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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES NEWS RELEASES

TF X-RAY - 150

TAB-E

APR 1967

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

Release No: TFX 352-67
By: SSgt. George Howe

CHU LAI PRESS CENTER
Tele: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 26 -- Another chapter was closed in the history of the 1st Marine Division at noon today when Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division was dissolved.

Most of the tactical units composing Task Force X-Ray have moved into the Northern Sector of I Corps, relinquishing their old Tactical Areas of Responsibility (TAOR) to ~~the~~ U. S. Army elements.

Army units consisting of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade, the Third Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and a Task Force Oregon Command Group have taken over the Chu Lai area. The Army units are commanded by MajGen. William B. Rosson, Commander, U. S. Army Forces, Task Force Oregon.

To bring the Army units into Chu Lai, 707 aircraft were used, transporting more than 6,000 troops and 14.5 million pounds of cargo.

BrigGen. Foster G. LaRue, Assistant Division Commander, 1st Marine Division, and former Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, will remain as Chu Lai Installation Coordinator. Ground forces remaining are the Chu Lai Installation Coordinator Staff, Force Logistics Supply Group "B", and elements of the 7th Communications Battalion, First Hospital Company, 9th Engineer Battalion and 3rd Amphibian Tractor Battalion.

Units of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing currently here will continue to operate out of the Chu Lai area.

(more)

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TFX wrap-up 2-2-2-2-2
howe

Also remaining at Chu Lai will be the Marine Corps' Combined Action Companies, however they will be under the operational control of the Army unit nearest their location.

First Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division will continue to operate in the northern portion of the Chu Lai area under the operational control of the 1st Marine Division.

During its more than six months of existence, Task Force X-Ray accounted for more than 1,375 confirmed VC kills.

Task Force Marines participated in Operations Kent, Dover, Rife Blanco, Sutter, Sierra, De Soto, Trinity, Deckhouse VI, Clay, Rio Grande, Tippecanoe, Boone and Union.

-usmc-

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

Release No: TFX 349-67
 By: Sgt. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
 Tele No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 22 -- In the days of the old west, many gunfighters prided themselves in the number of men they killed and carved notches on the butt or stocks of their weapons to show their prowess.

The Sniper Platoon of the Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, is proud of its "kills" too, but show it in a more practical way - a large billboard in front of their tent with miniature Viet Cong painted on it representing each VC killed.

Since January the 35-man sniper platoon has accounted for 60 confirmed Viet Cong killed in both the Chu Lai and Da Nang Tactical Area of Responsibility.

"Most of the action has been with the 2nd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, at An Hoa," said Sgt. Thomas G. Casey, 23 (Woodruff, S. C.), platoon sergeant of the sniper platoon.

"We have a squad attached to that battalion at all times," he continued. "For the other two battalions, we are on call for anything from a ^fire team patrol to a major operation."

The sniper platoon consists of three, eleven-man squads, with a squad broken down into five two-man teams. A team consists of a shooter and a spotter.

(more)

sniper platoon 2-2-2-2-2
taylor

"The shooter and spotter are interchangeable," Sgt. Casey said, "and depends on who is the best shooter. The shooter is always in charge of the team," he added.

Armed with the Remington Model 700 rifle, mounted on a Monte Carlo stock with a Redfield 3x-9x power scope and equipped with a range finder up to 600 yards, the snipers have recorded kills up to 1500 meters.

"I think it's the best sniper rifle in Vietnam," Casey said.

"Not all our kills come with the rifle," he explained. "If the VC are out of our range or there is a large group, we can call in artillery or mortar fire on them. We get credit for those too."

Before being assigned to the sniper platoon, the Marines must complete the 1st Marine Division's Sniper School in Da Nang. Upon completion of the school, the Marine is given the sniper Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) of 8541.

In the field the snipers keep a record of the type of action they encounter and report any VC sightings and activities to the battalion intelligence section. When they return from the field, reports are also made to the platoon sergeant.

"We have a highly motivated platoon," Casey said. "They all want to be snipers. It's just a little bit more of a personal war than being in the infantry," he concluded.

-USMC-

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Release No: TFX 348-67
 By: SSgt. George Howe

Chu Lai Press Center
 Tele No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 22 -- GySgt. Dennis T. Dinota, 25 (Clearwater, Fla.), "M" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, was presented the Silver Star Medal and a meritorious promotion to his present rank April 15 at Headquarters, 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, near Chu Lai.

MajGen. H. Nickerson Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, made the presentation.

GySgt. Dinota earned the award while serving as a platoon commander with "M" Company during operations against communist insurgent forces, Feb. 1.

When lead elements of his platoon received heavy enemy fire from a series of bunkers, GySgt. Dinota maneuvered into a position of extreme vulnerability so that he could observe the action.

While pointing out enemy positions to an M-60 machine gun team, he exposed himself to enemy fire from at least six enemy bunkers.

Realizing that another machine gun team had failed to locate the enemy bunkers, Dinota sprinted across 50 yards of open rice paddy while under heavy enemy fire to the gun position, in order to direct its fire at the enemy.

(more)

silver star 2-2-2-2-2
howe

Dinota then maneuvered through open rice paddies and directed a 3.5 inch rocket on targets, one shot resulting in a large secondary explosion.

He then continued to direct the rockets at enemy bunkers to allow spotting for air support and artillery.

Due to Cysgt. Dinota's actions, the company was able to hold the ground it had gained and set in a defensive perimeter for the night.

Later when a fire team experienced difficulty trying to retrieve a wounded Marine, Dinota personally went to the scene and carried the Marine to safety.

According to his citation, "Throughout the battle, Dinota displayed great initiative, professional skill and uncommon courage in the face of sustained heavy enemy fire."

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

Release No: TFX 347-67
By: Cpl. Phil Hauer

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 22 -- The CAPs are growing fast in the Chu Lai area, and only the Viet Cong are unhappy about it.

Second Lt. M. E. Carson, 36 (San Diego, Calif.), is in command of Combined Action Company "Lima" operating south of Chu Lai. With seven platoons (CAPs) already established and two more on the way, his unit conducts a thriving program in cooperation with the local Vietnamese.

"The people want us to set up in their villages," Lt. Carson commented. "They make it a joint operation. Everybody turns out to help the Marines and Popular Forces (PFs) troop clear and fortify a site for the combat base in spite of threats by the VC." He referred to a recent incident when Viet Cong guerrillas assassinated a hamlet chief and threatened the people with more terrorism if they continued to cooperate with the Marines. Next morning, however, the villagers were back in force and eager to continue their work on the new CAP headquarters.

All requests for the organization of new ^bCombined Action Platoons originate with the Vietnamese local government. A hamlet chief outlines the needs of his people to the district chief, who ^adecides on a location for the CAP and provides 30 PFs to work with the squad of Marines. After the unit is established, requests for assistance by the CAP must also come from the villagers.

(more)

CAO staff 2-2-2-2-2-2
hamer

"In addition to our primary mission of providing security for the village or hamlet, we specialize in self-help projects," Lt. Carson said. The Vietnamese may ask the CAP for help in rebuilding schools, cementing ~~walls~~ walls or building a dispensary. It's all a part of the job for the Marine volunteers, who have four to six months of Vietnam service prior to their assignment to a Combined Action unit.

Lt. Carson feels that life in a Combined Action Platoon demands that a Marine be really interested in the program. "We have to have mature men with a desire to live among the Vietnamese and help them to help themselves," he stated. Often a volunteer is given a chance to test himself "on the job" before receiving a ~~and~~ permanent assignment to one of the CAPs.

Since the platoons come under operational control of the unit in whose area they are located, the Combined Action Company's role is largely administrative. Lt. Carson defines his primary responsibility as "taking care of the people. It's my job to see that they get whatever they need to best carry out their mission."

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

Release No: TFX 346-67
By: Sgt. Steve Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 20 -- "All I know is, I was scared for the men in bunker 5," said Cpl. Warren E. Tebo after a rocket hit near his tower during a Viet Cong attack at Chu Lai in the early morning hours of April 12.

"I woke up at about 12:30 and was talking to the man on watch," said the 20-year-old, Westfield, Mass., Marine, "when we got about 30 to 40 rounds of incoming automatic rifle fire."

The rounds were fired by VC set up less than 300 meters from the tower. They were the first sounds of the attack.

"I jumped across the tower to get my rifle and the other guy grabbed his," he said. "Then we both started shooting back."

Finally the two Marines started using the .50 caliber machine gun assigned to the tower, the control point for that sector of the perimeter.

"When the '50' opened up, that was the last we heard from their small arms," the 3rd Amphibian Tractor Bn. supplyman continued.

Tebo was assigned as the NCO in Charge of the 14 man guard section that night.

"We've got five bunkers and the tower," he stated. "The fourth in line is the tower.

"Then I heard this blast and looked out the right side ^{to} ~~of~~ bunker 5. I couldn't see it for the smoke and dust, and I thought they'd been hit."

It was later determined that a communist-made rocket had hit almost directly between the two positions.

(more)

tower watch 2-2-7-2-2
stephens

"After it was over, we were talking about it and the guys in '56' thought we had gotten it," he recalled later.

By then the VC had brought 81mm mortars into action and were "walking" them away from the perimeter defenses onto the airfield about 3,000 meters away.

