

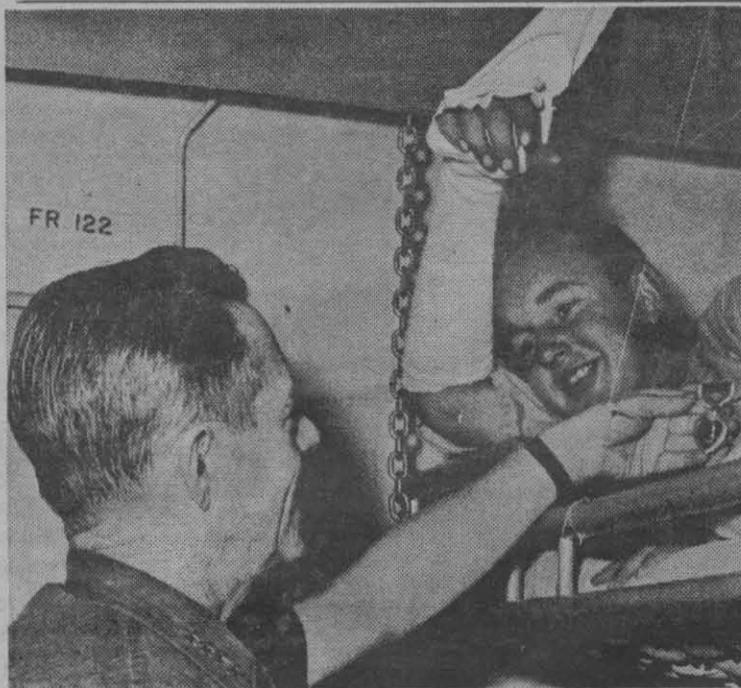
SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 3

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

January 18, 1967



Purple Heart

HM3 Jerry Raef, U.S. Navy, had his Purple Heart Medal, for wounds received in action in Vietnam, pinned on by Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps. Raef was aboard the Navy Hospital Ship *REPOSE* at the time of the ceremony. Gen. Greene is making his first inspection tour of Vietnam during 1967.

New assistant CG for 3d Marine Div.

DONG HA—Brigadier General Michael P. Ryan replaced Brigadier General Lowell E. English as assistant 3d Marine division commander at this forward Marine combat base last week.

Ryan came from Okinawa where he commanded the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade.

A holder of the Navy Cross, the British Distinguished Service Cross and other medals, Ryan

Bronze Star for PF soldier

DA NANG—Sergeant Do Sinh became the first known Vietnamese enlisted man to receive an American combat decoration Jan. 2 when Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, commanding general, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, pinned a Bronze Star Medal on the Vietnamese Popular Forces soldier.

Sinh, a platoon leader with Combined Action Company B-1-5, received the medal for his actions Dec. 8, 1966.

Acting on information supplied by a personal source, Sinh led his platoon to surround the hamlet of Mieu Ma. The platoon was taken under heavy fire. In the ensuing firefight, four Viet Cong were killed and 12 Viet Cong suspects apprehended.

The citation reads in part, "without regard to his own personal safety, Sgt. Sinh, constantly exposed himself to enemy fire in maneuvering his unit against the enemy. He sustained painful wounds early in the action."

Among the 12 VC suspects captured were parts of an assassination group, a political group and a reconnaissance team.

participated in five Pacific campaigns during World War II.

Born in Galveston, Tex., and commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1940, he attended the National War College in 1963-1964 and was promoted to brigadier general in January 1966. He is married and has two children.

English left Dong Ha down a street lined with Marines and soldiers representing all units of his command. Since his arrival in Vietnam in December 1965, he was the commander of Task Force Delta during the heavy fighting of Operations Hastings and Prairie as well as assistant division commander.

English has been selected for promotion to major general and goes to San Diego, Calif. where he will be in command of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot.

PHU BAI — The 3rd Medical Battalion was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation ribbon by General Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, January 6 for service from July 1965 to February 1966.

The unit was cited for providing support to Marines engaged in combat operations against insurgent Communist guerrilla forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

The battalion is part of the 3d Marine Division and is composed almost entirely of Navy doctors and hospital corpsmen. Some Marines hold administrative positions in the battalion.

Most of the doctors and corpsmen in the unit serve alongside Marines in infantry and support units in the field. Others man

field hospitals and operating rooms to bring rapid medical aid to injured and wounded Marines and Navymen.

The citation reads in part:

"Rendering invaluable medical assistance to the III Marine Amphibious Force and other Naval forces throughout the period, the officers and men of the 3rd Medical Battalion, despite shortages of personnel and medical supplies — and adverse conditions of heat, humidity and monsoon rains — succeeded in reducing the mortality rate of wounded U.S. Marines to the lowest figure in wartime history."

It also said the unit built three semi-permanent hospitals while concurrently furnishing support to four major Marine operations.

It was cited also for contributing in the fields of medical and dental training as well as in medical treatment through civic action programs in civilian schools and communities of the I Corps area.

In addition to Headquarters and Service, "A", "B", "C" and "D" Companies of the battalion, the following units which served with the unit during the dates indicated are authorized the award.

"Charlie" Company, 1st Medical Battalion, 3rd Dental Company; Graves Registration Team, Headquarters Company, Force Logistics Support Group; Graves Registration Team, Headquarters Company, Force Logistics Unit-2; and Medical Section, Supply Company, 3rd Service Battalion.



Machine gun position

Leathernecks from the second platoon "E" Co., Seventh Marines, move into a machine gun position while under heavy fire during Operation Sierra, a search and clear operation being conducted 15 miles south of Quang Ngai City. Marines have killed more than 100 Viet Cong since the operation began Dec. 12.

(Photo by Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

LtGen. Chapman's report on Vietnam

(Following are excerpts from an opening statement by Lieutenant General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., Chief of Staff, Headquarters Marine Corps, at a Press Conference at the Pentagon. This is the report Gen. Chapman made following his recent 11-day tour of facilities in the Western Pacific.)

The purpose of my trip was three-fold: First, this was my first visit to Vietnam since we had commenced landing of Marine combat troops in that troubled country 18 or 19 months ago. I wanted to see for myself the terrain, the installations, the difficulties and the problems out there that we are confronted with in providing support back here, and I wanted to work on these problems with some current first-hand knowledge of the situation out there.

Second, as Chief of Staff at Headquarters Marine Corps, I am in the management business and I wanted to evaluate for myself how the management procedures under which we are presently operating are actually working out in the field under combat conditions.

Third, I wanted to get a look at the overall situation out there to determine if we back here at Headquarters can do a better job in supporting our Marines and the Marine programs overseas, particularly in Vietnam.

I mentioned that I am in the management business, and inasmuch as the operational direction of Marine units belongs to the operational commanders—specifically the specified and unified commanders—my

main areas of responsibility are in the programming of Marines who are fighting this war and the material they must have in order to fight it effectively. In other words, the programming of people and things.

To outline for you the magnitude of the problem of sustaining almost 22% of the entire Marine Corps in Vietnam in a combat commitment, I must tell you that our personnel programs must provide for the effective transfer of 10,000 men per month in Vietnam—5,000 into the country as replacements for the 5,000 who will return to the United States and other Marine assignments. In the over 62,000 Marines in-country we find all the skills that are classified and used within the Marine Corps, approximately 500 of them, from optical repairmen to liquid oxygen men. Of course, their replacements must possess the same skills as the Marines they are replacing. Further, prior to arrival in Vietnam, they must be programmed to receive special training oriented towards Vietnam duty at our Staging Battalion at Camp Pendleton; and they will be further processed through our Transient Center at Okinawa.

We have managed to meet all of our personnel requirements to date and I can assure you that we shall continue to do so in the future.

With regard to the management of things—the material which (Continued on Page 9)

SEA TIGER

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

Published each Tuesday by the III Marine Amphibious Force. The SEA TIGER complies with Marine Corps Order P5600.31 and MCCO P5720.44 and is printed with appropriated funds, by The Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. The SEA TIGER subscribes to and receives material from the Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB) whose material herein may be reprinted provided credit and no other copyrights are involved. All photographs are official U.S. Marine Corps Photos unless otherwise credited. Photographs submitted from other sources outside the Marine Corps for publication in the SEA TIGER become the property of The SEA TIGER. Material submitted for publication in the SEA TIGER must reach the Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force, FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602, on Tuesday of the preceding publication week. Statements, views and opinion expressed in The SEA TIGER are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps and should not be interpreted as directive in nature.

Circulation this issue 36,000



Health security

The Military Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966 are major steps in providing medical care for military personnel and their families at civilian facilities.

When a military family is assigned to a remote area or the service member is separated from his family due to overseas assignment, it is often necessary to rely on civilian medical sources if sickness or accident strikes.

Knowledge that large medical bills will not deplete the family savings and that adequate medical care is available for his family, is vital to a serviceman's peace of mind.

The 1966 program brings this assurance. It expands the existing civilian medical program for dependents of active duty personnel and, for the first time, extend civilian care to retirees, their dependents and eligible dependents of deceased military personnel.

Benefits for most dependents of active duty personnel went into effect October 1 and benefits for all others eligible under the program began January 1, 1967.

For you, the man in uniform, the Medical Benefits Amendments of 1966 provide necessary health care at minimal personal expense for your family when government medical facilities are not available.

You can expect to hear a great deal more about the new medical benefits.

To keep your personal affairs in good order, make sure that you retain complete information on the new program, that you understand it and that your dependents understand it. (AFNB)

Lonely Seabee detachment keeping vital road open

DA NANG — If it rains any where around Da Nang, it rains on Monkey Mountain. It is there that a five-man detachment of Seabees struggles against the elements to keep open a vital road between a radar station and an antiaircraft missile battalion. The torturous 2.8 mile stretch of hairpin turns and steep embankments is the only supply link to the air defense outpost.

Monkey Mountain is like a rain forest, with at least one good downpour a day. The rain can wash out four feet of road an hour if the Seabees don't keep it with their dump trucks, rock crushers and sandbags.

In the summer the temperatures top 130 degrees. In the winter it can get bitterly cold—the job is unpleasant, frustrating and exhausting, but it also is essential.

Once, a heavy rain washed out six feet of road on both sides and carried away the concrete gutters installed to prevent such a washout. Huge boulders often slough off upper embankments and come crashing down onto the road during a storm.

The surrounding country is filled with snakes and Viet Cong, but the Seabees labor away at their vital task, glad to remain in their little hut on top of Monkey Mountain. They know their job is important.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New pen pals:
Mr. and Mrs. Les Morrison
1410 Regan Avenue
Coquitlam, New Westminster
B. C. Canada
Janice Otto (21)
688 13th S. E.
Mason City, Iowa 50401
Wendy Naylor (18)
7576 140th Street
North Surrey, B. C. Canada
Kathy Hoover
Star Rt. B Box 194
Vidalia, Louisiana

Maria DiPalma
16 Central Avenue
Port Chester, N. Y. 10573
Bernadette Tracy (17)
25 Andesortown
Park West
Belfast, North Ireland
Sharma O'Connor
4978 Winslow Drive
Columbus 13, Ohio

Bea Podbielski (20)
3008 Marvin Avenue
Erie, Penna. 16504
Donna R. Wright (18)
30 Indigo Street
Mystic, Conn. 06355
Dorothy Kimball
Route L Box 68A
Ferriday, Louisiana
Pam Salveggio (16)
334 Orizaba
Long Beach, Calif. 90814

Marie L. Mueller (18)
1208 Mount Avenue
Verona, Penna. 15147
Mrs. Ginnie Estrada (26)
3468 Peck Avenue S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97302
Wanda Good (14)
RFD No. 1
Hudson, Maine
Jane Thompson (17)
638 Poulson Avenue
Clifton, N. J.



