



SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

February 22, 1967

Posthumous award

Third Medal of Honor winner named



Moving fast under fire

A Marine rifleman races for the cover of a rice paddy dike as his unit draws heavy sniper fire from the VC. Elements of the Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1stMarDiv, began operation De Soto Jan. 26 in an area 25 miles south of Quang Ngai. (Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)

Monthly combat report:

Jan. starts quietly but action steps up

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—January started wet and quiet for the Marine air-ground team in I Corps as a two day New Year's truce remained in effect and the monsoon rains continued.

By the end of the month, action had been stepped up until the Leathernecks had accounted for 962 enemy deaths and captured 107 Viet Cong and two North Vietnamese. They also took 199 individual and five crew-served weapons.

Seventeen other Viet Cong gave up the fight and voluntarily changed sides.

As the monsoon rains tapered off and footing became firmer, contact between opposing forces picked up throughout I Corps.

Early on the morning of Jan. 13, an Eleventh Marine Regiment artillery position south of Chu Lai was probed by an estimated 60 VC firing 82mm mortars, rifle, grenades and small arms. The fight continued for four and one-half hours until daylight when the VC withdrew. They left 17 of their dead; another seven VC were captured.

The next day Marines of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, pulled off one of the most successful raids held

in I Corps. Under cover of a smoke screen laid down by Marine jets, they dropped into Ban Lanh (2) at noon from helicopters of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing. Six hours later, when they pulled out of the village, they left a confirmed 61 Viet Cong dead behind them.

On the 15th the Viet Cong once again took on more than they bargained for when they attacked a First Marine Regiment company south of Da Nang.

Early that morning Leathernecks of "K" Company, 3rd Battalion, discovered the VC trying to move on their base near Marble Mountain. Using artillery, tanks, and their own organic fire, the Marines not only held off the estimated VC battalion, but killed 60 in the process.

WASHINGTON — The Medal of Honor was awarded posthumously to a 19-year-old Marine who lost his life shielding the evacuation of wounded buddies during Operation Starlight. He became the third Marine to receive the nation's highest award for heroic action in Vietnam.

Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul was honored in ceremonies February 7, 1967 at Marine Barracks, Eighth & "I" Streets, Washington, D. C. Secretary of the Navy Paul H. Nitze presented the award to Paul's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Callie E. Paul of Vandalia, Ohio.

Corporal Paul earned the Medal of Honor serving as a fire team leader with Company "H", Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, near Chu Lai on August 18, 1965. He died from his wounds the following day.

The citation accompanying Corporal Paul's award reads in part:

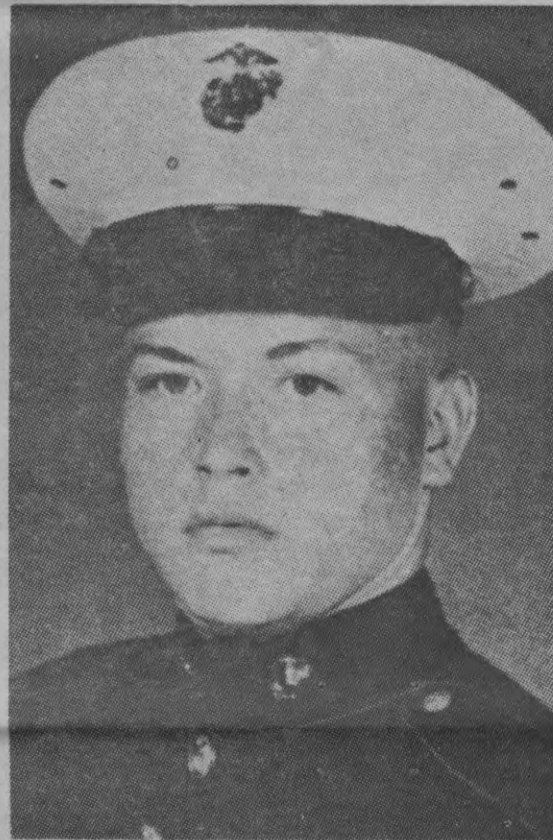
"... In violent battle, Corporal Paul's platoon sustained five casualties as it was temporarily pinned down by devastating mortar, recoilless rifle, automatic weapons, and rifle fire delivered by insurgent communist (Viet Cong) forces in well entrenched positions. The wounded Marines were unable to move from their perilously exposed positions forward of the remainder of their platoon and were suddenly subjected to a barrage of white phosphorous rifle grenades.

"Corporal Paul, fully aware that his tactics would almost certainly result in serious injury or death to himself, chose to disregard his own safety and boldly dashed across the fire-swept rice paddies, placed himself between his wounded comrades and the enemy, and delivered effective suppressive fire with his automatic weapon in order to divert the attack long enough to allow the casualties to be evacuated.

"Although critically wounded during the course of the battle, he resolutely remained in his position and continued to fire his rifle until he collapsed and was evacuated. By his fortitude and gallant spirit of self-sacrifice in the face of almost certain death, he saved the lives of several of his fellow Marines."

Lance Corporal Paul was born April 23, 1946 in Williamsburg, Kentucky, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Callie E. Paul who now reside in Vandalia, Ohio. In addition to his parents, Cpl. Paul is survived by a brother, James, (12), now living at home and a sister, Mrs. Laura R. Rogers of Dayton, Ohio.

Paul joined the Marine Corps on April 26, 1963, shortly after his 17th birthday. After completing recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and individual combat training at Camp Pendleton, Corporal Paul was assigned to Company "H", Second Battalion, Fourth Marines. He arrived in Vietnam with his unit on May 7, 1965 and



LCpl. Joe C. Paul

served there until his death.

Corporal Paul's was the second Medal of Honor to be awarded for actions in Operation Starlight. Marine Sergeant Robert E. O'Malley, of Woodside, New York, was presented the Medal of Honor in December for action in that operation with "I" Company, 3d Battalion, 3d Marines.

Operation Starlight was the first direct battlefield confrontation between a major United States unit and a main force Viet Cong unit. In it, Regimental Landing Team Seven, consisting of three reinforced Marine battalions, surrounded and destroyed the Viet Cong First Regiment, killing more than 600 of the enemy and capturing 125 in the four-day battle which began August 18, 1965. The battle was fought on the Van Tuong peninsula a few miles south of Chu Lai. RLT-7 was awarded a Navy Unit Commendation for Operation Starlight.

"Independence" nets 139 VC

By MSgt. G. E. Wilson & SSgt. T. A. Kraak

DA NANG—The guns of Operation Independence were silenced by the Vietnamese New Year's truce Feb. 8, to bring to a close the largest 1st Marine Division operation in Vietnam since Colorado last August.

The regimental-sized operation conducted by the Ninth Marine Regiment under command of Colonel Robert M. Richards, netted 139 Viet Cong killed and 20 captured.

More than 2,500 villagers who had lived under Viet Cong control were liberated by the Marines and sent to freedom villages.

Conducted in a 25-mile square area, bounded by the Vu Gia and Thu Bon rivers on the north and south, and the mountains on the west, the operation cut a swath in a large enemy force which, under the natural boundaries of the area, had enjoyed compara-

tively free movement despite nearby Marine forces.

To clean out the area just north of the vital An Hoa industrial complex, the 1st Marine Division grouped elements of seven regiments under the Ninth Regiment command to throw a blocking force around the area then sent a search and destroy force "down the middle."

Elements of the First, Fourth, Fifth, Twenty-Sixth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Marine Regiments teamed up in the eight-day operation.

First Marine Aircraft Wing helicopters delivered the blocking and sweeping forces to the area while propeller-driven and jet aircraft provided close air support throughout the operation.

On the first day, with blocking forces in place, five infantry companies from the Fourth, Fifth and Twenty-Sixth Marines began a methodical, hamlet-to-hamlet

search and destroy operation.

Less than an hour had passed when "G" Company, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marines spotted two enemy soldiers running across a field. One was killed and the other, carrying grenades and documents, captured.

A short time later, "B" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, came upon an extensive enemy bunker and trench complex. Marine aircraft and engineers destroyed the underground system.

"F" Company, 2nd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines captured a cooperative Viet Cong who promptly led them to a tunnel where three more VC were killed. One of the VC turned out to be a village chief.

The 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines completed the day's action by bottling up seven Viet Cong who fled into another tun-

(Continued on Page 5)



SEA TIGER

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Heritage of service



George Washington, whose birthdate we observe Feb. 22, is perhaps the outstanding example of famous men in the history of our nation.

Washington's life was governed by an unalterable personal code built on duty and honor. To him, no duty was greater, no honor more satisfying, than service to one's country.

When he could have been enjoying the pleasant life of a prosperous country gentleman, his country called him. He answered that call, suffering personal hardship and exposing himself to almost constant danger during the long, arduous and often frustrating campaigns of the war.

As military commander of the small, ill-equipped, ill-trained American Army during the Revolutionary War, his leadership and genius were instrumental in the American success against the finest army in the world at that time.

When he was chosen as President, he again unhesitatingly left the quiet comfort of Mt. Vernon to serve in the political arena, risking his honor and reputation.

As our first President under the Constitution, his tact, judgement, ability and devotion guided our government through its critical formative period, establishing a solid foundation on which future generations could

build.

But equally important is the other heritage left by Washington; that of selfless, dedicated service to his country, regardless of the hardships or sacrifices.

His example is no less inspiring today than it was to the cold, ragged men at Valley Forge. If this Nation is to continue as the beacon of freedom for the world, Washington's example of selfless dedicated services must be followed. (AFNB).

