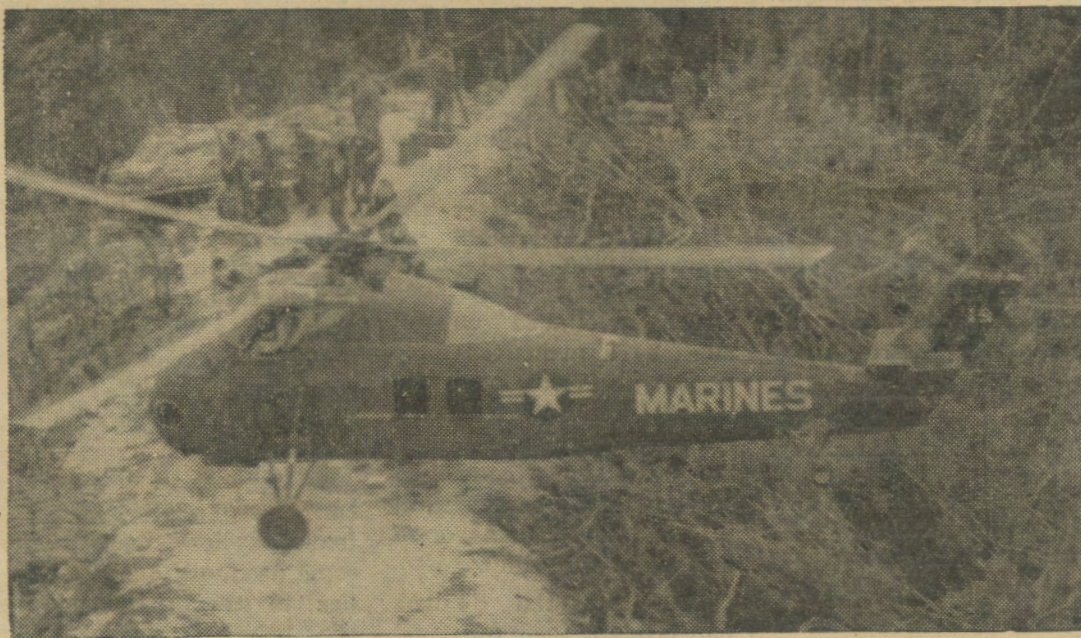
bunkers, tripod-legged scopes, stacked rations and other needed paraphernalia, there isn't much room left on the 10-by-30-meter summit of Dong Den.

Yet, helicopters from Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-365 settle onto the minute dirt patch at least three times a week, bringing in mail, rations, water, etc. Approximately once a week, a replacement force

is ferried in and an old unit flown out.

Wheeler's Landing, according to the chopper crews, isn't even a landing.

"You're flying the bird every second... you don't really set down," is the way Capt. Arthur A. Dittmeier describes Dong Den. His overall estimate could be considered conservative: "It's not an easy approach."



HUMMINGBIRD—What may be the smallest helicopter landing zone in Vietnam is atop a Marine outpost nine miles northwest of Da Nang. Choppers which resupply the mountaintop three times weekly set the two front wheels down and hover with the rear wheel dangling over the hill's slopes. (USMC Photo by SSgt. R. W. Savatt Jr.)

USAF, VNAF Airlifts 90 Tons Of Rice In Two Days

Ban Me Thuot (USAF-IO)—U.S. Air Force and Republic of Vietnam Air Force pilots joined efforts recently to airlift 90 tons of rice to the city of Ban Me Thuot.

The road to Ban Me Thuot, 180 miles northwest of Saigon, was temporarily closed and the city's citizens were suffering from a shortage of rice. The airlift was requested by Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, and was effected by members of the 315th Air Commando Group's 309th Air Commando Squadron and the Vietnamese Air Force's 83rd Special Air Group.

The cargo aircraft, Fairchild C-123 Providers and a VNAF Douglas C-47 were flown by mixed crews. Vietnamese pilots also escorted the transport planes with A1H Skyraiders.

The massive airlift was accomplished in two days. On the first day, VNAF pilots treated U.S. crew members to a buffet dinner at Ban Me Thuot after happy villagers greeted them with floral leis and welcoming ceremonies.

District Chief at Ban Me Thuot, Lt. Col. Le Van Thanh thanked the Americans for their help and said it demonstrated the strong friendships growing up between Americans and Vietnamese.

9,000 Girl Scouts Flood Vietnam With Letters Of Praise

Saigon (CIB)—Last month, the International Senior Girl Scout Round-up was held at Farragut, Idaho.

Word of the round-up came to Vietnam by way of hundreds of letters written by the scouts to express their appreciation to U.S. military personnel for their effort in Vietnam.

