



# SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 5

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

February 1, 1967

**Forced into premature attack**

## VC Bn. tries to overrun Marble Mountain base

By: LCpl. Lowell Carson

DA NANG—Close combat became hand-to-hand fighting as an estimated battalion of Viet Cong attempted to overrun a Marine patrol base about five miles south of Da Nang.

In the early morning of Jan. 15 a security patrol from "K" Company, 3rd Battalion. First Marine Regiment discovered the Viet Cong moving in on the patrol base at Marble Mountain and forced them to prematurely trigger their assault.

Viet Cong "sappers" (demolition men) threw themselves across the barbed wire perimeter as they were caught in the crossfire of the 1st Division Marines.

Other VC crossed the strands over the bridge of bodies to hurl explosives at the Marine gun emplacements.

Marine supporting artillery ripped into the ad-

vancing waves of Viet Cong and illuminated the battlefield.

Marine reinforcements arrived and contacted the enemy 45 minutes following the initial assault. As the fresh troops mounted a counter-attack, supporting tanks fired point blank at the Viet Cong.

With dawn surviving VC broke contact and fled, leaving behind dead, weapons and ammunition.

Two companies of Marines moved through the area at light searching for dead or hidden enemy and weapons.

The estimated Viet Cong battalion suffered 57 killed and one wounded, later taken prisoner.

The battleground yielded rifles, pistols, 47 grenades, 71 five-pound sachets of explosives, and large amounts of assorted small arms ammunition.

"K" Co. suffered but light casualties repulsing the pre-dawn attack.

## 1st Div scout-snipers killing two VC a day

By MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—A crew of 1st Marine Division scout-snipers have made life less miserable for an estimated 56 Viet Cong guerrillas in I Corps area. The snipers, firing at ranges up to 1,125 yards, have been picking off Viet Cong at the rate of better than two a day.

Firing match-conditioned rifles with scopes, the snipers are either graduates of the Division's Scout-Sniper School or Marines who have earned a Distinguished Marksman rating in matches fired in the United States.

While scout-snipers have been operating with the Division almost from the day it landed in Vietnam in April, 1966, the first formal school was held in November.

Graduates of two, three-day blitz courses are finishing up their training "on the job", with the students going with their instructors into Viet Cong infested areas to pick off unsuspecting

guerrillas.

Most of the Viet Cong have been shot southwest of Da Nang, but several of the school's graduates in the Chu Lai area have contributed to the excellent record.

The first class was conducted under the guidance of Captain Edward J. Land, Jr., a distinguished shooter and captain of

several championship Marine Corps shooting teams.

Land is backed up by a three-man team of instructors; Gunner Sergeant James D. Wilson Staff Sergeant Charles A. Roberts and Sergeant Carlos N. Hathcock. All three are veterans of National and Regional shooting competitions and have won individual rifle matches in the United States.

Wilson is a 19-year veteran of the Marine Corps and competitive shooting. He is described by fellow shooters as the only man who can insert a magazine into his rifle without moving a muscle or taking the weapon from his shoulder.

While the first class of snipers has achieved results "we never dreamed of," Wilson said, the new classes expected to convene in the next month will expand their training to 10 days. Classes will be held at the Hoaom rifle range near Da Nang and "in the field".

He pointed out that volunteers who put in for the training must be expert riflemen, have 20/20 vision, and be recommended by their commanding officer as being an above average Marine with superior motivation.

"The training for the scout-sniper team will be vigorous, progressive and continuing," Wilson said. "We plan to produce more and more teams that can live and work together in harmony, move with stealth, and kill the enemy with single shots," he explained.

A scout-sniper team consists of

## 3dMarDiv develops counter-sniper plan

By: Cpl. Dan Lubell

PHU BAI—Through the dark mist just before dawn the sniper team moved to its position. Silent as ghosts they left the safety of the perimeter and slipped through the bush.

Members of the Fourth Marine Regiment's sniper platoon, the team was made up of a radioman, corpsman, and six snipers, each armed with a high powered rifle with telescopic sights. They were led by Staff Sergeant Jerry Sides.

This was a new type of assignment for the team. The Viet Cong snipers had been harassing Marine infantry patrols during Operation Chinook. Their tactics were to pop out of a spider hole, fire once and disappear before being spotted. The moving patrols found it nearly impossible to spot the VC.

The Marine counter-snipers moved into position before daylight. After lying in wait for three and a half hours in the bone-chilling rain, Sides spotted two VC snipers through his field glasses. A silent signal was given and two of his men slipped to his side. Their weapons were snuggled into their shoulders, the cross-hairs lined up, two sharp reports, and two VC snipers moved no more.

Then came three more hours of lying in the deep mud, not moving a muscle or making a sound—just waiting patiently to do the job. Patience finally paid off when another VC was spotted and downed at 1,100 yards.

Time goes by slowly during an ambush, but eventually darkness came. The team slowly moved back to its defense perimeter to cook "C" rations, get some sleep, and prepare for another day.

(Continued on Page 3)



## Personal Medevac

PFC David E. Turner, a radio operator for "E" Co., 2d Bn., First Marines, calls in his own medical evacuation helicopter after being wounded by a VC grenade. The radioman was on patrol seven miles south of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. K. K. McIntosh)

## Sgt. D. F. Sullivan earns Navy Cross

DONG HA—Instantaneous reaction in the face of almost certain death saved the lives of three comrades and earned a Marine sergeant the nation's second highest award for extraordinary heroism—the Navy Cross Medal.

Sergeant Daniel F. Sullivan Jr. had the award pinned on by Brigadier General Michael P. Ryan, 3d Marine Division commander forward.

The medal was awarded for his actions while serving as a machine gun team leader with Company "L", 3rd Battalion, Fourth Regiment while participating in Operation Golden Fleece II last April.

Sullivan, then a corporal, and his team were assigned

to set up an ambush outside the hamlet of Nam Pho Ha in Loc District on the night of April 11, 1966.

Several Viet Cong were allowed to proceed within a few feet of the Marine's machine gun before they were brought under fire.

As two of the enemy fell in front of the gun, a grenade was thrown into Sullivan's position. With disregard for his own life, he leaped on the grenade covering it with his body.

Rolling onto his back and still clutching the sputtering grenade to his body, Sullivan hurled it upward and away from his men.

The grenade exploded harmlessly about six feet in front of their position, before it touched the ground.



# SEA TIGER

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## A more perfect union...

The Constitution of the United States, which we are sworn "...to support and defend..." by our oath of enlistment or office, is one of the most remarkable and influential documents in the history of the world.

Brief, as constitutions go, and incorporating only general provisions for the establishment and conduct of government, it has not only survived wars, depressions and political changes, but has had a profound influence on the entire course of history and the peoples of the world.

In other lands, it has often been not only the inspiration, but the example for establishment of constitutional government and recognition of individual rights and dignity.

In our own country, it has carried us from an experiment in democracy by 13 states to the position of the most economically and industrially powerful democratic nation in the world.

By the very nature of its brevity and general terminology, the Constitution of the United States has proven to be more flexible and durable than even its most optimistic framers might have hoped.

With remarkably few amendments or changes, the basic Constitutional framework has remained unchanged since it was signed Sept. 17, 1787 and finally ratified June 21, 1788.

The three co-equal branches of government, established by the framers of the Constitution, remain; each with powers, but with built-in restraints on those powers; each with powers to check the actions of the other two branches.

The powers and system of checks and balances set forth in the Constitution have, for nearly 200 years, provided the continuity, vitality and flexibility which have served to preserve and strengthen our nation.

As members of the Armed Forces, we are guardians of a system and theory unequalled as the most influential and enlightened political concept in the history of mankind.

(AFNB)

## Gen. Ryan delivers suspects

DONG HA—Brigadier General M. P. Ryan, assistant 3d Marine Division commander, flew on a routine visit to 3d Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment areas east of this command post and returned in a not so routine manner.

On his return, the general delivered two Viet Cong suspects to the interrogation section for questioning.

General Ryan visited units of "K" Company, which was operating against the Viet Cong. The Marines captured two suspected Viet Cong and were waiting for transportation to send them back to Dong Ha.

General Ryan obliged the Marines and returned the prisoners, aboard his helicopter, to the division forward command post for interrogation.

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## Memorial Club

Marines returning to the U.S. from Vietnam are invited to make use of the Memorial Club in San Francisco.

For room rates and reservations write to: Marines Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California, 94102.

## E-6 selection board

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A Marine enlisted selection board convened Jan. 13 to select fully qualified sergeants for promotion to staff sergeant. Sergeants with a date of rank of Dec. 31, 1965 or sooner will be considered by the board.

The board, headed by Colonel Louis R. Daze, is expected to be in session approximately nine weeks.

## Background for troops:

## The international law of self-defense

Excerpts from an address by State Department Legal Adviser Leonard C. Meeker at the University of Pittsburgh Law School:

How does one apply international law to this kind of problem (the Vietnam conflict)?

• In the case of Vietnam we have the Geneva Accords as a starting point and legal framework for dealing with the situation. Although the U.S. did not sign the Accords, from the beginning it undertook to respect them.

For nearly seven years U.S. forces and material in the South stayed within the limits set by the Geneva Accords for external military assistance. The U.S. made the decision to exceed the limits on the basis of a principle of international law similar to the doctrine of fundamental breach in the domestic law of contracts.

North Vietnam had violated seriously the obligation to prevent the northern zone from being "used for the resumption of hostilities or to further an aggressive policy." In these circumstances South Vietnam was relieved from the obligation to comply with the cease-fire agreement's limitations on military manpower and materiel, when the South needed additional strength for its own defense against aggression from the North. At no time did South Vietnam undertake to overrun the North by force.

• Critics have argued that any U.S. assistance that might be justified would have to be confined geographically to South Vietnam. Such a rule certainly does not apply to the case of armed attack. Legitimate defense includes military action against the aggressor wherever such action is needed to halt the attack.

