



6th BATTALION, 56th ARTILLERY

JULY 3, 1969

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## President's 4th of July Message

On July 4, 1969, we shall observe the 193rd anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This is a special day to be celebrated by all Americans. It is a time to recall with joy and celebration the proclamation of "liberty throughout the land," on that Glorious Fourth in 1776, the day our Nation was born.

In the words of John Adams, our second President, this day "ought to be commemorated...by solemn acts of devotion to God...solemnized with pomp and parade...from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward, evermore."

Our heritage of the democratic principles of the equality and dignity of all men and their "unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" stems from this document. These principles, to which the Declaration's founders mutually pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, are today protected by all men and women in the Armed Forces. For this, all Americans can be proud of your contribution to our security—to ensure that succeeding generations of Americans will always be able to celebrate Independence Day. (Richard Nixon)



This will be the last edition of the Night Hawk published in Vietnam. Whether you are returning to CONUS or staying in Vietnam, the staff wishes you good luck in your new assignment and a safe return home.

## 6/56th Celebrates Organization Day

The men and officers of the battalion participated in various Organization Day Activities on June 7.

The day was started with a parade and awards ceremony on the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery parade field. Brig. Gen. E. L. Powell, Assistant Division Commander, Americal Division, and Colonel Leslie B. Hardy, Americal Division Artillery Commander were special guests. General Ramsey and Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Richard Guertin, Battalion Commander, spoke to the men of the battalion.

General Ramsey then presented Bronze Star Awards to 1LT Thomas Sikorski, CW3 William Evans (HHC), Platoon Sergeant Mark Bornowski (Btry B), Staff Sergeant John Brueckner (HHC), Staff Sergeant Frank Hoyle (Btry A), Staff Sergeant Robert Wolf (Btry B), Sergeant First Class William Hamil (HHC), and Platoon Sergeant Horace Jones (HHC).

Following the awards ceremony, the beach was opened and the men of the 6/56th Arty took advantage of the relaxation it offered. The barbecued food was outstanding and the drinks were cold.



Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey became Commanding General, Americal Division on June 1, 1969. He is from the state of Kentucky and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1940. He came to Vietnam from Third U.S. Army Headquarters and served as Deputy Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, U.S. Army Vietnam before coming to Americal.



ation during the recent CINI. In keeping with the Bravo tradition, SP5 Wuebker scored 100% in ammo as did SGT Goddard's Commo section.



## Alpha-bits

Alpha Battery is now blessed with three Captains. The new Battery Commander is Captain James L. Wyrick who came to 6th Bn, 56th Arty from Artillery. On organization day the battery XO, Captain Frank J. Fabish and the Firing Platoon Leader, Captain William A. Lange were promoted to their new grade. Two days later, 2LT Flanigan was promoted from Second to First Lieutenant.

During ceremonies at the battery on June 6, 1969, LTC Guertin presented the Army Commendation Medal to SP5 Brown, SP5 Miller and SP4 Parker. He presented the Bronze Star to SSG Hoyle.

The battery 228's SFC Griffin, SSG Phillips, SP5 Suda and SP5 Charley were recently commended for their fine work in repairing a sick PAR received from DSP.

Alpha Battery's beer and steam beach party was held at the Battalion beach recently. Highlights included: 1SG Knox being thrown fully clothed into the ocean and a basketball game that kept the Battalion medic busy fixing sore feet and scraped knees all afternoon.

Of course the decision to send the battalion home has had a great effect on the hawkers of Alpha Battery. Long

range projects have been dropped, maintenance and preparation for redeployment are in full swing. Rumors are the rule of the day. It seems, as if there are as many people unhappy about the move as there are happy people.

Alpha Battery is now the proud possessor of the M113 armored personnel carrier. The Battery supplies a crew chief and two gunners nightly to be on standby in case of a VC attack on the Southern Perimeter of CLDC.

New people at Alpha Battery include: 2LT Brooks C. Matthews, Jr., CW2 Arnold D. Squires, SFC Max Matthews, SP5 Raymond Royal, SP4's Willis Ballard, Aloysus Micun, and William Tate, PFC's Jessie Cooley, Ralph Tucker, Joseph Tulcus, and Tony Valladolid.

Depending on how critical your MOS is you can possibly draw as much as \$10,000 in Variable Re-enlistment Bonus money. Also, this next month may be the last month you can re-enlist here in Vietnam and draw a tax free V.R.B.

Be a proud leader of a proud team. Your future is your decision—stay Army! See me in building 19, or call Hawkeye 39. SP5 Christian J. Schmoll Bn. Career Counselor.



