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1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: 297-67  
By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

TFX History

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 28 — Task Force X-Ray was organized October 10, 1966 when the 1st Marine Division inherited the Da Nang tactical area of responsibility from the 3rd Marine Division which was moving north.

The 1st Marine Division divided its headquarters and created the separate tactical command to maintain the Chu Lai Combat Base and its tactical area of responsibility (TAOR). The TAOR extends into two provinces -- Quang Ngai to the South, and Quang Tin to the North.

Since October 10, 1966, 1201 Viet Cong have been killed and 1,224 detainees taken into custody (figures correct as of 28 Feb. 1967) as the result of Operations and sweeps in the operating area.

Brigadier General Foster Carr LaDue, assistant division commander, 1st Marine Division is the second commanding general of Task Force X-Ray having relieved Brigadier General William A. Stiles on March 24, 1967.

Colonel Fred Haynes is Chief of Staff for the Task Force, a position he assumed Dec. 27, 1966.

Task Force X-Ray, consists of a tactical command and control headquarters, elements of two infantry regiments, a field artillery group and all ground and combat support units necessary to fully satisfy operational requirements.

Its mission is a four-fold one:

To execute coordinated or unilateral offensive operations, emphasizing rapid reaction to exploit contact gained by small units conducting patrols and ambushes throughout the tactical area of responsibility. Unilateral or coordinated offensive operations in conjunction with Army of the Republic of Vietnam and/or ~~other~~ other are believed to contain significant enemy forces or extensive supporting facilities and installations.

To protect the Chu Lai base area, the air field complex and other facilities.

To protect or participate in the defense of other selected U.S. or Vietnamese critical installations as directed.

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TFX History 2-2-2-2-2-2

Hamer

To conduct pacification and civic action programs.

The TAOE, recently expanded north and south to 250 square miles, contains 23 villages averaging four hamlets each and a civilian population of 95,161. A full-scale civic action program is underway to benefit the Vietnamese people.

Task Force X-Ray Units have built 11 dispensaries, 70 wells and shower points, and a major road near Gai Lai. More than 251,208 medical treatments have been administered to the local population and dental clinics have performed more than 13,011 treatments. Approximately 6,212 Vietnamese have attended English language classes organized by Task Force X-Ray.

Construction of the Dickey Chappelle Memorial Dispensary in Gai Lai-New Life hamlet is a major effort to provide for continuing medical attention to the people of the area. The civic action programs continually emphasize education of the populace in sanitation and applicable technology.

Within the TAOE and for several miles beyond its boundaries, combat operations, "County Fairs" and "Golden Fleece" type rice harvests protected by Marines are conducted frequently by units of the Task Force.

Since October, 1966 several major combat operations have been conducted. They are: Kent, Dover, Rio Blanco, Sutter, Cortez, Sierra, De Soto, Trinity, Caly, Rio Grande and Tippecanoe.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MFP  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TTX 296-67  
By: Sgt. T. L. Stephens, USMC

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele No: Chu Lai 041

3/7 awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 28 — Combat awards in the form of a Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals with Combat "V", and six Purple Heart Medals were the order-of-the-day March 25 for Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment Leathernecks as Brigadier General William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, presented the medals during a field formation at Mai Dong, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

The general also made two meritorious combat promotions and presented a Certificate of Commendation from the Commanding General, First Marine Division.

The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Private John B. Spencer, 22 (Brooklyn, N.Y.), for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action... ..against the enemy" on Oct. 17, 1966, according to his citation.

The citation accompanying the medal credits Private Spencer with assuming command of a platoon when the <sup>t</sup>platoon commander was wounded and the squad leader went to his aid during a fire-fight just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

"Advancing quickly through the dense undergrowth, he positioned the platoon in a defensive perimeter and directed fire on the enemy until he was wounded by grenade fragments in the right ankle," the citation continued. He continued to shout words of encouragement and direct the platoon's fire even though wounded and exposed to hostile fire.

"As a result of his heroic efforts, the enemy suffered seven killed and five wounded, while the platoon sustained no additional casualties and was successfully evacuated," the citation read. "By his daring initiative, courageous leadership and loyal devotion to duty, Private Spencer upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

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3/7 awards 2-2-2-2

stephens

Corporal Don L. Harper, 21 (Sacramento, Calif.), was presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroic achievement in connection with operations against the Viet Cong last November. Harper was a lance corporal at the time.

"While on a sweep and clear mission...in Quang Ngai Province Southwest of Cha Lai, during operation Rio Blanco, lance Corporal Harper's platoon came under small arms and automatic weapons fire from an undetermined number of Viet Cong concealed in heavy brush," read the citation.

Members of the platoon ~~were~~<sup>o</sup> advancing across rice paddies flooded by torrential monsoon rains when they came to a swollen stream.

According to the citation, "The left squad ~~was~~<sup>u</sup> started across a small foot bridge over the stream when the enemy opened fire from their concealed positions ~~on~~<sup>u</sup> the far side, wounding one Marine."

The squad rushed across the bridge, delivering a heavy volume of fire while the remaining two squads started across the flooded paddies wading through waist deep water.

"They were almost across the paddies when two Marines stepped off into water over their heads and began struggling in the strong currents," the citation continued. "Observing his ~~comrades~~<sup>u</sup> being swept away by the ~~current~~<sup>u</sup>, lance Corporal Harper, although under enemy fire, plunged into the water in an attempt to rescue the men.

"With complete disregard for his own safety, he swam through the treacherous water until he reached one of the Marines and then guided him to a submerged island in midstream."

The man was suffering from shock and had to be held on the island until additional help arrived to bring him to shore.

The VC subsequently broke contact.

The citation further stated that, "Displaying uncommon courage, he (Lance Corporal Harper) tied a line around himself and courageously reentered the water to help search for the other drowning Marine and a would-be rescuer, who was also missing. After repeated attempts, the bodies of the drowned Marines were brought to shore."

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3/7 awards 3-5-3-3

stephens

Lance Corporal Harper was credited with saving the life of a fellow Marine at great personal risk to his own well-being.

The second Bronze Star with Combat "V" was awarded to Lance Corporal Donald G. Newatters, 19 (Clinton, South Carolina).

He was leading a night ambush patrol last Sept. 8 when they were suddenly ambushed by a Viet Cong force. He was seriously wounded in the neck and back ~~and~~ during the initial burst of enemy automatic weapons and machine gun fire.

"With complete disregard for his own serious and painful wounds," the citation read, "he bravely continued to supervise his men, established a defensive perimeter and directed their fire on the attacking enemy."

During the fight, he crawled more than 25 feet under heavy VC fire to rally and encourage his men. When the enemy fire subsided, he crawled an additional 15 feet to his radioman to call in a medical evacuation helicopter. Only then did his men realize that he had been seriously wounded.

Shortly after the arrival of a reaction squad, the MedEvac copter arrived <sup>d</sup> but was forced to land about 500 yards from the ambush site due to the intensity of enemy fire.

"Again demonstrating tenacity and courage," the citation continued, "he walked unassisted to the helicopter and boarded, only after he was assured of the safety of his men."

According to the citation, "His heroic notions and uncommon concern for the welfare of his fellow Marines was instrumental in preventing serious losses to his unit."

General Stiles presented the Purple Heart Medal to Second Lieutenant Jay E. VanDyne, 25 (Allenton, Ohio); Gunnery Sergeant Anthony A. Figueroa, 36 (Port St. Lucie, Fla.), his second award; Cpl. Charles W. Jones, 21, (McComb, Miss.); Lance Corporal Bernard F. Boyle, 20 (Jackson, Nebraska); Lance Corporal Ronnie M. Coulter, 21 (Blossfield, Kentucky); and Lance Corporal Grant L. Carter, 21 (Dayton, Ohio).

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3/7 awards 4-4-4-4

stephens

Sergeant Ronald W. Wood, 20 (Oakland, Calif.), was presented a combat promotion to his present rank in recognition of the job he has been doing as a squad leader.

Lance Corporal Robert A. Scipio, 21 (Martinez Ferry, Ohio), was meritoriously promoted to his present rank and was presented a Certificate of Commendation from the Commanding General, First Marine Division, for "exceptional achievement while serving as an Automatic Rifleman...at Chu Lai" last Oct. 16.

While leading a patrol on that date, a member of the fireteam sized unit was wounded by an enemy explosive device. Lance Corporal (then Private First Class) Scipio immediately called for a corpsman and went to the aid of the wounded Marine, reviving him by applying external heart massage and prevented him from lapsing into shock.

"His prompt actions undoubtedly kept the wounded Marine ~~alive~~ alive until he could be evacuated..." according to the certificate.

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## Addresses and Next of Kin:

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 Brooklyn, N.Y.  
 Gloria F. (Poster) Spencer (wife)

Cpl. Don L. Harper, USMC  
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 Sacramento, Calif.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paige Harper (parents)

LCpl. Donald G. McWatters, USMC  
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 Sylvia Anne McWatters (wife)

CySgt. Anthony A. Figueroa, USMC  
 623 Beach Ave.  
 Fort St. Louis, Fla.  
 Joan E. Figueroa (wife)

2ndLt. Jay R. Vanlyne, USMC  
 Rt. #1  
 Allendonia, Ohio  
 Mr. & Mrs. Leonard E. Vanlyne (parents)

LCpl. Bernard F. Doyle, USMC  
 Jackson, Nebraska  
 Mrs. Jack DeRion (mother)

LCpl. Ronnie M. Coulter, USMC  
 RR #1  
 Bloomfield, Kentucky  
 Mr. & Mrs. Willie Coulter (parents)

Cpl. Charles W. Jones, USMC  
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 McComb, Mississippi  
 Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Jones (parents)

LCpl. Grant L. Carter, USMC  
 263 Chesterfield Circle  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Carter (parents)

Sgt. Ronald W. Wood, USMC  
 4145 Norton Avenue  
 Oakland, Calif.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Wallace W. Wood (parents)

LCpl. Robert A. Scipio, USMC  
 RD #1  
 Martinez Ferry, Ohio  
 Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Scipio (parents)

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), ~~Training~~  
San Francisco, California 95602

Release for 74-294-57  
By: Cpl. Ira Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

to take use of what we had learned," Koble

... involves skill and provides a challenge, and after our first operation, we're pretty satisfied with the results.

17 Viet Cong during a two week period received meritorious promotions to Lance Corporal (Echelon 2). The warrants were presented by BrigGen. Foster C. Latta, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

The snipers, 1st Lt. Thomas D. Ferran, 20 (Astoria, N.Y.) and Edward P. Koble, 20 (Santa Ana, Calif.), members of the Sniper Platoon, BnCo., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, accounted for the 17 VC during Operation Deloto, currently being conducted 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

"Actually only five of the VC we got credit for were killed by sniper fire," Ferran explained. "The other 12 were out of our range and were killed by an artillery mission we called in."

The action took place while the snipers were assigned to "I" Company, 3rd Bn., Seventh Marines, during the first two weeks of the operation. Both Marines joined the platoon in December and completed sniper training shortly before Operation Deloto began.

"We were both pretty anxious to make use of what we had learned," Koble said. "Being a sniper involves skill and provides a challenge, and after our first operation as snipers, we're pretty satisfied with the results."

INTEGRATED FOOD SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MEF  
20 San Francisco, California 94602

Release No: CFA 293-87  
milk  
By Pfc. John Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

Chu Lai Press Center

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, May 28 -- Cold milk, one of the tastiest ways to beat the heat, has finally come to Chu Lai.

Junior Sergeant Robert D. Blackwell, 41 (Willingboro, N. J.), food services ~~and~~ technician for Task Force K-30, 1st Marine Division, reports that 3,000 gallons of milk is now being flown to the Chu Lai Combat Base from DaNang daily.

"Although the milk is the recommended type, everyone I have talked to says they can not tell the difference between this milk and the milk they have been used to at home," Sgt. Blackwell says.

3,000 pints of the milk flows in cones in the form of pint containers, for easier distribution to smaller, ~~and~~ outlying units. In the near future, perhaps by late May, the Chu Lai Combat Base will have its own plant, which will be able to produce ice cream and cottage cheese, in addition to a greater quantity of milk than is received by local units now.

The Marine Amphibious Force Food Services coordinates with the Naval Support Activity in DaNang to supply the milk to personnel of the Chu Lai unit.

-USMC-



**INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602**

**Release No: TPI 292-67  
by: Cpl. Philip Hamer**

**Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 25 --** The people of Ky Bich village, saddened by a Viet Cong mine explosion that killed two Marines March 21, conducted an Easter Sunday memorial service at Combined Action Company "India" headquarters near Tam Ky, 25 miles north of Chu Lai.

Members of the CAC unit, both Marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) troops, assembled before a brightly-colored memorial shrine to witness the tribute. Vietnamese musicians played traditional instruments during the ceremony.

Dean Van Ky, Ky Bich village chief, spoke of the fine cooperation between Marines and PFs and expressed his people's sorrow at the incident. He presented flowers to 1stLt. Alan G. Mallinax, 25 (Kerahan, S.C.), officer in charge of CAC "India", and 2dLt. Stuart G. Bazman, 20 (Brooklyn, N.Y.), commanding officer of the men who were killed.

Lieutenant Mallinax thanked the villagers for their thoughtfulness and promised new levels of cooperation and understanding as the Marines and Vietnamese continue to work together in their defense, training and assistance program.

The highly successful CAC "India" was organized by 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment only a few months ago and has already won the enthusiastic support of local Vietnamese. Now under administrative control of Sub-Unit #2, Headquarters Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, the unit has conducted two "County Fairs" and a number of combined patrols in the area surrounding their headquarters.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 291-67  
By: SSgt. G. J. Howe

Ohai Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Ohai Lai 041

R & R Lawyers

OHAI LAI, Vietnam, March 29 -- Because of the generosity of a group of New York lawyers touring the Far East the families of two Marine officers were pleasantly surprised recently.

Lieutenants G. S. Sim, 24 (Garden City, L. I., N.Y.), and Steven Palmer, 24 (Red Bank, N.J.), were on R&R in Hong Kong.

During their first night there, Palmer entered into conversation with a fellow elevator passenger, Charles Buckley of Baldwin, N.Y., who was on tour of several Oriental countries with other members of the Nassau County (New York) Lawyers Conference.

When Buckley found out that Palmer was on R & R from Vietnam he invited him and his friend, Sim, to join the group of lawyers and their wives for a cocktail party. He subsequently extended an invitation for them to remain for dinner.

Following the five-course meal, the Vice-President of the conference, Nathan Zaunser, Glen Cove, N.Y., brought forth a motion that the two lieutenants call their families at home, at the expense of the Nassau County Lawyers Conference.

The more than 100 lawyers present readily approved the motion.

Lt. Sim said, "It's a great thrill and very gratifying to know that there are people in the States who extend such fine hospitality to servicemen."

