



CHARGER

196TH INFANTRY BRIGADE



Vol. 1, No. 1

DaNang, Vietnam

December 17, 1971

Chargers regain independent status

DA NANG - The 196th Infantry Brigade (Chargers) once again receives and accomplishes its mission as a separate brigade, as it did before joining the 23d Infantry Division in 1967.

Under the command of Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough, the Charger Brigade now reports directly to HQ XXIV Corps at Da Nang.

The brigade is primarily tasked with the defense of U.S. installations in the Da Nang area.

To accomplish this mission, both support and combat units of the organization have been beefed-up. In mid-October a composite support battalion was formed to centralize and streamline administrative, logistical, training and maintenance services for the brigade combat units.

The brigade combat units—three grunt battalions, an artillery battalion and two cavalry units—keep the enemy on the move so that he doesn't have time to launch an attack against the U.S. installations or activities in the Da Nang area.

This mission is accomplished jointly with ARVN units by interdicting enemy support routes and searching out his hiding places in such areas as Charlie Ridge, Arizona Territory and Elephant Valley.

Another part of the Charger mission is to assist units of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and the Regional and Popular Forces in their continued assumption of the combat role in this country.

Personnel of the Charger Combat Center regularly provide training for Vietnamese forces both in Da Nang and in Hoi An, about 20 kilometers southwest of Da Nang.

The mission of the Chargers also includes the building of roads to aid the Government of Vietnam with the economic growth of the pacified countryside.

The 196th Infantry Brigade first saw active service in the Pacific during World War II. The brigade was deactivated in Japan in 1947 after occupying that country at the completion of the war.

Reactivated in 1965, the Chargers arrived in Vietnam after a year of training at Ft. Devens, Mass., and the Dominican Republic. Upon its arrival, the brigade was attached to the 25th Division and stationed outside of Tay Ninh, 65 miles northwest of Saigon.

continued on page 2



SESAME STREET II?—The children's television series "Sesame Street" was never like this pathway

which winds around the perimeter of the 196th Infantry Brigade's LZ (landing zone) Linda west of Da Nang. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

This is the first edition of the *CHARGER* newspaper. The *CHARGER* is the 196th Infantry Brigade newspaper for the officers and men serving in Da Nang and Quang Nam Province. We hope you will help us to make your paper better by making suggestions and sending stories or letters to the 10th Public Information Detachment. The next *CHARGER* will be published Dec. 31.

The Charger staff wishes you the merriest Christmas possible.

Peace on Earth



Christmas is for radicals only

On today's social scene the common image of a radical is one who favors fundamental or extreme change. With burning zeal the radical foments unrest, and seeks, often violently, to bring about basic social changes. To say that Christmas is only for this brand of radical is tantamount to burning the flag and the Bethlehem manger with the same match.

However, our friend Webster tells us that the word radical has many meanings. In chemistry and mathematics a radical is quite different from a militant revolutionary. The basic meaning of radical comes from a Latin word meaning "root" or "foundation." In this sense, the "radical" claim of the Gospel message is that God became man. On the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea some 2000 years ago God revealed His true nature by taking the form of a human—namely, Jesus of Nazareth.

That is what Christmas is all about.

"JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD IS COME"

Drug program offers exemption—once

By 1LT Kent Flanagan

DA NANG—Get off drugs or be prepared to accept the consequences!

That statement is the gist of a new anti-drug offensive announced for the 196th Infantry Brigade by its commanding general, Brigadier General Joseph C. McDonough.

In a letter addressed to the officers and men of the 196th, BG McDonough noted that the

urinalysis test has been expanded from a pre-DEROS test only, to pre-R&R, pre-leave and unannounced unit testing.

Test expansion became possible when a new testing laboratory was opened in the brigade area on Oct. 15. The new lab has the capability of testing 2500 men each day.

Thus, our program has been expanded and we are testing units on an unannounced

schedule.... This new program provides the means of identifying drug users now," BG McDonough continued.

Periodic unannounced urinalysis testing is the backbone of the drug treatment program.

Any person who has a drug use problem has a choice. He can sweat out the urinalysis test and take his chance on being identified as a drug user, or he can ask for exemption from his

commanding officer.

Exemption is defined as immunity from punishment and notoriety for any individual who voluntarily requests help with a drug use problem.

Criteria for being granted exemption are tough.

First, the request for exemption must be completely voluntary and must be approved by a man's commanding officer. Also, the men must not have

been previously identified as a drug user through unit urinalysis testing or prior drug-related offenses. Finally, he must have 45 days remaining in-country.

When an individual is granted exemption, he will be voluntarily admitted to the U.S. Army Rehabilitation Center at Camp Viking, Da Nang.

The mission of the rehabilitation center is to help

continued on page 2

age 3



Combat trackers seek enemy signs

By 1LT Kent Flanagan

CAMP CHARGER — His eyes scan the knee-high foliage on either side of the faint trail.

Suddenly, he drops to one knee to examine a broken branch on a bush to the right of the trail. A torn remnant of cloth is caught on the branch.

Several steps later he discerns a faint footprint as he continues to look for more signs of the small group of men that preceded him down the trail a few hours earlier.