An Army unit readied the camp grounds for the influx of 9,000 girls and 2,000 counselors. Shortly after, the unit was alerted for Vietnam and the girls decided to write to thank them for erecting tents, showers, latrines and other necessary accommodations.

One typical letter was from Miss Pamela Sekaros and read:

"Dear Sir:

I would like to thank you and all of the men fighting for the cause of freedom in Vietnam. The giving of a part of oneself is the greatest gift one can contribute to any cause. May God bless all of our American forces and know that the hearts of all Americans are with you in all of your efforts."

Unclaimed Mail

Saigon (CIB)—Mail is being held for the following personnel at the Area Postal Directory, APO 96307, Building 3233, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, telephone: 2871: The figure in parenthesis following individual's name indicates the number of pieces of mail being held:

Sp4 Allen A. Algernon (3)
PFC Carlos L. Andrews (6)
Sgt. Forfio A. Alvarado (3)
Maj. H. A. Bigham (3)
PFC Charles Blanton (9)
Capt. Clark H. Cumming (4)
PFC Charles L. Edmunds (5)
PFC Ernest R. Evans (3)
PFC Normal L. Evensen (4)
Maj. David A. Forsythe (6)
Sp4 Charles T. Giles (4)
PFC Robert Goddard (3)
A2C Bernard J. Goddard (3)
CWO Lester L. Griffiths (4)
WO Herman Helgason (4)
SFC Arthur E. Hickman (11)
SSgt. Kenneth S. Hood (4)
Pvt E. L. Hubbard (5)
MSgt. Mike Jones (5)
SSgt. Frank A. Land (4)
PFC Robert G. Leake (4)
Lt. Gale M. Olmstead (5)
Sp4 LeRoy A. Porter (4)
Sp4 Gerald D. Rosf (4)
Maj. Thomas C. Roberson (5)
CWG Albert C. Rushing (4)
Capt. William W. Sheldon (4)
Sgt. James O. Spooner (6)
A3C Russell A. Walker (4)
SFC Richard L. Waters (7)
SSgt. William S. Whitton (11)

American Doctors Voluntarily Work In Leper Colony

Story and Photo by Capt. Michael J. Holsinger

Bien Hoa (10) — Three American doctors at Bien Hoa recently boarded a helicopter and headed smack into the middle of Viet Cong-infested War Zone D. They make the trip every week — in their spare time.

Air Force Captains Calvin C. Chapman and Hans W. Polte and U.S. Army Capt. Joe F. Altomonte make the trip each week to St. Joseph's Leprosarium, 30 miles north of Saigon, to treat Vietnamese lepers.

The doctors probably see more cases of leprosy in one day than most doctors do in a lifetime.

To the uninformed novice the thought of entering a leper colony arouses a dread fear. Dr. Chapman, a trim 37-year-old Air Force flight surgeon is reassuring. "The nature of the disease has been clouded by ignorance.

It really isn't very communicable at all." He explained that the social stigma surrounding leprosy is unjustified and that proper treatment with drugs enables most lepers to live normal lives.

The leper colony, staffed by a Swiss priest and eight Vietnamese nuns, provides for almost 300 patients ranging in age from 10 to 85.

As the helicopter skimmed over the lush jungles of Zone D, the three medics seemed eager for their tasks. Chapman is chief medical officer for the USAF's 6251st Tactical Fighter Wing at Bien Hoa. Polte is the Air Force unit's dental surgeon, and Capt. Altomonte is flight surgeon for Army's 118th Aviation Co.

The chopper landed in a small clearing near the main administration building, then quickly departed after disgorging its passengers. It would return in the afternoon. It isn't safe to loiter in Zone D, even in a leper colony. The Viet Cong have attacked the leprosarium several times but have not overrun it since 1962.

A clean, healthy atmos-

phere pervades the colony. White stucco buildings and landscaping look well-tended. Father Leonard Berset, a friendly, talkative Swiss priest, has run the facility since its founding in 1959. He and the only nurse, energetic Sister Marie Antoinette, are enthusiastic about the progress being made.

At a sparsely furnished but spotless dispensary at least 50 patients were lined up for treatment. Some had no visible signs of the disease, the ailment had been diagnosed and arrested in its early stages. Others were not so lucky. But they all seemed surprisingly content and happy. "I have visited several leprosariums in Europe, and the morale of these people tops any I have seen," remarked Dr. Altomonte.

The doctors working exhausting hours explained that since the patients are already on the effective sulfone drugs they try to take care of side effects from the disease; cleansing open sores and doing minor surgery.

