



# SEA TIGER



Vol. III No. 6

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

February 8, 1967

## **Patrol nets 7 VC kills, one prisoner**

By Cpl. Cal Guthrie

PHU BAI — A Marine patrol found two Viet Cong bands six miles southwest of here last week. In the wake of the fighting the patrol left 12 dead VC and captured one prisoner.

The seven-man patrol from "B" Company, Third Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, was led by Sergeant Albert W. Bach. They were dropped by helicopters on Jan. 16, near Highway 14, to seek out VC movement in the area.

Almost immediately the patrol found evidence of enemy activity. The point man Private First Class David Cook and his back-up, Private First Class Jackie Stribling, found several fresh barefoot prints along a jungle trail.

While Bach was placing an ambush, the Marines heard sounds of VC movement just south. They quietly moved to the area and concealed themselves in the foliage along the trail. Ten minutes later 20 VC came down the path carrying a mortar and other weapons.

The afternoon silence was broken as the patrol filled the air with the staccato of rifle and automatic weapons fire, spiced with exploding grenades. Six of the enemy were cut down by the deadly cross-fire. Lance Corporal Robert Hathaway, the patrol's grenadier, accounted for one VC with a direct hit.

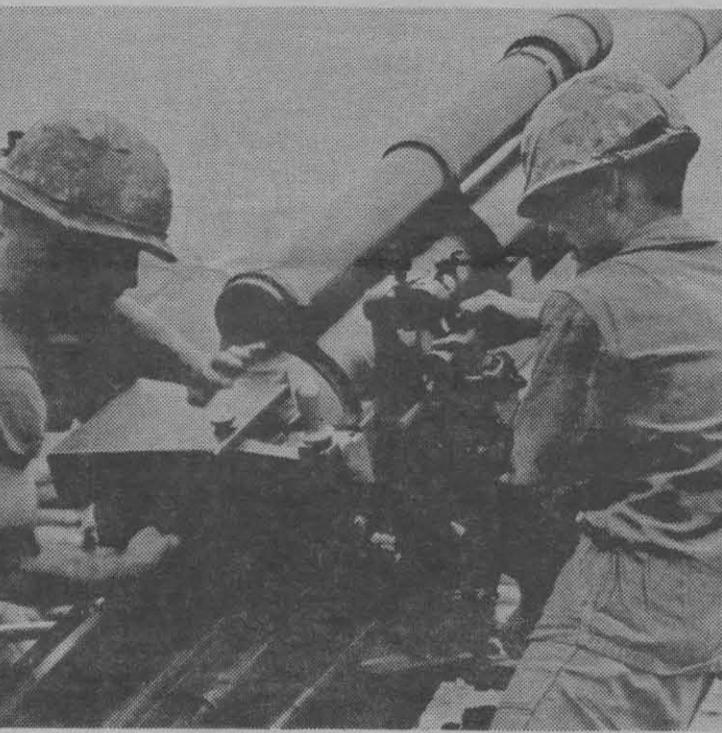
An ace of spades playing card

(Continued on Page 8)



## **County Fair assist**

A mortar crew of "F" Co., 2d Bn., 5th Marines, retaliates with a barrage when VC snipers opened up on Marines during a County Fair. The Marines were providing security for Navy medics and Army civic action teams during the fair held at Ben Dau. (Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)



## **Fire mission near An Hoa**

A 105mm artillery round is inserted into the chamber of a howitzer as "E" Battery, 2d Bn., 11th Marines, responds to another fire mission near An Hoa, 30 miles southwest of Da Nang. The battery has fired in support of the 2d Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division since March 1966.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

## **Village chiefs ask for help**

# **"Chinook" Marines lead 684 villagers to new way of life**

By SSgt. Norman MacKenzie

PHU BAI — The Communists suffered another defeat during Operation Chinook when Fourth Regiment Marines led 684 people from their Viet Cong controlled villages to live a new democratic way of life.

The Leathernecks were operating in the jungles near Phong An, Phong Nguyen and Phong Son villages, 27 miles north of here, when the village chiefs asked the Marines to lead their people to safety.

The Viet Cong had taxed the people to the point of taking nearly everything they owned, forced them to work for no pay and gave no medical assistance to the sick and injured.

The villagers left most of their possessions behind and began their long journey to Phong Dien District with Marines providing security.

Young children and elders were helped along the way by Marines.

The 203 families walked through dense jungle and mountainous terrain in heavy rains to the Fourth Regiment's command post where hot soup and coffee were waiting.

Suffering from malnutrition and the cold, the refugees at first refused to touch the food prepared by the Marines. VC propaganda had told them Marines were ruthless killers who would poison their food.

After much coaxing by the Marines, who made their point by drinking first, the elders finally drank the soup and coffee and then the women and children finished theirs.

They were taken to Phong Dien

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## **Half dozen ambush VC force of 100**

By Cpl. David A. Hines

DA NANG — Six Marines of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, ambushed a Viet Cong force estimated at 100 men recently, and emerged from the fire fight without suffering a casualty.

The 1st Division Marines were on a patrol when they received word that a Viet Cong force was seen operating in the area.

"We didn't know how many there were, so our patrol leader broke us down into teams to set up ambushes," said Corporal Harry Brown.

"At that point, I set my men into a position by a bridge on the river," he said.

The Marines waited for two hours before hearing voices and then spotted a long column of Viet Cong heading across the bridge.

"I laid in my position counting them for a minute after we made the initial sighting, wondering if it would be wise to engage them in a fire fight," Brown continued.

"I then realized that if we didn't hit them they might make it to the jungle and disappear, and then we'd lose our chance completely," he added.

The Communists carried automatic rifles, and 50 and 30 caliber machineguns among the column.

"We waited for the VC to pass and then hit from the rear," Brown continued. "Our initial fire killed three, and another died when I dropped an M-79 grenade into the middle of their column."

In the short fire fight more Viet Cong fell, and were dragged off when they retreated into the jungle.

"I think they probably figured there were more of us," Brown said. "Imagine the battle we would have had if they'd known there only six of us!"

## **Company slugs it out during deadly ambush**

By Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG — The bearded corporal halted his weary push homeward long enough to gaze at a Marine helicopter buzzing overhead.

"That's the greatest sound in the world," he said. "If it hadn't been for the choppers yesterday, a lot of us wouldn't be here today."

The day before, Jan. 26, his company had slugged it out with the Viet Cong for hours after being hit by a deadly ambush during Operation Tuscaloosa. The action was scarcely 4000 meters from the "H" Company command post.

The ambush caught the men of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines, on the sandy banks of a Ba Ren River tributary northeast of An Hoa, pinning down the lead elements of "F" and "H" com-

panies.

The Viet Cong poured a heavy stream of small arms and automatic weapons fire at the Leathernecks from such close range that heavy air strikes could not be used.

But armed Huey gunships strafed the enemy positions time and again to allow the 1st Division Marines on the ground to maneuver into position to repel the communist attack.

The fierce fighting, which began at 9 a.m. and lasted until nightfall, accounted for 74 Viet Cong confirmed killed. The Marines took moderate casualties.

The "H" Co. Marines who trekked back to their command post Jan. 27, after being relieved by a company of the Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, showed the strain of the all-day battle.

# SEA TIGER

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

Force ISO

Editor

Asst. Editor

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## Voice of the people

As members of the 90th Congress walk the halls of the Capitol, they are surrounded by reminders of the continuity and traditions that have existed in our government since the first Congress convened in March 1789.

Paintings and busts of Congressional greats who helped make the history of our Nation abound throughout the corridors, recalling for each elected representative the legacy of service and responsibility to the American people.

Throughout its history, Congress has served not only as the voice of the people, but as an effective check against the accumulation of too much power by any one branch or individual in our governmental structure.

The 435-member House of Representatives has a strong voice in the operation of the government inasmuch as all revenue bills must originate with it. Approval of all treaties and major Presidential appointments gives the 100-member Senate an equally powerful voice in the conduct

of our country's affairs.

Through the years, the responsibilities of Congress have increased, as has its size. The complexities of government have multiplied as the Nation has grown and progressed, demanding greater knowledge, toil and dedication from each successive Congress.

Today, as in the past, our elected representatives face the challengers of the world knowingly and firmly, resolute in their efforts to help this Nation prosper as never before. (AFNB)



THE MODERN UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, By Colonel John A. De Chant, published by Van Nostrand Books, Princeton, N.J. at \$6.95.

The exciting and inspiring story of the United States Marine Corps, from its beginning to the current struggle in the bitter guerrilla warfare in South Vietnam, is told here.

It includes a projection of what planners think the Corps will be like in 1975 and a unique global map showing all major posts and stations in the Corps. Here is an examination of the broad strategic scope of the Marine Corps as a part of the Navy-Marine global striking forces, and its needs and prime significance in the security and influence of the United States in the world community.

A careful study of requirements, types of training, education and possibilities for advancement is provided.

This book is a fitting tribute to the men whose love of country and liberty are helping insure freedom. (AFNB)

### Memorial Club

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

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

# Sea Tiger Mail Bag

Here's the latest listing of pen-pals:

Ellnor McKnight (16) 99 Baldwin Ave., Knightswood Glasgow, W.3, Scotland	Gwen Martin (23) 19, Gorborne Road Kensington, London, England
Marjorie Dimond (19) 606 McBride Blvd. Suite No. 2 New Westminster, B.C. Canada	Janet Waite RD No. 1 Wattsburg, Pa. 16442
Elaine Kostyshin 12634 89 A Ave N. Surrey, B. C. Canada	Pearl Tageant (13) 124-A River Oaks Apts. Natchez, Miss.
Linda Evans (19) 1263 Wichita Drive S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30311	Debrah Smith 344 Garden Drive Wintersville, Ohio
Patty Greig (18) 4474 W. 9th Ave. Vancouver B. C. Canada	Sandra Uerl (19) 755 Western Ave. Mosinee, Wisc. 54455
Beverly A. Cupstid 136 Cowan Street Ferriday, La.	Bonnie Lehman (19) 618 E. 25th Street Erie, Penna. 16503
Betty Shingleur (21) 2355 N. 20th Street Baton Rouge, La. 70802	Doreen Condon 37 Sackville St. Belfast 12, North Ireland
Angela Burke (18) Achill Co. Mayo South Ireland	Patsy Love (21) 958 Fuqua Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
Dale Ann Ball (19) 314 Riverside Ave No. 22 Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060	Marjorie Webb P. O. Box 977 Richmond, Virginia
Sue Wasil 4130 Judd St. Schiller Park, Ill.	Dear Sir:
Helen Payne (20) 7 Grantham St., S. C. Rd. Dublin 8, Ireland	In Norway people used to write to seamen and in that way, many friends are found. As my great ideal is President John F. Kennedy, who once fought in Asia himself, I find it natural to ask you to be as kind as to furnish me some names and addresses of soldiers who are fighting in Vietnam. Perhaps some of them would like to be my friend.
Janice Huth (20) 4201 W. Victoria St. Chicago, Ill. 60646	McCollough's duties will cover all phases of command in the battalion, including medical and administrative matters. He will be in charge of orthopedic surgery and will be an advisor on the staff of the 3d Medical Battalion at Phu Bai.
Kathy Murphy (16) 20 Twin Bridge Rd. Madison, Conn. 06443	Knapp will report to USNH, Jacksonville, Fla.
Kathryn Maxwell 380 Cozine Ave. Brooklyn, N. Y. 11207	
Pamela Holden (17) 459 Hickory Drive Ledyard, Conn.	
Glenie Kelly Rt No. 4 Box 8 Atmore, Alabama 36502	

### Sierra ends for 2/7

CHU LAI—Marines of 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division concluded "Operation Sierra" in Quang Ngai Province, south of Chu Lai, Jan. 21.