"The closest one to us hit about 50 meters behind us, then they started moving away," said Tebo. "But even that was too close for comfort.

"We could see the flash from the mortar tube but they were in a dip behind some sand and we couldn't hit them," he continued. "But we sure tried."

Later on in the morning, after the sun was up, Tebo discovered that at least two of the rockets had been fired - the one that hit between the tower and the bunker, and another one that took out a part of a crossbeam on the tower structure.

"We don't have the slightest idea about when that hit," he said, speaking for his buddies also.

The Marines also found unexploded hand grenades and satchel charges in the perimeter defensive barbed wire. And when a team guided by Tebo checked the area where the mortars had been fired from, they found more hand grenades and about eight dud mortar rounds that "Charlie" had left behind in his hasty departure - possibly brought on by the steady whittling of the 7.62mm and .50 caliber bullets on the sand dune behind which he was hiding.

-UNCLAS-

Cpl. Warren E. Tebo is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Harold C. Tebo, West Road, Westfield, Mass. He is a June 1964 graduate of Westfield High School where he majored in Agriculture. He arrived in Vietnam in February after spending nearly a year in Okinawa.

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Release No: TFX 345-67
By: Cpl. Philip Hauer

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 19 -- Swarms of birds filled the skies around Nui Dang, swooping through the air and hovering above the ground. Frequently they settled in for a brief rest, then took to the air again with a great deal of noise.

Men on the ground became amateur bird watchers, comparing notes on the size, speed and markings of the different varieties they observed.

Helicopter traffic was the order of the day April 8 as control of the Nui Dang area, 50 miles south of Chu Lai, was transferred from 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division to elements of the U. S. Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division.

Seven different kinds of choppers carried cargo and troops to and from the area all day. The 1st Air Cavalry units, fully air mobile, supplied the powerful "Flying Crane" for lifting heavy equipment, CH-47 "Chinook" workhorses, and the fast UH-1 "Huey" gunships and personnel carriers. Little OH-13 observation helicopters flew in and out as the work was in progress.

Marine aircraft on the job included the new CH-53 "Sea Stallion" twin-turbine helicopter, CH-46 "Sea Knights", "Huey" gunships and the utility H-34.

Working together, the choppers of both services were able to move personnel and equipment at an efficient rate. Helicopters had brought the first Marines into the area for the start of Operation De Soto in January, and they were on the scene in force as the operation secured April 8.

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Release No: TFX 344-67
By: Sgt. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 18 -- A one-day sweep by the Combined Action Company (CAC) "Kilo" 4 on April 13 accounted for one Viet Cong killed and one detainee. The action was the result of an ambush the night of April 12 where one Popular Force (PF) soldier was killed.

Conducted by the PFs of the CAC and Ly Tin District headquarters, the sweep took place in the hamlet of Ky Canh, an area known to be sympathetic to the VC.

According to LCpl. Clay Selzer, 20 (Ukiah, Calif.), of the CAC unit, the PFs and Marines traveled up the river to the hamlet in sampans, and received small arms and automatic weapons fire as they searched the caves throughout the hamlet.

During the search, the VC killed was caught attempting to escape from one of the caves. When spotted by the PFs, the VC threw a grenade and started to run, and was hit by a burst of fire from one of the PFs.

After being hit, the wounded VC crawled into another cave and was killed when the CAC forces dropped grenades into the hole. Documents and papers on the VC body named other villagers as VC sympathizers or guerrillas.

The captured man was apprehended by one of the Marines of the CAC and was taken back to the CAC headquarters as a detainee, but was released after interrogation.

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Release No: TFX 341-67
By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 13 -- The nation's second highest combat award, the Navy Cross, was presented to Sgt. Charles D. Sadler, 20 (St. Louis, Mo.) in ceremonies held at Headquarters, 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, April 10. MajGen. H. Nickerson, Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division made the presentation and also promoted Sgt. Sadler to his present rank.

His citation read in part:

"For extraordinary heroism as a machine gun team leader with the 3rd Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Bn., Ninth Marine Regiment in Vietnam on 21 May 1966. Cpl. Sadler's platoon participated in a helilift to a position in order to block the withdrawal of a large enemy force operating in the area. When the helicopters landed in an open rice paddy the area was immediately subjected to intense mortar and automatic weapons fire. More than 20 Marine casualties were inflicted in the first few minutes of the savage action. With exceptional composure and presence of mind in the tense situation, Cpl. Sadler quickly took charge of his team and began returning fire, fearlessly exposing himself to the enemy to accomplish his task.

When supplies of ammunition were depleted, Cpl. Sadler twice braved the withering fire to recover ammunition from wounded men who were lying in the exposed rice paddy.

(more)

navy cross 2-2-2-2-2

taylor

On one occasion, he spotted a Viet Cong running from a tree line with a machine gun and reacting instantly, Cpl. Sadler ^{57 round} ~~shot~~ in the midst of the grazing fire and fired his machine gun from an off-hand position, felling the enemy.

Organizing five men into a small unit, he attempted to mount an assault against the nearest VC position. Realizing the futility of further attempts he judiciously directed the men to dig in and save two magazines of ammunition each. He withheld his last one-hundred round belt of ammo, ordered all rocket misfires to be stacked in the position for last second detonation, and instructed his men to stand by for a probable physical assault by the enemy.

His daring initiative and relentless fighting spirit served to inspire and encourage all who observed him, and was instrumental in preventing the enemy from overrunning the position. His resolute effort contributed in large measure to the eventual entrapment of the enemy force, resulting in 53 Viet Cong killed and 17 weapons captured. By his extraordinary courage in the face of extreme danger, bold initiative, and unwavering dedication to duty throughout, Cpl. Sadler upheld the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

Currently serving his second tour in Vietnam, Sadler commented on the citation, saying, "I just felt like I was doing my job." He was a Lance Corporal at that time.

-USMC-

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

Release No: TFX 340-67
By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 13 -- A Marine lieutenant and former platoon commander with "I" Company, 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, was awarded the Silver Star Medal and a gold star in lieu of a second award April 8.

First Lieutenant Michael D. Carey, 26 (Orange, Calif.), was presented the medal at Headquarters, Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, by Col. Kenneth J. Broughton, regimental commander.

His citation for the first award read in part:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on July 22 during Operation Hastings. While his platoon acted as point for "I" Co., one squad was taken under fire by a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire, killing four men instantly and pinning the remainder of the squad down with rifle fire and grenades. Noting the seriousness of the situation, Lt. Carey courageously rushed forward, killing two enemy soldiers nearest him. Without hesitation he analyzed the situation and skillfully directed the remaining squads to the respective flanks in order to gain fire superiority and rout the enemy. Seeing two of his men who were seriously wounded, Lt. Carey returned to the ambush site and maneuvered the remainder of the platoon, enabling them to gain fire superiority and rout the enemy.

His valiant leadership was a significant factor in saving many Marine lives. Lt. Carey's exceptional fortitude in the face of enemy fire, keen professional ability and unfaltering dedication to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

(more)

silver star 2-2-2-2-2

taylor

The second citation read in part:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action on July 24 during Operation Hastings. During the attack and subsequent defense of Hill 362, Lt. Carey continually exposed himself to hostile fire to inspire and direct his platoon against enemy forces. Moving his squads forward, Lt. Carey, without thought for his personal safety, assaulted the advancing enemy unit single-handedly with hand grenades.

In so doing he was able to disorganize the enemy in such a fashion that his men could move through the thick underbrush to launch an attack in force.

Although his position was under heavy mortar and small arms fire, Lt. Carey with complete disregard for his own personal safety continued to move about to inspire his men to hold their positions and maintain fire discipline. The conduct and leadership of Lt. Carey had a great effect on the outcome of the Battle for Hill 362.

Lt. Carey's exceptional ability and unfaltering dedication to duty throughout were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

Lt. Carey is authorized to wear the combat "V".

-USMC-

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

Release No: TFX 339-67
By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 13 -- A brush with "almost certain death" left two squad leaders of "India" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, "thankful to be alive."

The two Marines, Corporals Willard O. Weber, 20 (Milroy, Pa.) and Paul M. DeCrescenzo, 20 (East Boston, Mass.) were on a Golden Fleece operation when a grenade thrown by a Viet Cong struck Weber's chest and landed between the two. The grenade didn't go off.

"We were sleeping a few feet apart when something hit me in the chest," Weber explained. "I didn't know what it was then but I was pretty sure we were getting hit," he said.

The squad leaders' suspicions were confirmed moments later as two grenades exploded nearby.

"When it hit me, I got up and woke up Paul," Weber continued. "We ran out about 15 feet from where we were. Then we heard the two explosions and a few rounds of incoming small arms fire and then it was quiet again except for our illumination rounds."

An ambush nearby spotted four Viet Cong minutes after the probe but the VC were out of rifle range.

"I'm too short for this to happen to me," Weber said. "We're both lucky to be alive."

Weber, squad leader for the 2nd Squad, 3rd Platoon, rotates in May.

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INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE
1st Marine Division (Mek), RVN
P.O. Box Fresno, California 96602

Release No: TPX 350-67
By: Cpl. Lm L. Taylor

On: 1st Press Center
Tel. No: On: 1st 141

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 13 -- The state of Georgia sees about its men in Vietnam, or at least 170. Jack B. Morris, a member of "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 15th Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, is convinced they do.

