UPTIGHT

United States Army, Vietnam • FALL, 1969

Serving With Pride...

Each issue of UpTight will salute a major unit serving in Vietnam, selected randomly, highlighting the unit's historical background and illustrating the unit patch.

Old Reliables

Old Reliables of the 9th Infantry Division received a well-deserved rest recently. All units of the 9th except the 3rd Brigade were part of President Nixon's initial 25,000-man cutback in Vietnam. The division's base camp at Dong Tam was turned over to the 7th ARVN Division.

The 9th Division was first organized on July 18, 1918, at Camp Sheridan, Ala., but was demobilized shortly after World War I ended. It was redesignated a Regular Army unit in 1923, though it remained inactive. Reactivation took place on Aug. 1, 1940, at Fort Bragg, N.C., and subsequently the division took part in action in North Africa, on the Normandy beaches, across France, Belgium and Germany. Following World War II the division underwent a series of inactivations and reactivations, with the most current call to duty being on Feb. 1, 1966, at Ft. Riley, Kan.

When the division first began landing at Vung Tau on Dec. 19, 1966, a new chapter in its history opened. The unit's 3rd Brigade became the first American infantry unit to establish a permanent base in the Mekong Delta at Dong Tam in mid-January. During the division's first year it established itself as a tough fighting force in actions at Bau Bang, Rach Kien and the Ap Bàc. In mid-1967, the Mobile Riverine Force was established to transport infantrymen more easily throughout the river-laced Delta.

When the enemy launched his 1968 Tet attacks, the Old Reliables reacted with swift precision to gain decisive victories, accounting for almost 2,000 VC killed. In July 1968, the 9th Division was presented the Vietnamese Valor Award, Army Level.

Now only the 3rd Brigade remains in Vietnam at Tan An. All other 9th Division units were deactivated following their redeployment.

UPTIGHT

VOL. 2, NR. 2 FALL, 1969

THE QUARTERLY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM

A New Proposal

On June 7, Republic of Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu met at Midway Island with U.S. President Richard M. Nixon to talk over the situation in Vietnam. The meeting resulted in a joint communique announcing the redeployment of 25,000 U.S. fighting forces from the Republic. Both heads of state agreed that the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces had reached a point in their training where they were now capable of taking over a larger share of the fighting.

As the lull in ground fighting continued in late July and early August, President Thieu made what many have called the most comprehensive proposal for peace yet made in the war. He proposed internationally supervised elections with Communist participation to end the fighting. The only condition placed on the enemy was that they "renounce violence and pledge themselves to accept the results of the elections." He also promised the government of the Republic of Vietnam would "abide by the results of the election, whatever these results may be."

President Nixon lauded President Thieu's new peace proposal. Said the U.S. chief executive, "This should open the way at last for a rapid settlement of the Vietnam war."

COMBAT ACTION

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

HUMAN INTEREST

SPECIAL FEATURES

UPTIGHT is an authorized quarterly publication of the U.S. Army, Vietnam. Its mission is to provide factual, timely and in-depth information of interest to members of the U.S. Army, Vietnam. Articles of general interest may be submitted for consideration to: Editor, UPTIGHT, Information Office, Headquarters, USARV, APO San Francisco 96375. Direct communication with the editor is authorized. Unless otherwise indicated, material published in UPTIGHT may be reprinted provided credit is given the magazine and the author. Opinions expressed in UPTIGHT are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

CREDITS: Front cover U.S. Army riverine forces are playing an increasingly important role in the war in Vietnam. Here a river patrol boat checks an unidentified sampan in the Qui Nhon harbor. Photo by SP5 Denis Murrell. Back cover A Buddhist temple tower in Saigon. Photo by LT Samuel B. Huff.

GEN Creighton W. Abrams, Commanding General
LTG Frank T. Mildren, Deputy Commanding General
COL James W. Campbell, Information Officer
MAJ Elmer L. Karstensen, Command Information Officer
LT Joseph E. Moreland Jr., Editor

Tracker Dogs' Mission: Find Charlie

By SFC Fred O. Egeler
199th Inf Bde-IO

Voices in the night moved down a trail toward an ambush site. The ambush leader opened fire and after a brief but vicious firefight the enemy broke contact and disappeared into the night.

The ambush leader called his company commander, who in turn informed battalion that contact had been made and broken. "We could use some help in tracking them down, sir," he told battalion.

The battalion runner whispered to Staff Sergeant George Cox, team leader for the 76th Infantry Detachment, Combat Tracker Team (CCT). "Sarge, you're needed in the field. There's a chopper waiting to insert you at first light."

This is just the beginning of another day for members of the 76th who support elements of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in their search for the enemy. The 76th has two of the 33 tracker teams working in Vietnam. Each team includes Labrador Retriever. This team's dog is named Rigger.

The teams wear camouflaged fatigues and jungle hats. Each man is armed with an M16 rifle and several bandoleers, carries two quarts of water—one for himself and one for the dog—as well as a day's ration and a portion of dry dog food.

When the chopper dropped them off, the ambush leader met the team and showed them where the contact was made. He assured them no one had disturbed anything in the area. The ambush leader also explained what happened during the night, adding that there were at least four persons firing back.

After seeing the contact area, Specialist Four Thomas Verhelle, the team's visual tracker (VT) and cover man Specialist Four Grant Coates, moved out to search the area for footprints, expended rounds, broken brush and any other clues that might help trail the enemy.

Specialist Verhelle says, "Being a deer hunter for many years back home in Michigan has helped me pick up the trails of many of the enemy. In addition, the Army trained me to detect the mines and booby traps."

Specialist Verhelle gave the thumbs up sign and the team moved out. They moved up the trail at a fast pace, working 60 to 70 meters in front of supporting elements.

"In a firefight this distance can be a lifetime," he explains. I'm usually in the lead unless we're working Rigger on a trail. Coates keeps me well covered when we're tracking and has saved my life more than once," adds the veteran VT.

Specialist Coates has a double job. He acts as coverman, protecting the

Private Wright and Rigger follow a scent on a road near Saigon (far left). The team's visual tracker points out the direction of the trail to the cover man (left). Combat trackers will follow a VC scent across a stream (below). The team follows a VC trail outside an abandoned village (right).

VT man by scanning the flanks and the area ahead for movement. When movement is sighted he will slap the VT to the ground and lay a base of fire. While walking through brush and jungle areas his eyes scan the trail for trip wires and booby traps that are above the VT man's eyes. He is trained as a visual tracker also and when the VT man tires they change places in the column.

A hundred meters into the brush Specialist Verhelle spotted a blood trail and told Sergeant Cox it was about an hour and a half old. Radiotelephone operator Corporal William Carter relayed the message to the supporting Redcatcher infantrymen and the team continued on. A hundred meters later they came upon an open area containing a graveyard and some dilapidated structures. The trail led right across the field and through a nearby village. The team moved into the open in an all-round security formation and through the graveyard.

When they reached the abandoned buildings, Specialist Verhelle and Specialist Coates went in to search the area as the others remained alert for any signs of movement. Specialist Coates found some bloody bandages and a place where a man had been lying.

Specialist Verhelle summoned Sergeant Cox to the front of the formation, pointed to the ground and said, "They went into the village or circled it from here. It's Rigger's turn now."

Sergeant Cox motioned for Private First Class Allen Wright, the dog handler, to bring Rigger forward. Private Wright held a bloody bandage for the dog to smell and then let him out the full 18 feet of his working harness. The handler watched Rigger intently for signs as the dog drifted back and forth for about three minutes, crossing the trail several times. Private Wright gave the thumbs up sign that Rigger was on the scent as the dog headed for the village.

"Once Rigger picks up a scent he will follow it through jungle, water and even a village," says Sergeant Cox. Rigger had the scent and followed it into the village.

About half way through the village he started acting up. First he ran up the road, then came back and headed off to the left. He returned again and crossed the road to the right. "Evidently," Private Wright said, "Charlie must have passed through the village, circled it and returned, crossing his own trail. I told Rigger to 'Seek On' and he headed off to the left."

The team passed through the village, stopping when they reached the other side. Sergeant Cox called the VT forward to check the area. Specialist Verhelle scanned the ground for about 10 meters and pointed out boot marks. "These are the same ones we've been following, Sarge. See that crack in the heel of this boot, it's the same as those back in the brush and at the ruins." Sergeant Cox then called the supporting unit commander and suggested the infantrymen skirt the village and join the trackers.

When the command group arrived the team briefed the unit commander. "There are seven or more of them in this bunch, Captain. At least two of them are wounded and the others are armed with three to five AK's from the signs back at the ambush site," confirmed Specialists Verhelle and Coates. "They're moving north from the village and they're about 45 minutes ahead of us."

"We'll move into the brush and rest and water the dog for 10 minutes while you bring up the rest of your company to sweep that open area. It's possible you might pick up something because of the activity here," suggests Sergeant Cox to the unit commander.

Nothing was found during the move to the brush line and the team moved off down the trail. The trail led to a canal about three meters across. Rigger waded into the water and started upstream with the rest of the team following. He came out on the opposite bank, shook himself, sniffed around the bank and then started down what looked like an animal trail in the brush.

After traveling another 150 meters, the trail ended on the bank of another rain swollen canal. The enemy had hidden two sampans there for getaway purposes and had used them. The enemy had been there "not more than 20 minutes ago," Private Wright and Specialist Verhelle agreed.

After the team returned to the fire support base, Sergeant Cox clarified a few misconceptions about Scout Dogs and Tracker Teams. "A Labrador Retriever works on ground scent, just as a bloodhound does.

"We have an advantage over a Scout Dog Team," Sergeant Cox continued, "in that we are five fully armed men prepared to defend ourselves, whereas a Scout Dog team consists of just the dog and his handler. We have a radio operator who is in constant contact with the supporting unit," added the veteran tracker.

"Our primary mission," he said, "is to find the enemy for the infantry. When we make contact, the supporting element moves up and closes with the enemy. When contact is broken we move back and start all over again.

"Unfortunately, Charlie is sometimes 20 minutes ahead." ▲

The team moves quickly through a graveyard while following a VC trail (left). The team's visual tracker checks signs in the grass (bottom left). Rigger and Private Wright keep a sharp lookout during a break (bottom right).

The Other War

By CPT Mike Allee
UpTight Staff Writer

Smoke billowed skyward as tear-stained faces gazed hypnotically into nothingness. It was finished! But finished for whom? Not for the young mother whose baby clutched desperately at her leg. Not for the hunch-backed old man whose eyes mirrored a thousand questions. And not for the small boy who aimlessly tossed rocks at the rubble.

A lifetime of routine familiarity had vanished in minutes.

Moments earlier, gunships and jets threw their devastating arsenal of destruction into the hamlet of Tan Hiep at the southern tip of Bien Hoa Air Base.

The action took place last February during the Tet offensive. VC elements had attempted to penetrate Bien Hoa Air Base. When they were driven back, they took refuge in Tan Hiep. The local Vietnamese fled to safety shortly before the VC entered the hamlet. A concentrated barrage of firepower was the only way to eradicate the enemy.

The result was final. Complete defeat for the enemy. The price was high. Of 120 homes in the hamlet, 86 were leveled.

Six hours later, food, clothing, shelter and medicine were available for the war victims. The 2nd platoon, 2nd Civil Affairs Company, had helped coordinate a combined effort to suppliment the Vietnamese in caring for the people of Tan Hiep. Plans had been made months prior in case of such a disaster.

The Province Social Welfare and Refugee Chief immediately obtained and distributed the normal payment to bona fide war victims (7,500 piasters, 10 bags of cement and 10 sheets of tin per family). The 266th Supply and Services Battalion donated an additional 8,448 bags of cement, 20,000 bricks and 3,000 sheets of tin.