Lt. Sim had an additional treat when, through conversation with one of the couples present, Mr. & Mrs. Duncan Longworth of Rockville Centre, N.Y., he found that they were long-time friends of his family.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FME  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: 290-67  
By: SSgt. G. J. Howe

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

Change of Command

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 24 -- BrigGen. Foster Carr LaRue today became the second commanding general of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division and assistant division commander, 1st Marine Division. The ceremonies were held at Headquarters, Task Force X-Ray.

He relieved BrigGen. William A. Stiles, who has been reassigned to the Landing Force Training Command, Atlantic.

Among the guests attending the ceremony at Chu Lai this morning were Mr. James May, senior representative, Quang Ngai Province, office of civil operations, MajGen. M. Nickerson, Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division and BrigGen. R. G. Owens, assistant wing commander, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Also attending the ceremony were other high ranking officers of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, and several military and civilian officials of the Republic of Vietnam.

General LaRue has been a Marine Officer since 1941 and has served in various command and staff billets throughout the World.

During World War II, he served with the 1st and 4th Raider Battalions, taking part in the New Georgia campaign and the Admiralty Island landings.

Returning to the United States in 1944, General LaRue (then Major) became Officer in Charge of the Instructor Training School, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., until his release to inactive duty in early 1945.

He returned to active duty at the outbreak of the Korean War in June, 1950 as Commanding Officer of "D" Company, 16th Infantry Bn., 1st MAF and was subsequently assigned to the 1st Marine Division in Korea.

Promoted to lieutenant colonel soon after arriving in Korea, Gen. LaRue assumed command of 3rd Bn., 1st Marine Regiment.

While in Korea, Gen. LaRue was awarded the Silver Star Medal and the Legion of Merit with combat "V".

After returning from Korea, he was Aide-de-Camp to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

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Change of Command 2-2-2-2-2

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During the first half of 1955, Gen. Lathum attended the Command and Staff College at Quantico, Virginia.

After this, he became academic supervisor and later the assistant director of the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico.

Following a tour of duty with the 1st Marine Brigade in Hawaii, General Lathum (then colonel) again returned to Quantico as assistant director of the Amphibious Warfare School and subsequently was appointed director, followed by an assignment as Chief of Staff, G-1, at the Marine Corps Schools.

After a year of study at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, he became military secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and was appointed a Brigadier General last December.

General Lathum's decorations include the Air Medal, Army Commendation Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation and Navy Unit Commendation Medal in addition to the Silver Star and Legion of Merit with combat "V".

General Lathum and his wife, the former Barbara Ann Helms of Saginaw, Mich., have two children, Sally Ann and Lawrence Holt.

-turno-

NOTE: Born and raised in Corydon, Ind. Graduate of Corydon High School, Corydon, Ind.; De Pauw University--B.A. Degree; George Washington University--M.A.

*Re file*

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFC 209  
By: Pfc. Gordon L. Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

INFO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 25 --- The task of screening, hiring and supplying hundreds of indigenous workers for the Chu Lai area <sup>(Belongs)</sup> to the Chu Lai Industrial Relations Office (IRO).

The IRO is under the control of the Naval Support Activity and is headed locally by Mr. James Jones, 30 (San Diego, Calif.), a government civil service employee.

If a local Vietnamese seeks employment on the Chu Lai Base, he must apply at IRO, where he is carefully screened and tested to determine his capabilities for the job desired.

In addition, each applicant must furnish two letters of sponsorship from reputable citizens who live in his area, and his background is carefully checked by the Military <sup>(Security)</sup> Service at Tan Ky.

After it is ascertained that the applicant is not a Viet Cong suspect or sympathizer, he is categorized according to his skills and is placed in the job pool; a list of people who are ready to go to work.

The Industrial Relations Office can provide almost any kind of worker to fill the needs of the various sections at Chu Lai. Generally the workers are placed in two categories: unskilled workers who can be used as maintenance people, and laborers; and skilled or Vietnamese Government trained people who will be typist, clerks, salespeople and general office workers.

Each unit at Chu Lai has an IRO officer and chief, who determine the unit's needs for indigenous workers and furnish supervision for the people on the job. They coordinate their efforts with 2dLt. Charles M. Hendricks, 23 (Miami, Fla.), who is the Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division Industrial Relations Officer. Lt. Hendricks, in turn, acts as liaison between Task Force X-Ray and the Industrial Relations Office.

"The IRO seems to be working real well," said Lt. Hendricks, "it gives

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"The [redacted] seems to be working real well," said Lt. Hendricks, "It gives the local Vietnamese work and boosts their economy and frees Marines for more important duties at the same time."

Funds for paying the workers are appropriated by the Naval Support Activity except in the case of workers who work for the Post Exchange and clubs. These people are paid by the organization for whom they work. Workers' wages are determined by the Vietnamese according to the country's present economic condition.

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INFO. BATT. BTL. SERVICE OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Head), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96302

Release No: TFX 278  
By: Pfc. John H. Benson

Chin 1st Press Center  
Tel: Chin 1st 049

Heat Casualties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, Nov. 25 -- There is more, bringing with it a steadily rising thermometer.

Because of the high incidence of heat casualties in Vietnam, all Marines in the field should have a basic knowledge of the prevention, symptoms and treatment for heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Although water is not always readily available, a Marine should always carry a minimum of two canteens in the field.

To avoid running out of water when he needs and to avoid running, he should never drink after his thirst has been quenched. Doctors also recommend two salt tablets be taken with each canteen of water.

If a heat casualty occurs and a medical facility is not immediately available, the first thing another Marine should try to determine is whether the victim has heat stroke or heat exhaustion, since the symptoms are almost opposite.

Heat stroke, the more serious of the two, is usually caused by the direct rays of the sun. Among its symptoms are high body temperature, hot, dry skin, dizziness, drowsiness and impaired vision.

To treat heat stroke, one should try to place the victim in a cool place, remove his clothing, and douse him with cold water.

Heat exhaustion or heat cramps is caused generally by loss of body liquids and salt, because of excessive heat, no shade and perspiration.

To treat heat exhaustion, place the victim in a cool place, keep him lying down with his feet elevated, give him warm water, preferably with salt, and, if possible, immerse or soak his body in warm water.

The victim, of course, should be brought to the attention of a qualified corpsman or medical facility as soon as possible.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division(Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 284  
By: Pfc. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Rabid animals

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR.23 --- The disease of rabies is 100% fatal to human beings.

Although no exact figures concerning the exact percentage of rabidity in dogs, cats and other animals in Vietnam is available, studies have shown a "significant prevalence" of the disease among local dogs. For this reason, dogs and other pets are forbidden in the Chu Lai area.

"Because rabies is fatal in all cases, individuals bitten by dogs should prevent the disease by going to the nearest medical facility as soon as possible, since the serum requirement for the victim doubles every 12 to 24 hours," says Lt. Col. David Weisenburg, MC, USN, 30 (San Francisco, Calif.), chairman of the Rabies Control Board, and head of the Department of Medicine, 1st Hospital Company, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

If a dog is seen to stray onto a combat base, he adds, it should be reported to the commanding officer of the base as soon as possible. The Marine should not attempt to either catch or destroy the animal himself.

Also, if a dog which is known to have bitten someone is caught, it should not be destroyed at all, but should be taken to the nearest medical facility, for shipment to a laboratory, where it can be analyzed for rabies.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 282

By: Lfc. John A. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Language barrier

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 23 -- A Marine who had just arrived in Vietnam, for duty at the Chu Lai Combat Base, was anxious to visit one of the villages and talk with the people.

"How bad is the language barrier?," he asked one of his fellow Marines, who had spent several months in the country.

"There is no language barrier," the second Marine assured him, "We communicate perfectly."

The new Leatherneck needed proof of this phenomenon, so he took his first opportunity to visit one of the villages with his friend. They went into one of the small shops to look around. The young girl who ran the shop was a friend of the other Marine.

"Allo, Joe," she greeted him. "I go Chu Lai. You gimme go, ok?"

"Sorry bout that no can do," said the Marine.

"Papasan have bike. He no here. You gimme go."

"No same-same," replied the Marine. "Jeep for honcho bas-si."

"No sweat," she coaxed him, playfully.

"Booooo sweat. Now you souvenir me cigarette."

"Neva ho pen. You numba ten booooo dinky, dow."

"I no dinky dow, I numba one Marine. Look, I decide and come back later."

"Ok, you numba one Marine. You come back, ok?"

The two Marines left the shop. "Where did you learn to speak Vietnamese?," the new Marine asked his buddy.

-USMC-

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INTERNATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MACV  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: 201-67  
By: LCpl. Robert Allen

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 23 — Facing west from Highway 1, along Vietnam's coast, the pink color of the masonry building appears as a super structure against the waving green rice fields, and surrounding area of thatched huts.

A small almond eyed boy, nubile and barefoot, climbs upon the porch and scrambles to a "Tom Tom" like drum suspended from the ceiling. Straining to reach the percussion instrument, he beats out a message with a stick that resounds throughout the village.

The message is akin to the message of a school bell in the United States, and the "school drum" calls 200 elementary children to class in their new building.

The Children, who are of the Tri Binh village, are receiving their education due largely to the efforts of a cooperative village chief and successful civil affairs program administered by the 3rd Bn., 11th Marine Regiment, Task Force A-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

To get this schoolhouse project off the ground the Vietnamese went through a "chain of command" which is similar to systems used by many American communities. The school building was first approved by the village chief who actually spearheaded the project.

After taking his plans to the hamlet chief, who gave an affirmative nod, the project was finally brought before the District chief. Deciding that the project would be in the best interests of the village, he gave his approval.

Construction got under way in September but was halted because of the rainy season. As monsoon season neared its end, work was resumed with civil affairs personnel continuing to supply funds and transportation for the heavier materials required. Each day the villagers led by their chief, were on the job until the new structure was complete.

What emerged was a colorful pink building, made of plaster and cement, and large enough to house three classrooms. Green-gray square pillars support a veranda porch and an American senses a Colonial flavor.

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DECLASSIFIED

tri binh school 2-2-2-2  
Killen

Working with an adequate supply of books and other training material, the school is presently staffed with two teachers. To avoid the harsh mid-day heat classes start at 9 and recess at 11. Classes are then resumed at 3 and continue until five, ending the school day.

Capt. Robert Mathiesen, XO (Grand Rapids, Mich.), civil affairs officer of 3rd Bn., 11th Marines says, "This project accomplished by the people themselves shows much ambition and initiative."

Cpl. Ralph Kennedy, 21 (Robert, Ind.), noted that the civil affairs team, of which he is non commissioned officer in charge, has aided the people by rebuilding a road into the village and holds three med-camps a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

They also supply local security when asked.

In addition, the village plans to build a church and a dispensary is already near completion. A Vietnamese doctor has already moved into the village and a nurse is expected soon.

Viet Cong harassment is light, however, indications are that the VC are extremely interested in eliminating the village chief, Nguyen Den, who has made Tri Binh a growing success.

As he continues his work in the village the chief continues to confuse the VC by not spending a night in the same house twice, thereby, not letting the VC know exactly where he is after dark.

Cpl. Kennedy says, "The chief has a lot of guts, he will tell us any information he finds out about VC movement in the area. The whole village is very cooperative, with a good relationship between the Marines and villagers."

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INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), PMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 279-67  
roy acuff show  
By Cpl. Ira Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 22 -- An estimated crowd of 2,700 servicemen saw Roy Acuff and the Grand Old Opry Show in two performances at Chu Lai March 20.

The show, featuring Roy Acuff and the Smokey Mountain Boys with June Black and Bonnie DeHoff, held a morning show for more than 600 Marines of the 2d Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, and an afternoon performance at the Chu Lai Amphitheater before approximately 2,000 country music fans.

Singing and playing in traditional country music style, the veteran entertainers kept the Marines laughing and asking for more with their jokes and antics on stage.

"We've been looking forward to making this tour for a long time," Mr. Acuff said. "The audiences have just been wonderful everywhere we've been. They seem to enjoy our music and we're really glad to be able to entertain them."

The USO sponsored ~~show~~ show will be in the country for 21 days, visiting field hospitals and outlying units throughout Vietnam.

-41280-

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), POF  
20 San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: 77X 007-67  
Our Service By  
By: Sgt. Don Sumnerford

China Inst Press Center  
Tel: China Inst O&L

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, March 22 - Hardlines softened across some 2,000 sq. miles of Central Vietnam lowlands have good reason to look forward to visits from Captain Richard L. Remickling, 34 (Hawesburg, Tex.).

For almost a year, the modern day circuit rider has provided hundreds of all rank friendly "over services" while handing out more than 17-million, 500-thousand dollars.

The 1st Marine Division deputy districting officer with Task Force X-Ray has used every mode of Marine Corps travel available in Vietnam to take his personnel enroute to the men wherever they live, work and fight. Without this type of on-location pay policy, operational commitments and movements to remote locations would cause many men to go without regular pay days.

Although Capt. Tsumohling's primary duty requires him to pay thousands of leonhardos each month, he is most impressed by the individual need rather than numbers.

Unit pay officers are often unable to pay all members of their command and return that portion of the payroll to the Task Force X-Ray disbursing office since they usually lack safe or vault facilities. It is then that Capt. Hershelling checks for names of Marines that were not paid, and starts making arrangements to reach them personally. "This is the part that is usually most difficult," says the captain, "since getting transportation to and from some areas is often next to impossible."

"I have no idea how many miles I've traveled to pay troops over here," explains Capt. Henschling, "since my trips have taken me the entire width and length of the 'I' Corps area — as far north as the 11th and to Ho Duc down south."

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Capt Service Pay - 21 222

When the captain makes his frequent trips, he is usually accompanied by one of the 1st Marine Division disbursing clerks. (C) Sgt. Ray G. Shaver, 29 (Lindsay, W.Va.), serving with the Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, has made several trips with the captain, including trips to the DMZ. Two other Seventh Marine Regiment disbursing men who have had their share of travel with Capt. Rauschling are Corporals Ronald J. Felice, 21 (Parma, Ohio) and Donald S. Rosenberger, 20 (Youngstown, Ohio).

During the past year, the captain has left his office to pay Marines participating in many operations. The long list of operations include: Oakland, Jackson, Ree Blanco, Franklin, <sup>PRAIRIE</sup> ~~Mounts~~, Sierra and De Soto.

He explains that the routes traveled continually change as Marine units shift position. One pay call may be held at a battalion command post, the next in a bunker on a remote observation post for members of a squad. One such incident was when he was flown to the well known "Rock Pile," near ~~King~~ <sup>o</sup> Ha.

Since many Marines are located in or near Vietnamese hamlets, requiring them to barter mostly with <sup>THEIR</sup> ~~the~~ people, much of the money Capt. Rauschling pays out is in dollars.