## Bravo Banter

Bravo Battery got 14 Charlies this past month through the battalion's Chieu Hoi program. All of them speak and write English and have assumed similar duties to those they had down South.

Besides the fourteen people arriving from Charlie Battery, other new arrivals include SSG's Dale Rheaume and David Woodson. The SP5's are William Stringer, Kenneth Larimer, and Richard Holden. SP4's Richard Wright and Harold Baxter are new in country, as are PFC's Donald Kent, John Bibbo, Donald Mugan, and Kenneth Jones.

1LT Joel Pigott wins the consumer of the month award after it was announced at a recent floor show that the beer was on the new First Lieutenant. The beer was on a few others, also.

And thanks to SFC Bornowski and others, we have just completed a new softball field, complete with backstop. At this writing Bravo's softball team is still undefeated; the season starts soon we believe! the best of Bravo awaits you.

The word at Bravo is that if you haven't heard a good rumor lately—start one.

CPT Ebner commended the troops for their outstanding work and cooper-

# Delta Dateline

Major General Lloyd B. Ramsey, new American Division Commander, Visited Delta Battery on June 5, marking the third time within a month that a commanding general had toured the site.

His visit came only four days after he had assumed command from Major General Charles M. Gettys, who had been to Battery D twice in May. General Gettys was with the party of General Ralph Haines, USARPAC Commander, when the latter came to Ky Hoa Island on May 13.

Welcoming General Ramsey were Colonel Leslie B. Hardy, Division Artillery Commander, and Lieutenant Colonel J. A. Richard Guertin, Battalion Commander.

Captain Harold G. White assumed command of Battery D on June 18 from Captain Richard N. Murray who rotated to CONUS.

The new CO served as Executive Officer for one month before taking charge. He is a former Aide de Camp to Brigadier General Rex H. Hampton at the 52nd Artillery Brigade at Highlands, N.J. CPT White is a distin-

uished graduate of the HAWK F-5 Course at Fort Bliss, Tex.

His hobbies include flying, of which he holds a student pilot's license, football and skiing. He is married to the former Linda June Liddell of Pensacola, Fla.

Congratulations to SSG Richard G. Ozias who was promoted after completing the Combat Leadership Course at the Combat Center. He finished second among more than 60 students who were enrolled in the two-week course.

Four men received the Bronze Star Medal in June for meritorious service in the Republic of Vietnam. They are Captain Edward V. Moore, SFC Ronald L. Crown, SFC James H. Fish and SFC Jack C. Hetterscheidt.

Awarded the Army Commendation Medal last month were SFC Robert E. Wilson, SSG Thomas F. Liedig, SSG William H. Lowie Jr., SGT Jack L. Lichlyter and SP5 Jerry E. Wright.

The announcement that the unit will return to CONUS brought memories to three battery members, SSG Henry Youngblood, SP5 William J. Clark and SP5 Douglas A. Dickison. All three left the states in September 1965 on the ship that transported both the 6th Bn, 56th Arty and the 6th Bn, 71st Arty to Vietnam.

SSG Youngblood has been with the 56th the entire stay, most of it at Battery C. He arrived in country as a PFC. SP5 Clark served with the 71st until that unit's departure from country last October. He was then assigned to the 56th. SP5 Dickison arrived with the 71st, returned to Ft. Bliss, and came back to RVN last November, this time with the 56th.

Having the Division CMMI on Friday the 13th of June didn't seem to bother the men of Delta. Short-timers remember that the battery landed on Ky Hoa Island exactly nine months before—on Friday the 13th of September. Who can be superstitious after that?

The monthly award for Best Planning and/or Slickest Strategy went to the Mess Hall for serving barbecued spare ribs without napkins on June 2.

From

Headquarters

Immediately following Organization Day Activities, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery experienced a Division CMMI. A lot of sun-burned men put a lot of time and energy into the preparations.

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The EM and NCO Clubs have inherited various pieces of equipment from Charlie Battery. "Hand-me-downs" are completely acceptable in a war zone and certainly appreciated.

News of the battalion's return to CONUS took the men of the battery somewhat by surprise. Disbelief was probably the first major reaction. Rumors about the 6/56th going home have not been uncommon in the past. With belief came mixed feelings and visions of hard work.

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The battery has a new First Sergeant. First Sergeant Billy W. Hartline arrived just in time to help with the packing.