Cold monsoon rains confronted the Leathernecks during their search for the Viet Cong. Infantry units covered terrain extending from mountainous jungle areas to sandy coastal islands.

Supporting firepower from field artillery and naval vessels plus close air support from jets of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing gave the battalion an extra combat punch.

One hundred and eleven VC were killed during the six-week long search and destroy operation. Marines captured two communist guerrillas and detained five suspects for interrogation.

Six Viet Cong and one North Vietnamese Army regular were returnees to government forces, and 36 individual weapons and several tons of rice were captured.

Marine casualties were light.

### No. 20 lucky

CHU LAI — The number 20 is a lucky one for First Lieutenant Allen J. Braden.

Braden, a pilot with Marine Attack Squadron-214, earned his first Air Medal while flying A4 "Skyhawk" number 20, on his 20th mission, 20 miles southwest of Chu Lai, on January 20th.

First I wrote to your embassy in Oslo and they gave me your address. Thank you in beforehand, I remain, yours faithfully.

HARALD BREIVIK (15 1/2)  
Imdyr, Norway

Dear Sir:  
I am a PLC (Platoon Leaders Candidate) and also chairman of the Centre College Young Americans for Freedom Chapter. The mission of our group is to stimulate patriotism and Americanism.

We would appreciate it if you send us a company roster of Marines now fighting in Vietnam. Our project this semester is to coordinate the whole campus in letter writing to boost the morale of our fighting man. We would like to be able to announce this program soon.

Tom Riner  
Box 715 Centre College  
Danville, Kentucky 40422

### New "D" Med CO

DONG HA — In ceremonies held here recently Lieutenant Commander Robert W. Knapp turned over the command of "D" Company, 3d Medical Battalion, to Lieutenant Commander Newton C. McCollough.

McCollough's duties will cover all phases of command in the battalion, including medical and administrative matters. He will be in charge of orthopedic surgery and will be an advisor on the staff of the 3d Medical Battalion at Phu Bai.

Knapp will report to USNH, Jacksonville, Fla.

## Telling the truth about Red Cross

With all the rocks flying through the air in dispute over our Vietnam policy, it is no wonder that some of them have even been bouncing off the eminently respectable Red Cross.

There is confusion about the role being played by the Red Cross in Vietnam, and the confusion, as usual, is founded on ignorance:

What is "The" Red Cross doing having dealings with North Vietnam, hey?"

"The Red Cross, meaning the American Red Cross, simply ain't having such dealings." That's the answer.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which is something else again, IS active in the conflict, in a strictly neutral role which is its reason for being.

The International Committee of the Red Cross is made up of 25 Swiss citizens.

You don't find anybody more inherently neutral than the neutral Swiss, ever since they gave up hiring as pro soldiers generations ago.

One of the nutty things about wars is that wars must have rules. Sometimes the rules are shadowy, sometimes precise, sometimes observed, sometimes broken.

But rules there are, and the ICRC is the only organization prestigious enough to be trusted by any possible combination of belligerents to oversee the rules.

Also, belligerents, no matter how angry, must have a channel of communications. They have to talk to each other. The ICRC is the recognized channel.

EXAMPLE: In the Cuban missile crisis, ICRC was the only group both the Russians and the Americans were willing to trust to inspect Russian ships bound for Cuba.

ICRC has arranged a truce in Santo Domingo, delivered food parcels to American prisoners held by the Red Chinese, and attended to similar peaceful chores amid the gunfire in Cyprus, Laos, and the Congo.

Right now, the ICRC is our link to American prisoners held by the enemy in Vietnam. It oversees the rules for them, and of course sees to the delivering of the traditional aid parcels.

For our own benefit, then, the American Red Cross and our government both support the work of this unique international organization.

—Dick Nolan SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

**Nicknamed 'Mini-FAG'**

# Cannoneers heap praise on infantry counterparts

By SSgt. Jack W. Jansen

DA NANG—A mutual admiration society has matured into a "personal relationship" between the artillery units and infantry battalion based at An Hoa.

"E" Battery, Eleventh Marine Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines joined forces last March when the units arrived in Vietnam.

Since then the firing of the big guns has been music to the ears of the infantrymen who listen nightly to the almost ceaseless poundings of "their" guns.

The artillerymen have nicknamed their unit Mini-FAG according to Lieutenant I. L. Carver, battalion commanding officer.

Not quite as large as a normal sized field artillery group, Mini-FAG still puts out enough fire-power to make life miserable for marauding Viet Cong.

In a 20-day period this month, the battery recorded 30 confirmed Viet Cong kills, five supply boats sunk and a mortar position destroyed.

According to Captain George Gore, the battery commander, "we have developed into a team in which every man in the unit knows his own and another's job."

In the same vein he states that every man is important.

"As an example," Gore said, "our motor transport section has 27 pieces of rolling stock and not one is deadlined."

Staff Sergeant Charles Lockhart, operations chief of "E" Battery, said "we are always ready. We have helped the 2nd Bn., Fifth Marines out of a few tight spots and we know they appreciate it."

The cannoneers heap praise on their infantry counterparts. It is common in "E" Battery to hear, "I think this is the finest infantry battalion to which we could be attached."

"Echo" battery is armed with 105mm and 155mm howitzers. They can also call on the 8-inch howitzers and self-propelled 155mm guns at An Hoa.

## Chaplain's privilege to serve 1st Recon

By

Robert R. Cunningham,  
Chaplain

CHU LAI—As Chaplain of the First Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division, it is my privilege to minister to an elite unit of U.S. fighting men in Vietnam. Their mission — to penetrate hostile territory and by visual sightings confirm the strength and activity of enemy forces. The information gained often determines the extent of future Marine operations.

Recently I accompanied four Recon men in an aerial survey

of a proposed landing zone in an area where a North Vietnamese unit has been reported. Early on that afternoon, two helicopters noisily dropped down on the landing pad adjacent to the Recon camp and we quickly scrambled aboard.

The helos climbed in altitude and swiftly made their way across a patchwork of terrain-varied-colored and designed rice paddies, lusterless rivers, meandering foot-trails — on toward the cloud-covered mountains to the Southwest. Throughout the flight, the lieutenant in charge silently traced with his finger on the map, the general direction of streams, ridges, valleys and trails.

When the desired coordinates on the map were reached, the craft began to circle a broad section of mountainous area. Several open spaces were observed in the otherwise dense tropical growth and these were carefully considered and plotted on the map. To avoid publicizing future intentions, the helicopters did not tarry in the specific area. Satisfied with the possible landing sites, the Lieutenant gave the signal to return and we quickly turned back. Once more at the landing pad, both officer and pilot conferred briefly and agreed on the landing zone to be used.

Several hours later I met the platoon of eighteen men scheduled to carry out the particular recon patrol. The majority of them were young lads, some quiet and somber, others jocular with the confidence of youth. Interspersed among them were a few veterans silently smoking and lost in thought. The camouflaged faces they all had in common betrayed no sign of tension or fear.

As the moment of departure approaches, the Chaplain standing among his men quietly speaks: "OK, let's gather around for a moment and listen up . . ." Then follows a verse of Scripture or some thought given from memory. On this occasion the familiar words of the 23rd Psalm take on new meaning, ". . . yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil . . ." Following added words of assurance concerning the abiding presence of God, the group prays together . . . "our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name . . ."



### Terrible team

PFC Mike A. Mileham (left) and John W. Scarborough fire their machine gun at running VC during a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang. Both are members of "M" Co., 3d Bn., Seventh Marines.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## Reward program set for intelligence info

An awards program for intelligence information has been established within the III MAF command since early October 1965. The results have been largely proportional to the effort and interest given it by local commanders. Several organizations have received information of significant intelligence value from indigenous personnel throughout their zones of action.

Enemy weapons, supply caches and mines and booby traps have been located and recovered. The program, while limited to date, shows promise; and merits expansion.

A recent review of the III MAF Rewards Program indicates that past fiscal accounting procedures have been overly complicated; specifically, the necessity for signed receipts from informants has been undesirable. Additionally, present limitations on the size of payments have been unduly restrictive. These defects have resulted in inflexibility and required excessive administrative effort, thereby hampering the program.

The underlying principle of this program is that any asset or resource which will assist in locating the enemy and his material or which will reduce friendly casualties (primarily from mines and booby traps) must be vigorously exploited.

Reward funds will be utilized to reward Vietnamese civilians only. Rewards will not be paid to U.S. personnel, Vietnamese government officials or agencies nor to Vietnamese military (ARVN), or paramilitary personnel. Neither will rewards funds be utilized to establish agent networks or similar apparatus.

The funds should be made available to the lowest echelon possible to insure maximum effectiveness of the program. It is strongly recommended that re-

wards funds be carried by platoon leaders, by patrol leaders, by Marine interpreters, and by other responsible personnel who come into frequent contact with the populace.

It is anticipated that commanders will vary reward amounts to fit changing situations. Individual Marines who possess rewards funds must evaluate the volunteered information and local circumstance before making a judgement regarding size of reward, if any. In an effort to standardize the size of awards to be paid, the following scale is offered as a guide. Locations of mines and booby traps, 400 piasters; delivery of individual weapons, 500 piasters; delivery of crew served weapons, 1,000 piasters; and specific location of Viet Cong personnel, supply caches, installations, 500-2,000 piasters.

No maximum amount for an individual reward payment has been established.

The informants will no longer be required to sign a receipt for reward funds. However, units will maintain a record listing the date, amount and for what purpose the payment was made.