During his travels, Capt. Rauschling doesn't confine his work to being a pay officer. Since joining the 1st Marine Division he has often acted as messenger, mailman, courier, council, and dispenser of cigars, magazines, newspapers and other <sup>luxuries</sup> ~~luxuries~~ he usually packs before leaving Chu Lai.

"Communicating is often limited for some troops due to their remote locations," says Capt. Rauschling. "Therefore, if I can be their 'link' with the outside world, I try to help."

The number of "thank you" notes received by the captain from personnel in outlying units indicate his assistance is <sup>I</sup> often requested and graciously received.

Our Service Pay - 3333333

The eagerness to assist others may stem from Capt. Renschling's remembrance of his younger days, when he too was a private. Or maybe it was the help he received from his seniors until he advanced in rank to staff sergeant. It was then, in 1960, that he attended the Marine Corps' initial Warrant Officer class at Quantico, Va. Whatever the reason, he continues to make new friends during each "pay run" from his office in Chu Lai.

Captain Renschling best summed-up his feelings by saying, "Just one letter from a young Marine, expressing his thanks for some favor I did, makes my whole tour and work over here worthwhile."

(unn)

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 275-67  
USO club  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 22 -- Maybe it isn't as renowned as New York City's "Club 21" for show or as entertaining as Disneyland -- but for thousands of off duty Marines, the Chu Lai United Services Organization (USO), Club is a great place to relax and enjoy the many recreational facilities offered there.

The USO Club's things-to-do list includes basketball, volleyball, ping pong, pool and a host of indoor games such as chess, checkers and cards. In addition, Marines who wish to record songs on their own tapes can take advantage of the club's taping service. A library, stocked with the latest magazines with tables and chairs for writing or studying, is available.

Souvenirs can be purchased at the Montagnard Gift Shop and an artist is on hand to reproduce photographs into paintings and sketch or paint originals.

The club's present snack bar has hotdogs and cold drinks, but a complete kitchen, now under construction, will serve hamburgers, sandwiches, ice cream and malts.

Other plans for the near future include a covered patio, lockers for swimmers to check their gear, hot showers and a variety of musical instruments available to check out.

-more-



2-2-2

Marines who don't receive a lot of mail can find a list of people, stateside, who would like to exchange correspondence with a serviceman.

"The USO Club is for everyone's enjoyment -- the more the better," said Ronnie L. Pruett, 28 (Baytown, Texas), the club's associate director, "All we ask is that people who use the club leave things in good condition so others may enjoy them as well."

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No. TFA 256-67  
By: Cpl. Irv Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 19 -- The noise on the tank deck of the LST USS Kanaper County was deafening as the drivers of the six tanks and two amphibious tractors (AFTs) started their engines.

Drivers and crewmen made last minute preparations before rumbling ashore 60 miles south of Chu Lai in support of Operation De Soto, currently being conducted by the 3rd Bn., 7th Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

The tankers expected heavy contact on the beach but Marines of India Company had secured the beach prior to the landing. Fixed wing aircraft and HUEY (Huey) gunships strafed Viet Cong bunkers and sniper position in a nearby village.

Minutes after they landed, the tanks, escorted by Marines of India Company, began their first patrol.

"The terrain was pretty solid for about two-thousand meters," said Cysgt. Marshall A. Johnson, 36 (Richmond, Va.), tank platoon commander of 3rd Platoon, Alpha Co., 1st Tank Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. "When we started across the rice paddies the tanks bogged down and had to be towed by the AFTs. These tanks just weren't made for these soft paddies."

The patrol received sniper fire as they crossed a large paddy but the snipers were silenced with a fire mission by the 90mm guns of the M48 gun tanks and the patrol continued to its base camp on Nui Dau hill.

(more)

DECLASSIFIED

tank 2-2-2-2-2  
taylor

"Our primary mission will be to accompany the Marine infantry units on patrols and destroying bunkers with the big guns or with the "Mype" flame tank," Bohannon said. "We can also provide fire support from our position on the hill."

Each tank carries sixty-two 90mm rounds, more than 1,000 rounds of .50 caliber machine gun rounds and 3,000 rounds of .30 caliber machine gun ammunition.

"We may not be able to change the course of the war over night but at least we will be doing our part down here," the Gungy concluded.

-30-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MAF  
P.O. Box 3999, San Francisco, California 94102

Release No: TFX 274-67  
By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 21 -- A young hospital compoundman assigned to the Chu Lai detention facility and captive compound delivered a baby Sunday morning, March 19.

The Vietnamese mother had been brought in by an outlying infantry unit for routine interrogation at the detention facility. When she began having labor pains early in the morning, RM3 Elmer W. Blunk, USN, 25 (Sacramento, Calif.) was called in to assist.

With Sgt. George J. Heatwole, 22 (Brooklyn, N.Y.), compound N0010, and Pfc. Darzyl R. Thompson, 21 (Brookfield, Mo.), duty NCO, standing by as assistants, RM3 Blunk delivered a baby girl about 90 minutes after he arrived on the scene.

"Actually, the mother did most of the work," Blunk stated, "but I was glad to be of help." A Navy doctor who examined mother and child later reported that both were doing fine.

-41222-

1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 PFC San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 271-67  
 By: Pfc. John Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
 Tel: Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 21---How can a chief clerk at a company headquarters receive a meritorious promotion for "consistently outstanding performance during combat operations"?

Suggested answer: become a combination casualty reporter, messenger and bodyguard for the company commander.

Sgt. Frank R. Butler, 20 (Huntington Beach, Cal.), made almost all the operations in that capacity for "D" company, 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

While the unit was moving through a rice paddy during Operation De Soto/Deckhouse VI in Quang Ngai Province, a Viet Cong suddenly approached within 20 yards of the company commander, Capt. John Carty, 39 (Raleigh, N.C.).<sup>1</sup> Butler's fast and accurate firing killed the VC and possibly saved the commander's life.

Sgt. Butler was presented his warrant for promotion to his present rank by BGen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, on March 19, during ceremonies at Headquarters, 1st Bn., Fifth Marines near Chu Lai.

-4-4-4-

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From San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 270

By: Pfc. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Silver Star

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 21 -- A Marine who killed six Viet Cong and then, while out of ammunition, captured three more, was presented the Silver Star, March 19, by BGen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

On March 1, Sgt. Edward K. Ratcliffe, 18 (Oranston, R.I.), was a squad leader with the 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division during Operation Desoto/Deckhouse VI. Moving through a rice paddy 50 miles south of Chu Lai, the unit suddenly found themselves approaching the flank of an approximate company of VC, trying to escape.

While maneuvering his squad, Sgt. Ratcliffe shot two VC in the paddy. Then, while moving through a village, they pushed the VC into another paddy on the other side, and Sgt. Ratcliffe killed four more. This made a total of six VC kills plus two unconfirmed kills for him.

Sgt. Ratcliffe's citation reads, in part, "With utmost aplomb and complete disregard for his own safety, Sgt. Ratcliffe pursued the enemy into the rice paddy, exposing himself to hostile fire..."

Sgt. Ratcliffe then spotted three VC under the paddy water, breathing through straws. Although he was out of ammunition by then, he approached the three with his rifle at the ready, and captured them. Fortunately, the VC had hidden their weapons.

During the ceremonies at Headquarters, 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, Sgt. Ratcliffe was also meritoriously promoted to his present rank.

-UNES-

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WFO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 269  
By: Pfc. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Bronze Star

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 21 -- Cpl. Calvin J. Cissell, Jr., whose effective and consistent firing broke up a Viet Cong ambush, was awarded a Bronze Star Medal, March 19, by MGen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

Cpl. Cissell was a fire team leader with "I" Company, 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division last July 22, during Operation Hastings, near the DMZ. His unit was sweeping through a streambed late in the afternoon, when it was ambushed by 30 Viet Cong, who were positioned high on a hill next <sup>to</sup> the bed.

Several Leathernecks were immediately killed or wounded, and Cissell had to set up a base of fire and gain fire superiority.

According to his citation, "his quick action broke up the enemy's initial fire superiority, and gained time for the rest of the unit to deploy and assault the enemy position."

Having accomplished this, he had to yell to his fellow Marines for more ammunition. He then continued to deliver effective fire until all the wounded were ~~able to be~~ evacuated.

Cpl. Cissell, now a member of "D" Company, 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, was presented the medal during ceremonies at the battalion headquarters near Chu Lai.

-USMC-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MACV  
PO Box 96602, San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: 268-67  
By: Opl. Ira Taylor  
Refugee Home

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 21 -- The young Vietnamese refugee could smile again. He now had a new home for his family where they would no longer be faced with Viet Cong taxation and terrorism. He could now live in peace near his new found friends -- the Marines of the 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

His new home was built with funds donated by the Staff Non Commissioned Officers of the battalion and was located in Dien Pho hamlet near the battalion headquarters.

In January, the young refugee had walked from his home 20 miles northwest of Chu Lai to the Ly Tin District Headquarters and asked for help in rescuing his family from VC control.

The District office promised to help and Alpha Co., 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, were sent in to do the job. A week later the refugee and his family, with all their belongings that could be carried, were escorted safely into the battalion area. Later they were turned over to Ly Tin District where they asked to be relocated in the hamlet near the Marine unit.

"We knew they needed a home and since they asked to live here, we thought we could help build one by donating the money for the material," said battalion SgtMaj. Sidney H. Hilliard, 49 (Oceanside, Calif.).

In addition to the bamboo material and tin roofing, six beds two tables and four chairs were purchased with their donations.  
(more)



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refugee 2-2-2-2-2  
Taylor

"It seemed like a good way to prove our sincerity," the Sgt'Maj. said, "and judging from his smile, I think we succeeded."

\*USMC\*

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**INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602**

Release No: TFX 267-67  
By: Pfc. John Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 21 -- As many Marines have found out, the point squad of a unit marching in column is not always in the most dangerous position.

A Marine sergeant, moving with the Battalion Command Group at the rear of the column, during Operation Desote/Deckhouse VI in Quang Ngai Province, won a meritorious promotion to his present rank for his quick and effective action when the group was hit.

Sgt. Francisco Reyna, 23 (Lynden, Wash.), was fire team leader of the Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, on March 13, when his team was assigned to provide rear security for the command group.

The group was suddenly hit by a barrage of well-aimed sniper fire. Sgt. Reyna's team was dispatched to advance through the fire toward a small hamlet, where an extensive system of tunnels, shelters and other defensive fortifications had been established. By the effective control of the men on his team, Sgt. Reyna managed a thorough search of the complex and the capture of six Viet Cong suspects.

Sgt. Reyna was presented a combat promotion to his present rank March 19 by BGen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, during ceremonies at headquarters, 1st Bn., Fifth Marines near Chu Lai.

-11222-

1st Marine Division (Main), PFC  
 PFO San Francisco, California 94602

Release No: TFX 266-67  
 By: PFO John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
 Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 21 -- "What? Another draftee? Not another 2-year man!" the Marine drill instructor screamed at the hapless recruit.

"Yes, sir," Pvt. York had to sound off. But in his mind, he was not just another draftee—he was determined to make his mark as a Marine.

Only 14 months later, Sgt. Millous York, 22 (Franklin, Ky.), was presented a meritorious combat promotion by BrigGen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force A-Ray, 1st Marine Division. March 19, the day of the presentation at Headquarters, 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, near Chu Lai, also marked Sgt. York's 7th month in Vietnam.

Although he has not yet achieved the legendary fame of the World War I Sgt. York, his career as a Marine in Vietnam has been distinguished by two combat promotions, and he is now the platoon sergeant for the 3rd Platoon, Charlie Company.

Sgt. York was promoted to corporal in December for his assistance in the capture of several VC suspects. Then as a squad leader during Operation De Soto/Deckhouse VI, he was leading his joint squad through hilly terrain 50 miles south of Chu Lai, when a VC force ambushed the company.

Another squad was assigned to envelop the VC, and it became York's job to advance forward with effective fire to push the VC into the envelopment. According to Lt. Jack D. Jewell, 23 (Pursey, Okla.), his platoon commander, the maneuver was accomplished largely because of the outstanding control which Sgt. York displayed over his squad.

(more)

meriterious promo. 2-2-2-2-2

Denovan

With another 10 months left in the Marine Corps, the former Country and Western musician is out to make Staff Sergeant.

-90-

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
PFO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 261-67  
By: PFO Gordon Fowler  
Antrac Patrol

Chi Lai Press Center  
Tel: 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHI LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 20 — The two amphibious tractors (Antracs), seemed awesome compared with the small, fragile, Vietnamese fishing boats as they churned a muddy wake on the way to their patrol base — "The Hanging Tree."

The tractors were manned by 4th Platoon, "B" Company, 3d Amphibious Tractor Bn., 1st Marine Division. Their mission was to patrol the waterways near Chi Lai to check illicit river traffic — Viet Cong movement of personnel or weapons. Their patrol site, dubbed "The Hanging Tree" by the Marine crew members, was a peninsula of sand and mud protruding into the mouth of a river on which stood a huge massive tree; giving the appearance of the old legendary "hanging tree."

The antrac drivers positioned their tractors on the sand-bar in a manner giving their crew members a full view of the river and all traffic moving through the channel.

Shortly, the two amphibious tractors were joined by a small, fibreglass, outboard boat called a "skimmer," because of its shallow draft and ability to move rapidly through the shallow water in and around the mud flats of the river. The "skimmer" was piloted by Cpl. James L. Richards, 19 (Crosbyton, Tex.) a member of the 3d Antrac Bn., and would be used to pursue and check-out any fishing boats that the antracs might have difficulty searching because of

MUD FLATS OR OTHER OBSTRUCTIONS.

- MORE -

fowler

amtrac patrol

2-2-2

The platoon leader, Cysgt. Ray W. Hart, 39 (Vista, Calif.), set up a watch among the two six-man crews, which would last from 7:30 in the evening until 4:00 <sup>AM</sup> the next morning, when the curfew on river traffic would be lifted and the amtracs would return to their base at <sup>T</sup>Chau Lai.

It was a long wait with no results -- the Viet Cong had decided against using the river that night.

"Sometimes we don't see any traffic, during the curfew, for days on end," Sergeant Hart said, "but our presence here will at least discourage the Viet Cong from moving around the river at their discretion."

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 260-67  
By: R.T. Killen  
Congratulations Message

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 20 -- During February Leathernecks of the Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division accounted for 565 Viet Cong killed in action. They also accounted for 18 wounded, 5 prisoners of war and 196 Detainees.

Twenty-one enemy weapons were captured by the Task Force X-Ray units.

During the month Task Force X-Ray units under the command of Brig.Gen. William A. Stiles, were involved in Operations Desoto and Rio Grande.

The cumulative total for the 1st Marine Division in February were 1,065 enemy killed, 145 prisoners of war, 24 returns, and 100 weapons captured.

In a congratulatory message to Division Leathernecks Maj.Gen. H. Nielsen Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division said, "Keep up the good work and the Viet Cong insurgency will surely fail."

