



SEA TIGER



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Hasty briefing

SSgt. John L. Judy briefs his fire team leaders during a multi-company operation 25 miles southwest of Da Nang. The two-day mission netted 11 VC killed and numerous weapons found. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Operation Chinook:

Three rugged days before truce began

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

PHU BAI—Waves of Viet Cong soldiers moving behind barrages of enemy mortars pounded Marine lines from dusk to dawn marking the last day of fighting on Operation Chinook before the Christmas truce.

The 3rd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Regiment, 3rd Division Marines killed more than 50 communist soldiers during the night-long battle. This brought the enemy dead total to 154 in three days of fighting.

Marine casualties were light. More than 400 rounds of enemy mortar fire pounded the Marine positions during the action, starting at dusk on Dec. 23 and continuing through the early morning hours of Christmas Eve. The communists broke contact and fled at dawn.

Fighting from water-filled holes in torrential rains during the all-night engagement, the Marines drove back an estimated three companies of hard-core VC.

The communists came within 10 yards of the Marine lines at times in attempts to overrun the positions.

A flareship was on station in an attempt to illuminate the bat-

tlefield, but thick cloud cover hampered efforts. Marine artillery illumination was fired below the clouds and the battleground suddenly lit up catching enemy soldiers in the open. Rifles and machineguns caught them in a deadly cross-fire as they scurried for cover.

The grey light of dawn uncovered bodies, weapons, blood trails and blood-soaked rags littering the crater-pocked battlefield as the Marines moved through the area.

It ended the third such engagement in as many nights since the battalion took up positions in the rolling hills 12 miles north of Hue.

The battalion had been in Vietnam only two weeks when Operation Chinook began. They have become battle-tested veterans in a hurry.

At the end of three days of intense fighting the Marines have averaged more than 50 enemy kills a day. They captured five Viet Cong and seized more than 40 automatic weapons and light machineguns.

More than 200 Chinese communist-type grenades have been

(Continued on Back Page)

Year in Review:

Year 1966 jammed with hard-won achievements

The year 1966 will go down in Marine Corps history as a year of many achievements. The war here in Vietnam has added many colorful pages to the already bulging files of Marines in action in combat. The strength of the Corps has increased to a size larger than the peak reached during the Korean War. The first Medal of Honor for valiant service during the Vietnam war was awarded to Sergeant Robert E. O'Malley.

Sadly though, the year has not brought peace—the prize of battle always sought by Marines since their beginning.

Here are the significant items that made news in Marine Corps History Books during the year 1966.

JANUARY

• Marines in Vietnam approximate 38,500. U.S. Armed Forces total more than 181,000 in Vietnam. Overall Marine Corps strength approximates 214,500.

• Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund for Vietnam reaches \$105,088.

• Operation "Double Eagle" begins January 28—a search and clear mission, largest sustained operation ever conducted in Vietnam by U.S. Marines, and biggest amphibious landing since the Korean War. Phase I ends February 18.

• Congress authorized Marine Corps additional 54,994 men to build new division and supporting units, and to provide replacements for Vietnam.

• Silver Star Medal awarded posthumously to CWO James N. Lee, for gallantry in action at cost of his life, during crisis in Dominican Republic.

FEBRUARY

• National Defense Service Medal (or bronze star in lieu of second award) authorized Marines on active duty after December 31, 1960.

• On February 19, Phase II of Operation "Double Eagle" begins.

MARCH

• On March 1, the 5th Marine Division of Iwo Jima fame was reborn at Camp Pendleton, California. It became the fourth Marine Division in active forces. RLT-26 is the first unit activated. Activation of two other infantry regiments, 27th and 28th Marines, to follow. Artillery Regiment, following historical precedent, to follow. Artillery Regiment, following historical precedent, to be designated 13th Marines.

Headquarters and major portions of Division to be located at Camp Pendleton. One battalion landing team, together with Marine aviation elements based at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

• On March 2, 1966 the Marine Corps officially receives its own verse to "Navy Hymn": "Eternal Father, grant we pray, To all Marines both night and day, The courage, honor, strength, and skill, Their land to serve, Thy law fulfill; Be thou the shield forevermore, From every peril to the Corps."

• On March 10, Marine helicopters, in one of the most daring rescues ever attempted, evacuate Special Forces and Vietnamese troops from enemy-encircled Camp at A Shau.

• Force Logistics Command (FLC) activated at Da Nang to provide for expanding needs of III MAF.

• Operation "Oregon" takes place March 21-24; a multi-battalion operation northwest of Phu Bai.

• Operation "Texas" takes place same time as "Oregon"; also a multi-battalion operation but in the Quang Ngai province.

• Operation "Kings" ends March 26. Battalion-sized sweep and rice-harvest-protection operation.

• March 26 begins Operation "Jack Stay"—initial employment of U.S. Combat Forces in river-line operations. Marine Special Landing Force clears Viet Cong from mangrove-infested area adjacent to one of Saigon's vital river links with South (Continued on Back Page)



Action on Trinidad Operation

Smoke rises and Marines duck as LCpl. Richard A. Miller (left) and LCpl. Larry Joseph fire a mortar at the VC during a search and sweep operation conducted by 1st Bn., 1st Marines, 1stMarDiv. In the operation, called Trinidad, 33 Viet Cong were killed and 27 captured.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt
Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force
Brigadier General Hugh M. Elwood
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force
Major General Louis B. Robertshaw
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
Major General H. Nickerson, Jr.
Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
Major General Wood B. Kyle
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division
Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.
Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

Force ISO Col. T. M. Fields
Editor GySgt. Lee Witconis

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Combat diplomat



There is a saying among some old-timers in the armed forces that "The service just isn't what it used to be." Understandably so. The role of the military man has undergone many changes in the 191 years since we became a nation.

The primary mission of the military man is still to defend this nation "against all enemies, both foreign and domestic."

In this, the United States' armed forces has no equal. The Marine, soldier, sailor, and airman of today has repeatedly shown he is just as tough, courageous, well-trained and dedicated to the principles of freedom as the men of Valley Forge, Bull Run, Belleau Wood, Corregidor and Pork Chop Hill.

However, in today's fast-paced, tension-filled world, the military man must be more than simply a combat-ready guardian of freedom. He must also be a diplomat, teacher, humanitarian, scientist and public relations man in uniform.

In these capacities America's service personnel have proven their worth. Whether seeking marauding VC, giving medical care in a disaster-stricken town, soaring through space to further man's scientific knowledge, teaching a class on democratic principles or sharing rations with a starving child, the military man of today serves the nation well.

Some of the old-times are right, the service isn't what it used to be. It's a lot more. (AFNB)

Military aids in grim job

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson
DA NANG—Hundreds of 1st Division Marines spent Christmas Eve at the grim task of recovering bodies of more than 100 persons killed when a civilian cargo plane crashed into a village near the Da Nang airfield. Marines, Seabees and Air Force personnel worked through the night, removing bodies and aiding the injured.

By Christmas morning, the death count had reached 91, and was expected to climb still higher. All four of the plane's crew members were also killed.

More than 50 houses were destroyed when the plane, approaching for a landing, crashed near the Hoa Vang district headquarters, about one-half mile

south of the airstrip. Marines from Headquarters Battalion 1st Military Police Battalion, and 1st Shore Party Battalion, were among those to respond to a call for assistance.

By the time they reached the scene in trucks, it was nearly 2 a.m. They worked until 10 a.m. in collecting bodies and maintaining security around the plane and its cargo, drawing light sniper fire in the process.

Headquarters Bn. mess hall provided rations and coffee for the men, most of whom had been roused from their beds when word of the crash was received.

Colonel Walter Moore, Division Civil Affairs officer, directed the Marine portion of the operation. Colonel Moore said plans are being made to rebuild the houses destroyed by the crash.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New additions to the SEA TIGER Mail Bag who desire Marines to write to are:

Kathy Nehila (11)
38509 Wade Road
Romulus, Michigan 48174

Judy Avery (16)
Chapman Lane
Gales Ferry, Conn. 06335

Kathleen Saunders (15)
Route No. 1
Greenwich, New York 12834

Margaret Patten
40-70 Hampton St., Apt 1F
Queens, New York 11373

Bonnie Van Volkenburg (18)
2669 Rainville Road
Victoria, B.C., Canada

Shirley Matson (23)
1153 West 8th St.
Erie, Penna. 16502

Joan L. Washkovich (19)
5916 8th Ave., N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dianne C. Rea
340 North Fifth Ave.
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

Lillian Welty (19)
Apt 306 1065 Pearl
Denver, Colorado 80203

Joe Kolozi
119 Summit Hall
Slippery Rock State College
Slippery Rock, Pa. 16057

Barbara Leitner (19)
4310 Wesley Terrace
Schiller Park, Ill. 60176

Salley Paterson (17)

3343 Tula Street
Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Susan Greenwood
Box 244
Clayton, La.

Mrs. Kenneth R. Flash
7323 Chef Menteur
New Orleans, La.

Mrs. Horace Goss
202 Donald Drive
Pensacola, Florida

Shirley Peterson (18)
3007 Highland Avenue
McKeesport, Penna.

Sisters of Beta Phi Tau
65 Ostend Road
Island Park
Long Island, N.Y. 11558

Alice Piatkowski (16)
606 S. Carldon Street
Allentown, Penna. 18103

Barbara Gallone (18)
314 Fort Lee Road
Leonia, N.J. 07605

Rena Milani (20)
621 S. Madison Street
Madrid, Iowa

Mrs. Marion Veenstra
98 Van Winkle Avenue
Passaic, N.J.

Joy Inman (16)
Route No. 1 Levens Add.
Ferryday, Louisiana

Charlene Singer (18)
RFD No. 1
Mystic, Conn. 06355

Loxina Spitalieri (17)
1907 66th Street
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11204

Charlene Matson (16)
1153 West 8th Street
Erie, Penna.

Kathy Bengel (17)
2659 Schley Street
Erie, Penna. 16508

Patricia Donnelly
3004 Atlantic
Franklin Park, Ill.

3/7 sweep

DA NANG—A two-day multi-company search and destroy operation conducted by the 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, ended Dec. 22

with 11 Viet Cong killed.

The operation, 25 miles southwest of Da Nang, was conducted in driving rain with limited visibility.

In a sweep and blocking maneuver, one company was helo-lifted behind the suspected communist positions while the second, anchored on the Vu Gia river, set up a blocking position stretching to the mountains.

Sweeping east of the river, the Leathernecks compressed the Viet Cong into a pocket.

Captured weapons include two carbines, one U.S. rifle, one French machinegun, and two Russian rifles. The Marines also found several uniforms and grenades in caves during the operation.

One captured Viet Cong suspect defected to the Marines after telling a story of maltreatment by his leaders.

Marine casualties were light.

Background for troops:

Future of the Pacific community

(Following are excerpts from a speech by Honorable Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, before the Association of State Colleges and National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges in Washington, D.C.)

Those closest to the danger know that South Vietnam is the target of an aggression—and that the aggression must be repelled if there is to be a reasonable prospect of peace in East Asia and the Western Pacific. Increasingly, those who understand the danger are willing to help in dealing with it. In that area it is realized that our firm stand in Vietnam and Southeast Asia is giving the nations of the region time to build and organize their strength, resources and development.

Economic and Social Progress

Another salient reality about East Asia and the Western Pacific is the economic and social progress of most of the non-Communist countries. Some of them face difficult problems. But nearly all are making genuine advances and look to the future with high confidence.

New Zealand has achieved a new high in per capita income. Australia is forging ahead. Thailand has made very substantial economic progress. So has Malaysia. The Republic of the Philippines has new dynamic leadership. The Republic of China on Taiwan has become a showplace of the Western Pacific, and is providing technical assistance to approximately 25 countries. Indonesia has pulled back from the abyss and is putting its affairs in order.

The Republic of Korea is making remarkable economic progress, both industrially and in agricultural production. At the same time, it continues to be a major contributor to the security of Free Asia. In ratio to population, its contribution of troops to the defense of South Vietnam is comparable to ours.

Japan's rise to unprecedented heights of productivity and per capita income has been achieved by peaceful means under democratic institutions.

The economic progress of the free nations of the Western Pacific stands in sharp contrast to Mainland China—where there has been no increase in per capita income in the last 10 years.

Many nations contribute

The United States has made vital contributions to the independence and to the economic and social advance of the free nations of East Asia and the Western Pacific.

One has been to help provide a shield of security. Another was a peace of genuine reconciliation with

Japan. A third has been our aid in economic and social development: capital, technical assistance, and aid in education.