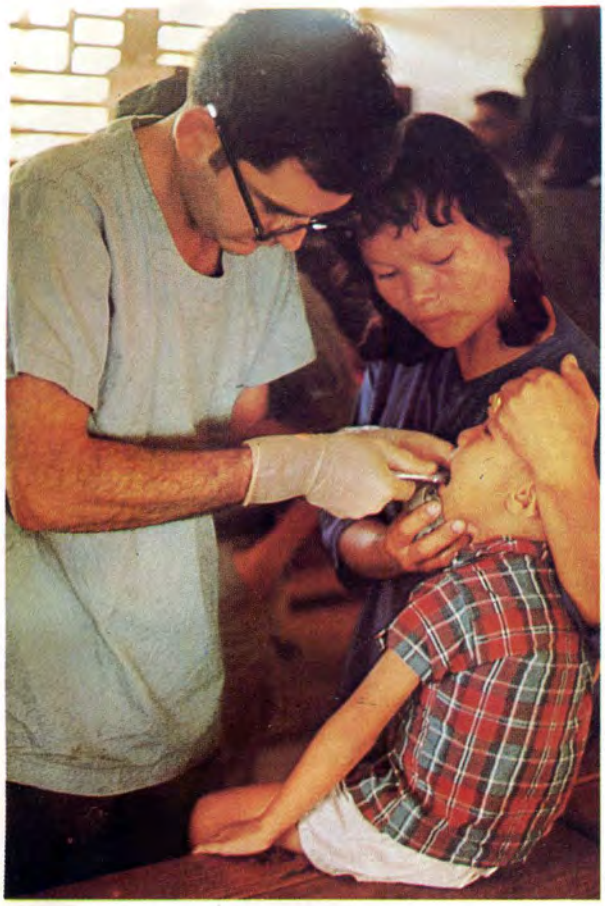
Three days after the fight, heavy equipment from Bien Hoa Air Base cleared the rubble that had been Tan Hiep.

On the fourth day, the people began rebuilding their village, aided by soldiers from the 266th.

As platoon commander, 2nd platoon, 2nd Civil Affairs Company, Captain Jesse Thompson is responsible for coordinating civic action and civil affairs throughout Bien Hoa province. Assigned to II Field Force, Vietnam, Captain Thompson's staff includes an interpreter, clerk-typist, medics and specialists in the fields of engineering, public safety, agriculture and public health.

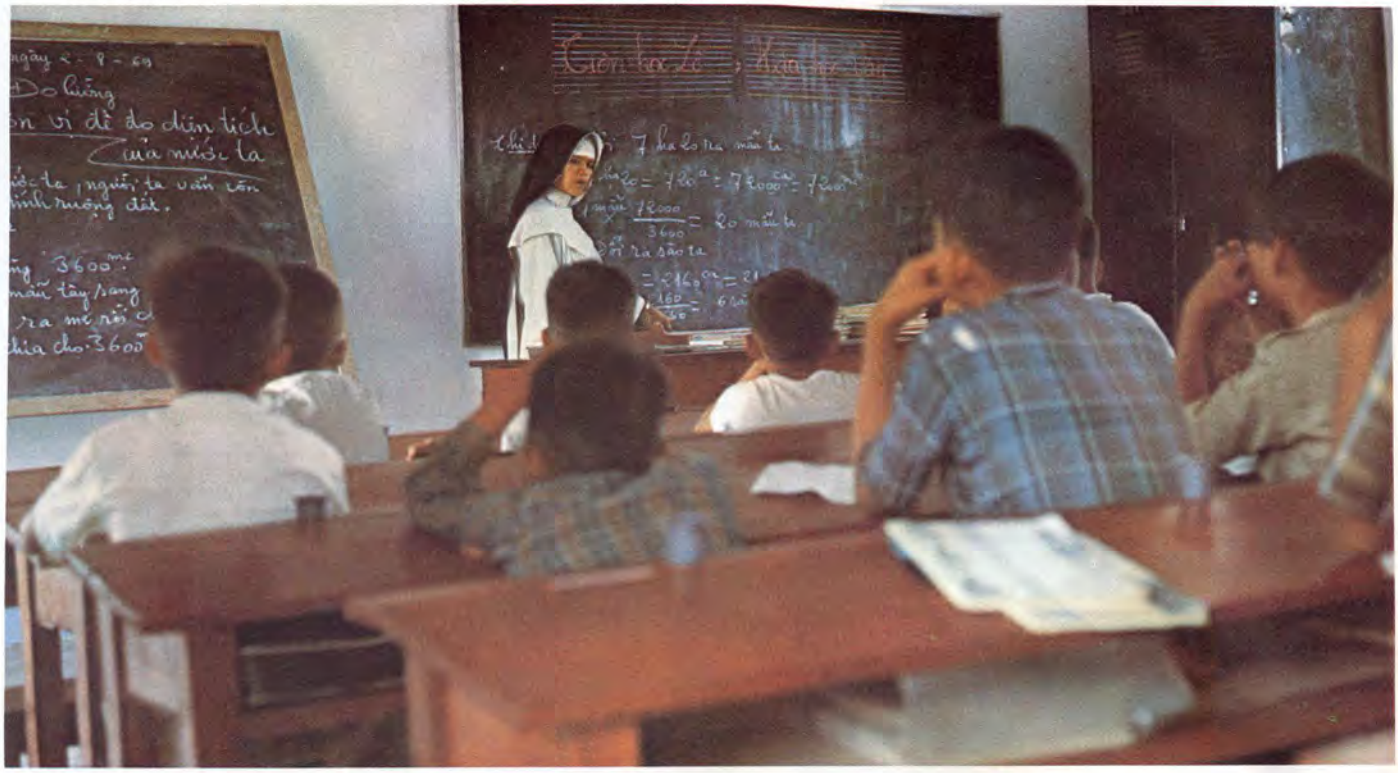
Working with his Vietnamese counterpart, Captain Tran Van Binh, Captain Thompson evaluates the people's needs. He helps direct aid from American and ARVN units and volunteer agencies to needy areas. Ultimately, the province chief decides what priority will be given each project, but he relies in part of the recommendations of Captain Thompson.

Captain Thompson's face is a familiar sight to the people of Bien Hoa province. At Ngu Phuc orphanage in the village of Ho Nai, the children are poor, the nuns are poor and the facilities are poor. But



Dentist extracts a child's tooth during a DENTCAP at a Bien Hoa school (left). Captain Thompson talks with a group of boys at an orphanage near Bien Hoa (below). Nun leads orphans in a game (bottom).

School takes up most of the day for children living at a Bien Hoa orphanage.



the smiles when Captain Thompson stops by are richer than gold. A new school is going up there with the help of American money and materials. American units have also helped construct a playground complex. Fresh water is brought in daily, Army dentists and doctors come out to treat the children and veterinarians inoculate the pigs that are the main source of income for the orphanage.

In one month last summer, 24 separate civic action projects were under way in Bien Hoa province.

"Our big emphasis now is self-help," Captain Thompson said. "The The people want to build their own homes, their own schools and their own village facilities. We try to help American commanders put their help in the right places. Too often, units go out on their own and begin projects when there are more needy areas to be considered. By working with the province chief, we can put aid where it's most needed. And by letting the people do the work, they build self-confidence in themselves."

Captain Thompson added, "One of our biggest jobs is to help the South Vietnamese gain faith in their own government. When the village chief initiates a civic action project, the people build confidence in their own system."

The newly instituted Village Development Program, part of the Vietnamese government's 1969 Pacification Program, has gone far toward building this confidence. Each village is given one million piasters. One-third of the money can be used for building materials. The village council decides what the village needs and the village chief can write a check on the account for up to 50,000 piasters (anything above that requires provincial approval). The program has given the people a voice in their own government and is a step toward self-sufficiency.

Colonel Lam Quan Chinh is the province chief of Bien Hoa Province. Captain Thompson visits him regularly to coordinate projects and listen to his suggestions. Colonel Chinh spoke highly of the progress made in the Bien Hoa area. "We have good coordination with the Americans. They've helped us with projects such as schools and MEDCAPS, and the people, especially in the countryside, are very happy to receive this aid."

Especially depressed areas are earmarked by the provincial government as target hamlets and receive special attention. "There are some areas in this province that depend solely on what we can do for them," Captain Thompson commented. "These people really need our help."

Captain Thompson has learned to respect the Vietnemese people a great deal. "A province civic action program can be as good as you want it to be. But, you have to get out and talk to the people—find out how they feel and what they need. I get a lot of satisfaction from seeing a school go up that might not have otherwise been built."

Captain Thompson goes out and meets the people of Bien Hoa Province. He involves himself in the community. During his off-duty time, he teaches English language classes to adult and high school groups. He also holds basketball clinics to give the boys a constructive outlet for their energies.

"Civic action is a relatively new concept to the Vietnamese," he said. "We must try to understand their way of doing things and not force our American ways on them."

Captain Thompson will leave Vietnam with mixed emotions. "I've become very attached to these people. I didn't understand or appreciate the Vietnamese when I came—I do now. We have no problems back home. If we could just understand how these people have to live over here. The Vietnamese are deprived every day of things we take for granted." ▲

A Little Bit of Home

By SSM E.C. Bradley

II Field Force-IO

Imagine a remote outpost in Vietnam. There is respite from enemy shells, mortars and perhaps a ground attack thrown in for good measure. The troops are beginning to settle down and assess the damage the enemy has done.

After the wounded have been evacuated and the perimeter of defense set up, there is nothing to do but grab a smoke, maybe clean your weapon or just stretch out in the mud or dust and catch a few winks. Boredom plays a larger part in frontline Army life than most of us think.

Then someone remembers his transistor radio, neatly wrapped in waterproof material and stuck into one of the big pockets of his combat fatigues. He takes it out, turns it on and immediately is soothed by the aura of relaxation and fine entertainment usually associated with life in the States.

The task of providing this daily contact with American culture falls to Armed Forces Vietnam Network (AFVN).

AFVN began operation on Aug. 15, 1962, from studios located in downtown Saigon. At that time almost all audio, transmitter and broadcasting equipment was bor-

rowed from U.S. and Vietnamese military and civilian agencies. Spare parts and supplies were obtained from various military resources and all military personnel operating the station were obtained from combined service personnel resources. The station was operated by a five-man crew and several volunteer announcers and newsmen.

The first radio programs were transmitted for 18 hours daily. Around-the-clock programming began in February 1965. Eventually, radio repeater transmitters were installed and additional radio sites established at Qui Nhon, Da Nang, Pleiku and Cam Ranh Bay. The latest was established at Quang Tri in 1968.

The personnel of AFVN have changed many times due to the 12-month-rotation system in effect now. "We have a real fine group here at AFVN," says Master Sergeant Raymond John Banks Jr., who is in charge of network radio. "I program 21 hours of material a day to all of the stations while each station programs 3 hours of local material," the sergeant said.

In Vietnam, war has no boundary lines, therefore AFVN has been the object of attack by the Viet Cong. On Christmas Eve in 1964, terrorists set off a 200-pound plastic explosive charge at the Brinks Hotel and damaged a large section of the building. The station was forced off-the-air temporarily, but was broadcasting again in a matter of hours. Out of the wreckage, AFVN was sending out Christmas Carols interspersed with calls for blood donations, for those wounded in the explosion.

In 1966, a new concept in broadcasting was brought to Vietnam. Three C-121 "Super Constellation" aircraft were outfitted with broadcast and telecast equipment and brought over to supplement the AFRT transmitter. These "Blue Eagle" aircraft, as they were called, brought increased range by flying over the country sending out radio signals. These flying studios also brought television to Vietnam. Announcers and production workers flew several hours a night providing information and entertainment to most of the Republic of Vietnam.

Air Force Staff Sergeant James R. Linberg cues up a video tape (below). Broadcasters David Heller, Rickey A. Fredericksen and Ray Williams (left to right) make final copy checks before going on the air (bottom).

But on April 13, 1966, tragedy struck again. The Viet Cong mortared Tan Son Nhut Air Base and all three "Blue Eagles" were victims. Navy inspectors rushed in to assess the damage and concluded it would be nine to 3 weeks before any of the planes could be repaired. However, the same resourcefulness that got the Saigon station back on-the-air after the 1964 bombing came to the fore again. By enlisting the aid of American civilian technicians and Air Force maintenance men, AFVN had one of the "Blue Eagles" flying in 28 days.

By October 1966, ground station facilities in Saigon were complete enough to start broadcasting both Vietnamese and U.S. programs. This relieved "Blue Eagle" of TV responsibility for the Saigon area. The C-121 continued to operate, however, flying far to the south to furnish the heavily populated Delta region with Vietnamese programming.

Official opening ceremonies for the Saigon station were held Oct. 31, 1966. General William C. Westmoreland and former Premier Nguyen Cao Ky attended the ceremonies. They simultaneously cut a ribbon stretching from the main studio building to the transmitter facility.