It was Dr. Polte's first trip. "I had to take care of the emergencies this time; later I can do some selective dental work," commented the 31-year-old Air Force officer. His only facilities were a straight-backed chair and flashlight. "I doubt that many have ever had dental care. Also you must understand the difficulty some have in brushing their teeth with deformed hands," he continued.

The lepers showed complete trust in the American medics and the priest and nuns. Sister Marie Antoinette was a fireball of competent energy as she assisted doctors simultaneously.

Father Berset knows that VC have a price on his head, and the Sisters are by no means safe. He related how two Sisters were kidnapped and held by the Viet Cong for 25 days. They came away 20 pounds lighter and more determined than ever that

the Communist way was the wrong way.

"I wish I could spend more time here with these dedicated people," voiced Dr. Chapman, referring to the leprosarium and its oc-

cupants. None of the doctors seemed to give a second thought about their own exposure to the disease, much less the danger from the Viet Cong.

One thing is certain: Not

many individuals would spend off duty time each week working in a leper colony.

Father Berset said emphatically, "America can be proud of these men!"



AID — Capt. Calvin C. Chapman, USAF flight surgeon, and Father Leonard Berset, who operates the St. Joseph's Leprosarium in war zone D, examine a patient's infected foot. Three hundred lepers live in the colony, and Capt. Chapman and two other military doctors travel each week to treat them.

Viet Cong 81mm Mortar Makes Vietnamese Training Realistic

By SFC Carlton R. Brown, Jr. Staff Writer

Dak Sut (CIB)— Where'd ya take your basic training?

No matter where it was, you were introduced to military life in gradual stages, progressing from the simple to complicated as far as combat skills were concerned.

Consider the case of 86 Montagnards of the Sedang tribe who volunteered for the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) and reported to Dak Sut for basic training.

At the little village they were surrounded on all sides by a maneuver force known as Viet Cong who supply realism to basic training. They were assigned quarters in a compound surrounded by barbed wire, designed to add a flavor of combat to the camp.

These potential soldiers had brought their own first day rations packed in bamboo tubes and as they sat in the gathering gloom eating the evening meal, their basic training started in

earnest.

The maneuver enemy, know affectionately as "Charlie" by the hardened veterans in charge of training, began the battle indoctrination course by dropping 45 to 50 rounds of 81mm mortar rounds in the compound.

Reaction by the recruits was the frantic digging of slit trenches in which to throw themselves for protection. There had been some desultory digging earlier in the afternoon at the behest of some hard-eyed sergeants, but now the burrowing began in earnest.

The following day U.S. Special Forces personnel

issued weapons, odd bits of clothing and rice, fish and sauce. In this CIDG army, there is no eagle-eyed mess sergeant watching how much food you take or shouting at KPs. Every man cooks his own chow and consequently, no justified gripping about its quality.

About noon, Charlie, following the training schedule, started the second phase of the battle indoctrination course with some more 81mm, but this time the company was prepared, and had constructed overhead cover. The way the CIDG training program is

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AFRS Vietnam, Celebrates Third Anniversary



"MR. SPORTS" — Army SFC Jerry R. Hook prepares sports copy for broadcasting. At AFRS, Hook is the sports director, editor and announcer... Mr. Sports.

New Transmitters Headed For Field

Saigon (CIB) — Happy birthday cheers echo back and forth off sound proof walls today at the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS) Vietnam studios, while a third candle is placed on a birthday cake.

Although its birthday is tomorrow AFRS the American voice in Vietnam, today celebrates its third year of bringing news, music and comedy to English-speaking audience in Vietnam.

Three years ago, in Aug. 1962, AFRS first came on the air, with a five-man crew and a host of volunteer announcers and newsmen. Tucked away atop the Rex Hotel in downtown, Saigon, the first radio beams were transmitted 18-hours a day.

From a toddling tot, it began to grow. More men were added to the staff, more transmitters were built, and bigger and better studios were found.

Improvements continue as in June of this year, a short-wave transmitter was installed in Saigon, directed north and south. This experiment is an attempt to beam broadcasts to isolated outposts not located within range of the present transmitters.

In the following month, July, in deference to Allied troops from Australia and New Zealand, AFRS began a five-minute daily broadcast of news "from down under." The news is edited from direct broadcasts from Radio Australia.

Today, from the ground floor of the Brink BOQ, radio waves go out to 11 transmitters covering the



DISC JOCKIES — Army Sp4 Bob Ray (Dorogi), standing, and Sp4 Don Busser go through the record stacks picking out selections for the next show. Ray is dee-jay on "Destination Noon" and Busser has the "Dawn Buster" show.

length and breadth of the Republic, 24-hours a day.