Of course, we have not been alone in this effort. Great Britain, Australia, France, and many nations, including Japan, have contributed on a significant scale. The Republic of the Philippines is an increasingly important regional center for education and training. Thailand has made many contributions to regional educational programs, including support for SEATO educational and scientific programs and the new Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok. Taiwan is exporting expert assistance, especially in agriculture.

Education affects growth

A recent study sustains the presumption that economic growth is related to ratios of educational enrollment to total population. It indicated that gross national product per capita begins sustained growth when primary enrollments reach 8 to 10 percent of the total population—that subsequent economic growth seems to be associated with the expansion of secondary enrollment beyond 2 percent of the population; then, finally, with the growth of university level enrollments.

Some such relationship between educational and economic growth appears in the East Asia and Pacific area. Japan passed the 10 percent mark in primary enrollments before 1900, the 2 percent enrollment in secondary schools during the first world war; and its enrollment at university level in ratio to total population is now the third highest in the world. Australia and New Zealand have educational records not unlike Japan's; and they rank among the world's leaders in per capita gross national product.

Taiwan and the Republic of Korea have high rates of literacy and increasing enrollments in secondary schools and universities. And the expansion of education in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong has followed, or been accompanied, by the economic growth that has been the hallmark of the last 10 years. And despite war and terror—including the assassination of school teachers by the Viet Cong—South Vietnam has achieved the ratios of enrollment associated elsewhere with the beginning of sustained economic growth.

In any event, in most of the free nations of East Asia and the Western Pacific the educational foundations have been laid for sustained economic, social and political development.

Religious views of Christmas in Vietnam



Cardinal Spellman celebrates Mass

Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Vicar of Military Personnel, celebrated a Mass at the Amphitheater on Hill #327 before thousands of Marines. Assisting him were Chaplain Lavin (right), 1st Marine Division and Monsignor Harold Prudell, MACV Chaplain, Saigon. (Sea Tiger Staff Photo)



Services in the field

Church services being held in the field on Christmas Day for the 3d Bn., 26th Marines by Chaplain B. Wattigny of the Member Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, during Operation Chinook, 27 km. north of Hue. (Photo by LCpl. N. B. Call)



Marines in prayer at amphitheater



Christmas carolers

Two ministers of the Christian Mission at Tam Ky introduce their children's chorus to Marines at the Chu Lai USO, Dec. 20. The children sang Christmas carols for one hour and traditional Vietnamese songs. (Photo by Sgt. Earl Lewis)



Billy Graham

Billy Graham, world renown evangelist, is greeted upon his arrival in Da Nang by LtGen. L. W. Walt, CG, III MAF. Dr. Graham conducted services at the amphitheater before thousands of Marines, as part of his tour to various units of the Armed Services in Vietnam. (Photo by Cpl. D. E. Brodale)

Rains didn't dampen spirits at Keyser Town celebration

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—It rained the day "Keyser Town" held its Christmas Party. The weather had been beautiful for four days, a welcome break in the midst of the monsoons. Then it changed on the very day it should have been its clearest.

Staff Sergeant William F. Keyser grumbled at the rain. He had more than 1,000 pounds of gifts donated by the people of his hometown, Waukegan, Ill., to give to the people of the Tich Tay Village.

Keyser, civil affairs chief for the 1st Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division, had worked with the villagers for several months. At first he was distrusted and even laughed at. But Keyser is a man who just naturally likes people, and his personality is infectious.

Before long he was the favorite son of the villagers. He did many things for them. The greatest thing was allow them to make their own decisions. He knew that good intentions many times fell short of their goal, especially if they were forced upon the recipients.

He had planned a long time for this Christmas Party.

He wrote a letter to a columnist for the Waukegan News-Sun. His letter to Bernice Just, in her column "Just about People" was reprinted in its entirety.

It was a plea for clothes, medicines and toys for the children. The response was immediate and overwhelming.

The entire City of Waukegan got into the act.

Led by the Marine Corps League detachment there, of which Keyser was a past president, several civic organizations joined with hundreds of local citizens to send more than 1,000 pounds of clothing, tooth brushes, medicines, toys and candy to the villagers of Tich Tay.

The project was called "Operation Keyser Town."

Keyser convinced the villagers that the gifts came not from him but a whole city in a people-to-people program.

Everything was ready on the morning of Thursday, Dec. 22, the day scheduled for the party.

But it rained and Keyser was worried that it would spoil both the party and damage the gifts.

Slowly at first, the people gathered in the earthen, tree shaded yard of the village school-

house. They came from all parts of the village a rambling cluster of hamlets spread out over sand dunes and low hills. Two of the hamlets were on the other side of the An Tan River, but the people crossed in their flimsy boats.

The party went on as scheduled. The children played games before they were given their candy and toys. Presentations were

made to local dignitaries and the gifts passed to villagers.

Despite the weather, there could not have been a happier gathering. Keyser was the happiest of them all. The party he had worked so hard to make a reality was a success.

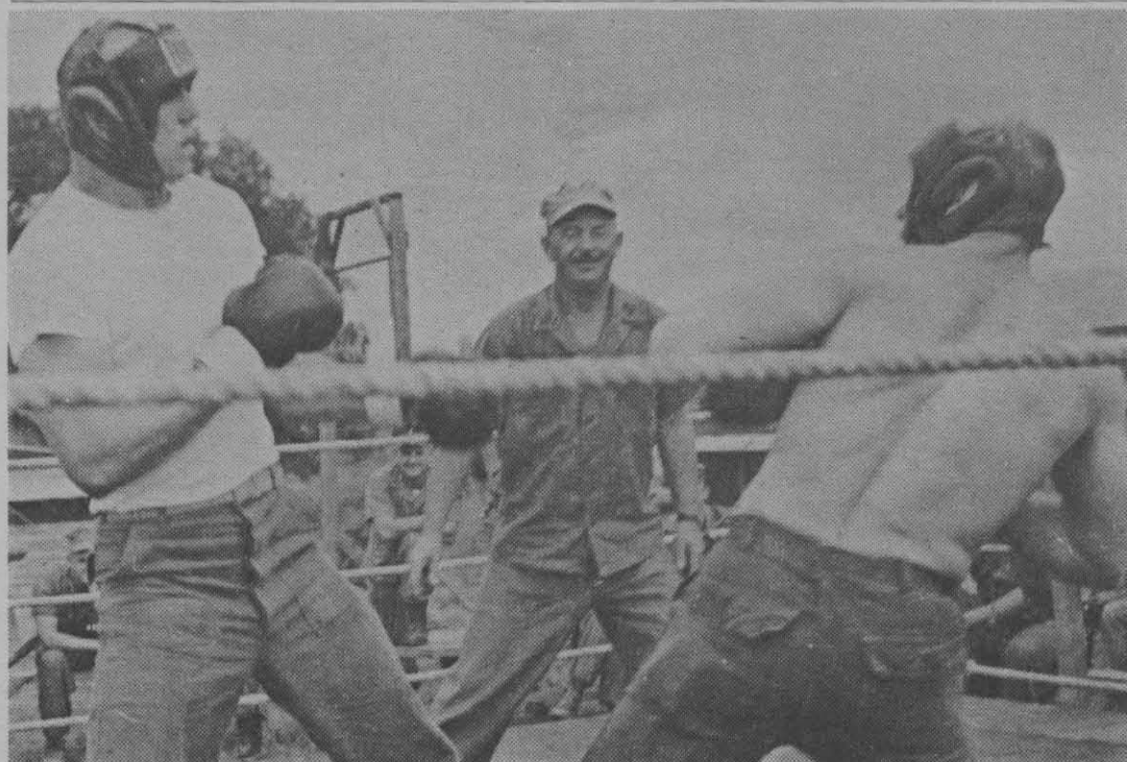
He wished the people of Waukegan, 10,000 miles away, could be here to see what they had made possible.



Night light

LCpl. Allen W. Upton lights up with a candle at the 1st Marine Regiment, 1stMarDiv CP south of Da Nang. Picture was taken prior to Christmas during a search and destroy mission by "C" Co., 1st Marines.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)



Tankers toss leather

PFC William R. Beck, Jr (left) gets set to toss a left hook at PFC Wayne R. Marsh during a boxing match held at 3d Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division. Ten bouts were part of Sunday afternoon festivities at the tank battalion. The bout ended in a draw according to the referee (center), 1stSgt. Louis P. Slezak.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

SPORTS

Thursday Night TOURNAMENTS

WCAC Tourney

At San Jose, Cal.

(Semifinals)

Pacific U. 75 Santa Barbara 73

San Fran. 81 Loyola (Cal.) 68

(Consolation)

Santa Clara 96 St. Mary's 67

San Jose St. 94 Pepperdine 88

Far West Classic

At Portland, Ore.

(Semifinals)

Washington St. 77 Oregon 56

Washington 81 Indiana 79

(Consolation)

W. Virginia 93 Minnesota 88

St. Louis 64 Oregon St. 52

Los Angeles Classic

At Los Angeles

(Semifinals)

UCLA 91 Georgia Tech 72

Southern Cal. 73 Illinois 72

(Consolation)

Michigan 98 Wisconsin 88

Arkansas 65 Arizona 61 (Ovt.)

American Legion Tourney

At Seattle, Wash.

(1st Round)

Seattle 79 Baylor 72

Xavier (Ord) 96 Wyoming 92

Chico St. Invitational

At Chico, Cal.

(Semifinals)

SW Mo. 90 Sacramento St. 82

Central Wash. 70 Chico St. 66

(Consolation)

Lewis & Clark 89 Willamette 79

Whittier 82 Humboldt St. 78

Rainbow Classic

At Honolulu

(Finals)

California 60 SUBPAC 45

Portland 68 (3d Place) Hawaii 64

Harvard 88 (5th Place) Montana 69

Notre Dame 88 (7th Place) Hawaii Marines 67

Big Eight Tournament

At Kansas City, Mo.

(Semifinals)

Iowa St. 78 Kansas St. 67

Kansas 86 Oklahoma 73

(Consolation)

Nebraska 73 Oklahoma St. 64

Colorado 92 Missouri 57

All-College Tourney

(Semifinals)

Okl. City 88 Stanford 73

Montana St. 61 Temple 60

(Consolation)

Massachusetts 85 DePaul 77

Texas 89 Arizona St. 88

Chapman Invitational

(Semifinals)

Valley St. 102 Fullerton 94

Chapman 74 Seattle Pac. 72

(Consolation)

Long Beach St. 86 Cal. Lutheran 60

Irving 84 Westmont 74

Cal. Aggies Tourney

At Davis, Cal.

(Finals)

Cal. Aggies 86 Riverside 74

Sanoma St. 83 Fresno Pac. 81 (Ovt.)

Carroll Holiday Festival

At Anaconda, Mont.

(1st Round)

Southern Colo. 105 Carroll 86

E. Montana 68 San Diego 67

AIC Tourney

(Finals)

American Intl. 77 Northeastern 76

Vermont 91 Bowdoin 60

Trinity (Conn.) 82 Middlebury 72

Springfield 76 Amherst 56

Le Moyne Invitational

At Syracuse, N.Y.

(Finals)

Iona 59 Le Moyne 45

Maine 67 Lafayette 62

Kodak Classic

(Finals)

Georgetown 101 Dartmouth 69

Purdue 112 (3d Place) Rochester 73

Gator Bowl

At Gainesville, Fla.

(Finals)

Florida 92 Va. Tech 83

Georgia 90 (3d Place) Penn St. 82

Arkansas St. Tourney

At Jonesboro, Ark.

(Finals)

Houston 68 Arkansas St. 58

VMI 66 (3d Place) Kent St. 63 (Ovt.)

Lobo Invitational

(1st Round)

Colorado St. 55 NYU 53

New Mexico 85 Texas A&M 54

Granite City Classic

(Finals)

Hiram Scott 94 St. Cloud 72

Rockhurst 78 (3d Place) Pittsburg (Kan.) 61

Otterbein 78 (5th Place) St. Thomas 66

St. John's (Minn.) 88 (7th Place) E. Illinois 64

Quaker City Tourney

At Philadelphia

(Semifinals)

Princeton 55 Villanova 52

Louisville 75 Syracuse 71

Queen City Classic

(1st Round)

Fairfield 86 Loyola (La.) 68

Canisius 80 Seaton Hall 58

Triangle Tourney

(1st Round)

N. Carolina St. 80 Pittsburgh 52

S. Carolina 69 Air Force 51

Sun Bowl Tourney

(1st Round)

S. Illinois 59 Texas Western 54

SMU 84 Drake 81 (2 Ovt.)