Gen. Walt decorated

Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam, congratulates Lt. Gen. L. W. Walt, CG, III MAF, after awarding him the Vietnamese Medal of Merit, First Class.

Corporal's fighting hole in ammo dump center

By: Sgt. Dave Small

PHU BAI—Like the little old lady who lived in a shoe, there's a young Marine who has little privacy—it isn't due to an overload of children, it's more of an explosive intrusion.

He's the non-commissioned officer in charge of an ammunition dump on Operation Chinook which supplies an infantry battalion, two artillery batteries and two mortar sections. Not only that—he lives in the middle of it.

For Corporal Richard D. Lundee his attempted forceful eviction came in the early in the morning hours last week. "I" Company, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment was hit hard by a Viet Cong force. The Marines were running low on ammunition. Lundee and other Marines were working frantically to resupply "I" Co. and support units.

The tempo of incoming mortars and small arms fire was beginning to pick up while the crew loaded ammunition for the mortars and 105mm howitzers aboard trucks.

The next barrage of enemy mortar fire fell much too close to the ammo dump, and Lundee's commanding officer told everyone to clear the ammo dump and head for their fighting holes.

"I did," grinned Lundee, "but

it so happens my hole is in the middle of the ammo dump."

"I was halfway to my hole when I heard the captain yell for someone to get a loaded ammo truck out of the dump, so I turned and started back."

Another Marine had already reached the truck full of ammo but Lundee spotted a light weapons carrier load of ammunition sitting alongside it.

The Viet Cong landed several 120mm mortar shells within 50 to 75 yards of Lundee and the ammo-laden "mule" as he headed from the dump.

When the 3d Division Marine had the vehicle in a relatively safe area he raced back to the ammunition dump and his fighting hole.

"It's almost like a fly making his home in a spider's web," the member of "A" Co., 3d Shore Party Bn. said.

an roulette. When we put a cigarette in our mouths, it's like slipping another cartridge into the chamber of the revolver.

We think of ourselves as reasonable, intelligent people. We take our vitamins, coddle our head colds, fret about our weight, and continue to smoke ourselves toward a premature grave.

Are we just stubborn?? Or do we know what the "weed" is doing to us physically?

As a cigarette smoker, you are ten times as likely to die of lung cancer as your buddy who doesn't smoke. Death rates from coronary heart disease in the middle years are from 50-150 per cent higher among heavy cigarette smokers than among those who don't smoke.

Smoking is one of the most important causes of bronchitis. Cancer of the mouth, throat and gullet occur more frequently in smokers. And cancer of the bladder recently has been connected with the same awful habit.

At this stage of the game, why not light up a cigarette and enjoy it? If you're smart, it should be the last one you'll ever smoke.

The death rate increases with the number of cigarettes smoked each day. In a study of men, the results went like this—less than 10, 10-19, 20-39 and 50 cigarettes or more per day, death rates are respectively about 40 percent, 70 percent, 90 percent and 120 percent higher than for the comparable group. How many do you smoke each day?

The real killer among smokers is lung cancer. And if you think that lung cancer is curable, you're an incurable optimist. When 95 out of every 100 patients die within five years of surgical and other treatment, attention must be focussed on prevention rather than cure.

And while the death rate among men from lung cancer is about seven and a half times that of women, the girls should still be concerned. Lung cancer in women cigarette smokers is on the increase. If the incidence of coronary disease, cancer and emphysema is still lower than among men, this is because women have been smoking for a shorter period—and perhaps less heavily and with less inhalation.

In the face of all this, is it worth giving up cigarettes? Not if you enjoy playing Russian roulette. And if you do, the best of luck to you. You'll need it! (Adapted from Canadian Forces Sentinel)

Huge order

U.S. Marine Corps personnel programs must provide for effective transfer of 10,000 men per month in Vietnam. This represents 5,000 coming into the country as replacements and 5,000 outgoing to other assignments.

CAC unit likes work

By: Sgt. Jerry Simmons

DA NANG — Six members of Combined Action Company-32 have extended their tours in Vietnam to stay with their unit.

Led by their platoon sergeant, Sergeant C. P. Soape, the others include: Lance Corporal Richard Randall; Corporal John McGahan; Corporal Thomas Tobin; and Lance Corporals Robert Branscombe and James B. Williams.

CAC-32 is located in the village of Hoa Phu about 15 miles from Da Nang.

"We have become a part of the community and the people know that we are their friends," said Soape. "On many occasions the Viet Cong have set booby-traps for us and the villagers have found them and brought them in," he added.

One of the newest members of CAC-32 is Hospital Corpsman Mike Jacobson. "Doc" has one of the most demanding jobs in CAC, treating the village sick. "I treat about 25 patients daily for injuries ranging from minor cuts to gun shot wounds," said Jacobson.

"We have a lot of ideas to help the villagers," said Soape. "For example, we want to purify their wells as soon as the monsoon season is over."

"I think most of us extended our tours here to carry out such plans," he said.

New service by Seabees

CHU LAI—A new service for personnel of the Chu Lai combat base is operated daily by Navy "Seabees," as one of the services of the Naval Support Activity.

The service, which began on Christmas Eve, extends from Sand Ramp, where supplies are loaded from the LSTs, to the Air Freight Terminal at Marine Aircraft Group 13, making a total of 18 stops. Two buses shuttle between these points from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., making each stop in either direction once each half hour.

Lieutenant Alan K. Riffey, CEC, USN, Public Works Officer of the Naval Support Activity, organized the service with the help of Marine Major Frank B. Okonsky, Motor Transport Officer, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division. Lt. Riffey expects that the service will be extended to encircle the entire base in the near future.

'When's that SP due to arrive?'

DONG HA — "Did the 'SP' get in yet?"

"When's that 'SP' packet goin' to get here?"

"Rats and ammo been comin' in all day, but what about the SP?"

Marines in units all over Vietnam ask these questions as they await the arrival of the cardboard treasure-chest of goodies known as the sundries packet.

Inside the "SP" are quantities of all the minor things that make life more livable in a combat zone.

One package contains toiletries such as razors, blades, shaving cream, and soap, all necessary to keep field Marines looking and feeling civilized.

Another package contains candy and chewing gum. Many varieties are distributed to help break the monotony of C-rations.

Still another package holds carton after carton of cigarettes, cigars, pipe and chewing tobacco.



Combat clean-up team

A Marine of the 2d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, stands guard during a break in a search and destroy operation conducted south of Chu Lai.

(Photo by LCpl. Ronald A. Lowes)

Rifle range near Laos border newest of rare RVN ranges

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

PHU BAI—"We'll soon see if Santa Claus is in the 'butts' today," hollered Gunnery Sergeant Kenneth E. Van Hout to 10 Marines with M-14 rifles assembled on the firing line before him.

Although it was Christmas Day and grey clouds were drizzling rain, range chief Van Hout had a tight schedule to run.

The setting was not a gleaming new rifle range at a stateside Marine base—this was a Marine range at Khe Sanh, five miles from the Laotian border.

At the newest of only a few Marine ranges in Vietnam, new and old techniques are being combined to promote the Marine expert marksmanship tradition. The purpose of the range and its instruction is to enhance the Marines ability to hit what he's shooting at. A secondary mission is instilling self-confidence in the individual rifleman.

The Marine unit here—1st Battalion, Third Marines—has long been an advocate of expert rifle shooting.

In November a plan was conceived to construct a 200 yard range for Marines of the battal-

ion and its attached units. By mid-December, "England Rifle Range," named for GySgt. Eric E. England, the battalion's chief scout, was officially dedicated and formally opened.

The 10-target range, built at practically no cost to the Marine Corps, was fashioned from scrap materials and is a model of Marine ingenuity. The targets are C-ration box outer casings, with hand painted bulls-eyes.

Each target is fastened to a pair of bamboo poles, and propped into place. Marines "pulling" targets at the range

are well-protected. They stand four feet below the level of the targets, behind dirt fill and rows of sandbags.

In the two weeks before Christmas, two-thirds of the battalion and its attachments had fired the range.

When the operation is finally perfected, the entire unit will be able to fire their weapons at least once a month. How many times other than that depends on the enemy and the live targets they provide.

Patrol leader learns lectures on VC true

By: LCpl. Lowell L. Carson

DA NANG—What had started out as a routine patrol into a new area for Marines of "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, First Marines, turned into a nightmare of twisting jungle trails and Viet Cong booby traps.

Staff Sergeant Sheldon J. Bathurst said it was hard to believe.

"They told me before coming to Vietnam that the VC use these devices but during my tour this was my first encounter with such deadly traps."

The patrol leader was referring to seven Malayan whips, four "deadfalls," a booby-trapped 81mm mortar round Chinese Communist grenade his patrol had discovered earlier some 10 miles south of Da Nang.

A Malayan whip is a freshly-cut stalk of bamboo, stationary at one end while the opposite is bent so that when tripped, it whips across the trail. Spikes are embedded on the whip-end of the bamboo.

A "deadfall" is a spike-infested can or bucket filled with mud or cement for added weight, and utilized much the same as the bucket-of-water-over-the-door gag, only with deadly results.

The 1st Division Leathernecks destroyed all the traps encountered and continued the patrol.

The gunny

By 2nd Lt. C. B. Tyler
and Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI — He shouts orders like a drill instructor; he has wisdom of a Solomon; and in battle he is everywhere, fighting, leading, advising and helping the wounded.

He is one of the oldest Marines in his outfit and his officers and men regard him with fierce respect and pride.

Who is he?

Gunnery Sergeant Elhanan Pennington is the name. He's company gunny for "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division.

He is the company commander's right arm. To his men he is a combat professional and young officers look to him for advice and experience.

The 29-year-old Pennington from Hazard, Ky., has been with the company for 11 months. He has been on countless operations against the Viet Cong, and yet he maintains the excited enthusiasm of a newcomer.

When Echo Company made contact with the VC during a recent operation, the gunny was out in front, leading the chase against the fleeing enemy.

On another occasion, after a long night walk in the rain, Pennington found dry places for his men to sleep, made certain they were given rations and then slept in a spot less protected than the ones he gave away.

That's part of his job—taking care of his men. He broods over them like a worried father, offering whatever help and comfort he can to ease the rigors of war.