With a 17 man crew, such shows as "Dawn Buster," "Destination Noon," "Swingin Sixties," "Night Beat" and "Night Train" keep listening audience entertained.

Some programming is pre-packaged and mailed from Armed Forces Radio and Television Service at Los Angeles. The programs include Joe Allison's "Country Corner" and the "Jim Ameche Show."

AFRS, a part of the MACV Command Information Branch, has already put into motion plans for three new transmitter sites at Bien Hoa, Chu Lai and Cam Ranh Bay.

Improvements and growth followed side by side. As USAF Capt. John R. Cauty, officer in charge said, "In 1962, AFRS Saigon went on the air with one lone transmitter in Saigon, broadcasting 18-hours a day. It seems like a long time ago"



REPAIRS — Mr. Van That Sanh, left, radio technician shows Army 2nd Lt. Alan McKee, assistant officer in charge, malfunction in one of the transmitters.



BIRTHDAY SHOW — USAF newscaster AIC Ade Cronauer, left and Army Sp4 Don Busser record a special tape of spot gags and humor for the anniversary show Aug. 14. Busser, whose "Dawn Buster" show begins at 6 a.m., says, "I sure do... (yawn)... like this... (yawn) kind of work... zzzzzz..."



LATEST — Navy JOC Charles H. Nelson, news director, gets the latest news around the world from the teletype machines which operate 24 hours a day.

Broken Seabee Equipment Fails To Foil Rig Drilling

Da Nang (USN-IO)—A special crew of U.S. Navy Seabees have been digging 16 hours a day in Da Nang—for water. Even a broken drilling rig didn't stop their search; they kept digging.

When the well drilling crew of Mobile Construction Battalion 3 was confronted with a broken \$35,000 drilling rig recently, they went to work and built their own.

They blocked up the rear end of a weapons carrier truck and used its engine as a power unit. Using one of the truck's wheel rims and a length of rope, the Seabees are able to hoist the heavy pipe stems used in water wells. Then they built a jet rig of high pressure water lines to literally

wash their way into the ground.

When the water jets into the well hole it erodes away the earth beneath the pipe stem, allowing the stem to sink into the ground. The water-jetting rig is designed for use in soft soil only, but with determination the Seabees found they could drill down 50 or 60 feet each day.

Until parts for the larger drilling rig arrives, the Seabees will continue to fulfill their motto, "Can-Do," with the homemade drilling rig.



HOMEMADE— Mobile Construction Battalion 3's well drilling team works on their homemade drilling rig near Da Nang. When the team's \$35,000 drilling rig broke down and they couldn't get parts for it, they built this rig themselves. It utilizes a jet stream of water that erodes away the dirt beneath the pipe stem allowing it to sink into the ground.

U.S. Army Caribou Pilots Fly 13,000 Hours, No Accidents

Vung Tau (USA-IO)—The workday for U.S. Army 61st Aviation Co. Caribou pilots and crewmen in Vung Tau is from 5:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.—seven days a week.

The Army airmen, who fly their versatile cargo planes throughout III and IV Corps, accumulated 1,466 hours flying time during June, averaging 8 to 10 flights each day, and they hauled 1,425 tons of cargo and 14,500 passengers.

The 61st Aviation Co., is one of two Caribou companies in Vietnam.

Despite the fact that the Caribou crews often fly dangerous missions, they have well over 13,000 hours of accident-free flying time.

Flying through mountains and over dense, forbidding jungles, the 61st pilots often land their Caribou on airstrips not much larger than a football field. More often than not, Viet Cong gunshots follow their landings and takeoffs—hoping the pilots will come within range. But using precision flying techniques the Caribou pilots seldom give "Charlie" the chance to fire a shot.

Maj. William F. Leach, commanding officer, chalks up the unit's impressive performance to the excellent abilities and qualities of all team members—pilots, mechanics and crewmen.

The Army airmen, who fly their versatile cargo planes throughout III and IV Corps, accumulated 1,466 hours flying time during June, averaging 8 to 10 flights each day, and they hauled 1,425 tons of cargo and 14,500 passengers.



FLUSHING—U.S. 173d Airborne paratroopers fire into a cave entrance August 1 to flush out Viet Cong during a week-long sweeping operation by the 173d and elements of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division. (UPI Radio-photo by Stephen Pearson).

56th TC Motto—'You Crash And Call, We Dash And Haul'

Tan Son Nhut (USA-IO)—The recovery section of U.S. Army's 56th Transportation Company here has recovered over 27 aircraft in the past nine months, living up to its motto: "You Crash and Call—We Dash and Haul."