Each Marine Division is currently allocated 50,000 piasters per quarter. Other III MAF commands will normally receive reward funds as requested.



### Little things mean a lot

HMC Joseph M. Dill applies ointment to the leg of a Vietnamese baby during a search and destroy operation conducted several miles northwest of Chu Lai by elements of 1st Bn., Fifth Marines. The corpsman found several opportunities to give the villagers medical aid as his unit moved through the countryside. (Photo by PFC William A. Porter)

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### Surprise visit

PFC Charles A. Carson, Jr., MABS-11, MAG-11, reads a letter from his parents addressed to actor Glenn Ford (right). Carson's parents asked the movie star, a commander in the U.S. Navy Reserve, to visit their son in Vietnam. Ford was here to film a documentary for the U.S. Marine Corps.

(Photo by SSgt. Bill Brown)

## Old, dying fisherman lives to smile again

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI—The old fisherman was dying. He lay on a straw mat in his tiny hut beside the An Tan River, unable to move. A huge infected swelling just above his right hip left him practically paralyzed; he could not straighten his leg.

"I am dying," he told his family. "There is an American doctor in the village. He comes every day. Tell him that an elder is dying and needs his help."

One of the old Vietnamese's neighbors knew enough English to write a note to the doctor who treated the sick and injured in the village of Tich Tay.

He found the doctor, Navy Lieutenant G.H. Saltzberg was working in the white-painted dispensary villagers had built early last year.

Saltzberg is medical officer for the 9th Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division. Tich Tay is a small village near Chu Lai—it is the adopted village of the battalion's medical assistance program.

The 27-year-old doctor read the note and asked, "How far away does he live?"

"I will show you," the neighbor said.

Saltzberg's assistant Navy Corpsman, R.W. Bishop picked up a litter. He and the doctor followed the messenger along the thin path a mile upriver until they reached the small hut surrounded by nets strung on poles. Women and children sat just inside the hut out of the rain, mending some of the nets.

The old man lay in the darkness and tried to smile when he saw the doctor.

Saltzberg inspected the abscess which had grown to the size of a football. The Vietnamese villager was taken to the 1st Medical Battalion at Chu Lai where the abscess was cut and drained.

The fisherman still was not out of danger. He needed hospitalization and constant care.

Saltzberg and Bishop began a daily routine of "house calls". They administered antibiotics and

changed dressings.

Day-by-day the fisherman's condition improved. Within a week he could sit up. Two weeks after treatment began he knew he would not die and began making ready for the day when he could fish again.

With each visit, the doctor and his assistant were feasted with a "Vietnamese style" full-course dinner of fried rice, raw fish, duck eggs and assorted delicacies of all shapes and smells.

The Navy medical team would fumble with inexperienced hands around chopsticks, fully aware that western stomachs were not accustomed to such a diet. They ate because courtesy demanded it of them, and somehow each managed to keep smiling at their hosts who could offer no other expression of their gratitude.

Sitting on his mat, looking at the gray rain-swollen river, the old fisherman would occasionally glance at the two Americans making a game attempt at eating with pleasure, and he would smile.

It was a good life.

### New 3/26 CO

PHU BAI—Lieutenant Colonel Kurt K. Hoch assumed command of the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Regiment, 3rd Marine Division during ceremonies Jan. 17.

The unit is participating in Operation Chinook 20 miles north of here.

Hoch relieved Lieutenant Colonel Garland T. Beyerle who has been reassigned to Headquarters Battalion, 3rd Marine Division for duty.

Jackson likes his job so well that he has just extended his tour with the First Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam for another six months.

## Statistics, results impressive at "A" Med. orthopedic clinic

By GySgt. Jack Butts

PHU BAI—Medical case histories are of necessity dry, factual reports: Vo Tai Thom; polio victim as a child, left arm useless; now 14-years old; four corrective surgery operations to fuse shoulder, elbow and wrist joints. Nicknamed Harry by doctors and corpsmen.

An 18-year-old Vietnamese girl known only as Cleopatra; polio of the left leg; was unable to walk without lurching from side to side; painful to walk; daily activity extremely limited; successful hip/fusion operation performed.

For the boy, the series of operations should make him into a more useful citizen, the girl is walking almost normally and without pain.

These are but two of many cases requiring corrective surgery that have been aided by "A" Company, 3rd Medical Battalion during the past few months.

The statistics are impressive (more than 150 Vietnamese patients have been to orthopedic sick call the past three months). Results are even more impressive because treatment of wounded and injured Marines and Navymen are the prime considerations at the field hospital.

Headed by Commander Guy Townsend, the orthopedic clinic's constantly expanding facilities are carrying a huge work load. Townsend and his assistants have performed more than 40 operations on Vietnamese civilians since August 1966.

With the arrival of the 3rd Medical Bn. headquarters from Da Nang, size of the hospital increased this month. Already, new operating rooms are under construction and will be in use in the near future.

The result will be increased service to the Marines and quicker operative service for the Vietnamese.

Lieutenant Commander John S. Romine, a recent arrival at Phu Bai from Da Nang, who has repaired club feet, bone fusion and skin grafts, said the work "is rewarding". "But", he adds, "it lacks the complete satisfaction

which would result if the attending surgeon could follow the case through to a conclusion.

"Most of us are gone by the time a lengthy convalescence is completed," he said. "We do however get the word from the next doctor attending as to the final disposition of the patient."

Romine said more severe untreated abnormalities are found in Vietnam, than in the U.S.

"Many are the result of polio the people didn't even know they had. They (the people) believe dozens of other things cause these afflictions," he said.

Patients are of all age groups, from all areas of the I Corps.

They're referred by Medical Civic Action teams and Army advisors, or come of own accord after seeing results of work done on others in their village or ham-

let.

Whatever the reasons treatment sometimes results in dramatic changes in personalities.

Children who are normally withdrawn because of a previous deformity, leave the hospital ready to take their place among schoolmates and friends. Outlooks of former patients undergo a uniform change for the better.

Cases have been recorded of Viet Cong fathers turning in weapons after successful surgery on their children; of entire villages swinging away from VC influence because of treatment villagers receive at the field hospitals.

It will probably continue to happen as more and more "Harry's" and "Cleopatra's" return to their villages with a new lease on life following treatment.



### New Seventh Marines CO

Col. Charles C. Crossfield (left) addresses his troops after assuming command of the Seventh Marines from Col. Lawrence F. Snoddy, Jr. (right). Snoddy has been assigned duties as G-3 III MAF.

## Phu Bai mortar attack claims two Seabees

The Viet Cong mortar attack that pelted the Phu Bai military enclave with almost 60 rounds Jan. 20 claimed two Seabee lives and injured 17 others at Camp Campbell, the portion of the enclave that is occupied by U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion SIXTY-TWO (MCB-62).

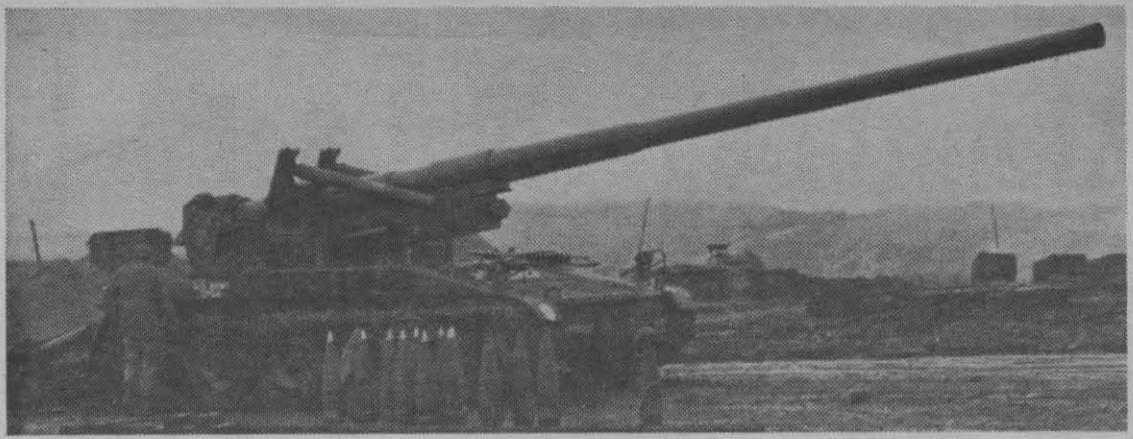
Three of the mortar rounds exploded harmlessly in open areas of the MCB-62 camp, but two others ripped into

small unit of Viet Cong from the vicinity of a friendly village south of the enclave.

The location of the mortar position was identified, but due to the dense civilian population of the village, Marine artillery was unable to return fire.

Helicopter gunships were airborne almost immediately after the enemy fire lifted. Along with increased Marine patrolling they searched the suspected area until dawn, but could not locate the V.C.

SEA TIGER 5



## Big guns at Cam Lo

One of the Army's 175mm guns stands in mute testimony to the importance of the pad and gun emplacement construction underway at Cam Lo by MCB-FIVE's Dong Ha Detachment. The Seabee construction should make the tremendous power of the big guns even more effective. (OFFICIAL SEABEE PHOTOGRAPH)

## 3rdMarDiv Provost Marshal Office made up of diplomats, law enforcers

By GySgt Jack Butts

PHU BAI—It hardly caused a ripple of excitement when a blonde-haired, blue-eyed, six-year-old boy walked into military police headquarters here. When the lad announced that he had hitch-hiked from Hue and was looking for his daddy—that caused some raised eyebrows.

The youngster's father, an American construction worker for RMK-BMJ, was located with the Navy's construction battalion, and reunited with his errant son. A fast trip by military police jeep and the boy was home again with his mother.

Then there was a young lady. She'd arrived at Phu Bai airfield and wanted to get to Hue. The field worker with a branch of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), had been on the go four days during the height of the monsoon season.

She was wet, cold, tired and hungry. Several hours later, after drying out, eating, and taking a short nap courtesy of the MP's, she also was transported to her final destination.

While these happenings are slightly out of the ordinary, they are representative of the activity occurring almost daily at the 3d Marine Division's provost marshal's office; an office that functions much like a metropolitan police station in the United States.

It's a combined missing persons, criminal investigation, traffic violation, public affairs, and civic action bureau. It also is a clearing house for hundreds of Vietnamese civilians employed in the 3d Division's area of responsibility.

As far as the Vietnamese people are concerned, it is the hub of activity in the Phu Bai area. According to Major J.H. Olds, division provost marshal and commander of Military Police Company, the people feel that anything can be accomplished by coming to police authorities.