• Some argue that Vietnam does not present a situation of "armed attack" because invading armies were not massed at a border and did not march across it in broad daylight.

The crucial consideration is that North Vietnam has sent instrumentalities of the State, including units of its regular armed forces, into South Vietnam to—subject the South to its rule.

• United States and South Vietnamese air strikes and other military actions against North Vietnam have been based on the legal proposition that they are measures of collective defense against armed attack from the North.

It has been argued that no international body—such as the United Nations—has made such a finding. But the U.S. Charter, dealing with armed attack, says that "the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense" may be exercised "until the Security Council has taken measures necessary

to maintain international peace and security." Thus the defender does not have to await action by the Security Council. The U.S. has several times reported to the Council on military actions in Vietnam. The Council has taken no action.

• Another argument made against the U.S. legal position on collective self-defense is that Vietnam is a single country and that the regime in the North is not legally precluded from taking steps, including the use of force, to unify North and South Vietnam under a single Communist regime.

Any such argument ignores the plain provisions of the Geneva Accords of 1954. It also suggested a view of international law that would operate to undermine peace and security in many parts of the world.

In the Korea of 1950 the 38th Parallel was not a permanent boundary. Like the line in Vietnam (it) was not intended to last. But this made the North Korean invasion no less an armed attack under international law. In Europe also, the lines of demarcation between East and West Germany and around West Berlin have never been intended as permanent boundaries. However, any movement to disregard them would have the gravest consequences.

• Another argument (concerning elections) advanced to justify the actions of Hanoi has no merit. The elections referred to in the Geneva accords were to be "free general elections by secret ballot." Even the North Vietnamese Defense Minister in effect admitted long ago that such elections would have been impossible in North Vietnam. In October 1956 (he) said, "We have... executed too many honest people. We attacked on too large a front and seeing enemies everywhere, resorted to terror...."

Thus it cannot properly be said that there was any breath of agreement by South Vietnam when it declined to proceed toward elections that could not possibly have been meaningful.

• Measures of defense must be proportional to the attack. The U.S. program of air strikes against North Vietnam has been designed for the purpose of interfering with transport to the South; destroying supplies intended for shipment to the South; in short, to halt continuing aggression by North Vietnam.

I have been setting forth reasons in support of U.S. military actions against North Vietnam. Justification for these actions in no way displace a continuing obligation we have under the United Nations Charter to seek a peaceful settlement.



## Combat music man

A combat-loaded Marine plods through a village sporting a Vietnamese-style banjo which he uses to entertain buddies during breaks in a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## 1st MarDiv snipers—

(Continued From Page 1) two men, each able to do the other's job. While one man sweeps the area with binoculars or spotting scope, the other stays in position with the rifle. The team in turn is covered by other Marines to prevent surprise attack from the flanks and rear.

With their flanks and rear protected, the snipers can concentrate on Viet Cong who think they are safe at great distances.

When they spot a weapon-carrying Viet Cong they "hold 'em and squeeze 'em". They seldom miss," says Wilson.

Wilson explains that training snipers is only part of the job. When new weapons are in-

troduced into the 1st Marine Division, it is up to his section to indoctrinate cadre in each battalion on how to use the new weapon.

"More important, however, is the anti-Viet Cong sniper program conducted by the Division Scout-sniper team," continues Wilson. Echoing Capt. Land's appraisal of the enemy snipers, Wilson describes their ability as "fantastic".

"Part of our program," he said, "is to find and exploit effective ways to eliminate the enemy sniper or curtail his activities." Wilson continued, saying "since the graduation of the first scout-snipers, the program has begun to show results."

As an example, Wilson tells how a scout-sniper team with the 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines pinned down an enemy team with their pin-point fire while a regular squad of Marines crept around and captured them.

"He (the enemy sniper) tends to back away when he discovers there is someone up there that can shoot as well as he can," Wilson said.

As Wilson puts it, "we are beginning to deny the enemy sniper the freedom of movement he has enjoyed in the past".

Land praises the work of Distinguished Rifleman, Master Sergeant Donald L. Reinke, who heads the Twenty-Sixth Marine's scout-sniper platoon working an area southwest of Da Nang. Most of the kills credited to the scout-snipers have been scored by Reinke's team.

Proving that he knows what he is doing, assistant instructor Hathcock has five kills in five shots to his credit at Da Nang and Chu Lai.

Hathcock has spent most of his time in Vietnam in the field teaching tricks of his trade to the Division's young scout-sniper teams.

## Foiled

DONG HA — A Marine patrol from "K" Company, 3rd Battalion Fourth Regiment, foiled a Viet Cong attempt to mortar their company position on the night of January 14.

The patrol, operating near the mouth of the Cua Viet River, 8 miles northeast of here, located Viet Cong mortar aiming stakes pointed at "K" Company's position.

The Marines removed the stakes and continued their patrol. That night the Viet Cong returned to their position and prepared to fire on the Marines.

Unable to find the aiming stakes, the Viet Cong set up 60 and 82mm mortars and fired by guess-work.

They guessed wrong.

More than twenty mortar rounds were fired by the Viet Cong, and only one round landed inside the Marine position.

A Marine from the company said, "If the VC had found their aiming stakes we might have had some wounded, but their one lucky round didn't hurt anyone."

# Aviation, Infantry, Seabees control traffic in Ivan Pass

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—It scarcely seemed like Vietnam.

The temperature was in the 40s, and still dropping. Rain fell in a steady drizzle, whipped by winds with gusts up to 40 mph, adding to the chill as the squad of Marines prepared to move out.

Through the inky darkness, the lights of Da Nang, flickering below, seemed much closer than the eight miles across the harbor where they lay.

"The men look good," quipped Second Lieutenant Frank S. Blair as he looked over the squad from "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

"As a matter of fact, I can't see a thing wrong with them,"

He was doing well to see the men at all.

The setting, despite the weather, was definitely Vietnam. And the midnight patrol was just a part of the daily routine for Marines who man one of the northernmost outposts in the Da Nang area.

Atop Hill 724 (its height in meters), Leathernecks of the 1st Marine Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing work side-by-side with Seabees.

They have a three-fold assignment, and running patrols and ambushes in the area to deny the Viet Cong access is but part of the job.

They help provide security for a Marine anti-aircraft unit in the area, and advise Army of the Republic of Vietnam soldiers who control the flow of traffic in busy "Ivan Pass".

The pass itself, some 3,000 feet above sea level, is a vital portion of the Highway 1 route linking Da Nang and Phu Bai. It is the only way of crossing the mountains by road.

Located about 15 miles north of Da Nang, Hill 724 overlooks the Da Nang harbor to the south and the South China Sea to the north.

On clear days—almost nonexistent during winter months since the hill is above cloud level—the view is almost unlimited.

The hilly peninsula was a natural choice for the installation of a battery of "Hawk" anti-aircraft missiles, manned by Battery "A", 1st Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Bn. From their lofty perch, the "Hawks" are on constant alert for possible enemy aircraft in the event an air attack ever threatens Da Nang.

For members of the battery, it means a continuous round of daily repairs, maintenance checks, and a myriad of other tasks to keep the "Hawks" in readiness.

At the site the rain is so constant and the red mud so deep

lately the Hawk battery would be inaccessible were it not for an eight-man detachment from Mobile Construction Bn. 58.

"Without the Seabees, we couldn't exist up here," said Captain Gid Smith (Clifton, Tex.), battery commander.

With bulldozers and wreckers, the Seabees work daily to keep the road up the steep grade open.

They are frequently called upon to tow a resupply truck to the hilltop site.

The thing that keeps the men in the Ivan Pass complex going despite the rain, winds, mud and cold temperatures is "the thought of summer, when we'll have the only naturally air-cooled area of responsibility in Vietnam," a Marine said.

## Paradise anyone?

Would you believe an R&R to a tropical island "paradise?"

Moderate hotel rates, low-priced, excellent food, an ideal climate, and above all, a duty free port. All this is located in Penang, Malaysia. Can't beat it with a stick.

You can buy goods from all corners of the world, and at prices that compare favorably with those anywhere.

In all but the large one-price shops, the shopkeeper expects you to bargain for what you buy—in fact, he will be disappointed if you don't. The rule to remember in shopping in Penang is, "Don't buy until you shop around

## New school

DA NANG—An investment in the future of a free Vietnam was made Jan. 7, at the dedication of Hoa Khan school.

The school, built under the direction of the 7th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, will provide educational facilities for some 500 children of the refugee community four miles west of Da Nang.

Several hundred villagers and a platoon of Marines from "A" Company took part in the opening ceremony.

Vietnamese workers and Marines of "A" Company, 9th Engineers, built the wood and bricks made by Vietnamese in the battalion's civil affairs brickyard.

Some of the better buys are cameras, recording equipment, watches and jewelry.

The British have been in Malaysia for centuries so English is spoken everywhere.

Light, summer clothing is the order of the day in Malaysia. A coat and tie is useful in the evening for a visit to a night club or hotel restaurant. There are plenty of places to go, however, where they're not needed.

Downtown Penang is very compact and one can walk to any place in a matter of minutes.

For recreation try the beach, or golf, or sightseeing. Transportation facilities are good and the cost is low.