Flying CH-37B Mojave helicopters, the recovery section flies to a downed aircraft, dismantles it until it is light enough to be lifted by the Mojave, and then hauls it back to safe territory beneath their helicopter.

The section's recoveries have ranged from helicopters to fixed wing aircraft, from the 2300 pound O-1F Bird-dog to the 16,000 pound A-1E Skyraider. Even a CV-2 Caribou was recovered in sections from the strategic I Corps area.

Although the recovery section seems to handle all recoveries with ease and professionalism, some recoveries stand out in its members' memories as more interesting, being effected under hostile fire.

Once the team was cut off by Viet Cong fire at a recovery site and was forced to join friendly forces

in the area. For eight hours they trekked through Viet Cong-infested jungle and swamps, encountering and fighting the enemy as they moved toward a friendly outpost.

In addition to recovery operations, the Company has airlifted over five million pounds of cargo, equipment and supplies. Some of the airlifts included howitzers, crew and ammunition, casualties from combat areas, and heavy construction materials and equipment.

The men on the Mojaves have furnished supply and maintenance teams with parts to remote supported units, and have even delivered the proverbial "kitchen sinks," part of eight tons of kitchen and bakery equipment airlifted to a leprosarium under USOM supervision.

The Roving Photographer

Question:

"How do you feel about serving in South Vietnam?"

1st Lt. Rose M. Grantham, Memphis, Tenn.

"I'm glad to be here. I specifically volunteered for Vietnam because I felt the only place for an Army nurse was in a combat zone. Not many women are able to go into a combat area giving comfort and aid to wounded but I'm here because it's my job."

Capt. Norma R. Small, Glenolden, Pa.

"I was very pleased with my orders to Vietnam. Vietnam is where the action is, and as an Army nurse, this is where I am needed most. With swift medical evacuation, we get wounded to a hospital in short time for the best possible medical care."

1st Lt. Meredith L. Seapy, Long Beach, Calif.

"Working in Vietnam has brought me closer to my country. Everyday I see young men tolerate tremendous amounts of pain for what our country believes in. In the States there was a feeling of security. No one would think of infringing on the American way, but here you see communists trying everyday."

1st Lt. Sharie A. Butler, Yankton, S.D.

"I'm personally very glad I was able to come here. I believe myself and all other American troops in Vietnam serve as an example to communists that we are determined to stop them cold."

I'm glad I am here to do my part."

2nd Lt. Carol M. Dodd's, Pittsburgh, Pa.

"There's a job to be done in Vietnam and I'm happy to be able to help. The communists must be stopped and it is best that we stop them here. I also find my job here very rewarding. The men coming in from the field are overjoyed with our modern medical services."

U.S. Army At Vinh Long Praises 'Top Notch' Soldier

Vinh Long (USA-10) — There's a soldier here who has become a legend already at his young age. His name is Gunner.

Gunner has sad eyes, sagging jowls, big feet but a friendly disposition. You'll see him hanging around the mess hall and EM club a lot, but what soldier doesn't?

Every man on post likes this quiet soldier; he's that kind of guy. Though quiet and of few words, he's up and down the flight line all day, carrying on his duties. Perhaps that's why he is liked so well.

He's right in there with the groundcrews, and the pilots can always count on him for a few laughs. That's probably why he's the one EM invited to the officer's back-yard barbecues.

He's like a lot of old soldiers you get to know and like right off. A steady sort, the kind you can depend on. For instance, when a guy is feeling pretty low, he can always count on Gunner's friendly disposition to cheer him up.

His contemporaries around post consider him an easy-going crew chief, never having a harsh word for anyone. He loves to play and has a good time with everyone.

When the guys head down to the swimming hole, during their off-duty hours, Gunner's the first in. No man there can say Gunner doesn't like swimming.

Gunny's a tea-totaller, and he won't go downtown

for a beer with the boys no matter who's buying. He'd rather go off by himself sometimes, maybe to play around with the pet monkeys in back of the "Maverick" Platoon hootch.

Some soldiers have particular talents, such as singing, dancing, or playing a guitar. Gunner's talent is a little more peculiar. He's the only soldier at Vinh Long who could wear four combat boots at any one time.

Gunner is the shaggy, sad-eyed, slack-jowled mascot of the U.S. Army units here. Gunner is 'mans' best friend... a dog.