Most of the television program material consists of film and videotape copies of programs presented on the television networks in the United States. These programs are shipped from the network main station to the affiliate stations in a package that provides an entire week of program material. This circuit is supplemented by yet another direct shipment from the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS)-Los Angeles which provides each station with current film coverage of important news and sports events. In addition to these program materials, the affiliate stations broadcast locally produced daily news reports, musical reviews featuring entertainers visiting Vietnam and special information programs.

The AFVN News Branch, located at the Saigon key station, provides coverage of U.S., international, Vietnam and sports news for both radio and television. It uses material from Associated Press, United Press International and the Armed Forces News Bureau. Direct teletype and audio communication with AFRTS-Washington permits the live radio broadcast of major news events from the United States. Television newsfilm services are provided by ABC-TV and CBS-TV to the Saigon station. Affiliate stations receive copies of the newsfilm and other visual material along with teletype copy from the major press services to assist them in preparing their TV newscast.

Running a radio/television station that serves the taste and needs of more than 500,000 American servicemen, many civilians and the English speaking Vietnamese is a fulltime job. Technically, the transmitters and other electronic equipment must be kept in peak shape. The signal must go out. When AFVN radio/television leaves the air for any reason, the number of phone calls reflects the high listenership and interest that this source of entertainment commands among U.S. personnel.

AFVN means morale, entertainment and information designed to bridge the 14-thousand-mile gap between more than half-a-million Americans and their home. It is an organization that deals solely in service and support. AFVN provides facts that dispel doubts and strengthen convictions; features that entertain and enlighten and music that takes every serviceman a little closer to home.

▲

Lance Corporal Stephen F. Ruff hosts AFVN-produced radio program at studios in Saigon.

Fort Knox East

by SP5 Rick Packwood
USA Fin & Acctng Off, V

Two hundred and twenty million dollars—an amount beyond the comprehension of most of us. Yet in a small building located at Tan Son Nhut, the Funding Division of the U.S. Army Central Finance and Accounting Office, Vietnam, 13 men deal daily with such an amount. To get a better idea of the magnitude of this sum, the weight, including the 1,700 cases, is about 100 tons. If all this money were loaded into deuce-and-a-halfs, it would about 30 trucks to carry the load. Or if we talk about every GI's favorite, good ol' U.S. green, $24,000,000 packaged in $80,000 sticks would just take up a space six feet high, seven feet wide and one and one-half feet deep.

Security is the byword at Funding. Access is tightly regulated by Military Police both outside and inside the building and a combination of high barbed-wire topped chain link fence, concrete walls and steel doors prevents anyone from slipping inside the building. Bunkers decorate the roof and surrounding area where machine guns can readily be mounted. On the inside, movement is highly restricted to customers. Even the clerks who work there must go in pairs when they enter the vault.

During an average month cashiers disburse about $150,000,000 in Military Payment Certificates (MPC), U.S. dollars (green) and Vietnamese piasters. Uses of this money range from those R&R and PCS flights on the freedom birds, requiring $6,000,000 weekly in green to send troops out of country, to another 125,000,000 piasters used weekly to supply purchasing power on the local economy, to MPC going out to the field in payrolls or to facilities like military banks, postal units and the PX.

Customers come to Funding from all parts of Vietnam, and include members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as Australians, Filipinos, Thais and Koreans. They bring with them turn-ins of old, worn money which is exchanged, as well as requests for additional funds to meet their monetary requirements. In a week's time, about 50 such customers will be provided with the cash they need.

What's it like to work with so much money daily? How do the clerks feel about it? Some of their reactions are:

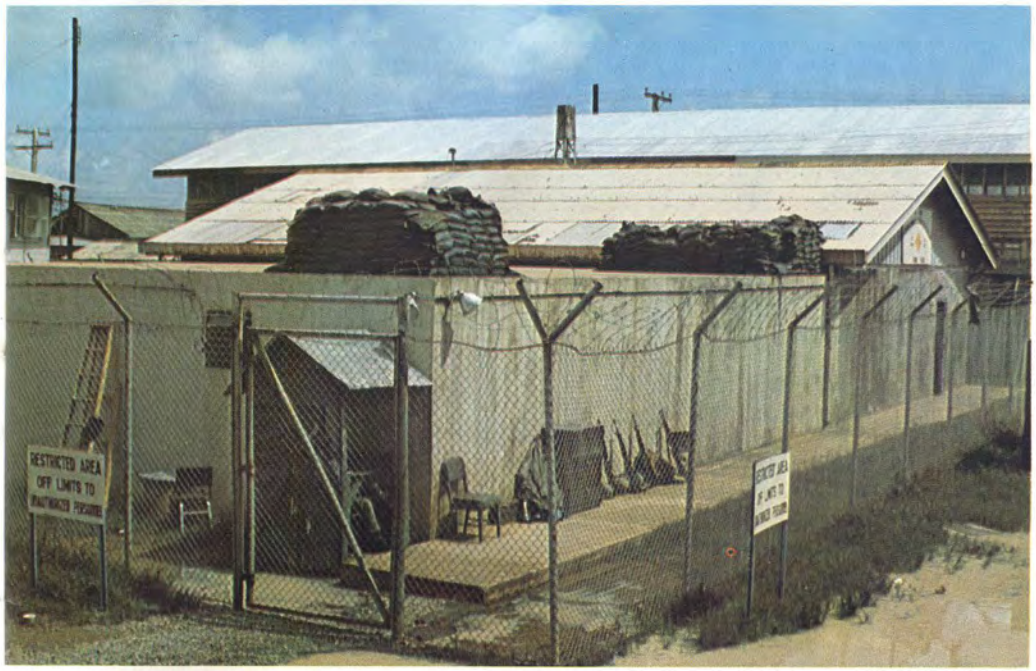
"Well, it's a dirty job. You get messed up from ink on new bills, and turn-ins can be extremely filthy and worn."

"Sometimes it seems like finance clerks aren't needed for this job—just guys with a lot of muscle to move those 150-pound crates around."

Many will remember when Vietnam underwent the rigors of Conversion Day, a day when Series 661 MPC was called in, and a new series MPC was issued. Throughout Vietnam, bases were closed, clubs, snack bars, PX's ceased sales, and all persons not authorized MPC were denied entrance to all bases and posts. The old MPC was turned in, receipts were given to the soldier, and later he was given his new money.

The process then began to destroy all the 661 accumulated. Funding Division was like a maze, with hundreds of cases of old MPC piled everywhere. And all the time this mammoth task was being accomplished, Funding continued with its regular activities as usual!

So you want a job down at Funding? Pretty hard to do, for the men there are finance clerks with considerable experience, and most have extended just for this operation. ▲



Stout walls, wire and rooftop bunkers guard the repository of millions of dollars handled by the Central Finance and Accounting Office's Funding Division (left). A finance clerk stacks crisp new bills into a cart (bottom left), while a 1st Infantry Division representative receives MPC for his unit's payroll (bottom right).

The Silent Watch

By SP4 Joe Kamalick
1st Cav Div (AM)-IO

The men, their boots covered with fresh mud and their faces still blackened, sprinted from the sun-flecked forest into a clearing as a helicopter shuddered down to land.

The men were the winners.

When the Huey helicopter lifted free of the tree line and banked out from the clearing, the members of the long range patrol (LRP) looked back to watch wave upon wave of whistling artillery rounds rip through the timber below not far from where they were lifted out.

They were watching the losers—an estimated battalion-size force of North Vietnamese soldiers who were paying a high price for losing at "hide and seek."

For years the jungles and forests of Vietnam had been the exclusive sanctuary of the NVA and VC; vast stretches of thick brush and close trees that blocked any view from the air kept enemy troop movements cloaked in secrecy.

But that sanctuary is penetrated daily by the unholy and downright brazen teams from the 1st Cav's Company E, 52nd Infantry. Teaming with the 1st Cav artillery and aerial rocket artillery (ARA), the LRPs have exposed the enemy on his own terms, on his own ground.

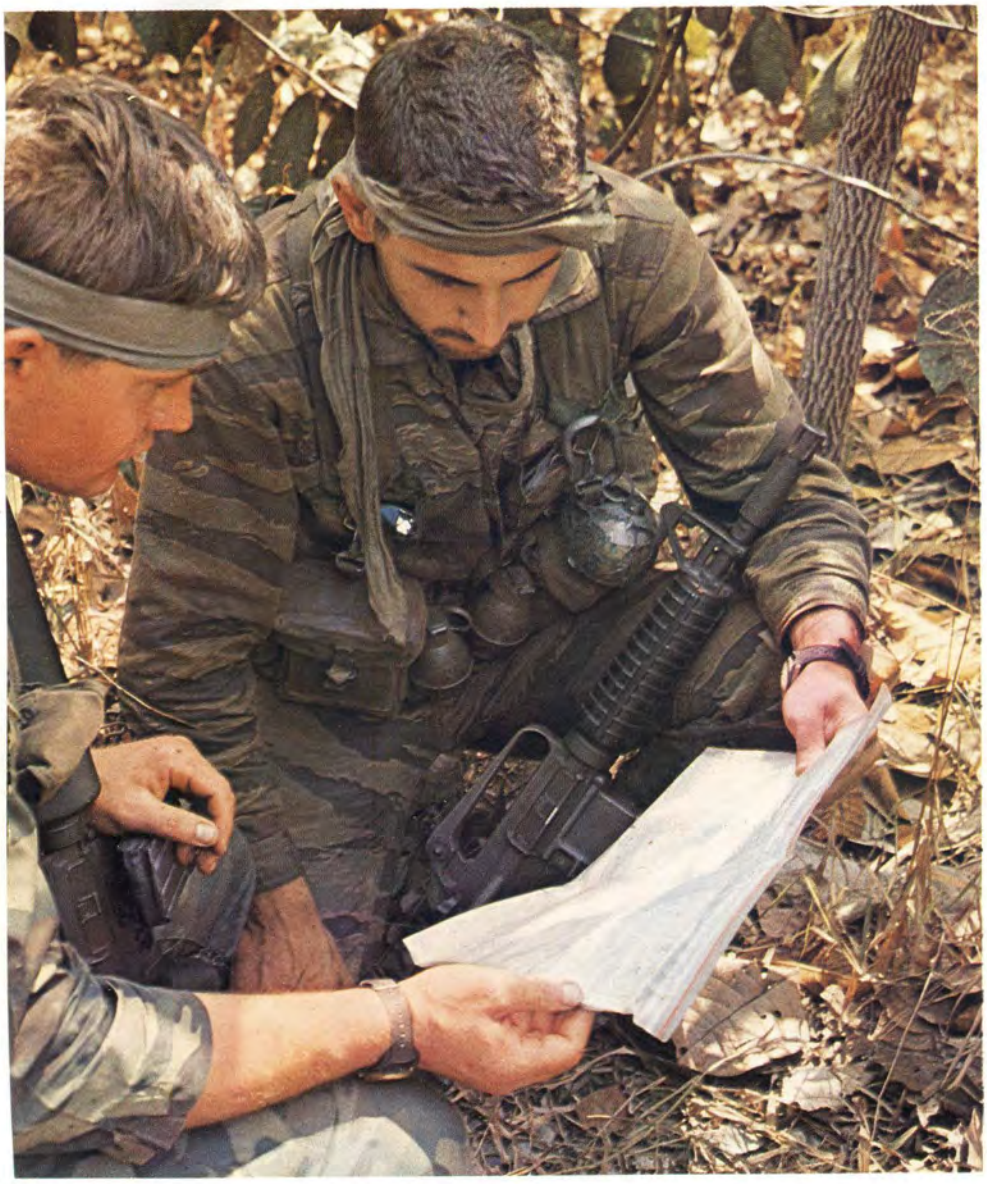
LRP missions vary, but as one of their number put it: "Basically what we're doing is trying to find the enemy's position."

Once the LRP team is dropped into a suspected area, they are on their own with only their M16 or CAR15 rifles, perhaps an M79 grenade launcher and a radio.

Their job is to find the enemy, to seek him out in his

Although long range patrol members are not supposed to engage the enemy, proper security frequently depends on steady aim.