Sounds like an Indian scout tracking his enemies on the American frontier of the 1800's, but instead the setting is a jungle trail in Vietnam with an American combat tracker trying to find the enemy which had recently broken contact with friendly forces.

The combat tracker is one of five men who make up a combat tracker team, along with a dog handler and his specially trained Labrador tracking dog. The 196th Infantry Brigade has the last combat tracking platoon remaining in Vietnam, the 63d Infantry Platoon, Combat Tracker (IPCT).

The primary mission of the combat tracker team is to follow the enemy and find him after he has broken contact, according to Sergeant First Class Ray Adams (Zachariah, Ky.), 63d IPCT first sergeant.

Life isn't easy for the combat trackers between missions, however, because the team also has a secondary mission of training troops to track visually and to read enemy "signs".

To accomplish their mission, the visual tracker finds the track and then, if practicable, the dog can be brought in to follow the track.

If the dog loses the track, the visual tracker finds it again by looking for broken twigs, bent grass and a multitude of other signs which would confirm a visual track.

A dog can track faster than the visual tracker, but the visual tracker has the power of reasoning and must often confirm the dog's track, according to Adams.

Adams is often asked to explain the difference between his tracker dogs and the more

familiar scout dog.

His usual answer is that the scout dog usually has his nose in the air trying to catch air-borne scents and will alert on anything in the area.

By comparison, a tracker dog will follow a track or ground scent with his nose to the ground. The tracker dog's specific task is to aid a visual tracker in following a track through populated areas, or where a visual track is difficult or impossible to confirm.

A tracker dog does not necessarily alert on personnel, and his handler is trained to be an expert in caring for his dog and interpreting the dog's reaction to the enemy's smell.

Adams claims that an experienced handler can tell by his dog's reaction if an ambush is ahead or if the enemy is ahead.

Affection between a dog

handler and his dog makes a big difference.

"It sounds funny, but you have to love your dog to get him to work for you," commented tracker dog handler Sergeant Milden D. Keith (Osbourne, Kan.).

A tracker dog is an asset to the team, but not the crucial member. The tracker team can and does operate without a tracking dog successfully, according to Adams.

Although visual trackers were used on the American frontiers in the last century, the Army's present combat trackers were first initiated a little more than five years ago.

The first American Troops to be trained as visual trackers were sent to the Jungle Warfare School to be trained by the United Kingdom in Malasia in October, 1966.



These first two teams were deployed to the 4th Infantry Division and 25th Infantry Division in December, 1966.

Other teams followed from Jungle Warfare School to be utilized by other brigades and divisions then in Vietnam.

Later, visual tracker training was moved to Ft. Gordon, Ga., where trackers were trained by veterans returning from tracker teams in Vietnam.

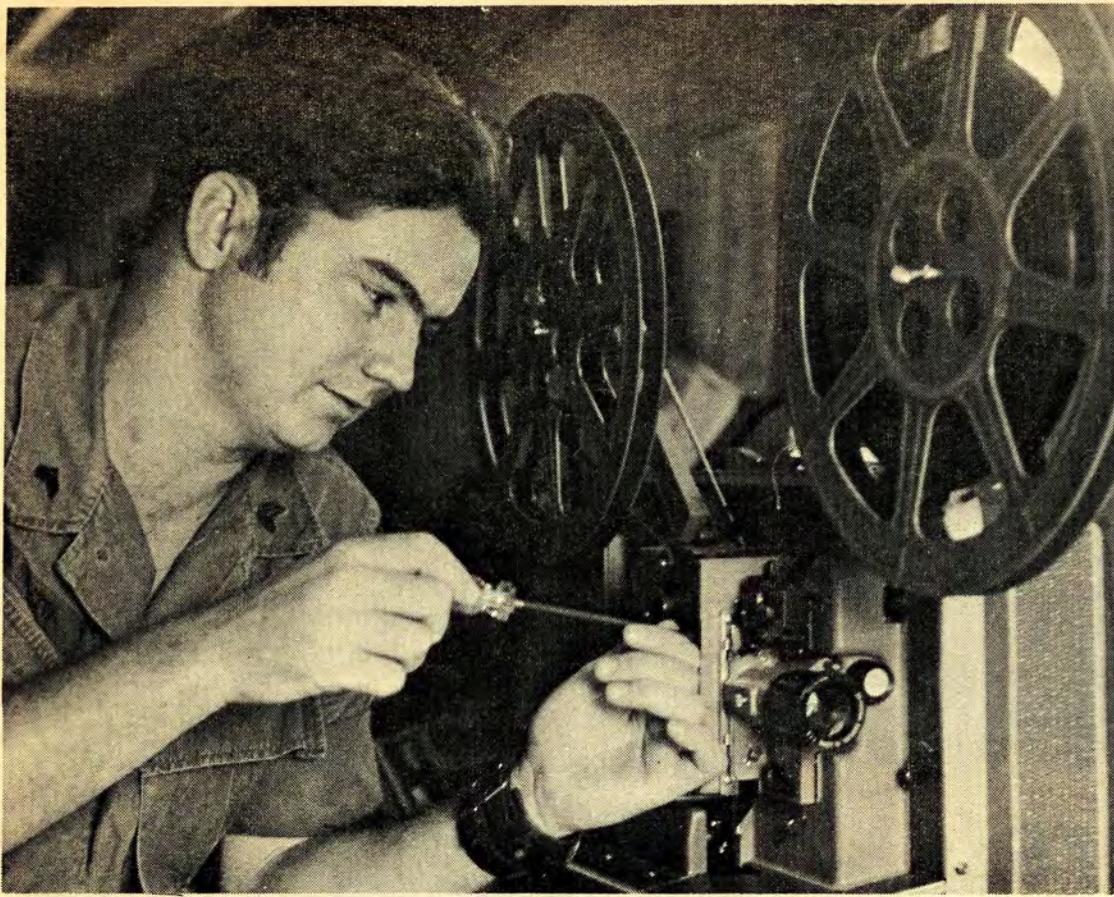
Action began slowing down in 1970, and now, the 63d gets perhaps 30 missions in a busy month.