Dinger

DA NANG—Lance Corporal Angel Rodriguez won the nickname "Dinger" recently by accomplishing two near impossible feats of marksmanship with an M-79 grenade launcher and a .45 cal. pistol.

Rodriguez, a fire-team leader with "B" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, was on a County Fair operation.

"We were sweeping through a rice paddy, when one of the Marines in my team noticed a rifle-carrying Viet Cong sneaking along a dike to our front," said Rodriguez.

The stocky, 5'2" Marine loaded his grenade launcher and sent a round towards the communist soldier. The grenade was a dud, but bounced off the VS's shoulder, knocking him cold.

The next day in the same area, Rodriguez had the opportunity to prove that the shot from the day before wasn't necessarily all luck.

As the Marines began sweeping across another rice paddy a Viet Cong jumped from a tunnel dug in the side of a dike and fled.

Rodriguez aimed his pistol and fired three shots in quick succession. All found their mark.

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Sue Elliott
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Dear Sir:

My name is Lily Mince. I am the 22-year-old widow of Sgt. Lynn E. Mince who was killed in Vietnam.

During the three years we were married, I came to know and love the Marine Corps. I studied its history, got to know some of its men, and even got to attend the beautiful birthday ball. My pride in the Corps has no bounds.

I am following the action over in Vietnam. I admire those men and realize what they are going through. My favor is this. I miss the Corps. I would like to write to those men over there and let them know that my two children and I are behind them all the way. I would like to help them in some small way for the way they are protecting us and our peace.

I can't go fight with the Marines, maybe I can do a little fighting here in America. Thank you and may God keep you.

Mrs. Lily Mince
8810 E. 88th Avenue Space 21
Henderson, Colorado 80640

Dear Sir:

My name is Tony Bonaro and I am 15 years old. I am very interested in United States Military History. I intend to make a career in the Marine Corps. Right now I am working on one of my special projects. I was wondering (if you have time and if there is one around) if you could send me a list of all the men who have won the Medal of Honor.

Second, I was hoping you could give me the names of some men who are in Vietnam so I could write to them. Thank you very much for anything you can do for me.

Tony Bonaro
2230 La Salle Avenue
Niagara Falls, N. Y.

NOTE: Headquarters Marine Corps has sent Bonaro a list of Medal of Honor winners. Perhaps our readers can honor the second part of this fledgling Marine's request. — EDITOR

Dear Sir:

My mother, Mrs. Agnes L. Young, 3600 Robertson Ave., Sac-

ramento, Calif., passed away on December 14, 1966. Prior to her death, she had been corresponding with many Marines in Vietnam as my youngest brother, PFC Richard A. Dodge USMC, was killed in action in Korea in 1950. Since that time my mother has had a particular fondness for the lads in the Marine Corps. She had been corresponding with a number of them prior to her death and had sent food packages to some.

I made a promise to her that I would continue her correspondence with any one who would like having someone to write to. I am a World War II veteran, having served in the Submarines and subsequently placed on the disability retired list of the U.S. Civil Service Commission after 29 years service.

I have letters addressed to my late mother from many men and do not know if they are still alive or in Vietnam. If any of them read this, please write and I shall do my best to carry on a good correspondence, as we firmly believe in the fight for Freedom and in you boys, too!

Mom was a most patriotic woman and gave much to this Country of ours through her personal sacrifice, help to others, her son's life, and even though she was on a small old age pension, she bought all the stamps and writing materials from her small income without accepting aid from any other persons. I would deem it a great privilege and honor to pick up her good work.

DANIEL H. DODGE
1809 Bay Street
Santa Cruz, Calif. 95060

New 4/11 CO

CHU LAI — Lieutenant Colonel Joseph M. Laney Jr., assumed command of the 4th Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, Feb. 1.

He relieved Lieutenant Colonel George R. Lamb, who has been ordered to Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington. Earlier the same day, Colonel Lamb was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.



Music, American style

Sgt. Jim A. Hulbert and Cpl. Cheats J. Brown entertain more than 300 adults and children of Dim Tu village. After the Marines' performance, Vietnamese schoolgirls danced in return. The pair are members of the 2d Bn. Ninth Marines. (Photo by GySgt. Les Owens)



Rifleman's first concern

Mud-covered M-14 rifles get a hasty bath before Marines continue their advance toward Viet Cong positions during Operation De Soto, Jan. 30. Under heavy sniper fire, the Leathernecks of the Seventh Regiment, 1stMarDiv., crawled from one rice paddy dike to the next before reaching the sheltered waterhold. (Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)

Close air support success never a matter of chance

By: GySgt. J. F. McAllister

DA NANG—Sleek Marine jets came screaming out of the sky toward a Viet Cong bunker. The enemy position erupted in smoke and flame as bombs, rockets and cannon-fire hit the target with pin-point accuracy.

In a matter of minutes the ground Marines, held up by intense mortar and automatic weapons fire, advance through with no further trouble.

This close-air support mission, an example of the famed Marine Corps air-ground teamwork concept, did not happen by chance—highly-trained personnel made it possible. Not the least of these are the forward air controllers (FAC's)—Marine pilots assigned to coordinate air support for ground units.

Typical is Captain Eric T. Farrell and a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing "Skyhawk" jet pilot now serving as FAC with the 2d Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

In the field, it's virtually impossible to distinguish the FAC from ground Marines, with the possible exception that he is always accompanied by a team of radio operators.

"Communications is the heart of our operation. We couldn't function without it," Farrell said. "In addition to my team, we have an enlisted team with each company and they're qualified to request an air strike should their unit run into a situation requiring it," he added.

Before "clearing" a strike the FAC must ascertain no artillery is called into the zone while the aircraft are in the area. Even more important, he must be sure of all troop locations in order to insure all friendly elements, in addition to the requesting unit, aren't endangered — all is accomplished by radio.

"When the troops request air support they need it as soon as possible. A good communications set-up allows us to have the aircraft on station quickly," he said. Most air strikes are actually controlled by an aerial observer flying over the target area in a light observation plane. While he

operates primarily with the battalion command post group, Farrell likes to be with a forward element.

"I'd rather be up front where, in coordination with the AO, I can mark the position with white phosphorus and talk the pilots

into the strike zone and make corrections if needed after their dummy pass and first hot pass," he said.

He also said being forward gives him the advantage of getting bomb damage assessment and enemy casualty information quickly.

Va. school adopts boy who lost legs

By LCpl. Philip Hamer

CHU LAI — Truong Nhan drove his family's cattle home to the village of Ky Khuong each afternoon, until the day one cow set off a mine planted by the Viet Cong.

Truong's feet were mutilated by the blast.

His family carried the Vietnamese boy to the 1st Medical Battalion field hospital at Chu Lai, just two days after Christmas. Navy doctors performed emergency surgery.

Truong's feet had to be amputated, and the boy was placed in the medical unit's intensive care ward by Commander C. R. Ashworth, chief surgeon.

Colonel Fred Haynes, chief of staff, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division and commanding officer of the Fifth Marine Regiment, was impressed by the boy's courage and spirit when he visit-

ed the ward shortly after Truong was admitted.

In a letter to his wife, a third grade teacher at Langley School, Maclean, Va., Haynes suggested that her pupils might like to "adopt" Truong.

The American school children responded warmly. Each drew a colored picture for Truong, and they all signed a class portrait. Included in a gift package were a toothbrush and paste, crayons, coloring books, candy, balloons and an American flag.

Haynes while presenting Purple Heart Medals to wounded Marines Feb. 3, stopped at Truong's bed. A big smile lighted the boy's face as he opened the box from America.

Speaking through an interpreter, Haynes told Truong about his friends in the United States and showed him the picture they sent. For a small victim of the Viet Cong it was a happy day.

Wooden shoes answer for mud at Dong Ha

By GySgt. Jim Northrop
DONG HA — Would you believe wooden shoes in Vietnam?

Marines of the 9th Motor Transport Battalion at Dong Ha, look twice when they see Marines walking around wearing them. It all started when Marine Ser-

geant Thomas W. Ryan, "B" Company, 9th Motors, 3rd Marine Division, the husband of Mrs. Merlyn Ryan (Kalamazoo, Mich.), wrote the Kalamazoo Gazette asking if anyone there had a pair of wooden shoes.

He said in his letter that while on a tour of duty in Europe he had noticed the people in Holland wearing the shoes while working in the fields. Calling the mud at Dong Ha "unbelievable," Ryan thought the wooden shoes might keep his feet dry during the Vietnamese monsoon and accompanying mud.

The letter brought results. In the return mail, Mrs. Ryan told her husband she had received dozens of calls and at that time 11 pairs of wooden shoes to be sent to Vietnam.

A shoe collection and mailing campaign was started for the Marine, which included Kalamazoo postmaster Robert L. Cooper, who said he would personally pay the postage for shipping the shoes.

To date, Ryan has received 22 pairs of the shoes and expects more to arrive. The shoes are coming at the tailend of the monsoon season, but there are always many more days of rain and the shoes will keep many Marines' feet dry. Ryan distributes the shoes to members of the Marine unit.

"The wooden shoes are easy to clean," he said. "When mud cakes on them, a little water cleans it off, and none of the water seeps through as it does with boots."

Mrs. Ryan wondered what her husband's reaction would be when he opened the box of shoes from Kalamazoo. It was all smiles.



Dynamic duo

A4E "Skyhawk" pilots, Capt. Pete Krueger (left) and 1stLt. Richard Bloomberg compare notes on their Feb. 4 night bombing mission during which they destroyed 17 enemy structures and knocked out four automatic weapons positions. They are members of VMA-311.