Sugar Bowl Tourney

(1st Round)

Utah 90 Boston Coll. 88

Bradley 60 Tennessee 53

Poinsettia Classic

(1st Round)

Furman 81 Rice 79

Clemson 92 LSU 82

Pan American Tourney

At Edinburg, Tex.

(Semifinals)

St. Mary's (Tex.) 58 Central Okla. 51

Pan American 88 Emporia St. 74

(Consolation)

Central Mo. 80 Lamar Tech 69

SW Texas 85 Minn. (Duluth) 66

Albright Invitational

(Finals)

St. Francis (Pa.) 55 Albright 50

Hofstra 89 (3d Place) Boston U. 69

Charlotte Invitational

At Charlotte, N.C.

(Finals)

Maryland 57 Army 54

Davidson 74 (3d Place) Fordham 60

Gulf South Classic

(1st Round)

Morehead 83 La. Tech 65

E. Tenn. St. 98 Centenary 83

Pocono Classic

(Finals)

Delaware 83 E. Stroudsburg 73

Lehigh 65 (3d Place) Westchester 46

Moravian 72 (5th Place) Muhlenberg 50

Arkansas Tourney

At Fayetteville, Ark.

(2d Round)

Ark. St. Tchrs. 84 Ark. Coll. 63

Sam Houston 83 Ozarks 69

NE Louisiana 69 Ouachita 62

Henderson 78 Southern St. 69

Cotton Bowl Tourney

(1st Round)

Arlington St. 93 Austin 76

E. Tex. Baptist 68 E. Tex. St. 67

Midwestern 90 Bishop 78

(Semifinals)

Midwestern 83 Arlington St. 66

Ft. Eustis Invitational

At Ft. Eustis, Va.

(Finals)

H.-Sydney 99 Elizabeth City 85

Virginia St. 87 (3d Place) Newport News 59

Em. & Henry 97 (5th Place) Ft. Eustis 62

Wilmington Holiday Tourney

At Wilmington, N.C.

(1st Round)

Roanoke 99 Wilmington 98

Gulford 113 Philblant (Va.) 95

Huron College Tourney

(Finals)

Sioux Falls 91 Gen Beadle 80

Yankton 91 (3d Place) Huron 68

Peru Invitational

At Peru, Nev.

(1st Round)

Northwest Mo. 77 Midland 66

Peru 103 C. Stockton 95 (2 Ovt.)

Racine Tournament

At Racine, Wis.

(Finals)

Lewis (Ill.) 80 Stevens Point 74

Dubuque 79 (3d Place) Dominican 65

Lowell Invitational

At Lowell, Mass.

(Finals)

Lowell St. 79 Suffolk 72

Merrimack 88 (3d Place) Lowell Tech 81

North-South Seafood

(1st Round)

W. Maryland 95 Glassboro St. 80

Capital City Classic

(1st Round)

Albany (N.Y.) 93 Marist 80

Siena 101 New Paltz 75

Holiday Tournament

(Finals)

Rio Grande (O.) 93 W. Va. St. 92

Concord (W.Va.) 106 Cedarville 102

Dak. Wesleyan Tourney

At Mitchell, S.D.

(Finals)

Dak. Wesleyan 108 Kearney 71

Buena Vista 91 (3d Place) Valley City 80

Corpsman fighting uphill against custom, tradition

By: Cpl. Albert Mitchell

DA NANG—Normal sick call hours for a military unit run something like 8 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m.—emergencies any time.

Combined Action Company "B", with headquarters in Hoa Thanh village, six miles west of Da Nang, isn't a normal unit, and the people who line up for sick call aren't military.

Sick call hours for the Vietnamese people are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. with emergencies all the time.

CAC "B", which combines a squad of Marines with a platoon of Popular Force troops, has units in various villages around Da Nang with the mission of guarding and pacifying their locale. Part of the pacification work is medical treatment of local villagers.

The dispensary at CAC "B" headquarters in Hoa Thanh village, is run by Hospital Corpsman Third Class Charles E. Wilkinson.

When "Doc" Wilkinson rolls out of bed there are usually several mothers with children waiting patiently at his door. He quickly washes up and goes to work.

Iodine and band-aids for cuts, cough syrup for sore throats, pills

for most everything else; this makes up the corpsman's day. After the first patients are dispensed with, "Doc goes to breakfast. By the time he finishes more patients are waiting.

"Most of the complaints," the 21-year-old corpsman maintains, "result from lack of knowledge about hygiene. Soap in Vietnam cost four cents a bar and the people can't always buy it. We give them free soap when we can."

Emergencies occur in the CAC-guarded hamlets as regularly as they occur in military units. In a recent week one child lost a hand while playing with an M-79 "dud" round, while another villager, riding on the back of a truck, was hooked by an overhead wire and knocked to the ground, sustaining a concussion and skull fracture.

Both cases were brought first to the CAC corpsman, who arranged for hospitalization in Da Nang.

However, emergencies and cuts aren't the major problems.

Part of "Doc" Wilkinson's job is to teach hygiene to the villagers. It's an uphill fight against custom and tradition.

One example of long-standing custom is the application of water buffalo manure as a salve on sores. No matter what its benefits, this causes infection.

Children, running about in bare feet, are the most often stricken with sores, cuts, infections and colds.

For the Vietnamese and their children, CAC corpsmen dispense vitamins along with standard medications to supplement the bland Vietnamese diet and generally increase resistance to the ills that plague the people.

Needle injections and stitches aren't popular with the villagers. They do accept the injections; however stitches are still out of the question. So corpsmen bind cuts tightly and hope for the best.

In carrying out their medical

program, CAC "B" requires some \$900 worth of medical supplies every three to four weeks. The supplies are divided among CAC stations in four villages with a total population of approximately 5,000.

Hanoi Hannah goofs!

By LCpl. Lowell L. Carson
DA NANG—Gunnery Sergeant Herman A. Ricklefs, a mess sergeant with the First Marine Regiment, had good reason to worry about getting the regiment's new mess hall completed and operating on schedule.

While listening to the radio one evening, GySgt. Ricklefs discovered that someone was looking to kill him or destroy his nearly completed mess hall.

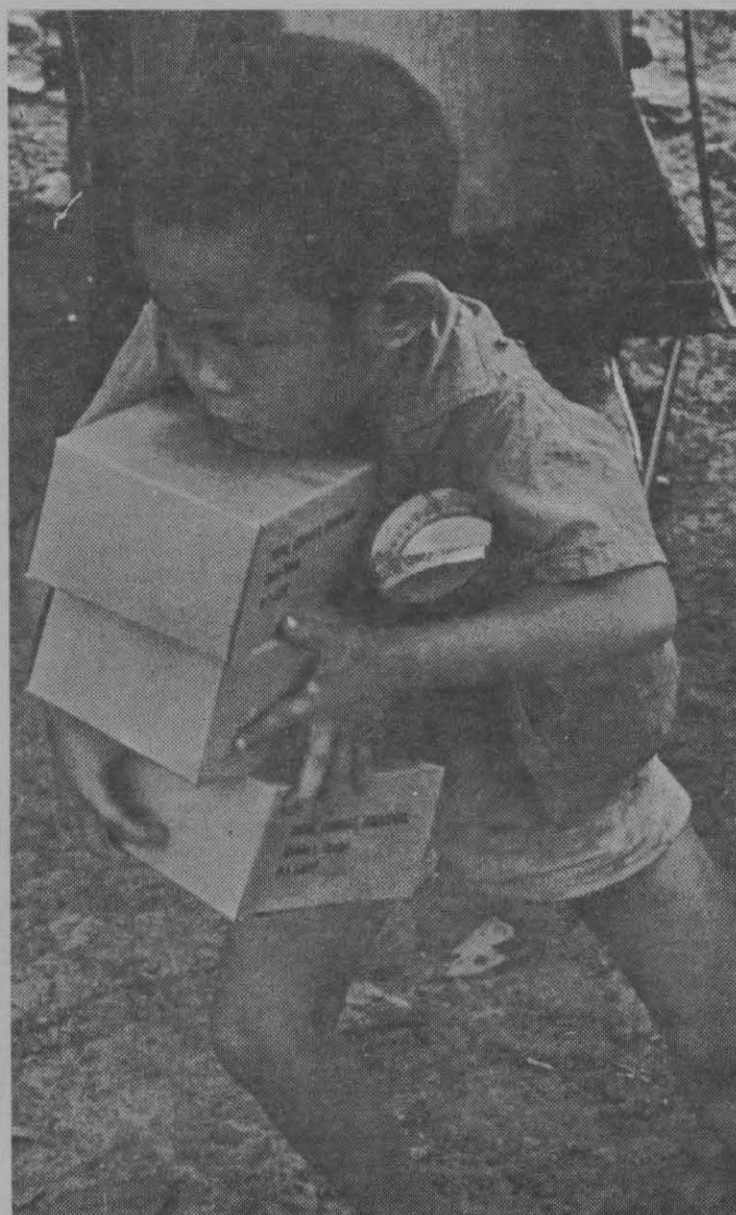
Hanoi Hanna, North Vietnam's answer to Axis Sally and Tokyo Rose, was telling everyone that GySgt. Ricklefs wouldn't serve anyone food in his new mess hall.

The mess hall was due to open in three days.

Opening day came and the ribbon cutting went without incident. The 1st Marine Division band was on hand to add music as Lieutenant Colonel Robert Robertson, regimental executive officer, parted the ribbon with a butcher knife.

After the ribbon was cut, the Seabees who built the hall presented GySgt. Ricklefs a scroll, which they called a "Non-Regulation Naval Proclamation," making him an honorary Seabee.

Hanoi Hanna's prediction that "Ricklefs will not feed men in his new mess hall" has proven false. Everyone at the First Marine Regiment has forgotten the threat and enjoy their new galley. Ricklefs still remembers the threat, but now with a chuckle.



Young provider

Arms laden to the limit, a Vietnamese youngster makes off with "C" rations passed out by Third Division Marines during County Fair II. (Photo by LCpl. N. B. Call)

Cultural differences melt with Bao Chi

By Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—Lieutenant Colonel W.R. Corson, commanding officer of the 3rd Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, believes he has found the key to overcoming cultural and language differences between Americans and Vietnamese.

"The answer," he says, "is Bao Chi."

The colonel used the Chinese word for a game known to Vietnamese as Co Tuong (Cow Tong). It is known to Americans as "Elephant chess"—if it is known to them at all.

It is a game, similar to chess, which is based on infantry tactics with artillery support.

Tradition has it that the game was invented in China after the Chinese emperor forbade his subjects to play chess, since he had "given" the game of chess to his adopted son, explorer Marco Polo.

Whatever its origin, Bao Chi

has become one of the world's most popular games. "It is played competitively by 300 million people in China alone," Corson says.

"If you can play Bao Chi," he says, "it doesn't matter if you can speak Vietnamese. You already have a social entree, just by producing a Bao Chi board."

The colonel learned the game nearly 10 years ago, in China, and since then has played against, "Communist, nationalists, and indifferents," he says.

Under his tutelage, a half dozen officers and a like number of enlisted personnel in his battalion have taken up the game.

"If every Marine here could play the game," he said, "many of our communications problems would disappear."

The colonel says the game shows a lot about the personality of one's opponent—whether he is conservative, a gambler, or cool and deliberate.

"In any case," says the colonel, "You never get a refusal when you invite a Vietnamese to play. Every male, from childhood, takes great pride in his ability to play Bao Chi."

"An invitation to play is like a gauntlet thrown down in the days of chivalry. They just can't refuse the challenge."

The colonel, through the battalion civil affairs section, organized a tournament this fall, with contestants from eight Vietnamese hamlets in the battalion's tactical area of responsibility.

The tournament finals drew a large crowd, and the winner, in turn, challenged the colonel. They played to a draw.



Viet Cong checkpoint

LCpl. Harold E. Molisky and PFC Clarence E. Brown (right) check the papers of the VC suspect rounded up during County Fair Tank-1 near Da Nang. The Vietnamese was one of more than 2500 people who were gathered for a census conducted by RVN forces. Five VC were captured in the three-day sweep by 1stMarDiv units.

(Photo by LCpl. William C. Norman)

Viet language school grads

It is requested that all graduates of the Marine Corps Vietnamese Language School at Camp Pendleton write the Director and give an evaluation of the training received based on your experience in Vietnam and any suggestions you might have to offer.

Present address is: Director, Vietnamese Language School, Schools Battalion (21 Area), Camp Pendleton, Calif. 92055.