TOP LEFT — Luke, a black Labrador retriever, and his handler, Sergeant Milden D. Keith of the 63d Infantry Platoon (Combat Trackers), keep a watchful eye on progress as the five-man tracker team, of which they are part, search for signs of the enemy.

TOP RIGHT — Sergeant Thomas Leisgang, a visual tracker in the 63d IPCT checks the trail for enemy signs in much the same way scouts did on the American frontier in the 1800's. His teammate, Sergeant Gregory G. Heckert provides security. **BOTTOM** — Leisgang confirms his findings with tracker team leader Sergeant Lee F. Simpson Jr., while Heckert keeps a sharp lookout on the trail ahead.

(U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)





Battalion supports the line

By SP4 Bill Simpson

CAMP PROFESSIONAL—In Vietnam, where it is becoming increasingly difficult to find battalion-sized units, a new one has recently been established.

With its stated mission "To Support the Line" of the 196th Infantry Brigade, the new battalion has assumed the most descriptive name imaginable, simply the Support Battalion.

The Support Battalion is the 23d Infantry Division (Americas) Support Command boiled down to a battalion-sized unit. Where there was a Medical Battalion at the division level, there is now a Medical Company; the new Supply and Transportation Company was distilled from the Americas 23d Supply and Transportation Battalion; and the Maintenance Company was drawn from the 723d Maintenance Battalion.

Other units of the new Support Battalion that were formerly part of the Americas Division include the Administration Company, which has been condensed, and the new Replacement Detachment, which replaces the old 23d Infantry Division Combat Center.

Only Headquarters and Headquarters Company is a new unit, and even it has a division element—what was formerly the Americas Band.

These individual companies were assembled into a single battalion to provide total support capability for the 196th. They collectively provide the brigade with class I, II, III, IV, VII, and IX supplies, transportation for the Combat Services Support Operations and the brigade, direct support maintenance of brigade equipment, administrative services and medical (including optical) and dental services.

A lot of time-saving convenience and "red tape" reduction was also

planned into the new organization. For example, all the requisitioning, receiving, supplying and shipping of materials is processed in about a one-mile square near Support Battalion headquarters.

An NCR 500 computer system is used to minimize human error and speed resupply to the brigade combat units.

The brigade's direct support maintenance company is likewise housed in that same small area so that when combat units need maintenance support for engineer, ordnance, quartermaster or signal equipment, it is readily available. The equipment is received at one central point rather than being dragged around from one point to another to be received, repaired, shipped, etc.

Personnel services, such as are handled by the Administration Company, are also centrally located. The Finance Office, Inspector General's Office, Staff Judge Advocate, Personnel Management Center and Public Information Office are all in the same general area in Camp Charger, just down the road from Support Battalion headquarters.

And a little farther down the road, in Camp Crescenz, is the medical-dental facility, which is also fully equipped to perform eye examinations and manufacture eyeglasses.

According to Lieutenant Colonel Lewi, battalion commander, and personnel in this new Support Battalion were screened before being accepted. Each man was selected for this particular support mission on the basis of his skill and prior performance with the 23d Infantry Division.

This selectivity, and the Support Battalion's tight organization insures that line troops of the 196th Infantry Brigade will receive the finest support possible.



TOP LEFT -- The Support Battalion's Maintenance Company is divided into several shops. Here Sergeant Charles T. Smith (Hauula, Hawaii), of the Electronics Repair Shop makes fine adjustments on a 16mm projector.

TOP LEFT CENTER -- Specialist Four James Johnson, a small arms repair specialist, rebuilds a barrel of an M-60 machinegun in the Maintenance Company Armaments Shop.

BOTTOM LEFT -- Specialist Five Mike L. Viles (Newberg, Ore.) makes an angle cut with an acetylene torch. He is a member of the Service and Evacuation Shop of Support Battalion.