(Photo by SSgt. J. M. Baker)



Security guard for convoy

PFC Joel W. Mock mans a truck mounted .50 caliber machine gun on a convoy which moved the headquarters, Fourth Marines from the Operation Chinook area to Dong Ha. Many of the trucks making up the convoy (from 9th Motor Transport Bn.) were equipped with automatic weapons as security against the VC during the move. The 60-mile round trip was made without incident.

(Photo by Cpl. G. J. Orzaq)

Happy or sad—it's your choice

Once upon a time two Marines were getting ready to go back to the states after their tour in Vietnam. One was smart and the other—well here is their story.

Each month in Vietnam Drupy Marine was found scurrying to the local village to buy things like purchasing a guitar he couldn't play. When he bargained with a merchant he thought he was getting a good deal, but he still paid more than the article was worth.

The hard headed Marine ignored all the advice he received on the importance of not spending piasters, not only to build up his own savings, but to help prevent inflation in Vietnam. He thought only of today's pleasure and not of tomorrow's awakening.

Bill Marine, on the other hand, used better judgement. He discovered the many ways of saving money that were available to him in Vietnam. He began by opening a checking account which paid him five per cent interest on his money. Next, Bill started an allotment to purchase a U.S. Savings Bond each month. The next step was to join the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program which gives ten per cent interest on the money invested. And Bill still had money left over to buy the things he might need or want.

Bill now had the inner confidence of security. He was putting away a nice sum of money each month. When he would leave Vietnam, he would have money available, for a car, or perhaps to get married, or to continue his education.

And the money he saved was earning interest regularly. He would get back more than he had put into his savings.

As the months rolled on, Drupy continued to spend more money. After purchasing the basic necessities each payday. He raced down to the local village to spend his money on all those great bargains. He found that the goods here are much cheaper than back in the states. He also found that the average Vietnamese salary didn't begin to match his and the merchants were anxious to have Drupy buy their goods.

Bill bought all his basic necessities through the PX, and also presents and gifts for all the folks back home. Bill even used the PX catalog to order other items he wanted.

Drupy's spare time was spent

in the bars and with wine and women, even an occasional hang-over didn't persuade him to change his ways. Meantime Bill was visiting the USO and reading books from the library. He also took time to learn about the country he had his buddies were fighting for.

Now it is time for both Marines to go back home after a rather long stay in Vietnam.

Drupy is broke and Bill is all smiles, looking at his bank book and counting all the money he has saved since reporting to this country. Remember save for your future, and start now.



Open wide

HM3 Robert Kulas, checks the teeth of a cooperative Vietnamese during a county fair conducted by 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, 30 miles southwest of Da Nang. In addition, Navy doctors and corpsmen distributed vitamin tablets to more than 400 villagers of Ben Dau hamlet while Marines provided security for the fair.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

Jets scramble twice —VC feel impact

DA NANG—Two F4B "Phantom" jets of Marine Fighter/Attack Squadron-115 scrambled twice on the morning of Feb. 2, to score heavily against the Viet Cong in support of American ground forces.

Pilots Major Thomas Duffy and Captain Robert Frost, and their Radar Intercept Officers, Major James Vandever and Captain John Sease, reached their target area, 70 miles south of Da Nang.

As the Phantoms swept in at 400 feet to drop their payloads, the pilots could plainly distinguish muzzle flashes from windows of huts and surrounding

undergrowth that constituted a Viet Cong stronghold.

Ten passes were made over the target area, only 250 yards from American troops, during which the Phantoms saturated the enemy held ground with 12 250-pound bombs.

Back at Da Nang, after a brief rest, the scramble horn sounded again, sending the same two Phantoms to a new target area 36 miles south of Chu Lai.

Once again braving enemy fire, the Marine Aircraft Group-11 jets pounded the area with 190 2.75 mm rockets and six 250-pound bombs.

World of Sports

Saturday Night

EAST

Springfield 125 Bates 77
Virginia 82 Pittsburgh 70
Gannon 69 F. Dickinson 50

SOUTH

St. Joseph's (Pa.) 79 Wake Forest 66
Kentucky 103 Miss. St. 74
S. Carolina 65 N. Carolina St. 62 (Ovt.)

MIDWEST

Ohio St. 97 Michigan 85
Nebraska 76 Iowa St. 65
Concordia (Minn.) 96 Hamline 67

SOUTHWEST

SMU 85 TCU 83
Baylor 101 Texas 75
Louisville 82 Tulsa 64

WEST

Denver 74 Colorado St. 67
California 87 Washington 73
Utah 68 Air Force 56

Tuesday Night

EAST

LIU 77 Southampton 50
Brown 73 Rhode Island 65
St. John's (N.Y.) 71 Syracuse 64
St. Joseph's (Pa.) 94 American U. 68
Castleton St. 91 New England Coll. 77
Boston Coll. 74 Boston U. 46
Pratt 71 Queens 65
Worcester Tech. 85 Coast Guard 70
Villanova 55 Providence 52
Alfred 79 St. Lawrence 74
Babson Inst. 93 Wentworth 62
Paterson St. 99

NYACK Missionary 98 (ovt.)
Jersey City St. 66 Newark St. 65
Juniata 75 Bloomsburg 65
Hunter 82 Yeshiva 48
Connecticut 114 N. Hampshire 75
Ithaca 50 LeMoyne 45
Delaware 53 Lehigh 52
Rhode Island Coll. 85 N. Adams St. 74
Pratt 71 Queens 65
Fairfield 87 Stonehill 65
Rockhurst 78 Pittsburgh St. 67
Union 76 RPI 68
Hudson Valley 72 Dutchess 63
Bentley 79 S. Francis (Me.) 78
Boston St. 93 Bridgewater St. 56
Bridgeport 84 S. Connecticut 82
Worcester St. 93
Williamantic St. 91 (ovt.)
Roberts Wesleyan 94 Alliance 90 (ovt.)

MIDWEST

Grove City 88 Allegheny 45
Gannon 68 Central St. 65
Loyola (Ill.) 73 Ohio U. 70
Wittenberg 105 Heidelberg 58
Kent St. 61 Bowling Green 59
Ashland 74 Malone 38
Capital 94 Muskingum 81
Edinboro 85 Clarion 75
Bellarmine 98 Ind. Central 82
Campbellville 74 Villa Madonna 70
Indiana St. 88 Butler 85
Wisconsin 110 Northwestern 94
Luther Coll. 93 St. Ambrose 76
Western Ill. 77 Eastern Ill. 77
Cornell (Iowa) 60 Knox 58
MacMurry 98 Illinois Coll. 86
Wheaton 90 North Central 65
Aurora 129 Eureka 82
Monmouth 87 Grinnell 71
Omaha 66 Washburn 56
Bald-Wallace 93 Mt. Union 59
St. Benedict's (Kan.) 97

Quincy 106 Emporia St. 69
Windsor (Ont.) 75 Iowa Wesleyan 80
Northwestern Coll. 84 Gen. Beadle 63
S. Dakota St. 85 Morningside 65
Loras 103 Dominican 70
Graceland 69 Park 52
Ohio Northern 110 Anderson 88
Denison 76 Wooster 68
Hiram Scott 113 Regis 84
Taylor 98 Earlham 97
Grace 100 Indiana Tech. 87
Bethel (Kan.) 76 Baker 74 (2 ovt.)
Ottawa (Kan.) 71 College of Emporia 66

SOUTH

Duke 97 Wake Forest 84
Davidson 73 VMI 69
Dayton 80 Miami (Fla.) 79
Frank & Marsh. 75 Wash. Coll. 67
W. Maryland 111 Dickinson 91
Sewanee 80 Milligan 58
LaGrange 90 W. Georgia 68
N. C. A&T 116 Elizabeth City 101 (2 ovt.)
Wofford 73 Newberry 57
Shaw U. 96 Fayetteville 72
Wash. & Lee 99 E. Mennonite 64
S. Carolina 85 Erskine 47
Randolph-Macon 78 Gaudaudet 57
SW Louisiana 66 Louisiana Coll. 57
Union (Ky.) 72 Berea 60

SOUTHWEST

SMU 69 Arkansas 66
Roswell 85 Amarillo 83
Texas Tech. 88 Texas 78
TCU 83 Rice 74
Texas A&M 71 Baylor 69
Texas Coll. 142 Miss Ind. 111
Arlington St. 82 Ab. Christian 78
S. Ark. St. 76 State Col. of Ark 72
Henderson 101 Arkansas A&M 100
Ozarks 98 Arkansas Tech 92
Hendrix 72 Harding 61
Ark. Coll. 67 Ouachita Baptist 58
Trinity (Tex.) 99 Texas Lutheran 58
Pan American 116 Corpus Christi 84

FAR WEST

Cal Western 75 U. of San Diego 70
Hayward St. 76 San Fran. St. 72
Western St. 88 N. Arizona 86
Whittier 98 Caltech 72
Westmont 100 Cal Lutheran 90
Pomona 78 Occidental 68
S. Oregon 90 Humboldt St. 84
Sacramento St. 68 Nevada 66
Pacific Lutheran 109 Linfield 70
Willamette 81 Lewis & Clark 79
Oregon Coll. 79 George Fox 64
Clark 77 Olympic 76
Idaho 69 Hawaii 66
S. Colo. St. 108 Colo. St. Col. 71
San Diego 76 Cal. Baptist 56
W. Washington 80 Puget Sound 66
Cal Poly 92 Pasadena Coll. 62

Hockey Standings

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Chicago	31	13	8	70	190	124
New York	25	19	8	58	145	133
Montreal	22	22	7	51	130	136
Toronto	20	21	9	49	131	151
Detroit	22	28	3	47	164	171
Boston	15	32	7	37	137	182

Tuesday Night
(No games scheduled).

