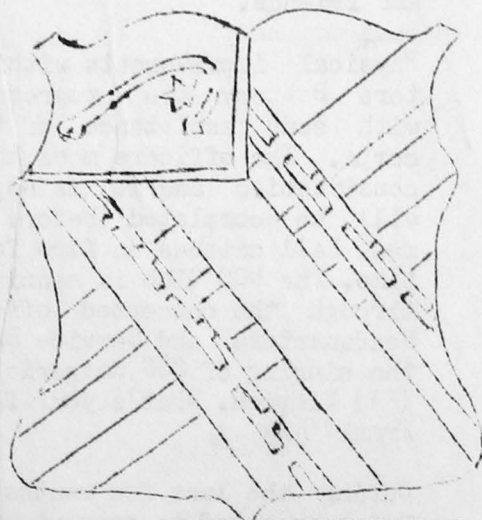


H O O K

&  
S T A R

"BRINGING  
SMOKE"



VOL. III NO. VII

3d Battalion - 18th Artillery

JULY 25, 1969

## NEW BATTALION COMMANDER

On July 19, 1969 Lieutenant Colonel William F. Sifford, Jr. assumed command of the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery. LTC Sifford follows LTC James R. Pruitt who completed his year tour with the battalion and is now serving in the pentagon.

The new battalion commander is a graduate of the United States Military academy at West Point and has been with the Army since 1953.

LTC Sifford was previously serving with the 1st Armored Division at Ft. Hood, Texas.

The Hook & Star Battalion welcomes LTC Sifford and is confident he will capably lead the battalion in "Bringing Smoke Under the Southern Cross".

The new Executive Officer for the battalion is Major Charles Richard Dinges who filled the position left vacant by the departure of Major Evans.

Major Dinges attended the University of Maryland and was with the 4th Armored Division before returning to Vietnam for another tour in the Asian Paradise.

The senior enlisted man for the battalion is now Command Sergeant Major Billy Kosinski.

SGM Kosinski comes to the 3/18 from the 1st Battalion, 18th Artillery at Ft. Hood, Texas.

With 26 years of military experience, SGM Kosinski is a definite asset to the Hook & Star Battalion.

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Many personnel changes have occurred during the latter half of June and July. Major Nobles, the second eminent volleyball referee, departed for the "World" during June as well as CW4 Scheirer, CW2 Severin, Sp5 Irvin, and PFC King. Departures during July include both LTC Pruitt and CSM Rowe, CPT Metzger, SFC Jones, SSG Tucker, Sp4 Dean, Sp4 Sparks, Sp4 Close, Sp4 Montes, and PFC Diaz. To all of them go our best wishes for a happy and safe return to their family and friends.

Physical improvements within Headquarters Battery are progressing rapidly with some assistance of the engineer corps. The officers mess hall is under construction and it is hoped that it will be completed before the present mess hall catches on fire for the fourth time. The NCO Club is nearing completion through the concerted efforts of both Headquarters and Service Batteries and the singing of SSG Ruggerio led by 1SGT (RA) Simpson. What's your favorite song Frank?

During the last few months this writer has been asked to comment upon the meals served at the EM mess hall. I have always replied to such queries by saying that the meals served are beyond description. If this resembles a compliment to the EM mess hall, it is in no way intended as one.

News flashes for the month of July include:

You were worried about the bandages worn by the First Sergeant. Let me assure you his injuries were sustained in the line of duty while making what he called a nightly bedcheck (between the NCO Club and his hootch) a few weeks ago. This should be a lesson to all EM to watch your step, especially after dark. Remember Sp4 Conway and what he slipped into a few months ago?

The July Fourth beach party was enjoyed by one and all. Many officers found themselves carried to the water with the exception of LTC Pruitt who apparently forgot his swim trunks. Did he really forget them?

The party held for SGM Rowe on July 8th was attended by many of the senior NCO's (i.e. Sergeant Majors) of surrounding units. The meal served by both SFC Parker and SSG Fritchard was excellent. Especially appropriate was the song sung by SSG Ruggerio and conducted by 1SGT Simpson.

The CMMI is over and we passed. The commo section deserves a great deal of credit for the excellent record they achieved in the CMMI. Headquarters Battery sincerely regrets causing the other batteries to play "catch-up on the total point score." Better luck next time.