Preparation is one of the keys to success on a long range patrol. Camouflage paint is applied by this team member for greater stealth while on patrol (left). A map check keeps these LRPs on the beam as they seek the enemy (bottom).



hiding places, to bring the fight to him before he wants or is ready for it.

But the LRPs are not intended to engage the enemy they find, but pinpoint his location for the hard steel knife of artillery and aerial rocketry.

"When we do find the enemy, and most of the time we do," said a veteran LRP member, "we relay the location back to the base camp and they take it from there."

"Take it from there" means that the base camp may launch an artillery attack, or, depending on the size of the enemy unit sighted, ARA and even Air Force strikes may be added.

"We rarely make contact with the enemy ourselves," said a LRP member. "That's not our job. Our job is to find him.

"The key to the whole thing is finding out where Charlie is, but keeping yourself hidden. In a way it's like the kids' game of hide and seek."

When they find "him" a quiet radio call is made.

"Usually minutes after we make a call, all sorts of stuff is dropping in on enemy locations. We just sort of sit back, cool it, and watch the artillery and air strikes work out."

Sometimes, however, the LRPs cannot afford the luxury of just "sitting back" to watch the show that they author and direct. One veteran LRP member relates the following incident:

"We were on the third day of this one mission. We were moving down a hill toward a stream and river junction. We stopped, hearing what we estimated to be 10 or 12 enemy soldiers at a creek getting water. Being on the west slope, we moved back up the hill and started down the east slope when we ran face to face into a squad of NVA.

"They didn't know many of us were around, so they beat a trail through the brush. We couldn't get communications back to the base area because we were on the wrong side of the hill—our relay was blocked. We took up a position and looking down the slope, we could see bushes and brush moving everywhere. We knew then we were dealing with a larger force.

"The only thing we could do was move to the tip of the hill so we could get commo. We did and it worked. Within minutes a chopper was in, picked us up, and as we were flying away we could hear the aerial artillery pounding the position.

"On the following day a line company moved through the area and estimated that we had been surrounded by a battalion-size force.

"If we hadn't gotten communications when we did, it could have been bad." ▲

Safely aboard a helicopter, a LRP enjoys a well-earned cigarette after a mission.

"to live, to laugh, to help forget..."

By SP5 Tom P. Gable Jr.
9th Inf Div-IO

Two dozen suntanned, dirt-stained infantrymen shuffle forward, shyly pondering their sweaty appearances. Some slowly sit down, smiling self-consciously for no great reason except that their rugged base has just been interrupted by perfume and lipstick, smiles, red crosses and blue cotton dresses—two American girls.

They are two of the four girls working with the 9th Infantry Division. Affectionately called Donut Dollies, most haven't seen a donut since leaving the world. Donut Dollies, as a matter of fact, only serve donuts in Korea. Nobody knows why. The men don't care.

"Hi, I'm Tara." Smile from a pretty brunette, a big "hi" from the crowd. "I'm from Carson City, Nevada (Yayy) and have been in Vietnam for a long time (awwww)." The response brings a blush, even through her tan. But she overcomes the small surge of shyness and continues with the routine. "Anybody want a short-timer calendar?"

"Got any for 300 days?"

"Give him nine, he just reupped for three years." Laughter, groans of disbelief, boo, hiss. Tara steps back, laughing. Another girl moves closer to the men, who are now smiling openly and seem to have forgotten they are in Vietnam, in the Mekong Deta, and not in Santa Monica.

"I'm Emily (Yayyyyy!). I'm from Atlanta, Georgia (Booo!). We have a game. It's a musical game. Would you like to play?"

"Do we have to sing?" blurts one young blond southerner.

"Just sometimes." A quick, light reply almost in chorus, then two pair of American girl's hands reach into a faded, oblong, olive-drab bag big enough to hold a card table. They pull out a large piece of posterboard. It is covered with plastic and has five rows of cards on it. They read "pop-tops," "sing-along," "C & W jazz," "oldies but goodies," "pot luck," "show tunes." The cards are repeated many times on each of the five rows. The music game is similar to Concentration, of TV fame — answer a question from one of the six categories, pull a

corresponding card, reveal part of the first five lines of a song. Guess the song, win a gold (cardboard and glitter) record. Three out of five games wins the contest, or maybe four out of seven, if you can call it winning because the girls leave when the contest ends—a major loss to both teams.

The games aren't sophisticated. The girls try to make them as fun as possible, and basically simple.

Simple? From a football game—how wide is a football field? Fifty-three and a third yards, to be exact.

What school did Johnny Unitas attend? Louisville.

And from the music game—what are eight notes on a musical scale called? Octave.

Where do the Trapp Family Singers live? Stowe, Vt.

"Where do you get those questions?" complained one frustrated participant. Banter erupts between the girls and the guys. It always does, especially when a tough question is posed.

A simple game acts as a reach back into the past, which seems so far away from a tropical jungle.

"We want to bring a touch of home to the men," explained Tara.

"Our program is a diversion for the men from the war," added Cathy Monaghan, 23, an education graduate from St. Mary of the Woods College, Mich. She has her ideal memorized in a favorite line. She wants the men "to live, to laugh, to help forget about time."

Maybe the game is a way of forgetting.

"Who sang 'Respect'?" asks Emily, whose last name is Strange, a 23-year-old English literature graduate from Georgia Southern University.

"Aretha!" shouts a young grenadier, just edging out a soul brother who captained the team and was THE expert on music. A quick bout of kidding followed. The team, a platoon, is a very tight fraternity.

But Aretha, or the song and its memory, makes images dance through the mind—the Strip, the Ore House, the Rendezvous; maybe a party where the lights were dim and the records only slightly warped; dancing, a driving beat or the soft caress of a ballad; human beings back in the world. Five, six, ten months in country but getting short. Soon, back to the world and Laura, or Chris, or Janet. "Respect." Good song. Remember the party where . . .

"What was the origin of modern Jazz?" Interrupted in thought. Huh? The answer.

"Dixieland!" Back to the game.

"Right. Which card?"

"Blue one in the third row." A card is pulled and part of the lyrics appear. The game goes on, more questions, more memories.

It goes on every day in the Mekong Delta, maybe five or six times. It can last 45 minutes or an hour and a half. It is all relative. It depends on the men, what they want, where they are, where they are going, where they have been.

"I was at this grubby fire base waiting to go out again and the next thing I knew there were two girls standing there talking to me," recalled one 3rd Brigade squad leader from California. "You can imagine how good perfume smells in the boonies. I mean, you know, an American girl, it kind of makes the place a little more sane, if that makes any sense."

A girl, a college graduate, at a fire support base in Vietnam, abandoning the world for a year—it makes you wonder. Four girls in a brigade of men. Why? Not for the $5,000 a year salary they earn, and there is no obligation to complete the full tour.

"It's a moral commitment," explained Marge Fisher, 24, a history graduate from Wittenberg University in Ohio. "We can leave whenever we want, but no one here has ever left early."

To these girls, getting home comes later—much later. They're dedicated to getting into the field and meeting the men. The games go on in many places—small clubs, bleachers, a motor pool.

"Every place has a different type person," said Cathy. "Everything is interesting. Sometimes I get a little self-conscious about being among so many men. But I just take a deep breath and it passes quickly. Everyone is so great, from the general on down. It is really a fantastic experience."

"Over here, everyone is the same, all in the same boat, especially with an infantry unit," explains Marge. "I like the grunts better. They have to adapt to much worse conditions and appreciate the little things more."

Being a Red Cross girl offers many intangible rewards. Tara and Emily tell the story of a wounded man they visited at the 9th Medical Hospital in Dong Tam. He looked very sad, and when the girls asked why, he told them that it was his birthday; he was 19.

As it was almost Easter, the girls made him an Easter basket, containing chocolate eggs, chewing gum and hard candy.

"You should have seen his face light up when we gave him the basket, which was all wrapped with ribbons," Emily said. "He looked at us and said, 'Boy, wait 'til I tell my Mom about this.'"

The grunts are glad to have girls who "care" come to see them. But the girls also see the men as people who care—for the men who fight and sometimes die beside them.

"I've seen the miserable conditions the guys have to endure, and yet their morale is always high," said Cathy. "What really impressed me was their sense of brotherhood, their concern for one another."

Laughing is a big part of the program, the game. Young people together, boys and girls, men and women, can have a lot of fun, even playing a guessing game, or talking about getting short or recalling common experiences from the same home town.

The programs and the calendars tie it all together. It starts the ball rolling, where to they never know because it all depends on the men and their reactions.

"This game is too deep for me," cracked a machine gunner.

"How long does this go on?" queried an infantryman when his team was hit with three tough questions in a row. "You're just trying to make us look bad."

"We would like to thank you for this great emotional experience," said a tongue-in-cheek mortarman at Tan Tru, maybe getting a little closer to the program's appeal than he meant to.

Be it an emotional experience or not, all men enjoy the programs and look forward to a break from combat or work when two young girls walk in and ask: "Do you want to play a game?" (Yayyyyyyyy!)

"To live, to laugh, to help forget about time." ▲

Brief Bursts — late information affecting you!

THE USE OF THE SUBDUED BELT BUCKLE has been suspended indefinitely. The new mandatory changeover date for its wear will be announced as soon as manufacturers provide firm commitments on the availability of the buckle for Army-wide use.

INSTANT E4 AND E5 GRADES are now possible immediately after basic training for men and women with medical skills who enlist in the Army. The plan is similar to the Direct Appointment program for officers. E5 and E4 stripes will be awarded for enlisted men and women who have previously acquired medical skills in any one of 15 different MOSes.

25,000 DOLLARS IS YOURS for an idea adopted under the Army Incentive Awards Program. Ideas in the areas of training, maintenance, logistics, safety, management and administration are being sought by the Army. Ideas are considered quickly because "directors" (including battalion commanders) may now award up to $300 for adopted suggestions without referring to the Incentive Awards Committee.

THE ARMY HAS TWO NEW BADGES—one for scuba divers and the other for explosive disposal (EOD) experts. Scuba diver is now the basic diver rating, followed by Diver Second Class, Salvage Diver, Diver First Class and Master Diver. A Master Explosive Ordinance badge is now authorized for qualified soldiers. And the old Supervisor EOD badge has been changed to the Senior EOD badge.

A NEW UTILITY CAP has been authorized for wear with fatigues. The new "ball cap" eliminates the "pin head" appearance of the old cap. Also, the issue of longer-wearing lightweight greens, and the option of wearing a white shirt—black bow tie with the green uniform on formal social occasions has been okayed for enlisted men.

FORMER ARMY MEMBERS discharged in grades E6 and below may now reenlist under AR 601-210 without loss of pay grade, if they enlist within 30 months of separation. Ninety days was the old limit.

THE ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE has helped more than 20,000 families with moving and relocation problems. Families of soldiers on unaccompanied tours were among the many aided through the 180 centers and contact points throughout the world.

A SEPARATION THANK YOU CERTIFICATE is now being awarded to all honorably discharged officers, WOs and enlisted men. The certificates are designed to recognize the services of men who served during the Vietnam war period. The official note is signed by Army Chief of Staff William Westmoreland and is about the size of a soldier's discharge papers.

Combat Circuit Riders

By SP4 Sheldon Silver
UpTight Staff Writer

After the helicopter passed overhead, the only noise left in the room was the drone of the single fan in one hole in the wall, trying to blow some cool air into the 15-by 20-foot room.

It failed miserably and the 18 men crowded in the room were still sweating profusely. The temperature was still over 90 degrees.

"Will you please tell the court what happened on the night of 26 June 1969 ?"

Everyone but the young enlisted man sitting on the witness chair leaned forward in his chair to hear the statement. His voice was just audible over the noise of the fan.

Seated about four feet from him, the judge could hardly hear the witness.

"Will you please repeat the last two statements and speak louder."

The witness repeated himself, this time in a louder voice and the four officers sitting on the court leaned back in their chairs a little. The president of the court, a lieutenant colonel, wiped his forehead, then saluted the witness as he was excused.

The room had no windows, and the fan stopped three times before the session was finished. The men sweated throughout the day, and the court was temporarily interrupted by flights of helicopters and jet aircraft noisely sweeping overhead.

The two defense attorneys and the accused man were slightly nervous throughout the session. So were the military judge and the members of the court—four infantry officers detailed for the case. Apparently the most nervous person in the room, however, was the young captain who was the trail counsel. He bore the brunt of keeping the session moving, of calling witnesses, reading statements and telling the court what he intended to do next.