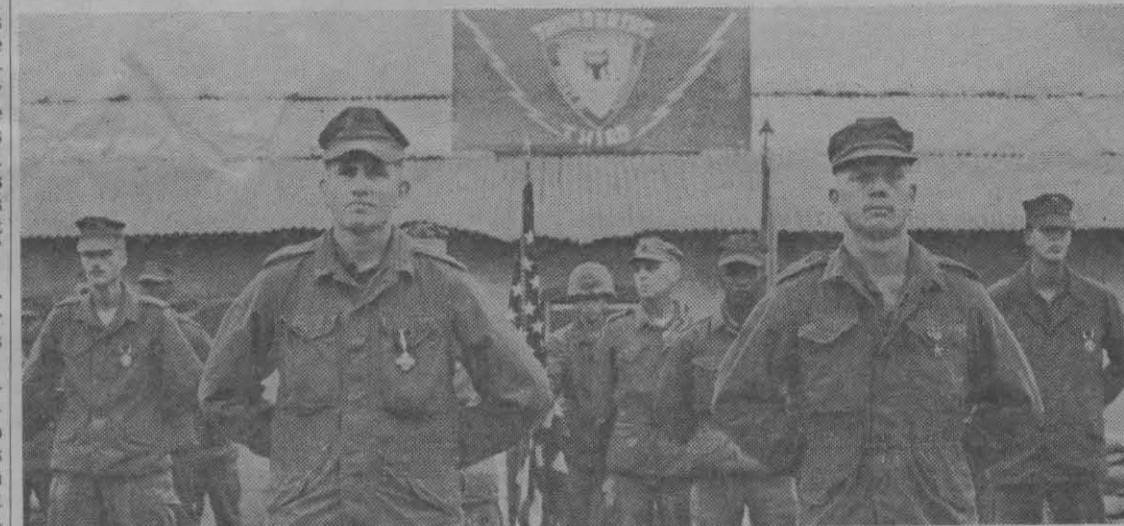
The food in Malaysian restaurants is excellent, well prepared and safe to eat. You will be able to find a restaurant that will satisfy any taste, from American dishes to Chinese and Malaysian delicacies.

The main entertainment attractions of Penang are to be found in the night clubs of the larger hotels. Here you can wine, dine and dance in surroundings equal to the world's best, at comparatively low prices.

Showing common courtesy and consideration to the Chinese and Malaysians will win friends for you since they place special importance on these traits.

Your R&R Center in Penang is in the International Hotel. Use it as your base of operations.

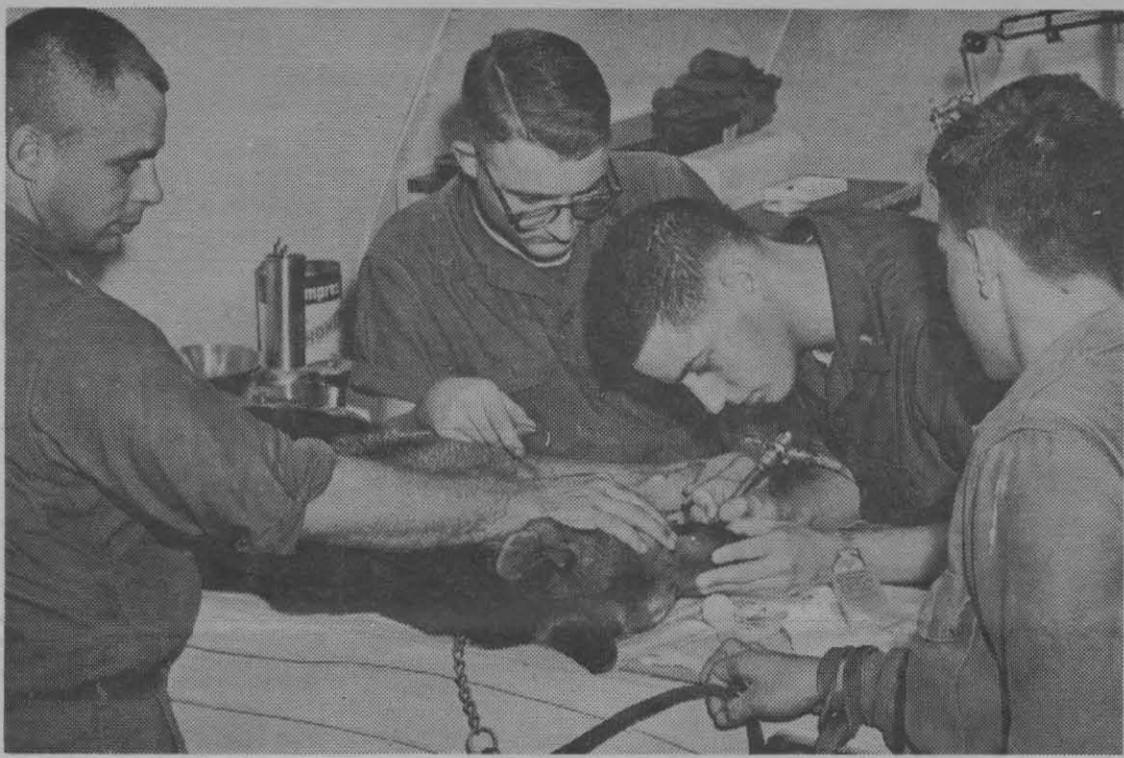
Paradise, anyone?



## Operation Prairie awards

Men of the 3d Bn., Fourth Marines are decorated for their participation in Operation Prairie at 3d Marine Division forward command post. Sgt. Daniel F. Sullivan (left) was awarded the Navy Cross Medal for heroism. The Bronze Star Medal went to Cpl. Russell L. Clites (right). Nine Marines of the battalion were awarded Purple Heart Medals.

(Photo by Sgt. K. B. McVeigh)



## Dog-gone tooth

Lt. Max Crigger (DC), USN, (with drill), a member of the 1st MAW's 11th Dental Co., works on a broken tooth suffered by Rip, a 1st MarDiv sentry dog, prior to restoring it. Assisting Crigger are (left to right) Army Capt. W. W. Cunningham, 504th Med Det; Navy DT Lance Woodbury; and Rip's handler LCpl. J. A. Bunker. (Photo by Cpl. W. R. Jackson)

## Sentry helps Wally find home

By Cpl. A. H. Mitchell

DA NANG—The Marine corporal standing sentry duty at 1st Medical Battalion's front gate was used to seeing children along the roadway, calling to Marines who rode past.

Some of the faces became familiar after a while as the same children returned day after day.

On Jan. 12 the children were out on the road as usual despite the chilly weather. One small youngster, wearing only a cotton shirt and shorts, approached the sentry booth where Corporal Charles F. Hamm was standing. Hamm felt the chill despite his field jacket and knew the youngster must be very cold.

Hamm took the shivering boy into the sentry booth and wrapped him in a blanket. He said his name was Wally and he was 12 years old.

"O.K. I sleep here," the youngster asked, indicating the sentry booth. Hamm was puzzled at the question.

"Why don't you sleep at home?" the Texan asked.

"No have home," the child said between shivers.

"Well, where are your mother and father?"

"No got. VC kill."

The child, thought Hamm, was a pitiful sight, huddled in a blanket in the corner of the sentry booth.

"Yes you can stay here," Hamm assured him.

"What to do with him?" the corporal wondered. He called the guard shack and told them the story. The sergeant of the guard sent Private First Class James M. McCleod to speak to the boy since McCleod spoke Vietnamese.

"He's got a hard luck story you wouldn't believe," Hamm told McCleod.

After 10 minutes of questioning McCleod looked up at the Marines standing around the booth and said, "He's hungry."

McCleod took Wally to the patient affairs office where a corpsman spoke to the boy. About six o'clock he was taken to the chow hall to eat.

After chow a corpsman took Wally to Da Nang in hopes of finding an orphanage but to no avail.

That night Wally slept in ward

2—one of the warmest nights he'd spent in recent weeks.

He quickly became friends with the patients and ward corpsmen. He was allowed to move about freely. The patients enjoyed having him to talk to and laugh with and Wally enjoyed the attention. He liked the hospital, the best home he'd ever had.

He wandered about the corridors, speaking pidgin English to the GIs and watching what was going on. He ventured outside when the helicopters landed to watch wounded being brought in on stretchers.

At 11 o'clock HM3 Ray Braitsch came for Wally and, McCleod driving, took the youngster to Da Nang to hunt for an orphanage.

With the help of a Vietnamese priest from the Da Nang Catholic Seminary the trio visited two orphanages before they found one that would accept Wally. It was called "Boys Town" located on the shore of China Beach.

The American director of the orphanage was not on hand and after discussing Wally with the Vietnamese assistant they left a note for the director explaining Wally's predicament.

Wally had all along been quiet, almost uncommunicative. Now, as the Americans walked back to the jeep, he followed the orphanage director across the sand. Tears began to roll down his cheeks as his friends drove away. It was a big day for Wally.



## Enemy in sight

Observers with 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st MarDiv follow the movements of a small number of Viet Cong guerrillas spotted during a search and destroy operation by elements of the battalion Jan. 12. Supporting firepower from Marine jets was directed against the target.

## World of Sports

Friday Night EAST	
Pace 99	Brooklyn Coll. 71
Mt. St. Mary's 74	Phila. Text. 72
Rutgers (S. Jer.) 80	Wilkes 76
NYAC 98	Wesleyan 88
Cheyney 83	Maryland St. 72
Holy Cross 87	Colgate 67
Fitchburg St. 85	Worcester St. 72
Bates 116	Coast Guard 75
N.Y. Tech 95	Oneonta St. 79
Potsdam 65	New Paltz 52
Albany St. 94	Paine 84
Monmouth 65	S'Eastern (D.C.) 53
Lowell St. 92	Johnson St. 81

SOUTH	
Morris-Harvey 86	W. Liberty 75
Tenn. St. 69	Central St. (O.) 64
La. Coll. 92	Arkansas St. 88
Stout 91	Whitewater 85
Florida A&M 89	Tuskegee 86
Norfolk St. 109	Va. Union 85
Lynchburg 93	Baltimore 80
Cumberland 72	Biscayne 62
Miami 55	Fla. Southern 49
Pembroke 92	Mars Hill 81
Wilberforce 92	Oakland City 83
W. Georgia 101	Maryville 81