All set to fire

An 81mm mortar team leader zeroes in on a target while another Marine prepares to drop a round into the tube. The action took place during a recent search and clear operation by 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division. In a nearby village, the Marines discovered 1,000 pounds of rice hidden by the VC. (Photo by PFC Keith Hall)

Open arms program

Invitations to return accepted

By 2nd Lt. Paul Berger
PHU BAI—"We fought the Viet Cong off three times when they came here to get revenge—and we'll do it again if necessary."

So said Doan Tien Phong who quit the VC and turned himself in to the government last March. He was a former VC company commander.

"I was sent to Chieu Hoi Village to live," he said. "There were very few friendly people around, so I asked the provincial government to send more men like myself—men who recognized the evils of communism—men who learned the hard way that the future of Vietnam lies with the government."

Now 120 families, about 600 persons, live in Chieu Hoi Village, two miles north of here.

The men are former Viet Cong. Their families lived in the hills or wherever they could scratch out an existence before the men followed Doan Tien Phong's example.

Phong is now the village chief. He was elected by popular vote.

Chief Phong is quick to tell how the Marines of Force Logistics Support Unit-2 at Phu Bai and the United States Agency for International Development have helped the villagers.

"When people arrive at Chieu Hoi the Marines and USAID provide tin and wood for houses," he said. "The government gives them other materials, food and money and 25 square meters of land."

The FLSU-2 civil affairs officer, Second Lieutenant Ernie Cates, said the Marines stay in the background, act as idea men, and provide more technical help and motivation than anything else.

"This is a self-help program," said Cates. "The Vietnamese do their own work."

Cates, a quiet, modest man, can't conceal his enthusiasm and pride in Marine accomplishments when he talks about Chieu Hoi Village.

"The village office building was completed in four days," Cates said. "The men worked from sunup to sundown without a rest."

Chieu Hoi villagers have done away with the midday siesta common throughout Vietnam.

There are several ambitious projects underway at Chieu Hoi.

More than 2,000 ducks are being bought. Young ducks cost 13 piasters. They find most of their food in the fields, and are a good source of cash income.

An agricultural project, with seed and fertilizer furnished by USAID, is getting underway. By the end of the second growing season, a food surplus is expected.

Showers and other sanitation features built along Marine Corps lines keep health problems at a minimum. A doctor and corpsman from the 3rd Marine Division's "A" Medical Co. at Phu Bai visit regularly. Any serious cases are taken to the Vietnamese ward at "A" Med. for treatment.

After the new school was finished, a Marine welder from FLSU-2, Sergeant Robert A. Gilly, came out one Sunday and put up swings for the children.

"He did that on his own," said Cates. "He showed up one day

with a stack of pipes and ropes and made the swings."

The children keep the swings busy most of the day, although the first day, many adults stopped by to try them out.

"Chieu Hoi means 'Open Arms' and the program is not peculiar to this area," said Major Ronald D. Fredricks, a 3rd Division assistant civil affairs officer. "It is nationwide, but we feel this is one of the most successful villages."

Chief Phong said Vietnam needs more Chieu Hoi villages. "Here we live with pride and set an example for all the people of Vietnam," the chief said.

Chieu Hoi, literally translated, means an invitation to return. The program is part of the revolutionary development of the Republic of Vietnam, and has caused more than 40,000 Viet Cong and north Vietnamese soldiers to voluntarily rally to government control since it began in April 1963.



On guard

When 1st Regiment Marines swept down the north side of the Cau Do river south of Da Nang, Dec. 12, a platoon of amphibious tractors under command of Sgt. Everett M. Nazelrod, shown here watching the river from a strategic position on top of a tractor, prevented the VC from escaping across the river. (Photo by LCpl. William C. Norman)

Short Rounds

Power plant

CHU LAI—If you mention a can to many Marines in the Republic of Vietnam the first thing that comes to mind are those containing C-rations or beverages.

This does not hold true with members of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-13's power plant shop. To them a can is the container of a new or rebuilt jet engine.

Each engine is packed in a preservative at an overhaul and repair center or at the manufacturers, and placed in a large air tight container prior to shipment to Vietnam.

Once it arrives, the power plant shop, under Gunnery Sergeant Clinton R. Douglas, takes over.

"The engines are taken from the can and cleaned before we do anything else," Douglas said.

Once they are cleaned a quick engine change kit is installed he said. The kit adapts the engine to the type aircraft in which it will be used. In this case it is the F4B Phantom jets of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-13.

After the "QEC" is installed the engines are placed in a standby basis until needed. When an engine is damaged or has been in use for 22 weeks it is exchanged for a replacement by the power plant section.

"We have two crews working 12-hour shifts," the Gunny said. "Once we receive an engine for its 22 week check it is taken apart and examined for worn or damaged parts, then placed on a standby rack," he added.

Sergeant Douglas stated that his shop handles an average of six engines a week.

Dedicated

DA NANG—"He's a first sergeant who gets into the action," said First Lieutenant Thomas J. Doyle describing the senior NCO of Marine Observation Squadron-2—1st Sgt. John R. Detholoff.

More than 100 missions were flown by 1st Sgt. Detholoff in August of this year, making him eligible for five Air Medals in one month.

Marine aviators in Vietnam average one to two Air Medals a month, according to First Lieutenant Doyle. On September 5, the 1st Sgt. went out on 15 missions as an aerial gunner. An Air Medal requires 20 missions.

The 1st Sgt. regularly volunteers to go on night missions as a gunner, making it possible for junior Marines to get a night's rest, said the officer. He noted that the 1st Sgt. also voluntarily helped repair damaged helicopters during his nightly tours.

Now on leave, 1st Sgt. Detholoff will start a six-month extension of his Vietnam tour upon his return.

Air rescue

CHU LAI—The sea showed no mercy on the downed pilot. It tossed him about while he tried to inflate his life raft. When he finally crawled aboard, he marked the water with a colored dye that could be spotted from the air.

He then waited and watched. Soon the Marine heard the whirling noise of a helicopter. He smiled, and shot a flare into the air to better mark his position. Soon the chopper hovered above. A harness was lowered and the pilot was hoisted up and away to safety.

This sea air rescue was only practice, but the situation is sometimes real in Vietnam. To assure that all Marine Aircraft Group-12 pilots are well versed in

sea air rescue procedures, a special refresher training class is conducted periodically by members of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-12.

The pilots, wearing full flight gear, are taken by helicopters a few hundred yards off the sandy beaches east of the Chu Lai airstrip and dropped into the water from a height of ten to fifteen feet. The pilots then inflate their own life rafts and use flares, dye, and smoke signals to aid them in being rescued. All new MAG-12 pilots attend the refresher course.

General store

DONG HA — A Marine in the Fourth Regiment didn't like the cold, wet weather here so he changed it.

Not outside—just in his sleeping quarters.

Private First Class Leon J.P. Couture built his own version of a pot-bellied stove.

First he procured a 55 gallon barrel and cut a 10x12 inch hole in the side near the bottom, and a small round hole on top.

Next he acquired a 5 gallon drum and some copper tubing. The five gallon drum is the fuel tank. The copper tubing runs from the fuel tank into the stove body.

He attached a small valve to the fuel tank to regulate the flow of fuel into the stove. A chimney made of scrap roofing metal runs from the barrel to the top of the tent.

On cold, rainy days and nights, the inside of Couture's tent looks like an old general store. Marines crowd around the warmth of the stove to get a break from the weather.

Looking at his stove and smiling the 3rd Division Marine says, "It doesn't look like much, but I wouldn't trade it for a coal furnace. We'd have a rough time getting fuel."

54 killed

PHU BAI—U.S. Marines fighting in mist and heavy ground fog beat off a determined Viet Cong mortar and small arms attack early in the morning, 12 miles north of Hue, on Dec. 21.

Fifty-four enemy soldiers were killed in the hour and a half battle that marked the second day of a Third Marine Division battalion-sized search and destroy operation.

Marine casualties were light.

Contact was reported to be with at least two companies, and possibly a battalion-sized Viet Cong unit, according to Marine spokesmen.

Air and artillery fire were called in on the attackers, but the majority of the kills were registered by small arms and other light weapons.

Four wounded enemy soldiers were captured during a sweep through the battle area after the enemy units had broken contact at about 7 a.m.

All four were brought to "A" Medical Battalion, at Phu Bai for treatment and interrogation.

The action took place just one mile from Highway 1, the country's main north-south route. The battle broke out shortly before dawn while a morning mist and heavy fog hampered visibility in the rolling, scrub-bush country.

Postal savings

Military personnel who still have Postal Savings accounts are reminded that program discontinued by Congress March 28 and interest on deposits has either already been terminated or will be terminated April 26, 1967. More than \$147 million still remains on deposit, according to postal officials.



River watch

Cpl. Stephen C. Randall keeps a watch on the Cau Do river south of Da Nang when his unit, the 3d AmTracBn., 1stMarDiv., threw an armored cordon downstream to prevent the escape of VC, Dec. 12-14. The corporal is a tank commander and has been in Vietnam since June 1966.

(Photo by LCpl. William C. Norman)

Iowa high school gets plaque from Gen. Walt

By: SSgt. Walt Trott

OMAHA—Sioux City, Iowa's North Junior High School received a Plaque of Appreciation from the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam on December 9.

Making the presentation on behalf of Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General of the III Amphibious Force, was Captain S. R. Smith, officer in charge Marine Recruiting, Omaha.

Five students representing the school accepted the plaque. They were selected because they have brothers serving as Marines.

Under the leadership of teacher, Mr. Robert Shockley, the students—shortly after school started—began action to show the servicemen in Vietnam they have their country's backing by urging

the Postmaster General issue a stamp honoring these servicemen.

October 26, 1966, their work was rewarded when the postal department issued such a stamp. The students efforts and issuance of the stamp attracted nationwide publicity.

Prior to the ceremony the school's choir sang "The Marines Hymn" to a group of surprised but pleased Marines.

A letter from General Walt read as follows:

"On behalf of the officers and men of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force, I want to express my appreciation for your efforts which culminated in the issuance of a postage stamp honoring the servicemen of the United States.

"As a token of our gratitude, I would like to present to the student body, the enclosed plaque which bears the emblem of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force. In the years to come, may it further serve to remind those who pass through the halls of North Junior High that there was no apathy among your ranks; and that you care for your country and for those in her service. Again, my most heartfelt appreciation."

Commencing December 20, a 24-sheet billboard poster will go on display at Sioux City wishing "Merry Christmas to our servicemen in Vietnam." Cost for the sign will be paid by the students of North Junior High.

Cpl. doesn't know 'when'; just 'where' war will end

By: 2nd Lt. Paul Berger

PHU BAI—A Marine in the 3rd Marine Division's Combined Action Company (CAC-2) has it all figured out. He admits he doesn't know when, but he knows where the war will be won.

"This is where we will win—here in Loc Son hamlet and thousands of others like it," said Corporal Donald R. Bryan.

"When I was in the infantry I didn't have much chance to meet Vietnamese people so I didn't think about them. We fought our battles, and I decided counting bodies of dead North Vietnamese soldiers and Viet Cong was necessary.

"But now I know it's only part of the war," he said.

"Since I volunteered to work with CAC, I've been counting smiling faces of contended villagers. It's a more rewarding job when you can see the positive, constructive results of your work.

"These people are my friends—friends of all the other CAC Marines. They know what we are doing here and appreciate our efforts. They're not afraid any-

more.

"The people of Loc Son will tell us about suspicious characters or VC suspects knowing we'll pick them up for interrogation. They also know Marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces (PF) will protect them from retaliation by the VC.

"We work closely with the PFs, training them to be an efficient military unit. They teach us things in return, especially fine points of night movement and patrolling.

"Not everything goes smoothly here of course. We have someone

following us whenever we go on patrol. We've tried everything in the book and a few tricks not in the book to catch him, but have had no luck so far.

"I think I know who it is. I have less than two months to do in Vietnam, but I'd gladly extend for three months if I thought I could catch him.

"This may sound like a pretty small thing to some people, but I've been here long enough to know. After all the big battles are fought, we're going to win the war right here in Loc Son," Bryan added.

3/26 arrives

DONG HA — The 3rd Battalion, Twenty-sixth Marine Regiment landed for the first time in Vietnam Dec. 11, as part of the Fourth Marine Regiment at this northernmost Marine base.

Commanded by Lieutenant Garland T. Beyerle, the battalion joins forces with 3rd Division units in Operation Prairie, just south of the DMZ.

First formed in December 1943 as part of the "Spearhead" 5th Division, the battalion participated in the capture of Iwo Jima during World War II. The Fifth Division was disbanded after the war, but was reactivated in July of this year.