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Just a brief reminder that as of the first of July, the Social Security Account Number (SSAN) replaced the Army Service Number (ASN) for personal identification. Personnel should keep this in mind when marking personal equipment.

Like Taoism, and to some extent like Buddhism, Confucianism came to Vietnam from China. In the mixture of religions and philosophies which have contributed to the moulding of the Vietnamese character, Confucianism has held an important place and will help us to understand much about the Vietnamese today. It is part of the cultural environment in which they are born.

Confucius, who lived 2,500 years ago, never attempted to found a religion but was content to be a scholar and a teacher.

He introduced no new religious ideas and never professed to be original. Instead he held fast to ancient rites and customs, and his ethics were his chief contribution. He did not indulge in abstract philosophizing; for him man was the measure of all things.

In his teachings he combined politics, ethics and education and filled his disciples with the spirit of reverence and devotion.

His ideas survived the inroads of other major religions and lived on while dynasties rose and fell for more than 25 centuries.

Confucius was born in Shantung, China, in 551 B.C., one of 11 children whose father died when Confucius was three. His early life was spent in poverty. Largely self educated, he became China's most noted educator and learned man.

His Chinese name K'ung Fu-tze was latinized to Confucius by Jesuit missionaries.

Confucius became an overseer of public lands at 19. A few years later he married, left this position and founded a school for instruction in conduct and government.

After 29 years of successful teaching he was appointed town magistrate when he was 51 and in four years advanced to chief justice of his state. The state ruler, Duke Ting, impressed with Confucius' teachings, followed them to the point of greatly improving his government and his peoples lot. Then Confucius resigned.

The teacher-philosopher wandered for 13 years from state to state, trying to interest feudal lords in his ideas and ideals. This period of self imposed exile with its hardships and danger helped spread his fame as teacher and reformer and attracted many followers.

When Confucius was 68 years old he returned to his home. There he completed work on the ancient Chinese classics, edited "The Book of Songs", wrote a chronicle of his native land and a book detailing the classic rites. He also began writing the "Analects" or "Sayings of Confucius", which were completed by his disciples. These writings became the foundation of Confucianism.

He died in 479 B.C., disappointed because his ideas were not adopted. But in 140 B.C. Emperor Han Wu-Ti made Confucianism a state religion.

Succeeding emperors built temples in his honor in every district of China, and imperial colleges were established which taught the Confucian Classics. Graduation from these schools, or passing an examination based on his teachings, opened the door to social and official life until 1912.

His emphasis on ancestral reverence continued into modern times. His teachings exerted such an influence on China and the rest of Southeast Asia that he is recognized as one of the most influential men in history. (Continued on the next page.)

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Confucius lived in a time of strife and anarchy. His teachings called, not for the salvation of the soul, but for good government and harmonious relations among men. He taught that men should be more conscious of their obligations than of their rights.

As taught in Vietnam today, followers of Confucius are charged with five obligations or ordinary duties:

1. Nhan-love and humanity.
2. Nghia-right actions in expressing love and humanity.
3. Le-observation of the rites or rules of ceremony or courtesy.
4. Tri-the duty to be educated.
5. Tin-self confidence and fidelity toward others.

There are nine conditions under which the individual correctly performs these duties. When the duties are performed under the nine conditions, the person reaches the goal of life which is achievement of the three cardinal virtues-the correct performance of three relationships. These are:

King and subject (Fatherland and citizen).  
Teacher and pupil.  
Father and children.

Reverence and respect are not owed the superior blindly. A son may, with respect, correct a father, and a people may withdraw the mandate from a ruler who does not truly fulfill his function.

As the object of all Confucian teachings was the perfect moral individual and a harmonious social order, the basis for obtaining these goals was the "superior, noble or princely man."

Such a man would know how he ought to live with moderation and harmony in everything. From this superior man would grow a harmonious family and a perfect state.

Right up into the 19th century to be educated in Vietnam meant to be learned in the Confucian classics,

This continued until the French came and required European education in order to get a civil service job.

Confucianism is still important as a traditional source of attitudes and values among the peasantry.