Wednesday Night
Montreal at Toronto.
Detroit at New York.
(Only games scheduled).

Thursday Night
Boston at Montreal.
Toronto at Detroit.
(Only games scheduled).

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Hershey	29	15	9	67	215	154
Baltimore	26	22	6	58	193	186
Quebec	25	24	6	56	200	201
Springfield	22	24	8	52	204	199
Providence	10	36	9	29	151	256

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	35	11	8	78	228	156
Rochester	29	19	7	65	223	172
Cleveland	26	23	8	60	228	193
Buffalo	11	38	7	29	164	289

Tuesday Night

Baltimore 8 Buffalo 2
Quebec 2 Providence 1
(Only games scheduled).

Wednesday Night
(No games scheduled).

Thursday Night
Providence at Quebec.
(Only game scheduled).

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Okla. City	31	15	8	70	182	146
Omaha	26	21	8	60	197	160
Houston	25	20	8	58	194	169
St. Louis	18	17	18	54	134	169
Memphis	20	28	7	47	171	215
Tulsa	11	30	13	35	134	201

Tuesday Night
(No games scheduled).

Wednesday Night
Houston at Omaha.
St. Louis at Oklahoma City.
Memphis at Tulsa.

Thursday Night
(No games scheduled).

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Portland	36	14	7	79	218	161
Vancouver	31	20	2	64	171	148
Seattle	27	21	5	59	160	144
California	22	24	7	51	158	175
Los Angeles	23	29	4	50	202	213
Victoria	21	37	6	48	163	172
San Diego	13	37	3	29	140	197

Tuesday Night

Portland 3 California 1
Los Angeles 5 Seattle 3
(Only games scheduled).

Wednesday Night
San Diego at Victoria.
(Only game scheduled).

Thursday Night
Seattle at Los Angeles.
(Only game scheduled).

EASTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Tuesday Night

Charlotte 6 Greensboro 0
Florida 4 Knoxville 0
Nashville 3 Northern All-Stars 1

Wednesday Night

Johnstown at Clinton.
Long Island at New Haven.
New Jersey at Greensboro.
Knoxville at Florida.

Thursday Night

Nashville at Florida.
(Only game scheduled).

INTL. HOCKEY LEAGUE

Tuesday Night
(No games scheduled).

Wednesday Night

Muskegon at Des Moines.
Fort Wayne at Dayton.
(Only games scheduled).

Thursday Night
(No games scheduled).

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSN.

Eastern Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	56	10	.848	—
Boston	47	17	.734	8
New York	33	35	.485	24
Cincinnati	29	36	.446	26½
Baltimore	17	50	.254	39½

Western Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	40	26	.606	—
St. Louis	31	36	.463	9½
Los Angeles	27	37	.422	12
Detroit	26	40	.394	14
Chicago	24	43	.358	16½

Tuesday

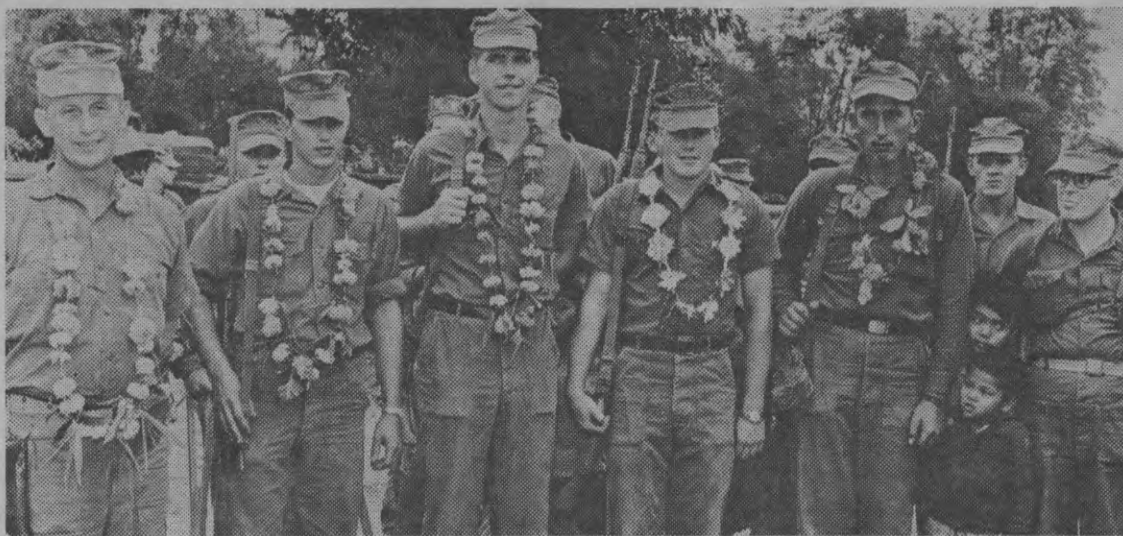
Boston 143 New York 114
Detroit 112 St. Louis 109
San Francisco 136 Los Angeles 133

Wednesday

Chicago vs. New York at Baltimore.
Boston at Baltimore.
Cincinnati at Los Angeles.

Thursday

New York at Boston.



FRAGRANT REWARD—Da Nang-based Seabees wear garlands prepared by Vietnamese school girls at dedication ceremonies at Binh Thai. The Seabees built new homes for the survivors of the Christmas Eve plane crash there. (Photo by Cpl. J. J. Williams)

32 new homes constructed for victims of plane disaster

By: SSgt. G. F. Selby

DA NANG—The leaders of 32 families, representing 100 relatives, were presented deeds to their new homes 30 days after their original dwellings were destroyed in a tragic mishap.

They were heads of households in which at least one member was killed when a Flying Tiger Airlines cargo plane crashed through Binh Thai hamlet Christmas Eve, killing 110 and injuring 27. The hamlet is located about one and a half miles south of the Da Nang airfield runway.

Their village chief thanked the U.S. forces in the Da Nang area for the new homes and other assistance given the survivors.

The 32 new homes were built through the combined efforts of the Air Force, Seabee and Marine units surrounding Da Nang. The new houses were relocated a mile east of the approach to the Da Nang airfield.

Although solemn, the dedication ceremonies were as colorful as the people could make them.

Local school girls prepared garlands to drape around the necks of the Seabees who built the houses and the Marines and Navy corpsmen of the 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion who fed and medically treated the survivors.

Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division, was at the ceremonies to represent other 1st Division Marines who aided the survivors the night of the crash.

The villagers presented Nickerson with a plaque to show their appreciation, which he accepted

on behalf of the Marines.

Later, with the division band playing in the background, the general took part in presenting deeds to the owners.

The work begun by the military civic action teams did not end when the families moved in

to their new dwellings. It is carried on today by the Vietnamese people themselves.

Local land owners have donated land for a community farm near the new homes and for the erection of a shrine at the scene of the crash.

Squad leader becomes platoon commander

By Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG — Marine Corporal Kenneth M. Gaffney is a squad leader in the 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment.

But for a few crucial hours on Jan. 31 he was the platoon commander of his unit (second platoon of "H" Company) during a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang.

"He did everything right," his men said.

Gaffney, 22, had been in Vietnam only six weeks. But when he saw his platoon commander, a lieutenant, hit by a burst of heavy machine gun fire, he assumed command without hesitation.

Gaffney immediately set up security, brought up his supporting weapons and directed an assault on the village from which the fire had come, using one squad to lay down a base of fire and leading a second in the assault.

Securing a landing zone, Gaffney called in a medical evacuation helicopter for the wounded officer.

He remained in command throughout the day, the final one of the seven-day operation, and led the platoon some 7,000 meters back to the command post.

Earlier in the same operation, when one platoon of "H" Co. was pinned in a rice paddy by cross fire from 800 meters away, Gaffney's squad, with the rest of the platoon, assaulted the enemy's flank, slogging through knee-deep mud in 100 degree heat.

His men were near exhaustion upon seizing their objective, but Gaffney rallied them and led them through an additional 250 meters of Viet Cong trenchlines and bunkers, under almost constant fire.

When two members of his squad flushed a guerrilla from the rear of a bunker, Gaffney, unable to fire for fear of hitting his own men, bayoneted the fleeing Viet Cong.

His squad killed three Viet Cong and destroyed five bunkers during the assault, and captured two weapons and a large number of grenades.

Book of Remembrance

MARINE CORPS SCHOOLS, QUANTICO, Va.—If you've been a U.S. Marine for a length of time, it's impossible to leaf through the Book of Remembrance at Quantico, Virginia without feeling your throat tighten.

There are names in the Book; solitary epitaphs of Marines and Sailors who have died in Vietnam. And the names are hauntingly familiar.

On one of the buff, parchment pages is the memory of a staff sergeant . . . and an argument on a troop ship in the Mediterranean seven years ago . . . long before he died in Vietnam.

On another page, a lance corporal . . . a young combat photographer who said just before his last operation that he considered rhetoric-slinging campus-ites of his age group "fuzzheads who are afraid to grow up."

There are other names in the Book, leaf upon leaf of them. Many are unfamiliar, but none are strangers. There are no strangers in a fraternity.

The Marine Corps' Book of Remembrance became a reality 15 months ago, when more than 450 Marines, ranging in rank from private to general, gathered at the Memorial Chapel here to listen to the Commandant of the Marine Corps dedicate the Book. The date was Nov. 10, 1965 . . . the 190th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

At that time, the Book was a bound volume, surfaced with brown Moroccan leather, measuring approximately 11x14 inches. The cream-colored, parchment pages were carefully hand-lettered in Old English script, each page containing about 20 names of men killed in Vietnam since Oct. 8, 1963, when Marines and their Navy counterparts first entered the struggle as advisors.