BOTTOM RIGHT CENTER -- Staff Sergeant Raymond Caughman (Alexandria, Va.) checks over a two-and-a-half ton truck engine to determine whether it is repairable. His responsibility is to inspect each vehicle as it comes in for repair and diagnose the problem. Caughman also makes final inspections once repairs have been made. (U.S. ARMY PHOTOS)

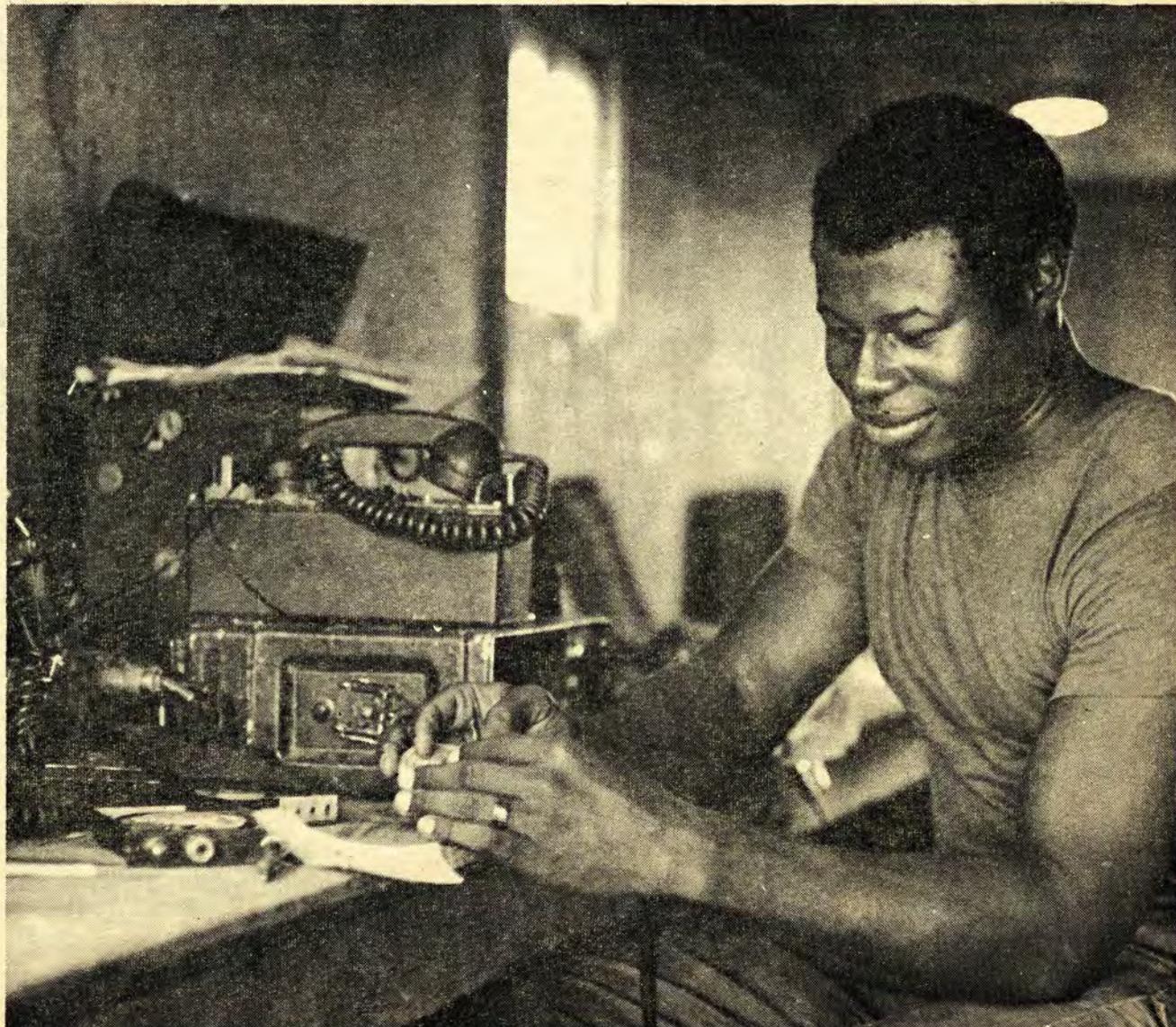
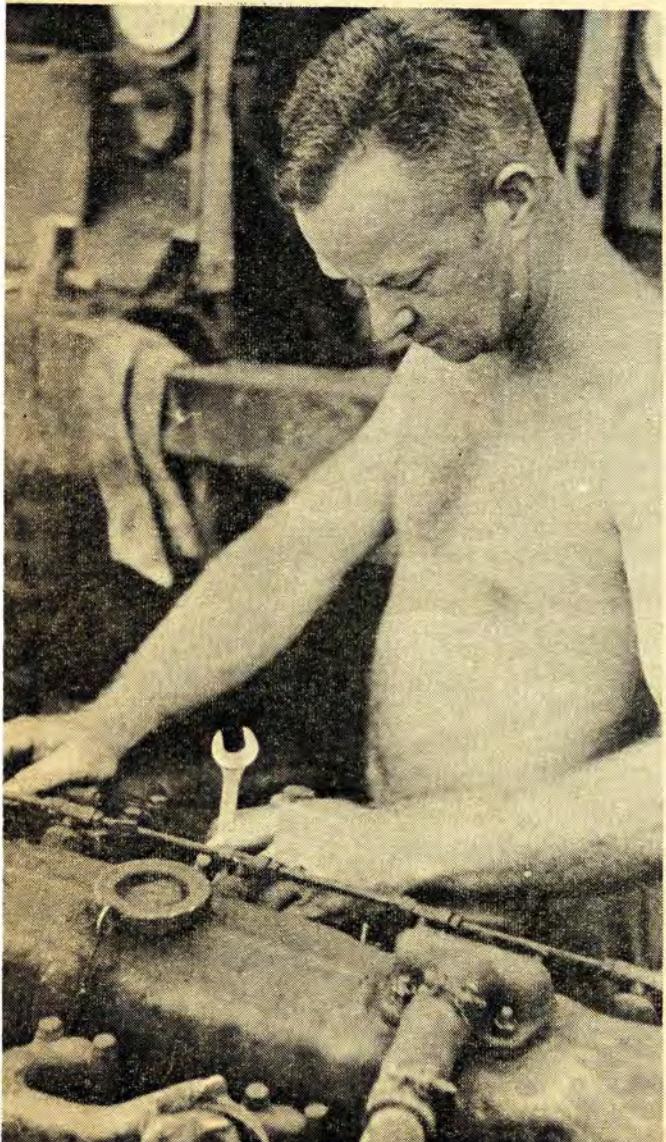