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 259-67  
bonds  
By SSgt. G. J. Howe

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, March 20 -- The Marines of "B" Company, 9th Engineer Battalion, in support of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division at Chu Lai have attained 100 percent participation in the U.S. Savings Bond program.

The unit, commanded by Capt. Dean L. Washburn 27 <sup>(Bia K. T. ...)</sup> ~~(McKean, Va.)~~ commenced their bond drive last December and reached their goal the last day of February.

Sgt. David A. Phillips, 25 (Pontotoc, Miss.), Company Administrative Chief spearheaded the drive for the unit.

According to 2dLt. Peter E. Allen, 24 (Alta Loma, Calif.), Company Bond Officer, "The Marines of "B" Company feel that by contributing to the Savings Bond Program it shows their faith in our government."

The bond contributions extend from ~~I~~ \$25.00 bond-a-quarter allotments to \$100.00 bond a month.

-USMC-



Informational Services Office  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FFW  
770 San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFI 258-67  
By: Cpl. Philip Mamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 20 -- A former Viet Cong guerrilla, repatriated and presently serving as a "Kit Carson" scout with the Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, identified a Vietnamese detained for questioning on Operation Tippecanoe as the Viet Cong chief for a large area northwest of Chu Lai.

The man was discovered in a hamlet of My Tam village as Marines of 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines moved into the area March 15. The scout recognized him during routine interrogation.

Vietnamese "Kit Carsons", <sup>all</sup> ~~many~~ of them former VC, have given valuable support to 1st Division combat operations with their knowledge of local terrain and Viet Cong infrastructure. They work closely with battalion intelligence personnel, assisting with the interrogation of detainees and identification of captured documents.

Operation Tippecanoe was concluded March 18 after a week of search and destroy activity in the hills west of the 1st Battalion combat base.

-time-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
WFO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 255-67  
By: Cpl. Phil Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

near miss 1-1-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 19 -- The Viet Cong bullet ripped into the Marine's pack, passed through three C-ration cans and burst out on the other side.

"It looks like they waited for me to make corporal before picking me for a target," said Cpl. Leland R. Smith of First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division. Only an hour before the sniper's bullet narrowly missed him, the 21-year old fire team leader from Mandota, Calif., had been notified of his meritorious promotion.

Smith's unit, the 2nd Squad of 1st Platoon, "G" Company, was engaged in Operation Tippecanoe with the First Battalion northwest of Chu Lai March 16 when the snipers opened up.

Speaking of the shot that almost ended his MCO career an hour after it began, Cpl. Smith remarked, "It felt like a large-caliber round. Whatever it was, though, it sure was close enough."

-UNCLAS-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division, (Rein.), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 254-67  
By: Cpl. P. D. Hauer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele No: Chu Lai 041

vo targets

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 19 -- While setting in defensive positions on Operation Tippecanoe March 14, Marines of "B" and "C" Companies, First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division, discovered several silhouette targets used to train Viet Cong riflemen.

The targets were man-shaped, resembling the new "O" Course silhouettes on a Marine Corps rifle range. Some were life-size shapes cut from bamboo mats. Discarded O-ration case cardboard furnished material for smaller "distance" targets. To support each target in any desired position, a sharpened bamboo stake was attached.

Cpl. Robert L. King, 20 (Franklin, Tenn.), a combat engineer attached to "C" Company, and Pfc Michael B. Mason, 19 (Michigan City, Ind.), "C" Company interpreter, found some of the targets in a heavily-wooded area near the company command post. The VC apparently set them out to represent Marines moving through dense cover at varying ranges.

Operation Tippecanoe, a search and destroy operation ~~is~~ conducted northwest of Chu Lai, was concluded March 18.

-11220-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Sein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFI 253-67  
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele No: Chu Lai 041

refugees 1-1-1-1-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 18 — Great strides forward were taken on Operation De Soto on March 14-15 as Leathernecks of the Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division, provided a security force to protect about 2500 Vietnamese refugees who wanted to return to their village to claim their belongings.

According to LtCol. E. J. Bronars, Battalion Commander, the two-day operation was probably the most important thing the battalion has done since Operation De Soto kicked off <sup>50 miles south of Chu Lai</sup> on Jan. 26.

He said that the ultimate aim of the operation was to "establish an atmosphere that allows people to live freely - to go about their way of life without fear of the Viet Cong."

The area has been ruled by the VC structure for at least 10 years.

The colonel praised the Leathernecks in their fighting ability and also on the way they are conducting themselves in the field around the Vietnamese civilians.

"Our aim is being met," he continued. "The men of the battalion realize what has to be done and they are doing it fine."

(more)

refugees 2-2-2-2

stephens

During the two days of the refugee operation, the attitude of the villagers changed from suspicion and distrust to open friendliness. Marines were seen to help carry many of the loads to give rest to the people. Some of them were taken under fire by Viet Cong Snipers while doing so.

Toward the end of the day local VC forces began to harass the moving column and tried to stop the exodus, but the people continued to move with the help of the Marines.

The Duc Pho District Chief was thanked personally by many of the refugees for the protection given by the Marines. He termed the two-day operation an "unqualified success."

According to LtCol. Bronars, "The only way this war is going to be won is for the people to realize that the Saigon government has the power to provide security for them and has the intentions of doing so.

"And we (the Marines on Operation De Soto) are doing all we can to help."

-uns-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No. 252-67  
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No. Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 18 -- In the early days of war, commanders used runners to carry instructions to subordinate commands. Since then, the method of transmitting orders has progressed with time through drum and light signals, mounted couriers, smoke signals and various other innovations to the complex communications systems used today.

Although the communications section of the 3rd Bn., 7th Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division is small compared to the Bell System of an average city, they still do a thriving business in support of Operation De Soto 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

The battalion communications officer is Capt. Charles W. Ross, 28 (Roseville, Ill.), while GySgt. James F. Cheate, 38 (Vista, Calif.), serves as comm chief. Also playing a major role in providing around the clock service with the unit is GySgt. Albert D. Garcia, 40 (Taco, N. M.), wire section chief, and GySgt. Peter P. Beechler, 42 (Newark, Calif.), heading the radio repair section.

The Marines of the wire section, under Sgt. Garcia are responsible for the care and maintenance of the telephones in the battalion Command Post (CP). A field switchboard is manned on a 24-hour basis and, according to the comm chief, handles some 700 to 800 calls daily.

Power for the telephones is provided by a field generator and is carried to the different CP offices over more than 20 miles of wire. Portable telephone poles are used by the Leathernecks to keep the wire high and dry.

(more)

comm feature 2-2-2-2  
stephens

After a call is placed, if it is going outside of the OP, it goes via radio waves through the sections radio relay van. The van operates four channels continuously for calls going into Chu Lai -- Task Force X-Ray headquarters. The calls are handled on FM frequency channels much the same as those on an FM radio. The radio waves are picked up in Chu Lai on another van, put through the Chu Lai switchboard and finally placed to the called party.

Under the technical end of communications, Sgt. Boeshler is responsible for the maintenance of the battalion's radios. He also helps out supporting units attached to the Third Battalion by servicing their radios.

All of the companies of the battalion not in the immediate OP area are equipped with radio rather than telephones because of their greater mobility.

A communications network was set up in less than two hours after Operation De Hete began on Jan. 26. "A job well done by the communicators of the Third Battalion, Seventh Marines," according to Capt. Ross.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96302

Release No: 251-67  
Bronze Star -- Olsen  
By: PFO John Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 18 -- A Marine radio chief, who braved intense sniper fire to help save the lives of two of his fellow Marines received the Bronze Star Medal Mar. 10, during ceremonies at Headquarters, 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

SSgt. Robert L. Olsen, 31 (Marshall town, Iowa) was battalion radio chief during Operation Rio Blanco, in Quang Ngai Province, about 30 miles south of Chu Lai, Nov. 20.

The battalion was sweeping through a series of rice paddies, when the command group was suddenly pinned down by several well-positioned snipers.

Two Marines were cut down almost immediately.

Disregarding his own safety, Sgt. Olsen ran 50 yards from his position to help the first Marine. He rendered aid to him until a corpsman was able to administer first aid. Then he helped the corpsman carry the Marine to the evacuation helicopter, while under fire.

Sgt. Olsen then ran another 25 yards to the aid of the second Marine, who had a radio on his back, keeping him high off the ground and open to fire. Sgt. Olsen removed the radio, helped a corpsman administer first aid, and carried the Marine to the landing zone for evacuation.

-more-



DECLASSIFIED

Release No: 251-67

Add 1-1-1

Sgt. Clai<sup>en</sup>'s citation reads, in part, "...his courage and selfless actions undoubtedly helped to save the lives of the two Marines, and was an inspiration to all who observed him."

LtCol. Jack D. Rowley, commanding officer of the 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, made the presentation at Chu Lai.

-name-

DECLASSIFIED

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division(Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 250-67  
By: Cpl. I. L. Taylor  
New Look

CHU LAI PRES CENTER  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 14 -- The tanks of "A" Company, 1st Tank Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division have a "new look."

The "look" comes with the installation of a vision ring designed to increase the visibility of the tank commander when the hatch of the cupola is closed.

"The new vision ring gives almost 100 per cent better visibility than the original design," said LCpl. John J. Houghton, 22 (Northampton, Mass.), a tank commander with Alpha Company. "It will also allow us to get in much closer on target without opening the hatch. Until now, to see in a 360 degree circle, the hatch had to be open and the tank commander was exposed to sniper fire. That's one of the things I like most about it," he added.

Shaped like a large doughnut, the vision ring has nine holes instead of the four in the original design. Installation of the ring takes about five hours to complete.

Another modification hailed by Houghton was a new hatch cover which provides more head room.

"With all these improvements we've made at Chu Lai, it won't look like my tank anymore."

-USMC-

PAO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TVX 248  
By: Sfs. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Up from the ashes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 17 — The sign near the hamlet gate is the first thing to strike the attention of the visitor to the hamlet of Phong Thien: "We welcome the presence of the Marines for the protection of our people."

The second thing to hit the visitor's eye is the section of newly-thatched houses, known as "long Houses", arranged in rows, with solid wooden frames and tin roofs. The hamlet market place, bustling with the chatter of fish and vegetable vendors, is situated at one end of this section.

Phong Thien, located on a peninsula 10 miles south of Chu Lai, is a well laid-out hamlet, protected by a massive system of defense fortifications, and beginning to show the signs of a prosperous economy. Most of the men are fishermen and members of the Popular Forces, while the women are engaged in the cultivation and sale of garden produce.

Four months ago, disaster hit the hamlet. A company-size VC force, in an effort to overrun the Marine Combined Action Company next to the hamlet, swept out across the peninsula. When they reached the end of the peninsula, they caught the PF's and the CAC unit in a murderous crossfire between the peninsula and the hills behind it.

-More-

Casualties, both Marine and Vietnamese, were heavy. Only artillery and air strikes were able to destroy the VC, and the action took a heavy toll of the lives and properties of the people.

The people of Phouc Thien were determined that the VC would never get another chance like that one.

The leaders of the hamlet, united by the catastrophe, wanted help, and fast. They did not want to become refugees, nor did they want to become controlled by the Viet Cong, who had attacked them. They appealed to the Marine unit in the area for help and, in turn, pledged their cooperation.

The Marine unit answering the appeal was the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. The Civil Affairs Section of the battalion, headed by Capt. Dan F. Rankin, 30 (Gastonia, N.C.), supplied the people with the materials they needed to rebuild their houses.

The Marine CAC unit first asked some of the villagers to move their houses so that better fields of fire could be made for the perimeter. Then the men, women and children all pitched in to dig a trench, both wide and deep, and fill it with punji sticks and cactus, to seal the hamlet off from the VC. To reinforce this, they erected concertinas of barbed wire, dug tunnels and built bunkers.

Meanwhile, Marine CAC unit T-4 increased the training program for the local Popular Forces, and ran regular patrols throughout the surrounding area. Because of the personal rapport the unit had gained with the PF's, their cooperation was enthusiastic.

The Battalion Civil Affairs Section was then able to conduct its activities in the hamlet, and the "Medoap" program was expanded to include more frequent visits by the Battalion Medical Officer, Lt. Kevin R. Wheaton, USNR, 29 (Los Angeles, Calif.).

... .. and other diseases were the most pressing problems of the hamlet. During the average month, the doctor supervises more than 6,000 treatments, and helps the people work toward better sanitary conditions. The Civil Affairs Section contributes soap toward this effort.

The section also makes solatium payments, that is, payments to those who have suffered property losses because of military actions in the area. After the large-scale strike by the VC, these payments were of tremendous help in the rebuilding of the houses and the reestablishment of businesses and fishing activities.

"With our help toward getting some of these people back on their feet," said Capt. Rankin, "we have received complete cooperation in all our efforts, from the hamlet official right down to the poorest fisherman. Phouc Thien should be an encouragement to civil affairs projects everywhere in Vietnam."

In the near future, Phouc Thien will officially acquire the status of a "new life hamlet", a place where refugees from areas destroyed by the VC can go to build a new future for themselves.

The new status will qualify the hamlet for the additional help of one of the Revolutionary Development Cadres. These are specially trained para-military groups, consisting of 59 members each, dedicated to the improvement of the economic and educational standards of the residents and refugees.

Each individual in an RDC not only has a military background, but has been trained in the more advanced techniques of at least one civilian occupation. By living and working with the people for a period of about two years, the cadres expect to motivate and educate the people toward a greater rate of development.

-More-

ashes...4

This will relieve much of the burden of the Civil Affairs Section, but the section will continue to aid the people with materials and medical care as much as their resources allow.

Moreover, the battalion's chaplain, Lt. Lawrence R. Lowry, USN, CHC, 33 (Arlington, Mass.), makes regular visits to the hamlet, where Christians constitute a majority of the population.

Phouc Thien has risen from the ashes to a new life. Its population, which has grown by 500 during the past four months to its present level of 3,000, is grateful. Also, the first school in the history of the hamlet is being organized.

Whom do these people thank? Themselves? Yes!

But an American visitor to Phouc Thien should not be surprised if he is personally thanked by one of the villagers.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MAF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 247-67  
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele No: Chu Lai 041

motor T

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 17 -- They are "mules." They work hard on very little "food." And, after 200 hours of operation, they must be declined for an overhaul.

Or at least that is what the repair manual says, according to SSgt. Clinton E. Watters, 31 (Peoria, Ill.), NCO in charge of the motor transport section of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division, engaged in Operation De Soto. But Watters also says that each of the 22 "mechanical mules" assigned to his care has close to an over 600 hours of operation on it since last overhauled.

Watters, on his second Vietnam tour, runs his section with a crew of three mechanics and three drivers, one of which is at the field hospital at all times. His shop is a tent and his motor pool covers about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land.