"We seem to get in the middle of everything because of the situation," said the major. "Everything from rounding up lost dogs to criminal suspects falls to our unit."

Because of this the MP's are a large part of the American civic action program in Vietnam. More than 5,000 people a day pass through the various gates and checkpoints. In each case, Marine MP and Vietnamese national policemen are on hand to check their credentials and assist. This makes the individual MP an ambassador of good will because of the amount of daily contact with our allies.

At a meeting of the National Police Association in Saigon, Phu Bai was cited as being one of the most advanced in the field of cooperation between Vietnamese and American law enforcement

officials.

Working with the MP company are 14 national policemen, four QC's (the equivalent of our Military Policemen) and three national policewomen. These lady officers are used specifically to handle cases involving members of the fair sex.

Vietnamese policemen stand duty at checkpoints with Marines to check buses, private autos, pedestrians. While doing this, they pass out psychological warfare pamphlets.

In addition to working closely with Vietnamese officials, the MPs provide convoy escorts and protection for visiting dignitaries. More than 40 percent of the major road networks within the 125-mile stretch between the southern edge of the 3d Division area of responsibility and Camp Carroll, just a few miles south of the demilitarized zone, are patrolled. To do this, the unit has a platoon at Dong Ha and two at Phu Bai. Another platoon is at III Marine Amphibious Force

headquarters at Da Nang.

One of the biggest problems of the investigation department is traffic accidents.

Viet Cong and North Vietnamese prisoners captured in the Phu Bai or Dong Ha operational areas also add to the workload of the company. A detention ward is available so interrogation teams can question prisoners before sending them along the chain to higher authority and their eventual destination — with MP escorts.

And like the big city police departments, the job is fraught with its share of danger—land mines on roads, snipers and VC attacks.

During emergencies such as a recent Viet Cong mortar attack on the Phu Bai area, the MPs directed traffic and assisted medical personnel in attending the wounded until the danger subsisted.

Their work is summed up simply by their commander, "we try to be just plain helpful to people."



## Sorting the catch

Marines of the 3d Tank Bn., advised by Vietnamese youngsters, sort the day's catch of fish near the Cau Do River south of Da Nang. Sorting the fish are SSgt. James J. Biedrzycki (left), and Sgt. Enos S. Lambert, Jr., members of the battalion civil affairs team.

# Short Rounds

## Band tour

CHU LAI — The 1st Marine Division band concluded a four-day concert tour of 1st Marine Division units in the Chu Lai area Jan. 22.

With the band were Warrant Officer Eugene W. Elkes, Band Officer, Master Gunnery Sergeant Charles Busch, assistant band leader, and Gunnery Sergeant James Bilek, drum major.

During their performances the 31-piece band played a combination of concert music, dance band, concert band music, and show tunes.

Included in the repertoire were the march music of Morton Gould: "The Sound of Music," by Rogers and Hammerstein, and an Al Hirt medley of "Java," "Cotton Candy," and "Sugar Lips" featuring Lance Corporal Jerry S. Bowers on the trumpet.

Dance band numbers included "Bye Bye Blues," "After You've Gone," and featured Corporal Ronald R. Morgele and his version of "Chapter and Verse" on the drums.

Show tunes included Henry Mancini's "Pink Panther" and "Mr. Lucky."

Brass and woodwinds complemented each other in perfect harmony as John Philip Sousa's "Semper Fidelis" marked the conclusion of the concert.

During their tour the band also provided music for a change of command ceremony at Seventh Marine Regiment headquarters and for a ground breaking ceremony in the village of Binh Thang.

## USA vs USMC

DA NANG — The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing basketball team downed a stubborn 1st Logistical Command Army team Jan. 21 at the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters court, 73-71.

Featuring a fast break and virtually complete backboard control, the Leathernecks, led by Ed "Big L" Eillis' 20 points, walked off the court at the end of the first half leading 39-30.

Army failed to get on the scoreboard for the first 10 minutes of the second half. At this point they seemed to catch their second wind and played the Marines on better than even terms.

With the home team leading 71-65, Marine coach, Major Floyd L. Harding, made a complete line-up change but the soldiers continued to whittle away at the lead until, with but 46 seconds remaining, they moved to within two points of the leaders.

These last seconds were action filled with both teams having scoring opportunities but neither one could find the basket and the final whistle sounded Army's loss.

## 2/7 project

CHU LAI — A ground breaking ceremony in the village of Binh Thang, Binh Son District Jan. 20, marked the beginning of the completion of another joint civic action project between local villagers and Marines of the 2d Battalion, Seventh Marines.

Several weeks ago the office of the village chief was blown up by the Viet Cong. The chief, Le Van Xuan, appealed to Captain James J. Dorsey, battalion civil affairs and psychological operations officer, for help in building a new office.

A new site was selected. It was cleared by members of Mobile Construction Battalion 8.

While the village chief and Lance Corporal David E. Garrett, of the battalion S-5 office drew up plans for the new building the villagers salvaged and cleaned bricks not destroyed in the sabotage of the old office.

On the day of the ground breaking ceremony the 1st Marine

Division band was on hand.

Captain Dorsey addressed the villagers gathered to witness the ceremony. His remarks were translated by Corporal Garrett.

The captain then formally presented the first bag of cement to Le Can, assistant village chief.

The ceremonies were concluded with an address by Lieutenant Colonel Russell E. Johnson, Executive Officer, Seventh Marines.

## ROK Marines

CHU LAI—U.S. Marine helicopters came to the aid of Republic of Korea Marines during the sixth day of an operation and have been cited by the Koreans as being responsible for turning the tide of battle.

The operation, which concluded recently, was conducted by the 2d ROK (Blue Dragon) Marine Brigade in their area of responsibility south of Chu Lai.

During the evening of the sixth day Korean Marines from the 9th Company, 3d Battalion, Blue Dragon Brigade, were engaged in battle with an unknown number of Viet Cong. They called on U.S. Marine helicopters from HMM 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, for help. The pilots responded, flying through heavy rain and a late afternoon darkness which limited their visibility to a few meters.

By the time darkness had set in the Marine helicopter pilots had made three strafing runs against the VC positions.

Because of their heroism and determination the pilot, co-pilot and crew of one of the helicopters have been cited by the Blue Dragon Brigade. They are: Captain Wayne A. Julian; Captain Jerry Piatt; Lance Corporal Robert T. McGettigan, crew chief; and waist gunners Lance Corporal Don C. Bonner, Jr., and Corporal Homer R. Belche, Jr.

## Rescue

DA NANG — Captain Billy R. Massey of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165, braved enemy infested territory to rescue a fellow Marine pilot.

While heli-lifting supplies over An Hoa on a resupply mission, the Marine Aircraft Group-36 copter pilot received an emergency radio message.

A Marine A4 "Skyhawk," piloted by Captain William Scheuren of Marine Attack Squadron-211, Marine Aircraft Group-12, was on fire and going down east of An Hoa.

"By a stroke of luck I happened to be on the same radio frequency and made contact with the A4 pilot. I was closing on him as he parachuted into enemy territory two miles east of An Hoa," Massey said.

Alerting his gun crew, the Texas Marine landed near the VMA-211 pilot and lifted him from the area.

## Medcap

DONG HA—Seventy-seven Vietnamese men, women and children received medical attention Jan. 18, when a MEDCAP (medical civil affairs program) team from "F" Company, Third Marine Regiment, held "sick call" during a company sweep two miles from Cam Lo.

Joining "F" Co. Marines for the sweep was an 80-man company of Vietnamese Regional Force and Popular Force troops. The Vietnamese soldiers were dispersed among the Marine squads.

The Navy MEDCAP team, led by Hospitalman Second Class Dwight R. Morgan, and Hospitalman Robert E. Hunter, treated the 77 villagers during the sick call for colds, scores, rashes, stomach aches and headaches.

On the day of the ground breaking ceremony the 1st Marine

Sea Tiger Spotlight on:

# Pacific Air Force Jungle Survival School

By GySgt. C.V. Stallings

DA NANG—The lush jungles of Southeast Asia blanket some of the most formidable terrain in the world. Many forms of death lurk beneath dense green canopies, but man can also find the means to survive in this dark world, provided he knows where to look and what to do.

Pilots and aircrewmen from the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, along with personnel from other branches of the service who have been, or soon will be, flying over Vietnam, are learning "the facts of life" at the Pacific Air Force (PACAF) Jungle Survival School, conducted at Clark Air Force Base in the Republic of the Philippines.

The four and a half day school, staffed by 20 Air Force instructors, all specialists in survival, begins with a day of classroom lectures, then moves nine miles north to a dense mountain jungle area. There, for the next three and a half days, the students learn and practice methods of survival in a totally new environment.

Students at the PACAF school soon realize that the word "survival" has a broader meaning than the procurement of food, water, and shelter. They find that it also encompasses such subjects as a safe descent from a tree-snared parachute, first aid, a working knowledge of signalling devices and methods, detection of booby traps, and escape and evasion techniques.

Throughout the field portion of the course, students learn how and where to prepare shelters, utilizing bamboo, banana leaves, vines, and whatever else is available. They also are taught which types of plants contain drinkable water. Many of the men are amazed to find that as much as several gallons of clear, sweet water can be tapped from one particular tree in the space of a single night.

During their stay in the jungle, the students actually live off the land. Part of their diet is made up of jungle plants they find and prepare themselves. They are taught to distinguish between edible and poisonous species, as well as different ways the jungle food can be cooked and even seasoned. They also learn methods of trapping birds and small animals.

On hand to offer advice and assistance are Negrito tribesmen, who work with the instructors. The Negritos, expert trackers and hunters, are literally at home in the jungle, and are equally proficient at snaring a bird or starting a fire by friction, using pieces of bamboo.

The Negritos also play an important part in the final escape and evasion part of the course. During the evening of the last day in the field, they attempt to hunt down the evading students, who have been divided into teams and given a two-hour head start in three square miles of dense jungle area. For each student they are able to find, the Negritos receive a pound of rice from the school. Their large families are said to be well fed.

The escape and evasion problem is secured at daylight, when the students signal helicopters circling the area, and are winched aboard in a rescue sling.

The entire PACAF survival course is slanted toward conditions found in Vietnam. To ensure that their information is up to date, instructors from the school are periodically sent to Vietnam, where they spend a month at a time gathering first-hand information from various units.

Though conducted in rugged terrain, the PACAF Jungle Survival School is not considered to be a rugged course. According to the school's commandant, Major Fred Ewing, it is not designed to be.

"We realize that many of the pilots and crew members attending our course could be flying combat mission within 48 hours after they leave here," said the major. "We don't want to tear them down physically or mentally. We don't try to browbeat, humiliate or push a man. We try to teach him."

