



USAF Photo by Airman 1.C. Robert H. Miller

JO-LADEN SLED FROM A C130 AT THE BU DOP SPECIAL FORCES CAMP. TWENTY-FIVE SLEDS WERE DROPPED AT THE CAMP

## Sled Aids Flying Bases

Airlift is playing in Vietnam in guaranteeing that the troops have needed equipment and supplies on a moment's notice," said Crepeau.

Several days prior to the drop, two Army engineering teams were airlifted by helicopter from Song Be to the camp, where they awaited the arrival of the C130s bearing the emergency resupply construction equipment.

Selected heavy equipment—such as trucks and bulldozers—were transported by C130 to Song Be where they were picked up by Army Chinooks and Skytrain helicopters.

## Support Unit Commended

NHA TRANG, Vietnam (IO)—The 14th Transportation Bn. (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply), was presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation at Long Van AB, Nha Trang, by Col. Luther G. Jones, commanding officer, 34th General Support Group (Aircraft Maintenance and Supply).

Lt. Col. George S. Bosan, commanding officer, 14th Transportation Bn., accepted the award on behalf of the battalion.

The battalion was cited for outstanding service in support of military operations in Vietnam from Sept. 15, 1965 through Nov. 30, 1966.

During the period, the battalion gave direct, back-up, and general support, maintenance and supply to over 1,100 aircraft in the I and II Corps tactical zone.

## Copters Resettle Refugees

DAU TIENG, Vietnam (IO)—Refugees from Dau Tieng have moved, from tents on a barren hilllock, to permanent brick homes with a small garden plot in the backyard in the permanent resettlement area of Lai Thieu.

The move of the 180 refugees was coordinated by the Tri Tam district officials, who worked with the transportation officer of the 25th Inf. Div. in providing three CH47 "Chinook" helicopters for the move.

The day before the exodus, Vietnamese officials went to the refugee camp and announced that the next day the people would be moving to the Lai Thieu resettlement area.

The next day, the Chinooks began to load the people and fly them to Lai Thieu. The manifest was run by the district officials and the lift had only one minor problem.

"The downdraft of the helicopters blew the lid off one of the chicken boxes and we had to chase down the escaped birds," said Capt. Vinton Loucks, Civil Affairs Officer for the 3rd Brigade.

Throughout the short flight to Lai Thieu, the refugees were concerned about what it was going to be like when they arrived. Their apprehensions were quickly dispelled when they were greeted by other smiling refugees.

Displaced during Operation Manhattan in May, the refugees have been living in a small camp in Dau Tieng. Clothing, food, and other essentials were provided as payment for their work in the village's public works program.

## Crew Keeps Firing From Flaming Tank

CU CHI, Vietnam (IO)—"A crew that would stay in a flaming tank and man the main gun, getting off a dozen rounds, is doing something that takes one hell of a lot of guts," said Maj. Gen. F.K. Mearns, 25th Inf. Div. commander, standing before the four men who the night before had broken the back of a Viet Cong ambush.

The crewmen had remained in the tank, after it was hit repeatedly by rockets and in flames, to fire 90mm rounds into Viet Cong dug-in positions along the road.

Enemy losses after the 25-minute fight—nine killed, five weapons captured and several blood trails that led into the woods. Casualties from Bravo Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry—none.

The crewmen are: tank commander S.Sgt. Thomas A. Reneau, 22; driver Spec. 4 Thomas C. McBrearty, 23; gunner Spec. 4 Larry L. Denison, 20, and loader Pfc. Charles George, 19.

The tank was in a column of armored personnel carriers whose mission was to search for Viet Cong elements operating at night along Highway 1 from Cu Chi to Trang Bang.

The highway is the main supply route extending through Trang Bang to the 3rd Brigade's base camp at Tay Ninh.

Two miles southeast of Trang Bang the Viet Cong sprang their ambush with rockets, small arms, automatic weapons and grenades.

"We were the first to get hit," explained Reneau, "and immediately, George and Denison

much for us. Small arms ammo stored in cans at the rear of the turret started popping so we had to get out." Shortly after the Viet Cong broke contact and ran.

"Normally we recon by fire," explained McBrearty, "which means when we approach a likely ambush spot, we fire a few rounds. This way we can trigger an ambush before the column drives into the middle of it."

There were houses in the vicinity of the ambush site, which McBrearty said was the reason they didn't recon by fire—giving the Viet Cong control over the time factor.

The houses were checked after the fire fight and all were found to be empty. "Apparently the Vietnamese had taken their animals and left before the ambush started," said Reneau. "We had gone by that same spot an hour before and saw nothing. It was a well planned ambush."

For their actions, McBrearty, Denison and George received Bronze Stars with "V" Devices and Reneau was promoted to staff sergeant and received a Silver Star—just 24 hours after the incident.

Reneau's comment was, "The greatest thing was General Mearns coming down here to see us, I felt wonderful when he let me pin the awards on my crew."

10/3/67  
**Engineers Fight Off VC**