TOP LEFT CENTER--Cleanliness is a necessity when working with computer equipment such as is used in the Brigade Supply Center. Sergeant Leon Richards (Syracuse, N.Y.) cleans the card drum of the IBM keypunch machine so that its operators can correctly transcribe handwritten supply requisitions onto keypunch cards.

TOP RIGHT--Specialists Four Thys Vandervelde (Chicago, Ill.) and Sergeant Richards keep a constant

check on the NCR 500 computer as it processes supply orders, computes inventory balances and then automatically reorders supplies in a single operation. Use of this automated accounting equipment has enabled the Support Battalion to more efficiently keep the line supplied.

BOTTOM RIGHT--Specialist Four Johnnie Spann (Gainesville, Fla.) of the Radio Repair Shop of Support Battalion, works on parts of a field phone.



Eggs to order

Cookouts raise morale

By SP4 Mike Cassidy

CAMP CRESCENZ — One soldier had gone as far as to make a bet that it would not happen. Nevertheless, Specialist Four James Lawrence (Fort Worth, Tex.) stepped off the helicopter ready to cook breakfast in the field.

Staff Sergeant Ben Marciante (Los Angeles), Specialist Four Larry Rndl (Lincoln, Ill.) and Lawrence, of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. mess hall, have made several trips to serve hot breakfasts to infantrymen in the bush.

The program was the idea of Lieutenant Colonel Clyde J. Tate (Ft. Richie, Md.), battalion commander. In a conversation with Marciante, the mess sergeant, the commander asked about the feasibility of cooking and serving food in the field.

The purpose of the program is to provide a change from C-rations and to boost morale.

Because Marciante was not too certain about the mission, he decided to go on the first trip himself.

After his equipment was taken off the helicopter, he prepared to cook pancakes and eggs to order for the men of Company A. The first field meal ran into a major problem when the portable stove refused to ignite. Marciante then reverted to a back-up system, wood, and the men got their hot meal.

Since then, the meals have gone more smoothly, though there are some standard problems. Limitations on the bulk and weight of equipment brought to the field force the

cooks to leave any item that is not absolutely essential behind.

"It took me a while to get the knack of cooking on my hands and knees," remarked Lawrence about his first trips to the field. "I'd come back from out there with bruises on my elbows and knees."

Despite the problems involved, the cooks are anxious to return to the field. Each of the cooks claims that he has never received as much personal satisfaction and as many expressions of gratitude as when he cooked for his battalion's men in the field.

Paperwork war

AG goes to work

By SP4 Sam Rousso

CAMP CHARGER — For the first time since the 196th Infantry Brigade became a part of the 23d Infantry Division (Amical), there is an Adjutant General (AG) section in the brigade.

The AG is primarily responsible for personnel administration and personnel management. Before the brigade got its own AG, it served mainly as an intermediate stop for recommendations and reports on their way to a higher headquarters. Most of these functions were performed by the Brigade S-1 section.

In the realm of personnel management, AG is responsible for casualty branch functions—reports through USARV and letters of sympathy. Moreover, there is a section dealing with 7&7 and R&R allocation.

Other AG personnel management functions include MOS testing, DEROs and ETS eligibility reports, breakdown of promotion allocations, assignments within the brigade,

and maintenance of personnel files.

Special Services is also an AG function. A full-time staff will provide a film library, an athletic program and maintain a photo lab, according to informed sources.

The photo lab will permit those Chargers with photographic leanings to process and print photos.

In the realm of personnel administration, services provided include mail and distribution; assurance of proper format and grammatical content of outgoing official correspondence, brigade regulations and twixes (telegram or teletype messages); in addition, AG maintains a reference set of publications for the use of primary and special staffs.

The 196th Inf. Bde. AG's motto is "Give a damn."