MIDWEST	
Ohio St. at Northwestern, postponed.	
Purdue 83	Minnesota 72
Iowa St. 93	Oklahoma 87
Tulane at Chicago, postponed.	
Michigan St. 68	Wisconsin 61
St. Olaf 68	Beloit 59
Carleton 78	Coe 52
Ripon 58	Knox 47
Mich. Tech 106	Wayne (Mich.) St. 68
Hamline 91	Northland 68
Ind. St. (Ind.) 96	Ball St. 95
Washburn 64	Ft. Hays 55
Butler 84	St. Joseph's (Ind.) 71
UCLA 82	Loyola (Ill.) 67
Dayton 71	Miami (O.) 55
Evansville 78	DePauw 71
Detroit 94	Marquette 93 (Ovt.)
S. Dakota 85	Morningside 66
Augustana 86	S. Dakota St. 78
Luther 57	Wartburg 53
St. Coll. Iowa 71	N. Dakota St. 64
Quincy 91	Iowa Wesleyan 76
William Penn 95	St. Ambrose 78
Lincoln 130	Western Ill. 82
Parsons 68	Drury 65
OTawa 77	Friends 63
Tarkio 86	Graceland 77
St. Louis 63	Concordia 72
Bemidji 56	Augsburg 66
St. Mary's (Ill.) 77	Winona 73
St. Thomas 72	Illinois 75
Mankato 77	Pan American 51
Eau Claire 64	Dana 61
Knox 57	Huron 68
Superior 70	Northern 73
Monmouth 66	Missouri 82
Cent. Methodist 52	Colo. Coll. 51
Milligan 64	Peru St. 86
Colo. Coll. 70	Fisk 76
Wayne St. (Neb.) 98	Carthage 80
Central St. (O.) 78	Carroll (Wis.) 59
Wayne St. 52	River Falls 81

SOUTHWEST	
UCLA-Illinois, postponed.	
Brig. Young-Loyola, postponed.	
N. Cent.-Milliken, postponed.	
DePaul 78	Niagara 65
St. Cloud 79	Moorhead St. 58
Wis. (Mil.) 75	Wash. (Mo.) 69
Minn. (Mor.) 95	Winona 83
Bethel 89	Northland 72
Beloit 66	Carleton 51
St. Olaf 71	Coe 56
S. Illinois 55	Abilene Chr. 55
Belmont 86	Bethel 68
E. New Mex. 60	Wayland 38
Oshkosh 83	River Falls 59
Platteville 86	Notre Dame 90
Lawrence 65	Eau Claire 64
LaCrosse 82	Knox 57
Ripon 93	Dakota Wesleyan 85
Drury 66	Gen. Beadle 76
Shorter 91	Nebraska 99
Neb. Wesleyan 92	Hasting 101
N. Mich. 90	Wayne St. (Neb.) 98

SOUTHWEST	
Southwestern 74	Langston 67
Okl. Bapt. 60	E. Central 39
Phillips U. 69	Panhandle 68
Central 71	Northeastern 69

FAR WEST	
San Diego St. 76	San Fernando 68
Fresno St. 79	Cal Poly (SLO) 63
Azusa 118	Carson 99
Cal Poly (Pom.) 75	Chapman 56
Hayward St. 66	Cal. Aggies 58
S.F. State 97	Chico St. 78
L. & Clark 89	Willamette 80
Linfield 99	Pacific 77
Fac. Lutheran 78	Coll. Idaho 58
Ore. Tech. 90	Ore. College 68
E. Oregon 96	Geo. Fox 73
S. Oregon 79	Cascade 73
Washington 85	Montana 72
Colorado St. 81	Air Force 62

SOUTHWEST	
Southwestern 74	Langston 67
Okl. Bapt. 60	E. Central 39
Phillips U. 69	Panhandle 68
Central 71	Northeastern 69

FAR WEST	
San Diego St. 76	San Fernando 68
Fresno St. 79	Cal Poly (SLO) 63
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Linfield 99	Pacific 77
Fac. Lutheran 78	Coll. Idaho 58
Ore. Tech. 90	Ore. College 68
E. Oregon 96	Geo. Fox 73
S. Oregon 79	Cascade 73
Washington 85	Montana 72
Colorado St. 81	Air Force 62

SOUTHWEST	
South	



# CAC NEWS



*A Sea Tiger Monthly Supplement of News About Combined Action Companies*

Vol. 1 No. 1

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

February 1, 1967

## First Vietnamese

# PF Soldier earns U.S. Bronze Star

DA NANG—Sergeant Do Sinh became the first known Vietnamese enlisted man to receive an American combat decoration today, when LtGen. 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. A cache of enemy weapons were also taken.

Staff Sergeant Gerald A. Lyner commander of the Combined Action Company called Sinh, "a very good 'Marine.'"



**BRONZE STAR**—Sgt. Do Sih, a PF soldier with CAC B-1-5 receives the Bronze Star Medal from LtGen. Victor H. Krulak, CG, FMFPac, during the general's recent visit to Da Nang. (Photo by: LCpl. H. L. Romine III)

## CAC Marines extend to remain with units

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, of Brockton, Mass. "Doc" has one of the most demanding jobs in CAC, treating

(Continued on Page 3)



**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)

## Free Vietnamese rest easier

# Yesterday, one CAC unit— Today, there's a total of 13

By: GySgt Jack Butts

PHU BAI—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 #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, cabinet-makers, 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

(Continued on Page 3)

# The history of CAC

DA NANG—Small units of United States Marines are currently being integrated with Vietnamese Popular Forces troops to protect liberated villages and hamlets within the I Corps area in what the Marines call Combined Action Companies.

The Marines believe the CAC units are an answer to the problem of continued security and pacification over the lands and people recovered from Viet Cong control by large scale operations of the Marine and government forces.

And, most important, it allows the main portion of Marine forces to continue its offensive actions against the enemy main forces and guerrilla activities without substantial loss of individual fighting men.

The CAC concept of the Marine Corps is based on the recognition that one resource of the government of Vietnam forces was not being used to its full potential—the Popular Force unit.

It is a paramilitary unit, usually of platoon size and physically located in the home hamlets of villages where members live. Administratively the platoons are under direction of a district chief, and native customs limit their employment to within the units' own region.

While it was realized by the Marines that PF platoons have limited capabilities for tactical military action, it was further recognized that the potential and capabilities of the forces would lend themselves to certain situations.

At first, Marines functioned with the PF through temporary arrangements. These soon expanded to the point where Marine rifle squads were integrated into the PF platoon, and a variety of security missions were accomplished with success.

The Marines assigned to these CAC units are volunteers. All have served at least six months with an infantry unit in country, and are competent in the wide range of duties associated with support of the PFs. The Marines eat, sleep, live and fight alongside Vietnamese members of the unit in the village or hamlet they defend.

In concept, the Marines reinforce the PF platoon, and through their presence and participation in PF actions and training programs, strengthen the individual Popular Force soldier's own ability to guarantee security of his village area.

The CAC units have been called an "invaluable asset" in helping strengthen the government of Vietnam on the local level, since

the units are constantly with the villagers.

Eventually, the Marine squad will return to its parent organization, but only when the PF unit's ability to maintain the security of its area without assistance is assured.

Once that goal is established, it will lead to an acceleration of civic action programs to assist the Vietnamese villager to assist himself in building a better life,

continue to free tactical military units from rear area security commitments, and ultimately lead to a normal function of the Vietnamese in his civil affairs.

On Oct. 1, 1966 the Marines were supporting eight Combined Action Companies and 54 Combined Action Platoons. By February, 1967, the Marines expect to support an additional two companies and raise the platoon total to 74.

## CAC platoon corporal knows where not when

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

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

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

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

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

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

"The people of Loc Son will tell us about suspicious characters or VC suspects knowing we'll pick them up for interrogation. They also know Marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces will pro-

ect them from retaliation by the VC.

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

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

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

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



## Open 24 hours daily

HM3 James M. Shappee is the medical corpsman for "I" Co., 3rd Bn., 7th Marines, 1st MarDiv. This small patient was brought in by his father, SSgt. Dan Xuan Tin, a local Popular Force trooper. (Photo by: Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## Platoon from CAC-B

## CAC unit captures fifteen Viet Cong

DA NANG—Combined Action Company "B" platoon from Hoa Lac, recently captured 15 Viet Cong and killed five others during a sweep of Trung Son village eight miles northwest of Da Nang.

The 20-man Viet Cong unit included a Viet Cong agent, a political action team and an assassination team which never got to carry out its assignment.

For the CAC Marine, life is different from that of a normal rifleman.

CAC members live and work with the people and the Vietnamese Popular Forces who make up the bulk of the unit. The Marines become defacto members of the hamlet in which they live.

Sgt. Larry Peters is a working "executive officer" of CAC "B" the villagers call him "Sarjah Pete."

The blond, 20-year-old sergeant goes out of his way to treat the Vietnamese, both Popular Force and civilian, as equals. He respects them and believes in their worth.

"Sarjah Pete" has even learned their language to the point where he can converse and also sing a couple of Vietnamese songs.

In return for his friendliness the villagers recognize him as one of them and invite him to their homes.

In one instance, a Popular Force member came to Peters and asked the sergeant to follow.

He was led to a house where a large dinner and elders and men of the village with their wives awaited his arrival for a dinner "party".

In six months of operations the

company has achieved such goodwill by the construction of a refugee camp, a market place, and pig pens.

Also, additional classrooms are planned for the refugee camp in Hoa Vinh hamlet, in conjunction with the United States Asian International Development Program (USAID).

It's part of an active program which keeps CAC "B" from resting on their haunches.

## 7th Engineers Flag raising

Members of the Hoa Khan Combined Action Company recently raised the Republic of South Vietnam flag over a new school built by the Vietnamese and Marines of the 7th Engineer Battalion.

The school is just a part of the many civic action projects the combined action companies are doing in the "I" Corps area.

Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general of the 1st Marine Division presented the flag to the school.

The school was dedicated the first week of January.



## 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)



Good fit

*LtCol. Kurt L. Hoch fits a shoe to the foot of a Vietnamese lad in the relocated village of Dai An near the 3rd MarDiv's Dong Ha combat base. Hoch, base coordinator, was responsible for starting the village, and gathering gifts of clothes and toys from the people in his home town area.*  
(Photo by: Sgt. G. E. Jones)

## Today's CAC units-

(Continued From Page 1)  
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 subject 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."