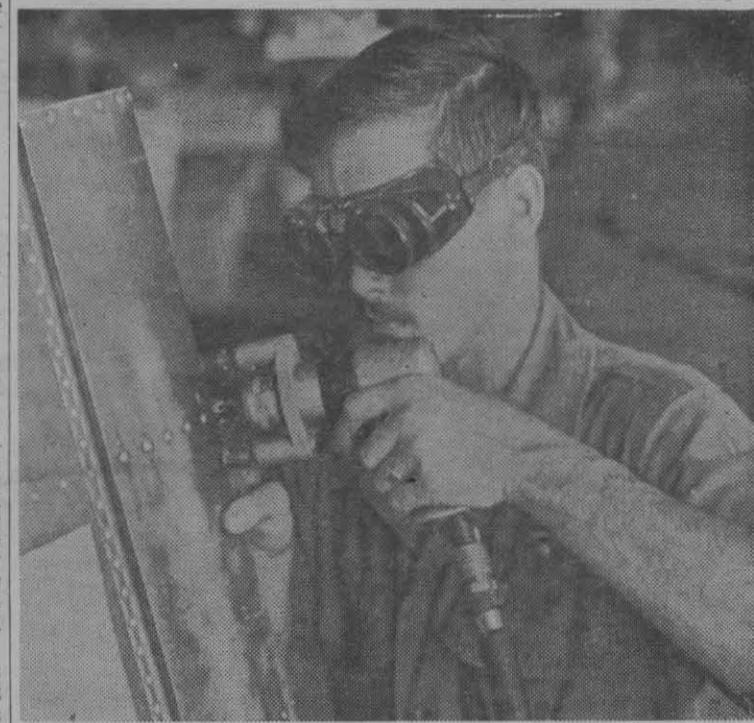
One wheel landing

CHU LAI — Major Ronald C. Andreas (VMFA-323) landed his F4B Phantom jet on one main wheel Dec. 13.

Andreas, after returning to the Chu Lai area attempted to lower his landing gear. The nose and right wheel lowered normally but the left wheel remained locked in the wheel well.

A landing signals officer (LSO) established radio contact with the disabled aircraft and informed Andreas that an attempt was being made to set up another radio at the field's arresting gear.

Following two passes, Andreas began an on-speed, on-glide approach to touchdown 10 feet in front of the arresting wire.



Technical skill

Cpl. Claude E. Tavernier puts the finishing touches on a side panel of a CH-46 "Chopper". Tavernier is a member of a H&MS Airframe shop at Ky Ha airfield. The shop is responsible for the inspection and repair of all MAG-36 aircraft.

(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)



Daily chores at MAG-36

Crew chief Cpl. Billy B. Goldston (left) and LCpl. Harvey R. Rasnick, HMM-265, clean their .50 caliber machine guns after completing their last mission of the day at MAG-36 Forward. Crew members of a CH-46 "Sea Knight," they are presently engaged in combat operations near the DMZ.

(Photo by LCpl. Russ Cowen)

"No VC" says trapped enemy

By Sgt. Ray Truelove

DONG HA—A patrol by a "K" Company, Fourth Marine Regiment platoon netted two captured Viet Cong, a cache of grenades, medical supplies, ammunition, and two weapons last week on Operation Prairie.

"We were sweeping south toward a small village when the VC opened up with carbines," said Staff Sergeant Henry A. Wesley platoon commander. "Eight or nine rounds were fired before we spotted where they were coming from."

Three fire teams started toward a small hut in leaps and bounds covering each other by fire as they moved. Several minutes elapsed before one team reached it.

"When we got to the hut, Private First Class Mike Cavazos and myself were the first ones in," said Lance Corporal Robert Gonzales. "As I entered the hut, I spotted a Viet Cong dropping into a hole in the corner of the hut.

"Cavazos and myself tried to talk him out of the hole, but he wouldn't come out. Then, all of a sudden, he jumped out and started for the door, so I grabbed him and threw him against the wall.

"He came off the wall and managed to get out the door. I called for him to halt several times but he kept going, so Cavazos shot him in the hip."

While Cavazos and Gonzales were stopping the VC, the rest of the fire team and several other men entered the hut. Gonzales decided to check the hole. There was another Viet Cong there, and Gonzales ordered him out. "No VC, no VC," was the only reply

from the hole.

Several seconds later he heard a "popping" sound. At the warning "grenade", everyone ducked for cover. The grenade exploded, but no one was hurt.

Wesley emptied his 45 pistol into the hole, and two fragmentation grenades were thrown in.

Ten minutes later, Gonzales entered the hole and brought out the other wounded VC.

1st Armored Company packs quite a punch

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The newest addition to the Marine Corps' vehicular arsenal in Vietnam is finding it harder and harder to pick a fight.

The Viet Cong have learned the tracked vehicles of the 1st Armored Company, 1st Marine Division, packs quite a punch.

The company's vehicles are amphibian tractors with a turret similar to a tank. But instead of a 90mm gun, they carry a 105mm howitzer, plus a .30 caliber machine gun.

The vehicles are designed primarily to lead a beach assault, then to serve as field artillery pieces as the assault moves inland.

In Vietnam, they serve a dual purpose, as field artillery and on river patrol during sweeps and operations.

Two tractors, for example, served as a blocking force on the Vien Dien River during a recent operation with the 3rd Battalion, First Marine Regiment.

The Viet Cong fired from ambush positions repeatedly during the four-day operation. But the tractors responded with more firepower than the guerrillas could handle, and the VC never lingered for a second round.

"When we first arrived," one Marine explained, "the Viet Cong didn't realize the vehicles carried a howitzer and several times bit off more than they could chew. Now, when they see a turret start to swing around, they leave the area fast."

The company, the only one of its kind on active duty with the Marine Corps, was reactivated June 1, 1966. Two groups of graduates from schools at Camp Pendleton, Calif. supplied most of

Happiness is...

By Cpl. Tom Judge

DONG HA—Republic of Vietnam—the monsoon season.

Happiness is: a hot shower in a rear area . . . a dry place to sleep . . . a hot cup of coffee . . . dry socks . . . dry boots . . . a wooden sidewalk . . . a bunker in a mortar barrage . . . artillery coming in on VC mortars . . . air strikes in view . . . a B-52 raid nearby . . . a full night's sleep.

It's also: A dry fighting hole . . . mail from home . . . a newspaper less than a week old . . . a sundries packet . . . a dry cigarette . . . hot soup . . . an extra blanket . . . a dry floor . . . a successful ambush . . . a USO show . . . a new issue of PLAYBOY.

And: Daylight while on watch . . . a warm rack at night . . . a radio with stateside music . . . a corpsman beside you . . . someone to talk to during a mortar attack . . . shaving with warm water . . . a five minute let-up in the downpour.

People lack liberty says VC defector

Lieutenant Colonel Le Xuan Chuyen, for 20 years a Communist Party member and a North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong regimental commander for 15 years, has become the highest ranking VC to come over to the Republic of Vietnam. Here are excerpts from his story as printed in the Vietnam Press.

Lieutenant Colonel Le Xuan Chuyen, 37, was born in Quang Dinh Province in North Vietnam where he joined the Viet Minh Forces in 1945 and the Communist Party a year later. In the next 15 years he gradually progressed through the ranks, holding important posts at company and battalion level until finally becoming a regimental commander in 1950 when he was also promoted to his present rank.

In an interview Chuyen said he was infiltrated South by the sea route and landed in Kien Hoa Province in the Mekong Delta in July of 1964. He became regimental commander of the 165A regiment and later deputy chief

of staff for the Fifth Viet Cong Division.

Chuyen, very articulate and well-schooled in Communist ideology, said it took a long time for him to decide to seek amnesty, which he finally did last August when he escaped while hospitalized for an illness and turned himself in to government units. "The reasons came together and became meaningful over a long time," he said.

The factors that loomed paramount, he said, were the conviction that the war was wrong, a realization that he had no personal freedom, a feeling that his Party's economic methods were doomed to failure, and disgruntlement over the limitations placed on his military career by political considerations.

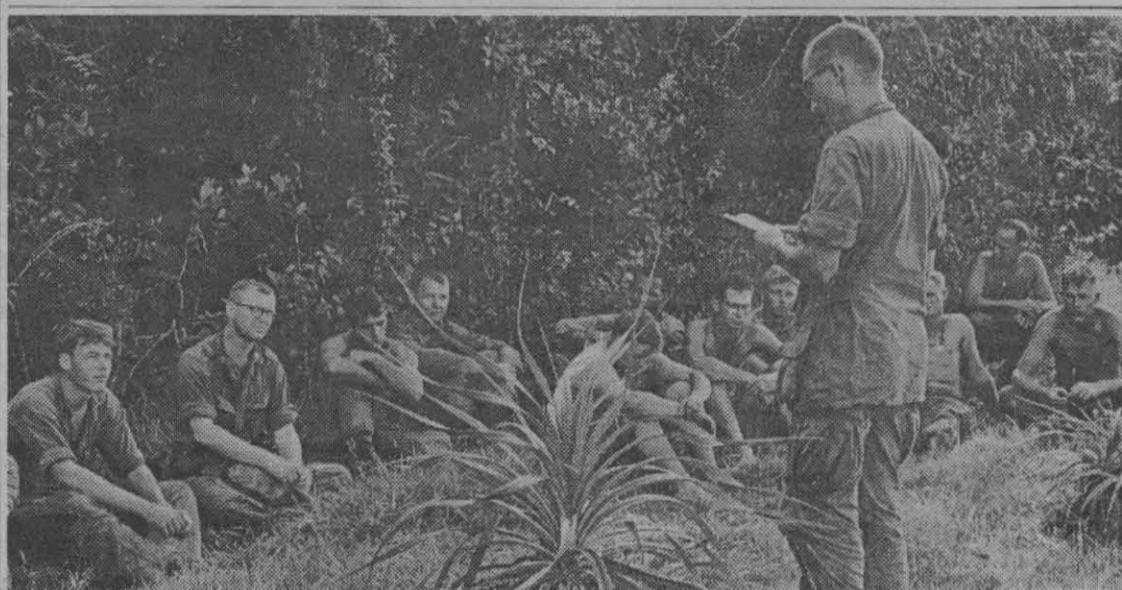
Concerning the war Chuyen said he came to feel it was "designed to impose the yoke of Communism upon the Vietnamese people" and that the way a man wants to live "must not be imposed on him!" He said, "All People should be free to choose what regime they want to live under . . . if you employ military force to win a victory, it will not be permanent, but only an ephemeral one that will not last for a long time."

Chuyen said he has devoted many hours studying the principles, doctrines, theories and ideology of Communism. I have also studied the theories of Capitalism and the way in which both sides choose to live. Despite being what he called a 'fervent' communist he said he came to the conclusion that under the North Vietnamese regime 'the people lack liberty. In the North there is only one party, and that is the Communist Party, and there is no one who is allowed to be against them. If there is a person who does not have the same opinion as the government, he does not have the freedom to speak openly.'

New USO

The men of Charlie Company of MCB-FIVE worked day and night to finish the new USO building in Da Nang East. Some of the crew worked 36 hours straight, taking breaks only for meals.

A large game room is the main space. This is equipped with pool tables, ping pong tables, checkers, darts and card tables. A lounge and magazine display off of this space provides an opportunity to relax for the troops that come in and out of the field to enjoy the facility.



Worship in the field

Marines of the 2d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st MarDiv, attend religious services conducted by Chaplain William C. L. Asher during a search and destroy operation south of Chu Lai. (Photo by LCpl. Ronald A. Lowes)

SPORTS

Pro Hockey Standings

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
New York	19	11	7	45	107	82
Chicago	19	11	5	43	122	91
Toronto	16	11	8	40	94	94
Montreal	15	15	4	34	85	82
Detroit	13	21	3	29	105	123
Boston	8	21	7	23	86	127

Thursday Night

New York	3	Boston	0
Detroit	4	Chicago	1

(Only games scheduled).

Friday

(No games scheduled).