A unique session. Not because it took place in a closed, hot, crowded room at a base camp 25 miles north of Saigon. Nor because the accused was being tried for negligent homicide under Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The session was unique because it was the first special court martial in Vietnam in which a newly created member of the military judiciary—a military judge—was present.

Before Aug. 1, a military judge was detailed only to a general court-martial, the highest-level trial court in the military. However, after Aug. 1, when the Military Justice Act of 1968 went into effect, military judges could be assigned to special courts-martial.

In Vietnam, two judges were sworn in to be the judges for special courts-martial in Southeast Asia. They are authorized to hold court in Okinawa, Thailand and Formosa, in addition to Vietnam. The two judges are Major Dennis R. Hunt and Captain John F. Naughton. Assigned to offices in USARV headquarters at Long Binh, the two report directly to the Judge Advocate General in Washington, D.C.

"The new law requires that judges not come under the control of local commanders," Major Hunt said. "This way we have complete freedom to do our job without any hint of possible interference, direct or indirect.

"Actually the idea of a traveling

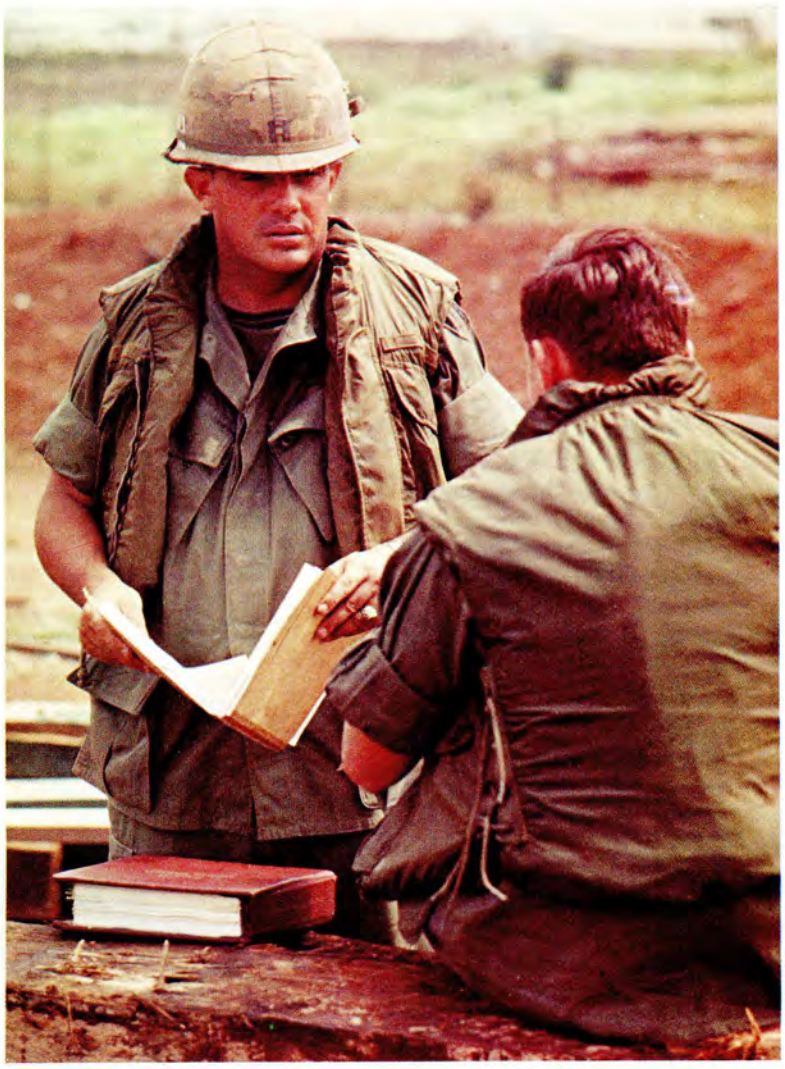
judge is not new," he went on. "In Medieval England, courts were held in certain shires and at a specific time each year. The judges would come from London to these courts, try all the cases on the docket and move on to another shire and another set of court cases. The court meetings were called assizes. The Church holiday occurring about the same time gave these special courts their names.

"In pre-Revolutionary America, the founding fathers wrote into the Constitution a provision that the accused would be tried in the area where the alleged crime took place. This was done because the British had a habit of trying American defendants in an English court, five thousand miles away. Obviously, the accused had little chance for a fair trail, since witnesses who could back his testimony were thousands of miles away."

The history of the United States is dotted with the names of famous men who at one time were traveling judges. John Jay, John Marshall and Oliver Wendell Holmes all went from one court to another to try cases.

But traveling judges in the military are new. In fact, the use of legally-trained judges in the military was instituted less than 20 years ago. Before the Uniform Code of Military Justice Act was passed, the highest ranking member of the court not only voted on the innocence or guilt of a defendant, but he also was the

Preparing the defense may take the military counsel well into the battle zone to interview a prospective witness (below). The prosecution and the defense attorneys confer before a trial starts (bottom).



judge in the case and the foremen of the jury. He decided points of law as well as points of fact, and ruled on arguments by each of the counsel.

"All this was changed in 1951," Major Hunt said. "At that time judges were required for all general courts-martial. But there was still a hole left," he added.

"Special courts-martial, empowered to try a man, find him guilty and sentence him to six months confinement at hard labor, were being tried without a judge. All the power was still in the hands of the president of the court, who in most cases was not a lawyer," Major Hunt continued. "The military judge is now required in all special courts-martial where a sentence to a bad conduct discharge may be imposed and may be detailed to other special courts-martial.

"Before this change, the accused went into special court with a defense counsel who was not a lawyer."

Says an experienced special courts-martial reporter, "We used to have two lieutenants who had never gone to law school arguing with each other over trivialities. One was the prosecutor for the government, and the other defended the accused."

"I think it's better the way the system is now with a military judge being present. It's easier for the lawyers to handle legal questions rather than court members," Captain Richard L. Heintz, II Field Force JAG officer said.

"To show you how far a lawyer goes to defend his client, I had to go on patrol with a squad of infantrymen to the scene of an incident. I spent four hours marching through the woods with these soldiers to take pictures of the scene. And the ironic thing is that I never used the pictures in court," he said.

"The best part of the new system is that the military is now more in line with the rights that a civilian has when he is charged with something," Major Hunt says. "When a military man is charged with something, he can be assured that he will be tried in the area where the alleged crime took place. It's easier for one judge to go to where the court is being held than for a dozen and a half men involved in the court session to travel for the convenience of the court." ▲

Military Justice Act 1968

"The man who dons the uniform of his country today does not discard his right to fair treatment under law."

With these words, former President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Military Justice Act—1968, whose major features took effect Aug. 1, 1969.

Briefly, the law: Creates a system of military judges for special and general courts-martial, guarantees a qualified lawyer and judge in all cases involving a bad conduct discharge, authorizes a form of "bail," liberalizes trial procedures and reduces local command influence in the legal process.

The new law broadens the rights of servicemen accused under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It is a reflection of U.S. Supreme Court decisions emphasizing the rights of the accused. The provisions of the Military Justice Act—1968 fall into four main areas.

DEFENSE LAWYERS—In the past, an officer unqualified in law could be appointed as a defense counsel in a special court-martial. Now, a qualified lawyer must be made available in all special and general courts-martial except when "physical conditions or military exigencies" prohibit. All cases involving a bad conduct discharge require that a soldier be provided expert legal advice. If "exigencies" deny the availability of expert counsel, a detailed, written explanation must be prepared by the convening authority.

MILITARY JUDGES—This is a wholly new category of military legal officials. Military judges must be members of the federal bar, or the bar of the highest court of a state and their presence is required at most special court-martial and general court-martial. These judges report directly to the Judge Advocate General, not the local commander who ordered the trial.

PROCEDURES—A convicted serviceman may be released from the stockade, if it is shown that his freedom will not be a threat to others or himself while his case is in appeal. Under the new law, the military judge may hear and rule on certain arguments alone, without other members of the court whose presence might bias a fair judgment.

A soldier may also choose a military judge in place of a jury. Also a convicted soldier has two years, instead of one, to petition for a new trial. And he has a right to appeal special court-martial convictions directly to the Judge Advocate General.

COMMAND INFLUENCE—The local commander, in convening a trial, is limited in his influence of the court. He no longer reviews the performance of the lawyers in the case. It is now illegal to evaluate a member of the court when considering him for promotion, transfer or retention in service.

A soldier may now also refuse a summary court-martial, as well as an Article 15, and demand trial by special court-martial. He will, however, be subject to the harsher penalties of a special court-martial.

In summary, the Military Justice Act—1968, establishes a broad spectrum of rights for the individual serviceman. The new law says a soldier should enjoy the same protection under law as any other U.S. citizen.

▲ Ready for Insertion

Combat Art: CIDG

By Joseph A. Spitzig III
UpTight Staff Artist

In the Sights ▼

A

Sharp

Lookout

▶

▲ Requesting Support

A Breather ▼

▼ Extraction

Major Unit Locations

Battle Report — a quarterly summary of major unit actions

Armored personnel carrier unleashes its .50 calibre machine gun firepower.

Combat operations during the period June 1 through Aug. 31 contained bitter fighting and continuous search operations in all four corps areas of operation.

The top story of the quarter was the redeployment of two of the 9th Infantry Division's three brigades. The division troopers received the word in mid-June, and by mid-July the first contingent of troops was leaving Vietnam. The 9th Division colors officially left Dong Tam, the division's base camp, in mid-August.

Various awards were presented the departing Old Reliable soldiers. During the first week in July the division was honored with the Republic of Vietnam's highest unit valor award, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross. The following day the division received still another honor as 2nd Brigade troopers in the Mobile Riverine Force received a Presidential Unit Citation.

Numerous operations took place during the past three months, resulting in high enemy kill counts and individual weapons captured.

Troopers of the 101st Airborne Division concluded Operations Montgomery Rendezvous, Lamar Plain and Kentucky Jumper during the quarter.

Montgomery Rendezvous commenced early in June and ended in mid-August with a total of 393 enemy troops perishing at the hands of the division soldiers.

Lamar Plain, concentrated in Quang Tin Province, began in May 1969 and came to an halt in mid-August, resulting in 524 enemy deaths and 256 individual weapons captured.

Kentucky Jumper, also ending in mid-August, totaled 317 Viet Cong dead.

Elements of the 1st, 9th and 25th Infantry Divisions, along with units of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade; 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, and 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), were still conducting the third phase of Operation Toan Thang, initiated Feb. 16, which by late August had produced 23,567 enemy kills and 5,932 individual weapons captured.

Soldiers of the Americal Division conducted two operations during the quarter, Frederick Hill and Iron Mountain.

Frederick Hill, which began in Quang Tin Province in mid-March, had produced 2,398 enemy deaths as of late August. Iron Mountain also commenced during mid-March and is concentrated in Quang Ngai Province.

Both operations were still in progress by late August.

As President Nixon's announcement in June of the troop redeployment began to take shape, there began a lull in the ground fighting in the Republic of Vietnam.

From late June into August, U.S. installations were hit with fewer rocket and mortar attacks. There were few ground actions of any consequence reported.

The lull came to sudden halt with massive Communist ground attacks on forward elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, elements of the 1st Cavalry Division and several ARVN and CIDG units in the Quan Loi-Loc Ninh area near the Cambodian border.

On Aug. 12, heavy fighting in and around Quan Loi, Loc Ninh and An Loc resulted in 452 enemy soldiers killed. The next day 83 more perished. As the fighting moved away from the city, 74 Communist soldiers died. As Allied units swept the area on Aug. 16 and 17 they killed 43 more enemy soldiers.

May 6 marked the beginning of what was to be a 56-day siege of an Allied Special Forces camp at Ben Het, eight miles west of Dak To in the Central Highlands. American B52 strikes pounded the area around Ben Het but the attacks continued. The first week in July, Republic of Vietnam troops moved through dense jungle and into Ben Het without meeting opposition from the enemy. Communist activity around the base had subsided, and for the first time since the siege began, a full day had passed without a round hitting the camp.