The 18-year old Marine from Augusta, who was wounded in Operation De Soto Feb. 23, received personal letters from Governor Lester Maddox and Lieutenant Governor George W. Smith, and a House Resolution was adopted in his behalf.

"I correspond frequently with Rep. Bobby W. Johnson, a personal friend, and he told me about the resolution," Morris said, "but the letters from the governor and lieutenant governor were a complete surprise."

In his letter, the governor commended the young Marine for his bravery under fire. He went on to say, "We Georgians are proud of you and appreciate the service you are rendering to your country in Vietnam."

The governor also wished Morris a speedy recovery from the shoulder wound he suffered.

The resolution adopted in his behalf was introduced by Rep. Johnson of the 40th District, Warrenton, Ga., and was adopted March 13. The resolution expressed "sincere appreciation to 170. Jack B. Morris for his courageous service to his country in Vietnam."

During the 1966 General Assembly, Morris served as Assistant Doorkeeper for the House of Representatives.

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appreciation 2-2-2-2-2

taylor

"It was a great experience for me," Morris said. "I met many of the Representatives then and when they heard I was wounded I received many get-well cards and greetings," he added.

"It was a great honor to receive a personal letter from the governor," he continued, "and it's nice to know that he takes a personal interest in the men of his state serving over here."

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James J. Buckley

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

Release No: TFX 336-67
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 241

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 12 -- When a Marine on patrol finds a booby-trapped CHUQas head grenade he backs off a few feet and calls for the engineers attached to the patrol.

When the enemy attacks the battalion command post (CP) with mortars and other explosive shells, there are almost always some of the shells that drop without exploding -- "duds." When duds are found the call again goes out for the engineers, who either disarm or remove them or blow them up where they hit.

When there is a mine field to be laid, the engineers get the job; when a new hospital operating room is to be built, the engineers go to work; and when an Infantry Marine gets a hot shower in the field, he can say "thanks" to the engineers.

At Bud Dang, 50 miles south of Chu Lai, where the 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division had its headquarters, "Charlie" Co., 1st Engineer Bn., had the sometimes tremendous job of supporting the Infantry Leathernets in clearing and securing the area.

Usually the engineers have "heavy junk," caterpillar tractors, road graders, etc., to help in their job of building up an area, but at Bud Dang one caterpillar tractor was the limit of their heavy equipment.

And the "cat" was used -- to dig out a bunker for the OCC (Command Operations Center) to level ground for roads; to dig in the many ammo bunkers and fuel bunkers; and to scoop out a well from which to draw water for drinking and showers.

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1st engrs. 2-2-2-2-2

stephens

At the same time the "cat" is working in the OP other engineers are busy laying a field of Claymore mines around the perimeter. Barbed wire had already been strung by a company of infantry Marines but had to be protected from cutting by the VC. So the engineers installed the mine field and devised make-shift firing control boards installed in bunkers overlooking the wire. If attacked, all a sentry had to do was touch the button.

Other engineers are attached directly to the companies in the field. They accompany the units on patrols and sweeps, carrying explosives to destroy tunnels and bunkers encountered in the field.

The combat engineers are also schooled in most every type of detonating fuse used. When a booby trap is located it's his place to render it harmless. He usually has his choice of blowing it up or disarming it.

His job isn't the safest in the world as is noted by the fact that "C" Company had two men killed and five others wounded just during Operation De Soto, a two-month search and destroy mission at Nui Dang.

During Operation De Soto, hot showers were provided for the combat troops by the utilities section of the battalion. The unit was also responsible for keeping water purified for drinking and cooking.

This task was accomplished through the use of four 3,000-gallon rubber storage tanks. Water is pumped into the first tank where it is chlorinated. This tank is used to supply the shower units. The second tank is "flocked", treated with a soda ash and alum mixture to settle the dirt in it. The third tank is chlorinated again,

(more)

1st engra 3-3-3-3-3

stephens

The water passes from the third tank through filters into the distribution tank.

According to Cpl. Rod T. Simpson, 21 (Apopka, Fla.), "We normally use about 2,000 gallons of water daily for showers. But the amount of drinking water used varies with the temperature."

Platoon commander of the crew working at Nui Dang was 1stLt. James E. McDonald, 28 (Kingston, N.Y.) He was assisted in his duties by SSgt. Booker T. Johnson, 35 (Lansing, Mich.)

-USMC-

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

Release No: 335-67 (TPO)
By: Sgt. Steve Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

highsmith nav com med 04/11)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 10 -- Sgt. Grant H. Highsmith, 26 (Sacramento, Calif.), was presented the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" April 4, for his action on Jan. 13 when a truck struck an enemy mine and overturned, bursting into flames. His heroic and selfless actions are credited with saving the lives of his comrades.

Highsmith, a member of "K" Battery, 4th Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment, 1st Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, arrived at the scene shortly after the truck had struck the mine and found the cab, gas tank and tires in flames. He tried to extinguish the flames with a small extinguisher but was unable to do so.

Realizing the danger to two Marines trapped under the ^uburning vehicle, he directed the removal of the truck with a bucket loader and then, according to the citation, "Fearlessly, he and a companion moved under the flaming vehicle, pulled one of the disabled men free and carried him to a safe position where he received medical aid.

"He then courageously returned to rescue the second Marine and, with the help of his companion, carried him to a waiting truck..." which rushed him to a medical facility.

The citation concluded, "By his uncommon initiative, resourcefulness and loyal devotion to duty at great personal risk, (he) upheld the finest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

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

Release No: TFX 334-67
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

wooters bronze star (4/11)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 10 -- A hospital corpsman serving with "K" Battery, 4th Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment, 1st Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, was presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" April 4, for his action in aiding two Marines who were trapped beneath a five-ton truck when it was blown up by an enemy mine.

According to the citation, 1942 William H. Wooters, USN, 28 (Goldsboro, N.C.), rushed to the scene of the explosion Jan. 13, and found the truck completely demolished with its cab, gas tank and tires engulfed in flames. With complete disregard for his own safety, he braved the intense heat and flames to render medical aid to the disabled Marines.

"Demonstrating exceptional presence of mind, he quickly organized a rescue party of personnel that had arrived and located the operator of a bucket loader that could lift the truck from the trapped men," according to his citation.

While the rescue party was freeing the Marines, Wooters went to the aid of other seriously injured Marines who had been thrown from the truck.

"With the aid of another corpsman, he improvised a stretcher and quickly evacuated one Marine to the nearest medical facility. Returning to another Marine who had been freed from the truck, he skillfully assisted a medical officer who had arrived at the scene, by giving mouth to mouth resuscitation and external heart massage," continued the citation. "Moving to another casualty, he worked to the point of exhaustion in an effort to save the man's life."

The citation concluded, "His heroic and selfless action undoubtedly saved numerous Marines' lives and inspired all who observed him."

-USMC-

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

Release No: TFX-³³¹~~332~~-67
psyops
By: PFC John Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, VIETNAM, Apr. 10 -- The loudspeaker at the company command post was blasting music throughout the countryside.

The number was not a selection from the Beatles, but a rallying song for the "Chieu Hoi" program, and the singer, a former Viet Cong platoon leader, was urging the Viet Cong hiding in caves to rally to the cause of the legal government of South Vietnam.

After his explosive rendition of the song, the rallier made a long and enthusiastic speech about the advantages of the Chieu Hoi program. He also urged the civilians hiding in well-concealed caves to come to the company area to submit to questioning.

While he warned them that many of the caves would be destroyed, he promised that the Marines would feed and protect them.

The scene was the bivouac area of "D" Company, 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, during the first week of April, while on Operation Moore.

The search-and-clear mission, which took place 25 miles south of Chu Lai, was a joint effort of the Korean Marines, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and elements of the Fifth and Seventh Marines,

-more-

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Release No: TFX 332-67

add 1-1-1

The loudspeaker system was provided by the Army 244th Psychological Operations Company, 6th Psychological Operations Bn., attached to III Marine Amphibious Force. A team of two Marines attached to the Army unit, participate in operations in the Chu Lai area.

The Marines attached to the "psyops" company are Cpl. Paul E. Kapp, Jr., 23 (Fort Lee, N. J.) and LCpl. William F. Duckworth, Jr., 24 (Merritt Island, Fla.). Both Marines are college graduates and were chosen from their infantry units for this special assignment.

During the operation, the "psyops" team worked with the Vietnamese National Police, the "Kit Carson" scouts and local village elders to broadcast their messages to the Viet Cong and civilians in the hamlet of Chau Binh (1).

When "D" Company first set up a perimeter during Operation Boone, only one Vietnamese civilian could be found. The psyops teams began their broadcasts and gradually, during the course of two days, almost three hundred civilians emerged to be questioned and fed by the Leathernecks.

Several armed Viet Cong soldiers gave themselves up, evidently because of the persuasion of the ^{the} nation Police and the others who spoke over the loudspeakers.

"I spent nine months in the 'grunts' before I was chosen for the 'psyops' company," said Cpl. Kapp. "I've found that the force of ideas here in Vietnam could be a more important factor than the force of arms, and it's our job to bring the Vietnamese governments' ideas to the people."