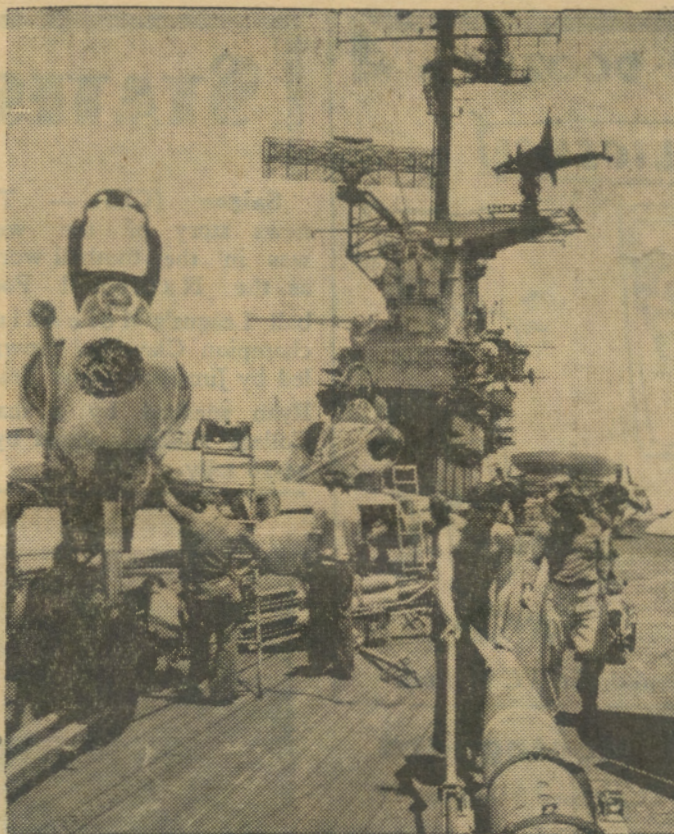
▲ 1st Calvary

(Continued from page 1)

washed and protective coverings laced in place.

Maj. Gen. Harry W. O. Kinnard, division commander, speaking for the more than 15,000 men said, "We're a proud unit. We think we're good. The airborne concept," he declared, "gives a commander a degree of surprise, flexibility of maneuver, and speed never before possible in ground combat."

The eight battalions of the 1st Cavalry Division is a major part of the 13 battalions, plus supporting forces, to be sent to Vietnam filling the new requirement of 125,000 men set by President Johnson.



BOMBS — Crewmen of the carrier USS Bon Homme Richard prepare to load a bomb onto a Navy jet in preparation for a bombing mission on a Viet Cong target in South Vietnam. (UPI Radiophoto by Koyoichi Sawada)

Freedoms Foundation Offers \$1,000 For Best Letter '65

Saigon (CIB) — The 1965 Freedoms Foundation Letter Awards Program is now accepting military entries on the subject "I Am An American."

Letters should be no more than 500 words in length and should depict one of the following slogans: Enemy of Tyranny, Defender of Freedom, Protector of Liberty, or Guardian of the Nation.

Entries should be written or typed on one side of the paper and they should bear the name, rank, and military and home address of

the author. Mail entries to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa.

Prizes for best letters include one \$1,000 top award, fifty \$100 second awards, and fifty \$50 third awards.

(Continued on page 8)

173rd Airborne Organizes Special Demolition Teams

Bien Hoa (USA-10) — The 173rd Airborne Brigade's Support Battalion has organized and is training special demolition and destruction teams to accompany the infantry on search and destroy operations.

Discussing the Brigade's recent operation in War Zone D, Lt. Col. Staigers, commander of the support battalion, stated the major problem with his troops, most of whom remained in the base camp area, was morale. "Our people, except for the Medics, felt like they were sitting on the bench. Each time a casualty came in, the troopers were struck as though their own brothers had been hurt."

"A dozen times I had to clear them away from the clearing station. They wanted to help so much they were getting in the way. I was besieged with troops wanting to go out as re-

Career Officers

USAF Early Out Program Recinded

Hawaii (PACAF) — Pacific Air Force Officer Personnel Division has advised all Air Force command personnel of the rescission of the early release program for career officers.