When the siege was lifted, the enemy had lost 1,630 men and had nothing to show for the effort. Casualties among U.S., Republic of Vietnam and CIDG forces were termed light.

I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Increased action marked the trend for the Americal Division during the quarter as the troopers mauled NVA forces in heavy, sharp contacts.

In mid-June, two early morning attacks by North Vietnamese Army forces on Americal Division fire bases were repulsed as a total of 62 of the enemy perished at the hands of the division forces. During the same week hard-pressed Americal infantrymen along with artillery elements beat off a strong enemy assault on Fire Support Base East, 11 miles west of Tam Ky, leaving 27 of the enemy killed.

During late June, Americal troopers reportedly killed 95 of the enemy in one day's action as fighting flared in the Tam Ky area.

Also in late June, Americal soldiers sweeping an area 15 miles northwest of Quang Ngai City came upon an occupied North Vietnamese Army hospital. Evidence indicated that the enemy hospital personnel were in the process of burying the dead when the Americal soldiers approached. Captured was a host of medical supplies along with three wounded Viet Cong soldiers left behind in the enemy's hurried flight from the area.

Highlighting action for the 101st Airborne Division during the quarter was the discovery of a huge arms cache.

During the latter part of June, 80 101st Airborne Division vehicles rumbling unmolested along the newly-opened Route 547 became the first American convoy to penetrate the Communist-infested A Shau Valley.

The new gravel road links a 101st Division fire base with a new Screaming Eagle airstrip carved in the floor of the A Shau Valley near Tu Bat.

In early July, Screaming Eagle troopers, under the operational control of the Americal Division, turned up a mammoth arms and munitions cache, one of the largest ever to be found in southern I Corps, containing more than 1,400 high explosive rounds.

During mid-July, Screaming Eagle troopers, also under the operational control of the Americal Division, uncovered a North Vietnamese Army base camp, 15 miles south of Tam Ky.

Sweeping an area of thick, triple-canopy jungle, infantrymen found the 150–200 meter complex, consisting of 19 bunkers linked by several miles of communications wire. Numerous weapons were also found inside the bunkers.

Two weeks later 101st Division soldiers rappelled into the A Shau Valley near Fire Base Airborne 30 miles southwest of Hue and landed right in the middle of another North Vietnamese Army base camp.

Sliding down ropes into the jungle, the infantrymen were in the process of cutting a helicopter landing zone when they found the enemy position. The Screaming Eagles searched the area of the future LZ and discovered the recently used camp of hootches and connecting bunkers. Numerous fighting positions dotted the area.

Red Devils of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division continued to experience light, sporadic action in their area of operations during the quarter, with contact still centered around northern Quang Tri Province.

Late in July, a team of rangers attached to the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division spotted a group of NVA soldiers walking near southern Quang Tri City. When the rangers opened fire on the enemy, two of the three Communists spotted fled, but the third was killed by the Americans.

II CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Light action again set the trend for soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division in the Central Highlands during the quarter, but a day-long battle in early July resulted in 54 North Vietnamese Army soldiers killed.

Fighting began early in the morning as units of the division were airlifted into an area 11 miles southwest of Kontum. Met by heavy automatic weapons, small arms and B40 rocket fire, the troopers called in air strikes and pounded the NVA positions throughout the day and night. By nightfall the fighting had diminished and 54 of the enemy had perished.

In mid-June a 4th Division Civil Affairs team helped Montagnard tribesmen turn back a Viet Cong attack on their village, 15 miles southeast of Pleiku.

The Civil Affairs team, supported by Huey gunships, joined with tribesmen in beating off the 45-minute attack, killing three of the enemy.

In one day's action early in August, helicopter gunships flying in support of the 4th Infantry Division, struck at a company-sized North Vietnamese Army base camp and killed 21 of its occupants 22 miles northeast of An Khe.

The following day helicopter gunships flying in support of the 4th Division, aided by Air Force fighter bombers, killed 31 NVA regulars in the same area where the day

before they had destroyed a company-sized North Vietnamese Army base camp, 22 miles northeast of An Khe.

III CORPS TACTICAL ZONE

Big Red One soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division continued to wreak havoc on the enemy during the quarter, in sharp, significant battles.

During the first week in June, 1st Division troopers marked the 25th anniversary of the Normandy invasion with the division's biggest battle since the Loc Ninh offensive in September 1968.

Action started before dawn one morning with enemy rocket and mortar fire attacks on numerous 1st Division installations and continued until dusk. More than 240 Communist rockets and mortar shells fell in the operational area of the 1st Infantry Division. The two sides swapped small arms and automatic weapons fire until the American soldiers called in artillery, tactical air strikes and additional men. Total number of enemy killed during the day's battle—191.

Action continued at a stepped-up pace the following day as 1st Infantry Division soldiers and supporting elements accounted for 138 more North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong deaths in a series of violent firefights.

Tropic Lightning soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division struck at the enemy hard in their area of operations during the quarter inflicting heavy casualties in numerous hard-fought battles.

Two brutal clashes in early June resulted in 125 enemy killed in areas seven miles northwest of Go Dau Ha and six miles northeast of Trang Bang.

Two days later NVA soldiers attempted to rob the 25th Infantry Division of its Fire Support Base Crook. They failed in two attempts and lost 399 lives in the process. In two successive attempts to overrun the tiny fire support base 14 miles northwest of Tay Ninh, an estimated NVA regiment sent human-wave attacks against the Tropic Lightning infantrymen. After losing 76 in an abortive attack one evening, the NVA launched another attack the following morning, losing an additional 323 men, totaling 399.

In late July, Civilian Irregular Defense Group forces and troopers of the 25th Infantry Division killed 63 NVA regulars in an all day battle near the Bo Bo Canal, 30 miles west of Saigon.

Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) experienced light, scattered contacts during the quarter.

1st Cavalry Division troopers found and destroyed an NVA bunker complex in early June in the same area where division soldiers had uncovered over 55 tons of foodstuffs during the previous week.

Later that week, firing rockets, minigun and machine gun fire from the sky, troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division killed 48 North Vietnamese Army soldiers in one day's action.

During the first week in July, Skytroopers of the 1st Cavalry Division discovered a huge North Vietnamese Army hospital-bunker complex, six miles east of Phu Khuong. The Skytroopers found the 96-room hospital while sweeping jungle terrain four miles west of the 1st Cav's Landing Zone Dolly. Thirty-two enemy were found, apparent victims of an earlier artillery barrage.

Early in August, airmobile troopers of the 1st Cavalry Division found two substantial NVA food and munitions caches southeast of Katum.

Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment continued their III Corps assault on the enemy during the quarter, inflicting heavy casualties.

Tankers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment literally fell upon a huge Communist munitions stockpile in late July, nine miles northwest of Lai Khe.

Two Sheridan assault vehicles leading a reconnaissance-in-force mission crushed the wooden cover of a concrete bunker dug into the jungle floor when they inadvertently rolled over it. Among the booty were 213 B40 rockets and 755 pineapple grenades.

During mid-August, more than 450 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars were killed by American and Vietnamese forces in a day of fierce fighting throughout Binh Long Province northwest of Saigon, with some of the action occuring less than two miles from the Vietnamese-Cambodian border.

Troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), the 1st Infantry Division and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam 5th Division clashed repeatedly with elements of NVA and VC forces in skirmishes that lasted throughout the day.

A radio-telephone operator keeps in touch with adjacent units as he splashes through a Mekong Delta rice paddy (below). Three soldiers, waist deep in water, receive further instructions before continuing (bottom left). Troopers pile out of a chopper and dive for cover in surrounding elephant grass.

A shore point gets particular, cautious attention from these river-borne soldiers.

The next day 83 more enemy soldiers perished. As the fighting moved away from the cities of Quan Loi, Loc Ninh and An Loc, an additional 74 Communist soldiers died. Allied units swept the area the next two days, killing 43 more enemy.

Redcatchers of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade saw light action in their area of operations during the quarter.

In early June, three Viet Cong deaths and the destruction of two enemy base camps highlighted action for soldiers of the 199th during one day's action.

During mid-July, Redcatchers of the 199th Brigade discovered over 25 tons of food in and around an NVA base camp in the heavily jungled area 15 miles north of Xuan Loc.

In late August, infantrymen from the 199th, helicopter gunships, artillery from the 9th Infantry Division and Air Force jet bombers all zeroed in on a Viet Cong tunnel and bunker complex and devastated it, killing 11 Communist soldiers.

IV Corps Tactical Zone

Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Division continued to inflict heavy casualties on the enemy in bitterly contested battles in the Mekong Delta and southern III Corps.

In one day's action in early June, soldiers of the 9th Division reported killing 77 of the enemy in wide ranging skirmishes.

Long An Province set the scene for the 9th Division troopers early in July as they killed 57 enemy in one day's action in the Mekong Delta and southern III Corps.

Stepped up action in the division's area of operations in early August resulted in 47 Viet Cong deaths in one day's action at the hands of the Division's 3rd Brigade—the largest number of enemy kills in that area in several weeks.

In mid-June, Old Reliable troopers of the division put in a full day in the Delta before getting the good news that two of their three brigades would be going home. The news, however, came too late for the 68 Viet Cong killed in the 9th Division's area of operations that day.

Flying in support of the 9th Infantry Division and Army of the Republic of Vietnam troops in the Mekong Delta and northern IV Corps, gunship crews of the 1st Aviation Brigade continued to make their share of enemy kills during the quarter. ▲

Vietnamization

Playing A Larger Role

By SP5 Frank Fee Jr.

UpTight Staff Writer-Photographer

Private Nguyen Van Bao recently walked from his family quarters to morning formation at a stout Mekong Delta fire base. As he headed to join his company, Bao's eyes proudly scanned the base's defenses.

Not long before, men of the United States 9th Infantry Division had called the base "home." But as Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) capabilities grew, the American tactical forces in the soggy Delta were redeployed and bases such as Fire Base Danger, Private Bao's new home, were turned over to the men of the Republic's 7th Division.

Besides accepting fire bases Danger, Shroeder and Moore and the 9th Division's former headquarters at Dong Tam, the 7th Division's soldiers also accepted supplies and equipment—and the job of ferreting out and destroying the Viet Cong throughout the 9th Division's former area of operations.

The pattern is the same throughout the Republic of

ARVN soldiers rush to close with the Viet Cong after being inserted in an landing zone by U.S. Army helicopters.

M16s ready, ARVN troops peer at the Mekong Delta from a helicopter (right). A brief halt brings a brief rest for this soldier (bottom).

Vietnam, where one out of every nine citizens—or 11.7 per cent of the population—has been trained to fight the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army.

In all areas of the Republic, Vietnamese forces and their American military advisors, either jointly with U.S. tactical forces or separately, are taking an ever greater share of the fighting.

The insignia of the Republic of Vietnam frequently appears on the side of a Bird Dog as its pilot-observer coordinates the lightning striking power of Vietnamese Air Force A37 jet bombers. The A37s, in turn, give air support to ARVN infantrymen in contact with the enemy.

The make-up of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces (RVNAF) reflects the determination of the Republic's citizens to beat back the Communist threat at all levels. Among the regular forces are the Army, with about 380,000 men in arms; the Navy, with 23,000 men; the Air Force with 20,000, and the Marines, numbering some 9,300.

In addition to the regular forces are the Regional Forces, company-size units under each province chief, and Popular Forces, platoon and squad-size units under village or hamlet chiefs. Regional Force strength stands at about 220,000, while Popular Force rolls include some 170,000.

Moreover, there are specialized units in the Republic's armed forces, such as the paramilitary troops that number about 182,500 men including nearly 80,000 National Police. Civilian Irregular Defense Groups, led by the Vietnamese Special Forces, total some 45,000 men, including Montagnards, Vietnamese, Khmers and Nung Chinese.

There are also 1,500 former Viet Cong serving as Kit Carson Scouts for U.S. forces and 4,000 former Viet Cong in Armed Propaganda Teams.

Revolutionary Development cadremen number 46,000, while 7,000 Truong Son team members do similar work in Montagnard hamlets of the Central Highlands.

But the list of people trained to fight the Communists does not stop there. The People's Civil Self-Defense Forces, consisting of about one million youths, women, veterans and older men, were organized in May 1968 to defend their own communities. Although not formally part of the armed forces of the Republic, the self-defense units have made their presence known to the enemy. Observers point out that during one week last March, the Viet Cong killed 20 self-defense members and kidnapped 52.