Saturday

Boston at Montreal.
Detroit at Toronto.
New York at Chicago.

Sunday

Montreal at Boston.
Toronto at Chicago.
New York at Detroit.

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Hershey	23	11	4	50	161	112
Quebec	18	15	3	39	138	132
Baltimore	18	14	2	38	119	111
Springfield	13	18	3	29	121	137
Providence	6	24	7	19	105	167

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	22	9	4	48	134	108
Rochester	22	12	2	46	162	109
Cleveland	17	14	3	37	137	118
Buffalo	5	27	6	16	102	186

Thursday Night

(No games scheduled).

Friday

Buffalo at Baltimore.

Providence at Rochester.

Cleveland at Springfield.

Saturday

Baltimore at Cleveland.

Buffalo at Hershey.

Rochester at Pittsburgh.

Quebec at Springfield.

Sunday

Baltimore at Buffalo.

Pittsburgh at Cleveland.

Providence at Quebec.

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Oklahoma City	20	9	6	46	124	104
Houston	18	11	5	41	132	106
Omaha	16	14	5	37	132	113
St. Louis	9	14	12	30	119	125
Memphis	11	18	6	28	114	141
Tulsa	9	17	10	28	101	131



Thursday Night

EAST

Fordham	56	Columbia	52
Cheyney St.	99	Delaware St.	67
Gettysburg	80	Lafayette	58
Boston Coll.	93	Duquesne	66
Canisius	90	Niagara	76
Roberts	95	Genesee St.	80
Elizabethtown	91	Del. Valley	70
Northeastern	65	Rhode Island	63
Worcester Tech	88	Brandeis	78

SOUTH

Maryland St.	84	Virginia St.	80
Okl. City	97	Jacksonville	92
Clemson	69	Furman	68
N.C. A&T	60	Shaw	46
Norfolk St.	102	Hampton	68
At. Christian	86	Eaton	72
W. Carolina	76	Appalachian	69
Tulane	99	LSU	89
Pfeiffer	69	Campbell	68
Grambling	110	Willey	75
Johns Hopkins	86	Western Md.	76
Union	84	Belmont	43
Chattanooga	77	Oglethorpe	76
Alcorn	106	Arkansas AM&N	100
Lemonoye	121	Midwestern	99
Miss. St.	68	Delta St.	65
Pembroke	70	Wofford	61

MIDWEST

Methodist	91	St. Andrew's	75
Colorado	64	Iowa St.	52
Moorhead	72	Concordia (N.D.)	70
St. Ambrose	69	Ill. Tech	68
St. Thomas	81	Hamline	61
Peru (Neb.)	76	Maryville (Mo.)	69
SW Mo. Baptist	99	Evangel (Mo.)	87
Yankton	88	Sioux Falls	84
Wheaton	102	Ill. Teachers	95
Jamestown (N.D.)	79	Valley City	72
Mayville	81	Minot	72
Southern Colo.	80	Eastern Mont.	73

SOUTHWEST

Tulsa	65	North Texas	59
Southwestern (Tex.)	69	E. Tex. Bapt.	52
Southern U.	88	Prairie View	73
Arlington St.	86	Tarleton	70
Phillips Oilers	82	Pan Am.	60

WEST

Santa Barbara	82	Pepperdine	71
Pacific	74	Whiteman	71
Lewis & Clark	80	Coll. of Idaho	70
Whitworth	87	Seattle Pac.	68



Fuel jettison

A CH-46 Sea Knight (HMM-165), jettisons fuel over Quang Ngai Province. The pilot used this procedure to lighten his craft prior to airlifting a Marine reconnaissance team. (Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

11th Marines 49th Birthday

DA NANG — The Eleventh Marine Regiment celebrated its 49th anniversary January 3 with a cake-cutting ceremony and steak dinner in the regimental mess hall.

The artillery unit, which has performed a variety of tasks since its initial formation in 1918, heard words of praise in messages from commanding generals of two divisions, the III Marine Amphibious Force, and Fleet Marine Force Pacific prior to the ceremonies.

"Your guns will never go silent, except in the cause of peace," said Lieutenant General L. W. Walt, commanding general of III MAF, in his message citing the unit's record in France, Nicaragua, Guadalcanal, Korea and Vietnam.

"If I were a Viet Cong, the thing I would hate the most is the artillery," said Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division.

Since the first elements of the regiment arrived in Vietnam in June 1965, the unit has fired missions in support of 27 major operations, and has fired some 40,000 rounds.

The 11th Marines, originally formed as a light artillery regi-

828 extend

CHU LAI — Eight hundred, twenty-three enlisted Marines and five officers of the 1st Marine Division extended their tour of duty in Vietnam for six months during the month of December.

Cashing in on recent legislation granting 30 days leave, with transportation anywhere in the free world at government expense, most of the Marines chose to visit friends and relatives in the United States.

A few however, took advantage of the opportunity to travel to England, Sweden, other European countries and South America.

Department of Defense statistics reveal that 6,407 U. S. service personnel have lost their lives in RVN through hostile force actions from January 1, 1961 through Dec. 17, 1966. Another 1,472 lost their lives from non-hostile force actions.

Short Rounds

Bronze Star

DA NANG, Vietnam—Corporal Michael T. White was presented a Bronze Star Medal Jan. 2.

White received the decoration during an informal ceremony at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang.

The citation praised his "exceptional courage, professional skill and loyal devotion to duty in the face of enemy fire."

White was flying as crew chief on a UH-34D helicopter of Marine Medium Helicopter-263 assigned the evacuation of three wounded Marines from an insecure landing zone on Oct. 12.

Artillery and fixed wing air strikes were unable to silence enemy gunners still firing on the wounded Marines' unit when the chopper landed. One man had been loaded aboard the plane when the other Marines were pinned down 25 yards away.

White dashed across the landing zone as enemy mortar shells began to burst nearby and assisted the remaining casualties to the aircraft.

"His heroic actions undoubtedly helped save the lives of the seriously wounded Marines," the citation read.

At Breakfast

DA NANG — It was a "Happy New Year" for a 1st Division Marine staff sergeant—two generals promoted him at breakfast in a surprise ceremony January 1.

Gunnery Sergeant Robert J. Dietz was presented his promotion warrant and had the chevrons of his new rank pinned on by Lieutenant General Victor H. Krulak, commanding general, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, and Major General Herman Nickerson, Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division.

Krulak was breakfasting with the Headquarters Battalion staff non-commissioned officers during an inspection tour in Vietnam.

Dietz, NCO of the Division photographic laboratory, was at the breakfast when he was called before the generals and presented his warrant.

"I knew I was on the December selection list," Dietz said, "but I had no idea that the promotion would be presented by two generals."

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1951.

Hobby shop

CHU LAI — The Chu Lai combat base now has a hobby shop, with all the latest paints and model equipment, to occupy spare time.

Marines with a bent for mechanical hobbies can find everything from model airplanes, cars and ships to handiwork kits in leather and wood. A wide variety of new equipment has been requested and ordered, including slot cars, one of the new crazes back stateside.

Punch Bowl

DONG HA — The "Thundering Third" Battalion, Fourth Marines carries its own porcelain punch bowl wherever it goes.

"The Thundermug," is the name bestowed on the huge bowl by Lieutenant Colonel William J. Masterpool, battalion commander.

The bowl was acquired from an Army unit stationed at Phu Bai. The 3rd Division unit has been on the move so much the punch bowl wasn't dedicated until the Marine birthday at Camp J.J. Carroll.

The first honored guest to draw punch from the bowl was Brigadier

General Lowell E. English, assistant division commander.

In red letters on the inside of the bowl is inscribed "official punch bowl of the Thundering Third Battalion, Fourth Marines." On the outside is written, "Honored Guests who have partaken of the thundermug. The names will be listed below.

The battalion sergeant major said, "We hope to have the Thundermug follow this battalion a long way."

First action

PHU BAI—Corporal Ronald L. Linville crouched in a sandbagged bunker. He was in the thick of his first battle after arriving in Vietnam three weeks ago.

Linville with "A" Company, 3rd Shore Party Battalion, was participating in the Fourth Marine Regiment's Operation Chinook 12 miles north of Hue.

Through the din of Viet Cong 120mm mortars the young Marine heard his commanding officer call for him to bring up a light weapons carrier (Mule) and two other Marines to the ammunition dump.

Linville jumped from the bunker, gathered two men and the "Mule", and raced to the ammo dump through small arms fire. He then loaded 105mm howitzer ammunition and drove to the gun battery some distance away. He made three trips to the battery.

As the 3rd Division Marine rested on his mule in the ammo dump the ground shook from three enemy 120mm mortar rounds explosions less than 50 feet away.

"I found a bunker mighty quick," Linville said.

Air Medals

DA NANG—Eight Marines from Marine Aircraft Group-16 received Air Medals during a ceremony held at the Marble Mountain Air Facility New Year's Day.

Major John L. Nolan, former officer-in-charge of the CH-37 Detachment of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-16, made the presentations to: Staff Sergeant Dale A. Hanley; Lance Corporals Wayne J. Herbert, Charles R. Malone, David Rivera, Patrick I. Walsh, and Lawrence R. Flynn; Corporal Gerald P. Daigle and Kenneth G. Nicks, Jr.

The Marines receiving the awards are mechanics and aerial gunners.

After making the presentation, Major Nolan turned command of the detachment over to Major Richard L. Hawley, former commanding officer of Marine Air Control Squadron-6.

Major Nolan is now operations officer of the detachment.

Hide-out

DONG HA — The Viet Cong have many hiding places in the dense mountainous terrain of South Vietnam — and they use them well. Some are beneath the very ground the Marines patrol each day.

Private First Class Vernon H. Baker accidentally stumbled upon a cave last week big enough to accommodate a VC squad. The "H" Company, Third Marines Leatherneck found the cave during a search and destroy mission 23 miles west of Dong Ha.

Moving through the village of Thom Ha, Baker stumbled across a barbed wire entanglement.

"I got caught on the wire, moved around to free myself and saw the hole," Baker said.

The cave was connected to another hole ten feet away. Baker threw in a grenade which collapsed the underground position.

"It feels good to discover the enemy's hiding places, especially where you've destroyed another potential ambush site," Baker said.



Close call

1st Lt. Jack McCracken, a pilot with HMM-165 displays the .30 caliber round that smashed into his boot heel while he was on a resupply mission in Quang Ngai Province, Vietnam. (Photo by Sgt. C. R. Hathaway)

11 Marines receive Cross of Gallantry

CHU LAI—Eleven U.S. Marines were presented the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry for heroic action against the Viet Cong, during ceremonies at Headquarters, 2nd Army of the Republic of Vietnam Division, Quang Ngai, Jan. 3.

Marines receiving the Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star were: Lieutenant Colonel Robert E. Hunter, Jr., G-3 (Operations), Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division; Major Edward F. Fitzgerald, S-3 (Operations), Seventh Marines; Major Warren P. Kitterman, Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marines; Captain Henry G. Williams, Jr., Third 8" Howitzer Battery (self-propelled); and Staff Sergeant Frank H. Hope, Jr. The medals were presented by Lieutenant Colonel Khieu, Chief of Staff, 2d ARVN Division.