Evidence that Ewing's philosophy is working are letters of thanks from former students who have "punched-out" over the jungles of Vietnam and survived to fly again.



"RAZOR SHARP"—were the words used by Marine Maj. Mel H. Sautter, to describe this Negrito tribesman's bolo knife. Negritos, who live in the rugged jungle area where the field portion of the school is held, serve as assistant instructors and aggressors during the escape and evasion part of the course.

(Photo by GySgt. C. V. Stallings)



WATER FROM THE VINE—Maj. Mel H. Sautter, FMF(AW)-232, MAG-11 quenches his thirst from a water vine during the field portion of the PACAF Jungle Survival School.

(Photo by GySgt. C. V. Stallings)

## Visiting in a Vietnamese home

Visits among family and friends are an important part of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year, which will be 9-12 February this year.

Americans should accept invitations to visit in Vietnamese homes whenever possible, for this will add to their appreciation and understanding of Vietnamese life.

Some aspects of such visits can be unfamiliar to the visitor, of the New Year. He is believed to influence the family's fortunes for the rest of the year. This visitor often is carefully selected to insure a prosperous future.

Americans, even if invited for the first or "Head" day of the year, should make their visits in the afternoon.

Tet is a very special time; all Vietnamese want to begin the

New Year with new clothes. Americans should, therefore, dress their best, coat and tie preferred.

Vietnamese etiquette requires that a guest greet the honored ancestors of the family before greeting his living hosts.

The guest should face the family altar, place his palms together in front of his chest, and incline his head three to five times in a restrained, respectful bow.

Then he may greet his living hosts, who will be impressed with his good manners.

Many Vietnamese women are not accustomed to shaking hands, so a man should wait until his hostess volunteers such a greeting.

A guest may expect to be offered food and drink, probably rice cake or other delicacies and tea. These should be accepted as it would be rude to refuse.

Here is a "must" for a successful visit. Remember that the Vietnamese value harmony and avoid controversy more than ever at Tet. Any subject which might cause friction must be avoided, especially politics and religion.

Appreciation of Tet depends on understanding the customs, traditions and ceremonies. Respect for the beliefs of others is fundamental to all democratic peoples. We can illustrate this by showing the proper spirit at Tet.



BAMBOO TEAPOT—Maj. John A. Reese Jr., pours hot water into his canteen cup from one of nature's teapots, a section of green bamboo heated over a fire started by friction, utilizing pieces of dry bamboo.



## Working together

Pitching in to build a new public school at Hoa Long are (left to right with shovels) Nguyen Pham Kim Hoan, a schoolteacher; and LCpl. Ron A. Miller, MAG-16. The project is headed by 2d Lt. Charles P. Barker and is scheduled to be completed this month. It will be the largest school on the Marble Mountain area.

## Recon team pulled out of trouble spot

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — When a Marine reconnaissance team ran into trouble on the afternoon of January 25, pilots and crews of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265 went into action.

At 1:30 p.m., the squadron learned that two of the recon men had been wounded in fighting with a numerically superior Viet Cong force approximately 14

miles southwest of Da Nang. A CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopter was dispatched to evacuate the casualties.

Arriving over the recon team's hill-top position, Captain Wayne A. Vecchitto, was unable to land his chopper because of the dense jungle. Attempts to lower a rescue cable were foiled by trees reaching more than 100 feet into the air.

He flew back to base for more fuel and a longer cable and returned to find that the Marines had moved into a bomb crater in a slightly more open area.

While UH-1E "Huey" gunships hovered protectively overhead, Vecchitto maneuvered his aircraft down through an opening only slightly larger than the plane itself. He finally reached a position with tree limbs extending within inches of his spinning rotor blades.

He held the chopper stationary for 45 minutes while his crew chief, Sergeant Elmer Durbin, threaded the rescue hoist down through the thick foliage. When both wounded men had been lifted into the plane, Vecchitto worked his way out of the pocket and sped to a medical facility at Da Nang.

Durbin, a veteran of 700 flight hours in the "Sea Knight," praised his pilot's performance as, "the best piece of flying I have ever seen."

Yet, the day was far from over for both air and ground Marines. The recon team evaded the large enemy force until after dark when they reached a suitable landing zone and radioed for more choppers to pick them up.

Two more Marine Aircraft Group-16 "Sea Knights," piloted by Major Charles Pittman and Captain Gerold Dooley flew in for the extraction.

The aircraft went in one at a time, guided by blinking survival lights while the ever-present "Hueys" suppressed enemy fire from a neighboring redgeline. When they left, all 15 Marines had been safely evacuated.

## Civic action volunteer

DA NANG — Miss Phan Thi Thuong is a tiny woman with a big job.

An employee of the Marine Aircraft Group-16 Industrial Relations Office, she recently added her 90 pounds of energy to the MAG-16 civic action program.

A college graduate who hopes to become a nurse, Miss Thuong spends long hours each week, assisting MAG-16 corpsmen as they make their rounds of nearby hamlets. She also acts as interpreter when needed.

She first volunteered to help the Marines in their projects when she noticed that many Vietnamese villagers were frightened of the medical instruments used by corpsmen treating them.

"I decided that I could explain to the villagers that the instruments which look so frightening are really quite harmless," she said. "Some villagers had never before seen such instruments as a stethoscope."

When her friendly explanations sometimes fail to win over the confidence of an ailing villager, Miss Thuong draws herself up to her full five feet and renders a blast of mercifully uninterpreted Vietnamese.

"It's for their own good," she smiles, "and I'm just the one to see to it."

# Marines put sparkle back into eyes of refugee girl

By SSgt. Ed Grantham

PHU BAI — She weighs in at 39 pounds, stands less than three feet tall and is five years old. Her moon-round face holds two beautiful almond eyes that have seen more than eyes that pretty should have.

Her clothes were in tatters, and small hands reached out forming tiny cups as they received a handful of half-cooked rice. Her name was unknown and lost among the hundreds of other similar children at the Phong Dien refugee center.

She had walked more than 20 miles through Viet Cong controlled land balancing a bar slung low over her shoulders. The bar held two woven bamboo baskets containing sweet potato leaves on one side and a few cooking pots on the other.

It was her first trip outside the tiny hamlet that she called home on the edge of the mountains skirting the western edge of Phong Dien province. It also was her first time to see light skinned, tall American soldiers. She was naturally awed and more than a little scared.

With her, on the trip from home, came an aged grandmother, a crippled brother and several other residents of their hamlet. They were fleeing the Viet Cong, who days before had entered their small group of thatched huts and demanded food and shelter.

This was not new to the hamlet residents, for the Viet Cong made many such demands from them in the past. They knew no force other than the Cong. Then came the word that U.S. Marines were waiting to take them to safety.

That was almost ten days ago. Now she chats with other children and helps prepare the evening meal of rice over a community fire.

She wears a new dress and sports her first school book which is never laid down even for the cooking duties. Her weight has changed and she even looks taller. The almond eyes no longer have that scared look of a person ten times her age. They sparkle as a little girl's eyes should.

Marines who see the five-year-old girl know the feeling of accomplishment. They have driven

the Viet Cong from the populated lowlands back into the hills. Equally important, they have brought security and a chance for a better future to the people of Phong Dien.



## Taste it . . . it's good

Brave but doubtful, this Vietnamese boy closes his eyes as Lt. Gaetane T. Vita spoons out vitamins during a County Fair in Ben Dau hamlet, southwest of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

## Pied Piper of Chu Lai

CHU LAI — A Navy corpsman who hit the beaches of Sicily, Salerno, Normandy, Southern France and Okinawa during World War II is now tending to the medical needs of Marines of the Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division here.

Like most corpsman, HMCS Seth Foster, USN, is referred to as "Doc." And being a responsible individual he takes his work seriously. When not at the dispensary "Doc" Foster may be seen making his rounds with an aerosol dispenser strapped to his back, destroying mosquito breeding grounds and in general keeping the nuisance insect level at a minimum.

Another phase of area sanitation is rodent control. Since his arrival in Vietnam, Chief Foster has eliminated almost 500 rodents.

"They carry typhus, plague and rabies," the chief said. He also explained that while all servicemen are immunized there was always the remote possibility that an individual may have missed his immunization or might not have built up an immunity. Hence the added precaution and extra effort.



## Big brother of chopper family

The newest of the Marine Corps' helicopter family, the CH-53A, is now being used here. The largest and fastest production helicopter in the free world, it is capable of carrying more than four tons of cargo and cruise more than 170 miles per hour.

# Decorations and awards

## DFC

DA NANG—Major Eugene W. Gilbert was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross "for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight."

Gilbert earned the award while serving as flight leader of two CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopters of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265 on September 13.

He was assigned the mission of carrying two 105mm howitzers and supplies to the Vietnamese outpost of Nui Dang which had suffered heavy casualties and was in danger of being overrun by the Viet Cong.

Enroute to the beleaguered outpost, he learned that his escort of fixed wing aircraft would be delayed. Although both aircraft had been stripped of their armament because of their heavy loads, he decided to proceed with the mission.

### According to the citation:

"The flight was uneventful up to his approach when suddenly the villages and tree lines surrounding the outpost erupted with withering small arms and automatic weapons fire.

"With calm determination and courage, he led his flight into the landing zone, then returned a second time with an armed escort. Professionally analyzing his first approach, Maj. Gilbert maneuvered his vulnerable aircraft away from the intense enemy fire, this time hovering as he lowered a 105mm howitzer into position.

"The flight returned for a third trip as the weather was rapidly deteriorating and nightfall approaching. Again heavy fire was received, but he skillfully eluded the fire to land the last 105mm howitzer in position and completed the assigned mission."

## DFC

DA NANG — Captain Richard H. Langenfeld has been awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross "For heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight while serving as a helicopter aircraft commander with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265. . . ."

### The citation read in part:

"While flying an unarmed and unarmored CH-46A helicopter, Capt. Langenfeld was sent on an emergency resupply mission. Due to the high jungle canopy and the lack of a cleared landing zone, he decided to carry the ammunition in a net on a 65 foot extension to be delivered externally.

"As the aircraft entered the drop zone, a ridgeline to the immediate left of the flight path erupted with intense automatic weapons fire. He was unable to come to a halt over the area on the first approach, and, although he took hits in the pass, set up for another run.

"At this time Capt. Langenfeld had just 20 minutes of fuel remaining and was informed that a fuel cell had been hit on the last pass and was leaking badly. Aware that only one more pass was possible, he reached the drop zone and lowered his aircraft into the small clearing as far as possible.