At night the mechanics and drivers not on duty help to man the perimeter of the battalion Command Post. They are also a part of the immediate reaction force maintained on Operation De Soto, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

-END-

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1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: 246-67 (TFX)  
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele No: Chu Lai 041

baker hit 1-1-1

FOR INTERMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 17 -- The old cliché of "is there a doctor in the house?" took a slightly different wording here March 15 as a shout went up at the mess hall of "is there a corpsman in the area?"

The cause of the call was Pfc Richard A. Valdez, 19 (San Pedro, Calif.), a baker with the Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division.

He had been taking a break after helping to prepare the evening meal at the battalion mess hall when he was hit through his right knee by a bullet. The shell missed the bone.

Not realizing what had happened, he started to stand, then fell to the floor of the tent in pain.

After checking to see what had happened, a fellow baker, Pfc C. A. Krowning, 19 (Seattle, Wash.), put out the call for a corpsman.

Several of the battalion's <sup>2</sup> medical aid men were at the mess hall at the time and they immediately applied first aid. Valdez was then put on a jeep and taken to the battalion's field hospital for examination and care.

(more)

DECLASSIFIED



stephens

baker hit 2-2-2-2

According to the Marines who were eating dinner when Valdez was hit, the round must have come quite a distance before striking him as no rifle shot was heard. There was a fire-fight going on about 6,000 feet from the area at the time, however.

"I never figured on getting hit away back here," Valdez said later from his hospital bed. "I guess it's just one of the 'once-in-a-million' deals you hear about."

Valdez has been with the Third Battalion since January and is presently involved in Operation De Soto, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

- USAF -

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 245-67  
VC trawler  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 17 -- A Communist trawler-type vessel, over 80 feet long, was brought to bay by a U.S. Navy Destroyer and two Swift (POF) Boats, March 14, yielding what is believed to be one of the largest caches of enemy weapons of the Vietnam War.

The tremendous load of small arms and other supplies included, 1,186 "Chicom" carbines; 23 sub-machine guns; 3 light machine guns; thousands of rounds of ammunition; numerous medical supplies; canvas packs and equipment; explosives and some black-pajama-type uniforms.

The iron-hull, enemy craft was sighted by the U.S. Navy Destroyer Escort (DER), "Bristar", just before dawn, unloading supplies on the beach about 20 miles south of Chu Lai, on the South China Sea.

When challenged by the "Bristar", the Viet Cong craft attempted to escape. The "Bristar" fired warning rounds across the Communist boat's bow, but the craft failed to stop. Three U.S. Navy Swift (POF) Boats nearby were called to intercept the vessel which was making about 12 knots. One of the Swift Boats, under the command of Lt. (jg), Kelly McCutchen, 24 (Dalton, Ga.), intercepted the trawler and the Viet Cong crew opened up with small arms fire, hitting the Swift Boat 11 times.

-BOXE-

fowler

VC trawler

2-2-2

The trawler was forced to alter its course and was run aground on the beach by the Navy craft. The "Bristar" fired suppressive fire around the enemy craft in an effort to hold it on the beach, but not destroy it.

A few minutes after the Communist trawler was beached a tremendous explosion erupted, scattering the trawler over more than 1,000 yards of beach and surf.

Later in the day, Marines of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division were heli-lifted to the beach to secure the area and survey the wreckage.

"Pieces of the trawler's hull, rifles, parts of rifles and other supplies were scattered as far inland as 1,000 yards," said 2dLt. Joseph S. Franzia, 25 (Ripon, Calif.), "D" Company's commanding officer. He continued, "We established a perimeter around the beach area and began collecting the wreckage."

The contraband was returned to the Task Force X-Ray Command Post, at Chu Lai, for cataloging and disposal.

"As much as two-thirds more supplies could still be in the ocean," said LtCol. Jack D. Rowley, 39 (Silver Spring, Md.), the commanding officer of 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines.

-USMC-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Main), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFA 244  
By: Lfc. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Promotions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 17 -- Two captains of the 3rd 155 Gun Battery, 1st Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, were promoted to their present rank March 16, during ceremonies at the Battery Headquarters, near Chu Lai.

Promoted were Capt. Mark W. Howe, 24 (Altadena, Calif.), Fire Direction Officer for the battery; and Capt. David R. Cotellicese, 24 (Trenton, Mich.), Battery Mission Officer.

LtCol. William Flaskett, Jr., commanding officer of the 1st Field Artillery Group, made the presentation to the two Marine Officers.

-USMC-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FME  
PO Box 96602, San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: FPO 243  
By: Mco. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Promotions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 17 -- Three captains from Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, were promoted to their present rank March 13, during ceremonies at the office of the commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, at Chu Lai.

Promoted were Capt. Ronald Benigo, 27 (Detroit, Mich.), Command Operations Center Watch Officer; Capt. John H. Dillon, 25 (Silver Spring, Md.), Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray; and John R. Stuart, Jr. 25 (Jerome, Idaho), Division Clubs Officer.

Gen. William H. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, made the presentation to the three Marine officers.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
PO Box 96602, San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFA 241  
By: Pfc. John B. Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

Switchboard

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR. 17 -- The largest central telephone office operated by the Marine Corps in Vietnam was recently installed at the Chu Lai Combat Base.

The new mobile unit, the largest of its kind in Vietnam, is operated by the Communication Company, 7th Communication Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. With its nine operator positions, the new central is capable of serving 600 local subscribers and 60 trunk calls, *at one time.*

According to Maj. Daniel G. Bishop, 36 (Jacksonville, Fla.), commanding officer of Communications Company, the self-contained central will initially serve Headquarters, Task Force X-Ray. It will then be expanded to include several large activities located in the area surrounding the headquarters.

"With the increased demand for telephone service at the Chu Lai Combat Base, the unit is just what we needed. Service to our subscribers will be enormously improved," said Maj. Bishop.

C. Paul Bryan, 38 (El Paso, Tex.), is the wire officer in charge of the switchboard, the first such installation in the Fleet Marine Force.

The equipment, housed in two air-conditioned semi-trailers, was provided by the U.S. Army 37th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. The Army unit aided the 7th Communication Battalion with the installation of the equipment and works with the Marines in maintaining it.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
P.O. San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: YFX 240-67  
By: PFC John Donovan  
Snakes

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 16 -- Every Marine in Vietnam has received training in the techniques of hand-to-hand combat.

But as LCpl. Stephen M. Carnahan, 18 (Albuquerque, N. M. ) found out the proper technique for hand-to-hand combat against poisonous snakes has been completely overlooked and is not even in the manual.

As a matter of fact, Carnahan had not even thought about it, until a 7-foot krait, one of the world's deadliest vipers, looked him square in the eye inside a cave, and decided it would try to protect its eggs.

Carnahan, a rifleman with the second platoon, "B" Company, 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, was participating in a search and destroy mission, about 10 miles south of Chu Lai.

While the platoon was sweeping through one of the villages, they discovered a cave, 500 yards long, extending beneath the entire length of the village. Sgt. Gayland D. Sinkler, 20 (West Bradenton, Fla.), right guide for the platoon, took a fire team inside to investigate.

During the initial investigation, the team discovered a booby trap, made from a grenade launcher round, and blew it up with demolitions.

On the following day, Lance Corporals Carnahan and William G. Wilson, 20 (Varona, Miss.), re-entered the cave with a team of engineers.

-MORE-

Release No: TFX 240-67  
Add 1-1-1

When they searched out the cave this time, they came across another grenade booby trap, a 40 pound homemade bomb, and some documents. Carnahan and Wilson continued to belly-crawl deeper into the cave.

The Marines had almost reached the entrance at the other end, when Carnahan suddenly found himself face to face with <sup>two</sup> snakes, a male and a female, guarding a nest of eggs. The engineers, headed by Capt. Harold L. Luttrell, 27 (Lenore City, Tenn.) were waiting at the mouth of the cave for the two Marines, when Carnahan yelled for their help.

Capt. Luttrell, 1st Engineer Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, reached for his pistol and shot one of the snakes searing the other one back inside the cave, straight toward Carnahan.

Carnahan reached for his K-Bar as the snake made a vicious lunge for him. He swung at the deadly reptile, managed to wound it, and the snake withdrew.

But the angry, wounded killer was not about to quit. It coiled its black-and-white length to strike again.

Carnahan was ready and waiting.

When it came at him for the second time, Carnahan slashed and jabbed with his K-Bar. In a few frantic moments, the snake was hopelessly wounded, and Carnahan delivered the killing blow, lopping off its head.

Somewhat shaken from his unusual battle, Carnahan crawled out of the cave, the engineers destroyed it, and the sweep was continued.

"I hope nothing like that happens to me again," he remarked later, "but I guess I'll be prepared if it does."

-UNCLC-



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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 239-67  
By: Sgt. T.D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 16----Most combat infantrymen would claim you wanted to commit suicide if two men went up against five VC, armed with rifles and grenades and in trenchlines and a bunker, and the two were armed only with .45 cal. pistols.

But when two men from "M" Company, 3d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division found the bunker they went to work.

It all started for the two on March 14, while on a search and destroy mission in Operation De Soto, 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

They were named to stay behind with a wounded buddy to await a Med Evac helicopter. One of the pair had a good reason for being left back--he was the 2d platoon sergeant, HM3 Mario Vargas, USM, 21 (Phoenix, Ariz.). The second man was LCpl. Edward R. Toll, 21 (Dayton, <sup>Mich</sup>Ohio), a machine gunner.

"As soon as the Med Evac bird came in," said the Doc, "we put the man aboard and headed for the platoon command post."

But when they reached the command post the platoon had already moved out to give supporting fire to an adjacent company that was receiving heavy enemy fire. Someone else had taken Toll's machine gun leaving him armed only with his .45, Doc was also wearing his pistol.

As the two moved out to rejoin their platoon they missed a turn and "ended up in Charlie's backyard," according to Toll.

-more-

Release No: TFX 239-67  
2-2-2-2

"We were in a trench going slow and easy, " he said, "when we saw a VC, so we shot him, he fell and we checked the area."

After making sure that there were no more VC in the immediate area the two moved on, still in search of their platoon.

"About 30 meters on down we saw a bunker, "said the sergeant. "Bill stayed behind it, while I went around front."

"I saw a head sticking out of the bunker and called to him to come out, "he continued. "Instead, he jerked back and the next thing I saw was a carbine poking out."

The pair opened fire into the bunker, firing into it any way they could.

According to 2dLt. Ernest D. Preate Jr., 26 (Old Forge, Pa.), platoon commander of the lost "dup": "The platoon had moved around into position to aid "K" Company and we could hear the snipers but couldn't get to them."

"Then everything broke loose, " he said. "It must have been when they opened up on the bunker."

When the firing stopped the two men shocked the bunker with the aid of their comrades. Inside were four VC bodies and an assortment of weapons.

Lt. Preate later said, "I don't know whether to write them up for a medal or chew them out for getting lost."

-time-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 236-67  
change of command  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Chu Lai 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 13 -- LtCol. William Plaskett, Jr., 41 (Norfolk, Va.), assumed command of the 1st Field Artillery Group (1st FAG), Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division in a formal ceremony at the 1st FAG headquarters, today.

He relieved LtCol. Joseph B. Stribling, 47 (Texarkana, Texas), who has completed his tour of duty in Vietnam and will return to the United States for assignment with Landing Force Training Command, Coronado, Calif.

Prior to his new command, Colonel Plaskett was Force Assistant Special Services Officer, III Marine Amphibious Force.

Among the guests for the ceremony were BrigGen. William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division; Colonel Fred Haynes, Chief of Staff, Task Force X-Ray; Colonel Quang Tai Kil, Chief of Staff, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade and Colonel Nguyen Van Toan, Acting Commander, 2d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Infantry Division.

-usmc-

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 238-67  
Trawler sinking  
By: 2dLt. C. B. Tyler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
phoned to OIN, 14 March 1967

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 14---Today the Navy Marine Corps team joined forces to catch a steel hulled trawler, running arms and supplies to the VC.

In the early morning hours of darkness (5:17 am), today a U.S. Naval ship and two swift boats sighted an unidentified trawler at BS 6895.

One swift boat took pursuit and fired warning shots over the unlighted trawler. When the ship ignored the warning shots the swift boat closed in to cut the trawler off from the beach. The trawler fired machine guns and 5.7 mm recoilless rifle rounds at the swift boat, hitting the boat eleven times.

The Navy continued the pursuit and returned fire. The trawler ran aground. The swift boats closed in and continued to pepper the beach with a hail of explosive fire.

The trawler blew up in a violent explosion believed to be set by the crew before they abandoned ship.

While the Navy had contact with the trawler, "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division was alerted and hoisted to the beach where the trawler had sunk in several feet of water off shore.

Before night fall the Marines had recovered 700 Chi Com carbines; 7000 rounds of 7.52 mm ammunition; 25 large machine guns; 25 small machine guns; 15 life jackets; 1 life boat and 10 bottles of vitamins.

-more-

DECLASSIFIED

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Release No: TFX 238-67  
2-2-2-2

The Navy salvage crews had recovered 1000 pounds of contraband.

The Navy and Marine Corps will continue the search at first light, tomorrow.

There were no friendly casualties in today's action.

-END-

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1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 237-67  
James bond??  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 14 --

The mysterious figure crept silently through the row of buildings, hardly recognizable in the heavy morning mist. He kept to the shadows until he reached a particular wooden building and he slipped quickly through the back door.

Once inside, he removed his trenchcoat and carefully laid his weapon aside, within easy reach if it were needed. He sat down at a desk and waited for a phone call; one that would change his life.

The time seemed to creep by and he sat nervously -- waiting for that inevitable call. The minutes ticked by and the phone seemed to stare at him as if it knew something he did not.

Finally, a ring!

He answered quickly in a low voice.

"007 here sir."

The voice on the other end of the line identified himself and said, "I'll be darned! --007 huh? Is Lieutenant Dobbs there?"

"No sir he isn't. Would you care to leave a message?"

"No, I'll call back. Thanks 007."

-more-

DECLASSIFIED

james bond??

fowler

2-2-2-2

LCpl. Paul F. Slaughter, 21 (Northbrook, Ill.), set the receiver down and thought to himself, "This place will never be the same. Life was so easy when I was simply a clerk in the adjutant's office. Now I have to double as a secret agent. I suppose the Lieutenant will drive to work this morning in an Aston Martin DB-5 with a couple of beautiful blondes wearing gold wet suits, next."

This was the scene in the office of the Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, adjutant, 2dLt. Jeff A. Dobbs, 35 (Anaheim, Calif.), the morning after he received his new phone number -- 007.

The new number was the result of a new switch board installation in the Chu Lai area.

"It sort of adds a little spice to life," LCpl. Slaughter said. "If I could only have a few of James Bond's girls, I would be all set."