## Extend-

(Continued From Page 1)  
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.

# Corpsman fights uphill against oriental custom

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

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

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

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

The dispensary at CAC "B" headquarters in Hoa Thanh village, is run by HM3 Charles E. Wilkinson.

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

Iodine and band-aids for cuts, cough syrup for sore throats, pills for most everything else; this makes up the corpsman's day. After the first patients are dispensed with, "Doc" goes to breakfast. By the time he finishes more patients are waiting.

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

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

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

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

Part of "Doc" Wilkinson's job is to teach hygiene to the villagers.

ers. It's an uphill fight against ills that plague the people.

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

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

For the Vietnamese and their children, CAC corpsmen dispense vitamins along with standard medications to supplement the bland Vietnamese diet and gen-

erally increase resistance to the ills that plague the people.

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

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

## Phu Bai—5 villagers deny VC 'rice taxes'

PHU BAI — The seizure of 7,000 pounds of Viet Cong "tax" rice cached near a hut in the Phu Thu District here led to a plan to deny the Viet Cong access to more than 300,000 pounds of rice during last year.

A patrol from Combined Action Company-3, headed by Sergeant Calvin Brown, discovered the three and one half tons in the Phu Bai-5 hamlet. Rather than destroy the rice the Marines stored it in the CAC village across a large lake from Phu Bai-5.

Local villagers volunteered their sampans to make the transfer to the village.

While the Marines and Popular Forces guarded the rice, a small amount at a time was moved to the CAC village. It was bagged and stored in the homes of district councilmen and village elders.

About the same amount of rice is expected from each of the other hamlets.

A tally is kept showing the amount of rice collected from each family. That family can then draw from its own supply for the next year without fear of Viet Cong taxation.

It promises to be a lean year for the Viet Cong infiltrators in the Phu Thu district.



## Mortar instruction

LCpl. Eduardo J. Perez (left) and Cpl. Richard G. Sweet (right) members of the newly-formed Combined Action Company near Tam Ky by the 1st Bn., 5th Marines, 1st MarDiv., teach Vietnamese Popular Forces soldiers to operate the 60mm mortar.

(Photo by PFC William A. Porter)



SSgt. Frank Ramos Jr., explains to General Wallace Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, the area of control of Combined Action Company-6, 1st Military Police Battalion, of which Ramos is non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

(Photo by: Cpl. A. C. Ferreira)

## PFC Paine knows one way of winning war in Vietnam

DA NANG—"Living in the village and understanding the people is one way we are winning the war in Vietnam," said Private First Class Jerry L. Paine recently when asked about his job in Vietnam.

The 19-year-old Leatherneck infantryman is serving with a Combined Action Company in a South Vietnamese Village eight miles from the city of Da Nang.

Combined Action Companies were programmed last year within the III Marine Amphibious Force Tactical Area of Responsibility to give security to the villages that had been cleared of Viet Cong.

In each village a squad of Marine volunteers, and one U.S. Navy Corpsman, are integrated with two squads of Popular Force troops. PFs are low on the Vietnamese military scale, and are physically located in the hamlets and villages where the members live. The Marines also live in the village and train the PFs in advanced military tactics and weaponry.

Called CACs, the young Marines have extended their main mission of security to include helping the villagers with better methods of sanitation, health habits and construction projects in general.

The Navy Corpsman becomes the favorite of the villagers in short order. He holds a daily sick call and treats everything from worms to skin ulcers. More serious cases are medically evacuated to a hospital in Da Nang.

Paine said, "Although our main mission is to provide security and prevent the VC from entering the village or harassing families, we see a real need here and encourage the Vietnamese to help themselves under our guidance.

"We are frequently probed at night and have had some mighty brisk fire fights. This certainly proves to us that the VC are disturbed, that we have denied him access to food, tax money and the ability to recruit for the VC forces.

"The VC also will sneak in at night and plant booby traps just outside our defense perimeter. We have been thoroughly trained in mines and booby traps, and so far the Marines in this CAC unit have not sustained any injuries. The villagers, however, have tripped traps occasionally and been seriously injured and some instances were killed. We constantly tell them to stay out of an area until we have had a chance to clear it, but they don't always heed our warning."

Once the PFs are thoroughly

trained and the villagers are living a normal community life then and only then will the Marines be re-assigned. The South Vietnamese Civil Affairs Officials, in cooperation with U.S. agencies will continue their efforts towards the goal of freedom from want and health and happiness for all.

Marines are convinced this is a solid program. So much so, that on Sept. 1, 1966, they were supporting eight combined action companies and 54 Combined Action Platoons. By February, 1967 the Marines expect to support an additional two companies and raise the platoon total to 74.

Paine feels he is getting to know the people, and is becoming familiar with their language.

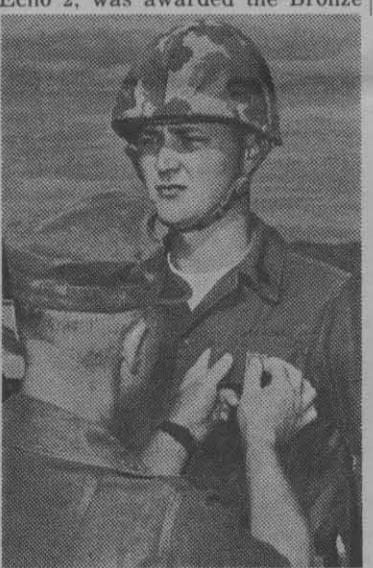
"They also get to know us," commented Paine, "and after we have exchanged a few dinner invitations, their sullenness and suspiciousness seems to vanish.

"We already had made friends when several of us began getting medical supplies, soap, clothing, food and toys from home. My brother, Reverend Thomas Paine, Church of the Nazarene, Post Falls, Idaho, has informed me his congregation is preparing packages to send us for distribution."

Paine is a typical member of these highly successful CAC units, and will return to the U.S. soon with a better understanding of the VN and a personal satisfaction of a job well done.

## Schmaus wins Bronze Star

DA NANG — Sergeant LeRoy D. Schmaus, company commander for Combined Action Company Echo 2, was awarded the Bronze



Sgt. LeRoy D. Schmaus of CAC Echo 2, is presented the Bronze Star Medal by LtGen. Victor H. Krulak, CG, FMF-Pac.

Star Medal recently, for "heroic achievement in connection with operations against insurgent communist forces while serving with Headquarters and Service Company, 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 fire fight.

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

Schmaus attended Marysville (Calif.) Union High School, and has been a Marine since graduating in 1960.

He arrived in Vietnam in Dec., 1965, and has been with the CAC unit for the past six months.

## Butt stroke saves ambush

PHU BAI — It was a well set-up ambush by all accounts. More than 60 Viet Cong were walking right into the center of it. One daring VC almost broke it up, but was the victim of fate—his weapon wouldn't fire.

This gave Corporal Johnny M. Windham his opportunity. He jumped up from his position, ran to where the VC was trying to blast holes in the backs of Lance Corporal David F. Shymansky, and Lance Corporal Thomas Burrows—and delivered a butt stroke with his rifle to the man's head.

The VC fell as the two men spun and fired, killing him instantly—and then it began. Weapons began spouting flames from positions manned by Marines and Popular Forces soldiers from Combined Action Company-8, four miles south of here. A claymore mine placed beforehand alongside the railroad track where the VC were approaching, was exploded scattering bodies everywhere.

No body count could be obtained that night, but the village of Loc Son has a grapevine. It says that 15 enemy soldiers met their deaths that night, and another dozen wounded.

It started early in the evening. Local intelligence reports said a Viet Cong unit was seen moving north toward Loc Son. Nine Marines and 10 PFs took positions two miles south of Loc Son in a treeline—and waited. At 9 p.m. the first man was seen coming off the railroad bed into the edge of a huge rice paddy.

Windham counted 21 enemy soldiers in the paddy, some just 50 yards from him. The CAC unit had planned to hold its fire until all 60 were off the track and in the paddy's soft mud. But one man broke away from the group, moved past Windham, and cut across the narrow perimeter.

Shymansky and Burrows never saw the man until Windham's "nick of time" butt stroke dropped him, then fired automatically.

ically.

After the battle in which no Marines or PFs were injured, the 3rd Division Marines checked the Communist weapons. They found six magazines. The ammunition was loaded backward in two of them.

One of these was in the weapon.

## MAG-36 fighting two wars

KY HA—Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-36 Marines are fighting two wars in Vietnam.

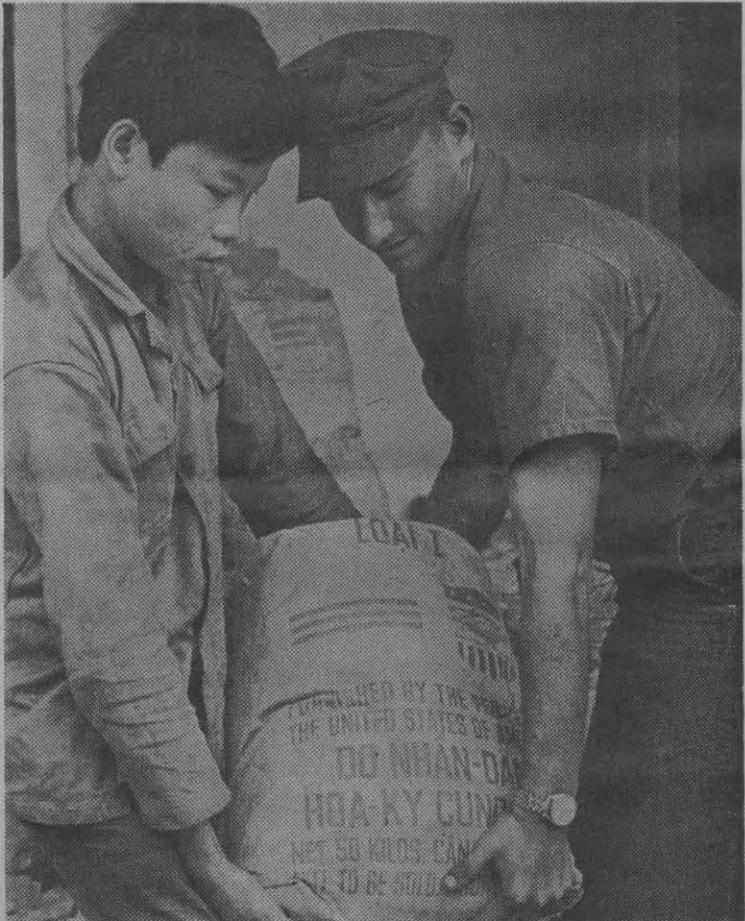
Despite hostilities with the Viet Cong, MAG-36 Marines are waging their private conflict against disease on the island of Ly Son, 20 miles off the coast of Chu Lai.