"Again the enemy fire opened up and he could hear and feel the bullets riddle the defenseless helicopter. When the load was dropped, he returned to Marble Mountain Air Facility where he confirmed nine hits and the fuel leak.

"Due to his heroic actions without regard to the danger involved, the beleaguered Marines received their much needed ammunition supply."

The citation praised Langenfeld's "courage, outstanding skill and singular devotion to duty" during the action.

Capt. Langenfeld was presented the decoration by Major General Louis B. Robertson, Commanding General, First Marine Air-

craft Wing, during an informal ceremony at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang.

## DFC

CHU LAI — Captain Gary E. Thiry, a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism.

He received the award for his actions while leading a helicopter flight on a medical evacuation mission near the demilitarized zone in September, 1966.

As Thiry approached the zone, his aircraft received several hits from well-entrenched enemy troops. Under intense fire he brought his plane into the zone and safely evacuated five casualties.

When the second evacuation craft approached the zone the enemy opened up with automatic weapons fire, damaging the plane, and forcing it down.

Thiry circled the area until he received a radio report of the extent of damage to the downed "bird", then airlifted the injured personnel to medical facilities.

The captain then returned to his base, picked up spare parts, a mechanic, and ammunition for the besieged ground forces, and returned to the downed craft. Thiry brought his craft safely into the zone, despite intense enemy fire.

After the supplies were unloaded, he lifted from the zone and circled the area, while his aerial gunners provided covering fire for the downed crew.

When the damaged plane was repaired, the captain again landed to pick up additional injured personnel, and led the flight out on the return trip.

## Bronze Star

PHU BAI — Doctor Jerry Enis, is an old hand at treating wounded and injured Marines here in Vietnam.

He was awarded a Bronze Star Medal by General William C. Westmoreland, commander, U.S. Forces, Vietnam, for doing it so well.

But Enis' story goes beyond military duties, the Navy lieutenant also provides medical services to the Medical Civil Action Program (MADCAP) for the Vietnamese.

A six-foot redhead, with a ready smile, the doctor enjoys working with the Vietnamese. He knows only about 50 words of the language, but his position as a doctor makes up for the lack of communication, Enis said.

Until recently, Enis was at Dong Ha, 12 miles south of the demilitarized zone with the Fourth Regiment. He and Vietnamese citizens started several small hospitals and aid stations. When Operation "Chinook" began north of Hue last month, he came along as the Fourth Regiment's surgeon.

When word came that refugees

## Legion of Merit

USS ESTES, SUBIC BAY, R.P. — Rear Admiral Donald W. Wulzen, outgoing commander of the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force, was awarded the Legion of Merit today during the change of command ceremony aboard this amphibious force flagship.

The award was presented to Admiral Wulzen for his outstanding leadership during the past two years in which the Seventh Fleet Amphibious Force conducted 23 assault landings in South Vietnam and provided vital logistics support to in-country forces.

Making the presentation on behalf of Admiral Roy L. Johnson, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, was Vice Admiral John J. Hyland, U.S. Seventh Fleet commander.

were fleeing communist control and were in need of food, clothing and medical supplies, Enis made a quick trip to Dong Ha to gather more than 1,000 pounds of clothing from the Air Force's 620th Tactical Control Squadron.

A Marine helicopter pilot flew the supplies south to Phong Dien. Enis then loaded the clothing onto a hospital jeep for the three-mile ride to the refugee village. Clothing was given to more than 800 refugees.

The next day Enis visited 3rd Marine Division headquarters at Phu Bai for medical supplies and special vitamins for babies, and medication for several older persons suffering from arthritis.

During the treatment, "I was interested in one older man," he said.

"When I was here before, he would not look at me or come up to see what was happening."

This time the elder came out in the rain to shake Enis' hand and to say a few words in sign language.



## Silver Star

GySgt. James C. Smith was awarded the Silver Star Medal while serving with the 3rd Tank Bn., 1st Marine Division.

## Bronze Star

CHU LAI — Staff Sergeant Michael J. Finn, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, was presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" during ceremonies here.

Finn earned the award during operations against the Viet Cong on July 22, 1966, while serving as a platoon sergeant with "M" Co., 3rd Bn., 5th Marine Regt.

On a search and destroy operation in Quang Tri Province, Finn's unit was setting up a temporary landing zone for medical evacuation when a nearby security post came under heavy fire from an enemy force.

Quickly he moved with his platoon commander and a reinforced squad to the scene of the fire-fight. The intensity of enemy fire increased upon the arrival of reinforcements, killing one Marine and seriously wounding the platoon commander, squad leader, corpsman and several others.

Finn took command, located wounded for corpsmen, directed fire into hostile positions, and organized an evacuation team for the wounded.

Throughout the engagement he encouraged his men in repelling the attack. He then led a successful charge against the enemy, destroying their positions.

According to his citation, "his quick response under hazardous conditions were instrumental in preserving the integrity of his unit and in successfully repelling the enemy attack."



## Round on the Way

Members of "E" Battery, 2d Bn., Eleventh Marine Regiment fire a mission in support of 1st Division Marines near An Hoa, 30 miles southwest of Da Nang. The battery fires day and night to back up Leathernecks of the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

## 'B' Co., 3d MT Bn.

# No tiger in the tank; just enviable record

By SSgt. Ed Grantham

PHU BAI—"B" Company, 3rd Motor Transport Battalion, 3rd Marine Division doesn't have a tiger in its tank, but its record could well be the envy of a large commercial trucking firm.

During December, "B" Co. drove more than 36,000 miles delivering more than one quarter million tons of cargo to Marine units operating in the northern area of South Vietnam.

The majority of this cargo and mileage has been in support of Operation "Chinook", 12 miles north of Hue. The company operates 31 two-and one-half-ton cargo trucks and works around-the-clock to supply the two infantry battalions and heavy artillery units participating in the operation.

First Lieutenant William E. Thompson, said the daily bad weather that has hampered air support by Marine helicopters increased the company's monthly cargo haul.

"We have tripled what is normally carried by a unit our size," Thompson said.

The trucks, called six-bys by the Marines, supplement their loads with one-and one-half ton trailers. The unit is supported by a platoon from "B" Co., 9th Motor Transport Battalion.

"B" Company has been in Vietnam since last April and has supported 14 major Marine operations. It spent several months in Dong Ha, 8 miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, in support of Operation Hastings in July and Operation Prairie since August.

Although the company carries both tactical and logistical cargo, the tactical loads (those in direct support of an operation) have far

exceeded those in logistical support.

The convoys from Phu Bai to Operation "Chinook" are formed at a staging area near the company compound. Drivers are briefed shortly before departing and each mile of the road is marked with check points.

The trucks make the 44-mile round trip daily, leaving Phu Bai one day and returning the next. They have a minimum turnaround time of three hours. Maintenance is handled by a six-man team.

Thompson explained the minute details that go into making up and moving a convoy that has to travel from point to point under the constant threat of Viet Cong ambush:

"We plan each convoy so it is protected from start to finish. We have a convoy commander, a mine truck and heavy fire support from the Army's 44th Light Artillery Group. They furnish the convoy with two trucks with quad

50 caliber machine guns, one at the head and one at the tail of the convoy. Marine infantry units up to company size are stationed in two spots. There is an air observer and fixed wing observer. We maintain contact with eight different support units during the movement," he said.

Although the present convoy numbers about 40 vehicles, Thompson recalled a 190 vehicle convoy that moved the 3rd Marine Division headquarters from Da Nang to Phu Bai last October.

"When such a large convoy moves out, one mistake by a driver or a breakdown will raise havoc with your schedule," Thompson said.

## Hazardous assignment

# MAG-16 'med-evac' corpsmen must be approved volunteers

By Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—"They are all selected volunteers. They have to prove that they are good corpsmen and be approved by their sections before they come to us," said Chief Hospitalman John T. Goodwin with evident pride in his men.

The men referred to by the chief are 26 Navy hospital corpsmen attached to Marine Aircraft Group-16. They are volunteers for the hazardous assignment of accompanying the medical evacuation helicopters which fly daily out of Da Nang, Phu Bai, and Dong Ha.

Corpsmen must be members of the First Marine Aircraft Wing for at least three months before they may be sent to a helicopter group. Upon arrival at MAG-16, they must prove their ability again before being allowed to fly.

Once placed on flight status, the corpsmen are kept busy. They flew 1,181 missions during December, but consider this a slow month due to monsoon rains.

At least one corpsman is on medical evacuation standby 24 hours a day at each of MAG-16's three air fields. They wait with their equipment loaded aboard the chopper since they may be airborne within seconds after the alarm is sounded.

From battlefield to operating room, the life of a wounded or sick man or woman rests in the hands of the "med-evac" corpsman. He often has no knowledge of the kind of wound or injury he will have to treat until the patient is in the aircraft. One corpsman helped to deliver a Vietnamese baby enroute to the hospital.

Chief Goodwin cites rapid evacuation by helicopter as a major factor in reducing deaths caused by combat wounds.

"I would say that on the average, the time between a man being wounded and his reaching the hospital is less than 30 minutes," he said.

This makes the med-evac chopper a prime target for Viet Cong gunners as attested to by Purple Hearts worn by three of MAG-16's corpsmen. There are a total of 46 Air Medals distributed among corpsmen now serving with MAG-16.

Chief Goodwin estimates that 75 per cent of the patients treated by corpsmen on med-evacs are Americans. Others include Vietnamese soldiers, civilians, Viet Cong prisoners and even an occasional scout dog.

Whether friend or enemy, the treatment received by a wounded man is the best the "doc" is able to provide.

Flying is but one phase of the

hospitalmen's job. On the ground, they have the responsibility of caring for their own unit's personnel.

Each day they assist the doctors in holding sick-call and administering physical examinations. Qualified as field medical technicians, some have additional training as aviation medicine technicians, laboratory technicians, X-ray or dental technicians.

Many participate in semi-weekly medical civil affairs programs in which they give medical aid

to nearby Vietnamese civilians who have no doctors of their own. They volunteer for these programs despite intermittent harassment by Viet Cong terrorists.

Most MAG-16 hospitalmen are based at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang. Three are stationed at Phu Bai and two are kept at Dong Ha on a rotation basis. In case of a major operation, additional corpsmen may be placed on med-evac standby or temporarily transferred to a forward base of operations.

## First night mission one he'll remember

By Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG—A 32-year-old Marine pilot on his first night mission in Vietnam safely landed his F4B Phantom jet despite engine trouble.

Major Thomas K. Duffy, who joined Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-115, Dec. 5, experienced an engine malfunction shortly after taking off from Da Nang Dec. 19. Approximately 40 miles south of the field a fire warning light came on indicating fire in the right engine.