-more-

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Release No: 332-67

add 2-2-2

While the members of the team are not participating in operations, they organize audio-visual programs, which feature cartoons and Vietnamese government propaganda films. These programs are normally held during the regular visits by civic action units.

"The movies are a great favorite with the people," said LOpl. Duckworth. "Some of them were not even aware that such a thing as movies existed."

In addition to the films, the Chu Lai team helps coordinate the dropping of leaflets and the broadcast of taped announcements from aircraft.

-USMC-

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FPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 330-67
By: SSgt. G. J. Howe
Arty School

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 19 -- The First Field Artillery Group, Apr. 8, conducted a training exercise to indoctrinate new personnel of the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion's Recon Indoctrination Program.

The Recon Marines received two hours of classroom work on FO procedures then "took to the field" for a four-hour live firing exercise.

Forward observer training enables the Recon Marines to rapidly and accurately call for delivery of artillery fire while on reconnaissance missions in the Chu Lai area.

According to Capt. Chester E. Hansen, 29 (Lovelock, Nev.) a Staff Officer for the 1st ^{FA6} ~~FA6~~, who conducted the class, "Recently ~~Recon~~ teams have employed artillery fire in increasing amounts to engage concentrations of VC and to provide defensive fires of their own positions."

During the training period the "Marines learn, in addition to FO procedures, the capabilities and limitations of artillery support.

In the field training phase each Marine learns to locate targets and engage them with artillery.

The firing ~~exercise~~ exercise was supported by "H" Battery, 3d Bn., 11th Marine Regiment.

-USMC-

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APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 329-67
By: Cpl. Philip Hasser

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 9 -- LtCol. John D. Counselman assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division April 5 at the battalion command post 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

Col. Counselman, formerly Assistant G-3, 1st Marine Division, relieved LtCol. Edward J. Bronars, 39 (Chicago, Ill.), who has been assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington.

BrigGen. Foster C. LaRue, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, and Col. C. C. Crossfield, commanding officer of the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, witnessed the change of command ceremony, which included the traditional transfer of the unit's colors to the new commanding officer.

-12720-

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APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 327-67
By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 9 -- A well-equipped school staffed by trained, experienced personnel turns Viet Cong booby-traps into training aids and helps prepare Marines to deal with those deadly devices in the field.

The Land Mine Warfare and Demolitions School conducted by 1st Engineer Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, has been in operation since early 1966. Approximately 150-180 students, both combat engineers and Marine infantry troops from the Chu Lai area, receive instruction each week.

Separate courses are conducted for engineers and infantry by the staff of eight instructors and an NCO in charge. The engineers' course was recently expanded to include a day of road sweep proficiency exercises, which makes it one day longer than the three-day infantry session. Otherwise, the courses are basically identical.

The bulk of instruction is devoted to land mine warfare. During this phase the student becomes familiar with both United States and Viet Cong mines and booby-traps. He learns how the various devices are employed, and how they may be detected and safely destroyed.

Practical application is an important aspect of the training. Students are able to examine actual mines and booby-traps collected on field operations. A demonstration trail illustrates many methods of employment by the VC, under simulated field conditions. Following a class on mine detectors, the Marines get a chance to use the equipment on a practice mine field.

(more)

lmwfd school 2-2-2-2-2

hazet

"We have about every kind of mine and booby-trap the VC use," says SSgt. James H. Meyers, 32 (Dix, Ill.), NCO in charge of the school. "I'd say it's the best equipped school of its kind."

All of the instructors are veteran combat engineers with at least six field operations to their credit. They know their job, and they are able to bring in real experiences and first-hand knowledge to support their lessons.

The demolitions sub-course is designed to give the student a working knowledge of standard military explosives and how to use them. Marines know that the time may come in combat when demolitions are called for and there's no engineer around. It's best to be prepared.

Plans for improving the school include a new "VC village" complete with a tunnel system for practical exercises, and two demonstration areas for studying field wire and fortifications systems. As new enemy mines and techniques are discovered, the devices will be de-activated by Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams and their methods of employment worked into the course of instruction.

The proximity of the school to the combat situation is its outstanding feature. There is no substitute for authentic equipment, realistic situations and in-depth classroom presentations by experienced instructors.

-42523-

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE
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PPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 326-67
By: LCpl. Gordon L. Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 9 — Father Denis Baquette, a Roman Catholic priest who has been in Vietnam since 1935, visited the headquarters of Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division April 5, as a guest of the Regimental Chaplain, LtCol. Ernest S. Lemieux, 43 (San Diego, Calif.).

Father Baquette was introduced to Col. C. C. Crossfield, Commanding Officer of the Seventh Marines and addressed the regiment's staff officers — relating some of his experiences incurred during his 31-year service in both North and South Vietnam.

Born in the United States of French-Canadian descent and raised in Canada, Father Baquette came to Hanoi, North Vietnam, as a religious student in 1935. He was ordained as a Catholic priest by a French Bishop in 1941. The priest served in Hanoi 19 years -- 15 years under French rule and 4 years under Communist rule -- until he was expelled from the country by the Communists in 1958, after being accused of being an American spy and a friend of the South Vietnamese government.

He was allowed to go to Hong Kong, via Communist China, by the Communists and from there he returned to South Vietnam where he has been since -- excluding visits to the United States and Canada -- working in various parishes throughout the country.

Father Baquette has witnessed hundreds of political changes in Vietnam and has seen the country under French, Japanese, Vietnamese and Communist rule.

(more)

father baquette 2-2-2-2-2

fowler

His life has been threatened by the Communists on numerous occasions, but the priest continues his work which has exposed him to famines, natural disasters and political coups -- including the Communist take-over of ^{Northern} Vietnam in 1954, during which some 30,000 Vietnamese were executed and hundreds of thousands jailed.

"Since the Americans arrived in this country there has been considerable improvement -- especially in the attitude of the people," Father Baquette told the Marines. "The people know that the Americans are here to help them rid the country of Communist suppression and that they will return to their own country when the war is over and not take over the land like so many before have done."

After his address, the priest answered many questions about the country and visited with the Marine officers individually.

-UNCLAS-

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PPO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 525-67
By: LOpl. Gordon L. Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 9 — The Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division depends on a tremendous amount of electronic equipment to maintain its vital communications system.

Telephones, switch boards, teletype machines and radio jeeps must be kept in operating condition at all times.

The job of keeping this equipment in order — by preventive maintenance and repair — is that of the Electronic Maintenance and Repair Section at the Seventh Marines' command post.

When anything goes wrong with telephone equipment, the operator switches to an auxiliary unit — continuing his operation — and calls the repair shop. A man is on-the-job within minutes and in most cases has the particular piece of equipment back in operating order in a short time, allowing the operator to continue his full capability.

Sometimes, as in the case of radio jeeps, the repair work is performed in the field under combat conditions and the repairmen must be ready to answer calls day or night, under any conditions.

"We can fix almost any of the equipment used by the regiment that we have parts for," said Sgt. Craig A. Henneman, 22 (Decatur, Ill.), a telephone and switch board repair chief. "Also, we help the Marines around the area, in our spare time, when their tape recorders and radios break down."

-USMC-

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

Release No: TFX 324-67
By: SSgt. G. J. Howe

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 8 -- Operation De Soto which began Jan. 26, concluded at noon April 8.

The 73-day operation accounted for 383 Viet Cong killed and 213 detainees.

A search and destroy operation, Operation De Soto took place 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

Operation De Soto commenced when Engineers of the 1st Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division conducted a road reconnaissance below the Trau Cau river. The engineers were hit by an unknown number of VC and engaged the enemy in a seven hour long battle.

During the night of Jan 26, Marines of the 3d Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment were moved in, to support the engineers and thus began Operation De Soto.

As infantry companies began sweeping the nearby countryside, the battalion command post was dug into the base of Nui Dang hill.

Before the arrival of the Marines, Nui Dang had been occupied by the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The surrounding hills and low lands had been the scene of heavy guerrilla activity since the Viet Minh commenced operations against the French there many years ago.

The 3d Battalion Marines immediately ran into heavy resistance as they moved against the concealed system of trenchlines and reinforced bunkers. The enemy showed an eagerness to stay in the area they had long controlled.

(more)

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de soto wrap-up 2-2-2-2

howe

During the almost two-and-one-half months the 3d Battalion leathernecks occupied Nui Dang many changes were wrought.

The Marines were helicopter supplied during the entire operation with supplies coming from the Logistical Support Area at Quang Ngai and from Navy LSTs offshore.

During the early stages of the Operation 100 tons of supplies were moved into Nui Dang daily.

The face of the mountain changed drastically as the store of supplies increased and many refinements were added to provide a safer and more comfortable environment for the fighting Marines.

One of the first major improvements was the opening of a well equipped field hospital consisting of a receiving area, X-ray unit, operating room and anesthesia equipment.

Also to care for the De Soto Marines a mobile dental unit was moved into the command post area.

Other improvements to the once barren hillside were the opening of the field mess which provided hot food daily and the advent of hot showers.

Toward the end of February the Seventh Regiment Marines were aided in their search and destroy mission by the landing of the 1stBn., 4th Marine Regiment on Operation Deckhouse VI south of Nui Dang. The two battalions joined forces Feb. 20 for several days of combined action.