The group began its civic action program on the island last February. Since then they have provided the 10,000 villagers with soap, articles of clothing, educational materials and dental and medical care.

"We make weekly trips to the island, and are beginning to gain the villagers' confidence," stated 1st Lt. Dallas Day, of St. Paul, Minn., the group's civic action officer.

Two hours of each weekly visit to the tropical island are dedicated to a practical medicine class which is taught by 1st Medical Battalion members. There are usually eight to twelve students, ranging from 15 to 18 years old.

A team from the Ky Ha Dental Clinic joins the medical team to treat up to 150 patients during each trip.



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)



## Wet goin'

A 3d Bn., 26th Marine Regiment grenadier crosses a rain-swollen rice paddy during Operation Chinook, 12 miles north of Hue. The 3dMarDiv unit has accounted for nearly 200 VC kills since the operation began Dec. 20.

(Photo by LCpl. B. L. Axelrod)

## Meaning behind Tet

Note: Second in a series of articles on Tet. Next Week 'Visiting in a Vietnamese home.'

Tet, the Vietnamese holiday of holidays, combines reverence for ancestors, celebration of the New Year and welcome to Spring.

Tet, like Easter, is based on the lunar calendar. This year it comes 9-12 February.

Tet is a fine time to make friends among the Vietnamese people, but a knowledge of what to expect and what is proper to do may save embarrassment.

The Vietnamese consider that a man's actions during Tet forecast his actions for the rest of the year. That makes it important to know what to do and what not to

do. The exchange of greetings and gifts is a part of the Tet observance just as it is for us at Christmas time. Appropriate cards are on sale. Greetings should arrive before Tet since any arriving later might be considered insincere.

Gifts to adults are not necessary, though a bouquet of red flowers would be appropriate for the wife of the family.

For children up to 15 years old, a Tet gift of special significance is a small sum of money in a small red envelope. The envelopes are usually available in shops.

Some gifts, such as medicines, vitamins, sharp objects, and anything not new, are taboo.

An appropriate greeting for the season is "Cung Chuc Tan Xuan", "Many wishes for the new Spring."

Tet brings many changes in normal activities. Everyone wants to start the New Year with new clothes so there will be a rush on tailor shops. As a result, Americans will find it takes longer to get tailoring done, and, if not urgently needed, should postpone tailoring until after the holiday.

Besides spending money for new clothes, the Vietnamese also buy food for special feasts, flowers, gifts, and other items. It's an expensive season for them.

By custom, Vietnamese workers expect to receive a Tet bonus. Following that custom U.S. Forces will pay their Vietnamese employees a month's salary. Individuals should pay their employees a similar bonus.

The cost of services, transportation and tips, will increase during Tet to compensate those who are working while the rest of Vietnam is on a holiday.

## Refugee Camp

PHU BAI — A refugee camp is being constructed by Vietnamese in the Trach Ta Hamlet, Phong Dien District, 27 miles north of here. It is a Fourth Marine Regiment civil affairs project.

The refugees have been given tents for temporary housing, blankets, food and clothing. They also have received medical assistance.

Captain Samuel F. Austin, USA, platoon leader, 29th Civil Affairs Company is the project officer. He is attached to the Fourth Marines.

## 11th Engineers make progress

DONG HA — In less than two months Leathernecks of the 11th Engineer Battalion have constructed two bridges, established water supply points, improved water distribution and made major improvements to Vietnamese highways 1, 9 and 558.

Sand and gravel pits dug by battalion Marines provide raw materials for use in construction and road maintenance.

The battalion's truck fleet, more vehicles than used by a Marine motor transport battalion, averages 1,500 miles a day while hauling from 150 to 200 loads.

One goal the 11th Engineers set shortly after arriving was to complete a battalion messhall before Christmas. The last nail was driven on Christmas Eve.

As the monsoon season comes to an end, the engineers will begin an ambitious road re-surfacing project which will not only be an asset to Marine operations, but will have a far-reaching effect on the civilian population.

Vietnamese farmers and merchants, long hampered by the lack of roads and bridges, will be able to deliver their goods to market and reestablish the commercial trade necessary to bolster the economy in this northern part of the Republic of Vietnam.

The 11th Engineer Battalion, formed less than four months ago, is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel R.L. Mulford.

# LCpl. spots his first VC after nearly a year's wait

By SSgt. G. J. Howe

CHU LAI — During the early morning hours of January 13, the artillery men of 2d Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, continued their routine all around security.

Manning one of the defensive bunkers were Lance Corporal Edward T. Carey; Private First Class Paul T. Lowery; Private First Class Roland D. Hallada, and Lance Corporal Ralph G. Luneburg. The battalion had just finished firing an artillery mission about 2:30 a.m. when Carey, who was observing the front of the protective area, noticed someone crawling about 30 feet in front of the perimeter.

"I didn't believe it," said Carey who had been in Vietnam since February '66 and hadn't seen a Viet Cong until then.

Carey called to the other men in the bunker and they all watched the area to make sure they were not "seeing things" and then notified the battalion security NCO, Gunnery Sergeant Milton E. Vanderlinder, who immediately alerted the security officer, Second Lieutenant Percy L. Chastang.

Chastang notified the battalion executive officer of the enemy activity and passed the word to the four men in the bunker—"Make sure you have definite target and open fire."

As the mortar men of the battalion illuminated the area, Carey was the first to fire a shot, followed by the other men in the bunker. The rest of the Marines in other bunkers soon joined the fight.

The initial fire-fight lasted for five to 10 minutes with the ensuing battle continuing until dawn.

As the artillerymen held off the assaulting VC, the battalion area was receiving sporadic mortar fire. Among the casualties from the mortar fire were flat tires, several wounded gasoline drums and three severely injured field heads (toilets).

Marine casualties were light. With the dawn came the score — 17 VC's killed and 7 captured (all wounded).

## Combat artist in Vietnam

John Groth, artist, author, illustrator and lecturer left his studio on East 57th Street in New York City to "Join the Marines and paint the war."

Groth is the first civilian artist to go to Vietnam under the Marine Corps Combat Art Program. For six weeks he will be living with the Marines and going out on operations with them, making sketches and color paintings of the war.

His work will become a part of a permanent Marine Corps Art History of the Vietnam war.

The Far East is not a new place to John Groth. He was a war correspondent in Korea and Indochina in 1951, and was a correspondent for SPORTS ILLUSTRATED in Asia during 1954.

He is a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was the Art Director of ESQUIRE from 1933 to 1936.

During World War II he was a war correspondent in Europe and was the first American to enter Berlin. He was also the illustrator for "Grapes of Wrath" (Steinbeck) and "Men Without Women" (Hemingway). He is the author of several books.

## Air evacuation

About April 1, Air Force will begin air evacuation flights in C-141 jet aircraft from Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. Destination of these flights will be to Andrews AFB, Maryland and Travis AFB, Calif. Until now such flights have been from Tan Son Nhut.

Also captured were 8 rifles, 3 sub-machine guns, 1 carbine, 1 grenade launcher, 1000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 8 handmade bangalore torpedoes, one rocket launcher, 67 grenades and 57 satchel charges.

Military authorities have estimated the attacking force as between 60-100 well armed VC's.



## Silver Star

LtGen. Victor H. Krulak, CG, FMFPac, decorates Sgt. Russell M. Barber with the Silver Star Medal for his actions during Operation Hastings. Barber was a platoon guide with "K" Co., 3d Bn., Fourth Marines. The ceremony took place at Dong Ha.

## Marines of 3/3 answer mortar attack with mortar

By Cpl. Tom Judge

DONG HA — As Marines of the 3d Battalion, Third Marine Regiment moved off "Payable

Hill" near the Rockpile, enemy mortars began to rain down on their position.

The Marines answered with their own mortars.

Mortar number one with Private First Class James Marsden and Private B.D. Hill as gunner and assistant gunner began lobbing shells towards nearby "Mutter's Ridge," the reported position of the enemy mortars.

When the enemy fire continued, Sergeant Charles P. Goings, who was directing fire, ordered his men to shift fire to the Razorback ridge to the west.

The Marines, firing a pre-determined plan of anti-mortar fire, landed a tight cluster of shells within 100 feet of the enemy positions, scaring them off and ending the barrage.

The damage done by the approximate 30 enemy rounds was slight, since they hit in an area already vacated by the Marines. The quick action by the crew prevented the enemy from sighting in on the column of troops moving in the open.

"Everybody deserves credit for this action," Goings stated. "Everyone was doing his job. It was an example of good Marine teamwork."

SEA TIGER 5



## Congratulations from the Boss

LiGen. L. W. Walt, CG, III MAF, talks to the officers and men of the 2d Bn., 11th Marines, 1st MarDiv, congratulating them for successfully repelling an attempted VC attack on the battalion's artillery positions, Jan. 13. The four-and-a-half hour battle resulted in 17 VC killed, 7 captured and one detainee. Also captured were eight rifles, three sub-machine guns, one carbine, one grenade launcher, 1000 rounds of small arms ammo, eight home made Bangalore torpedoes, one rocket launcher, 67 grenades and 57 satchel charges.