He reduced the right engine speed to idle and the light went out. Turning out over the South China Sea, he headed back to Da Nang when the light flickered on again.

Shutting down the right engine, the Marine jettisoned his ordnance and the Naval Flight Officer, Major James H. Vandever, radioed Da Nang for approach control assistance.

Suddenly the light reappeared again. Duffy reduced the left engine to idle, dropped his wing tip fuel tanks and ordnance racks, and set up a glide based on bearing and range received from ground control approach.

The glide was necessitated when he discovered that the warning light would come on when the

left engine throttle was advanced above 80 percent — a figure insufficient for one engine to sustain the flight of more than 25,000 pound aircraft.

He requested the field's runway lights to be turned up to full brightness and when some five miles out picked up the field visually.

Despite scattered clouds which occasionally blocked his view of the field, Maj. Duffy landed the Phantom without further incident.

Duffy served with the U.S. Air Force for 13 years prior to transferring to the Marine Corps in 1965. He flew jet fighters and transports with the U.S. Air Force. He was assigned to VMFA-531 at Cherry Point, N.C. after his inter-service transfer and served with them until his arrival in Vietnam.



## Co-operation

A Vietnamese civilian helps HN Robert Dean carry a patient to a Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263 medical evacuation chopper. Marines and corpsmen co-operate with Vietnamese authorities in evacuating sick and wounded villagers to a hospital in Da Nang.

## Jan. 26 record day for pilots of MAG-12

CHU LAI — It was a Marine Air Group (MAG)-12 show Jan. 26 as the group's "Skyhawk" jets roamed the length of the I Corps area.

During the day, Skyhawk pilots flew more than 130 combat sorties.

The swift jets dropped 134 tons of ordnance on the Viet Cong.

"We hit them with everything from 500 pound bombs down to 20mm cannon fire," said First Lieutenant Patrick F. Mee, a VMA-311 pilot.

Mee has flown 75 combat missions since reporting to Vietnam last September. He called the day's operations "just great!"

The lieutenant and his flight leader, Major John C. Coffee, were flying near Phu Bai when notified that a large group of Viet Cong had been spotted in a nearby open field. Both made passes over the target, dropping ordnance and firing 20mm cannon.

As they headed back to Chu Lai, they were told they had killed 20 VC. The next morning, after a more detailed check of the area the toll ran to 28 enemy dead.

All four of MAG-12's A-4 squad-

## Bronze Star

DONG HA—Private First Class James L. Ross, has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his actions as an ammunition carrier for a machinegun team in "G" Company, Third Marine Regiment, when he carried a wounded Marine 200 yards through enemy fire.

While running across an open paddy with a wounded Marine on his back, Ross was shot in the leg. He continued carrying the Marine for another 100 yards until he reached the corpsman.

ron's VMA-121, VMA-211, and VMA-214, in addition to VMA-311 were kept busy.

"It was an around-the-clock team effort," explained a still tired and weary lance corporal who had loaded bombs all day. "They (the airplanes) got rid of the bombs faster than we could keep them loaded," he added.

With the last flight of the day, MAG-12 pilots logged more than 178 hours in the air.

"It's no feat," said one of the pilots, "but flying like that sure makes for a busy day."

## Chinook . . .

(Continued From Page 1)

District headquarters where they received clothes, blankets, rice and tents for temporary housing. Medical aid was also given the families.

A few days after the people were settled in their temporary homes, the village chiefs brought suckling pigs, rice and salad to the Fourth Regiment's command post. The feast was in gratitude for the Marine's help.

Colonel Alexander D. Cereghino, Fourth Regiment commander called it "a generous display of gratitude." This was probably two weeks ration of food and they wanted us to have it."

In a letter to the regimental commander the District Chief Capt. Bui Van Thap said, "the people of the new hamlet of Vinh Xuan wish for you and your unit to patronize the hamlet and remain here for the great social activities and make friends between two countries fighting side-by-side to defeat communism. Our district is most grateful and thanks the Marines for their friendship and help."



## Briefing for 10,000

Capt. Leo Holler, Maj. Kevin M. Johnston, Col. Jay W. Hubbard, Maj. Jack A. Jennings, and 1st Lt. Patrick Mee (left to right) make a last minute target check before flying VMA-311's 10,000th combat sortie Jan. 20. VMA-311 has flown more combat sorties than any Marine Squadron in Vietnam.



### Thumbing a boat ride

Marines take advantage of Vietnamese fisherman's offer to row them across the river during a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang. The Marines are members of "E" Co., 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

## Firing mission a matter of 'simple' mathematics

By Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The artillery forward observer lay perfectly still in his hidden hilltop position as he watched the enemy column move across an open area 500 meters away.

Consulting his map, he was on the radio relaying the location of the guerrilla squad to his unit.

Minutes later, he heard the familiar "wait one" crackle over the air. A round was on its way.

He knew he had done his job well as the first shell landed amidst the squad. The information he had provided had been vital in making the mission a success.

But his pinpointing of the target was only the final bit of data needed to provide the instant response he got. The groundwork had been laid long before.

Knowledge of the location of an enemy target, no matter how exact, is useful only if the exact location of a battery's guns is already known.

"If we know the location of the target and the position of the gun, firing a mission becomes a matter of simple mathematics," explained Second Lieutenant Richard R. Osterberg of the Eleventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

It is his section, regimental survey, that is responsible for determining the exact location of the artillery pieces.

This is done through the es-

tabishment of a series of survey control points, which usually consist of no more than a marker driven into the ground and labeled so it will not be removed.

Starting from one known fixed point, the regimental survey team branches out to hook up with control points in each artillery battalion's area.

It often means finding ways to measure across gorges, over mountains, and through the variety of terrain of Vietnam. It can also mean ducking sniper rounds.

The surveyors talk in terms that mean little to the layman—of azimuths, trigonometric functions, triangulation—when discussing the problems they face.

The regimental survey team is expected to be accurate within one unit for every 3,000 units it measures—a rate of error of .03 of one per cent.

In most cases, that means the location of a gun is pinpointed within 1/100 of a meter, or 3/10 of an inch.

Once the regimental team carries a control point to a battalion, the battalion's survey team carries the survey out to the actual gun position.

With that completed, the guns stand ready to seek out and destroy the enemy, based on information provided by the forward observer, one of the few artillerymen who gets to see the end result of his labors.

### \$6,300 bonus

CHU LAI—For Sergeant Harry B. Green, January 23 will probably be a day he'll long remember.

On that day the jet mechanic with Marine Attack Squadron-214 reenlisted for six years, collected \$6,300 under the variable reenlistment bonus program, received a promotion to his present rank, and, topping it off, was presented his first Good Conduct Medal.

Major Richard Hemmingway, Commanding Officer of the Marine Aircraft Group-12 squadron, presented the promotion, Good Conduct Medal and the oath of enlistment to Green.

The sergeant, who enlisted in the Marine Corps three years ago, has been in Vietnam 17 months. He had extended his tour for six months and is scheduled to rotate to the United States in February.

Married and the father of one child, Green chose New Orleans, La., for his next duty station as part of the reenlistment option.



OLD HOME WEEK—Three 1st Marine Division surveyors work on fixing a survey control point near Da Nang. Robert D. Grim sights through the survey instrument, called a wild theodolite, while PFC Robert L. Covert records the data and Sgt. Walter C. Wozniak, survey party chief, supervises the team.

## 9th Engineers build, repair, train, patrol

By Sgt. Mike McCusker and Cpl. Ira Taylor

CHU LAI, Vietnam—The explosion ripped the bridge apart.

It was a small bridge, spanning a gray limpid stream that seemed to go nowhere. But the destruction bottled up vital traffic on both sides of Highway One.

Troubleshooters from the 9th Engineer battalion, 1st Marine Division, were sent in to repair it.

They worked long, backbreaking hours in the torrential winds and monsoon rains. Marines scoured the surrounding rice paddies for the Viet Cong who had blown the bridge. They were still searching when the tired, thoroughly drenched engineers waved the first truck onto the repaired bridge.

It was, by now, an old story to the engineers. They have been repairing VC damaged roads, bridges and buildings since they arrived in Vietnam last June.

However, repair work isn't their only function. They have built bridges, roads, camp buildings, culverts and drainage lines, watch towers, parade fields, and a hospital.

The battalion was activated Nov. 1, 1965, at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif., under the leadership of its present commander, Lieutenant Colonel Richard W. Crispin. The nucleus was formed of "old timers" with many years of engineering experience and at that time consisted of 30 officers and 93 enlisted men. By December 31, the number had increased to 43 officers and 790 enlisted, taken from every station of the Marine Corps.

Operating without equipment for the first two months, the engineers spent most of their time training in general military subjects, physical training and orientation classes on Southeast Asia.

The arrival of equipment meant longer hours and much more work. Each piece had to be inspected and operators and mechanics had to be trained.

On April 1, 1966, the battalion came under the control of Force Troops, Fleet Marine Force, Pacific, Marine Corps Base, 29 Palms, Calif. Intensified training continued until an advance detail left the states on May 2. By the 16th, the entire battalion was on its way to duty in Vietnam, arriving June 6.

Their new home was a flat, sandy area stretching alongside Highway One, near the Chu Lai New Life hamlet. Their first task was setting up camp in the sand pit and building roads throughout it so shops and living quarters could be set up.

Eleven days after their arrival, the engineers made their first commitment in support of the 1st Marine Division. They rapidly increased their support to units throughout the Chu Lai area. One company was sent to Da Nang in June to work with the 7th Engineer Bn.

Much of the work the battalion has been doing was repairing roads and building and repairing bridges in preparation for the monsoons. The roads were raised a foot for better drainage. Other engineer support includes the building of cable-operated ferries, general camp construction, rock crushing, and installation and operation of water points.

The battalion's average monthly statistics include: production of 4 million gallons of potable water, usage of 133,000 board feet of lumber, construction of 2,000 feet of culvert, and transportation of 56,000 yards of fill material by dump trucks traveling 16,000 miles.

The battalion maintains and operates more than \$8 million worth of equipment.

One of their most rewarding construction projects was the building of the Dickey Chapelle Memorial Dispensary in the Chu Lai New Life hamlet. The dispensary is dedicated to the memory of Dickey Chapelle, civilian war correspondent killed near Chu Lai while she was on an operation with a Marine unit.

Construction is not their only task. They have mine clearing teams, demolition teams, and construction and topographical survey teams. They have provided men for convoy security and other general support for combat operations. They also maintain their own perimeter and run combat patrols in their area of operation.