As Captain Kelly Weems, the AG says, "We're trying to instill in our people that we are here to provide service for the grunt. If we can't, or don't, then there's no purpose in our being here and we might as well pack our bags and go home."



ON THE WAY — Howitzers of Battery B, 3d Bn., 82d Arty. complete a fire mission on LZ (landing zone) Linda. Always firing for the direct

hit, the motto of the group is posted on the sign in the lower left corner of the photo—"We Aim To Please." (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

Red Horsemen meet long hair

LZ MAUDE — It was 1 a.m. Intelligence had reported that the enemy was in the area. There were sounds of movement outside the wire.

"We were told to be especially alert that night because there were VC in the area," explained Specialist Four Dan Valentine (Centralia, Wash.), Battery C, 3d Bn., 82d Arty. "When we heard the noise, we expected the worst."

The call went in for illumination. The wait was filled with tightening fingers and hesitant breath.

Taking cover as the illumination round burst, the men scrutinized the landscape for the source of the noise.

"When I first saw it, I couldn't believe my eyes," recalled Sergeant Darryl Reese (Sunbury, Pa.) of the artillery battery. "I was expecting to see almost anything except an ape."

The base's intruder was a solitary ape searching for food and companionship.

Since its first encounter with Battery C, the furry primate has been a frequent visitor to the landing zone's perimeter.

The men have tried to make friends with the ape. They have tossed assorted types of fruit into the wire, but the ape fails to take the hint.

Mortarmen set up beachside classes

CHU LAI — The mortar platoons of A and F Troops of the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry, spent several days on the beach at the Chu Lai USO, but it was not for a sun tan.

The platoons were there for some refresher courses in the use of their 81mm mortars, given by Platoon Sergeant Thomas Hackler (Riverside, Calif.), Company E, 2d Bn., 1st Inf.

The retraining exercises included fire under contact, use of an aiming circle and crew drills.

The mortar platoon of Company E had been set up on the beach to provide illumination for part of the base's perimeter in its last days of American control.

The tubes of the cavalry and the 4.2 inch mortars of the "Legionnaires" were set up on the seaward side of the closed USO buildings. The service organization had left the base with the standdown of the 23d Infantry Division (Amical).

The units were in Chu Lai as part of Task Force Americal. The task force of the 196th Infantry Brigade was responsible for assisting in the closing of former Americal installations in the area.

Flyboys tour 196th area

CAMP CHARGER — Ten airmen from Da Nang Air Base visited the 196th Infantry Brigade "Charger" area Nov. 27.

The purpose of the visit was to acquaint the men (picked at random) with the mission of the 196th, its tactical area of interest and the methods the brigade uses to accomplish its mission.

After being picked up by helicopter, the VIPs were flown to LZ (landing zone) Linda, home of the 1st Bn., 46th Inf. There they were given briefings by the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Clyde J. Tate, and the battalion's operations and intelligence officers.

Following the briefing, the airmen were given a demonstration of the infantry's firepower, using M-16 rifles, M-60 machineguns, M-203 rifles and grenade launchers and 81mm mortars.

Command Sergeant Major Lorenzo Rivera, the brigade's top enlisted man, held a rap session for the men, complete with coffee and cookies. During the session, the command sergeant major fielded questions from the airmen on tactics, strategy, history of the 196th, future plans and enemy operations.

A special briefing, similar to one given to the men of the

Joseph C. McDonough.

After his day with the Army, one airman commented, "It was an interesting day. I got to see something not too many airmen see... After seeing how those guys live on a landing zone, I'm never going to complain about my barracks again."

Help offered

Got legal problems?

By Sp4 Sam Rousso

CAMP CHARGER — "We are here to attempt to help all the troops in the 196th Infantry Brigade with their legal problems while they're in the Republic of Vietnam," says Captain Charles M. Rosenberg (Cleveland), brigade Legal Assistance officer.

"We will advise, prepare correspondence, notarize documents and review papers that the men receive from civilian lawyers," he says. Legal problems that might require assistance include, but aren't limited to domestic relations, indebtedness, citizenship, adoption and discharges from the Army.

According to Rosenberg, the Legal Assistance Office "attempts to solve the soldier's problem, or at least postpone any proceedings until he returns to the United States."

In addition, says Rosenberg, "Many soldiers are unaware that the Soldier's and Sailor's Civil Relief Act protects them from court judgements while they are serving abroad; and that this act applies to divorce proceeding, actions on debts, landlord-tenant problems and real estate matters."

For further information on legal assistance, contact the Legal Assistance Office, Building CQ 186, next to the Brigade Surgeon's office in the S-1 and S-4 building.

The phone numbers are 957-6196 and 6124. It's best if you can come in though, says Rosenberg. "We really can't give advice over the phone. Besides, you don't need an appointment—just walk right in." Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.



This Daffodil is Sandi Barnhart reviewing in the "Skin Revue" at Hotel Sahara, Las Vegas, Nev. We were wondering how this beautiful flower propagates its species--maybe a little pollen placed in the proper places would do. (Photo courtesy Las Vegas News Bureau)

Records, interviews only part of their job

CAMP CHARGER--A small detachment with a big job.