The Book reposed in a simple shrine within the Memorial Chapel. A glass-topped, oak base contained the roster of fallen and just above the pedestal was a bronze tablet reading, "We remember each of these Marines and Sailors who in life and death have honored the tradition of our Corps by their faithful service to our country."

Today, the shrine remains as it was. But there have been other changes . . . and not all of them physical.

The man who instigated the Book has returned, for example.

Navy Captain Francis L. Garrett was the Marine Corps Schools Chaplain in 1965, when he began patterning the Book after a similar one in the American Chapel of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London. That shrine is dedicated to American servicemen who gave their lives in two world wars.

Chaplain Garrett didn't attend the dedication of the local Book of Remembrance. He was in Vietnam by then, and the project had been completed by the current MCS Chaplain, Capt. Robert C. Fenning.

Being a bound volume, the original Book had to be hand-lettered. For months, Gunnery Sergeant Phil Corrigan, a master calligrapher, painstakingly penned the name, rank and date of death of each man, many of whom he had known. It took him about 3½ hours for each page.

But, as the Marines stepped up their operations in Vietnam, the list lengthened. That, plus the lack of skilled calligraphers should Corrigan be transferred, prompted Chaplain Fenning to contact a Boston firm of ecclesiologists (specialists in appointments of church furnishings).

The new Book of Remembrance arrived here last week. Of red Moroccan leather tooled in Great Britain, it looks very much like the original. The fact that its pages can be removed for a new process of name-inscription isn't visibly apparent.

There is an emotional sidebar to the new Book. Three weeks ago, Chaplain Fenning received a letter from Mrs. Robert Harris, of Des Moines, Iowa, who enclosed a check . . . "to pay the full cost of converting the Book of Remembrance".

Mrs. Harris' husband's name is in the Book.

From now on, the lines of Old English script will be entered semi-mechanically, through a silk-screen process at the MCS Training Aids Library.



Keeping in touch

2dLt. V. C. Thomas, a platoon commander with the Seventh Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1stMarDiv, maintains radio and visual contact with elements of his platoon during firefight with VC guerrillas south of Quang Ngai Jan. 30. (Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)

Operation Independence—

(Continued From Page 1)

nel complex and refused to come out. Air strikes were called to destroy the complex.

The pattern of the first day (brief fire fights with various size units of Viet Cong and the finding of extensive tunnel and cave complexes) continued throughout the operation as the Marines compressed the Viet Cong into tight little pockets where they were either killed or captured.

On the second day, "A" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines, found a Viet Cong hospital.

"G" Company, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marines on the third day found a network of false-bottom foxholes. Troops jumping into them would have plunged through a 12-foot hole, the bottom lined with punji stakes.

"B" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines spotted 40 Viet Cong the same day and called in air and artillery scattering or killing the group.

On the third day, the Civilian Irregular Defense Force, from the Republic of South Vietnam, tangled with an enemy force, killing two VC and capturing

four.

The largest tunnel complex was found the fourth day by "A" Co., 1st Bn., First Marines. The tunnels were 10 to 12 feet deep, roofs were reinforced and water platforms built in to keep the occupants dry. Marines estimated the complex could hold a complete enemy battalion.

Biggest battle of the operation came Feb. 5, when "H" Company, 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment, clashed with an enemy force dug to their front. The company killed 23 Viet Cong and destroyed more than 50 grenades and weapons.

They also captured six prisoners.

During the final days of the operation more tunnels were found and enemy flushed from hiding places. Blocking forces sank boats carrying Viet Cong attempting to escape across the river.

Although action ended Feb. 8, the operation officially continued until the next day as Marines withdrew from the area.

The Vietnamese refugees were evacuated across the river to Dai Loc where plans to resettle them in refugee hamlets were made.



In a huddle

Larry Wilson (right) discusses football with MSgt. M. S. Ohina and Lt. Robert A. Cornell during a recent visit to the Chu Lai Combat Base. Wilson is a defensive halfback with the St. Louis Cardinals. While at Chu Lai, he visited Task Force X-Ray Headquarters, where he had lunch and made trips to 1st Shore Party Bn., 1st Medical Bn., and 1st Hospital Co. Wilson's trip to Vietnam was sponsored by the National Football League and the USO

(Photo by Sgt. Earl Lewis)

LBJ seeks better GI Bill

President Johnson has proposed to Congress "The Vietnam Conflict Servicemen and Veterans Act of 1967" which would increase educational allowances, pensions and government insurance.

The President said that members of the Armed Forces are fighting today and "it is essential that we convey to them—and to all Americans—our full recognition and gratitude for their service in Vietnam and in other troubled areas of the world."

The President made the following proposals:

- That single Vietnam veterans receive a \$130 monthly subsistence allowance when using education benefits instead of the current \$100. That married veterans continue to receive \$130 with \$10 monthly added for the second child and each additional child.

- Provisions that any education time used to complete high school would not be charged

against college eligibility earned, as is now the case.

- A 5.4 percent increase in the pensions of 1.4 million veterans, widows and dependents, effective July 1.

- An increase in the current \$10,000 government life insurance maximum to a minimum of \$12,000, "with higher amounts scaled to the pay of the serviceman—up to a maximum of \$30,000.

- Full wartime disability rates, including a \$1,600 automobile grant for those veterans with special disabilities.

The President's special message also contained provisions for hazardous duty pay, certain medical benefits and travel expense for home leave for civilian employees of DOD, AID, USIA and State Department who are serving in the war zone.

Recon platoons hit by VC

By: Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI — Two platoons of Viet Cong attacked a reconnaissance team from the 1st Marine Division Feb. 3.

The team from the 1st Recon Battalion had been heli-lifted the day before onto a hill to observe VC movements in the Operation De Soto area 25 miles south of Quang Ngai City.

They came under attack just before midnight and after a 45 minute fierce firefight beat back the enemy.

Communications were damaged by small arms fire before the Marines could request supporting arms fire.

Lance Corporal David A. Verheyen took command of the team after the patrol leader and his assistant were killed.

He said he could not get an accurate count of enemy dead. "We know we had several kills," he said. "I could hear the VC moaning and dragging bodies through the brush. They were so close I didn't want to risk anybody to make a count."

After taking command, Verheyen, although wounded, directed and returned fire on the enemy, moving from position to position encouraging his men and tending to the wounded.

After the initial attack the VC harassed the Marines during the night with automatic weapons fire and grenades.

Helicopters extracted the team at dawn.

6 SEA TIGER



Into the river

Marines of "F" Co., 2d Bn., Fourth Marines move across river during an operation held in late January west of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. C. L. McClory)

Short Rounds

Anniversary

CHU LAI — A colorful ceremony, awards, a variety of music and precision marching exhibitions were the order of the day as the 2d Army of the Republic of Vietnam Infantry Division celebrated its twelfth anniversary at their division headquarters in Quang Ngai City.

In attendance at the ceremony were: Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force; Major General H. Nickerson, Jr., Commanding General, 1st Marine Division; Brigadier General William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, and Brigadier General Kim Yun Sang, Commanding General, 2d Republic of Korea Marine (Blue Dragon) Brigade.

Prior to the ceremony, which included a parade and drill performance, Colonel Nguyen Van Toan, Acting Commander, 2d ARVN Division, presented Nickerson the Vietnamese National Order Medal 5th Class; Brigadier General Stiles the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal 1st Class and Lieutenant Colonel George R. Lamb, Commander of the 4th Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star.

Following the awards, a drill performance was given by the ROK Marine Drill Team, after which, troops of the 2d ARVN Division, Vietnamese Popular Forces and 2d Platoon, "H" Company, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, passed in review.

The 1st Marine Division and 2d ARVN Division bands entertained throughout the ceremony and parade with a variety of Vietnamese songs.

Lucky day

DA NANG—"Today (Feb. 2) was my lucky day."

These words of Brookfield, Mass., Private First Class Frances C. Goodro, sporting a freshly scarred armored vest, tell how he felt about the hours he spent leading a patrol through underbrush and rice paddies on a four-day search and destroy mission just south of Da Nang.

Goodro was point for his unit—"I" Company, 3rd Battalion, First Marines.

Numerous punji pits and booby traps had been found the day before so the young Marine cautiously took the lead position. Goodro was stepping carefully and looking closely at anything possibly hiding a grenade or mine. It meant slow going for the column but also meant safe treading.

Then, with only a half mile left in the day's march, Goodro "hit the jackpot." He had come to a ditch too steep and deep to climb in and out of, but narrow enough to jump.

Goodro leaped and as one foot hit the other side a blast and a little push from the rear helped him the rest of the way. He had tripped a booby trap just prior to the leap across the ditch.

When the smoke cleared, Goodro saw that the man behind him had been hit in the arm. That's when Goodro studied his own vest, remembering the "push" he had received in the leap. It had its share of fresh pock marks down the back and a long groove in the side.

Goodro later explained it was more than luck that saved him, "I'm glad I had the vest on even if, at times, it gets heavy and bulky," he said.

Elders

DA NANG — The First Marine

Regiment hosted 28 Vietnamese elders and local government leaders from surrounding hamlets at a pre-Tet party held at the regiment's headquarters south of Da Nang.

This first social gathering at regimental headquarters was called "highly successful" in promoting good will by the regiment's civic action officer, Captain Samuel E. Black.

Arriving at the regiment's headquarters just before noon, the visitors, ranging in ages from the mid-30's to 95, were treated to a luncheon and an hour-long show by a Vietnamese cultural-drama group.