The Vietnamese villager still tends to feel that the family is more important than the individual, to respect learning and to believe that man should live in harmony with his surroundings.

The Confucian doctrine which commands children to respect their father and mother and honor their memory, provides strength, stability and continuity to the large family group. It is a powerful guardian of morality because the fear of dishonoring the memory of ancestors is a powerful influence on the people.

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Families maintain "ancestor shelf" to venerate ancestors.



## ALPHA BITS

A Battery welcomed to this unit in July CPT Duvall, SGT Merritt, Sp4s Dunlap, and McGrew, PFCs Halpern, Flinn, Smith, Hill, Scherweit and Wible. We wish them a successful and uneventful tour in this Southeast Asian Paradise.

On July 10 an awards ceremony was held at this fire support base. LTC Pruitt presented the Bronze Star to Lt. Wendt, SFC Anderson, SSG Walls, SSG Cox and SGT Garvin. Those receiving the Army Commendation medal were 1SGT Solomon, SGT Denning, Sp4 Gates and PFC Anderson.

The highest paid and the most notorious mortar crew in Vietnam will soon be extinct because of the loss of two didget midget NCOs and the battery commander. Replacements have not as yet arrived for Gunner SFC Anderson, Assistant Gunner SSG Johnson, Fuze Setter SSG Walls and Ammo Humpers CPT Ross and SSG Abercombie. We certainly hope that the next mortar crew will be skilled, effective and enduring as the present crew.

We thank CPT Ross for a job well done and wish him a successful remaining tour at DIVARTY and successful reassignment at Ft. Sill.

PFC Fat Lip, one of the roughest clerks in this battalion, recently extended his stay at Battalion Headquarters, because of the embarrassment he might face upon his return to this unit. The way he tells the story is that it was just a sucker punch that nailed him.

New construction completed on this hill this month includes a supply room addition, a barber shop, a new commo hootch and a new VHF Hootch. The architectural design of these modern buildings is superb but the old problem of leaky roofs has not been solved.

1Lt Kiley, our new censorship officer has placed on requisition a censorship stamp in the shape of a V. It just might be a full time pleasant job censoring the wealth of material at this unit.

At a recent meeting for all section chiefs this writer demonstrated a new method as outlined in USARV Reg 6298723A for catching rats. Equipment and procedure involved were a wastepaper basket, a drop kick and two Vietnamese workers. Unfortunately the whole process ended in disaster and the regulation is being discarded.

All personnel of this battery are again reminded of the hat trick. You just can't escape the watchful eye of 1SGT Solomon.

PFC Impy is thinking about reenlisting for six big ones in order to enhance his chances for promotion to Sp4.

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Did you know that you can attend a service school of your choice? See your unit career counselor.

# HOW TO SUCCEED IN THE ARMY WITHOUT REALLY TRYING

Did you know that a Sp4 can return from Vietnam with over \$2,000.00, have spent \$500.00 on R&R and still have some pocket money? It can be done with very little trouble. Later in this article we will go into the exact plan but first let's look at some of the ways available to help you make your money work for you while in the "Nam".

First we begin with two items that seem like common sense but which seem to cause a lot of people to lose a lot of money. One of these is your pay record. Make sure it is correct. With all the records that have to be processed every month it is very possible for a mistake to occur. If you have any problems with your pay record or vouchers see the personnel section at S-1 and they will direct you to the 3/18th pay specialist at the division finance building.

The second item here concerns theft. All we can say about it is what you've been told over and over since you've been in the Army. Don't carry large sums of money on you and secure your valuables.

One of the first ways of saving money is to start a class "E" allotment. With a class "E" allotment the amount of money you designate will be taken from your paycheck and sent to the place you designate each month. From there the money can be put in your civilian bank account by your family or dependents. The check will arrive at its destination on or a couple days after payday.

Your next step is to decide how much money you will need every month. After you determine this you will know how much money you can save for when you return home.

Another way to stretch your dollar is to begin a Class "B" allotment or "B1". This program will put as much money as you designate each month into United States Savings Bonds. This is a good way of saving your money and supporting your government. You can start with as little as a \$6.25 allotment each month and at the end of three months you will receive a \$25.00 savings bond.