After concluding two months of intensive training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., the battalion sailed for the Far East where they participated in training operations "Mud Puppy 1" and "Hilltop VIII" in the Philippines.

Prior to landing the battalion was assigned a battalion landing team of the special landing force and deployed in the South China Sea off the coast of Vietnam.

All three battalions of the regiment are now in Vietnam.

Chief of Chaplains here for dedication

By Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The Navy's chief of chaplains told 1st Division Marines their new chapel is "a place to breathe the air of devoted worship."

Rear Admiral James W. Kelly, speaking at Christmas Eve dedication ceremonies, said the new chapel meets all the requirements a building committee would set if constructing a new church.

"Most important," he said, is the universal attitude that when you build a church, it should look like a church.

Although God's presence is not restricted to any type of building, the chaplain said, "Worship in this chapel will be a natural and inevitable experience, whether the church is full or contains just one person."

"When you hunger for spiritual fulfillment," he said, "you want not field rations from God's store-

house, but a feast at his table."

The new chapel, he said, will help fill that need.

The 200-seat chapel, located in the division command post near Da Nang, replaces a quonset hut which had served as a chapel for members of Headquarters Battalion.

The admiral said he was in Da Nang a year ago and helped with Christmas services in the mess hall.

"There was still something sacred about it," he said. "But this year, when singing 'Joy to the World,' it was bound to have more meaning and impact."

Vietnamese variety show

DA NANG — The Vietnamese band swung into an instrumental version of "Jingle Bells."

A few Marines, some with camouflaged faces, began to sing along. Another half-dozen chimed in. By the end of the number, most of the more than 100 Marines present were singing along.

The scene was a two-hour musical variety show given Dec. 23, by a troupe of Vietnamese performers to help brighten the Christmas of men of the First Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

"We are here to try to make you a little less homesick," the master of ceremonies said as the show opened in the unit's enlisted club.

With that, the troupe proceeded to bring the crowd to its feet with a jazz version of the Marine Corps Hymn.

The unquestioned hit of the show was Ngoc My, a petite vocalist, who brought down the house when she belted out, "When the Saints Go Marching In," and followed up with a torchy version of "Your Cheating Heart."

A guitar and drum quartet's rock and roll offerings, included "Twist and Shout" and "House of the Rising Sun," also drew enthusiastic applause.

Other features included Christmas songs, both Vietnamese and English, done by a mixed choral group; Vietnamese dances; and a girl trio.



For a safe flight

Cpl. Harry C. Wesler helps a young Vietnamese boy with his safety belt prior to an aerial trip with HMM-164. The squadron transported the Vietnamese children needing attention to a nearby medical facility.

(Photo by LCpl. Russ Cowen)

Nui Tran, noisy, vital mountaintop

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—Artillery rounds screamed over the mountain of Nui Tran and like giant fists smashed into a thick grove of trees crowding against a bend of the muddy Tra Khuc River.

Smoke curled into the angry gray sky as the explosions reverberated across the valley and reached the men on top of Nui Tran.

Second Lieutenant Steven Hinds glared through the bulging eyes of his "battery commander's scope," a big green pair of 12-power glasses mounted on metal stalks looking something like a preying mantis.

The Viet Cong had been caught by surprise. The dead littered the grove but Hinds could see men still up and moving.

The 23-year-old forward observer called for another concentration and the big guns located in Quang Ngai boomed again—rounds once more shrieked over the mountain and the hammer blows exploding thousands of steel fragments chewed up men and trees.

Hinds was one of five Americans on Nui Tran, sharing the bony crest with a conglomerate of Korean Reconnaissance Marines with half-bald "Mohawk" haircuts; a platoon of Korean "Four Deuce" Mortars, and a whole village of Montagnard tribesmen, their women, children and dogs.

All Marines, three of the Yankees were an artillery observer team from the 4th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. The other two were from the 1st Anglico Co. and their main job was guiding resupply helicopters onto the windy, dangerous and microscopic landing zone that fell away into cliffs on either end.

Nui Tran is a lone sentinel bulging from a river valley tiled with hundreds of watery rice paddies shining like a glassy mosaic. The slopes are steep and covered with jungle, barbed wire and booby traps against enemy attack. There are only two accessible trails down the mountain and the Koreans and Montagnards use them for patrols and raids into the Viet Cong controlled valley.

The mountain commanded the marshy plain. From its crest there was an unhampered view for almost five miles in every direction and because of this, it made an excellent observation post.

A mile to the south the sluggish yellow-brown Song Tra Khuc curled on its way to the sea. A bastion of tall cloud covered mountains walled in the west five miles away and a low range of hills partially blocked the east. Several months ago the Marines had fought some of their bloodiest battles in Quang Ngai Province on those small hills and just a few weeks before the Korean Marines charged head-on into a regiment of hard-core Viet Cong.

Hinds had called more than a hundred fire missions for the Koreans before the shattered VC had finally escaped into the western mountains, moving past Nui Tran under cover of darkness.

"It was strange being up here watching the fighting in those hills only a couple thousand meters away," Hinds remarked. "We were a part of it, calling arty strikes—but it was a lot like watching a war movie on color television."

Surrounding his sandbagged outpost which was perched on the highest knob of the mountaintop, the Montagnard village hugged the narrow ridge. It was a fantastic cluster of straw huts, sandbagged bunkers, barbed wire and deep mortar trenches criss-crossing throughout the entire village.

Looking like a ship's mast, a wooden flagpole stood almost on the center of the crest. When it wasn't raining the Koreans and

Montagnards raised their country's flags—but on this rainy day only the ropes dangled from the crossbeam.

The Montagnard men all wore the green uniforms of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam and took turns in the tall bamboo and sandbag lookout bunkers leaning over the edges of the cliffs. Their women cooked and chattered with local gossip; their wide-eyed children ran around yelling and laughing, chasing after their fat barking dogs. Pigs squealed, chickens clucked and sometimes a confused rooster crowed.

A team of Korean Recon Marines wearily reached the top after the long steep climb from the valley. They had raided a village surrounded like an island by rice paddies and captured several just as tired prisoners who were led into a hut for interrogation.

Hinds had been on Nui Tran for over a month. His 23rd birthday passed while he was on the mountain as did the 20th of his assistant F. O., Private First Class Anthony Yamadelli. There was one other man in the team, Lance Corporal Vernon "My Favorite" Martian, the radioman who carried the targets to guns located several miles away.

"We can call our shots to guns in Quang Ngai, Bien Son or Chu Lai," Hinds said looking once more through the scope. "Every 15 minutes we wheel the glasses around a full 360-degrees looking for targets like impetuous VC who can't wait for darkness. We usually catch 'em early in the morning just before dawn or at dusk."

He pointed towards the river.

"Where we just fired there's reported to be a battalion of VC. That bend just beyond is the fording point they normally use to cross the river. Sometimes we catch them and sink their boats or drive them to land and trap them in the trees where we can pour in the artillery."

He focused the glasses on the yellowed ruins of an old French fort. "A Vietnamese company with American advisors used to operate out of that place. The VC overran it a year ago, killing the Arvins and taking the Americans prisoner. They've never been heard from since. . . ."

Two dots in the eastern sky became growling helicopters that drowned his words. Green smoke popped from a grenade and trailed over the windy barren patch of ground the first bird was already approaching.

Private First Class Carl E. Wheeler and Private First Class Rudy Borqueta, who had just completed airborne school before arriving in Vietnam, guided the wind-buffed chopper in with the use of arm and had signals, correcting every error of approach as it arose.

Several Koreans ran to the copter and unloaded cases of rations and ammunition. Empty, the pilot strained the engine against the wind and struggled back into the sky to circle while his partner landed.

The second chopper was loaded with bags of rice for the Montagnards and the villagers carried them off.

With the exception of the powerful four deuce mortars firing for effect on a rock their crew were determined to disintegrate 2,000 meters away, the rest of the day passed in normal, lazy routine.

Hinds took a break from roving the countryside with his 12-power glasses and wandered down one of the trails a hundred yards or so to take a "shower" at a brook that spilled from within the mountain. Booby traps along the steep path and in the shower area were disengaged for him by a Montagnard who stood watch with a rifle in case a sniper wanted to make the shower a little more exciting.

Just after dark a hand flare popped and eerily lit up the mountaintop. From other mountain outposts miles in the distance could be seen other flares. It would go on all night.

"Now it begins," Hinds said quietly. "They will move around us all night. Sometimes we can spot a few of them and call in a strike. Ever so often a couple will try to climb the mountain to find a way through the mines. They usually get blown up or somebody tosses a hand grenade in their laps."

"They would have a hell of a time taking this place," he continued after a few swallows of the cooling coffee. "It would take more than a battalion to do it and it wouldn't really be worth the trouble except maybe to say: 'We took Nui Tran.' It would cost them an awful lot of men and if they ever did get up here they wouldn't be able to hold it—artillery would blast them right off."

Some of the Montagnards and Koreans were gathered in a candle-lit hut toasting each other with the local whiskey and their chatter reached the bunker.

"These Montagnards," Hinds laughed. "This particular bunch has been up here nine months. Soon they'll probably want to go someplace else. They're always wandering around, drifting from one mountain village to another. Before they leave, by some kind of mutual agreement that's been going on for hundreds of years, another bunch will come down from the mountains, cross the valley and take over these positions."

"Until then . . ." He smiled and shrugged. "Nui Tran is their home and they will defend it with their lives if it ever comes to that."

'Hands across sea' program

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson
DA NANG — Mothers of small infants in Hoa Thanh hamlet now can provide added care for their babies, thanks to America's "Hands Across the Sea" program.

Thirty women received baby care kits containing soap, powder, cream, oil, and lotion from Lieutenant Colonel S. A. Brunenmeyer commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion, Ninth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

The kits were donated by a American baby products manufacture under the "Hands Across The Sea" program, in which U. S. industries donate their products

and the armed forces provide transportation to Vietnam.

Before the kits were distributed, members of the Combined Action Company (CAC) near the hamlet explained the proper use of the products, and a Navy hospital corpsman demonstrated proper baby bathing techniques.

The distribution of the kits in Hoa Thanh is a pilot project, according to Sergeant Lawrence E. Beauford, battalion civil affairs non-commissioned officer in charge. If it proves successful, he said, kits will be distributed in the other seven hamlets in the unit's area of responsibility, north of Da Nang.



Trail blazer

A tired Marine stalks down a trail, weariness mirrored in his face, after a two-day search and destroy operation south of Da Nang Dec. 21-22. He's a member of "M" Co., 3d Bn., Seventh Marines. The Marines accounted for 11 enemy dead during the sweep.

Pay officer captures VC suspect

By SSgt. N. M. MacKenzie
DONG HA — A Fourth Regiment pay officer added a new dimension to his pay day routine of counting thousands of dollars out for 3rd Division Marines — he captured a Viet Cong suspect.

Second Lieutenant Richard H. Mullen was traveling from Cam Lo to the Dong Ha air base when his suspicions were aroused. Two elderly men and a teen-age boy were herding three water buffalo in the middle of the road.

Mullen recalled recent intelligence briefings which said several Viet Cong had been captured while herding buffalo around Marine perimeters lately.

The five-month Vietnam veteran also knew from experience that one of the local customs is for children to tend the buffalo.

He decided to check the trio for identification cards to satisfy his curiosity. As his vehicle approached, one man moved to the left of the road while the others moved the buffalo to the right.

While the lieutenant was checking for proper identification of the two with the buffalo the other man began walking hurriedly away.

He stopped the man and asked for an ID card. The man said he had one but left it at home, and claimed he was going to dig up a grave.

"I knew that something was wrong because the man wasn't carrying any tools," remarked Mullen, who's primary duty is Fourth Regiment civil affairs officer. "I apprehended him and turned him over to the counter intelligence team for interrogation at Dong Ha."



Ammunition galore

Sgt. Richard Taylor of the 3dMarDiv intelligence section, logs in more than 400 rounds of 12.7mm anti-aircraft ammunition captured on Operation Prairie last week. Several hundred thousand shells of all types have been confiscated since the operation near the DMZ began.

(Photo by SSgt. B. G. Highland)

Defense to improve military bachelor life

A Department of Defense program to improve living quarters for bachelor officers and career enlisted personnel stateside will begin in Fiscal Year 1968.

A memorandum from Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance to the service secretaries said that beginning in FY-68, personnel in grades gunnery sergeant through Captain will be permitted to live off-base, provided minimum standards of adequacy for occupancy cannot be met on base.