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 235-67  
memorial service  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41  
Chu Lai 041

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 13 — The officers and men of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, paid their final respects to 1stLt. William Anthony Berry, 24 (Youngstown, Ohio), in a solemn memorial service at the Task Force X-Ray Chapel, March 12.

He joined the 1st Marine Division as an aerial observer, July 25, 1966. During his tenure with the unit, he flew 296 missions and participated in 16 major operations. His awards include the Air Medal with Silver Star, in lieu of a sixth award, and the Purple Heart Medal. In addition, he has been recommended for, but has not yet received, the Bronze Star Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

The service, conducted by Odr. Edward H. Kicklighter, OMC, USN, ~~the~~ ~~Assistant 1st Marine Division Chaplain~~ Assistant 1st Marine Division Chaplain, read in part: "His cheerful disposition, uprightness, dependability and devotion to duty won the highest respect of all who knew him."

-11880-



INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 234-67  
fort page  
By Cysgt. James J. Oggerino

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 12 -- Fort Page is a post of the Corps located in the heart of "Indian Country."

Like its old Wild West counterpart, it is surrounded by a high fence. Since the fort is in Vietnam the fence is made of interwoven bamboo poles.

Located near the hamlet of Binh Yen Noi (3), a stone's throw from the Cay Da River, the fort is about 12 kilometers southeast of Chu Lai. Although less than an acre in size, a 10-foot-wide moat almost completely surrounds the main compound, roughly 105 feet long and 65 feet wide. An almost perpendicular embankment, studded with yaggi stakes and cactus, makes trespassing difficult. Barbed wire, concertinas, sand bagged bunkers at the four corners of the compound and a trench line also tend to discourage unaccompanied tours.

Near the north end of the main compound stands a headquarters building, the only permanent structure within the fort. On the front of the building is a red and gold sign, flanked by two flagpoles, which lets the reader know he is at Fort Page. Covered with red tile the building is approximately 45 feet long by 20 feet wide. It is the right wing is used as a kitchen and dining room.

-More-

fort page

Oggerino

2-2-2-2

In front of the right side of the building and almost adjoining it is a general purpose tent that serves as a Marine Barracks. Behind the headquarters building the moat is not quite as wide as it is elsewhere, a point that will later prove significant.

Last June two independent Viet Cong companies were in control ~~to~~ the Fort Page area. One full battalion was known to be in the district. The fort's 28-man Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) was unable to cope with the VC, who moved about freely.

On June 10, 1966 a squad of Marines from "C" Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division volunteered to join the PFs in their fight against the Viet Cong. Designated Combined Action Company (CAC) Lima 1, they were the first such company established in the Chu Lai area.

Their goal was to gain comradeship and friendship of their Vietnamese counterparts while training to be self sufficient.

After the original squad leader returned to the United States, the accomplishment of this goal became the responsibility of SSgt. Joseph H. Sullivan.

In the weeks that followed, Sergeant Sullivan taught by example. Three and sometimes four patrols a night were conducted. Many enemy contacts were made and the combined U.S. Marine - Popular Forces unit began to drive the enemy from their stronghold.

-more-

fort page

Oggerine

3-3-3-3

This new state of affairs was intolerable to the Cong. They gathered a sizable force and struck. They were routed.

It was during this firefight that the Marine for whom the fort was named was killed, LCpl. Larry Lee Page of New Albany, Miss.

In mid-July the enemy tried again. They attacked five Marines and three PFs from the rear. Again they were routed.

During the next few months the power of the enemy decreased, as did the number of his forces. Under the leadership of Mr. Phaoe, PF platoon leader and Sergeant Sullivan's counterpart, the PFs began to conduct night patrols and set up ambushes alone. They had arrived as a fighting unit and were proud of their accomplishments.

There was only one dark cloud on the horizon. Rumor had it that there <sup>WAS</sup> ~~was~~ an enemy agent at the fort. Although there was no definite proof, both Sergeant Sullivan and Mr. Phaoe were convinced that the rumor was based on fact.

On the night of September 14, six of 13 Marines at the fort were out on ambushes with 16 of the Popular Forces. One man, LCpl. Guadalupe Garcia, 21 (Sunnyside, Wash.), was on R & R.

Shortly after midnight on the morning of September 15, a dozen VC infiltrated the fort via a post that should have been manned but wasn't. The earlier rumor was confirmed. Crawling through a hole in the bamboo fence structure, the VC ~~infiltrated~~ used a plank to span and cross the moat and climb the embankment, pulling on punji stakes as they went. They then launched a grenade attack.

~~The first grenade landed near the south end of the general purpose tent,~~

fort page

Oggerino

4-4-4-4

The first grenade landed near the south end of the general purpose tent, wounding three Marines. They were cut down at almost point blank range by a VQ with a French submachine gun from the bunker at the southeast corner of the compound as they emerged from the ~~compound~~ tent.

Sergeant Sullivan died trying to put the enemy gunner out of action, a corporal trying to reach Sullivan was also cut down.

When the first grenade exploded, LCpl. Robert Thielepape (Austin, Texas), began firing red star clusters from hand illumination flares. This was the pre-arranged distress signal. He managed to launch about six flares before he was knocked out by grenades. As he lay in the trenchline near the southeast bunker he was hit by three more grenades.

Regaining consciousness, he found himself 170 feet away in the northwest bunker, hidden by debris, presumably by a member of the Popular Forces. Crawling in the narrow space between the trench line and the general purpose tent, Thielepape picked up a rifle from a slain Marine, returned to his original post and manned the machine gun in the bunker's upper tier.

Seeing four figures in utilities bending over a Marine's body he called out to them, thinking they were PFs. They answered his call with a hail of bullets. One of the bullets hit the elevating and ~~trans~~versing mechanism of the gun, another hit the pistol grip, saving his life. Thielepape opened fire and the four figures fell.

-FOOT-

fort page

Oggerino

5-5-5-5

While Thielepape was ~~was~~ knocked out of action Bae Si ("doctor") Khoi, a Vietnamese corpsman, took over the machine gun in the bunker. Later, when the battle was over, he administered to the needs of the wounded.

Mr. Tau, a radioman, killed a VC in hand to hand fighting along the eastern trench line. He broke a rifle stock in the process.

Both Bae Si Khoi and Mr. Tau have been cited for bravery.

Along the western trench line the PPs defended their position in vicious hand to hand fighting. Spattered blood on the headquarters building gave mute testimony to the struggle in the two-foot space separating the building and the ~~general~~ general purpose tent.

The building's interior was a shambles. Rifle grenades had torn gaps in the red tile roof. Satchel charges had started fires destroying records. Chairs, tablecloths, rations and money kept in the combination kitchen/dining room were also destroyed by fire. The walls, even today, remain pockmarked from grenade fragments and bullets. Six Popular Force troops were killed and seven wounded defending the fort.

Among the Vietnamese dead was Mr. Phuoc. The VC had tried to decapitate him with a crosscut saw blade. The defenders had driven them off.

-MORE-

fort page

Oggerino

6-6-6-6

Meanwhile, the distress signals set off by Thielepape had been seen by LCpl. Sidney W. Fleming and Pfc. Kenneth W. Lorch (the terrain prevented observation of the signals by the other two teams out). As they brought their patrol in to relieve the defenders at the fort they were fired on by elements of the 21st VC Company that surrounded the fort. After a 15-minute fire fight the VC broke contact and fled.

As is their custom, the Cong dragged their dead from the field preventing significant intelligence information from being gathered making an accurate count impossible. However, evidence found the next day (human intestines) indicated the enemy had paid a heavy price for his depredations.

The following night the six remaining Marines set out to fight again. They had refused all offers of assistance and reinforcement. It was their fort, their territory, and they alone would defend it. The PFCs felt the same way.

LCpls. Fleming and Larry V. Wingrove (Tawas, Mich.) and three PFCs were on their way to an ambush site when they stopped to check a light in the house. They heard a click and saw a man run from the house. He was killed. Searching the body, they found he carried a French submachine gun. It was believed to be the same weapon used in the attack on Sept. 15. A round was chambered with the primer of the cartridge punctured. Luckily the weapon had misfired. And so the plans of the VC, who had underestimated the courage and tenacity of the CAC unit.

-NOT-

fort page

Oggerino

7-7-7-7

The VC were driven off in the fire fight that followed. There were no friendly casualties.

"From the night the fort was overrun until around Dec. 1, we had good contact with the VC," said Sgt. Vincent M. McGowan, 21 (Yonkers, N. Y.), noncommissioned officer in charge of today's CAC unit. "Then all contact seemed to cease."

Sergeant McGowan attributed the lack of contact to the high volume of nightly ambush patrols conducted.

"There are only a dozen VC left in the area but they are inactive," the sergeant said. "Nevertheless, we will keep our eyes peeled for them."

When Lance Corporal Garcia returned from R & R he didn't believe it "until I saw it."

"Maybe it might have changed the story. Maybe it might have been better had I been here," he said.

Of the original group of Marines assigned to the fort's CAC unit, five still remained: Corporals Gerald J. Faircloth, 19 (Palm Harbor, Fla.), Paul L. Swinford, 22 (Rome, Ga.), and Larry Melton, 20 (Xenia, Ohio.), and Lance Corporals Garcia and William R. Culver, 19 (Fort Worth, Texas).

-more-

fort page

Oggerino

8-8-8-8

Melton, Culver, Garcia and Faircloth have extended their tour of duty in Vietnam for six months with the understanding they remain at the fort. LCpl. Wingrove also volunteered to stay behind another six months but he was already in receipt of orders returning him to the United States and his request was denied.

Today's CAC unit no longer patrols the area as often as in the past. Instead of patrols, medical and dental care and assistance programs are conducted.

"Things were pretty quiet for a while," Sergeant McGowan said. "Maybe the VC are trying to pull us into a false sense of security. We know better."

In fact, action has begun to pick up. During the first week of March, two patrols were fired on by the VC returning to the area, perhaps in an effort to regain face.

"We'll know when they intend to hit us again and we'll be ready for them," the squad leader said. "In fact we've been ready for a long, long time."

Things are looking up at the fort, which continues to be one of the many bastions of freedom created and shared by the U.S. Marines and the Vietnamese.

-XONE-



INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), PMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 232-67  
silver star  
By Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 17 -- To a Marine at the end of his Vietnam tour, happiness is the prospect of seeing home again.

Sergeant Curtis C. Williamson, 21 (Wayville, Ga.), received a bonus on his last day in country as Brig Gen. William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division presented him with the Silver Star Medal today.

While serving as a squad leader with the 2nd Platoon of "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division on Operation Prairie last October, Williamson, then a corporal, observed the lead elements of a North Vietnamese Army Platoon approaching his squad during a search and destroy mission near the Demilitarized Zone.

He opened fire with his rifle, killing two of the enemy before the weapon jammed. As the rest of his platoon began to move up, Corporal Williamson threw hand grenades to cover their maneuvering.

-more-

silver star

runner

2-2-2-2

During the heavy fire fight that followed, the platoon commander was wounded. Williamson ran to his aid through intense enemy automatic weapons fire and continued to direct the fire of his men while rendering first aid. Five more of the enemy were killed at that time.

Corporal Williamson then moved his squad to an <sup>improved</sup> position as artillery fire was called in on the NVA unit.

He is credited with saving the life of his platoon commander and contributing materially to the defeat of the enemy.

-10000-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 231-67  
re-enlistment  
By Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 12 -- Two Marines of 7th Communications Battalion, 1st Marine Division, received a total of \$17,000 in re-enlistment bonus payments, March 7.

Staff Sergeant Dean R. Polhamus, 32 (St. Petersburg, Fla.), and Sgt. Rowland W. Stone, 25 (Dallas, Texas), both assigned to Radio Relay and Construction Company, received the personal congratulations of BrigGen. William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division in his office at Chu Lai.

Sergeant Polhamus had recently been promoted to his present rank.

-12220-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 230-67  
demolition teams  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 11 --- The Marines of 2d Platoon, "B" Company, 9th Engineer Bn., in support of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, were busy constructing a warehouse building at Chu Lai, Feb. 25, when they received word to stop what they were doing, and pack their gear and be ready to move out as soon as possible.

The Vietnamese Rangers, who were participating in Operation Lien Ket 89, south of Quang Ngai City, needed Marine demolition teams to assist their combat engineers in destroying Viet Cong tunnels and fortifications.

Within four hours the platoon was ready to go south. They had everything needed for demolitions work, but they did not carry food supplies. The Marines would work and fight side by side with the Vietnamese Rangers -- eating whatever food and drink the Vietnamese provided for them in the field.

The Engineers spent their first night in Quang Ngai City and moved to the field the next day and began blowing up enemy tunnels and emplacements. They destroyed more than 40 caves and 20 fortifications, much of the time under heavy sniper fire. In many of the caves they found Viet Cong documents and training schedules.

-more-

XX

fowler

demolition teams

2-2-2-2

2dLt. Peter B. Allen, 24 (Alto Loma, Calif.), the platoon leader, said, "Our presence in Operation Lien Ket 89 seemed to give the Vietnamese combat engineers more incentive and it looked as if we were competing to see who could blow up the most tunnels. It was something new for our engineers and was a productive and interesting operation."

The platoon returned to Chu Lai March 4.

-MEMO-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Main), FMF  
PPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFI 228-67  
staff sergeant black  
By MSgt. G. E. Wilson

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SSgt. Samuel J. Black, 26 (Bridgeport, Texas), is lucky to be alive.

He survived, with minor injuries, the 500 pound bomb blast<sup>41</sup> at less than two feet away, March 2, during Operation DeSoto, 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

A platoon commander with "F" Company, 2d Bn., 7th Marine Regiment, Black had reached the flattened top of Lam Binh Hill (big) during a company sweeping operation. The Task Force X-Ray unit has been engaged in DeSoto since Feb. 25.

GySgt. Walter F. Lofink, 41 (Oceanside, Calif.), the company gunnery sergeant, was just cresting the hill when he heard the explosion and saw Black's body careening through the air.

Lofink barely had time to yell "freeze" when a second explosion, "about four seconds later," picked Black up again and hurtled him 25 to 30 feet away. "He was apparently crawling toward the first bomb crater, when the second went off," the gunnery sergeant said.

In the first explosion, Lofink said he thought that Black had suffered an ear injury.

-more-

~~REX~~

Wgt. Wilson

staff sergeant black

2-2-2-2

The second explosion drove shrapnel, pebbles and dirt into Black's leg. The explosions sheered the pack off his back and shattered ration cans in his pocket.

In reconstructing the twin explosions, Lefink theorized that a buried boulder found in the bomb crater was between Black and the bomb forcing the explosion straight up. "He was about two feet away from both bombs when they went off," Lefink said.

The fact that he was on the ground probably saved him from the second explosion which again expended its greatest force up, the 1st Marine Division gunnery sergeant said.