Other Savings Bonds available are:

<u>COST</u>	<u>VALUE</u>
\$18.75	\$25.00
\$37.50	\$50.00
\$56.25	\$75.00
\$75.00	\$100.00
\$150.00	\$200.00

A third method of saving is the Savings Deposit Program which gives you 10% interest compounded quarterly. This can be accomplished by allotment or cash deposit. This is the best interest bearing program and is only available to servicemen who are stationed overseas.

A final step is to save for R&R. This is the easiest. All you do here is let the unpaid amount due you be carried forward each month. When you want to withdraw the money in your account for large PX purchases or R&R, all you have to do is present yourself to the pay specialist maintaining your pay record, tell him how much you want and he will make out a voucher for you immediately.

Now to show you how a Sp4 can return with all that money. Let's start with the basics.

<u>ENTITLEMENTS</u>	<u>DEDUCTIONS</u>	<u>NET</u>
Base Pay <u>\$214.00</u>	\$10,000..	
Foreign Duty	Insurance <u>\$ 2.00</u>	
Pay <u>\$ 13.00</u>		
Hostile Fire	Social Security	
Pay <u>\$ 65.00</u>	<u>\$11.56</u>	
	Bond "B1"	
	<u>\$ 6.25</u>	
Total	<u>\$292.00</u>	<u>\$19.71</u> <u>\$272.29</u>

The first step is to budget \$72.29 for laundry, health, comfort and miscellaneous PX items. Actually you can get by on as low as \$25.00 per month. The figure of \$72.29 was taken for purposes of simplicity. This leaves the Sp4 with \$200.00 to accomplish the trick. Here's the plan. (Continued on next page.)





#### BRAVOS BUGLER

Providing the ultimate in exotic, tropical, rural enjoyment, Bravos second R&R facility opened during July with the appearance at LZ Young of the units 8" platoon. The new center, designed to offer a slightly more informal atmosphere than the parent facility at Ross, was established after the success and popularity of Bravos first R&R venture proved that the area could profitably support resort facilities.

While many resorts throughout the world feature target shooting with bows and arrows, rifles or shotguns, the LZ Young R&R Center provides target shooting on a Trench-size scale with 8" Howitzers and .50 caliber machine guns. Shooting during July featured some practice firing which netted some unexpected results. An R&R Center .50 caliber test fired alongside a Quad .50 manned by members of G Battery, 55th Artillery in a target area including the latest safety devices. The test firing proved serious for Bravo and machine gun crewmen SSG Stokes and PFC Almond. An NVA Chieu Hoi'd the following day and reported that five members of his squad were downed in the shooting. ("How the hell did you find us?")



**CALENDAR GIRL** — Television and motion picture star Sarang the tiger proves that most lovely girls can be friendly by posing with August calendar girl Marilyn Oliver, Homosassa Springs, Fla.

The carefree enjoyment at the LZ Young Center continued during the month with sandbag filling as always the most popular activity. "I've played baseball, quite a bit of basketball and went skiing once before I came in the 'Army'", said one trooper, "but sandbag filling is one activity I never would have tried if I had'nt been lucky enough to spend my R&R here at Young. Nothing beats the satisfaction gained from seeing several hundred filled sandbags lying under the sun, and knowing that you have done it." The mans psychiatric discharge was pending at last report.

Sunbathing took on a new twist back at the Ross Center as several guard towers neared completion. Sunburn, the scourge of beach vacationers, should not be a problem at Ross, where guests reserve the towers for various intervals only at night. The management said deck chairs will not be provided by the center, but guests are welcome to bring their own.

Hotels have been springing up throughout Ross. No reservations are needed, but guests are expected to provide all the construction labor.

(Continued on next Page)

Start an "S" allotment for \$100.00. This will be deducted monthly from your pay and deposited to your account with the treasury of the U.S. After 12 months you will have approximately \$1,260.00 including interest at 10%.

Let the remaining \$100.00 or more accumulate on the pay record. After five months you will have the \$500.00 needed for your R&R. At the end of your tour another \$700.00 is available to you.

In addition you will have four \$25.00 savings bonds.

Total

S - Allotment	\$1,260.00
Pay Accumulated	\$ 700.00
Savings Bonds	\$ 75.00 (\$100. at maturity).
Funds available at end of tour.	\$2,035.00
Savings for R&R	\$ 500.00
Overall Savings	\$2,535.00

See your Battalion Personnel Staff NCO for further details.