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New arrivals in June were SSG Rueben Smith, SP5's James Sundberg, Edward Otten, Samuel Cawley, Walter Anderson, Billy Murray, Jimmy Moore, Larry Catalfamo and Oather Cogburn, SP6 Thomas McCrobie, and SSG Franklin Corns.

Other new personnel are SP4's Roger Ray, Bennie Blount, Herbert Rusk, George Carpenter, Charles Cannon, Bernard Rychlinski, Stephen Blackwenler, and Michael Dougherty. Also FFC's Laurence Loman, Don Brinkman, Raymond Hanson, Richard Miller, Tommie Sproles and Daniel Hunter.



"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

These words are emblazoned on the Liberty Bell which pealed forth the glorious news July 4, 1776, when our Declaration of Independence was born.

Think back to your school days for a minute and recall what you learned about the Declaration of Independence. It contains a theory of government and a list of specific acts which made separation from England necessary at that time.

It was a case of less than three million people challenging the most powerful political and military nation in the world. The people in America wanted their freedom and they were prepared to fight for it. Whether rich or poor, they were prepared to sacrifice everything for that elusive ideal—freedom.

It took seven years of sacrifice and bitter fighting to win that easily declared independence. Since then, nearly 41 million other Americans have served on battlefields all over the world to perpetuate the freedom and independence declared back in 1776. More than a million of them have given their lives.

The 4th of July has always been our Nation's greatest holiday. It has always been a time for rededication of the great principles set forth in the declaration and a time for festivity. It is also a time to remember that there still are seen and unseen enemies trying to undermine all the principles and sacrifices that have made America the greatest country on earth.



As it happened all too often in the past, America's finest youth are fighting and dying on foreign soil: now indeed, we may well again... "With a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence"... "Appeal to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our own intentions," as did the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

We don't have to be "flag-wavers" to display our pride in America to the world. We don't even have to know all the words to our national anthem. But by being good, honest and sympathetic human beings, we can share our rich heritage with every man on earth.

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks nothing worth a war is worse... a man who has nothing which he cares about more than his personal safety is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the existence of better men than himself." (John Stuart Mill)

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Lt. Colonel J. A. Richard Guertin.....Commanding  
CPT Arnold J. Eckelman.....PIG  
SP4 Craig Couture.....EDITOR  
SP4's Joseph Belle-Isle and John Mealy.....PRINTERS



## Pres. Boasts Confidence

"The American Defense Establishment should never be a sacred cow, but on the other hand the American military should never be anybody's scapegoat."

This was the way President Nixon described the defense establishment and at the same time presented a credo for defenders of the nation at commencement exercises at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. June 4.

The President told the graduating cadets, "You are entering the military service of your country when the nation's potential adversaries abroad were never stronger and when your critics at home have never been more numerous..."

"I believe that America is not about to become a garrison state, or a welfare state, or a police state—simply because the American people will defend our values from those forces external or internal that would challenge or erode them..."

"And I believe this above all: That this nation shall continue to be a source of world leadership, a source of freedom's strength, in creating a just world order that will bring an end to war.

## VIETNAM—a history of struggle

## Chinese exit—the Partition



proposals

for peace

"In pursuing our limited objective, we insist on no rigid diplomatic formula. Peace could be achieved by a formal negotiated settlement. Peace could be achieved by an informal understanding, provided that the understanding is clear, and that there were adequate assurances that it would be observed. Peace on paper is not as important as peace in fact." President Richard M. Nixon—to a nationwide television audience on May 14.

## Agricultural Development Programs

Vietnam is potentially one of the richest rice-producing nations in all of Asia, and the development of agriculture is of prime concern. Many free World nations are seeking to further the development of co-operatives to promote agricultural development.

The Republic of China has had an agricultural mission in Vietnam since 1959. Working through the Ministry of Agriculture and local farmers, the 74-man mission has been seeking to promote better crop development in the Hue, Phan Rang, Bien Hoa and Long Xuyen areas.

Australia has provided valuable materials, including an experimental dairy farm, irrigation equipment, farm tools, livestock and poultry breeding equipment.

Germany has provided almost \$4 million in long-term investments for the importation of machine tools and fertilizers.

The new period of Chinese rule, although short, was probably worse than anything the Vietnamese people had experienced before.

The country was systematically drained of its resources and the people were driven into mines and forests to work. All that could be extracted from the country was shipped to China.

By 1418 the people were weary of the foreign yoke and awaited a strong leader. Le Loi, one of the greatest figures in Vietnamese history, raised the nation to fight a successful 10-year war and established a dynasty that was to outlast all other Vietnamese ruling families. The Le dynasty ruled a politically unstable Vietnam for nearly 360 years.