During the same ceremony, Brigadier General William A. Stiles, commanding general of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine

Division, presented the Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star to: First Lieutenant Karl J. Ege, "H" Battery, Eleventh Marines; Master Gunnery Sergeant Ronald P. Bartels, Headquarters Company, Seventh Marines; Master Sergeant Robert A. Garrett, Headquarters Company, Seventh Marines; Second Lieutenant Jerry J. Miller, "L" Company, Eleventh Marines; Lance Corporal Bernie E. Bowen, "M" Company, Eleventh Marines; and Corporal Howard M. Miskelly, Headquarters Company, Eleventh Marines.

Last patrol

By LCpl. Lowell L. Carson

DA NANG — "It's my last patrol," said Staff Sergeant Sheldon J. Bathurst, repeating the words he had used that morning as the patrol left the company area.

The words had barely left his mouth when hidden Viet Cong guerrillas poured small arms fire into the Leathernecks of 2d Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division.

The patrol was just emerging from a densely wooded area, preparing to cross an open area of rice paddies.

His own thoughts forgotten, Bathurst, the patrol leader, responded as he had done on countless other patrols. It was second nature to him.

Taking charge of a counter-attack, Bathurst, ran to the front of his patrol and on into the paddies where he scrambled for cover behind a grave.

As the rear elements of the patrol raced from the woods to the paddy dike, Bathurst directed their fire, then led the assault across the open paddies.

Artillery whistled over the advancing men and explosions rocked the ground. Mud sloshed at their feet as they advanced rapidly over the paddy. Behind them a machine gunner sprayed the tree line, providing a blanket of covering fire.

Reaching the trees, the Marines discovered the Viet Cong had fled.

Later the same day as the men ate their rations, Bathurst said aloud, "my last patrol... you'd think they would leave me alone."



It smells

Cpl. James Smith demonstrates his "man detector" for 1st Marine Regiment Marines. The detector can pick up the odors of enemy troops in ambush and warn the Marines with an electric beep. (Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)



Peaceful pause

A lull in the action bring LCpl. Ralph D. Mase and PFC Michael A. Verdi together on an Ontos for a relaxed chat. Mase is with "I" Co., 3d Bn., First Marines and Verdi serves with 1st Anti-Tank Bn.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

"Tet" means New Year

Note: This is the first of a series of articles that will help explain Tet to the troops.

If you were to celebrate New Years, Christmas, All Saints' Day, Mardi Gras, the Fourth of July and everyone's birthday all at the same time the result would be something like Vietnam's Tet.

The Vietnamese consider Tet, the holiday marking the lunar New Year, as the most important occasion on their calendar. This year's three-day observances, 9-12 February, will usher in the Year of the Goat.

The holiday is equally important to all of Vietnam's religions—Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, ancestor-worship and Christianity.

The sacred meaning of Tet involves special ceremonies for the family ancestors, rituals that draw Vietnamese families together more closely than at any other time during the year.

It is a time when everyone tries to be at home, when special meals are prepared for ancestors and placed on family altars, and curfew permitting, when special prayers are said in the temples at midnight.

Appropriately for a new year, Tet is a time for new beginnings, for settling the previous year's business, and for watching for omens of the future. The first visitor, carefully selected when possible, forecasts family fortunes for the year. Behavior during Tet

is a portent of what may be expected the rest of the year.

And Tet is the beginning of the Vietnamese spring, the rebirth of Nature. Flowers are the trademark of the holiday. Some streets are filled with the fragrant blossoms.

The special Tet flower is the bong mai whose simple design is perpetuated in the insignia of Vietnamese Army officers.

Finally, Tet is a time of merry-making, of unicorn dances in the streets, of the staccato pop of

strings of firecrackers (regulations permitting), and of general relaxation, feasting, and exchange of greetings and gifts.

Most activity will come to a halt for Tet for as few people as possible will work. Those that do traditionally expect extra compensation. In Vietnam, as in Asian communities around the world, everything stops for the lunar New Year.

Sacred holiday, new year, spring, and carnival—Tet means a new beginning.

Machine gunner

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

PHU BAI—John M. Herring felt the insistent prod of his assistant machine gunner standing watch in their fighting hole.

Wide awake, the young private first class tried to shield himself against the chilling winds and rain as his assistant told him there were enemy soldiers in front of the position.

The "I" Company, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment Marine took his place behind his machinegun and peered into the blackness to wait out the enemy's first move.

It didn't take long—the Viet Cong soldiers began tossing grenades.

Herring was wounded in the hip immediately.

Vague shadows and flashes of enemy weapons appeared as he fired short bursts from his gun. He continued picking his targets carefully through the next two hours as the VCs continued their human wave attacks.

A Viet Cong machinegun team tried to set up their gun in front of Herring's position to counter his withering fire. He cut them down before they got their weapon loaded.

Two and one-half hours and several hundred rounds later the enemy retreated.

As dawn broke and the battlefield was illuminated, Herring saw the results of his night's work. A dead VC soldier lay slumped over his unused machinegun less than 15 yards from his hole.

Scattered around the gun were 14 more bodies piled where they had fallen under his devastating fire.

Free mail privilege to foreign nations

SAIGON (MACV) — The free mailing privilege for Servicemen in Vietnam has been expanded to include letters to foreign nations.

In announcing its approval of the change, the U.S. Post Office Department emphasized that the word, "Free" must not be used on these letters, as it is on mail to the United States.

Instead, the words, "Postage Paid" or "Port Paye" must be either rubber-stamped or mechanically printed in the upper right corner of the envelope. Military postal workers will do this if the envelope space is blank (do not write or type the words).

Letters will go by air mail if an air-mail envelope is used or if the words, "Air Mail" are written conspicuously on the envelope.



Twin brothers reunion

Marine Cpl. Roger V. P. Burke (right), 1st Recon Bn., points out terrain features to his twin brother, Brian, an Army SP5, from the window of a HMM-165 "Sea Knight". The Georgetown, Conn. brothers were reunited during the Christmas season when Brian, stationed at Pleiku, went to Chu Lai to see Roger, only to find he was with a recon team at an isolated outpost. HMM-165 pilots took the Army NCO to the outpost during a resupply mission.

(Photo by Sgt. R.C. Hathaway)

New flights added to R&R schedules

New flights have been added to R&R schedules so that anyone qualified for R&R should be able to have his request approved in January, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) J-1 officials announced this week.

Additional flights have been scheduled for five R&R locations. Hawaii has proved so popular with Vietnam Servicemen that flights there have been doubled.

Other sites with increased flight schedules are Tokyo, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Taipei.

The announcement pointed out that chances for getting R&R ap-

proved increase if applicants indicate more than one choice among the nine sites now available. Despite the announced increases, some schedules still may not accommodate all personnel who decide to go to one particular place.

In the event a request is turned down because the quota is filled, standby orders may be requested. In another move to make more R&R opportunities available, applications now will be accepted after the cut-off date for booking, these will be processed on a space available basis.

Over six year wait for piece of cake

DA NANG—It took Second Lieutenant Richard R. Osterberg, six and one-half years of continuous service with the Eleventh Marine Regiment to get the first piece of cake at the unit's 49th anniversary celebration Jan. 3.

He was given honor for having the longest continuous service in the regiment.

Osterberg began his current tour with the artillery regiment Aug. 10, 1960, as a staff sergeant. He was selected for warrant officer in 1961, and lieutenant in 1965, while with the Eleventh Marines.

Counting two shorter in 1953 and 1958, he has spent eight of his 15 years in the Marine Corps with the regiment.

He currently serves as survey officer and as meteorology officer for the Da Nang-based unit.

The regimental survey section establishes survey control points to pin-point location of battery guns within 1/100th of a meter.

The meteorological section provides batteries with weather data needed to compute proper changes and elevation for fire missions.

In addition, Osterberg also flies as an aerial observer whenever he gets an opportunity. (He was awarded two Air Medals by Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division, during the anniversary fete.)

His service with the regiment ends in March, when Osterberg will be assigned as an instructor at the U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School, Fort Sill, Okla.

One tooth in mouth worth two in hand

CHU LAI—"One tooth in the mouth is worth two in the hand," is a favorite adage of personnel assigned to the dental clinic at Ky Ha.

"We treat more than 800 patients a month," Navy Lieutenant Jack P. Esvelt, officer-in-charge of the clinic said.

"Our clinic will soon have the capability of processing both upper and lower dentures with the installation of modern equipment," the dentist added.

The clinic also participates in the Marine Aircraft Group-36 civic action program.

The MAG-36 dental team, along with a medical team from the 1st Medical Battalion, makes weekly trips to the island of Ly Son, approximately 20 miles from Chu Lai, to treat villagers.

"We treat up to 40 people a day on our Medical Civil Affairs Program (MED-CAP) trips to the island," said Navy Lieutenant Lyman B. Henderson.

Other members of the unit include: Dental Technician Third Class Larry M. Ackerman; DT2 A.J. Terrado, DT3 Charles D. Lane, and DT3 Ronald E. Swygart.



Recon insertion

Recon Marines scramble from a Sea Knight helicopter of HMM-165 to carry out a mission in South Vietnam.
(Photo by Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

Chinook will be remembered — for VC and monsoon rains

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

PHU BAI—Marines stood huddled around a bonfire. Someone said he thought this must be what it's like on the moon—or anywhere your front practically burns—and your backside freezes.

Wooden ammunition boxes burned briskly as the wind-whipped rain slanted down in sheets.

Facing the fire clad in water-logged flak jackets, jungle utilities, helmets and ponchos, "L" Company, Twenty-Sixth Regiment Marines, braced themselves against the bitter-cold wind. They tried vainly to dry out clothing they had worn wringing wet for days.

It was three days after Christmas and the cloudy, rain-filled overcast showed no signs of breaking. The constant rain, although sometimes a downpour, was in itself bearable. However, the chilling wind which swept it in sheets across the hilly country of Co Bi Thanh Tan, site of Operation Chinook, numbed the body.

It chilled shelters with icy drafts and made movements in wet clothing misery.

Not many Marines slept well the previous night even those who weren't on watch.

Ponchos, bamboo poles and nylon lines were fashioned into shelters from the merciless wind and rain. But the all-night storm caused rivulets of water to run through most of the shelters.

Marines joked about the foxholes they had dug—"An equal amount of muddy water replaces each shovelful of removed mud," said one.

Although the Marines were

cold, the enemy was "hot," but not because of the weather. That morning, giant B-52 bombers made three strikes to the east. They dropped scores of bombs onto Viet Cong concentrations. The blast-flashes illuminated the skyline and the "L" Co. Marines winced at the ground rocking concussions.

"They say we're supposed to get some good chow out here today," one shivering Marine said to his buddy. "They're bringing the stuff out by vehicle from the battalion."

Vehicles began arriving on the hill and platoon guides soon had their hands full. They sorted "the treats" which had been delivered to the wet, cold Marines.

First came C-rations and ammunition. Then such extras as canned hams, loaves of fresh bread, butter, packages and letter-mail, bologna, and crates of oranges. Then canned juices, cigarettes, candy and soap, cans of gasoline, and more wood for bonfires.

Later, word was passed hot onion soup was due at noon, with

hot coffee to follow. "You always hear how hot it is in Vietnam," a Marine said through chattering teeth to no one in particular. "If someone had told me it ever got this cold over here, I'd have thought he was crazy."

"If only it would stop raining for just a while," said another as he warmed his water-wrinkled hands, "maybe we could dry out some clothes. I've been trying to dry socks for three days." Another long, cold, rainy night lay ahead for the company.