The 1st Battalion Marines later returned to the sea to land again north of their original operating area. Operation Deckhouse VI concluded near the end of March.

(more)

de moto wrap-up 3-3-3-3

howe

Also taking part in Operation De Boto at various stages of the Operation were the 1stBn., 5th Marine Regiment, elements of the 2ndBn., Seventh Marine Regiment, 3d Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment and soldiers of the Second Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division.

During the Operation Marines suffered 75 dead and 5% wounded. Also 7 Navy hospital Corpemen were killed with 17 wounded.

-ASMC-

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PFO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TFX 323-67
By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 8 -- A tri-nation operation in Quang Ngai Province, 25 miles south of Chu Lai, ended April 7 with a cumulative total of 251 Viet Cong confirmed killed.

The operation involved U. S. Marines of the 1st Marine Division, the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, and elements of the 2nd Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Division.

Code named Boone (USMC), Sea Dragon (ROKMC), and Lien Ket 96 (ARVN), the operations got under way April 1 as Marines of 1st Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, began sweeping south along the South China Sea coast. At the same time, ARVN forces began sweeping north along the coast and Korean Marines pushed from the west toward the coastal area, trapping the VC in the "Troop triangle."

Artillery and air strikes pounded the Viet Cong sniper positions and trench lines and accounted for many of the VC killed.

In addition to the VC killed, the operation accounted for 18 individual weapons and 251 detainees. Captured equipment included medical supplies, anti-American propaganda and documents, tax receipt books, small arms ammunition and other individual equipment.

Individual totals for the operations were: USMC -- 39 VCKIA, 66 detainees and 9 weapons; ROKMC -- 41 VCKIA, 63 detainees and six weapons; and ARVN -- 171 VCKIA, 3 weapons and 102 detainees. Seventy of the ARVN VCKIAs were by air.

(more)

DECLASSIFIED

wrap-up 2-2-2-2-2

taylor

Friendly casualties in the search and destroy mission were: USMC -- 3 dead, 61 wounded, including one Navy hospital corpsman; ROKMC -- 22 wounded; ARVN -- 5 dead and 41 wounded. Most of the casualties resulted from mines, booby traps and punji pits and many of the wounds were considered minor.

-USMC-

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

For JMWK AFRTS
Release No: TFX 322-67
By: Sgt. T. D. Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele Nos: Chu Lai 041

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 7 --

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Marine Lance Corporal John M. Evans, 20 (Butylo, Va.), prepares to blow up a dud 60mm mortar round with a quarter-pound block of ~~explosive~~ explosive. The dud was dug up during some excavation at Nui Deng, command post of the 3rd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, 50 miles south of Chu Lai, on March 29. The piece of ordnance was of French origin and was believed to have been left over from the days when the French were fighting the Viet Minh (now Viet Cong). Evans is an explosives man with "C" Co., 1st Engineer Bn., working in support of the Seventh Marine Regiment on Operation De Soto. Even though it was old and very rusty, the round went off with a resounding blast when Evans lit the firing cap on the explosive.

-USMC-

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

Release No: PEX 321-67
By: Sglt. Don Samerford

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

pay war

FOR INTERMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 6 -- Another huge step against the Viet Cong was successful yesterday morning as an operation was conducted in the village of ² Ky Sanh (2), six miles southwest of Chu Lai, by members of "I" Co., 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

The Marines arrived in darkness and formed a cordon around the village at 2:30 a.m., dug-in and awaited dawn. At daybreak, the unit's Vietnamese interpreters announced the Marines' presence and purpose -- to seek out Viet Cong and administer medical care to the villagers.

Every hootch was then ^{thoroughly} searched for VC as the Marines swept through the village. Following the search, all villagers gathered in one section of Ky Sanh for questioning and medical treatment.

The MedCap, headed by Lt. James E. Lewis (Dallas, Texas), was considered a huge success as 25 men, 50 women and 75 children received medical treatment.

In conjunction with yesterday's MedCap, the Battalion Civil Affairs Office^{Capt.}, headed by Gary Kelly (Shawnee Mission, Kansas), distributed more than 500 bars of soap, 200 packages of kool-aid and 20 boxes of bubble bath ^{for} the villagers.

Although yesterday's operation was only one of many being conducted, LtCol. Dean E. Eselinger, commanding officer of the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marines, was on hand to observe the Marines of his command conduct the operation against the Communist insurgent forces in his unit's TACN.

-LUSNO-

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

Release No: TFX 320-67
By: LCpl. Gordon L. Bowler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

scout snipers 1-1-1-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 6 -- The Scout Sniper Platoon of the Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, utilizing new high-powered rifles with scopes, a little "Kentucky" windage, some luck and a wealth of skill and experience, have chalked up an impressive 50 Viet Cong kills during the past six weeks.

The snipers are attached, in two man teams, to battalions throughout the Chu Lai tactical area of responsibility and use their long-range shooting skill to keep the Viet Cong "honest." During sweeps and patrols by Marine infantrymen, the snipers keep an eye on areas of approach and escape routes -- promptly eliminating any enemy troops that try to slip in or out of the area.

"It must be demoralizing to the Viet Cong to get hit by one of our rounds when they think they are too far from any Marine small arms fire to worry," says Cysgt. David L. Jones, 31 (Clarksville, Ind.), the platoon leader. He continued, "One of our men killed a VC at more than 1,700 meters away -- the Viet Cong probably didn't even hear the rifle at that distance."

The Marine Corps now has sniper schools both in the States and in Vietnam, but snipers must still rely upon training in the field, under real live conditions, and experience of other snipers to teach them. New methods are being developed constantly.

"We are beginning to receive new personnel, who have been trained in the U. S.," said Sgt. Jones, "but they still have to spend some time with experienced people in the field. There is a lot of difference between shooting paper targets and live enemy -- it takes some nerve and perhaps a bit of cold blood."

-usmc-

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APO San Francisco, California 96602

Release No: TTX 319-67
By: Capt. Gordon L. Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

rifle school 1-1-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 6 -- The Marines of Headquarters Co., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, began drawing their new M-16 rifles, April 2, and, simultaneously, classes were held to teach them how to fire and care for the new weapon.

The M-16 is a lightweight weapon of small caliber that can be fired both semi-automatically or fully automatically. Its construction is designed for light weight, easy handling and endurance. The M-16 has almost no recoil, but the velocity of the bullet it fires causes devastating damage to its target.

The main advantage of the M-16 over the previous Marine Corps service rifle, the M-14, is its lightweight and non-corrosive type materials. Also, at least twice the amount of ammunition normally carried with the M-14 can be carried with the M-16 because of the size and weight of the ammo, giving the Marine a great boost in available fire-power.

Classes on the nomenclature of the M-16, operating procedures, functioning of the rifle and marksmanship were given to all personnel who received the weapon. After a morning and afternoon session in the class room, Marines went to the firing range at the Regimental Command Post and learned to fire the weapon in all of the regular firing positions and using both semi-automatic and automatic fire.

"The functioning of the new rifle is easy to learn -- especially for Marines, who have already had extensive marksmanship training," said Cysgt. David L. Jones, 31, (Clarksville, Ind.), instructor of the rifle class. "Most people find it a pleasure to shoot because of its light recoil and weight -- a real improvement over the M-14," he continued.

-usmc-

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

Release No: TFX 318-68
By: Sgt. Steve Stephens

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

155's

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 5 -- What is big, makes a loud noise, goes a long way and takes big bites of earth?

If your answer was Marine artillery, and in particular the 155mm howitzer, you made a good guess.

In fact, you may have gone a little further and decided to name a unit. If you did and you picked the 155's attached to "I" Battery, 3rd Bn., Eleventh Marine² Regiment, 1st Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine³ Division, you can give yourself a pat on the back for a perfect score.

What makes India Battery's 155's different from others is that the two howitzers serving in support of the 3rd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment on Operation De Soto 50 miles south of Chu Lai, were reportedly the first ones to be heli-lifted into a Marine combat position in Vietnam.

The guns were moved to Nui Deng about a week and a half ago and took up gun positions number 7 & ⁸ within the battery. The guns and the crews manning them belong to "K" Battery, 4th Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment. So far, the two weapons have fired about 500 rounds of ammunition in support of Marines in the field.

Evidence of the guns' noise when fired was heard Sunday as they fired the first of a string of "Charge 7" (long range) shots.

Marine infantry troops living near the guns rushed from their huts wondering what had blown up. When the smoke had cleared away, they found that nothing had "blown up," but that a tarp covering ^{one} ~~the~~ ammo bunker had been blown off its stakes, that some sand-bags enclosing the bunker had been pitched off onto the ground and that a barrel of trash paper sitting off to one side of the gun had been partially emptied -- all by the muzzle blast.

(more)

DECLASSIFIED

155's 2-2-2-2-2
stephens

The guns fire a high explosive projectile weighing 96 pounds. There also is an illumination shell that tops 100 pounds.

According to Cpl. Michael E. Compton, 24 (Dallas, Tex.), section chief of Gun 7, the guns are capable of reaching out about 14 miles with their destructive cargo.