The drama group, comprised of four men and two women, provided an entertaining routine of song and magic.

"The songs are more than mere entertainment to the visiting Vietnamese," Capt. Black said. "Like American folk songs, they tell of the history of the country."

Capt. Black explained that "It was evident by the reception to the music that the Vietnamese people take their history, traditions and customs seriously."

Support

CHU LAI — Marine First Lieutenant Ben L. Dyals, had just finished a checker game.

Now the Marine Attack Squadron-214 pilot and his flight leader, Major James M. Cox, were airborne in A4C "Skyhawk" jets and on their way to bomb the Viet Cong.

"We scrambled quick," Dyals said in describing the late afternoon mission.

Cox and Dyals turned north and headed for a VC stronghold 17 miles southwest of Da Nang.

"It took only seven or eight minutes to get over target. As we circled, we were told to expect plenty of small arms fire during our bombing runs," Cox said.

Both pilots made nine passes over the target traveling faster than 500 miles an hour.

"We are a pretty hard target to hit at that speed, but the Viet Cong keep putting rounds into our planes," Cox, who has flown 140 combat missions since coming to Vietnam last September, said.

A spotter plane later reported the two MAG-12 pilots killed six VC, destroyed 12 structures, and damaged 10 others with their bombs.

Ring of fire

DONG HA—A U.S. Army artillery battery surrounded a trapped Marine reconnaissance team with a ring of fire for nearly 14 hours preventing a large enemy force from overrunning an isolated eight-man patrol.

During the night-long mission, 882 rounds of 105mm ammunition were expended by "B" Battery of the Army's 40th Field Artillery unit.

After firing for six hours, an emergency night ammo resupply (the first of its kind) was dispatched from Marine artillery units at Camp J.J. Carroll to the displaced battery, south of the Rockpile.

The overland convoy traveled the seven miles to the battery through areas termed "insecure" after dark.

Five trucks of ammo, another two loaded with security troops and two radio vehicles made up the convoy.

The emergency resupply was dispatched after helicopter extraction of the Marines during the darkness was stopped by heavy ground fire.

The recon team spent the night directing the 105mm fire to as close as 50 meters to their position before being picked up by helicopter the next morning.



On the job

SSgt. Randolph S. Hunter checks a villager's identification against a Viet Cong suspect list during Operation De Soto, south of Quang Ngai. Hunter is with the Seventh Marines.
(Photo by PFC W. A. Porter)

Camp J. J. Carroll —"the city on the hill"

By: Sgt. Phil Stacy

DONG HA—Camp J. J. Carroll is "the city on the hill."

Situated only seven miles from the demilitarized zone, Camp Carroll is the northernmost Vietnam-based Marine encampment.

The camp boasts a population compared to a small farming community. Colonel J. P. Lanigan, camp commander, has the responsibilities and problems of the mayor of a small community and much more—an enemy in the surrounding hills.

The Third Marine Regiment, under Lanigan's command, makes up the majority of the population, but also housed on the hill is Marine artillery, tanks, anti-tanks, engineers and Army artillery.

The Army on the hill, with their "big guns" (self-propelled 175mm's) assists Marine artillery support 3rd Marine Division units in outlying areas such as the Rockpile, Cua Valley and the Ba Long Valley.

Under direction of Captain Richard H. Oats of the Third Marines' logistic office, Marine engineers (comparable to a highway department) are busy keeping roads on the hill open to the heavy flow of traffic.

The logistic officer and his crew are the mainstay of the maintenance and building of the city. Under this public works-type department, about 10,000 gallons of water are used in an average day. The water, which in the past was hauled four miles to the hill, is now pumped for more than a mile up the hill.

The city's sidewalks, although made from artillery ammunition boxes, make walking from tent to tent a little easier during the monsoon rains and deep mud.

The multitude of tents in which Marines live and work, all have electric lighting provided by the communications section's gasoline powered generator. The comm section is also the city's telephone company with a slightly out-of-date, but practical, "ring the operator and get your number" phones.

It's feasible to pick up a field phone here on the hill and place a call to the United States, although it would require an assist from the (MARS) ham radio station operated by the 3rd Marine Division in Phu Bai.

Although no party lines exist, the switchboard is as busy as any small town switchboard. It is manned 24 hours a day.

There are about seven restau-

rants, called mess tents, providing hot meals for tired and hungry Marines. Except for mail, hot meals rank next on the list of important items for a Marine in combat.

As is the case in any small town, Camp Carroll has its own store (PX) in a large truck trailer. The store is stocked with necessities such as shaving and writing gear, film and cigarettes.

Next to the "country store" is the post office where a Marine can buy a money order or send a package home.

Note in bottle arrives here

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — Notes cast into the sea in bottles have long been a popular subject of fiction, motion pictures, and cartoons.

Staff Sergeant Daniel Cochran found his own glass-enclosed story.

Cochran, a member of the crash crew of Marine Aircraft Group-16, was walking along the beach at the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang, when he spotted a barnacle-encrusted bottle washed ashore by the tide.

"I almost walked past it," he said, "then I saw that it had paper in it and went back and picked it up."

He opened the bottle and extracted a partially decayed note tied with a piece of old rag. It read:

"The day a tidal wave swept Hawaii, 1964. With regards from Cadets of St. San Felipe."

The Marine is convinced the note is genuine. What he doesn't know is who are the Cadets of St. San Felipe.

Cochran said he plans to write the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce for information.

He will use a method of communication speedier than ocean currents — the United States mail.

Plane crashes into sea —Skyhawk pilot rescued

By: GySgt. C. V. Stallings

CHU LAI—Teamwork, skill and courage of an attack pilot and a rescue helicopter pilot recently saved the life of Captain William "Ghost" Scheuren when his Skyhawk fighter-bomber crashed and sank in the South China Sea.

While taking off from the Marine Chu Lai Airstrip, Scheuren's jet was about 5,000 feet down the runway and the Skyhawk's airspeed indicator read 145 knots.

"It was about there," Scheuren recalls, "I felt the thump. The next thing was my wing dropped and I could see fire in my rear vision mirror."

It was later determined the "thump" Scheuren felt was the impact of his left main landing gear when it hit a 500-pound bomb accidentally dropped on the runway by a plane taking off ahead of him.

"When I finally got it into the air I raised the gear, but the indicators showed the left main was unsafe."

As the crippled jet disappeared into the low overcast north of Chu Lai, Scheuren notified departure control radar he had an emergency and requested a radar vector to the ordnance drop area where he could jettison his load of bombs.

"After I got rid of the bombs, she handled a lot easier, but I was still in the soup and didn't really know what was wrong with my ship," he said.

Just then, the ground control approach came up on the radio and began to guide the limping jet through a precision approach to the runway at Chu Lai.

"I finally broke out of the overcast at about a thousand feet, but it was dark and the rain didn't help my forward visibility."

By this time, the plight of the damaged Skyhawk was known to the Leathernecks on the ground.

A second Skyhawk, flown by Captain Grant Wright, launched in an attempt to join on Scheuren and check his plane for damage.

The inky darkness and restricted visibility caused by the rain required Wright to lower his own landing gear so that he could turn on his landing lights to check for damage.

"I could see the left wheel on Bill's plane had been torn off and the landing strut was bent back at an odd angle," Wright said. "With damage like that he had to eject."

Scheuren chose to "bail out" over the South China Sea.

"With 'Indian country' so close to the runways, I thought my best chance would be to 'punch out' over the beach and hope the wind would push me inland and the bird would go into the water," he said.

While Scheuren maneuvered his jet below the overcast, Second Lieutenant T. P. O'Toole, of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363, flying the rescue "chopper," circled the area where Scheuren was expected to eject.

"As I approached the beach I could see the lights of the chopper over the water. I saw other lights further out that I thought were the running lights of a ship, so I turned the plane to a more southerly heading before I pulled the curtain," Scheuren said.

His hesitation caused his flight path to be away from the rescue

"chopper" and further out to sea.

O'Toole spotted the descending parachute before it hit the water and was over the downed pilot in a matter of seconds.

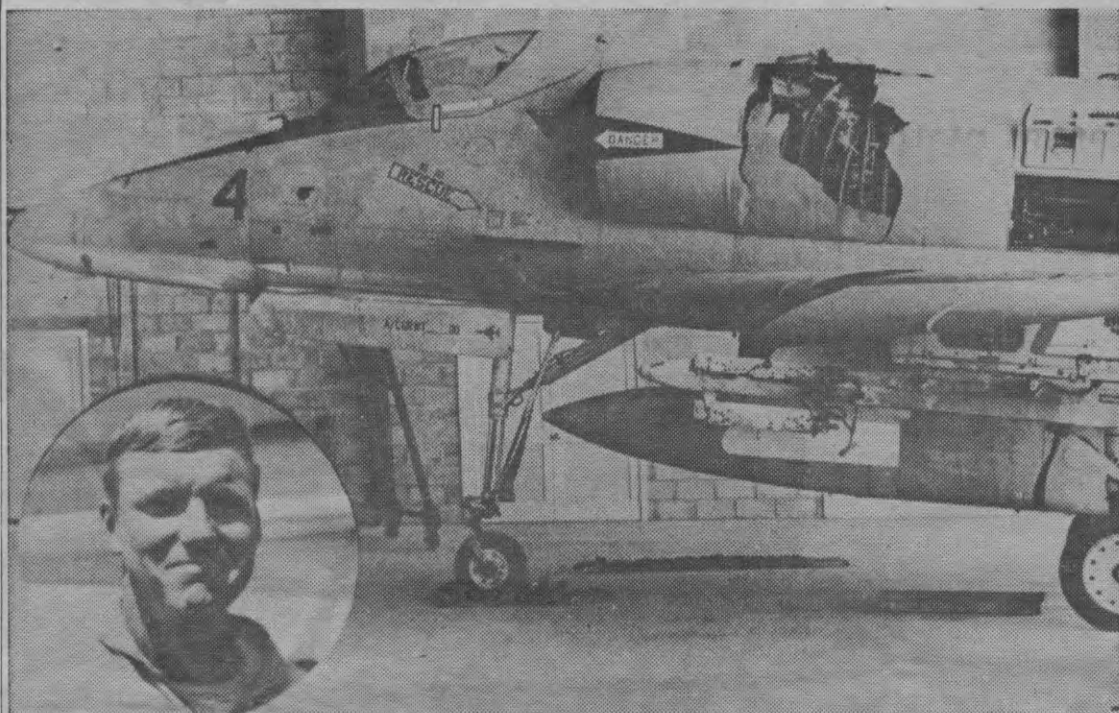
"I heard the chopper's engine overhead but was too busy to look up," Scheuren said. "When I hit the water a wave collapsed my chute and drove it into me with some force. I was all tangled in the lines and cloth," he added.