The overcast began to dim as evening approached.

Months from now these Marines would remember Chinook as a mission in which they'd met and grappled with two enemies—VC guerrillas and the monsoon rains.

Bronze Star

DA NANG—Sergeant LeRoy D. Schmaus, company commander for Combined Action Company Echo 2, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal Dec. 30, for "heroic achievement in connection with operations against insurgent communist forces while serving with Headquarters and Service Co., Force Logistic Support Group Alpha."

While patrolling an area near the hamlet of Nam O, located near Da Nang, Schmaus' platoon was attacked by an estimated Viet Cong platoon. Under cover of a rocket barrage, the VC began to penetrate the Leatherneck's position.

Although suffering from mortar fragment wounds in the back, Schmaus continued to direct small arm fire against the insurgent enemy force. Reinforcements arrived and the enemy retreated following an hour long firefight.

Only after the wounded had been taken out and the area completely secure did Schmaus allow himself to be evacuated for medical attention.

Works above ground but he doesn't fly

DA NANG — A member of Marine Aircraft Group-16 says he spends three quarters of his working hours above ground level—without flying.

Lance Corporal Robert Miller Jr. is senior member of the group's electric shop.

He and five other Marines are responsible for installing and maintaining electrical wiring in all of MAG-16's buildings and shops at four separate installations.

Four of the electricians are based at the Marble Mountain Air Facility near Da Nang and two are at Phu Bai.

Installing electrical wiring requires a lot of climbing. When connecting a power line to a pole, Miller and his partners work as high as 40 feet above ground with nothing to support them but a pair of spikes, a leather strap, and a sense of balance.

"When you first start climbing you fall a lot, but I've never been hurt," Miller said.

Electricians receive two weeks of training in working atop poles during a 12 week basic electronics course at Camp Lejeune, N.C. Among other subjects studied in the school are theory of electricity, motors, generators, indoor

wiring and field wiring.

Working with the Marines is a 16-year-old Vietnamese called Tu. Tu has had no formal training in electricity and cannot speak English, but is an accepted member of the team.

"Show him something once and he knows it," Miller said.

Like most of the Marines in MAG-16, the electricians work seven days a week, and may be called out at any time of day or night to repair a short circuit or replace a downed powerline.

Seven squadrons rely on the shop for electricity.

Blacksheep strike

CHU LAI — Four pilots of Marine Attack Squadron-214 defied enemy fire and low clouds in supporting Marine ground forces 30 miles southeast of Chu Lai.

Majors James M. Cox, and Elmer Payne, along with Captains Robert Beale, and Frederick Scharar, made 16 passes on an enemy stronghold near a landing zone being used to insert Marine ground forces by helicopter.

Attacking through overcast, the "Blacksheep" A4 Skyhawk jets destroyed four gun positions.



HIGH CLIMBER—LCpl. Robert Miller Jr. an electrician with MAG-16, checks powerlines at the Marble Mountain Air Facility. He estimates he spends three-fourths of his working hours above the ground. (Photo by Sgt. Rich Groscost)

Bus service resumes again

DA NANG—Bus service for the first time in 15 years has been opened up for Vietnamese seven miles southeast of Da Nang.

The service started Dec. 31 through efforts of the 3rd Battalion, First Marines civil affairs section.

Working with a Vietnamese liaison officer, Captain Joseph W. Gibbs arranged for a four mile extension of the civilian bus service past the hamlet of Nui Kin Son.

Gibbs said the service will benefit civilians south of the hamlet who previously walked each day to the market to buy and sell goods.

Marine combined action units patrol the road daily and villagers are urged to "unite in a common effort to keep the Viet Cong from mining the road."

"We'll give you the start but you must keep it going," Gibbs told the villagers.

Response to the bus service was overwhelming. Marines were greeted with applause when the first bus pulled up at the stop.

Good ambassadors

CHU LAI—A Marine major and his wife are both representing America on foreign soil—but he's in Vietnam and she's in Africa.

While Major Glenn H. Downing, serves as air liaison officer for the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, his wife teaches fourth grade at the Rift Valley Academy for American missionary children in Kijabe, Kenya, East Africa.

Both left the United States in May, 1966.

Mrs. Downing and their daughter joined the major's parents in Kijabe, where his father is principal at the academy.

The school is located 40 miles northwest of Nairobi, Kenya's

capital, and serves missionary families from throughout central Africa. The major is a graduate of the academy.

"My grandparents went out as Presbyterians missionaries to Africa in 1900," Downing said, "and my father was born there. He went back in 1933 as an educator and has been there most of the time since."

Downing hopes to return to the United States by way of Kenya when his Vietnam tour is completed.

"I'd like to visit my parents and then take my wife and daughter home with me," he said.

In Vietnam, he leads a Bible study group for the men of his unit on Sunday evenings.



Good try, skipper

1st Lt. Arthur Blades, commanding officer, "A" Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marines, is pulled to shore after he had attempted to take a line across a rainswollen river during a recent search and destroy operation conducted northwest of Chu Lai. (Photo by LCpl. Roger Van Druff)

Marines await Woton's return

By MSgt. G.E. Wilson

DA NANG—Wounded in the foot and cut off from the rest of the reconnaissance patrol during a firefight, Woton crawled underneath the flying bullets to join the other members of the team.

He had been scouting several meters to the front Dec. 30, when he signaled to Private First Class Nicholas J. Wills that the enemy was ahead.

Wills, a scout in the 1st Military Police Battalion, 1st Marine Division, alerted the rest of the patrol and commanded Woton, a Marine scout dog to return.

Before he could respond, heavy fire broke out. Woton was wounded and in the firefight that followed there was no way for the Marines to reach his side.

"It seemed like hours," Wills said, "before he came crawling on his belly through the fire to our position. We called in a 'MedEvac' (medical evacuation helicopter) but it was unable to land."

By the time Woton was lifted out of the area that night he had lost a lot of blood and was suffering from shock.

At the hospital Army Captain Wayne E. Cunningham worked for three hours to extract the bullet from Woton's leg. During the operation Woton stopped breathing six times but was revived by swift action of the doctor.

Cunningham estimates Woton will be out of action for a month but will recover.

For handler Wills and the Marines it can't be too soon.

The thwarted ambush was the sixth that Woton, a German shepherd, had warned Marines of the enemy presence. He was trained at Fort Benning, Ga.

Wills met Woton in July, 1966, when he arrived at the 2nd Marine Scout Dog Platoon training at Fort Benning.

The platoon had already completed a third of its training. Wills was assigned Woton, a 52-pound shepherd donated to the program by an Army lieutenant in Germany. Both students proved quick enough to catch up with the rest of the class.

Arriving in Vietnam in September, the pair have since taken part in 14 reconnaissance patrols.

Woton is one of few scout dogs worked "off the leash". He moves up to 75 meters in front of the patrol, Wills said, and alerts Marines by freezing into a bird-dog-like point.

Wills estimates Woton can detect the enemy up to 300 meters away.

On the day Woton was wounded

the reconnaissance team was on patrol west of An Hoa (southwest of Da Nang). Wills after warning the patrol, called back his dog, and shot a sniper lying prone in the trail.

Wills said it was the fifth time Woton had saved a patrol from walking into an ambush.

"Two of our men dropped their packs and proceeded on their stomachs," said Second Lieutenant John O. King, 23, the patrol leader. "But automatic fire erupted and they made it back fast."

After calling in artillery on the Viet Cong position, the Marines

continued on their patrol.

Later in the day Woton again froze into a point when he smelled trouble ahead. Wills quickly got the message and the patrol moved into cover before the enemy opened up, wounding Woton.

The Marines again called in artillery and air support to spray the area providing the Marines the chance to clear an evacuation zone and be lifted out.

Second Lieutenant Ronald S. Neubauer, Wills' platoon commander, called the team of Wills and Woton "the best scout dog team in Vietnam."



Found a friend

Little Ben, as he is called, spends a happy moment with his friend, Navy doctor A. E. Kirk, MAG-13's medical officer. Ben has been cross-eyed since birth, and Kirk has scheduled the child for an operation that hopefully will leave him with normal vision and appearance. Kirk examined the boy Dec. 30, during a Medcap visit to the village of An Ton, near Chu Lai. (Photo by GySgt. C. V. Stallings)

Chapman's remarks

(Continued From Page 1)

our Marines must have in order to fight the war effectively—I found that in this area, too, we are managing to do a satisfactory job. Our primary logistics organization in Vietnam is the Force Logistics Command which has the mission of providing combat supply, services and maintenance for III MAF and the Korean Marines in the I Corps area.

In carrying out this responsibility, the Force Logistics Command handles over 1000 tons of material each day. This includes over 50,000 separate items of supply. It stocks repair parts for all of our equipment from truck engines to radio transistors. In the area of maintenance, the Force Logistics Command is responsible for repairing and maintaining in a serviceable condition approximately 70,000 pieces of equipment. Also the responsibility of the Force Logistics Command is the coordination of the movement of all Marine Corps supplies between all points in Vietnam and between all points in the Western Pacific and the United States.

The problems involved in sustaining a force this size in a combat environment are not particularly easy ones to solve—but they are all manageable and they are being solved. I came back to Washington reassured that we have both the material and the men to fight the war in Vietnam effectively and convinced that the Marine Corps is doing an excellent job of carrying out its responsibilities in Vietnam.

In Da Nang we were briefed by General Walt and his senior commanders, visited the Naval Support Activity, and then traveled extensively throughout the I Corps area from Chu Lai and the Korean Marine Corps installations in the South to Dong Ha, Khe Sonh and Camp Carroll in the north.

At all installations, I found our Marines to be extremely hard-working and enthusiastic about meeting and overcoming the challenges involved in their Vietnam assignments. Two programs appeared to be particularly noteworthy in this regard. The first one is that of the Combined Action Companies. In this program, General Walt has assigned a squad of Marines plus a Navy Corpsman to work with a Popular Forces unit in a village which has been liberated from the Viet Cong. In concept, the Marines reinforce the Popular Forces unit and through their participation in Popular Forces actions and training programs, strengthen the Vietnamese soldier's own ability to guarantee the security of his own village area.

I visited two such units. The first was at the village of Hoa Phu which is about 10 miles west of Da Nang. The NCO in charge was Sergeant D. E. Soape of Dallas, Texas. He and his Marines were assisting in the defense of the village which has a population of 4600. For the past 5 or 6 years the Viet Cong have extracted anywhere from 30 to 50 percent of the rice harvest. This year the Combined Action Company took charge and not one grain of rice was turned over to the enemy. As a matter of fact, the harvested rice was stored in the CAC compound and was dispensed by the village officials from this secure area.

The other Combined Action unit I visited was at the village of Thuy Phu which has a population of about 5200 and is located about 5 miles south of Phu Bai. Here, the NCO in charge is Sergeant Calvin D. Brown of Norfolk, Virginia. His unit during the past recent time frame has participated in 33 daylight patrols, 30 night patrols and 30 ambushes. His unit has had several contacts but there has not been a successful Viet Cong attack or any terrorist activity in the village since the unit has arrived.

General Walt is pleased with the results achieved through this program and he plans to increase the number of units from the present 50 to 74 in the very near future.