Gun 8 is captained by Cpl. William J. Sims, 23 (Jacksonville, Fla.) He says that the six and a half ton weapon isn't really hard to shift from one direction to another -- AFTER you break the trails loose from where they have dug into the ground, get it jacked up and then balanced on the speed jack. Then it only takes 2 men to swing it around. Getting it ready to swing sometimes takes the whole crew.

During the night, the 155's take part in the battery's H & I (harrassing and Interdictory) fire missions. The purpose of the night long vigil is to harrass the enemy and interfere with his movement.

According to some of the 3rd Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment Leathernecks, the guns do a good job of harrassment -- possibly of the Viet Cong -- and certainly of the Marines. As one sleepy-eyed Marine put it, "When that big beast roars, you listen -- you can't help but listen."

-usno-

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

Release No: TFX 317-67
By: Cpl. Ira Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 5 -- It has often been said that "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," and Sgt. Edward H. Butt, mess sergeant for the Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division, is a firm believer in that statement.

"We're not trying to win any hearts," the 33-year-old Philadelphia, Pa., Marine said, "but we do try to keep the troops healthy and happy with the food we serve."

The mess sergeant with two assistants, Cpl. Charles Lewis, 21 (Fredericksburg, Va.), and LCpl. Raymond Schrader, 21 (Bridgeport, Ohio) have been supplying hotchow from a field mess hall for more than 200 Marines of the Fifth Marine Regiment Command Group on Operation Boone, 25 miles south of Chu Lai.

"We're serving three hot meals per day with food ranging from fresh eggs and bacon for breakfast to hamburgers for lunch and creamed chicken and mashed potatoes for the evening meal," Sgt. Butt said.

"In the beverage line we have had iced tea, kool-aid, hot coffee and even fresh cold milk for one meal since the operation began," he continued. "We also have hot coffee 24 hours a day along with soup and crackers, peanut butter and jelly and juice."

(more)

DECLASSIFIED

field cooks 2-2-2-2-2
taylor

In addition to the items mentioned, the "field mess hall" has served chili con carne w/rice, hot dogs, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs (dehydrated), luncheon meat, sausages, hot oakes and fresh lettuce.

The cooks prepare the hot meals on two complete field ranges with one extra fire unit or burner and one extra pot designed for the field range. One messman is supplied from the security element for mess duty each day.

"These two cooks (Lewis and Schrader) have been doing an outstanding job," SSgt. Butt said. "They get very little sleep at night because the galley stays open all night and one of us is always awake."

"Our only reward is to hear the troops comment favorably on the food served and see them come back for seconds," Schrader said. "Then we feel like we have done our job."

-UNCLAS-

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

Release No: TFX 315-67
By: Cpl. Philip Humer

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 941

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 5 -- Putting civic action on a personal basis is the philosophy at 9th Engineer Battalion, and Cpl. A. J. Moscola, 21 (Brooklyn, N. Y.) is the Marine who makes it work.

A combat engineer by MOS, Cpl. Moscola has devoted all of his time to civil affairs since Feb. 15, when he was named NCO in charge of the battalion's civic action program. Operating in support of units in the Chu Lai area, the 9th Engineer Battalion, III Marine Amphibious Force, has civic action responsibility for more than 900 Vietnamese living in the Tich Tay village area.

It's a big job, but as Moscola says, "There just isn't any better job."

He spends more time in the village than at his desk in the battalion's logistics section. A typical day may include teaching English to the school children, visiting the sick with a hospital corpsman or helping Vietnamese residents dig wells or build a house. "I take my shirt off and get to work with the people on any project -- you name it."

A series of personal contacts with the Vietnamese, other Marines and United States civilians underlies the success of Moscola's efforts.

Part of each day is spent in consultation with the village chief or one of his deputies. In this way Moscola keeps the village informed of proposed civic action projects and the progress of programs currently under way. He is able to assess the needs of the people from information supplied by the chief.

(more)

civic action 2-2-2-2-2

honor

In the battalion area Moscola gives civic action lectures. These are aimed particularly at Marines new to the unit, helping them to understand the Vietnamese and their customs. He finds that battalion personnel are eager to work with the people when he needs additional manpower for a project.

Moscola's search for supplies and materials to support his work in Tich Tay has led to a growing correspondence with individuals and organizations in the United States. "I'm waiting for a case of soap right now," he says, "and I plan to start a baseball team for the kids when the donated equipment arrives. They can use anything -- clothes, soap, sewing kits and tools."

Big projects, such as completion of the Dickey Chappelle Memorial Dispensary in Chu Lai New Life hamlet, construction of wells and community showers, and extension of a road from Tich Tay to nearby An Tan village are in progress. Smaller items that Moscola handles himself are just as important to the overall civic action picture.

On his teaching visits to the school three or four times a week he brings hygiene and sanitation posters. He draws them himself. When a grenade explosion injured some children in another village, Moscola drew a poster to warn the Tich Tay children not to play with any ordnance they might find.

The villagers, who call him "A-J", have adopted Moscola as a real friend, and they look forward to his regular visits. Moscola is equally enthusiastic about his work.

"These people really grow on you," he says. "If there's anything they need, I'll try my best to get it for them. Then I'll take it out myself and show them how to use it. It's the best way."

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

Release No: TFX 314-67
By: Col. Philip Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 5 -- When the temperature goes up and the air grows dusty, one commodity means more to a Marine in Vietnam than any other -- an adequate supply of fresh, pure water for drinking and showers.

Utilities and Water Supply Platoon at 9th Engineer Battalion, in support of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, are experts at bringing water out of the ground and preparing it for consumption, to the tune of more than a million gallons per week. "We produce water for just about all ground units in the Chu Lai area," reports 2d Lt. Robert O. Wright, 33 (Chattanooga, Tenn.), of Utilities and Water Supply Platoon.

The treatment process as performed at the 9th Engineers' command post is typical of what goes on at any of the six water points the battalion maintains around the Chu Lai combat base.

Drilling a well is the first step. The six-inch shaft goes down 30 feet at 9th Engineers, deep enough to provide a continuous flow of 3,000 gallons per hour. According to Lt. Wright, a flat and sandy terrain is the best bet for producing water, and there's plenty of flat sand around Chu Lai.

From the well, 3,000-gallon settling tanks receive the water. Soda ash and alum are added to form a "floc" that settles out all fine, suspended particles. This process takes about 45 minutes.

A filter unit gives the water a final cleaning as calcium hypochlorite added to the liquid thoroughly disinfects it. The water is now safe to drink.

(more)

water treatment 2-2-2-2-2

hmm

Water supplymen like Opl. Howard J. Pollet, 21 (Houston, Texas) believe in the effectiveness of the treatment process, but they don't take any chances. Regular "chlorine-residual" checks are made with a standard chlorination test kit. Using a simple instrument, Pollet can tell whether the water meets established standards of purity.

There is nothing more to do but pump the water up to a pair of 3,000 gallon storage tanks mounted approximately 25 feet up on a wooden tower. The tower's height provides the pressure to force the water through pipes and out through faucets and ~~SHOWERHEADS~~ shower heads.

The battalion performs an important service, one that any serviceman in a hot land can easily appreciate. It beats having to drink a canteen of iodine-treated rice paddy water, and of course there's nothing like that fresh, cool shower.

-USMC-

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

Release No: TFX 313-67
By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

Ohu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Ohu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHU LAI, Vietnam, April 5 — Four huge Amtracs rumbled over the mud flats between the villages and the South China Sea on the morning of March 31.

Their appearance was formidable, and the armed Marines who rode on top looked ready for action. The villagers watching their approach were not afraid. In fact, the word passed quickly through the community, and people began moving toward the area where the vehicles had come to rest.

The Amtracs had been out before, each time bringing the benefits of modern medicine and hygiene to rural people who had known little of it before, but needed much.

"It all started with routine river patrols in our Amtracs," said 2dLt. Robert Klages, 23 (St. Louis, Mo.), commander of the 3rd Platoon, "B" Co., 3rd Amphibian Tractor Battalion, operating in direct support of the 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. "We always had a corpsman with us, and he would offer medical treatment to people living along our patrol route."

The AmTrac platoon now conducts regular "MedCaps" in the coastal area north of the 3rd Battalion command post, a few miles from Ohu Lai.

When the amphibious vehicles pull into position at the MedCap site, their crews set up benches and help arrange the doctors' supplies. Hospital corpsmen divide bars of soap for distribution, while the doctor and dentist begin their examinations. The people are grateful.

(more)

medcap 3/5 2-2-2-2-2

hamer

Usually the village children arrive first. Many are just curious, but many others require treatment. Infected sores are a common ailment, and bad teeth bring many villagers to the MedCap.

When their work is done for the day the Amfracs return to their base. They leave behind a few more people whose lives have been changed, if only in a small way, for the better.

-USMC-

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

Release No: TFX 312-67
By: Cpl. Ira Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel: Chu Lai 041

operation Boone

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Phoned to CIB, April 4)

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 5 -- Action continued today in Operation Boone as Marines of the First Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division, accounted for 16 Viet Cong killed, 18 detainees and six weapons captured.

Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces in Operation Lien Ket 96 accounted for 15 VC KIA and 44 persons detained.

Republic of Korea (ROK) Marines in  Operation Sea Dragon met little resistance in their sweep today but apprehended 11 detainees.