"The VC wouldn't hit the Self-Defense Forces if they weren't doing their job," one observer commented.

Although the Republic's armed forces have been in the field for some 20 years, the last two years have seen a significant turning point in their aggressiveness, effectiveness and morale. Interestingly enough, the turning point stems from the fierce enemy attacks of Tet 1968, when some 84,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army troops tried to crush the Republic and its Allies.

The fighting raged for days but when the Tet Offensive was over, the Communists had been soundly beaten. The

Broken terrain is no obstacle when pressing the Viet Cong.

"V" for victory demonstrates this grenadier's battle spirit. An American advisor and an ARVN soldier make their way through the soggy Mekong Delta (bottom).

Republic's forces had killed more than 20,300 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army soldiers, while American and other Allied forces accounted for another 18,581 enemy dead. The Army of the Republic of Vietnam troops had stood firm, without a single squad deserting to join the enemy, although Hanoi had predicted large-scale desertions to the Communist side once the offensive was launched.

While intended to break the Republic, the Communist's Tet Offensive had the effect of boosting morale among the Republic's forces and spurring further efforts, including a general mobilization that lowered the minimum and raised the maximum draft ages to bring in 268,000 new Army recruits. Under the impetus of the Allied victories, the Saigon government also negotiated for improved weapons and equipment, which meant that the Communists increasingly faced ARVN M16 firepower.

Through the year following the Tet Offensive, the capabilities of the government's military forces increased considerably and U.S. forces were able to give a greater share of the fighting to the Vietnamese, with a view toward the day when American forces would be removed from the Republic.

By early 1969, this possibility was very close to a reality

in a number of areas.

One such locale was in the 4th Infantry Division's area of operations in Kontum Province. It was to be a major test of the Republic's abilities to handle their own military affairs.

Late in April, as the 4th Infantry Division was completing operations in preparation for turning over part of their area of responsibility to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, a large enemy build-up was detected in the Ben Het-Dak To area. By early May, it was apparent that North Vietnamese Army infantry regiments and an artillery regiment, or about one enemy division, had moved into the area.

The redeployment of the 4th Infantry units left only artillery elements, engineers and signal personnel, and a small contingent of advisors behind to support the Republic's troops.

As the size and make-up of the enemy force was confirmed, ARVN infantry and ranger battalions launched offensive operations that led to heavy fighting southeast of Ben Het through June 1. Ranger units were credited with killing more than 500 NVA in one week during this period.

The ARVN units withdrew from the area briefly as U.S. B52s bombed the battleground, typical of the U.S. and ARVN air and artillery support that characterized the fighting.

After June 5, the Republic's forces found it difficult to get the enemy to close in combat, and artillery duels between U.S. and ARVN cannoneers and the enemy artillerymen marked much of the fighting through the end of June. The Civilian Irregular Defense Group camp at Ben Het received an average of 100 rounds of mixed artillery, motar and rocket fire nightly over several days late in June. Incoming items of a more welcome sort at the Ben Het camp were supplies air dropped by U.S. Air Force planes or carried in by U.S. Army helicopters or trucks.

The fighting proved disastrous for the enemy and amply demonstrated the ability of the Republic's forces, aided by Allied support efforts, to beat the enemy on his own terms. The Communists lost more than 1,700 killed during the fighting, while the ratio of enemy to friendly losses during the first month of the fighting around Ben Het and Dak To was about six to one. In one battle between the 11th ARVN Ranger Battalion and a North Vietnamese Army unit, 262 enemy were killed, compared with 11 ARVN dead.

Similar examples of ARVN capabilities continue to crop up. On July 24, the ARVN 21st Division began a multi-battalion operation southeast of Rach Gia in the Mekong Delta. By July 30, the government forces found a Viet Cong battalion and heavy fighting flared for several days. Upon ending the operation Aug. 11, the 21st Division was credited with killing 179 Viet Cong while suffering only 18 dead.

With the removal of U.S. tactical forces from the Mekong Delta, many observers viewed the IV Corps Tactical Zone as the proving ground for American redeployment plans. Through August, the Republic's forces in the Delta were doing a satisfactory job of making up for the loss of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division.

Despite the redeployment of the Old Reliables and a general lull in the fighting throughout the Republic, more Viet Cong had been killed in the first eight months of this year than throughout 1968. In fact, the more than 36,000 Viet Cong killed by the end of August was nearly twice the number of enemy killed by Allied forces in the Delta during 1967.

At the same time, it was estimated that by the end of August, only 11 per cent of the IV Corps Tactical Zone was under Viet Cong control, as compared with 26 per cent in 1967 and nearly 23 per cent in 1968.

As one observer put it, "I've only been in the Delta since March but I've seen some good strides being made."

In rising to this level of accomplishment, government forces have been able to draw on artillery, air strike and transport capabilities of the American and other Free World forces. Furthermore, the Republic's forces, in addition to gaining new areas of operation from redeployed American units, have in many cases received artillery and other equipment from the departing units, a move that Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird says will help in "modernizing the forces of the South Vietnamese on a realistic basis."

While citing rising enemy body counts and improving kill-ratios, many people also point to the Republic's determination to win its fight as demonstrated by its military casualties. According to President Nguyen Van Thieu, from January 1968 through March 1969, the Republic's troops lost 39,307 to the Allies' 19,433 men killed. Since 1960, the Republic's armed forces have lost 108,500 men killed in action. Last year, five government soldiers were killed for every American serviceman killed in action.

It is perhaps remarkable that after some 20 long years of fighting, the Republic's armed forces could find inspiration and strength for the surge in morale and fighting ability that has been shown in the past year and a half. But the Vietnamese, fighting beside their Free World Allies, have gained justified assurance of their own capabilities.

From the elite ARVN 1st Division sealing the provinces along the Demilitarized Zone—and filling in the gap left by the redeployment of U.S. Marines—to the 21st Division fighting in the southernmost provinces of the Mekong Delta, the Republic of Vietnam's regular and irregular fighting men and women are justifying the faith of their Allies. ▲

The Ins of Out-Processing

By SP5 T.J. Mathews (ret.)
Former UpTight Staff Writer

The minute the specialist giving the briefing opened his mouth I knew getting out of Vietnam and out of the Army would be no breeze.

I was sitting in the intral processing room of the 90th Replacement Battalion at Long Binh, hours away from ETS. But just one little mistake could make those hours so very long. I wanted to listen carefully and write down what I learned for the benefit of those who would follow.

A noble task—but listening to that first briefing convinced me I should forget about others for a while and concentrate on how I, a near civilian, could get through this outprocessing. There were many things the briefer

told us that I had not known.

"Gentlemen," he said. "There are two things that are most likely to delay your departure." The specialist was sweating in the quanset hut briefing room. He had to give this long lecture once every hour, usually at the top of his lungs.

"First, you are in trouble if you miss your sign-in time for your flight, 12 hours before it departs, or miss *any* of the mandatory formations here at the 90th," he said.

"And secondly," he continued—I held my breath—"you may be delayed because of your personal appearance." I was afraid of that.

For a month I had been growing what I considered a nice head of hair. As a shortimer, I felt I was entitled to it. Of course I kept it combed and in that way had avoided any trouble—until now.

"Haircuts must be no longer than one-fourth of an inch on the sides and two inches on the top," the briefer said. "Mustaches may be no more than a quarter of an inch long and may not extend beyond the corner of the lip.

"Your boots must be shined and you must have one pair of clean, serviceable jungle fatigues to wear on the plane.

Then came the clincher: "Gentlemen, if you do not comply with these rules—if your hair is too long or your mustache too wide—you will be bumped from your flight. The record used to be 35 men bumped from a flight, but 37 were bumped from that flight last night, gentlemen."

True story or not, I gasped. There was more:

* All medication we carried had to have a properly labeled prescription that included our name, our doctor's name, the date the medication was issued and a description of the contents.
* We had to have an up-to-date shot card.
* We had to attend formations as long as we were there at 6:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. — plus the special formations called for our particular flight.

But I was still brooding about the haircut problem. Could they be bluffing? The briefing ended, we turned in a copy of our orders, our port-of-call and a blue card that told what flight we were on. They assigned us a barracks and a bunk. I walked across the street, hoping to find the formation area and see if this haircut business was really true.

Sob. It was just like they said it was. A husky sergeant first class was walking down a line of soldiers who had removed their hats so he could see their haircuts. He would occasionally stop, finger what I considered a promising head of hair or mustache, and take away a boarding pass. No boarding pass, no going home.

I asked the sergeant if he thought I needed a haircut. Yes, he said, on the top especially. So, with head bowed, I trudged to the barbershop and with some bitterness had my hair cut. At least, I rationalized, I didn't have to worry about it anymore.

But the hours brought new worries. That night we went through final processing. I had to take everything out of my duffel bag and AWOL bag and a soldier came by and checked it all out—after a five-minute grace period for everyone to turn in any narcotics, unauthorized weapons, hardcore pornography or government property they might have had. We emptied our pockets and they went through everything thoroughly. A friend had a government flashlight with him. He had bought it government surplus but he had no receipt so they had to take it. If they had found narcotics in anyone's possession after the grace period, it would have meant a trip back to their units for discipline. Nobody DEROSes out of LBJ.

They took our heavy bags for shipping to the airplane, gave us boarding passes and exchanged our MPC for cool, green, real U.S. currency. We slept for a while then got up to give our boots one last polishing, change to clean fatigues and sadly pull at the short little hairs on top of our heads and under our noses. We climbed into the buses. In 10 minutes we were in sight of our freedom bird, and our haircuts were, at least temporarily, forgotten.

Processing through Oakland for ETS, as I did, required careful planning. But more than that, it required patience and physical endurance. Eighteen to 24 hours (in my case: 22 hours) of standing in line and filling out forms taxed everyone's patience. We only had an opportunity to eat one meal during that time and if we wanted to sleep, it had to be on wooden bleachers. Only the goal of ETS glowing before us kept us going.

So, at Oakland, endurance was more important than planning. If you were missing an important form at Oakland, no amount of planning was going to make it suddenly appear. The people at Oakland were well prepared for such emergencies—they were soldiers and they didn't want to keep us there any longer than we wanted to stay. But it was the planning and preparation at the 90th that was most important to our speed through Oakland. The soldier who dreamed away his time at the 90th counting the minutes, the soldier who didn't listen carefully, often slowed things up at Oakland.

And if he slowed things up for himself, he slowed things up for every man in the group of 20 or 30 he outprocessed with. Through each of the stages at Oakland—the closing out of records, the fitting for Class 'A' greens, the ETS physical and the final pay—everyone had to go through as a group. If someone next to you didn't understand the form, or needed a pen, it was to your advantage to help him out.

Those were the secrets of getting through Oakland: attention, endurance, cooperation with the members of your group. And one personal tip: if going longer than six hours without eating bothers you as much as it does me, make sure to have lots of change with you when you arrive at Oakland. You can get the change at one of your flight stops, and that will let you feed off the candy machines at the center for those hectic last hours of processing. You get one free, delicious steak dinner at some point in Oakland. Eat hardy, that one meal will have to last. You might consider saving one of the huge California oranges that comes with the meal for a snack later on.

Remember that when you finally walk out of the processing center, you'll want enough energy to get home, and get home fast. ▲

Singapore:

Instant Asia

By SFC Nathaniel E. Dell
USARV-IO

Some travel posters describe it as "Instant Asia," and that description is indeed correct. For Singapore, lying on the southernmost tip of the Asian continent is Asia personified. One of the most colorful port cities in the Eastern Hemisphere, Singapore is an enchanting mixture of Asian nationalities: Chinese, Indian, Ceylonese, Filipino and Japanese—all forming intricate ethnic patterns in a tapestry that is truly Asia.

Located at the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula, 80 miles north of the equator, the city occupies an important position on the trade and communitions routes of the world. Its history goes back for some 800 years when the ancestors of the Australian aborigines passed through on their island-hopping migration. Since then, Singapore has known the successive influences of the Indians, Malays, Javanese, British and Chinese. Its abundant riches have drawn westerners to its shores since the 16th century. As the Occidential World's gateway to the East and the Orient's gateway to the West, it is the world's fourth largest port, and while a member of the British Commonwealth, was the largest city in the commonwealth.