In addition to the 1st Marine Division, the 9th Engineers have worked with the Korean Marine Brigade and the local Vietnamese civilian and military projects near Chu Lai.

## 'Wounded' radioman just stuck in hole

By Cpl. D.A. Hines

DA NANG—Second Lieutenant Timothy J. Sloat and Corporal James T. Olah, raced across an open rice paddy to rescue a "wounded" Marine and wound up pulling a radio operator from a water hole.

The two Marines of "D" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment were on a two-day, two platoon sweep near the battalion area.

The platoons were heading back to the battalion command post when automatic rifle fire and mortar fire erupted around them.

Immediately, the two platoons began advancing on the Viet Cong position, employing fire team rushes to cross the rice paddies.

"My team was sent across first to set up a base of fire for the rest of the platoons coming across," Olah said.

"I noticed, after the others had made it across, there was a radio operator still out in the paddy, struggling to get across a dike

and make it to the treeline. I thought he had been hit," Olah said.

Olah quickly shed his pack and rushed out under the heavy fire. Sloat broke toward the radio operator at the same time.

When the two got to the Marine they found he had only slipped into a water-filled hole, but was having trouble getting out because of the radio on his back.

"You just can't gamble when a man's life may be at stake," Olah said.

### Cross of Gallantry

DONG HA—Major Robert F. Sheridan was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star Jan. 21. He received the award for "gallant service as operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment" during Operation Prairie.

# Sgt. 'cripples' VC twice in one month

DA NANG — Twice last month Marine Sergeant William Jennings Bryan Lester, gained a decisive victory for the Marines and crippled the Viet Cong's efforts in the 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment area.

On Dec. 5 while his unit was setting up a blocking force, 20 Viet Cong were seen moving across an open area. Lester directed fire on the enemy, and the VC placed Lester's platoon under heavy automatic and small arms fire.

According to members of the platoon, Lester completely ignored the enemy fire as he moved about among his men, encouraging them and directing the return fire.

Lester personally killed two of the enemy. Eight more Viet Cong bodies were counted when the ac-

tion ended.

Lester repeated his performance Dec. 21, when his platoon, now attached to "D" Co., came under heavy fire while conducting a sweep and destroy operation south of Da Nang.

An estimated enemy reinforced platoon, inflicted light casualties on Lester's unit in the first exchange. Lester immediately set up a unit to care for and protect the casualties and continued the attack. He continually exposed himself while reconnoitering the enemy position.

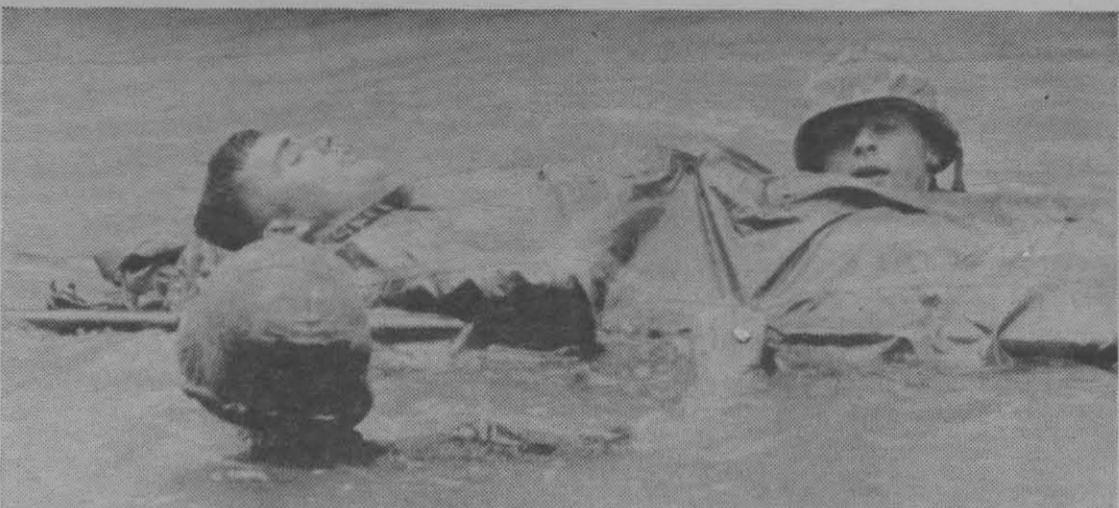
Lester pressed the attack with a squad routing the enemy while remaining members of his platoon prepared a helicopter landing zone to evacuate wounded.

His actions are credited with forcing the enemy to withdraw by his company commander.



## Sniper beware

Sgt. Ronald Irwin fires an M-79 grenade launcher at a suspect sniper position during a County Fair at Ben Dau hamlet, two miles southwest of An Hoa. He is a member of "F" Co., 2d Bn., Fifth Marines. The Marines provided security for doctors, corpsmen and Army personnel during the County Fair.



STRETCHER FLOAT—Marines tow a buddy across swollen stream on a float made from ponchos, air mattress and stretcher—it's all part of the training offered at the Counter Guerrilla Warfare School on Okinawa.

(Photo by Sgt. Gary Gilles)

## Counter guerrilla warfare camp —training camp for RVN-bound

By Sgt. Nick Overocker

CAMP COURTNEY—Rain-soaked, muddy and weary, the Marine patrol chopped through tangled jungle growth, forded swelling streams and crossed rugged, craggy mountains in what seemed like just another futile search for the elusive enemy.

A monotonous symphony of droning mosquitoes, the swishing of trousers against tropical plants and the steady, drumming rhythm of boots splashing in the mud created a hypnotic effect of tranquility and well-being.

Suddenly the spell was shattered by the erupting violence of automatic weapons followed by the blood-chilling cry, "Ambush!"

Quickly the Marines charged to gain fire-superiority, zigzagged to prearranged formations and swept over the position. Seven guerrillas lay sprawled in their wake.

As the Marines gathered the captured weapons and rifled their victims for intelligence information, it was obvious that this wasn't "just another long walk" in Vietnam—in fact, it wasn't even Vietnam!

The scene is repeated day after day in the rocky peaks of Okinawa's Northern Training Area (NTA) as part of the Camp Smedley D. Butler Counter Guerrilla Warfare School's training cycle. The "Viet Cong guerrillas" are actually die-hard Marines acting as aggressors to lend realism and immediacy to the training.

The theme of CGWS is "This is the Real Thing": blank ammunition, explosives and flares are used extensively; Marines on both sides report when they are "killed" or "wounded"; in some instances, even catsup or red food-coloring is used to fake bloody wounds.

"The idea of using aggressors, ambushes and explosives in terrain similar to regions of Vietnam," explained Captain F. L. FISH, officer in charge of the school, "is to simulate, as much as possible, conditions and tactics used by the Viet Cong."

Captain FISH is assisted by a skilled staff of two officers and five enlisted instructors. These dedicated men in pith-helmets manage the largest chunk of training real estate on the island. They are: Second Lieutenants Ken R. Furr and Dave Vandruff, Gunnery Sergeant Donald E. Carr, Staff Sergeants Teddy C. Curry and William F. Keyser, Sergeant Bennie Benizio and HM-2 Thomas H. Johnston, USN.

To keep informed of new tactics, gadgets and equipment used by the Viet Cong, and to learn how Marines counter the problems, the instructors make frequent trips to Vietnam. They join infantry units on operations, patrols and ambushes to observe, take notes and ask questions.

"From the information gathered, we alter the instruction to keep the material fresh and up to date," said Capt. Fish. "We

also bring back traps, weapons and other paraphernalia used by the VC."

The captain noted that during the visits "down south" the instructors worked with many former CGWS graduates who are now engaged in combat against the Viet Cong.

"We've found that the techniques we're now teaching, when correctly applied in combat, have resulted in highly successful operations," he added.

Nearly every battalion that has been on Okinawa prior to deployment has completed the Counter Guerrilla Warfare School. Many Marines who completed the course a year or so ago come back for a second time when their unit returns to Okinawa.

The small, efficient crew graduated more than 10,000 Marines from the school during the past year, with new arrivals flocking to their camp every month.

The school has facilities to train two reinforced companies simultaneously.

During various classes the company is divided into platoons, squads and four-man fire teams to develop a strong sense of individual responsibility at all levels.

A reinforced platoon, which is drawn from the battalion undergoing training, demonstrates counter-guerrilla movements and, under the expert tutelage of the instructors, acts as aggressors throughout the course.

The seven-day infantry unit course is packed with 127 hours of lectures, demonstrations and practical application of counter-guerrilla and jungle tactics.

After an orientation briefing, troops go through the elaborate mantraps and shelters course where they learn to make simple yet comfortable structures from jungle materials. They are shown various VC traps, ranging from the simple punji stake to complicated, electrically operated booby traps.

The actual training cycle begins the following day when the men learn to make flotation devices from personal equipment and tropical plants.

The entire company, including the commanding officer, has an opportunity to "get their feet wet" in counter-guerrilla training before the course is completed.

First day activities put Marines hard at work learning the basics of artillery forward observation, aerial resupply, jungle navigation, arm and hand signals and first aid. They learn to utilize these skills during a compass march through the thick jungle that night.

Ambushes are practiced the next day with emphasis placed on immediately forming a surprise attack when enemy contact is imminent.

The curriculum dispels the myth of the guerrillas' ability to strike and then vanish into the jungle. Prevention of surprise attack, pursuit of the guerrillas and the use of the enemy's own tactics for counter-ambush are stressed.

From dawn to far into the night of the third day, trainees learn and practice the tactics and techniques of patrolling. They are sniped at, ambushed and assaulted by black-pajamaed aggressors using the guerrilla "hit and run" method of harassment.

A model Vietnamese village, which was built by the instructors complete with thatch-roofed huts and makeshift utensils, provides a dramatic setting for practical civic-action training when it is inhabited by demonstrators dressed in native garb, some carrying toy dolls to portray women and children.

"Guerrilla warfare is probably the oldest—and dirtiest—fighting style known to man," SSGt. Curry stated. "In order to defeat these fighters, you must be able to win the respect of the villagers."

In addition to civic action, the men are shown how to deploy from vehicles, assault a guerrilla base camp and correct methods of searching prisoners, before field exercises begin at midnight.

The next 48-hours are spent scouting, patrolling, setting ambushes, living and maneuvering in the jungle, and fighting off the persistent aggressors, seemingly at every turn.

During the field exercises, the Marines utilize the harboring technique devised by the British during guerrilla fighting in Malaya.

The company sets up a base camp in the jungle and sends platoon-sized patrols into assigned areas to deny the guerrilla force a sanctuary.

### Mail The Sea Tiger Home



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