There are many detachments in the 196th Infantry Brigade--indeed, in the Republic of Vietnam, to which that description could apply. In this case, the subject is the 3d Military History Detachment.

The detachment, commanded by Captain Denver G. Compton, is primarily responsible for preserving records and sending documents for retirement directly to the Chief of Military History.

"Our second priority," says Compton, "is the Military History Interview Program. It concentrates on interviews with senior commanders and staff officers at the end of their tour or upon change of assignment."

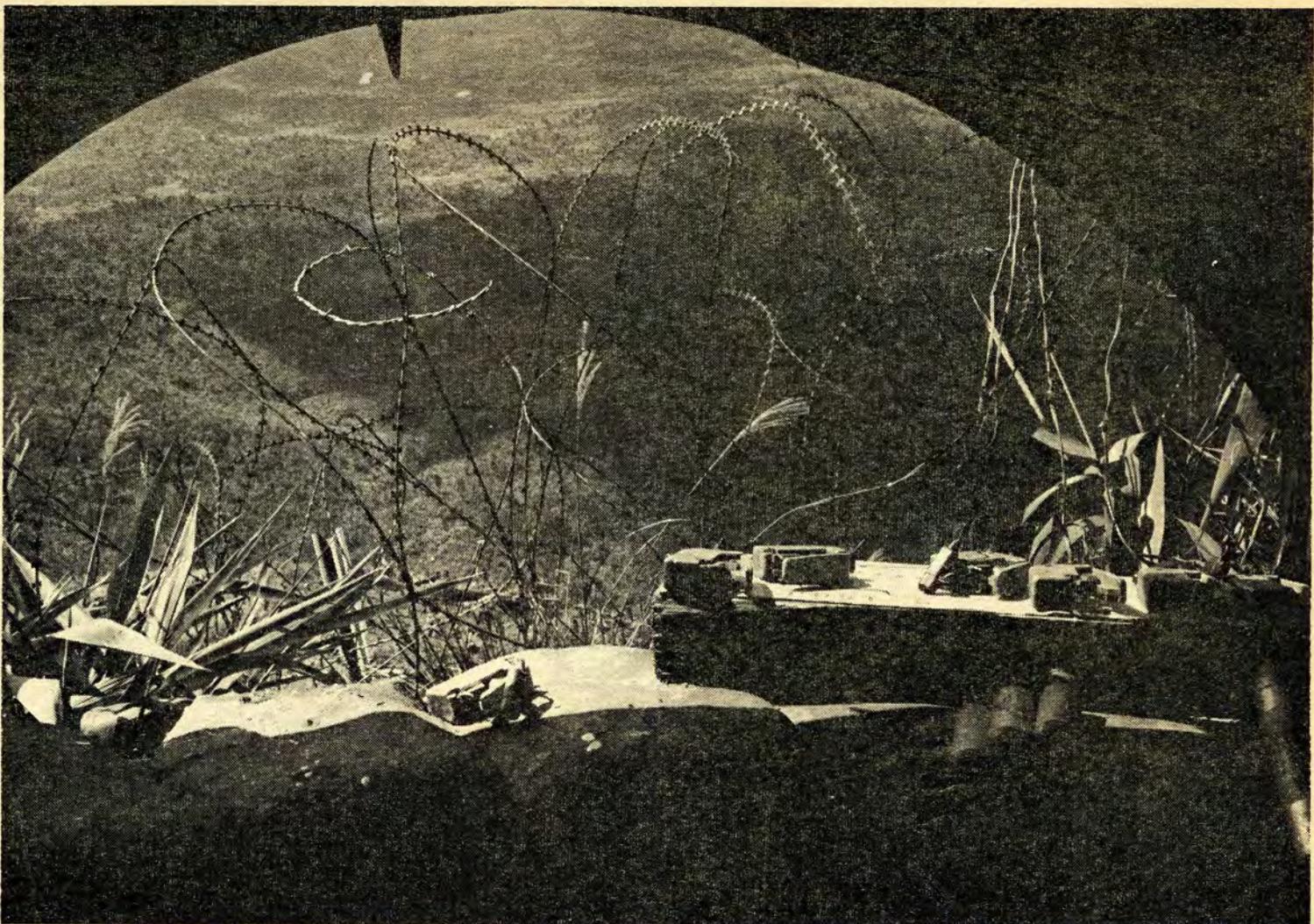
"It's purpose is to clarify and add to records--Combat After-Action and other official reports--which are submitted through official command channels."

When it was originally constituted, the 3d Military History Detachment was the military history detachment for USARV at Long Binh, according to Compton.

When the 23d Infantry Division (Amical) was formed, the 3d Military History Detachment became an organic part of it. It remained with the division until it recently stood down.

The detachment joined the 196th Infantry Brigade early in November as part of USARV Special Troops.

"Even though our particular chain of command stretches from here to Long Binh, we still depend on a close working relationship with S-3 here at brigade," Compton said. "We anticipate no change in the method of operation."



