



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY

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## ALPHA CO. CAPTURES NVA

Alpha Company, commanded by Cpt Ambrus Carnes, captured a young NVA soldier on Sunday, April 27. The company, working in an area several "klicks" southeast of LZ San Juan Hill, moved out of their night defensive position early in the morning with Alpha's first platoon in the lead. The platoon, led by 2Lt John Van Loan, encountered fire from an unknown sized enemy force shortly after moving out.

During the fire fight, the third squad of the first platoon sighted four NVA soldiers in a stream bed across a large open area. Two members of the squad, Sph Henry Owens, and PFC Paul Parish, ran across a section of the open area and established more effective firing positions. Due to their efforts and a heavy base of fire laid down by the third squad, the first platoon was able to maneuver towards the enemy position and capture an NVA soldier who was pinned down by the fire.

The NVA was later evacuated to San Juan Hill and attended to by the S-2, Cpt John Blanks, with the aid of an interpreter. The enemy soldier appeared to be relaxed and in alternating sequence, he smoked cigarettes, enjoyed some canned foods, and talked openly. As a result of his cooperation, Alpha Company was directed to an enemy base camp later in the day.

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## BATTALION FINDS ENEMY SUPPLIES

Operations in the 4-3 AO this past week turned up several scraps of enemy munitions and evidence of enemy activity in the area. Alpha and Charlie Companies, and the Recon Platoon, successfully completed combat air assaults on April 21; all LZs were approximately five "klicks" southwest of San Juan Hill. Gunships providing security for the assault received automatic weapons fire, however, the enemy fire ended when the ships placed heavy fire on the area. Near Recon's LZ, the platoon found a .50 caliber position and a home-made bouncing betty mine.

Delta Company on April 21, began the day's operation in finding a small way station. The spot, apparently an enemy rendezvous point, had several large trails leading towards it. A similar enclave was found a few hundred meters away containing five huts and several spider holes and bunkers. In the afternoon, the company found

an old company sized base camp, decomposing from age. Despite the condition of the base camp, there were indications of enemy movement as recently as two days before.

On April 22, Alpha Company discovered a large empty cave. Outside the cave, the company found cooking utensils. Delta Company's second platoon on this day, wounded one of two VC walking with packs. Delta's third platoon (Bn cont pg 2)



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found twenty-five meters of rusty concertina wire on a nearby well used trail.

Later in the day, Alpha Company located ten huts with trails leading from the huts to the mountains. Nearby were two bunkers overlooking a stream. Later, the company found a twelve foot long bunker with a lantern hanging inside. A number of burned huts were found to the rear of the bunker.

Charlie Company on April 23, while searching a small village, found a full M-16 magazine, two ammo pouches (one US and one NVA), a protective gas mask, a machete with scabbard, a pair of US Army fatigue trousers, a military blanket and canvas, a load sling for a CH-47 helicopter, and a half loaded .45 caliber sub-machine gun magazine. At the same location the company found 100 lbs of rice, an entrenching tool, two bags of 82mm powder charges, three rounds of 5.56mm amm, a canteen cup, and a helmet liner.

Alpha Company a few "klicks" away found a hut with an NVA canteen inside. They later sighted ten to twelve enemy soldiers wearing dark helmets, moving away from them towards the northwest. Because of the distance, the company could not determine whether the enemy had packs and weapons.

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## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Awards and decorations are important to the combat soldier. They symbolize the recognition deserved for valorous actions, achievements, or service.

From January 1, to April 27, 1969, the battalion submitted 583 awards, 182 of which have already been approved. Submission of awards is strongly encouraged. For the information of all personnel in the battalion the various individual awards are explained below from USARV Reg No 672-1.

**MEDAL OF HONOR** is awarded to personnel of the Armed Forces who, in actual conflict with the enemy, distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their own lives above and beyond the call of duty. Each deed must have been one so conspicuous as to clearly distinguish the individual above his comrades and must have involved the risk of life.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS** is awarded to recognize extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy. "Heroism" is defined as specific acts of bravery or outstanding courage, or a closely related series of heroic acts performed within an exceptionally short period of time. The term "in connection with military operations against an armed enemy" covers all military operations, including combat, support, and supply, that have a direct bearing in the actions of an engagement against an armed opposition. The individual concerned must have been subject to personal hazard as a result of direct or imminent enemy action, or the conditions under which his duty or accomplishment took place must have been complicated by enemy action.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL** is the "Top rung" in the achievement/service ladder, and is awarded to US military personnel to recognize exceptionally meritorious service in a duty of great responsibility. "Duty of great responsibility" is defined as that which, by virtue of the position held, carries the ultimate responsibility for the successful operation of a major command, activity, agency, installation or project.

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tions, the individual must have either 25 combat assault missions with no regard to flight time, 50 direct combat support missions with an accrued minimum of 50 hours flight time, or 100 other combat support missions with an accrued minimum of 100 hours flight time.

**ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL** may be awarded to recognize heroism, meritorious achievement or service. The degree of heroism required for noncombat is less than that required for the Bronze Star Medal. These acts may involve aerial flight. The degree of meritorious achievement or service is approximately that required for award of the Bronze Star Medal or Air Medal. It is particularly desirable that emphasis be placed on the award of this decoration to outstanding company grade officers and warrant officers whose services meet the prescribed criteria.

**PURPLE HEART** may be awarded only to US personnel, military or civilian, who are wounded or killed in action or as a direct result of enemy action. For US Army personnel who are killed, the award will automatically be prepared by The Adjutant General, Department of the Army, and presented to the next of kin.

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Old Guard

LTC Jack C. Davis;	CO
1Lt Thomas J. Klein;	SL
Spl Edward Burchell,	Reporter

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## R D CADRE

Many field troops, especially those who have arrived in country recently, are sometimes bewildered by the many different types of uniforms worn by Vietnamese forces. The Revolutionary Development (RD) Cadre, who wear black pajamas, are particularly amazing.

The RD Cadre was initiated by the Government of Vietnam (GVN) to win the support of the rural population. In order to identify with rural people in the best possible way, it was determined that the cadre would wear the traditional workers' clothes, black pajamas.

The members of the RD Cadre are trained at the National Training Center in Vung Tau. At the center they learn about security of small villages, the institution of democratic governments, and the technical services available to the people by the GVN. Emphasis is also given to the skills which pertain to farming people.

The employment of RD Cadre is useful in promoting the welfare of communities in political, educational, agricultural and social areas. Their presence retards Viet Cong infiltration into rural areas.

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## RICE DENIAL

As part of the Psychological Operations effort in Vietnam, the unique rice denial program is a successful means of reducing the enemy's supply of rice, and contributes to the widespread hunger among VC and NVA soldiers. The program utilizes refugees to harvest rice within enemy controlled areas. After the rice is harvested, it is then extracted and deposited at a location designated by district officials.

Immediate protection for the harvesters is usually provided by Regional and Popular Forces. Additional protection is assured by US units.

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(Awards cont from pg 2)

**SILVER STAR** is awarded to recognize gallantry in action. The required gallantry, while of a lesser degree than that required for the Distinguished Service Cross, must have been performed with marked distinction.

**LEGION OF MERIT** is awarded to recognize exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services. Criteria specify award to "key individuals" e.g., individuals occupying positions that are indispensable to an organization, activity, or project.

**DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS** is awarded to individuals who, while participating in aerial flight, perform single acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement. Heroism required for award of the DFC must be evidenced by voluntary action in the form of great danger beyond the call of duty. The extraordinary achievement must have been so exceptional and outstanding that it clearly set the individual apart from other persons in similar circumstances.

**SOLDIER'S MEDAL** is awarded to recognize heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy. The performance must have involved personal hazard or danger and voluntary risk of life. Approximately the same degree of heroism is required as for the Distinguished Flying Cross. Regulations prohibit the awarding of a Soldier's Medal solely on the basis of having saved a life.

**BRONZE STAR MEDAL** may be awarded for heroism, meritorious achievement or service. Regulations place two restrictions upon its award. First, the act or service must not have involved participation in aerial flight. Second, the act of service must have been performed in connection with military operations against an armed enemy (includes combat, support, and supply operations). The heroism required is of a lesser degree than that required for the Silver Star. Similarly, the required degree of achievement or service is less than that required for the Legion of Merit.

**AIR MEDAL** may be awarded only for acts performed while participating in aerial flight. It may be given to recognize single acts of heroism, meritorious achievement, and sustained operational activities against an armed enemy. The required achievement, while of lesser degree than that required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, must nevertheless have been accomplished with distinction beyond that normally expected. For sustained opera-

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tions. The results of artillery called on the enemy plot are unknown.

Delta Company's second platoon, on the afternoon of April 23, discovered an enemy base camp. Within the camp, the platoon found a twelve gauge shotgun, fifty pounds of rice in an underground cache, various medical supplies, twenty SKS-44 rounds, a 75mm recoilless rifle round, and approximately 37 pounds of sardines.

Alpha Company's first and second platoons completed the day's finds in turning up a helmet liner and an NVA ammo pouch.

Charlie Company's second platoon on April 24, found 800 pounds of polished rice, a machete, and a bayonet, all concealed underneath some burned out hootches.

The Recon Platoon while patrolling on April 25, found eight well camouflaged hootches with fresh, well used trails, and bootprints around the hootches. Very recent enemy occupation of the area became evident when the platoon found embers of a fire that were still warm.

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From the desk of Shortimer Sam in The Army Reporter, April 26, 1969:

Dear Sam, I would like to know if we gain a day or lose a day coming over here from the world. Spl C.B., 82nd Airborne Division.

(Sam) The way I figure it we lose about one year.

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