I was also impressed with what our Navy medical personnel are doing in Vietnam in providing treatment for the civilian population in addition to that provided for Marines. I have mentioned the Combined Action units wherein each unit has its own little dispensary manned by a Corpsman who is busy ministering to the medical needs of the populace. In addition, I visited ALFA Medical Company at Phu Bai and discovered that it has added a Vietnamese wing to the hospital which has a capacity of 30 patients. The ward is always filled. Our doctors perform at least nine major operations a month and administer to all types of ills and sicknesses known in that region. It appeared to me that the Vietnamese officials and the patients were most appreciative of the expert medical care they were receiving at the hands of our dedicated Navy medical personnel.

While visiting the Marine air units in Vietnam I looked into the performance, under combat conditions, of some items of equipment which the Marine Corps has developed, such as: TPQ-10, the all-weather radar bombing system; the aluminum matting and all other components of the expeditionary airfield; and the expeditionary bulk fuel storage and dispensing system. All are holding up well in their first exposure to combat conditions.

I found that Marine aviation is carrying its full share of the load in I Corps and is providing yeoman service in support of the ground effort. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing flies approximately 5000 fixed-wing sorties per month in South Vietnam and is running missions around the clock during all weather conditions. Our helicopter pilots add over 30,000 sorties per month in their support of the 1st and 3d Marine Divisions.

If I can use just one word to sum up the attitude of our Marines in Vietnam I would use the word determined. The officers and men alike see the clear need for their presence in Vietnam. They are putting forth their best efforts in a very worthwhile cause and their performances reflect their enthusiastic attitude and the complete dedication to the tasks which must be accomplished.

Operation Cold Drink

CHU LAI — Lance Corporal David C. Scheidel of Communication Section, Headquarters Company, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, wanted a cold drink and did something about it.

In a letter to his father, an officer of Yukon Post No. 160 of the American Legion, he said an ice machine would be an ideal morale booster for him and his fellow Marines during the hot summer months to come.

Mr. Scheidel wrote to his son's commanding officer, saying the

post was interested in raising money to purchase and ship a suitable machine to Chu Lai.

Arrangements as to the right size and type of machine were completed, and the gift arrived Dec. 15, just in time for Christmas.

Plans call for installation of the ice machine in the enlisted mess-hall at regimental headquarters—and a cooler summer this year.



LOADING CHOW—Members of Force Logistics Support Group-B's Logistics Support Area (LSA) at Quang Ngai, operating in support of the 1st Marine Division, rush cases of rations to a waiting helicopter for resupply to field units. (Photo by LCpl. Ronald A. Lowes)

Combat Marines' backstage partner

By: LCpl. Philip Hamer

CHU LAI—Marines on combat operations in the Chu Lai area have a backstage partner that keeps the "beans, bullets and band-aids" moving out to where the action is.

The Logistic Support Area (LSA) at Quang Ngai, approximately 30 miles south of Chu Lai, is a component of Force Logistics Support Group-B, in support of the 1st Marine Division.

The 80-man team supplies fighting Marines with everything from rifle oil and ammunition to clothing and food.

"If we don't have it in stock, we call it in and fly it out to the field—fast." This statement by First Lieutenant James H. Lavelle, officer in charge, characterizes the team's rapid-paced operation.

Speed and efficiency are most important when combat success depends on immediate resupply of specifically requested items.

LSA is not a permanent installation. The area is activated if Marine operations are heavy enough to require a remote support unit beyond Chu Lai.

When combat operations are secured, LSA folds its tents and moves everything back to FLSG-B. The present team has been at Quang Ngai for more than a month.

Truck convoys from Chu Lai roll down Highway 1 with enough cargo to maintain a two to three-day supply of food, ammunition and other essentials at LSA.

Resupply helicopters average five round trips daily between the Quang Ngai supply point and field units, depending on operational requirements. They may carry more than two tons a day—80 percent of it, food and ammunition.

Gunnery Sgt. Charles Campbell, 36 (Bronx, N.Y.), the LSA loadmaster, supervises the loading of resupply orders and insures that the pilot knows the type, weight and destination of the cargo. He keeps records of all shipments.

Normally, four helicopters are assigned to LSA for resupply or for medical evacuation (Med-Evac) missions.

DFC

DA NANG—Two Marine pilots from Marine Aircraft Group-16 were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross Jan. 2.

Both had displayed "an exceptional courage against the insurgent communists (Viet Cong) while in aerial flight" according to their citations.

Captain Lawrence John McDonald was cited for his part in retraction of a Marine reconnaissance team under heavy enemy attack. He is also credited for showing exceptional aeronautical skill as he maneuvered his battle-damaged helicopter from a hot enemy zone.

First Lieutenant Herbert L. Kennedy, Jr. was cited for his role in landing in a zone under intense fire along with seven other helicopters from his squadron. Kennedy then volunteered to make a second flight delivering ammunition and other vital equipment. He was credited with saving the lives of numerous Marines.

Starts New Year right

DA NANG — A quick-thinking Marine fireteam leader killed two Viet Cong and wounded another during a New Year's Day patrol south of Da Nang.

Private First Class Matthew Coleman, 19, was in the lead fireteam on a platoon-size patrol during the two-day New Year's truce, and was checking out a hut near the command post of the 3rd Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division.

As he entered, he saw three guerrillas hiding behind a screen. One threw a Chinese communist grenade at Coleman, who still was in the doorway.

Coleman responded by kicking

the grenade back into the building, where it exploded. Wounded himself by fragments from the blast, he entered the hut firing his rifle, and found two dead Viet Cong and a third severely wounded.

Members of his squad searched the hut and found eight grenades, two pistol belts and a number of Viet Cong documents.

Coleman is in good condition.

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



Twist and shout

A member of the 1st Recon Bn., 1st MarDiv., joins Miss Ngoc My for a twist during a Vietnamese musical variety show presented for the battalion Dec. 23. Miss My, a vocalist, is a member of a Da Nang political warfare group. The show was sponsored by the I Corps Officer's Wives Club. Her partner is PFC Daniel J. Sullivan.

LCpl. sits on bed with VC underneath

By: LCpl. Lowell L. Carson

DA NANG—As the patrol patiently waited until light to assess damage done to the Viet Cong that night, Lance Corporal William B. Davenport sat above a hiding VC also patiently awaiting a chance for a scape in the darkness.

It began at 3 a.m. It was raining and the patrol from "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division was heading for an ambush site when they heard voices in a nearby hamlet.

The patrol leader, Second Lieutenant Louis M. Croy, took four men to investigate. Locating the house where the voices were coming from, Croy slipped around to cover the back while Sergeant Joel Campanella and three others covered the front.

The Viet Cong suddenly made a break. Croy shot one trying to escape through the back of the house as five more spilled out the front.

In the darkness Campanella and his men killed another.

One more was wounded by Corporal Johnny G. Greene.

The wounded VC ran inadvertently into the remainder of the patrol still on the road. In the darkness he disappeared.

Three of the half-dozen Viet Cong were unaccounted for.

Rather than risk a search in the dark, Croy set his men in for the night and detailed them to keep a vigilant watch over the bodies of the dead Viet Cong to prevent their being carried away in the night by their comrades.

Davenport sat awake the remaining part of the night on a bed in the house. He kept watch on one of the enemy bodies lying in the yard in front of him.

Another, that of a live enemy, lay rigidly under the same bed.

During the night the VC did make an attempt to recover the bodies of their comrades, Greene said. The try failed as two more Viet Cong were wounded.

As Davenport left the house the next morning he glanced back into the room. He gave a surprised yell when he saw the VC hiding "under my bed."

The yell brought Campanella to investigate.

"Before I realized it," Campanella said, "the VC had pulled the pin on a grenade. I yelled 'grenade' and flipped out the door. Davenport did the same but not before he put three rounds into the Viet Cong. Because of Davenport's fast thinking, the grenade went off under the VC."

Whether by plan or by accident,

Khe Sanh show

By Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

PHU BAI—No one really felt the light rain which came with cloudy skies here Christmas Day—a top notch Marine talent show took their minds off it.

Clad in rubber rain suits, flak jackets and helmets, 1st Battalion, Third Regiment Marines dined on creamed turkey, then came an added treat.

Show coordinator and master of ceremonies, Corporal L. W. Heiderscheidt, began "D" Company's 14-man revue with a folk-singing duo. Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Daniel J. Wilson played guitar while he and Corporal D. D. McBride sang popular songs and comedy tunes.

Lance Corporal James A. Pruitt and Private First Class Reuben Jones then brought roars to about 200 throats with a comedy skit about the battalion's final defensive lines.

The comics were followed by the "Six Soul Brothers."

Lance Corporal Clarence Dickens and Privates First Class James K. Crew, Frank Smith, James L. Rucker and John Carroll, and HM3 Michael C. Priest made up the crew which rendered a half-dozen "soul songs", and an arrangement of "White Christmas".

A highlight of the show was the singing of Lance Corporal Ralph Robinson, and Privates First Class James R. Schultz and Larry Kazakovich.

In a rather localized slapstick version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," the trio substituted "cartridge" for "partridge" and "grenade rings" for "golden rings," etc., and had the audience forgetting the clouds overhead.

All too soon the 3rd Division troupe completed its nighttime show—the second of four that day throughout the battalion—and packed up for its next performance.

In the northeast the wind parted the clouds to reveal a patch of blue sky.

No guns on R&R

SAIGON (MACV)—"Don't take your guns to town, son, leave your guns at home."

These are the words from a popular western song. They are also words of wisdom for anyone planning an R&R trip.

It is illegal to carry weapons or explosives on R&R. Authorities at the R&R Centers have been instructed to check for these items and confiscate any that are found.

Weapons confiscated at these centers will not be returned to the owner.

In at least one out-of-country site, possession of explosives or firearms can result in four months imprisonment. Host country officials there have indicated that maximum punishment will be given offenders. So watch it, son! "Leave your guns at home."

Sea Tiger Spotlight on:

Combined action companies

By GySgt. Jack Butts

PHU BAI, Vietnam—When Marines formed the first Combined Action Company units south of Phu Bai in August 1965, there were three villages stretched out along four miles of Highway One in the immediate area of operation.

Today, 13 CAC units from two companies encompass more than 34 miles of the highway between the southern tip of Phu Loc District and the southern edge of the ancient Vietnamese capital city of Hue in Huong Thuy District.

In each of these areas somewhere between 4,000 and 9,000 Vietnamese citizens rest easier. Some of the reasons for this are obvious—some more subtle.

One is the almost entire cessation of Viet Cong activity in many of the villages and hamlets. This includes the illegal collection of "rice taxes" from the people who were unable to defend themselves from economic aggression.

Another is the virtual elimination of political assassinations which took the lives of village and province officials, as well as those of many private citizens.

One of the subtleties is hope. Hope for a future free from Communist influence through the helping hand given by 3rd Division Marines manning these outer-limit bastions.

And that is exactly what CAC is. A helping hand given by volunteers for the most exacting type of assignment that could be handed to a man. An assignment which requires tact, diplomacy, a thorough knowledge of military tactics, a smattering of Vietnamese language training—and most important of all—the willingness to give complete understanding to the people's problems.

An indication that the willingness is there, is the enthusiastic reception given Marines by the people.

"The cooperation from district, village and hamlet chiefs, as well as the Popular Forces (PF's) soldiers has been outstanding," said Major Harold S. Dennis, who heads Sub Unit No. 4, home command for the CAC companies.