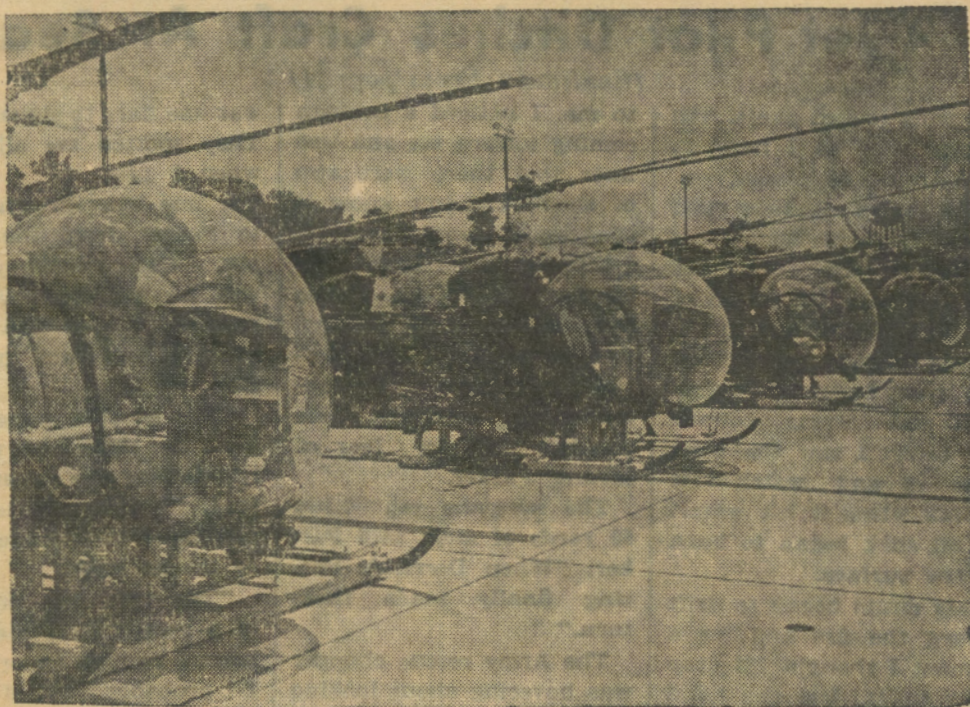
Quoting a message from Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Tex., the PACAF announcement stated that officers whose applications for release, retirement, or resignation were approved prior to the receipt of the message Aug. 6 will be retired or separated as scheduled.

Where an officer has an application for separation pending under the provisions of the early release program, such application will be returned without action.

PACAF officials have stated applications from command officers which have not been forwarded for further action will be returned immediately.

The message did not effect non-career reserve officers.

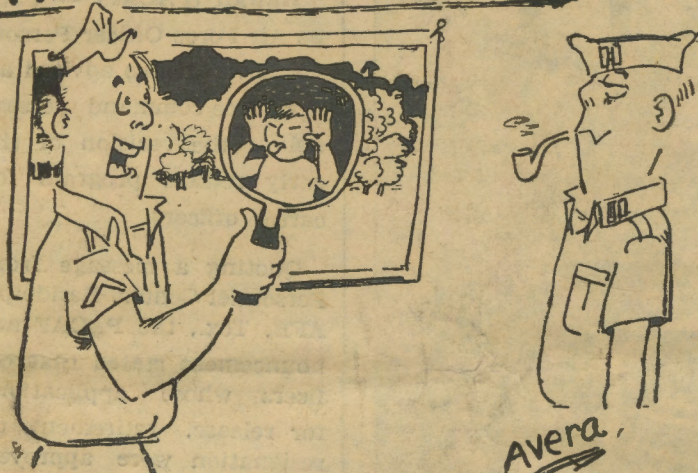
The 20-year active service career program for reserve officers also remains unaffected. Separations and retirements scheduled in accordance with this program will continue.



ON LINE — OH-13 Sioux helicopters of the 1st Cavalry Division await further preparation for movement to Vietnam. The Army helicopters are secured in wooden cradles, part of the extensive preparation and preservation process necessary for the long journey.

★ ★ 'DINKY-DOW' DOOZIES ★ ★

PHOTO INTELLIGENCE



"Sir... I think I have located the VC camp..."

▲ DATELINE

(Continued from page 1)

battalion-size or larger maneuvers met with Viet Cong contact.

Ninety such operations were launched during the week, with half of them meeting the enemy in battle, a U.S. military spokesman said.

This compared with 30 out of 80 such operations encountering the enemy during the enemy during the previous week.

Of the large ground operations launched, two were U.S. forces operations and four were joint American-Vietnamese maneuvers, the spokesman said.

Naval Actions

Saigon (CIB)— The Vietnamese Navy was busy during the week ending Aug. 7, as sea, river and coastal forces teamed up to run some 2,170 missions, including shore bombardments and participation in five combat operations, according to U.S. military spokesmen.

More than 4,000 junks were searched during the week, as were some 18,035 persons.

Of these figures, three junks and 145 persons were detained for further questioning, the spokesman said.

Unit Actions

Saigon (CIB)— More than 20,600 small unit actions were conducted by friendly troops during the week ending Aug. 7, but 150 of these met with communist forces as the enemy continued to avoid contact on the battlefields of the Republic.