Additional conditions to be met before granting permission to live off-base and draw Basic Al-

lowance for Quarters (BAQ) include:

Authority will not be granted where vacant quarters are available and meet minimum standards of adequacy.

Installation commanders must determine that the individual is not required by military necessity to live on-base.

All bachelor facilities accepted for beneficial occupancy after January 1, 1958—as a result of new permanent or semi-permanent construction or major modification of existing facilities—will be considered as meeting the minimum standard of adequacy.

Mr. Vance's memo also stated that, based on experience with the FY-68 program, consideration will be given to extending the off-base living policy to lower graded career enlisted personnel in future years.

Last patrol

DONG HA—Sergeant George L. Thornton is a squad leader in the 3rd Platoon of "K" Company, Third Marine Regiment. He completed his last patrol Dec. 26 and will return home shortly.

The patrol itself, in the area northeast of the Rockpile, proved to be routine with no enemy contact. But it was not routine to Sgt. Thornton.

"When your time starts getting short, you become more self-conscious," he said. "You're more worried — more alert — until the day you finally leave."

The sergeant has served as rifleman, fire team leader, grenadier and squad leader since his tour began more than a year ago. He has seen a good deal of combat, all of it with "K" Company.

The action he remembers most vividly is Operation New York.

"We had the 812th hard core regiment hemmed in on a peninsula down there. They had to fight and we killed 260 of them."

With his last patrol accomplished, the 3rd Division Marine is looking forward to a rest back home — a rest he has surely earned.

A first

CHU LAI — DT3 William E. Schaffer has become the first Navy Dental Technician to be decorated for heroism while serving with Marine units in Vietnam.

Schaffer was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal Dec. 15 by Brigadier General William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, for his heroic actions while serving with Headquarters, 5th Marine Regiment, during Operation Colorado in August.

During the operation the regiment was brought under intense hostile mortar and recoilless rifle fire. One of the tents in the CP area was hit, killing one Marine and wounding eleven others.

Upon seeing the disaster, Schaffer rushed to the tent, braving the heavy incoming fire, and began administering first aid. He went to the aid of a Marine with a gaping hole in his chest and quickly put his hand over it to prevent suffocation, and held it there until the man was evacuated.



Merry Christmas

LtCol. A. W. Talbert, CO, VMFA-323 and MSgt. H. Agee (right), squadron 1st Sgt., stack packages on Sgt. Ronald J. Raynes. The packages were sent to the squadron by Rayne's sister from the Westwood, Mass., Young Women's Club, to be distributed to members of the squadron.

(Photo by Sgt. Joe Abreau)

Extensions of RVN tours increase by 700 percent

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—Extensions of Vietnam tours for six months or more increased 700 per cent in the 1st Marine Division during the first month in which a "free" 30-day leave was authorized.

The division reported 819 Marines extended during December, compared to the previous monthly average of 122 prior to Congress' passing of the bill offering non-chargeable leave.

Of that number, 475 men chose to use their 30-day leave bonus to go home for Christmas. The others will take leave between January and June.

Marines interviewed offered a variety of reasons for agreeing to extend their tours, but nearly all admitted the offer of the leave, with transportation paid by the government, was the deciding factor.

Corporal Douglas Marver, gave typical reasons. Marver, who has been overseas since August 1965

and in Vietnam since February, has applied for his second six-month extension.

"For one thing, I enjoy working in the field," explained Marver, an artillery forward observer with the Eleventh Marine Regiment. "Time seems to go a lot faster over here, mainly because there's always something to be done."

"And the extra money doesn't hurt, either," he admitted, referring to the \$65 per month combat pay received by troops in Vietnam. "With the money I'm saving here, I'll be able to buy a car when I get home. And you know I wouldn't be saving any money if I were in the U.S."

Marver extended for the first time in September, before the free leave was authorized. But he is looking forward to 30 days at home this time, and plans to take leave in January if his extension is approved.

Corporal Harry W. Hayes, a member of "C" Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, said he simply likes the work he is doing here.

"I like the company I'm in, and I like recon," Hayes said. "I came in the Marine Corps to go to war, and I figure as long as I'm in the Corps, I might as well be here."

Hayes, who has been a recon radio operator since July, also said the combat pay is an added incentive. He plans to take 30 days leave at home in February.

Corporal Kenneth J. Kalinowsky, a motor transport man with the Fifth Marine Regiment, has elected to spend his leave in Bangkok. He said he extended because, "I'll be in the United States the rest of my life."

Most Marines, like Marver and Hayes, choose to take their leave at home, despite the offer of free transportation to any leave site

in the free world. Thus far, a few have elected to go to Okinawa, several to Thailand, and one each to Sweden and Norway.

The division is presently working on extension leaves through the month of June, 1967.

Navy Relief college loan

Financial aid now is available for dependent students even if they don't qualify for scholarships.

The Navy Relief Society has established an educational fund, which will provide loans without interest to dependent children of service personnel. The loans may be used at accredited colleges, vocational training schools or prep schools leading to entrance at one of the state or national service academies.

Children eligible for aid include unmarried sons and daughters (including stepchildren and legally adopted children) of the regular Navy and Marine Corps and reservists on extended active duty.

Also eligible are children of retired Navy and Marine Corps personnel; reservists after 20 years of active duty; members of the Fleet Reserve and dependents of deceased personnel.

Dependents must be 22 years of age or less.

Students applying for the loans should submit a complete transcript of high school work and the results of the Scholastic Aptitude Test taken during the senior year. Those who already have completed a year of college should submit an official transcript of their college work. The deadline for application is Mar. 15.

Further information may be obtained from the Navy Relief Society Educational Fund, 1030 Munitions Building, Washington, D.C., 20360.



Making the best of it

Cpl. Kenneth Nagy (left sitting) of Weapons Platoon, "M" Co., 3d Bn., 26th Marines, PFC Frederick Kelleker (center) and Cpl. D. J. Dires (right) make the best of what they got on Christmas Day while Cpl. Kenneth Nagy opens a present sent from his parents. The Marines were participating in Operation Chinook.

(Photo by LCpl. N. B. Call)

★★★★★★★★★★★★
HELP STRENGTHEN
AMERICA'S PEACE POWER
BUY U.S. SAVINGS BONDS
★★★★★★★★★★★★

Psychology pays off

By Sgt. Dave Small

DONG HA—Psychological warfare is being used by the 3rd Battalion, Fourth Marines near the DMZ.

"We know it works," said Second Lieutenant Allen L. Vance. "A Viet Cong cadre forced an entire village to vacate homes when they knew we were coming."

While on a three-day search and clear mission through several villages known to be active with VC movement, Vance formed a psy-war team to enter villages and inform the people of government intentions.

"I believe our mission was successful because of the way we used a South Vietnamese Popular Forces squad," the lieutenant said. "We split their ten-man squad into three-man teams and deployed them throughout the villages to talk to their people."

The PF's went to each house in the village checking identification cards, searching the houses, and telling the people the intentions of their government and why the Marines were here.

At the same time, Vance was speaking to the villagers through his interpreter with a loudspeaker in the center of the village.

He told them of a reward fund available to those who could pass any information concerning the Viet Cong, or North Vietnamese soldiers.

He assured the villagers that if they supplied information about the enemy at any time, their identity would remain confidential.

"We gave the people a few ideas on how to pass information to us without being seen by the Viet Cong," said Vance. "Now that the ideas are in their heads, all we have to do is wait."

Vance also spoke to any of the VC cadre that may have been in the village at that time.

He told them, "It is futile for you to continue this war—we will catch all of you eventually, because we will never stop searching."

The Viet Cong must not have liked what they, and the villagers heard that day—for the next village in the path of the psy-war team was deserted.

"It looked as if the people had been forced out of the village in a big hurry," said Vance. "If the Viet Cong think they can stop us from spreading our message that way, they are going to aggravate the villagers mighty quickly. When they do that, they are helping us a great deal," he concluded.

'Blacksheep' adopted

CHU LAI—If the adage, "In numbers there is strength" is true, Marine Attack Squadron-214 is even stronger now, having been adopted by their numeral counterparts, home room-241, Grade 8A-2, Edison Junior High School, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The class sent the VMA-214 "Blacksheep" Squadron a box of magazines and candy. An enclosed letter stated in part:

"Dear Men,
I hope this package of candy and magazines will make you a little fatter and a little happier. We had fun collecting the material and hope you enjoy it."

The letter was written on behalf of the class by Ken Baldwin. The squadron sent a "Black-sheep" patch, and a letter of appreciation to the class. They also made Ken Baldwin an honorary "Blacksheep."

10 SEA TIGER



ROUNDING THE SECOND TURN—Stretched out around the curve behind the Ontos are just some of the vehicles that composed the "Rough Rider" convoy. There were 36 vehicles, including three Ontos on the Chu Lai to Da Nang trip. (Photo by LCpl. Ronald A. Lowes)

"Rough Riders"

Truck convoy concludes trip from Da Nang to Chu Lai

By 2ndLt. John P. Novak

CHU LAI—A combined effort by Marines of the 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing was brought to a successful conclusion when a Chu Lai-Da Nang truck convoy reached its destination.

Moving out at 10 a.m. from the "main gate" of the Chu Lai complex, the convoy, dubbed "Rough Rider," included three Ontos and 33 other vehicles. It was originally scheduled to leave the previous morning, but its departure had been set back because of a bridge blown by the VC.

A platoon of Marines from "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and Marines from "C" Company, 7th Motor Transport Battalion (who drove the trucks as well as manning the .50 caliber cab-mounted machine guns), provided security for the convoy along with the Ontos.

Aerial security was provided by an O1-C observation plane, two UH-1E (Huey) gunships and two A4D "Sky Hawks."

The convoy moved steadily northward with only a few minor incidents.

Then it all changed. At approximately 2:35 p.m., near the hamlet of Thanh Binh (3), 18 miles south of Da Nang, a bridge was reported blown up ahead of the convoy. The convoy came to a stop as the convoy commander, Captain Philip S. Bradley, commanding officer of "C" Company, 7th Motor Transport Battalion, jumped from his vehicle to survey the damage.

Tour over

MCAF, FUTEMA, Okinawa — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361 arrived at Marine Corps Air Facility, Futema Dec. 16 after a six-month tour in the Republic of Vietnam.

A veteran squadron of such operations against the Viet Cong as Colorado, Hastings, Golden Fleece and Rio Blanco, HMM-361 is at the facility to replace former tenant unit HMM-161.

While in Vietnam, the squadron compiled an impressive record of 10,774 flight hours, 31,959 sorties, 2,312 medical evacuations and lifted 37,209 troops during a six-month period.

The famed "Tiger Back" squadron, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel M. D. Tweed was last stationed at the facility in June.

He ordered security out on both flanks of the stopped trucks and then brought trucks containing bridging material and carrying engineers to the front of the convoy.

Working quickly, the engineers of the 1st Bridge Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, used the bridging material to construct a crossing. At the same time, a company of Republic of Vietnam soldiers brought in a convoy of sand-laden trucks with which to fill the gaping hole.

Suddenly, shots rang out, some ricocheting off the bridge. Marines and RVN took immediate action and returned the fire in a fire fight which ended as quickly

Gifts for all

CHU LAI — Every man serving with the 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, had a Christmas gift this year, thanks to the efforts of an East Detroit, Michigan grade school.

One-hundred and twenty-seven packages, containing everything from cookies to razor blades arrived December 10, from the Crescentwood Grade School, and more are on the way according to Mrs. Elsie Buckman, the school's principal.

Lieutenant Colonel William H. Draper, 5th Marines Executive Officer, whose daughter Linda, 5, is a kindergarten student at the school, received a letter from Mrs. Buckman last month, who asked for a list of items the Marines might need.

On December 10 the packages arrived at the Regimental Post Office.

Colonel Draper turned the packages over to the chaplains within his command, for distribution to the men.

"The gifts went to the men who did not receive mail or gifts," said Col. Draper.

Grateful children

DONG HA — More than 300 Vietnamese children walked four miles through Viet Cong infested territory to bring gifts to U.S. fighting men here Christmas eve.

The children gathered gifts of bananas, rice, cookies, tea and flowers at Cua Valley refugee center nine miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, then carried them over the Cua Valley Pass to Cam Lo district headquarters for the Marines and soldiers.

A 100-voice choir composed of U.S. military personnel greeted the Christmas pilgrims with a special program which included a party and gift exchanges.

The choir was composed of Marines from the Third and Twelfth Regiments, 3rd Marine Division and soldiers of the 2nd Bn., 94th Field Artillery Group.