Black, now aboard the USS Repose, has his souvenir of the blast a wicked looking, jagged, five-inch piece of metal with the inscription "G P Bomb, 500 pounds" clearly engraved in the side.

A Popular Forces soldier guiding the Marines apparently tripped an invisible wire connecting the bombs <sup>which were</sup> buried about 15 feet apart. The soldier was killed instantly and a second Marine injured in the blast.

After the two Marines were evacuated, Lefink and the platoon continued to sweep the hills.

"They were honeycombed with booby traps," He said.

-USMC-

NOTE: Black's wife, Annette, lives in Chico, Texas. She has received notice about the wounds, which are not serious, and Black is expected to be

back in action in a few weeks.

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 227-67  
By: Pfc. Gordon Fowler  
Air Medals

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Devote 41

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 10---Two air observers with the 1st Field Artillery  
(1st FAG)  
Group, 1st Marine Division, were awarded the Air Medal at the 1st FAG headquarters.

Capt. Chester E. Hansen, 29 (Pensacola, Fla.), and 1stLt. John R. Quise,  
25 (Boston, Mass.), were awarded their medals by LtCol. J.M.B. Livingston, the  
1st FAG's executive officer in separate ceremonies, March 6 and 7, respectively.

The citations for the air medals read in part: "His devotion to duty  
in the face of hazardous flying conditions were in keeping with the highest  
traditions of the United States Naval Service."

-USMC-



INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FPO  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 224-67  
By: SSgt. Don Summerford  
Fighting Hair Stylist

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 10 -- A five foot, eight inch Italian immigrant and former hair stylist who volunteered for the U. S. Marine Corps to fight in Vietnam, has been called by his Battalion Commander, "one of the finest and bravest men I have known," for saving the lives of at least four Marines in a series of courageous acts March 5.

Lance Corporal Joseph Luca, 20 of Meriden, Conn. and a former resident of Mamola, Italy, during a furious fire fight, with North Vietnamese Regular forces, 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai City, braved intense enemy fire to cross an open field, administer emergency treatment, then carry four critically wounded Marines to safety.

He also killed two Viet Cong and repeatedly disregarded his own safety to provide covering fire for other members of his unit, "F" Company, 2d Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, on Operation De Boto currently in progress.

During the action which climaxed a four day sweep in the Das Pho area, Luca was knocked cold by an enemy bullet which tore through his helmet while he was carrying the first wounded Marine, and was wounded for the third time since he has been in Vietnam when rescuing a fifth Marine two hours later.

-more-

Add 1-1-1

Luen's odyssey of bravery began when two platoons of his company were sweeping an area near Thanh Hieu (2). The company was commanded by Capt. Oliver M. Whipple Jr., 31 (Hamden, Conn.) on a hill mass to the rear, 1stLt. (now Captain) Martin C. Higgins, 24 (Fall River, Mass) provided covering fire for the advancing Marines with the Company's remaining platoon.

A single sniper was holding up the advance when Capt. Whipple deployed ~~his~~ Marines for a classic fire and maneuver assault across the paddy.

The Marines swept across the <sup>clearing</sup> clearing between two hills toward the sniper when heavy automatic rifle fire splattered into their ranks from both sides.

The first volley caught three Marines 200 meters into the paddy, wounding <sup>1st</sup> them critically.

Dropping his rifle <sup>1st</sup> ~~he~~ jumped up and dashed across the paddy. Racing toward the fallen Marine, he quickly applied a bandage, shouldered him and raced back across the open area.

The wounded Marine weighted at least 15 pounds more than Luen, Capt. Higgins said.

Halfway across the paddy, an enemy bullet smashed into Luen's helmet, tore a swath down the liner then exited out the side, peeling the metal away like a banana.

Luen was knocked down by the Viet Cong bullet.

Shaking himself awake, Luen spotted a tracer from a Viet Cong sniper in a tree overlooking the Marines pinned down in the hedgerow to the rear.

-NOF-

Add 2-2-2

Realizing he had left his own rifle behind, Luca grabbed the wounded Marine's weapon and shot the Viet Cong out of the tree. Later Capt. Whipple and a sergeant <sup>421</sup>profusely thanked Luca "for saving our lives." That sniper, they said, had them in their sights and was peppering the area around them.

Again shouldering the wounded Marine, Luca continued toward the Marine lines as the company commander raced out to meet him and assist him with the burden.

Still drawing fire from both sides, Capt Whipple ordered one platoon to counter attack to the left hill mass in an engulfing maneuver by forming a 360 degree perimeter for the landing zone and give suppressive fire for the MedEvac helicopters.

Again, disregarding his own safety, Luca ran forward into the open paddy to provide accurate covering fire for the Marines sweeping toward the entrenched Viet Cong positions.

As the main body of the platoon entered the brush on the opposite side of the paddy, Luca saw other Marines fall critically hurt. Again disregarding the enemy's automatic weapons fire, Luca raced toward the nearest wounded man.

Capt Whipple moved into the open paddy where he could see Luca and provide covering fire. The ~~squad~~ corporal bandaged and carried the first Marine to safety. He then returned across the paddy to the remaining wounded. Before he could move the next man, he had to cover a gaping hole with a banana leaf, cover it with a bandage, then carry him to safety.

-XXXX-

Release #01 244-67

Add -3-33-3

The enemy continued their unabated automatic crossfire.

Returning to the third fallen Marine, Luca, who weighs 155 pounds, was unable to carry him. Capt. Whipple immediately moved up and both Marines brought the wounded man back to safety firing as they went.

It was now 2 p.m. and the fight had lasted fifteen minutes.

Capt. Whipple called in medical evacuation helicopters and gunships to get the wounded Marines to a hospital. While the MedEvac chopper sat down in a field, two gunships raked the area around the Marine positions.

Despite the combined fire laid down by the Marines and the choppers, the enemy continued to fire at the Marines now set in defensive positions around the landing zone. The two platoons swept forward toward the enemy driving them back. About 3 p.m., two more Marines were critically wounded in the same area where the sniper had been.

Sgt. Nelson E. Randall, 25 (Chelsea, Mass.) raced around the field to reach the wounded men while Luca ~~must~~ provided covering fire. Randall ran 200 meters across the field, bringing one of the wounded to safety.

Luca, noting that the second Marine was seriously wounded and should be gotten to the chopper quickly, again ran across the open field, bullets whining around him.

Reaching the wounded Marine he half-carried and half-dragged the larger Marine toward safety while continuing to fire <sup>danger</sup> his rifle with one hand as they crossed the field.

-more-

Add 4-4-4

That's when he received his third wound. A bullet ricocheted, hitting Luca in the hand and arm. It then hit the wounded Marine's leg, wounding him a second time.

Spotting a sniper in a clump of bushes, Luca shot the Viet Cong.

"It knocked him out of the tree line backwards and he landed <sup>20</sup> motionless in the brush with his feet in the air," Luca said.

A corpeman ran across the field to give aid to the wounded Marine while Luca provided covering fire. The three then continued their trip across the field, still under heavy enemy fire.

The Marines cleared a landing zone but the Viet Cong continued to pour automatic weapons fire into the area, hitting the MedEvac chopper several times.

Sgt. Randall moved into the open with Capt. Whipple who directed artillery fire and close air support into the VC positions. Randall continued giving Capt. Whipple covering fire as the strikes were called in and the helicopter was loaded with wounded.

Although the area was still under enemy fire, Cpl. Luca assisted with ~~making~~ <sup>making</sup> carrying for the wounded and constructed make-shift stretchers for them from flack jackets so they could be loaded aboard the aircraft.

After the battle Capt. Higgins said, "I observed Luca and I don't think his actions could have been excelled. He remained cool, and moved fast without regard for his own life -- only for others."

He also praised Capt. Whipple. "Without the quick thinking on the part of Capt. Whipple, the operation could have had <sup>1d</sup> an entirely different outcome."

(more)

Release No: 224-67

Add 5-5-5-5-5

After the battle, eight Viet Cong were confirmed as killed.

Luca asked special permission from LtCol. Warren J. Kitterman, 39  
(New Albany, Ga), the commanding officer of <sup>2nd</sup> ~~3rd~~ Bn, Seventh Marine Regiment,  
to stay with his unit.

Regulations, however, require that a man be ordered out of the combat  
zone after ~~being~~ being wounded three times.

"He should go far in this world, for he is one of the finest and bravest  
men I've ever known," LtCol. Kitterman said.

- NAME -

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFI 220-67.  
change of command  
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Feb. 26 --- Maj. Frederick H. Van Sant, 36 (Triangle, Va.), assumed command of the 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, Feb. 26.

He relieved LtCol. Jack D. Rowley, 39 (Silver Spring, Md.), who has been assigned new duties as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

The ceremony was conducted by the 3d Amphibious Battalion's Staff Non Commissioned Officers at the battalion's headquarters.

Prior to assuming his new duties, Major Van Sant was executive officer of the battalion.

-12226-

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 218-67  
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 7 -- It all started about 15 years ago when William E. Keller was a private first class at Marine Barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y. The barracks first sergeant was a MSgt. John M. Kozak.

Today, Keller, 35 (Chattanooga, Tenn.), is a second lieutenant serving as the adjutant of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. Kozak (New York City) is sergeant major of the battalion.

Lt. Keller attained the rank of first sergeant before being selected for a commission last May.

On Feb. 27, SgtMaj. Kozak extended his enlistment in the Marine Corps taking him past 30 years active duty. He asked Lt. Keller to officiate at the signing of the papers.

Lt. Keller was only too glad to oblige. "It kind of does something to you," he said when thinking back to Brooklyn, 15 years ago.

The 3rd Battalion is presently engaged in Operation De Boto 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City, Republic of Vietnam.

-name-

DECLASSIFIED



INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 217-67  
By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 8 -- Snipers fired into defensive bunkers at 9th Engineer Battalion March 6, and when they tried to escape the engineers were hot on their trail.

Lance Corporal James E. Looklear, 24 (Lumberton, N.C.), a full-blooded Cherokee Indian, was with the seven-man reaction force that pursued the fleeing snipers. Last summer he had captured a prisoner by running him down when the VC tried to escape, and he was ready to try it again.

The enemy ran into a nearby village, where a Medical Care and Assistance Program (MedCap) was underway, and no doubt thought they were safe. They didn't allow for Looklear's determination.

An old villager led the team to his hut. As they approached, a man burst out of the house, running hard. Looklear followed and tackled him not far away. The detainee refused to answer questions and carried no ID card. The engineers relieved him of a switchblade knife and took him away for interrogation.

Lance Corporal Looklear is a heavy equipment operator, but he never misses a chance to go out on patrol. VC running around in the 9th Engineer Battalion area had better keep on running -- faster!

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Supporting Art  
Release No: 216-67  
Photo No: 12-51X-67  
MedCap

Omaha Press Center  
Tel. No. Devote 41

A CRYING CHILD -- An infant in the small Vietnamese village of Xuan Trung, Republic of Vietnam is examined during a MedCap Feb 20, by HM2 Ted Chacona, USN, 22 (Sayre, Pa.), (second from left) and HM2 Roy A. Jenks, USN, 25 (Reno, Mich.) (far left), as Major John W. Henry Jr., 33 (Burton, S. C.) Commanding Officer of Radio Relay and Construction (right), Seventh Communication Battalion, 1st Marine Division, looks on.

(OFFICIAL USMC PHOTO BY Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

-USMC-

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), PMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96302

Release No: WFX 213-67  
By: Opl. Ian Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center  
File No: Drove 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 7 -- When 32 cards from San Diego State College send season's greetings, they believe in doing it in a big way, first with a 15-foot Christmas card and now with a 60-foot long Valentine.

Recipients of the giant greeting cards were the Marines of the Third Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division.

It all began when Marine reservist, Opl. Derek A. White, a former member of the Third Battalion, suggested to one of the girls that they send Christmas greetings to the Marines of the battalion.

To insure that no one was left out, the girls made the 15-foot card and addressed it to the entire battalion. It was then forwarded to Marine recruiter Mgt. Robert G. Dambock in Santa Monica, Calif., who forwarded it on to the battalion. The same process was followed for the valentine.

Response, to the Christmas card, from the battalion Commander, LtCol. Dean I. Hamlinger, as well as individual Marines prompted the girls to make the longer and more elaborate Valentine.

"Although it arrived a few days late, no one seemed to notice," the colonel said. "We now have 32 new friends back home."

-mmmo-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 218-67  
By: Cpl. Philip Hauer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 8 -- Nearly a million pounds of rock falls to the ground every day in the middle of An Tan village, but the Vietnamese residents are glad to see it.

Heavy dump trucks from 9th Engineer Battalion, operating in support of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, have deposited tons of crushed stone on the section of Highway 1 that runs through An Tan.

The resurfacing project is the job of "D" Company, 9th Engineers, under the leadership of Capt. Harold E. Zealley, 25 (Wlyria, Ohio), a graduate civil engineer. Their goal is to pave about 12 miles of road with crushed rock, forming a waterbound macadam surface.

The engineers built culverts last summer at strategic points along the road, to allow for proper water drainage. Prior to putting down the first layer of stone, all bumps were leveled and holes filled in the dirt surface.

Chunks of granite measuring three to five inches form the base of the 24-foot wide road bed. According to Capt. Michael E. Landy, 24 (Rocky Mount, N. C.), executive officer of "D" Company, most of this coarse stone is purchased from local Vietnamese, who break it to size by hand. Finer gravel from the 9th Engineers' rock crusher goes on top. Each layer is packed, graded and soaked with water to form the solid surface known as waterbound macadam.

(more)

road project 2-2-2-2

hamer

The finished surface will be capable of taking a lot of punishment from a heavy volume of traffic. When the rains come, there will be no knee-deep mud to slow vehicles and splatter pedestrians. Dust will be held to a minimum in dry weather.

The engineers have been working six days a week on the Highway 1 surfacing project. Their tools range from picks and shovels to bulldozers, graders and delicate surveying instruments.

Cleanliness, convenience and a smooth flow of traffic through the village -- the new road offers all these. When the job is done, both military and civilians will benefit for a long time to come.

-NAME-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFA-213-67  
By: Pfc Gordon L. Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele No: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 7 -- The Marines of First Platoon, "A" Company, First Reconnaissance Battalion, First Marine Division, exchanged glances that reflected a tense confidence as they approached their objective -- a hill deep in enemy territory. The "recon" Marines had been on the hill before and, as before, expected contact with the Viet Cong. Their mission was to observe enemy activity in the area.

Beads of sweat made streaks in the camouflage grease paint on their faces as the helicopter hovered over a possibly mine-infested landing zone; and the heavily laden Marines dropped the remaining eight to ten feet to the ground.

Gunnery Sergeant Jim Rudman, 32 (Oceanside, Calif.), the patrol leader, silently signaled his men to move to higher ground away from the landing zone. They moved quietly and slowly up the jungle trail keeping alert for any sound or movement that would indicate the presence of the enemy.