The number of small unit actions was up over the previous week by some 455, but the number meeting with enemy contact dropped from 165 the earlier week to 150 during the more recent reporting period, according to a U.S. military spokesman.

▲ Montagnard

(Continued from page 4)

set up, it doesn't take long to get the trainees acquainted with the sight and sound of battle.

The next day's training was highlighted by a fire-fight, using live ammunition and with Charlie again playing the part of the aggressor force. The company used the opportunity to zero their new weapons and practice defensive tactics.

And that's the way it will go for the next six weeks. Realism is the keynote of the CIDG training program.

Anyone for basic at Dac Sut?

▲ Freedom

(Continued from page 7)

Runners-up will receive a medal or certificate.

The top ten military winners will be invited to Valley Forge for presentation ceremonies.

In the 1964 program, Air Force SSgt. Carl E. Carr of Chanute Air Force Base, Ill., won the first prize of \$1,000 for his letter titled "My Vote — Freedoms Privilege." In addition, the four top winners from each service were invited to attend President Johnson's inaugural ceremony and to meet their respective service secretaries.

Freedoms Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to creating and building an understanding of the spirit and philosophy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

STATESIDE SPORTS SCENE

By Dan Shafer

Saigon (CIB) — Top news story of the week was in the football world, as the National Football League's defending champion Cleveland Browns, led by Jim Brown and Frank Ryan sneaked by a sharp College All-Stars squad by a 24-16 tally.

In the Soldier Field (Chicago) game, the pros, winning their 20th out of 32 pro-college stars games, lost their star pass receiver, Paul Warfield, with a broken collar bone during the first half.

Big man of the day for the All-Stars was Notre

Dame's flashy quarter back, John Huarte. He came into the game with only 22 minutes to play and proceeded to notch nine straight pass completions.

New York fight fans once again showed that, in the professional boxing world, fights going on outside the ring are often more interesting than the one featured in the night's action. Some 7,000 partisan fans contested the close decision in the Flash Elorde-Frankie Narvaez by-ripping seats, throwing axes, and rioting both in Madison Square Garden and on the city streets outside.

Meanwhile, Jack Nicklaus, without a doubt the best golfer on the current pro tour, notched another win during the week that pushed his money earnings over the \$125,000 mark for the season. In this weekend's PGA match, the veteran pro is going after the record for season's earnings, currently held by Arnold Palmer, the club pro at the site of the PGA title play.

Hottest item in the world of baseball has been the Milwaukee Braves, who have been notching up wins almost as fast as the Kansas City Athletics have been chalking it up to experience. The St. Louis Cardinals finally stopped Milwaukee's big guns, beating them 5-4 in Thursday night's action, but it took them 13 innings to do it. Going in to that game, the Braves, battling to move to Atlanta next season, had won 20 of their 23 starts since the All-Star game.



LOOK WHAT I GOT — An M3 gas mask, complete with flash hider and three clips of ammunition makes this Montagnard basic trainee practically delirious with joy, but the traditions of the Sedang tribe preclude him showing his emotions.

▲ Jet Pilot Ditches Craft At Sea

(Continued From page 1)

The wing looked like it was coming off, so I had to eject from the plane.

The rocket ejection push Parker out with such force his helmet fell over his eyes. He said, "I let go of the seat handles and pushed the helmet back. That was when I saw the plane.

"It was diving toward the water. I saw the wing come off and watched it explode when it hit water. An oil slick began to burn on the surface.

"My chute began to drift toward the fire and for a moment I thought I'd drop right in it, but the wind carried me over.

"I hit the water and climbed into the raft tied

to me. I noticed a sampan coming toward me and was later told there were two of them. I didn't know if they were friendly or not."

When Parker headed for the sea, USAF Capt. Thales Derrick, also on the mission, flew cover for him. Derrick now buzzed the approaching sampans. He couldn't fire for fear of hitting Parker.

The sampans got within 50 yards of me," said Parker, "When Derrick's buzzing finally made them turn."

The Army rescue chopper was hovering about looking for the downed pilot. "He started to turn away not having seen me. All I had

was one flare to signal with. They spotted me all right when I fired it."

A line was thrown down to Parker from the chopper. Water-logged as he was he weighted over 200 pounds and the crew couldn't haul him into the ship.

"The chopper came down until the skids were actually touching the water," he said, "I was able to hook one leg over and they pulled me on board.

"The crew did one hell of a good job. If that pilot hadn't been so experienced, I probably would have spent an hour more in the water waiting for another rescue chopper."