The 300 Vietnamese children are from a group of more than 1,000 persons recently released from VC domination by Marines when they swept the Cua Valley last month.

Although the Christmas truce was not scheduled to commence until midnight Dec. 24, representatives among the 300 children expressed no fear about the long walk through the VC controlled area.

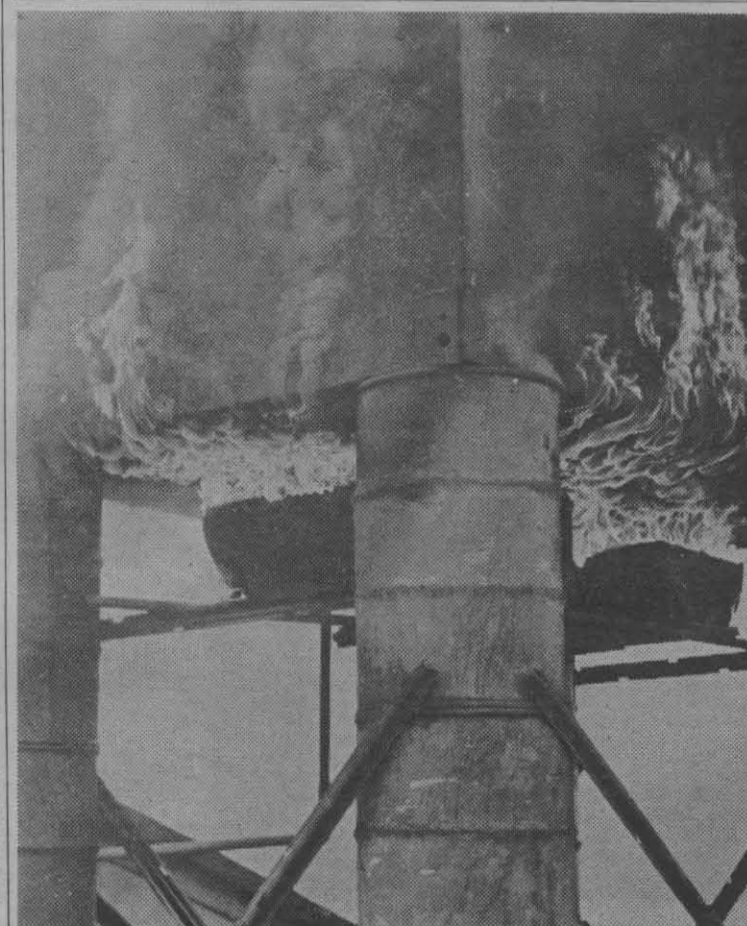
Air Medal record

DA NANG — Since his arrival in Vietnam last May, Sergeant Stephen E. Adzima has been awarded 13 Air Medals.

The Sergeant currently holds the enlisted record for his squadron, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, based at the Marble Mountain Air Facility.

During this time, his aircraft — a CH-46A Seaknight — has been hit by enemy fire only twice.

Both were taken in the Chu Lai area, south of Da Nang, and neither hit did serious damage, according to Sgt. Adzima.



Hot showers

A huge water tank perched atop its metal stanchions, engulfed in flames, means hot evening showers for Marines of 3d Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division. Designed and built by the battalion, the burning inferno is a luxury in Vietnam.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

Meeting in Hawaii —at your own risk

An electrical transmission error recently caused a Hawaii R&R flight to be scheduled on an erroneous date. The error was discovered at the last minute and MACV fortunately was able to divert an aircraft to fly the mission. This was not accomplished without resentment, irritation, inconvenience, telephone calls to and from the U. S., and claims of financial hardship by personnel whose rendezvous plans with dependents were upset by the late departure of substitute aircraft from Vietnam.

1000 kills

DA NANG—When the First Marine Regiment moved into its new command post in Quang Nam Province last June, LtCol. Van D. Bell's 1st Battalion, planned a Viet Cong elimination campaign for his unit to cover a six-month period.

One thousand seemed like a nice round figure.

At 5:45 p.m. Dec. 21, 1966 a battalion scout unit ambushed 14 Viet Cong and killed all 14 in a fire fight.

The first VC killed was the 1000th enemy killed or captured by the battalion. The others were considered a "bonus" for Col. Bell who is currently home on extension leave, completing his wedding plans.

A telegram was sent to the Colonel: "Congratulations . . . 1/1 reached quota . . . 1745 . . . December 21 . . . Best regards 1/1."

covered at the last minute and MACV fortunately was able to divert an aircraft to fly the mission. This was not accomplished without resentment, irritation, inconvenience, telephone calls to and from the U. S., and claims of financial hardship by personnel whose rendezvous plans with dependents were upset by the late departure of substitute aircraft from Vietnam.

It should be known and understood that there are many factors that can cause published R&R schedules to be changed or even cancelled at the last minute. Electrical transmission errors, inclement weather, aircraft mechanical difficulties and security conditions are examples of factors which may affect these flights.

Rendezvous plans with families are made at the individual Marine's volition and initiative.

In the event of error, each commander and supervisor does his very best to rectify the situation, but the fact remains, that the planned rendezvous in Hawaii (or anywhere else) is the individual's personal responsibility.

They try to find out what's "bugging" you

By LCpl Woody Price
CHU LAI — One of the most important phases of the war against disease being waged at the medical dispensary of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, is carried out in the "sickbay" laboratory at the Marine Ky Ha airfield.

This phase is Parasitology. Only certain types of parasites cause disease, and it's with these that the lab technician is primarily concerned.

Direct responsibility for the operation of the lab falls to Hospital Corpsman Second Class Thomas A. Parker.

Parker, who entered the Navy in Jan. 1958, received specialist's training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center, after serving more than four years as a medical corpsman.

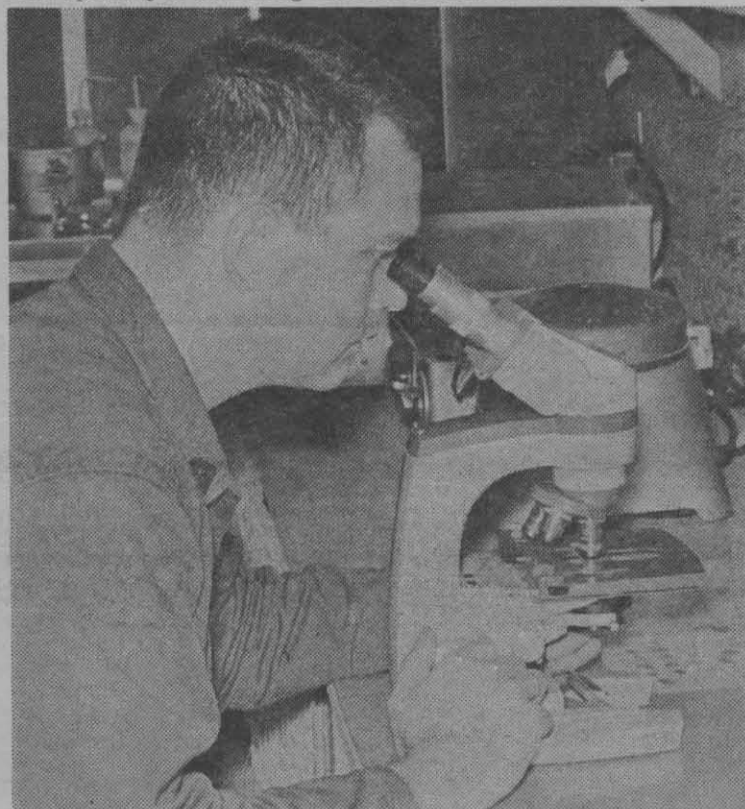
His specialty is examining blood

samples. Through lab procedures, Parker can detect the presence of harmful parasites in an individual's blood.

Parker is constantly on the lookout for malaria.

The task of detecting malaria-causing parasites in the blood stream is accomplished by smearing a blood sample on a glass slide. The smear is then allowed to dry, and is stained with a special stain (Giemsa) which causes the parasite to show up in the red cells under microscopic examination.

Assisting Parker with the lab duties is Hospitalman Second Class James W. Libby. Libby, who entered the Navy in July, 1960, underwent corpsman's training at Great Lakes, and has acquired a general knowledge of lab procedures in the six years he has been on active duty.



BLOOD EXAMINATION—HM2 Thomas A. Parker, lab technician at the Marine Aircraft Group dispensary at Ky Ha, uses a microscope to examine a malaria smear.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)



BGen. Kim Yun Sang, who has been described as possessing "a tigerous fighting spirit at war," speaks to the men of the 2nd Korean Marine Brigade during change of command ceremonies. He had just assumed command of the "Blue Dragons" from BGen. Lee Bong Chool (Official ROK Marine Corps Photo)

Gen. Lee transferred

Blue Dragons get new 'Tiger'

By Sgt. Mike McCusker
CHU LAI — Brigadier General Kim Yun Sang has taken command of the Marine Brigade he helped create.

Assuming command of the 2nd Korean Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade from Brigadier General Lee Bong Chool during change of command ceremonies at their combat base near Chu Lai, Tuesday, Dec. 20, General Kim played a major role in organizing, equipping and sending the brigade to Vietnam last year.

The "Blue Dragon Brigade" was the first combat expedition-

ary force of the ROK Armed Forces.

General Lee, who will report to his new assignment in Korea after a month's leave with his wife in Hong Kong and Japan, was the brigade's first commander. Under his command the Blue Dragons landed at Cam Ranh Bay, Oct. 9, 1965 and immediately moved into operational standing, fighting both Viet Cong and units of the North Vietnamese Army.

The Koreans have since inflicted over 5,000 losses on the enemy. Commissioned a second lieutenant

in 1950, the new commanding general participated in all the major operations of the Korean War, serving as a platoon leader, rifle company commander, S-3 officer and Chief of Operations Branch, Headquarters ROK Marine Corps.

LBJ praises Viet veterans

Before lighting the nation's Christmas tree, President Johnson told a group of Vietnam war veterans that each exercised the highest form of citizenship that any citizen can perform.

"You have all defended freedom in a great hour of need," the President told veterans in the East Room of the White House. "You bear the scars of that sacrifice as an emblem of devotion to your country."

"No one can say just how long that war will last," the President said. "But we can say that aggression has been blunted, and that peace, with honor, will surely follow."

Noting that the months ahead will not be easy ones, President Johnson said: "They will require great sacrifice, patience, understanding and tolerance from each of us."

Third DFC

DA NANG — A gold star in lieu of a third Distinguished Flying Cross was presented to Lieutenant Colonel Arnold W. Barden of Marine Aircraft Wing Group-16 during informal ceremonies at the Marble Mountain Air Facility.

Barden was cited for his actions while serving as an armed helicopter flight leader during Operation Hastings on July 18.

His citation read: "Distinguishing himself by leading a flight of helicopters against a north Vietnamese Army force of more than 1,000 men, LtCol. Barden provided suppressive force on the enemy, marking their positions with rockets for air strikes. . . He also conducted air strikes within 30 yards of friendly forces, thereby preventing the enemy from overrunning their positions."

"His heroic actions, instrumental in saving a trapped platoon of 20 Marines, also were responsible for 200 confirmed and probable enemy dead. . ."

SEA TIGER 11

Homeward-bound 'panther' craves just one more hunt

By: LCpl Guy Cornwell
DA NANG—The Panther was soon to go back to his home but craved for just one last hunt. The Panther, as his company calls him, is Captain Wiley M. Clapp, commanding officer of "I" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

His prey was an estimated company of Viet Cong suspected to be within his company's operation area.

Although the veteran of over 15 combat operations was leaving Vietnam the next day, he chose to go on one more operation.

Leaving before dawn in order to surprise the enemy, the Panther led his men down the river bank hoping to make contact with the Viet Cong that ran the supply routes in and out of the area.

After uncovering two high-explosive booby traps on the trail Captain Clapp cautioned his men to be as quiet and careful as possible.

He was sure the enemy was near.

He was right. The mid-day silence was shattered by the

crack of a light carbine.

The lead machine-gunner was hit.

"Corpsman up," the Panther yelled as he continued to fire.

He only had to yell that twice during the hour-long firefight.

The Viet Cong had to say it over and over.

Although pinned down by automatic rifle fire the company returned deadly fire into the underbrush and across the river. Once during the fight, the Panther himself ran through enemy fire to pull one of his wounded men off the trail.

The outcome of the hunt—12 Viet Cong killed—was a victory for the Marines of "I" Co.

His last hunt successful, the Panther left the next day for his home in Pomona, Calif., amid shouts of goodwill from the men of his company. One said of the departing Marine officer, "He'll come back; he enjoys the hunt too much."