While Scheuren struggled to free himself from the parachute, O'Toole held his helicopter only a few feet above the breaking surf.

"I saw the rescue harness and got one arm and my head inside before O'Toole had to lift off to avoid getting buried by a breaker," Scheuren said.

Scheuren was lifted a few feet out of the water when a breaker hit, wrenching him out of the harness and back into the water. In the 15 minutes it took to effect the rescue Scheuren recalls, "O'Toole kept putting the wheels of the chopper into the water. At times, the waves were slapping against his engine compartment," Scheuren said.

When the jet pilot finally climbed aboard the helicopter he picked up the crewman's microphone and said, "O'Toole, if you can find a saloon, I'll buy you a drink."



1st Lt. Richard N. Bloomberg (insert) nursed this badly damaged A4E "Skyhawk" jet from a target area to Da Nang airfield.
(Photo by SSgt. Bill Brown)

VC anti-aircraft gun hits jet

By: GySgt. E. C. Nolan

CHU LAI—"There was a loud thump and the plane shuddered violently," recalled a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing aviator as he re-

lived "one of the most hectic moments of all my 27 years."

First Lieutenant Richard N. Bloomberg, of Costa Mesa, Calif., and a pilot with Marine Attack Squadron-311, Marine Aircraft Group-12, was making his second run at an enemy gun position on Feb. 5.

"I had them zeroed in and managed to drop all 10 of my

250-pound bombs," he said. But the enemy also had Bloomberg's A4E "Skyhawk" attack jet in their sights.

The loud thump was an anti-aircraft round which hit his jet's left intake.

"If it had been a foot to my left, I wouldn't be here," Bloomberg said.

He began to head for home. But with his engine running rough and his instruments out, Bloomberg turned and "kept my fingers crossed as I headed for the coast and open water in case

I had to eject."

The crippled A4E limped to Da Nang, a 20-minute flight, before the engine started overheating.

"I was in trouble when the temperature went up, so I circled the field, shut my engine down, and came in on a 'dead stick.' Luck was with me," he said.

Bloomberg has flown 76 missions with VMA-311 since reporting to Vietnam four months ago and has been awarded four Air Medals.



Eyes in the sky

A Marine "Bird Dog" spotter plane passes low over Marines of "E" Co., 2d Bn., Ninth Marines, on a sweep and destroy mission in the Royal Tombs' area approximately 10 miles south of Hue. The mission of the light spotter aircraft is to call in artillery and air supporting fire for the ground Marines.

(Photo by Sgt. H. L. Shaw)

"God let him go home"

By Sgt. Mike McCusker

CHU LAI — The last thing Marine Lieutenant Patrick Anthony O'Malley remembered before the plane crashed was the trees "hurtling towards him."

The 24-year-old 1st Marine Division air observer had spotted some Viet Cong just moments before, and his pilot was on a rocket run to mark their position 15 miles south of Quang Ngai on Jan. 26 when suddenly everything happened at once.

The Cessna O-1 "Bird Dog" was in a steep dive. Its rockets misfired, and enemy ground fire tore through the tiny plane.

The pilot could not pull out of the dive and the plane smashed into the trees lining a muddy stream. The force of the crash ripped off a wing and spun the plane around. Its nose settled into the water.

O'Malley, hurt and dazed, crawled through a broken window of the wrecked cabin and was about to check the damage when he froze.

An armed Viet Cong was staring at him from the opposite river bank. O'Malley didn't move a muscle. The VC turned and walked away.

Turning back to the plane, O'Malley saw the pilot still in his seat.

"I'm trapped," the aviator said, "how about putting this fire out under me."

An electrical fire was crackling beneath the pilot's seat. O'Malley extinguished it as the pilot made a wry joke about where he felt the heat. His leg was trapped beneath crushed metal and the observer, using most of his strength, managed to pry away the steel and get the pilot out.

Both agreed to leave the crash site before any more VC came. The pilot started into the stream. He was walking with the current when three grenades exploded nearby sending spray high into the air.

O'Malley plunged into the water; he never saw the pilot again.

Viet Cong were charging across the paddies towards the plane when O'Malley surfaced for air. He ducked underwater again and swam upstream to an overhanging bush. He crouched beneath it,

keeping all but his head immersed in the water for two hours.

Miraculously the 30 VC search force did not find him. Several beat down the brush on the opposite shore and three more grenades were thrown into the area around the plane.

O'Malley's heart nearly stopped as a black-pajama clad VC started spraying the bushes with automatic fire. The rounds chopped up the water and one of them hit him square in the back. All he felt was a stab of pain, as if someone had thrown a rock, and he knew his flak jacket had stopped a bullet.

After what seemed an eternity, the VC left. O'Malley just had time to think of the baby daughter he had never seen when another force, smaller than the first, approached the plane.

The VC milled about and soon left, replaced within a few minutes by yet another group that wandered about aimlessly before they too lost interest and straggled away.

During the time, O'Malley thought constantly of his wife and his daughter born just after his arrival in Vietnam four months before. He could hear firefights between helicopters and VC on the ground, and the explosions of bombs and rockets nearby.

When the sun emerged from behind thick clouds, O'Malley was worried that he would be outlined in the water. It was not the VC that saw the silhouette but another Marine aerial observer.

First Lieutenant William A. Berry was searching for his old classmate O'Malley.

Berry and O'Malley had become observers together, graduating from the same class. Berry saw the wrecked plane and a second later spotted the nearly invisible form in the water just upstream.

At the same instant O'Malley risked enemy detection by leaving his cover and waving.

The second time around Berry dropped a yellow smoke grenade in a rice paddy next to the stream. Right behind, an Army Huey helicopter swooped down and landed. Within seconds it was surrounded and hammered by VC fire.

O'Malley said later the Huey just sat there waiting for him.

"It was the most beautiful sight I had ever seen," he said.

He had to crawl across the paddy through the enemy fire to the chopper. The two machine gunners in the Huey raked the enemy positions until O'Malley was aboard and the helicopter lifted over the trees and out of danger.

O'Malley took off his flak jacket and found the bullet imbedded in the fiberglass.

"If I hadn't been trained to never give myself up," he said later, "I might have tried to surrender."

"I hung on, frightened and helpless but determined to escape because I just had the feeling God was going to let me go home," he added.

33 years experience in ordnance helpful

By: WO Bob Larson

CHU LAI—A Marine's 33 years of ordnance experience is paying huge dividends for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in Vietnam.

Chief Warrant Officer John A. Scarborough, Sr., ordnance officer for Marine Attack Squadron-211, and a Marine since Franklin Delano Roosevelt's first year as president, only wishes he had enlisted sooner.

"If I had it to do over again I'd do everything the same, but I'd start earlier," he said.

Now 55, the Santa Ana, Calif. resident was 22 when he enlisted and he's been a Marine ordnance man ever since.

Pilots of the "Wake Island Avengers" squadron operating at Chu Lai are continually amazed at Scarborough's vitality, enthusiasm and energy.

His 30-man ordnance section, he says, "has a job to do and it gets done. They've proven time and again they have what it takes to accomplish the mission."

In the process, Scarborough and his crew over the past three weeks have sent more than 800 tons of munitions hurling down on the enemy via VMA-211 pilots.

"Over the years I've had some wonderful experiences," he said, "and I wouldn't trade those years for anything."

Those years hold unending memories for the Marine gunner... he enlisted the year the Fleet Marine Force was officially formed... he was with MAG-2 in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor... he went island-hopping in the Pacific in the early '40s, at Guadalcanal and throughout the Russell Islands... went to Korea with MAG-11 shortly after the North Korean hordes swooped south of the 38th parallel.

Today's Marine, he adds, doesn't suffer at all when compared to Leathernecks of the past decades. "The ordnance men of today are the same caliber as those 25 years ago," he says, adding, "in fact, they are the best I've ever seen."

And that encompasses a lot of Marines since Scarborough finished recruit training at Parris Island, S.C. in 1933 and stayed at that post to learn small arms and automatic weapons repair.

Six years later, a staff sergeant, he joined MAG-2 at Oakland and moved with the group to North Island, San Diego in

1939. There he received on-the-job training in aviation weaponry.

When the Japanese hit Hawaii two years later, Scarborough was there as an aviation ordnance man... a job he held until 1943, when, as a master sergeant, he was assigned to Miramar Naval Air Station, Calif.