Ten minutes later, they reached their objective and formed a small perimeter around a clearing on top of the hill.

(more)

recon patrol add 1-1-1-1

platoon *Fowler*

The patrol's radioman, Pfc. Steven E. Smeger, 20 (Pennsville, N.J.), established radio contact with the platoon's air support element to relay reports of enemy movement from the platoon members.

Within five minutes word was passed to Smeger that three to six Viet Cong were moving toward the Marine's position.

An aerial observer could not confirm the platoon's report and the Marines waited for other signs of the enemy in the thick brush around them.

A sharp noise, like that of a rifle belt going home. A sudden movement by a Viet Cong.

Two Marines ~~opened~~ up with automatic rifle fire. Two Viet Cong fell dead.

The fight began in earnest. Heavy enemy small ~~arms~~ <sup>fire</sup> was received from point blank range.

Marines returned the fire with automatic rifles, machine gun fire and M-79 grenade launchers.

When the Viet Cong began lobbing hand grenades into the platoon's positions, the Marines responded with intense fire and called for air support.

Jet aircraft and armed helicopters strafed the Viet Cong with 20mm cannon, machine gun fire and rockets. Meanwhile, the radioman called for aircraft to ~~extract~~ <sup>extract</sup> them from the hill.

"When the helicopter gets here, increase your fire," yelled Sergeant Rudman, "then load up fast."

(more)

reson patrol add 2-2-2-2

fowler

The helicopter came in and the Marines commenced a heavy barrage of automatic rifle and machine gun fire, to keep the enemy pinned down and climbed quickly and orderly aboard.

Back at headquarters the Marines topped the day off with a football game.

Tomorrow would be another day -- another hill -- perhaps another fight.

-NNNN-



INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 207-67  
By: GyBgt. James J. Ogerino

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 4 -- Ten-year-old Bui Hung has a new brother, a U. S. Marine.

And he'll always have a "Big" brother as long as the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division maintains a Combined Action Company (CAC) in the village of Ky Khung.

Bui Hung's mother left five years ago to live with a friend in Danang. His father died two years ago. Since then he has been living with an older brother who had three children of his own.

Times were hard and Bui was asked to either find work or leave. He tried. But it was the Tet holiday season and no one would listen to a ten-year-old boy, especially one who was obviously sick.

Civil authorities brought Bui Hung to the U. S. Marine sponsored Vietnamese hospital at Ky Khung, where the 3rd Battalion's CAC headquarters is located. He was examined by HM2 Philip D. Laby, USN, 22 (Hartford, Conn.), CAC corpsman.

"When I first saw Hung he was thin, dirty and weak," said Corpsman Laby. "He was suffering from anemia, malnutrition and a skin condition," the corpsman added.

"There was only one thing I could do," Laby said. "Put him on vitamins and feed him one square meal three times a day."

(more)

big brother 2-2-2-2-2

oggerino

In the meantime Hung stayed at the hospital where he was "adopted" by Pfc. Earl C. Weatherman, 18 (Fairfield, Calif.) When Hung arrived at the hospital, located four miles west of Chu Lai, he wore old levis, shower shoes and a black pajama top. Now he wears one of Weatherman's cut down utilities. In addition, When Hung meets a "financial crisis," like needing money for candy or cake, Weatherman is right there to bail him out.

Weatherman knows he won't always be around, that some day he must leave Vietnam. "That's no problem," he said. "As long as there's a Marine around some one will take care of him until he can fend for himself."

When Bui Hung developed a fever of 106, Lt. James E. Louis, MD, USN, 31 (Dallas, Texas), the 3rd Battalion surgeon was called in. Hung had malaria.

"He's had it before," Dr. Louis said. "This is merely a recurrence. He also has parasitic infestations," the doctor added.

Today the 10-year-old Vietnamese lad is still markedly anemic and suffers from a skin rash, but these are comparatively minor problems, that will be cured with the greatest medicine in the world, knowing that someone cares.

-11212-

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FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 206-67  
By: Pfc Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, March 4---LtCol. Jack D. Rowley, 39 (Silver Springs, Md.), assumed command of the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, Feb. 28.

He relieved LtCol. Basile Lubka, 40 (Mansfield, Ohio), who will assume duties as Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

The ceremony was held at 1st Battalion, Seventh Marine Headquarters and was attended by MajGen. H. Nickerson, Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, Col. Fred Haynes, Chief of Staff, Task Force X-Ray and Col. Kenneth J. Houghton, Commanding Officer, Fifth Marine Regiment.

Prior to assuming his new command, LtCol. Rowley, a veteran of 22 years service, served as commanding officer, 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion, 1st Marine Division, since last October.

-UNREO-

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1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 205-67  
By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 5—Colonel Kenneth J. Houghton, 46 (San Francisco), assumed command of the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, yesterday.

He relieved Col. Fred Haynes, 45 (Dallas, Texas), former regimental commander and Chief of Staff, Task Force X-Ray, who will now devote full time to the Chief of Staff post.

An honor guard of four platoons selected from the 1st and 3rd Battalions and Headquarters Company, Fifth Marines, was formed for the ceremony at regimental headquarters. The 30-man III MAF Drum and Bugle Corps entertained with a selection of popular tunes prior to the change of command and played the Marine's Hymn as the regimental colors passed to the new commander.

Among the distinguished guests present were LtGen. Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force; MajGen. H. Nickerson, Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division; BrigGen. William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray and BrigGen. Kim Yun Sang, Commanding General, 2nd Republic of Korea (ROK) Marine Brigade.

Prior to assuming his present command, Colonel Houghton was assigned to Operations Directorate, J-3, on the Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

-unms-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX <sup>204</sup> 204-67  
By: FPO Gordon L. Fowler  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
Beach opens

Clin Lab Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAL, Vietnam, Mar. 3 -- The Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division beach opened Feb. 25 for the enjoyment of individual Marines and groups, who wish to have a beach party.

Facilities available to swimmers and picnickers include; beach huts, barbeque pits, tables and benches and skin diving equipment.

Units can make reservations for a beach hut and barbeque pit by calling Auditor 37. Also a limited amount of beer is available for these parties and can be obtained through the special services warehouse.

Rules for the beach area are posted and are for your own safety:

1. No long trousers will be worn in the water.
2. Government issue air mattresses are not allowed.
3. Glass beverage containers are not allowed on the beach.
4. The area around the Vietnamese fishing boats is off limits.
5. No spear guns in the swimming area.
6. Red flag means no swimming, green flag waist deep only, white flag swim away.
7. The life guards control the area at all times.

Caution should be exercised when in the sun. Sun tan lotion is usually available in the PX.

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Release No: 204-67

Add 1-1-1

"The lifeguards on the beach are experts in lifesaving and all of them have graduated from lifeguard school held by the American Red Cross. The school lasts eight to ten days and covers all phases of life saving and water safety methods," said Lt. Robert A. Cornell, 36 (Portsmouth, R. I.), Task Force X-Ray Special Services Officer.

He went on to say, "The beach is for your enjoyment. Observe the safety rules and have fun."

-HEND-

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
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P.O. San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 203-67  
By: PFC Gordon L. Fowler  
Emergency landing

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 3 -- Three preliminary engine failures and, finally, a complete loss of power caused a Marine pilot and his air observer to force-land their O1-C "bird dog" observation plane on a beach Feb. 28, while flying an air strike control mission during Operation De Soto, about 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

The pilot, Capt. William D. Blackburn, 24 (Hot Springs, Mont.), and the air observer, Capt. James M. Matthews, 27 (Lemon Grove, Calif.), were forced to land their plane after the engine failed completely and the cockpit began to fill up with engine smoke. They were given support by two jet (A-4) aircraft while they looked for a place to land.

"We spotted some Marines on the beach and landed near them," Captain Matthews said. "Our wing caught in the water and forced us out into the surf about four or five feet deep. Some navymen from an underwater demolitions team and Marines from the 1st Ma., Fourth Marines, were on the beach and helped us ashore."

This was the second time in a month <sup>that</sup> Captain Blackburn has been forced to land. February 2, he landed his observation plane on highway 1 <sup>because of</sup> trouble with fuel lines.

-USMC-

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 202-67  
By: SSgt. G. J. Howe  
DASC

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tele: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 3 — Supply birds from ships at sea and Quang Ngai fly in and out of the Nui Dang LSA, "Buoy Gunships" strafe nearby hills and valleys, Marine jets wing into ridgelines blasting bunkers and caves, artillery, naval gunfire and mortars whiz through the air, resupply choppers and med evac birds zoom across the sky while the AO "bird dogs" lumber along watching for possible targets.

A mild congestion, like New Years Eve in Times Square, in the skies above Nui Dang.

But each go their separate way, like ships passing in the night, thanks to Capt. Robert J. Weisel, 26 (Riegelsville, Pa.) and the officers and men who compose the Nui Dang Direct Air Support Center.

This small group of men, from Marine Air Support Squadron 3, control the air traffic in the skyways to avoid any two objects using the same small air space at the same time.

The DASC maintains contact with all aerial traffic in the Operation De Soto combat area, keeping each air craft apprised of the location of others and assigning safe corridors of travel.

They also track on their big plotting board the location of artillery fire, mortar fire and naval gun fire thereby avoiding the disastrous meeting of a projectile and a friendly aircraft in mid-air.

-more-



Release No: TFX 202-67

Add 1-1-1

Anytime of day and far into the night the little green igloo, a prefabricated dome-shaped building housing the DASO, is a beehive of activity.

Undoubtedly many Marine pilots can thank the Operation De Soto DASO for their well-being.

-UNNO-

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), MAF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 001  
By: Sgt. T. O. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Devote 41

Bakery

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR 2 -- The cherry pies that the Leathernecks of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, on Operation Devote are eating may not be as good as those mother used to make, but they seem to hit the spot with the men atchow time.

The pies as well as the biscuits, cinnamon rolls, hot rolls, donuts and cakes, are the products of the bakery of the battalion's field mess kitchen.

Pfc. C. A. Browning, 19 (Seattle Wash.), and Pfc. Richard A. Valdez, 19 (San Pedro, Calif.), are assigned to the bakery and work under the trained eye of the mess sergeant, GySgt. Melvin J. Everett, 43 (Wilmington, N. C.).

Gunny Everett praised the work of the two Pfc's. "Browning has been in the <sup>KERY</sup> ~~kitchen~~ for only a month and Valdez has just been transferred from the kitchen," he said, "So far they are doing fine."

The bakery turns out all the baked goods for the battalion mess except bread, which is flown in by helicopter from Chu Lai, 55 miles to the north.

When pie is to be served, an average of 18 pies approximately 18"x30" are put into the unit's ovens. Each pie sheet will yield 50 pieces.

On an average day, the battalion mess feeds about 900 men, but there are days, when units are rotating in and out of the field, that the tally runs as high as 1500 men. This requires that the bakers begin their day fairly early. The first meal starts at 6 and by the time the two Marines have completed the requirements for that meal, it's time to start on the evening meal.

-more-

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bakery...2

A day inside the bakery tent, which stays almost as hot as the baking ovens, usually lasts until 5:30 p.m. After this most bakers will make their way home to hot showers and some much-needed rest, but this is not so for the 3rd Battalion bakers.

After completing a day in the bakery tent, Pfc. Browning and Valdez take their rifles and report to the guard section to stand watch on the command post perimeter; Browning as a rifleman and Valdez as a section leader on a .50 caliber machine gun.

Rest finally comes to the two bakers as the perimeter guards take turns on duty, guarding over the sleeping Marines of Operation De Soto.

-30-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMS  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TPA 201  
By: Sgt. G. J. Howe

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Davote 41

Sgt. Howe

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR 2 -- "It fell upon me and I just had to do the job; that's what they gave me the rank for," said Sgt. Richard C. Small after assuming command of the 1st Platoon, F Co., 2nd Bn., 7th Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

The 21 year-old Marine from Mission Viejo, Calif., was leading his squad, while the 3rd platoon was taking part in a company sweep north of Hein Toy I village. When the platoon began receiving sniper fire they moved west to an opening in the cane fields and began maneuvering toward the snipers when the VC opened up with machine gun fire. The platoon leader, platoon sergeant and several other men were hit and taken out of action. The word came back to Small that he was the senior man left in the platoon and he immediately moved forward and took charge of his unit.

While under intense enemy fire, Small directed the movement of the wounded men to an opening where helicopters could land and called for the rescue choppers and guided them in, to pick up the wounded, when they arrived.

Meanwhile, the Company Commander Capt. G. E. Whipple, Jr., 31 (Hamden, Conn.) had moved up another platoon and the company command group to assist the platoon. Capt. Whipple said "Sgt. Small remained cool all the time, controlled the action well and did an outstanding job for a 21 year-old sergeant."

After the VC were beaten off, the platoon was pulled back for an hour and a half to resupply and reorganize, then again set out to join the company sweep toward the objective with Sgt. Small in command, a job normally assigned to a Marine officer.

-more-

Sgt. Small...?

According to Capt. Whipple, "Sgt. Small is still the platoon commander, and will be until I receive another officer.

High opinion of Sgt. Small is also expressed by the men of the 3rd platoon. Cpl. Angel Mendez, 2<sup>d</sup> (New York City), said "Sgt. Small knows his job, he did a great job that day." Mendez went on to say that Small did equally well when called upon to lead the platoon in other circumstances when the platoon <sup>LEADER</sup> and the platoon ~~sergeant~~ <sup>sergeant</sup> were away.

Cpl. Mendez is the platoon sergeant of the 3rd platoon. He assumed the job when Sgt. Small took command.

Capt. Whipple is forwarding a recommendation for the award of a Silver Star medal to Sgt. Small.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 198-67  
By: SSgt. Jack "W" Jansen

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel. No: Devote 41

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, March 3 -- The III Marine Amphibious Force Drum and Bugle Corps made its first tour of the Chu Lai area Feb. 27 through March 2.

During their four day tour of the Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, units the Marine bandmen performed for a change of command ceremony at the Fifth Marine Regiment.

They also gave performances at the 9th Engineer Battalion, Quang Ngai City high school, Nuoc Han (home of the 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment) and at the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, command post.

The 35-man drum and bugle corps returned to their home base at Da Nang after lunch at the 7th Communications Battalion messhall yesterday.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE  
1st Marine Division (Rein), FTF  
APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 197  
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center  
Tel: Devote 41

Sitrep: Operation DeSoto

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, MAR 2 -- Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, had a field day as the Leathernecks accounted for 13 of 14 Viet Cong kills on Operation DeSoto, 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

Operation Deckhouse 6, in progress to the north of DeSoto, logged in an additional 15 Viet Cong dead while forces of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, working in conjunction with the two Marine Corps operations, had 30 kills.

Also in the three joint maneuvers, 24 detainees were apprehended, and nine weapons were captured.

Marine and ARVN casualties were light.

-30-