Cumulative totals for the tri-Nation operation as of 8 p.m., April 4, are 127 Viet Cong KIA, 128 detainees, 11 weapons and a number of hand grenades captured.

Individual statistics for Operation Boone are 30 VC KIA, 38 detainees and nine weapons. Operation Sea Dragon totals are 24 VC KIA, 15 detainees, one weapon and eight hand grenades. Operation Lien Ket 96 totals are 67 VC KIA, 75 detainees and one weapon.

(more)

operation boone 2-2-2-2-2
taylor

Captured equipment in the search and destroy mission today included medical supplies, small arms ammunition, green and black uniforms, VC gas masks, propaganda documents, tax receipts and other individual equipment.

Medical supplies captured included hypodermic needles, bandages, glucose, scissors and surgical^g equipment.

Marine casualties since the operation began April 1 are three dead and 23 wounded.

-USMC-

(Note: ARVN casualties are three dead and 30 wounded. The ROK Marines have suffered 24 men wounded.)

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

Release No: TFX 310-67
By: Pfc John Donovan

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WFO

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 4 — "Events like this mortar demonstration point up how close we are to the Marines on the front," says Tom Hebert, 28 (Seattle, Wash.), director of the United Services Organization (USO) at the Chu Lai Combat Base.

On March 30, the Chu Lai USO was visited by the 81mm Mortar Section attached to "K" Company, Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division, to demonstrate their weapon to the Marines enjoying a little relaxation at the club.

"We were on one of our conditioning hikes past the club one day, when Mr. Hebert invited us to come back and give this demonstration," said Staff Sergeant Alonso R. Killinger Jr., 28 (Kansas City, Mo.) "He offered us free hot dogs, so we were more than happy to do it."

"81's are among the basic support weapons of an infantry outfit, and we were sure many of the visiting Marines would be interested in knowing how they are assembled for action so quickly," Mr. Hebert added.

SSgt. Killinger gave the command "mortars up," and one of the five-man teams rushed into action, each man with his own piece of equipment and a specific duty, and the mortar was ready for action within three minutes. No rounds were fired because of the presence of several tankers in the bay.

(more)

uno 2-2-2-2
denovan

Marines on the mortar team included squad leader Lance Corporal David Rangler, 21 (Toomsoch, Mich.); gunner Private First Class Willie Williams III, 20 (Jacksonville, Fla.); assistant gunner Private First Class James Kingery, 20 (Richmond, Va.); 1st ammunition man Private First Class Luis Campos, 20 (New York, N.Y.); and 2nd ammunition man Private First Class Jerry Waller, 20 (Atlanta, Ga.).

Ronnie L. Pruett, 28 (Baytown, Tex.), assistant director of the club, a staff of twenty Vietnamese workers and five off-duty Marines help Hebert make the club the success it is. The Chu Lai USO is the only such club located on a combat base anywhere in the world.

In addition to a lounge and modest library facilities, the club also features hot dogs to Marines coming in from their battalion areas and the field. The club also has a game room with music and ping-pong tables.

-uno-

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

Release No: 309-67 (TFI)
By: Opl. Phil Hamer

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 3 — In a repeat performance March 30, a powerful CH-53 "Sea Stallion" helicopter demonstrated a Marine Corps "first" by lifting a six-ton 155mm howitzer from a field position 23 miles south of Chu Lai to the Force Logistic Support Group "Brave" Logistic Support Area (LSA) at Quang Ngai.

A few days earlier the twin-turbine "Sea Stallion" had lifted two of the big guns into position to support the activities of the Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment. It was the first time a 155mm howitzer had been heli-lifted in combat.

A small convoy from "Kilo" Battery, Fourth Battalion, Eleventh Marine Regiment, First Field Artillery Group, Task Force X-Ray, First Marine Division left Chu Lai early in the morning to pick up the guns at Quang Ngai and bring them home. "Kilo" Battery crews had manned the howitzers in the field.

-USMC-

9

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

Release No: TFX 308-67
By: Cpl. Philip D. Houser
driver of the quarter

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Apr. 2 -- The final phase of the judging was held on April 1, but it was no April Fool's joke when the selection board named Cpl. Michael V. Boyer, 20 (Marion, Ind.) of Transport Company, "Driver of the Quarter" at 7th Motor Transport Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

Boyer came out on top after several days of interviews, tests and inspections in competition with top drivers representing the battalion's other companies.

The award was made for the period January through March, and includes a recommendation for meritorious promotion, an M&M quota, and a trophy and certificate. In addition, Boyer will receive a plaque identifying him as "Battalion Driver of the Quarter" to mount on the front bumper of his truck.

Nominees for the award, all previously chosen as "Driver of the Month" by their respective companies, are rated by the selection board on the basis of their performance on a general military subjects and motor transport test, an interview covering operational and technical knowledge as well as general military knowledge, and an inspection of the vehicle, its tools and accessories and the driver's records for the preceding 30 days. Any discrepancies during the quarter, such as PMO citations, are subtracted from the nominee's total score.

"The last few days of judging were pretty rough," said Boyer, who drives a tractor-trailer.

-more-

driver of the month

add 1-1-1-1

The Driver of the Quarter competition not only recognizes individual Marines who turn in an outstanding performance at their assigned job, but also fosters a healthy spirit among battalion personnel and keeps more vehicles on the road safely more of the time.

-1230-

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

Release No: 307
By: Cpl. Ira Taylor
Tri-nation operation

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chu Lai, Vietnam, Apr. 3 -- A Tri-Nation operation involving U. S. Marines of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, 2d Republic of Korea Marine Corps Brigade and the 2d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division moved into its third day today with light contact still prevailing.

Operation Boone (USMC), Sea Dragon (ROKMC) and Lien Ket 96 (ARVN) have accounted for a total of 54 VC killed in action, 48 detainees, four individual weapons, medical supplies and other individual equipment captured.

Of the VC killed the ROK Marines have accounted for 24, the U. S. Marines for 16 and the ARVN soldiers for 14.

The Operation designed to trap the VC in a triangle formed by the U. S. Marines pushing south along the coast, the ARVN pushing north along the coast and the Korean Marines pushing west to east toward the coast began Apr. 1 in Quang Ngai province 25 miles south of Chu Lai.

In addition to the captured equipment the allies have found and destroyed numerous VC caves, booby traps and trenchlines. Steel punji stakes set in blocks of wood were also captured or destroyed.

Action has been confined largely to sniper fire with no heavy resistance. Marine casualties to date are 2 dead and 19 wounded including one Navy Corpsman.

-USMC-

INFORMATIONAL SERVICES OFFICE
1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF
PFO San Francisco, California 96402

Release No: YFI 306-67
By: Pfc. Gordon L. Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 3 — It is doubtful that many people would find any resemblance between the Peace Corps and the Marine Corps; however, LOpl. Ray E. Elsenbrook, 22 (Wayne, N.J.), believes there is — he should know — he has completed a tour with the Peace Corps and is working on one with the Marines now.

Prior to his present job with the Marine Corps, in the Civic Affairs Section, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, Elsenbrook spent two years in Pakistan as a Peace Corpsman.

While in that country, he worked in the Peace Corps' Rural Public Works Program. His accomplishments in Pakistan included the supervision of the building of the first cyclone shelter on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. Other projects ranged from digging irrigation canals to building Muslim prayer towers.

After his Peace Corps tour, Elsenbrook spent some time traveling; then returned to the United States and attended a missionary college in New York.

He learned of the Marine Corps' Civic Action Program in Vietnam and enlisted in the Corps and volunteered for duty in Vietnam. Once in country, Elsenbrook applied for assignment with the Seventh Marines' Civic Action Section and was accepted.

"I felt that the Marine Corps' Civic Action Program was designed to accomplish much the same mission as the Peace Corps'," said Elsenbrook.

(none)

yo & me 2-2-2-2

fowler

He continued, "The war in Vietnam is a strange one and Civic Action is one of the strange ways we must fight it. Victory over the Communist cannot be attained by military means alone -- we have to win these people's confidence and help them to help themselves. I am thankful for my Peace Corps training and experience. It has helped me considerably here in Vietnam."

-Reno-

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

Release No: TFX 305-67
By: SSgt. Don Summerford

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 3 — "Viet Cong booby traps don't always work," says Corporal Gerry G. Henry, 21 (Moorhead, Minn.). As a holder of two purple hearts and veteran of 35 reconnaissance patrols in VC territory, the corporal should know, especially after a recent series of "close shaves."

While serving with "D" Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, Opl. Henry, along with 16 other Marines, was lifted by two helicopters to Hill 504, south of Chu Lai.

"Both 'birds' were under heavy enemy fire as we approached the hill," explains Opl. Henry. As the helicopters hovered about five feet off the ground, he was one of the first to jump. "We didn't know it until after we landed," adds Henry, "but the entire hill was booby trapped."

Corporal Henry and Sergeant Timothy L. Fonderling, 20 (Warren, Ohio) recall that two members of their patrol were wounded almost immediately.

Henry's first "brush with death came as he jumped from the lead helicopter, landing on a Chinese Communist (ChâCom) type grenade concealed under grass and dirt.