VIEWFUL VANTAGE POINT--The View from the top of LZ (Landing Zone) Linda shows the lush, beautiful green of the

surrounding countryside, but the strands of concertina and the instruments of war bring the thoughts of any observer back to reality. (U.S. ARMY PHOTO)

From serviceman to family

ARC stretches round the world

By SP4 Bill Simpson

DA NANG -- The Red Cross has more than one mission, some think it is a Band-Aid dispensary, others see it as a remnant of the Clara Barton era which has really outlived its usefulness.

Both assumptions are false. The Red Cross in Vietnam has no connection with medical operations here, yet it provides more services today than Clara Barton and her band of volunteer nurses would ever have imagined.

"The red Cross tries to do for the serviceman what the family would do if they were here, and tries to do for the family what the serviceman would do if he were there," according to Mr. Ray Beall, one of the two field directors who head the Camp Charger Red Cross Center (Building CQ 144).

This two-way aid policy encompasses a wide range of personal and financial services.

In the personal services category, the Red Cross has established a worldwide communications system to notify soldiers of family emergencies.

If there is a death, a serious accident or sudden illness, a call placed by the family to its local Red Cross office sets the system into operation. The message is relayed by the local Red Cross into the Washington central communications center and then transmitted

via government teletype anywhere in the world. If the soldier for whom the message is intended is not far out into the bush, the time from Washington to him can be as little as two hours.

While that troop is being informed of the situation, a representative of the Charger Red Cross Center is at the same time reporting the circumstances to that soldier's commanding officer. On the basis of Army regulations, the CO will decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds to grant an emergency leave. If there are, the leave is granted immediately and as soon as the orders are cut that soldier can be on his way home.

Also transmitted out of Washington by the Red Cross are what are called "Regular" messages.

Regular messages are sent from the family to servicemen or vice versa when there is a question concerning the health and welfare of one of the parties. For instance, a wife who hasn't heard from her husband in four or five weeks could call her town's Red Cross branch, and, via the same communications system established to transmit emergency messages, find out if her husband is well. He is notified that such a report on him has been requested and is urged to renew his correspondence with his wife.

An increased use of the Regular message occurred immediately after Typhoon Hester when many of the folks at home were anxious to find out about the welfare of servicemen in the Da Nang area.

The Charger Red Cross Center, like the other 32 Red Cross field centers in Vietnam, also assists financially when there are hardship conditions:

A soldier is called home for an emergency and needs money in a hurry for the trip; someone in-processes into the brigade short of money because his finance records haven't arrived yet; or in extreme cases a soldier's family can't meet the expenses for food, shelter and clothing; all these cases can be solved at the brigade level. The Charger Red Cross Center stands ready to make interest-free loans, quickly and without a lot of "red tape."

Finally, the Red Cross people are interested in helping servicemen even if they aren't faced with family or financial emergencies. Again this Christmas they are sponsoring the distribution of "Ditty Bags" to all the troops in Vietnam.

"Ditty Bags" are small, gaily colored cloth bags packed with an assortment of useful items--candy, lighters, nail clippers, playing cards, pens, combs etc. Even the bags themselves are handy for carrying shaving articles and they can easily be strapped to a rucksack.

Our local Charger Red Cross Center is a participant in the "Ditty Bag" program and will be distributing them to the men in the various companies and battalions of the 196th on Christmas Day.

On a continuing basis, the Charger Red Cross Center sends comfort items (shaving cream, tooth paste etc.) to patients at the brigade hospital facility.

According to its two directors, Beall and Mr. John Stein, the Charger Red Cross Center is a place to come "any time you think you have a problem, whether you do or not." Both men are pledged to finding out what the problem is, and the solution.

Turkey day keeps him running

By SP4 Sam Rousso

DA NANG--During the holiday season, more than at any time of the year, food is very important to the morale of a soldier, especially those a half-world away from home.

At the Thanksgiving just past and the Christmas upcoming, food and its preparation got the undivided attention of Chief Warrant Officer Raymond A. Gammill (Texarkana, Tex.), the food advisor for the 196th Infantry Brigade "Chargers".

Gammill's job of seeing that food is properly prepared is a year-round, full-time job. But during the holiday season, he works extra hard.

The day before Thanksgiving, he worked from 7 a.m. until midnight, making sure that all was in readiness. On Thanksgiving Day, he worked from 7 a.m. until the meals were finished being served--4 p.m.

Typhoon Hester almost caused a Thanksgiving food disaster, according to Gammill. "The

refrigerator banks at Da Nang Support Command were all but totally flooded out. Two banks were left, and those held the Thanksgiving menu."

Once the safety of Thanksgiving dinner was assured, events died down until a couple of days before Thanksgiving. Then, the 196th's Ration Breakdown Point--the only one in Vietnam that delivers to its "customers", the 11 mess halls in the 196th--started delivering the food that was soon to become Thanksgiving dinner.

On Thanksgiving Day, Gammill literally flew between the 11 dining facilities, piloted by Warrant Officer Wilbur J. Wright. Gammill made sure the mess halls didn't lack anything. "I had a chopper at my disposal if they did," said Gammill. "Fortunately, everything was set up so beautifully, no one needed anything."

Thanksgiving went off without a hitch. What about Christmas? Shortly after Turkey Day, Gammill said, "I don't want to see another turkey before Christmas--but I'm sure I will."