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At the monthly "Hail and Farewell" get-together at an officers' mess in Da Nang, a departing officer-accepting the gift given him-spoke of the past years challenging assignments and of the many fine officers and close friends he was about to leave. Soberly he continued, "I leave Vietnam with mixed emotions-joy and happiness."

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The Hook & Star staff realizes that silk panties are cool in this climate and hard to obtain in the PX. However we hope that if anyone orders them through the mail they utilize a more discreet package than Sp4 Jagers receives his in. This is a poor reflection on our battalion to have the entire San Francisco APO system know that one of our people struts around a combat zone with such attire under his fatigues.

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Army Emergency Relief helps the Americal Division live up to the motto "The Army Takes Care of its Own." Last year over \$4,500.00 was provided to personnel of the division in the form of loans and grants and the current loan volume indicates that Army Emergency Relief will provide more assistance in 1969 than ever before. Army Emergency Relief is the Army's way of assisting active and retired Army personnel and their families when a financial problem arises.

Assistance is provided to deserving personnel in time of an emergency. For privation of dependents, emergency travel, medical and dental expenses, or other emergencies which cause the soldier or his family hardship.

The 1969 Joint Army Emergency Relief and Army Relief Society Fund Raising Campaign is presently being conducted within the Americal Division and will end on August 15, 1969. See your unit AER project officer to make contributions. When you give to AER, remember that your contribution is merged with AER funds from all units in the Army for use in case of need. It also enables AER to cover disbursements for assistance world wide. You are asked to make generous contributions to help your fellow soldiers and their families.

Army Emergency Relief can help you by an outright grant or by a non-interest bearing loan which may be repaid in small monthly installments. To apply, contact CPT Bratt, the division AER officer, who is located in the rear of the AG personnel Services Division Butler building, AG personnel actions branch.

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(Charlie Continued)

CPL Shoble and Lt. Miller have learned to be more selective in picking a site for blowing dud rounds. A bonfire on a cold rainy night can be a pleasant thing, but not in the mortar pit.

WOW MAN! The command was "Number two fire", but wait----"Miss Fire!", the Chief of Section commanded in a firm voice. "To the flank of the piece, fall in!" It may cook off. Waiting, waiting, waiting.....nothing. The two minutes are up, inspect the primer.

"Oh hell, it functioned!", yelled Number One man. "Clear the pit!", yelled another.

Waiting, waiting, waiting.....the smoke poured out of the primer seat vent. The situation taxed each individuals mind. The adrenalin was flowing. It's going to blow, was their expectation.

"Open the breech and pull out the burning powder.", said the chief. "What powder?", said Number One man, "I can't see any powder."

"Charge 5, Green Bag, Fuze Quick, Deflection 3310, Quadrant 431. Number Two is safe and finally ready.", the section chief announces to FDC.

"Say Number Two, for an artillery round to function properly you must have the following 'goodies' present: fuze, booster, bursting charge, propelling charge, and primer. This is then called a bursting and propelling chain of an artillery projectile."

"Can we remember what goes into the tube?" You bet your sweet bippy we can.

July was marked with the 10 day AWOL of our Vietnamese barber. Nobody is certain as to the reasons for his absence, but inside sources say he went to Quang Ni to buy a gas mask. I wonder why.

I was reading Sundays Minh Long Post and the following advertisement caught my eye: Reward--10,000 piasters, dead or alive, punctured or pierced, damaged or new, one Quad .50 Machine Gun. "Someone took the ad seriously. Oh, no. How could they? They were only testing the claymore mines, or was it intentional? Two windshields cracked, two tires blown, one side of a 2 1/2 ton truck full of pellets was the verdict and sentence.

The CIDG Commander assures us of no more slip-ups. We can't afford them, can they?

"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the one who burned the stew?" Spoons, get this straight. No more burned food or you'll be paying for 130 rations. You biet? Burned offerings went out with the sacrifices to the gods. There are only men in this battery.

Almost forgot, but Sp4 Herod, draped in a white, dirty sheet showed up at an evening performance and what a performance. We hav'nt had a thrill like this in ages. Thank you for a "lonely" sweet surprise.