"The people are particularly anxious to have Marines in their villages," he continued. "There is a spirit of comradeship among them that crosses the language barrier, and eliminates cultural differences with little trouble."

This is due to close living with the people; taking part in village affairs; actually making themselves part of the community. There have been no adverse incidents, from either the Marines or Vietnamese, which could destroy this close harmony between people from such widely diversified ways of life.

Actually there is a four-point program going on aimed at making the CAC mission a success. First and foremost is the security of the village with its outlying hamlets. While carrying out point one, the second easily falls into place. PF soldiers are trained while working and fighting alongside Marines.

In some of the CAC's as many as 60 Popular Forces men live with Marines. Some even command Marine fire teams.

They are being trained for the day when they will assume the role of protectors for their own villages. Great headway is being made in this direction according to the men who really know—the Marines in the villages.

Next in line is the civic action program. This is hand-in-hand work with Marines sharing the villagers' efforts at self improvement. Marines have been involved in the building of schools and market places.

They've worked with blacksmiths, cabinetmakers, and fishermen. Ideas—and work—have been shared by Marines who were farmers in civilian life, with their Vietnamese counterparts. Knowledge has been gained by both.

The Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) has also been instrumental in bringing healthier living standards to the Vietnamese. A full-time corpsman with each CAC squad is on duty 24 hours a day.

He not only treats minor ailments, and cuts and bruises. He also recommends further treatment at U.S. or Vietnamese medical facilities when the patient requires it. Medical teams complete with doctors also visit the villages regularly.

A bonus of the civic action program is the mutual affection between Marines and children.

During spare time, Marines can be found playing games with the children, an old American tradition the Vietnamese seem to enjoy.

This also ties the Marines and the older citizens much closer. Who doesn't like to see their children treated well?

The fourth point is one that may be the most important of all. Gathering intelligence data is sometimes frustrating, but the villagers have been squarely behind the Marines. Information about Viet Cong movements flows in regularly from villages and hamlets, from officials and citizens alike.

An example of this was a 60-man Viet Cong force which moved toward a CAC village last month. Villagers alerted the Marines and PF's who ambushed the would-be attackers, inflicted at least 15 casualties and drove off the unit.

"This voluntary information is the best indicator of the way the people feel about the Marines," said Dennis. "The information in general is completely reliable, and there has never been false information given that we've been aware of."

With the expectation for more CAC units in the future, a school has been established at Phu Bai to train more men for the units.

A nine-day course stressing Vietnamese language, history, religion and traditions of the Vietnamese people, civil affairs and civic action, and a myriad of military subjects used in small unit combat is included in the curriculum.

More than 80 graduates took their places in CAC units during the month of December. All were volunteers in the first place, and most had spent at least six months in country with infantry or support units.

Of the original CAC unit members, more than 15 per cent have extended their stay for six months to remain with their units—and the people. This is an indication of how seriously the Marines themselves take the CAC program.

Some are "a little reluctant", according to Dennis, when they first come to school. After they begin to understand the Vietnamese people a little better, and the purpose behind the CAC, they invariably throw themselves wholeheartedly into the program.

"They have to enter the program with an open mind," the major said. "There is a tremendous amount of responsibility, especially for the junior noncommissioned officers. The success we've had so far shows me the caliber of Marine we have here in Vietnam can do about anything we ask of him."

But the real test is after the Marine is in the village for some time.

Invariably the answer to, "How do you like it here, Marine?" is, "I wouldn't want to be any other place."



BRIEFING—Le Kim Bat, Thuy Phu village chief, shows CAC-3 squad leader Cpl. John J. Shylo a new patrol route around the village perimeter. (Photo by GySgt. B. G. Highland)



LARGE LOAD—Cement for the construction for a new marketplace in the village of Thuy Phu is moved to the building site by PFC Earl T. Sessions, CAC-3, and a Popular Forces soldier. (Photo by GySgt. B. G. Highland)



COMBINED PATROL—LCpl. Michael J. Majesky, CAC-3 radioman and a Popular Forces soldier check in with headquarters while on patrol. Other members of the squad stand guard. (Photo by GySgt. B. G. Highland)



WEAPONS CLASS—Capt. George E. Yarbrough, commander of "Hotel" CAC Co., shows students at the newly-formed CAC school some of the weapons captured from Viet Cong units. (Photo by GySgt. B. G. Highland)

Gen. Westmoreland lauds Corps efforts

(Following is a letter from General W. C. Westmoreland, Commanding General, U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam addressed to all Marines of the III Marine Amphibious Force).

"With the year 1966 at an end, I wish to express my deep appreciation for the outstanding achievement of the III Marine Amphibious Force and of all U. S. Marine Corps personnel concerned with the conflict in Vietnam during the last year; and to comment briefly on the significance of the tasks that will confront us in 1967.

It is impracticable to discuss in this letter the details of the numerous major operations and urgent projects which you and your command have accomplished in 1966; let alone the more routine, continuing and less glamorous missions which also are so vital to our success. Special note, however, is made of the spectacular successes of combat operations such as Prairie and Hastings; and of your significant achievements toward the security of the people and in support of revolutionary development. Suffice it to say for the remainder that without exception, the III MAF has accomplished all its tasks in such a truly professional and highly successful manner that it merits my warmest commendation.

In 1967 we shall face new challenges. We must retain the advantages and initiatives we have gained in 1966; we must increase and improve the effectiveness of all our operations in Vietnam so that in an ever increasing environment of security, the Vietnamese people can move along with their primary tasks of revolutionary development and nation building. I have complete confidence that the III MAF, and every member of it, will respond to these challenges with the same outstanding spirit of dedication and enterprise that has characterized your operations during the past year.

It should be noted that the accomplishments of the other components and commands of the U. S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, rightfully deserve consideration in connection with the success of your own efforts. Although the achievements of any one of our components or commands are outstanding in their own right, the situation in Vietnam particularly is such that the integrated joint efforts of all services and units pay returns far above the simple total of all their efforts. Only by continuing and improving the existing harmony, close coordination, cooperation and mutual support among all components and commands shall we be able to capitalize fully on our resources and insure that we are doing all we can to guarantee greatest success in the future.

In summary, I extend my heartiest congratulations to you and to all the members of the III MAF for outstanding achievement in 1966. Your efforts have played a vital role in placing us in a position where, with hard work, we can look toward the new year with great expectations for even greater success than we have achieved thus far.

Army, Air Force medals go to 1stMAW Marines

DA NANG — Personal decorations from other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces were awarded to two Marines of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Jan. 3.

During ceremonies at 1st Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters, Major General L.B. Robertshaw, commanding general, presented the Air Force Airman's Medal to Corporal Daniel Sanchez Jr. and the Army Commendation Medal to Lieutenant Colonel Lynn F. Williams.

Sanchez is a member of the Crash Crew, Marine Air Base Squadron-11, Marine Aircraft Group-11. The citation accompanying his Airman's Medal praised him for his heroism and voluntary risk of life on August 28, 1966.

An Air Force F4C Phantom Jet aircraft crashed at the Da Nang Air Base and veered off the runway engulfed in flames. Responding immediately, Sanchez and his

crew removed burning chute harnesses from the pilots and assisted them to a waiting helicopter. During this operation, weapons and armament were exploding and debris was being hurled through the air.

Williams, wing air control officer, received the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service while with the Plans and Force Development Branch, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, from July 1963 to August 1966.

The citation pointed out his outstanding results with complex planning problems while assigned as a staff planning officer and as Chief, Contingency Plans, and his exemplary effectiveness while Operations and Intelligence Controller on two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) major exercises.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

FROM:

FPO San Francisco, Calif 96602

Postage
3rd Class 8¢
Airmail 16¢
1st Class 10¢

TO:

NOTE: Fold paper three times, secure edges with Staple or Tape and mail home.



Deep dip in well

Emerging from the bottom of a well during a search and sweep operation is SSgt. Ben T. Hamner. The Marine had just checked the bottom of the well for hidden VC weapons and supplies. Hamner is a Naval Gunfire forward observer attached to "E" Co., 2d Bn., Seventh Marines. Since the search and clear operation began Dec. 12, Marines have killed more than 100 enemy and captured many weapons and supplies. (Photo by Sgt. Lawrence E. Lenin)

Sgt. Barber wins Silver Star

DONG HA — Sergeant Russell M. Barber was presented the Silver Star Medal last week for his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving as platoon guide with "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, Fourth Regiment, during Operation Hastings near the demilitarized zone.

Barber's company was providing rear security for a battalion column when it came under heavy fire by a North Vietnamese force of regimental size. His platoon sergeant was killed in the initial attack and Barber immediately took control.

Reacting quickly, he administered first aid to wounded, encouraged his men and directed fire on enemy emplacements, by moving from one position to another exposing himself to intense enemy fire.

Throughout the fierce five-hour battle, Barber repeatedly exposed himself to deadly enemy fire and performed his new duties in a heroic manner. With reinforcements arriving, he ran 400 yards through enemy fire to guide them to his position.

Under his leadership, the integrity of his platoon was maintained and reinforcements were utilized to silence the determined enemy. Barber's outstanding leadership and daring actions inspired his men and were significant factors in repelling the vicious attack. His citation reads in part: "By

his exceptional courage, initiative and unfaltering dedication to duty, Sgt. Barber was instrumental in the destructions of more than 200 of the enemy and was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

Electric dispensary

CHU LAI — The first fully-electric dispensary in the Chu Lai area was dedicated Jan. 2, during ceremonies in the Village of Ky Ha.

The dispensary, which will serve more than 6,000 Vietnamese, is the result of three months of combined efforts by hospital corpsman of the 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Division and the local Vietnamese.

Hyun Cam, Ky Ha village chief, was present at the cere-

monies to express the gratitude of the villagers. Commander Russell H. Mitchell commanding officer, 1st Medical Battalion also attended the ceremony. He expressed high praise for the corpsmen of his unit who initiated the project and who contributed their free time and in one instance, money toward the project.

The facilities, with a workload of 1600 patients per month, include a five-bed obstetrics ward. It is staffed by one full-time corpsman, three part-time corpsmen, a registered Vietnamese nurse, a student nurse, and an interpreter.

The full-time corpsman, Hospitalman 3rd Class Bruce M. Topolosky initiated the project, and contributed \$285 toward construction costs—including wages of a Vietnamese stone mason.

Other corpsmen on the staff include HM3 John P. Tulp, James V. DiCanio Jr. and Douglas J. Decker.

Fighting author

DA NANG — Martin Russ received his second and third combat wound while with the Marines in Vietnam. He won't receive the Purple Heart though—he is a civilian.

No newcomer to combat, Russ is a former Marine sergeant who won a purple heart while serving in Korea. He is now a free lance writer and author of three books including *The Last Parallel* which deals with his experiences during the Korean conflict.

Russ was covering the story of a medical evacuation helicopter mission south of Da Nang when the aircraft received enemy small arms fire at a landing zone. Russ was hit by shrapnel in the right arm.

He boarded the plane again an hour and half later for a similar mission. Again the chopper drew fire and he was grazed by a bullet in the right arm.



Where are the VC?

Cpl. William D. Beene (left) of "E" Co., 2d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1stMarDiv, and an Army of the Republic of Vietnam interpreter question a villager during Operation Sierra. (Photo by Sgt. Lawrence E. Lenin)