## The price of security in war: constant-often lonely-vigilance

By Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA—Places like "Foxville, Vietnam" are as glamour-less as they are necessary. Such places represent all that is the price of security in war; constant—and often lonely—vigilance.

"Foxville" is a hilltop Marine position. It is halfway between the Rockpile and Camp J. J. Carroll, on a 252-meter-high hill overlooking Route 9, a strategic highway six miles from the Demilitarized Zone.

The position is manned by a squad of Third Regiment Marines of "Foxtrot" Company, hence the nickname "Foxville." Its mission is to provide security for the company protecting a Rt. 9 bridge over the Khe Gio River below by denying the enemy Viet Cong a likely avenue of approach up the reverse side of the hill.

"Foxville" doubles as an observation post, towering over the river valleys to the north. From the hill's summit, the wide panorama from the Rockpile to Camp Carroll can be seen.

Although it is but one of a steadily-increasing number of similar hilltop positions, several features make "Foxville" unique. Most observation posts are resupplied by helicopter—the well-known Rockpile is a prime example—but "Foxville" is resupplied daily on foot.

A well-worn trail winds up the northern face from the river and bridge below through dense underbrush, and over and around jagged rocks and boulders to the lofty perch.

Each day, despite drizzles or a driving rain, a detail from the company carries the day's supplies—ammunition, rations, water and mail—to the halfway point. There members of the "Foxville" squad come down to carry the supplies the rest of the

## River Baby

DONG HA—Hospital Corpsman Second Class Patrick E. O'Brien and Dennis J. Langone, were roused from a sound, early morning sleep to assist a Vietnamese woman who was giving birth last week.

The woman lives on a salvage boat anchored at the mouth of the Cua Viet river, in the "K" Company, Fourth Regiment security area. The men arrived by Navy boat just in time to help deliver a 5 1/2-pound girl.

One then cared for the newborn child, while the other treated the mother.

For Langone it was his first assist in a child-birth.

6 SEA TIGER



## They can laugh now

LCpl. Edward T. Carey (left) talks with his battalion SgtMaj. Phillip T. Ott, about the VC attack on the artillery positions of 2d Bn., 11th Marines, 1st MarDiv, Jan. 13. Carey was the first Marine to spot the infiltrating VC and was also the first to fire on the enemy force. 17 VC were killed by the Marines.

# Short Rounds

## Familygram

CHU LAI — The 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, has come up with a new way of keeping the engineer's families "generally informed of the battalion's activities." It's called the "Battalion Familygram."

Originated and written by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Richard W. Crispin, the gram consists of a personal letter telling a little about the battalion, its mission and accomplishments. A mimeograph copy is sent to the family of each Marine serving in the battalion.

The first letter, sent out in October, explained the program and gave a brief history of the battalion. It also contained plans for improvement of living quarters and working spaces in the battalion area.

In the second issue of the familygram, Crispin told of the improvements which had been completed and others still under construction. He also mentioned the achievements in the battalion's Civil Affairs program directed toward improving the health and welfare of the Vietnamese people.

Crispen concluded the letter by offering his assistance in handling any problem that might arise at home.

## How sweet . . .

DA NANG — "The Viet Cong were waiting with a warm reception when I landed," said Major Charles H. O'Brien of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164.

In Vietnam five days, he was assigned to carry troops in his CH-46A helicopter on a strike mission near Dan Lanh II Village, 11 miles south of Da Nang.

"After picking up the troops, my first mission in Vietnam began as I headed for the landing zone," said the Marine officer.

"Reaching the zone, I circled twice before dropping in fast for a landing.

"Then the fireworks began. Automatic fire tore into both sides of the helicopter, wounding both the crew chief and gunner.

"I was on the ground about 35 seconds, but it seemed like a life-time before the aircraft was again airborne.

"I discovered that the rotor blades were not functioning properly, so I landed seven miles east in friendly territory.

"A control rod had been severed by enemy fire. A medevac was called for the crew chief's shrapnel wounds. The gunner, with a less serious wound, refused medical treatment until the helicopter had been repaired.

"It's a little disappointing to be forced to land on your first mission," said the major.

"How sweet is it," the original motto painted on the side of the aircraft, has been changed. It now reads, "How sweet it was."

## DFC

DA NANG — Major D.D. Lundberg was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross by Major General Louis B. Robertson, Commanding General, First Marine Aircraft Wing.

The Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-115 pilot earned the award for air strikes flown on Aug. 7 and 8.

Scrambled in the late afternoon of Aug. 7, he flew to an area approximately 25 miles south of Da Nang. Friendly forces were pinned down by intense fire from a Viet Cong strong point on a mountain ridge.

Flying through a cloudy overcast, he made low-level bombing runs within 100 yards of the friendly ground forces. Ground

Marine confirmed more than 100 Viet Cong killed.

He was again scrambled Aug. 8 and headed for the same area. This time it was an enemy position approximately a mile south of his previous attack in the foothills of the mountains.

While making his approach (still in bad weather), he was requested by the airborne forward air controller to make multiple runs of one release per run for more thorough target coverage.

During the attacks he received heavy automatic weapons fire but was not hit.

This second strike, flown in support of Republic of Vietnam forces, also netted more than 100 Viet Cong killed.

## School visits

CHU LAI — One hundred and twenty-eight professors and students from Korea paid a two-day visit to the Republic of Korea 2nd Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade at the Brigade Combat Base located south of Chu Lai on Jan. 6-7.

Besides comfort items which they presented to Brigadier General Kim Yun Sang, commander of the Brigade, the group also brought the Korean Marines messages from home.

On their arrival, the professors and students were welcomed by Korean civilian engineers from RMK and Vietnamese school girls from Quang Ngai, who presented them with flowers and souvenirs.

Before leaving for their return to Korea, Brigadier General Kim Yun Sang made them honorary Marines and presented them with Republic of Korea Marine identification cards.

## Big day

CHU LAI — January 16 was a rewarding day for 49 members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, at Ky Ha.

During a formation on the flight line, each of the group received a decoration or promotion from the commanding officer of HMM-363, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth F. Huntington.

In all, the colonel presented 20 Air Medals, representing 400 aerial combat missions; seven Purple Heart Medals; 16 promotions to corporal; and six promotions to lance corporal.

## 2/4 returns

DA NANG — The "Magnificent Bastards" have returned to Vietnam.

The 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, with attached units of a battalion landing team, disembarked at Da Nang harbor Jan. 6, after two months of training on Okinawa.

The battalion, which won its nickname during the bloody Pacific campaigns in World War II, originally arrived in Vietnam May 7, 1965.

It participated in a dozen operations at Chu Lai, Phu Bai, and near the demilitarized zone before being helilifted to waiting ships Nov. 5 for a trip to Camp Hansen, Okinawa.

Among the major operations the unit has to its credits are: Starlight, Harvest Moon, Texas, Utah, Hastings and Prairie.

On Okinawa, new joinees and Vietnam veterans alike went through the Marine Corps' rugged Northern Training Area (NTA), where, as one Marine put it, "they do everything but shoot real bullets at you."

The battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. E. Bench, is under the operational control of the 1st Marine Division.



### Checking tunnels

SSgt. Lee R. Franklin pops out of a tunnel after checking it for hidden VC during a search and destroy mission southwest of Da Nang. He's a member of "M" Co., 3d Bn., Seventh Marines. Marine at left is Sgt. Paul J. Landry. (Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## Martha Raye visits troops at Chu Lai

CHU LAI — Martha Raye made the Chu Lai scene again Jan. 8, with two, hilarious song-and-comedy performances, the first for 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division, and the second for Task Force Xray and surrounding units of the 1st Marine Division.

At the end of her show at 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, Miss Raye was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her efforts on behalf of the battalion, and with a cup, bearing an inscription of the battalion's name. The presentation was made by Private First Class Gerald R. Scheffler on the battalion's behalf.

After Miss Raye's inimitable slapstick and parody routines, she made many remarks about her

"respect for the fighting men in Vietnam." She ate chow and posed for pictures with the Marines before traveling back to the combat base for her performance at the new Task Force Xray Amphitheater. Accompanying her on the guitar for these shows was Michael Bryan, who has played for Jimmy Dorsey and other famous orchestras.

A bonus feature of the first show was a performance by "The Deacons," popular recording stars of Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing. Members of the group include Corporals Larry Downey, Smokey Spears, Al Clough, and HM3 Jim Fairborn, USN.

The Force Level Hospital Company furnishes medical support for the LSA. It has the same capabilities as a city hospital in a city comparable in population to the LSA. The hospital company is primarily for the treatment of non-battle casualties but will assist the Medical Battalion in the treatment of battle casualties if the need arises.

The First Hospital Company was organized in 1962 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. In the fall of 1963 it was relocated to Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms, Calif., and came under the control of the Commanding General, Force Troops, FMFPac.

Staffed by eight doctors, a medical Service Corps Officer and 96 hospital Corpsmen, the company also has 38 enlisted Marines who perform duties as Motor Transport drivers and mechanics, utilities men, cooks, etc.

On Feb. 12, 1966 the men and materiel of the First Hospital Company embarked aboard the U.S.S. Tulare at San Diego, Calif., for the Republic of Vietnam.

Arriving at Chu Lai on March 7 the Company augmented other medical units at Da Nang and Chu Lai until September when construction commenced on the Hospital Company's hospital complex.

First to be constructed were five wards with space for 100 beds, a messhall and billeting and administrative buildings. The Outpatient Clinic, Laboratory, phar-

macy and X-ray were set up in temporary buildings to be replaced later with quonset huts. With supervision furnished by Mobile Construction Battalion 40, all of the initial construction of 43 buildings was done by the company's enlisted personnel, who laid aside their syringes, thermometers and other badges of office to pick up hammers, saws, pliers and screwdrivers.

Next on the agenda is the construction of an eight quonset complex to permanently house the laboratory and X-ray and the addition of a surgical suite with four operating rooms.