The highlight for the month was a visit by LTC Fruitt on July 10 for an awards ceremony. Receiving the Bronze Star were SGTs Trice, Vinson and Keith. The ARCOM went to CPL Rose. Our congratulations to these people and best of luck to them.

Charlie Battery welcomes "greenies" Allagreen, Clem, Coffey, Hessifer, Neal, Nicklas and Ono. We bid farewell to the one time "greenies" SGT Keith, SGT Sealley, SGT Trice, SGT Vinson, Sp5 Bowen, CPL Rose, Sp4 Roloff and Sp4 Whetsell.

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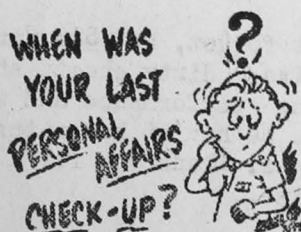
Did you know that you may be eligible for up to a \$10,000 bonus? Check with 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery Career Counselor on Artillery Hill.

(Bravo-Continued)

Probably Vietnams only outdoor drive-in movie theatre is located at Ross. Prices are charged by the truckload, but officials said all Mustangs will be admitted free of charge.

The new facilities apparently produced an increase in guests, as Bravo welcomed 15 new men during the past month. Working the guns are PFCs Taughrin, Smith, Summers, Flynn, Hall and Garritt. SFC Schaffer came on early in July as Chief of Smoke. FDC added Sp4 Hansen, maintenance now features Sp4 Williams and PFC Collins on the stoves, while Sp4 Greenawalt moved into the Command Post as clerk. 1SGT Williams has arrived as the Center managers right hand man, while PFC Lohr joined the defense perimeter staff.

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A two man team can fill about 50 sandbags an hour. A new test model in the form of a converted ditch digger can produce 10 times the amount in the same period of time. Two versions of the new fillers are being tested throughout the Republic of Vietnam under the supervision of the Army Combat Team in Vietnam. The Army Combat Team handles evaluation of all new products under combat conditions. To avoid a flood of requisitions we would like to point out that the filler is still being tested and is not yet available for general use.

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Often the mild mannered reporters for the Hook & Star are so busy racing from one place to another (to cover all the spine tingling stories that you read in this paper every month) that they overlook some of the lesser things happening around them.

To remedy this situation we are beginning a Hook & Star junior reporters club. If anything is happening in your battery area that is unusual or that might be interesting to our readers, jot it down on a slip of paper and send it in to the Hook & Star at Bn S-1 through your C.P. In this way we can get more items in our paper that should be there but often go unnoticed.

Your name does not have to be used in the paper but we will send you a junior reporters membership card, an official Hook & Star decoding ring and a one year membership in the Clark Kent fan club.

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#### CHARLIE CHATTERS

As the hot days of July come to an end and we enter the even hotter days of August, the "short-timers" are glad they are and the "long-timers" wish they were. LZ Crunch is the only place in the world where a person can get a sunburned back while wearing his shirt.

To carry us through these trying times, we still have our cold beer (if you want to call "Black Label" beer) and such outstanding movies as THE SWIMMER (or HOW TO RUIN BURT LANCASTERS REPUTATION AS AN ACTOR IN ONE MOVIE).

Then there was the night CPT Gerzel blew a claymore mine. Unfortunately he forgot to tell anyone what he was up to. You never saw so many people running for bunkers, gun pits and guardposts. CPT Gerzel still has'nt told us whether he was testing our reaction time or whether he just goofed.

(Continued on Next Page)



Vietnamese girl  
wearing Ao-Dai\*

\* native dress

The Hook & Star is an authorized publication of the Army, published by the Information Office, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery, APO San Francisco 96374 (telephone 2122). The command newspaper circulates 250 copies and is printed by the Hook & Star reproduction center. Opinions expressed in the Hook & Star are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. The services of the Army News Feature, Armed Forces Press File and the Information Center of Chu Lai are used.

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SVC Battery Reporter.....THE PHANTOM

## UP COUNTRY

USE YOUR PAY RAISE  
WISELY!!! INVEST IN  
U.S. SAVINGS  
BONDS!

...I DO!!