Ration allow. raised 13 cents

The commuted and leave rations food allowance for enlisted personnel will be increased from \$1.17 to \$1.30 daily beginning January 1.

The 13-cent daily increase was approved by Defense Secretary McNamara and applies to service personnel world-wide.

Commuted rations are paid to those authorized to eat off base, or at home, instead of in military dining halls.

Leave rations are paid to all personnel on leave.

Seabees give key

DA NANG — An over-sized key was presented to Major General H. Nickerson, Jr., by Lieutenant Commander D. N. Shockey, commanding officer of Mobile Construction Battalion Nine (MCB-9) during grand opening ceremonies of the Headquarters Battalion enlisted men's club Christmas eve. Seabees of MCB-9 constructed the new club for the 1st Division Marines. Manager is Staff Sergeant M. R. Wilson.

Citizens of Phu Bai honor all servicemen

By: 2dLt. Paul Berger
PHU BAI — Every American serviceman in the Phu Bai area received a gift from the people of Hue this Christmas. Five hundred Hue residents



Birthday

PFC Peter Bechenck celebrates his 20th birthday as well as Christmas Day on Operation Chinook, 27 kms. north of Hue. He is a member of Wpns. Plt., "M" Co., 3d Bn., 26th Marines. (Photo by LCpl. N. B. Call)

Chinook—

(Continued From Page 1)
taken from enemy bodies and several rice caches have been seized and destroyed. "I" Co. alone accounted for more than 50 of the total enemy kills during three hours of savage fighting on the second night of the operation.

As the Christmas truce brought a lull in the fighting, the Marines bailed out their fighting holes, reinforced their positions and tried to catch some needed sleep.

Dental survey

Recent surveys indicate that some 30 per cent of U.S. Marines seek dental treatment while in Vietnam. Dental treatment is provided by 65 Dental Corps officers, four Medical Service Corps officers and 140 dental technicians.

came to the 3rd Marine Division headquarters here to present the gifts and a 12-foot Christmas tree. They also entertained Americans with Christmas carols and Vietnamese songs.

The stage was a sheet of plywood atop 12 cases of dehydrated green beans—but from the audience response—it could have been the Hollywood Palace.

During a heavy rain, a convoy of trucks and buses brought the visitors from Hue. Dashing from vehicles into the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Regiment messhall the Vietnamese became a mass of shapeless, dripping raincoats covered by a canopy of colorful umbrellas.

Once inside, the visitors shed their raingear and became city officials, businessmen and students.

Colonel John B. Sweeney, 3rd Division chief of staff, drew applause when he greeted the Vietnamese in their own language.

A high school girl, speaking for the group, expressed thanks for the sacrifices the Americans are making for the Vietnamese people, and extended seasons greetings to their families in the United States.

"We pray God may give us wisdom and strength to achieve that peace on earth which is the eternal message of Christmas and the desire of us all," she said in excellent English.

The messhall ceiling was decorated with U.S. state flags and in front of the stage hung the flag of Rhode Island with its one, appropriate word, "Hope."

Karate club

DA NANG — Seven members of the Marine Aircraft Group — 16 Karate Club demonstrated the Ancient Oriental art for 150 Vietnamese children last week.

Their audience was from a local orphanage which is supported by members of the 1st Marine Air Wing.

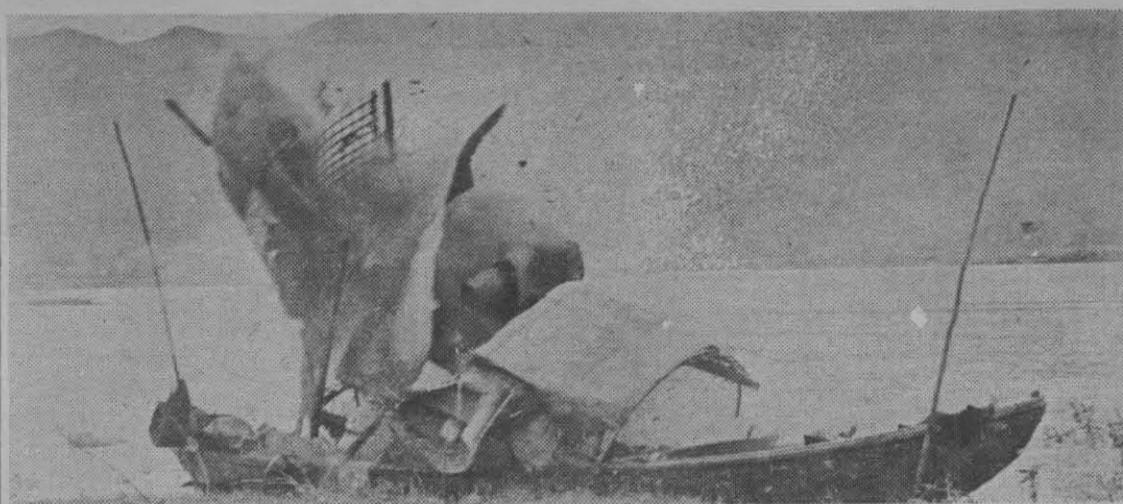
Led by Staff Sergeant Donald F. Bohan, club members performed various movements including defense against knife attack.

Bohan, a student for 10 years, explained to his young audience the theory of the art: "Karate is for the unarmed. The key to Karate is speed, not muscle."

He said the average man, armed with concentration and faith in himself, is capable of startling feats. To demonstrate, he broke a 20-pound concrete block with a single blow from his forearm.

Bohan is a fifth degree black belt karate expert.

The club meets regularly at Marble Mountain's beach. It numbers 50 members; all are attached to MAG-16.



SUPPLY BOATS DESTROYED—A VC supply boat is destroyed by 1st Plt., "M" Co., 3d Bn., 7th Marines during an operation southwest of Da Nang. The company destroyed 16 boats during the mission. (Photo by J. L. McClory)

Report of events during 1966—

(Continued From Page 1)

China Sea. Operation ends April 7.

● Form March 29 to April 3, it's Operation "Indiana"—in mountainous coastal region, 330 miles northeast of Saigon.

● Headquarters of 1st Marine Division established at Chu Lai on Nov. 30. First commitment of two U.S. Marine Divisions (1st and 3rd) in combat zone since World War II. Elements of 1st Marine Division already in Vietnam prior to this date.

APRIL

● Operation "Orange" conducted April 1-11—multicompany search and destroy mission southwest of Da Nang.

● April 12-17 Operation "Nevada"—multi-battalion operation south of Chu Lai.

● Marine Regimental Landing Team Seven (RLT-7), which virtually annihilated a Viet Cong regiment during Operation "Starlight" in August, 1965, was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation by the Secretary of the Navy on April 21, the first ground unit so honored. Operation "Starlight" was the first direct battlefield confrontation between a major U.S. unit and a major main-force Viet Cong unit.

● Operation "Georgia" begins April 21, ends May 10—southwest of Da Nang.

● Operation "Hot Springs"—multi-battalion operation northwest of Quang Ngai.

MAY

● Operation "Wyoming" begins May 1—northwest of Chu Lai.

● Operation "Cherokee" from May 5-7—search and clear mission accounts for 59,000 pounds of seized enemy rice.

● May 9-14 Operation "Montgomery"—multi-battalion operation in Quang Ngai province.

● Operation "Wayne" May 10-13 southwest of Hue.

● Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, GG, III MAF, receives (in absentia) Navy League's "Stephen Decatur Award for Operational Excellence."

● Operation "Mobile" May 25-28 in Quang Ngai province.

JUNE

● 2d Battalion, 26th Marines activated. (Expanded to BLT status June 25. Embarked for Western Pacific July 27, with RLT-26 headquarters).

● June 26 Operation "Jay" begins—13 miles northwest of Hue. Ends July 2.

● Fiscal Year 1966 Marine Corps total strength nears 262,000. (Peak in Korean War was slightly more than 249,000.)

JULY

● July 1, 3d Battalion, 26th Marines activated. (Embarked for Western Pacific Sept. 2).

● Operation "Macon" begins July 4. Search and clear mission 20 miles southwest of Da Nang. Continues to Oct. 28.

● Operation "Hastings" begins July 7. Marine Corps' largest multi-battalion operation to date. Conducted in mountain jungles of Quang Tri province, just south of 17th parallel. This battle brought 8,000 U.S. Marines and 3,000 South Vietnamese infantrymen against North Vietnamese Division 324B which had infiltrated across the DMZ. The North Vietnamese Division was shattered and the remnants were sent fleeing back across the 17th parallel. Operation ends August 3.

AUGUST

● Operation "Prairie" begins August 3. Multi-battalion operation in Quang Tri province against major enemy force. Battle continues in mountain jungles just south of the DMZ. Fierce, intermittent fighting against infiltrating elements from elite divisions of Regular North Vietnamese Army—still continuing.

● August 20-29, Operatin "Allegheny"—in Quang Nam province, 15 miles southwest of Da Nang.

● August 29, Post Office issues special Commemorative Stamp for Marine Corps Reserve Anniversary; first stamp ever issued honoring Marines. Will be issued on request at Post Offices throughout the Nation until August 1967, end of Anniversary Year.

SEPTEMBER

● September 1 — Ceremonies at Washington, D. C. Marine Barracks honor most-decorated Marine (to date) of Vietnam war, the late Major Donald J. Reilly. Reilly, a helicopter pilot, was mortally wounded during a medical evacuation mission in Vietnam in December 1965. Posthumous awards include: Navy Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross.

● Operation "Golden Fleece" Sept. 17-27—an annual rice-harvest-protection operation in the Quang Ngai province. Marines provided protection during the harvesting of 7,620 tons of rice, and captured 27,727 tons of Viet Cong rice.

● 1/26, the first unit of the newly activated 5th Marine Division, was heavily engaged near the DMZ. This battalion, the afloat Special Landing Force, had come ashore in Operation "Deckhouse IV" in an area east of the "Prairie" operation, to search the coastal rice plains just south of the DMZ.

● Navy Hospital Corpsmen provide front-line medical support to Marines. As of Sept. 1, they had 18 Silver Star Medals, 33 Bronze Stars, 25 Air Medals, 14 Navy Commendation Medals, and more than 400 Purple Hearts.

OCTOBER

● III MAF forces re-disposed in I Corps Area to meet increased enemy activity in vicinity of DMZ. 3d Marine Division forces moved into Quang Tri province, with headquarters at Dong Ha. Concurrently, 1st Marine Division Headquarters moved from Chu Lai area to Da Nang to take over operational expanses vacated by 3d Marine Division. A U.S. Army airborne battalion joined III MAF and was attached to 1st Marine Division at Da Nang. A Marine Task Force continued operations in Chu Lai area in conjunction with a Korean Marine Brigade.

● Operation "Teton" October 12-20—battalion-sized search and destroy mission, 5 miles south of Da Nang.

● Camp Foster on Okinawa is named in honor of Marine Medal of Honor recipient PFC William A. Foster of Cleveland, Ohio, on Oct. 25. Foster was killed in action during battle for Okinawa in WW II.

● President Johnson visits American troops in Vietnam. Awards Navy Cross to Marine. Marines of E/2/1 are part of all-service Honor Guard.

NOVEMBER

● Lieutenant Colonel Charles H. Ludden named Marine Aviator of the Year and awarded Cunningham Trophy.

● November 10—Marine Corps 191st Birthday. ● U.S. Marines, Republic of Korea Marines, and Army of the Republic of Vietnam units, in separate but adjacent command posts, wrap up an eight day search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai on November 28.

DECEMBER

● Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund for Vietnam totals more than \$380,000 as of December 1.

● First Marine awarded Medal of Honor for outstanding heroism in Vietnam. New York-born Sgt. Robert O'Malley, USMCR, was presented the Nation's highest award for valor in combat by President Johnson in ceremonies at the LBJ Ranch on December 6. O'Malley is third of four brothers to serve in Marine Corps. Younger brother is also Marine veteran of Vietnam service.

● Number of Marines in Vietnam: approximately 60,000.

● Estimated year-end total, U.S. Marine Corps: 258,835 enlisted; 22,874 officers; total 281,709.

● Personal awards received by Marines for Vietnam service, in addition to Medal of Honor awarded Dec. 6 (all figures as of Nov. 1): Distinguished Service Medal 3; Navy Cross 39; Silver Star Medal 291; Legion of Merit 125; Distinguished Flying Cross 249; Bronze Star Medal 1,261; Navy/Marine Corps Medal 19 and numerous lesser awards.

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