Under the Chinese, land had again become concentrated in a few hands. Ex-soldiers and landless peasants poured down the coastal plains of southern Vietnam skirting the more aggressive Thai and Moi tribesmen in the highlands.

In 1527 the governor of Hanoi, Mac Dang Dung, killed the ruling Le and declared a new dynasty, the Mac. Twenty years later the country was officially partitioned into two states, the North and the South.

The Mac family was eventually defeated by the Trinh family and the Le dynasty was restored to the throne. But the Le no longer ruled; they were mere figureheads kept on the throne so as not to give rebellious elements a rallying point.

In the north the Trinh held complete control while in the south the sons of Nguyen Kim, the noble who had retaken and held the south for the Le, took over.

For 50 years a series of almost continuous wars raged between the armies of the two rulers. Although the Trinh had twice the people and four times the resources, a new weight had been thrown on the scales of the balance of power. The Europeans had come to Indochina.

Recently the "miracle rice," IR8, has been introduced into Vietnam. This strain of rice, developed by Free World nations, produces a stronger, more nutritious rice in much greater quantities than the other varieties grown in Vietnam. As the use of this rice grows, Vietnam will be able to provide more food for her own people, and may be able to export quantities to other Asian nations. This effort in particular has the possibility of helping not only the Vietnamese people, but it may also develop a stable base for the nation's economy. (USARV Fact Sheet)



Da Nang was formerly called Tourane. It is a seaport with good deep sea and fresh water fishing.

# COMPUTER CORNER ON SPORTS

By Bud Goode

Has California dropped into the ocean yet? Crystal ballers predicted this month that the Golden State would sink into the Pacific. The earthquake expected to topple tall buildings didn't materialize. But an important California property known as "The Angels" sank quietly into a sea of despair this week. California dropped three games in a row to Boston. Manager Bill Rigney probably wishes the quake had hit, at least it would have carried the entire State into the sea. As it is only Rigney Towers is toppling.

How do you measure a manager's contribution to a team? The Clutch Batting factor, defined as the percentage of base runners who score, gives an insight into the manager's baseball know how. Team runs are related to hitting ability, speed on the bases, but they are also a function of the manager's to call the right play--when to bunt, when to steal, when to hit-and-run...and to make these calls on his knowledge of player strengths and weaknesses.

To measure teams' Clutch Batting percentage through games of May 20, Computer Corner, poured the clubs' runs, hits, base-on-balls and hit-by-pitch statistics into our Univac electronic sports analyzer. Here's the result:

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

### EAST

### WEST

### CLUTCH

BALTIMORE  
WASHINGTON  
DETROIT  
NEW YORK  
BOSTON  
CLEVELAND

.373 OAKLAND  
.339 MINNESOTA  
.338 SEATTLE  
.329 CHICAGO  
.325 KANSAS CITY  
.267 CALIFORNIA

.403  
.367  
.350  
.333  
.304  
.266

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

### CLUTCH BATTING%

CINCINNATI  
CHICAGO  
NEW YORK  
PITTSBURGH  
PHILADELPHIA  
ST. LOUIS

.415 LOS ANGELES  
.378 ATLANTA  
.361 SAN FRANCISCO  
.333 MONTREAL  
.332 HOUSTON  
.291 SAN DIEGO

### CLUTCH BATTING%

.380  
.374  
.331  
.314  
.313  
.283

The dodgers are the most improved team in the National League--up from 26% last year, they are now scoring a phenomenal 38% of their base runners. The Cardinals have lost the most since last season, and trail in the Eastern Division, scoring only the first week of the current season, and should not be counted out.

Out of the running? In the American League it's the Angels and the Cleveland Indians. Scoring only 26.6% and 26.7% of their base runners on this important Clutch Batting percentage, the Angels and Indians can't catch the leaders. At this rate, they couldn't catch a streetcar.



By Robert E. Lamm from  
You can't catch me, I'm  
here in a funny girl and a  
funny boy.

Baseball is a totally American derivative of the English game of cricket (first recorded in the U.S. in 1747) and the now-little-played English game of rounders. The game evolved about the end of the eighteenth century: as early as 1786, "baste-ball" was banned at Princeton, N.J. Haphazard versions of the so-called Town Ball Game grew up in Boston, New York and Philadelphia during the period 1820-33. Rules were first codified in 1845 in New York by Alexander Cartwright. (Guinness Book of World Records).



\*A FULL MOON ALWAYS MAKES THESE  
GUYS MARCH MAD.