Founded for the purpose of trade, the port city is also known as the "Shopping Emporium of the East," and offers the visitor a wealth of duty-free bargin shopping.

The jet-set shopper can step out of an air-conditioned Boeing 707 and after a short taxi ride be shopping in western-style air-conditioned department stores like Raffels—named after Thomas Stamford Raffels—the British explorer and empire builder who colonized the city for the British in the 1800s. The shopper who wants to get away from the western motiff can bargin and haggle in thousands of small, crowded shops and noisy night markets. Available merchandise ranges from the latest stereo tape deck with automatic reverse, to the finest photographic equipment manufactured anywhere in the world. The shopper also finds an abundance of fine silks and precious stones. With an official exchange rate of 2.94 Singapore dollars for one U.S. dollar, the visitor suddenly finds his money going almost three times as far.

To truly penetrate the western facade and get into the world that is really Asia, the visitor should take a treshaw—a sidecar attached to a motorcycle—and leave the heavily traveled main thoroughfares for the smaller side streets where all of these ancient cultures of Asia blend into a kaleidoscopic world of sights and sounds from the racial and cultural admixture that is really Singapore: lantern makers; fortune-tellers; herbalists selling their delicately scented herb drinks over ancient brass counters; curbside vendors with precious stones from Nepal and Burma; a humble brush-and-broom seller whose cart is gaily festooned with wares died pink, green and red; fruit stalls where the vendors offer bright and appetizing fruits of the tropics. These are the sights and sounds of a bustling island-city with a population of more than two million people.

Singapore offers more than shopping, though. A city abound with night clubs, the visitor has his choice between the high-decible cacophony of the hard rock beat (and there seem to be as many western-style rock bands there as in San Francisco) to the more sedate supper clubs where the tempo is slower—and noise coefficient lower. There are also dozens of tour guide services and the island tours are bonanzas for the photographer.

One tour not to miss is the trip to "Darilaut," a wilderness retreat established by Johnny the Beachcomber, an Englishman who came to Singapore enroute to Korea 18 years ago, and simply never left. Johnny has fashioned a marine wonderland complete with thousands of sea shell specimens in his wilderness retreat, and also offers the use of his swimming pool and the choice of two island tours, and a Malay dinner guaranteed to soothe the taste buds of the most discriminating gourmet. This is also true in most of the restaurants, where the choice of food ranges from Cantonese, to Malay, to the popular western dishes.

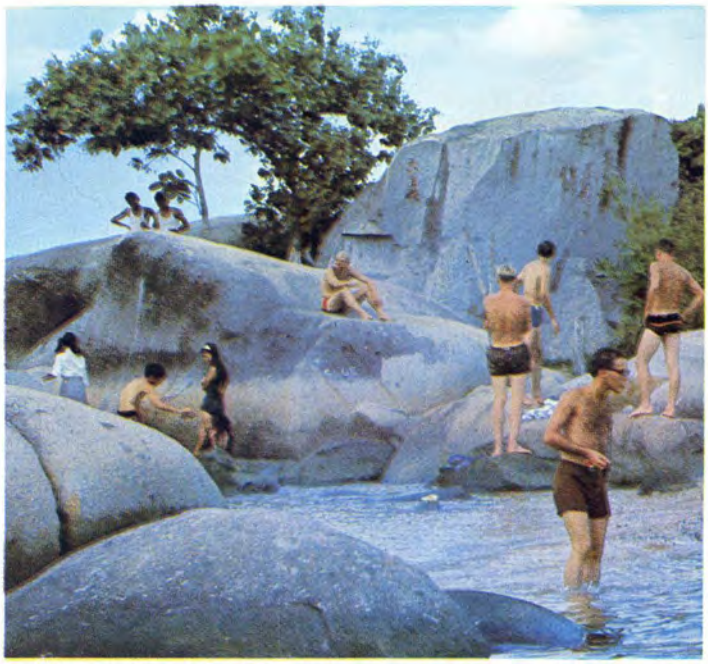
As for hotel accommodations, there are seven R&R hotels where the prices average from five to nine U.S. dollars per day. For the person wishing to get away from the crowd, the city has many fine hotels.

Sports activities include golf, waterskiing, cricket, sailing, horseback riding and just plain walking. If girl-watching is one's "thing," the beauties of Singapore leave nothing to be desired.

When you leave this island-city, you know you have been to Asia.

Tall buildings form the Singapore skyline (bottom). Swimming pools (left) and fine restaurants (below) provide welcomed changes of pace.

Beautiful women enhance the Singapore landscape (right). Small lagoons provide places for swimming (bottom right). Monkeys are good subjects for the soldier-photographer (bottom left). Gardens are among Singapore's loveliest attractions (below).



Singapore is famous for its beautiful women (below) and impressive mosques (left). An alligator farm and tanning facility are among the many interesting sights (above).

NEW EQUIPMENT

Brand new in country in August is the OH-58A Kiowa, a light, single-engine, observation-type helicopter.

"We brought five of the first 27 Kiowas off the assembly line to Vietnam," said Major Jack W. Hester, a member of the New Equipment Training Team fielded by Army Aviation Systems Command, Army Materiel Command.

The Kiowas are based at Vung Tau where pilots and maintenance personnel are undergoing training on the new aircraft. The training is being conducted for U.S. Army, Vietnam, Aviation Standardization and Training Division. As more of the aircraft become available, they will be worked into units for use in visual observation, target acquisition, armed reconnaissance and command and control.

The Kiowa sports a 7.62 mm minigun that fires from two to four thousand rounds a minute.

The aircraft can reach a top speed of 120 knots or more than 135 miles an hour.

The pilot and copilot are provided maximum visibility by the use of plastic enclosures which constitute the lower nose sections, door panels and windshields and the cabin-roof panels. The roof panels are tinted.

Major Hester says the Kiowa is not designed to replace the OH-6A Cayuse. Both aircraft met Army specifications for a light-observation helicopter and both types were purchased.

Kiowa

They Cut the Fuse

By PFC Scott W. Kanode
1st Log Command-IO

We slipped along the winding road at 45 miles an hour. Time was a must—we had to get there as quickly as possible. The radio call was not definite about the location—a bridge between Phu Bai and Da Nang, and danger there. Not much to go on, but enough.

As we were passing through a small roadside village, someone whistled at us. We turned our heads and discovered four 101st Airborne troopers surrounding a small building. After making a U-turn, we drove through a hole in the barbed wire fence. They came to the jeep.

"It's over here!" They pointed around the side of the building.

"What is it?"

"It looks like a terrorist's bomb," replied Staff Sergeant LeRoy D. Jackson.

"Let's get to work," said Master Sergeant Sammie L. Thomas.

"Get me a shovel," ordered Sergeant Jackson as he started probing the ground around the object with his bayonet.

He checked every square inch of ground surrounding the charge, gradually loosening the dirt. Every move he made was observed carefully by Sergeant Thomas. The two worked as a team, helping each other every minute.

The day was hot and humid. Sweat began running down Sergeant Jackson's arms and hands, making it hard to hold the bayonet.

As he slowly removed the dirt with his hands, the detonating cord came into view. There was no need to rush the job, it could mean a costly mistake. As more dirt was taken out of the hole, a clock was found—the timing device.

"Explosive charges like this are usually not found this far north," explained Sergeant Jackson.

I wondered what was running through Sergeant Jackson's mind as he worked on the device. Was he scared? Doesn't he wish he were somewhere else, somewhere that wouldn't blow up in the next 30 seconds? He paused a moment to wipe the sweat beads from his face and dry his hands.

"Get me some wire snips, I'll cut the cord."

The six months of intensive schooling Sergeant Jackson went through was paying off. He had been trained in every aspect of munitions. Now the knowledge was worth gold—and life.

Stooped over with his feet and legs in the hole he had dug, Sergeant Jackson looked as if he were trying to bury himself feet first. I wondered how he could do anything in that awkward position. Sergeant Thomas handed him the snips and he cut the detonating cord. Now the device was disarmed.

The next step was to dig up the explosive charge. It was hard to tell what the charge actually was. Sergeant Jackson said TNT usually has a shape somewhat different from the one like this. The texture seemed to be TNT, though, Sergeant Jackson thought.

The charge grew larger the more he dug. "Holy cow!" He exclaimed. "I've never seen one this big!"

He finally got to the bottom and he started probing underneath.

After disarming an explosive, the EOD team studies the timing device (below).

Members of the EOD team dig out an area around a booby trap in order to disarm it.

I asked him what he was looking for. "I'm checking to see if there might be another detonating device."

"When an unsuspecting person removes the charge, there could be a trip wire that would activate a blasting cap. Then it's all over."

I was really glad Sergeant Jackson was cautious. So were the Military Policemen and the 101st soldiers standing about 50 yards away. They have a lot of respect for these specialists. So do I.

When he finished the probing, Sergeant Jackson removed the charge with Sergeant Thomas' help. They found 35 pounds of TNT that had been melted and poured into an unusual shape. Quite an amount.

They carefully placed the TNT in the back seat of the jeep and the clock along with it. I road with them all the way back to the headquarters in Phu Bai.

This was "just another day" in the life of the men of the 287th EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) team based at Phu Bai.

The men of the 287th are reponsible for disarming everything from hand grenades to nuclear bombs (although they'll not get the opportunity to try their hand at the "nukes" in Vietnam). They have a job people respect but are glad that someone else has.

The EOD men, wherever they may be, have all gone through at least six months of intensive schooling at the Indian Head Naval Propellent Plant, Indian Head, Md. It's an all-service school where officers and enlisted men are students in the same classes. The only difference being that officers and senior enlisted men must go through a nuclear weapons course in addition to the regular six-month program. However, the amount of training does not end there. Sergeant Thomas has gone through a total of 52 weeks of classes. Everytime something is devised or discovered in weapons, a course is taught which thoroughly covers the subject.

Staff Sergeant Eugene S. Presnell, another member of the 278th, told me, "We are always going out in the sticks where ambushes are likely. That's the biggest hazzard of the job here in Vietnam—getting to the site of the incident."

"Booby traps and ambushes are the biggest killers over here," Sergeant Thomas added.

One of the big jobs they handle is going out following a rocket or mortar attack and examining the craters.

"We can tell what type of round hit and the direction from which it was fired," Sergeant Jackson explained.

I asked Captain Michael J. Tavano, the 287th's commanding officer, what his feelings were about being an EOD man.

"It's just a job," he replied. "Like any other job, there are risks, but we are well-trained for anything that might arise."

Sergeant Presnell told me: "You must have respect for the explosive devices—not fear. One you start fearing a bomb, you better get out. You can get overly-cautious and make a mistake."

Sergeant Thomas told me one of the reasons men get into EOD is because the duty is good. The EOD units travel extensively in the states keeping the men on the "go" who like to go.

The stateside units instruct firemen, policemen and hospitalmen on explosives handling, radiation hazzards and chemical handling.

The 287th was activated in November 1966, and served at Ft. Riley, Kan. They arrived at Phu Bai on Oct. 30, 1968, and answered their first incident call on Nov. 1.

They answer an average of 200 incidents per month—one of the highest rates in Vietnam.

The EOD men train together, live together and work together as a team. They saves many lives and a lot of material, For a few moments at a bridge near a place called Phu Bai, I felt as if I were a member of the team. ▲

Nevah Hoppen!

Only in the strange world of the combat soldier can humor come from sources that one would think "Nevah Hoppen!" If you have some ideas for funny captions for this picture, send them to "Nevah Hoppen," USARV-IO, APO 96375. If we use your idea in the follow-up to this issue's picture, you'll receive personal copies of the next six issues of UpTight (sent to you anywhere in the world). Some of our gaglines for this picture:

- I told you those girls wouldn't show up.
- In cadence,. . .
- Well, it's lighter than an M16.

Chris Noel, familiar radio announcer and actress, soaks up the sun while on a beach holiday. Chris was photographed by "Girlology Around the World."

LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

"If you think the monkey looks bad, just think how the horse I'm riding feels!"
SP4 James J. Dahms, 63rd Sig Bn
"Drat! It doesn't come off with water either!"
CPT Daniel B. Claxton, CMAC
"I don't care what you think, the name's not Noah!"
SGT Allan T. Kenward, 9th Inf Div

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