## Ninth Marines land — Vietnamese style

By Cpl. Cal Guthrie

PHU BAI — Third Division Marines provided for more protection for more than 100 refugee families from the Ha Chou hamlet six miles south of here.

"Golf" Company, Ninth Regiment made an amphibious landing—Vietnamese style—in sampans to evacuate the Viet Cong terrorist victims, this month.

During the rainy seasons Ha Chou becomes a series of small islands surrounded by flooded rice paddies. It had become a way-station for Viet Cong soldiers moving from the southern hills toward Hue and Dong Ha.

The Communist demanded food and shelter from the inhabitants.

The Marines led by Popular Forces (PF) guides marched from the Truoi Bridge to the edge of the flooded rice paddies where they boarded sampans for

the mile-long trip across the muddy "lakes" to Ha Chou.

The landing was unopposed. The Marines waded ashore and swept across each island.

Villages were deserted but the Vietnamese soon appeared from across the water to move their belongings.

With the help of the Marines the people began moving their belongings into sampans. Everything was loaded as Marines formed "strong-arm" teams to move heavy beams and posts supporting houses and pagodas.

Overnight Ha Chou became a ghost hamlet—the Viet Cong will have to go elsewhere for rice and shelter.

The people are relocating in Ha Vinh to start a new life under the protection of a combined action company of Marines and PF's.

## Dedicated

CHU LAI — Navy Chaplain Martin J. Witting will quickly tell you that location means nothing to him when it comes to bringing the Lord's word to combat Marines in the Chu Lai area.

"I would as soon conduct Mass in the middle of a water-filled rice paddy or on the top of a mountain, as I would in the base chapel here at Marine Aircraft Group-36," stated the 40-year-old Catholic Chaplain.

For the past two months, Father Witting has been volunteering to conduct services at remote outposts saying, "I have the transportation (helicopters), and I am able to get to the men regardless of where they are."

Recently, the Chaplain was conducting Mass for a group of Marines at Thien Phouc, approximately 25 miles northwest of Chu Lai, when they were called out on alert. "As soon as the alert ended, services continued," remarked the Chaplain.

When Chaplain Witting is requested to conduct services at remote locations, he is flown to the different places by one of the MAG-36 squadrons.

"Someone has to get out to those Marines and I am just glad that I am lucky enough to be with MAG-36 and have a way of traveling," concluded the Chaplain who has been in South Vietnam for five months.



### Right on target

SSgt. Horace A. Dees fires his rifle at VC running across a rice paddy during a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang. Dees is a member of the 3d Bn., 7th Marines.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

SEA TIGER 7



## Bravo sends greetings

Members of Battery "B", 1st Bn., 11th Marines, 1stMarDiv, start the New Year with a bang. In one of its first missions after the truce, the battery fired its 40,000th round at the VC. The battery commander, Capt. Warren S. Walters (left) looks on as the round is readied for firing. Crew members (from left to right) are: LCpl Thomas C. Jones and Sgt. Bryan R. Palmer, section chief. (Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

## Sea Tiger Spotlight on:

# Birddogs and Air Observers

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—A reconnaissance team spotted 150 Viet Cong in a narrow mountain valley and two small airplanes raced through the stormy late afternoon sky.

They came from the sea, passing over a marshy river delta and crossed the first ridges, then dropped into the valley in tight spirals over a brown ribbon of muddy stream where the VC had been observed.

Forty miles away silver jets roared off the Chu Lai airstrip and within minutes, high above the thick layers of dark cloud they orbited, ready to swoop down with their bombs and rockets.

They waited for targets.

Marine First Lieutenant William A. Berry, an Air Observer for the 1st Marine Division was going to give them some.

Strapped into the rear seat of one of the tiny single-engine Cessna O-1B "Birddogs", he searched the scraggly brush on either side of the stream with eyes long practiced in finding what untrained eyes would never see.

With only half his Vietnam tour behind him, Berry had already logged more than 140 combat missions.

Flying above enemy concentrations in frail airplanes, Berry's job is to bring air and artillery strikes on the enemy after marking the targets with smoke rockets slung on the underside of each wing.

Sometimes the rockets can be used as weapons. Except for an M-16 rifle lashed to the inner cabin wall, they are the only armament Birddogs carry.

They are Army planes, flown by Army pilots based at Quang Ngai with the 1st Platoon ("Cat Killers") of the 220th Aviation Company. Their primary purpose is to support the Army of the Republic of Vietnam but each day for three hours or more, one of them carries a Marine observer. They are hunters.

## Commended

DONG HA—Major Robert F. Sheridan was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with combat "V" during ceremonies at Camp J. J. Carroll Jan. 23.

During Operation Kern, the battalion command post received intense automatic weapons fire during a tactical move. Sheridan, acting as operations officer for the unit, positioned himself on the front lines to observe and direct the counterattack against the Viet Cong.

8 SEA TIGER

Wriggling into tight mountain passes, criss-crossing low over rice paddies, spiraling directly over hostile villages, these pilots and observers hunt the Viet Cong.

And when they find him, they hammer him to death with bombs from Marine jets or with heavy artillery fire originating several miles away in such cities as Quang Ngai, Tam Ky, Bien Son or from the Chu Lai base itself.

"Down there Lloyd, I see a bunch," Berry shouted through his throat mike to pilot, First Lieutenant Lloyd Ruge.

Ruge spun the airplane on its tail and swung back over the area, one wing almost completely vertical.

Several Viet Cong were running along the stream.

"We've got a target for you," Berry radioed the jets circling unseen above the clouds. "We will mark it with smoke."

Ruge climbed a hundred feet and then put the plane in a steep dive straight for the deck. The ground raced towards them—two crackling explosions and the rockets were on the way. Ruge was skimming the trees as smoke blossomed against a strong wind that rushed through the canyons.

"Target is marked," Berry told the jets. "Make your run from the north and pull out to the left. We will be on your right. . . ."

Hardly were the words spoken when a streak flashed from the top of the fog shrouded canyon and stream at its foot suddenly erupted in smoke and fire as the Marine jet pulled out of its dive and swung to the east, climbing over the sea. His wingman came sizzling on his tail, hurtling through the canyon at a blinding 500 miles an hour, and another bomb explosion reverberated through the valley.

Berry and Ruge went down to take a look.

No trace of the enemy. Either they were dead or had managed to hide safely in a sheltering cave.

The second Birddog which had

been flying through canyons to the east, now made a run for the stream. Captain David Antonopoulos threw his plane into a headlong dive and two more rockets marked the target area.

Again the jets pounded the valley and then they had to go home, empty of ordnance, fuel almost exhausted.

Meanwhile the sky had become crowded. Huey helicopters wheeled around, pouring machine gun and rocket fire into the trees and gullies; CH-46 choppers crowded to the valley's western rim, dropping off Marines who would sweep east to the sea, to trap the surviving enemy; more jets arrived on station.

Everybody had to look out for everybody else.

The two Birddogs hung around for awhile, probing the now darkening canyons, fighting against the winds that seemed strong enough to hurl them against the mountain walls.

Finally, they too had to head for home. Fuel was low. Another team of pilots and observers would be airborne and take their places later. It would go on all night.

The small recon team, sitting on one of the mountains, would not feel so alone in the long dark hours. If the VC had planned to attack, they had been thwarted and were no longer the hunter but the pursued.

It began to rain. Within a few minutes the Birddog was over the Chu Lai strip, requesting permission to land. A giant four engined transport lifted from the strip and Ruge dropped a hundred or so feet to avoid collision, then swung gracefully in a long dive toward the wet, gleaming runway.

Tired and hungry, Berry unstrapped his seat belt and shoulder harness and clambered to the ground.

"See you tomorrow Lloyd," he waved and Ruge ran his plane down the strip and headed for Quang Ngai.

Tomorrow was another day.

# Gen. H. M. Smith dies at San Diego

Retired Marine General Holland M. Smith, 84, the man who led Marines to victory island hopping across the Pacific during World War II, was buried Jan. 14 on the eastern slope of Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery overlooking San Diego harbor and North Island.

He died Jan. 12 in the U.S. Naval Hospital, San Diego. He had been stricken by a heart attack Nov. 14, in Harlingen, Texas and was flown to San Diego Dec. 7.

Military services were conducted at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot chapel at 1:30 p.m. by Rev. William E. Forshaw, pastor of the La Jolla Union Congregational Church. A final 17-gun salute was fired in honor of the man, who in recent years, had become known as Mr. Marine Corps.

His son, Rear Admiral John V. Smith, arrived from Washington with Marine Commandant Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr. Lieutenant General V. H. Krulak, Commanding General, Fleet Marine Forces, Pacific, came from his headquarters in Hawaii.

The 41-year Marine veteran commanded Fleet Marine Force Pacific during many of its island battles. In addition, he commanded Task Force-56 during the as-

sault and capture of Iwo Jima. He is credited with much of the early development of ship-to-shore landing and is referred to by many as the father of modern amphibious warfare.

During his 20 years in retirement, the general was active in youth and charity work.

At the time he was stricken, he was attending the commissioning of the first four-year Marine Corps Junior ROTC unit at the Marine Military Academy in Texas.

## Dong Ha PX

DONG HA—For dimensions of only 16 by 20 feet, the post exchange here does an extra-large business.

Under the management of staff sergeant George E. Cheney, the exchange had sales totaling \$169,000 during the months of November and December. Cigarettes were the biggest selling item, with Marines purchasing 15,000 cartons in December alone.

Cheney is assisted by 13 Marines who operate three small exchanges at the Twelfth Regiment area at Camp Carroll, and at Khe Sanh.

The PX was first opened in mid-September of last year.



## The medicine goes down

HM3 Thomas J. Higginbotham administers cough medicine to a patient from Phong Bac hamlet, south of Da Nang. Hamlet elders received medical treatment, entertainment, gifts and dinner during an elder's day festival sponsored by 3d Tank Bn., 1stMarDiv. (Photo by Cpl. N. B. Call)

## Mail The Sea Tiger Home



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