"The pin was pulled but it failed to detonate," says Henry. He adds that of 10 booby traps sprung, the one under his feet was the only dud. With only three weeks of his tour in Vietnam remaining, Opl. Henry says, "I have two purple hearts, and I'm just glad I didn't get that third."

(more)

roomed bed partners 2-2-2-2

summerford

Later after dark, he and Lance Corporal Michael R. Holmes, 20 (Kellog, Idaho) shared an equally close call. With the patrol's defense established, the two finally fell asleep sharing the same poncho.

The pair of Marines awoke at daybreak to discover another booby trap under them. "The VC had placed two grenades, one on either side of a hole, with a wire stretched between them and covered with a mat, dirt and grass," says LOpl. Holmes. He and Henry agree the traps weren't sprung because both are slightly built, plus by lying down instead of standing, their weight was evenly distributed over the mat covering the hole and trip wire.

Using a 50-foot string, the wire was pulled. These grenades weren't duds.

"Every place we went there were more booby traps," says Holmes, "but we were extra careful not to trip them, especially after sleeping with two ChiCom grenades the night before."

-30-

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

Release No: TFI 301-67
By: Sgt. G. J. Howe

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 1 -- "I heard my buddy call me and I had to see what he wanted," said Opl. Arthur G. Holme, 20 (Newark, N.J.) after dashing across an open rice paddy under intense fire to aid 10 Marines and two corporals pinned down by the VC March 16 on Operation De Soto, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

Footnot Company, 3d Bn., Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division was conducting a search and destroy mission in the Thach Lam (2) village complex when suddenly the 2d platoon came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

The Viet Cong were concealed and dug in to the south of the platoon and along a river bank to the west.

"Charley cut loose with four .50 cal. machine guns and pinned down half the platoon," said Company Gunnery Sergeant Walter F. Lafink, 41 (Oceanside, Calif.).

"Two Marines were killed instantly and two others seriously wounded when the firing started," added Capt. O. M. Whipple, 51 (Hudson, Conn.), the company commander.

"No one could get to them because of the intense fire," he continued.

The heavy firing continued for about an hour and all attempts to get to the wounded were met with increased devastating fire from the VC bunker positions.

Opl. Holme, squad leader of the 2d squad, and his men laid down covering and suppressive fire to no avail.

According to Capt. Whipple, "Every time Marines moved out to try to reach their comrades the VC fire increased."

name 2-2-2-2-

have

"Repeated air strikes and artillery missions were delivered," the captain said, "but still the VC fire continued with increased effectiveness."

"Suddenly McRae jumped up from his position, behind a hedgehog, and completely exposing himself to enemy fire dashed across the open paddy to get to his fellow Marines," the captain continued. "Bullets splashed all around him as he made the 150 meters across the paddy."

Four of the men had been pinned down in the open for over an hour, and two were wounded seriously. When McRae reached them he helped the corporals administer first aid and planned how to lead the Marines back to friendly lines.

Of the 12 men pinned down, two Marines were and one corporal were dead when McRae arrived and another Marine died later of wounds.

He quickly organized the remaining men, assigned positions of movement and started them moving back to the rest of the company.

Marine aircraft and artillery continued to pound the enemy as McRae and the other men picked their way back to friendly positions, but the VC were still firing and bullets whined overhead and kicked up the water in the paddy.

McRae succeeded in getting all of the dead and wounded back to friendly lines but he still wasn't finished.

The weapons and equipment of the dead and wounded Marines were still in the paddy. Realizing this McRae again exposed himself to fire and moved into the paddy to retrieve the weapons and equipment.

Cpl. James A. Egan, 21 (Newport News, Va.) was the Marine who called to McRae. He said, "I yelled, 'My Mac, we're pinned down. Have the gurry get some help.'"

(END)

more 3-3-5

have

Malme said he couldn't understand what Hagman said, "So I went out to him."

"I looked up and saw Malme standing there," Hagman commented, "and I said 'Man, what are you doing out here? You're away to some secret that field.'"

Malme, who carries a Bible with him all the time because, "it makes me feel safer," was still standing. He wanted to take the Bible out of his pocket before taking cover behind the dike, so it wouldn't get wet.

Malme said, "I was grazed on the arm going out but I didn't realize it till I got back."

He did one more thing for his friends March 30, when he took part in an honor guard firing a final salute to the "F" Company Marines who died on Operation De Soto, during a memorial service held in the company area.

Capt. Whipple said, "We call Malme 'the Ghost,' because when we're on an operation he is continually ahead of the company watching for the VC and for booby traps. No one knows how he gets there but when the company comes up, there he is."

Malme is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Malme of 518 Central Ave., Newark, N.J., and is a graduate (1964) of Central High School there.

-12224-

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

Release No: TFA 300-67
By: Opl. Ira L. Taylor

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel. No: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, April 1 -- Although he is only a corporal, he ranks high on the list of important people to the personnel of Sub-Unit #2, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

He is Opl. Richard J. Wilson, 21 (Shreveport, La.), NCOIC of the Sub-Unit #2 Mail Room. Wilson and his assistant, LOpl. John Keworthy, 25 (Albuquerque, N.M.), handle mail for more than 900 Marines and Navy personnel assigned to the unit.

"Most people don't realize the amount of work that takes place to put out the two "Mail Calls" each day," Wilson said. "Much of it is done before it gets to us but we still have to sort it out by section. After each mail call we resort the mail that could not be delivered for various reasons such as transfers, people at schools, etc."

In addition to handling and sorting the mail, the mail clerks keep a record or mail card for every man assigned to Sub-Unit #2. When a man checks in, the mail room is on the check in sheet and a card is filled out at that time. Subsequently, when a person checks out, his card is pulled from the file and replaced with a change of address card.

"That seems to be one of our biggest problems," Wilson continued. "Too many people fail to check out with us when they have a change of address, therefore their mail is sent back to the main post office and is routed through the Fleet Post Office directory system. When this happens, it could be much longer before the person will receive his mail."

(none)

mail clerk 2-2-2-2-2

taylor

"Another way to speed up mail delivery from the sender is to make sure they know your APO or FPO number and use it," Kemworthy added. "The same thing goes for mail from here to the United States; if the correct zip code is used, the mail will get to its destination much faster."

Wilson, who arrived in Vietnam in June last year, has been assigned to the Mail room since October.

In August, he received the Purple Heart Medal for a wound sustained on the Chu Lai Combat Base perimeter.

Commenting on complaints from individuals and mail orderlies, Wilson said, "There seems to be two basic things Marines complain about everywhere --chow and mail, and there isn't much that can be done about either one. Most of them aren't really serious anyway. I believe in the old Marine saying that 'a complaining Marine is a happy Marine.'"

-UNCLAS-

Note: Release to Shreveport Times

Texasiana Gazette - Daily News

DECLASSIFIED

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

Release No: TFX 303-67
Sittler
By: 2ndLt: C. B. Tyler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tel: Chu Lai 041

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Phoned to OIB 30Mar67

CHU LAI, Vietnam ^{MAR 30} — A company of Marines (0/2/7) were accidentally rocketed by friendly aircraft at 7:05 p.m., Mar. 30.

The company, an element of the Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division was engaged in Operation De Soto 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

The incident occurred while an air strike was being conducted in support of the infantry unit.

Casualties are reported as four killed and 19 wounded, ^{and} one Marine died of wounds.

-USMC-

DECLASSIFIED

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

Release No. TFX 295-67
operation perxy
By Pfc. Gordon Fowler

Chu Lai Press Center
Tele. Chu Lai 041

AIR LIFTED VILLAGE

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 28 -- More than 1,200 refugees were evacuated from the area just north of the Tra Bong River, about 10 miles south of Chu Lai, by the 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, during Operation Perxy, Mar. 25 - 27.

The Viet Cong infested area, in the Binh Son District, had long been a trouble spot for the Seventh Marines and the civilian populace there has been subjected to heavy Viet Cong suppression -- forced to give up the majority of their rice and sugarcane crops to the enemy.

The Binh Son District Chief asked the Marines to move the people from the area to prevent the Viet Cong from taking advantage of them.

Operation Perxy began Mar. 25 as Marines began to sweep through the area while elements of the 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade acted as a blocking force on the opposite side of the river. A Vietnamese ^{psychological} warfare team went along and used portable loud speakers to instruct the villagers to gather their belongings and prepare to evacuate the area. The loose-throats met only minimal resistance, in the form of mines and booby traps, and they were able to move rapidly from hamlet to hamlet, providing security for the people and assisting them with the packing and moving of their personnel belongings.

As each hamlet was secured, the people were escorted along with their livestock and possessions, back to a rallying point. Then they were loaded into amphibious tractors, furnished by the 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, and moved back to Binh Son to a refugee center. The livestock was gathered and herded separately to be cared for until the people are resettled.

-more-

DECLASSIFIED

REMARKS

Location party

2-2-7

After all of the civilians were evacuated from the area, Marine combat engineers began destroying the many Viet Cong tunnels and fortifications that honeycombed the area while the 2d Battalion provided security.

With all of the ~~many~~ innocent people out of the area, Marines will be able to destroy the Viet Cong operating there and the Vietnamese will be able to return and begin a new life -- free from tyranny and suppression.

-UNRECO-

DECLASSIFIED