While at Miramar, Scarborough was appointed a warrant officer and assigned duties as staff rocket officer for Marine aviation units on the West Coast. He was instrumental in developing early rocket-firing techniques for the Marine Corps, and helped construct rocket ranges at El Centro and the Mojave Desert in California.

When the Korean conflict erupted, Scarborough was serving as ordnance and range officer at Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, Va. and captain of the schools' rifle and pistol teams.

Before 1950 had ended, he joined MAG-11 in Japan and from there served in Korea with squadrons of that group until he returned to El Toro, Calif. in 1953.

He served as ordnance officer with Marine Wing Support Group -37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, at El Toro, and later as the base range officer and captain of the rifle and pistol team.

In 1961 CWO-4 Scarborough joined VMA-311 and served aboard aircraft carriers USS Midway and USS Coral Sea in the Pacific, supervising the squadron's ordnance section.

Following that the gunner returned to El Toro and once again became ordnance and range officer until 1966 when he requested reassignment to Vietnam.

"I had to obtain special permission from Headquarters Marine Corps to remain on active duty," said Scarborough, who joined VMA-211 last November.

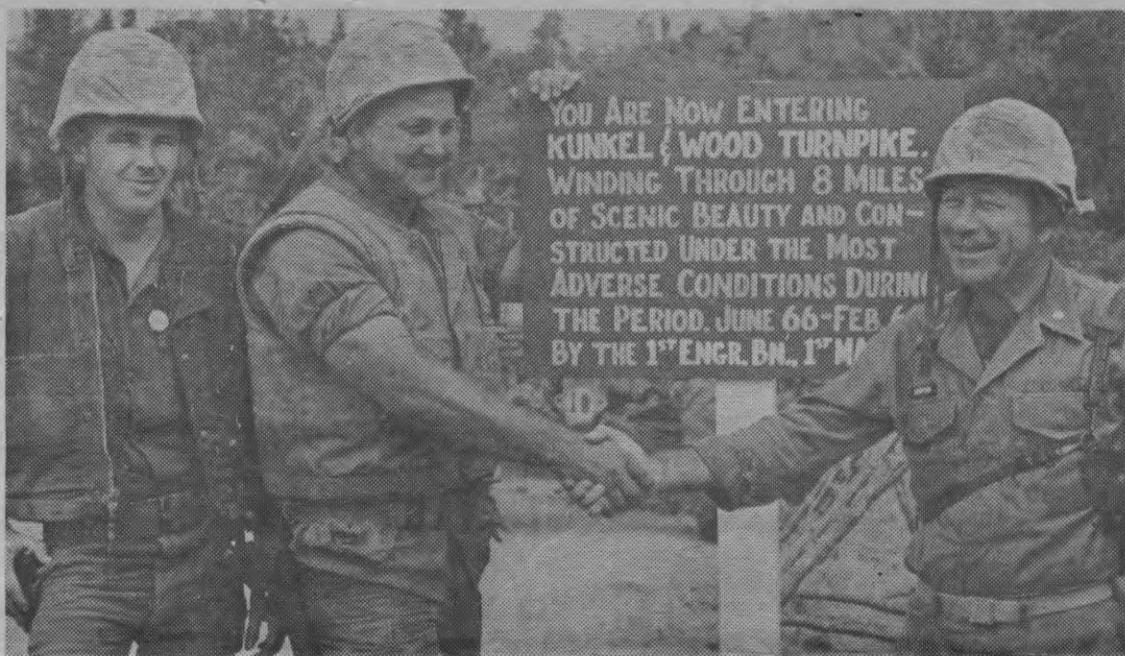
"I'll remain on active duty as long as the Corps will allow," he said. "I hope to stay with it until I reach 62."



River watch

Two Leathernecks of the 3d Bn., First Marines, set up a machine gun position to cover members of their battalion as they prepare to cross a river. The 1st Division Marines were on a search and destroy operation recently terminated south of Da Nang.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)



Kunkel-Wood Turnpike completed

Maj. Charles O. Newton (right), CO, 1st Engineer Bn., 1st Mar Div., congratulates SSgt. Henry L. Kunkel (center) on completion of the Kunkel and Wood Turnpike Feb. 8. Looking on at left is the other half of the team for whom the road was named, SSgt. Larry D. Wood. The eight mile road connecting a ferry landing site with the 1st Bn., Seventh Marines headquarters, took 32 weeks to build.

Decorations and Awards

DA NANG — A Marine lieutenant who courageously rallied his platoon to fight off a Viet Cong battalion then ran ahead of his lines to mark enemy positions with smoke grenades for aircraft circling overhead, was awarded the Silver Star Medal Feb. 7.

First Lieutenant Lee H. Anderson was serving as a platoon commander with "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines on July 24 during Operation Hastings when their positions were attacked by an enemy force.

"Braving intense hostile fire, he courageously moved among his men, directing their fire and offering words of encouragement," according to the citation.

His platoon gained fire superiority which resulted in seven known enemy killed, one of whom Anderson killed himself, the citation reads.

Anderson's platoon suffered only light casualties.

Calling in an airstrike to ensure the destruction of the enemy, Anderson immediately saw the pilots could not locate the enemy positions due to the dense jungle canopy.

"With complete disregard for his own safety," the citation reads, "Anderson ran forward four separate times to hurl smoke grenades into the enemy posi-

tions, marking them for the aircraft overhead.

"His heroic and selfless action insured the success of the close air support mission and the ultimate destruction of the North Vietnamese force," the citation reads.

DA NANG — A 20-year-old Marine rifleman, whose aggressive action saved a tank from possible destruction has been presented the Silver Star Medal.

Lance Corporal Thomas H. McLaughlin was presented the medal for his action while serving as a rifleman with "C" Company, 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines. As a member of a tank and infantry assault squad, McLaughlin's squad came under heavy small arms fire. He rushed forward throwing a grenade into an enemy trench, then shot an enemy soldier in another trench, who was attempting to fire a rocket launcher at one of the Marine tanks. McLaughlin saw an enemy soldier firing at him from a trench to his right and shot him.

His citation reads, "Aggressively and instantaneously, McLaughlin reacted to all commands of his squad leader, and was a determining factor in the death of several Viet Cong. By his daring actions and loyal devotion to duty

in the face of great personal risk, McLaughlin upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

DA NANG — The courageous efforts of Hospital Corpsman Third Class Jack D. Breeze earned the 19-year-old corpsman the Bronze Star Medal Jan. 30.

On two occasions Breeze braved hostile enemy fire to administer first aid to wounded Marines.

While serving with "D" Company, 1st Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines on a search and destroy mission, his unit came under heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire. Working in a small depression, deep enough to afford protection for the wounded only, Breeze remained exposed to a heavy volume of enemy fire as he administered aid.

His cool presence of mind and courageous actions were instrumental in saving the lives of a fellow corpsman and a Marine, the citation reads.

Again, during the later part of September, Breeze continuously exposed himself to heavy fire in order to administer aid to wounded Marines.

"His valiant efforts were an inspiration to all who observed him," the citation reads.

Marine believes in People to People

By Cpl. L. L. Carson

DA NANG — Wherever Lance Corporal Floyd E. Miller goes, the Marine machine gunner has a crowd of Vietnamese children nearby.

Nicknamed "Gomer" by fellow Leathernecks of "F" Company,

2nd Battalion, First Marine, Miller is waging his personal civic action program much to the delight of Vietnamese youngsters.

He joined the Marine Corps with one idea in mind—he wanted to serve in Vietnam.

"I feel sorry for these people," he said, "especially the kids. They have never seen a day of peace in their lives and I am trying to bring a little happiness into their lives," Miller said.

Every two weeks Miller's mother sends packages containing candy and toys for the Vietnamese children. Then, wherever he goes, he passes out the goodies to kids along the trails.

Christmas day, Miller played Santa to the children from the hamlets surrounding his company area, thanks to an extra special package he received.

He believes the way we treat the Vietnamese people will be the deciding factor in the war.

"It's not always easy for the villagers," he said. "When we get fired on and have to charge through their crops, I imagine they don't think too kindly of us, but it's something that has to be done."

He said it's what we do and how we treat the Vietnamese following the fighting that will keep us in their good faith.

"It costs quite a bit to send all the candy and toys over here," Miller said, "but the look on the kids' faces when I give them something, makes it all worth while."



Near miss

PFC Rick W. Holloway points to the bullet hole in his helmet he received during Operation Tuscaloosa, Jan. 26. A fire team leader with "H" Co., 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, Holloway was the victim of a VC sniper. The slug entered the top of his helmet, from the front, curved its way across the top and down the back between the helmet and liner. It came out the bottom and passed through his combat pack and went into the ground behind him.

(Photo by LCpl. J. E. Russell)

Children's hospital dedicated

HOA KHANH—The Children's Hospital of Force Logistic Support Group "Alpha", Force Logistic Command at Camp Books located 10 miles northwest of Da Nang, was dedicated Feb. 5.

More than a year ago, the 1st Battalion, Third Marines, 3rd Marine Division, began a Medical Civic Action Program in the Hoa Khanh area. They treated over 250 patients daily in the surrounding villages.

Seeing the need for a children's hospital, the battalion, with the help of the Seventh Engineer Battalion, built a temporary structure to accommodate a small portion of the children being treated.

The hospital did not have the facilities to handle all patients, so Marines and Seabees constructed a small hut in the spring of last year.

When the battalion departed Lieutenant Robert F. Oldt (USN), command surgeon of FLSG-A and Seventh Engineers, Navy corpsman and Seabees, began construction on the new hospital in Oct. 1966. It was completed in late Nov. of last year.

In December, 26 patients were admitted to the hospital. That number has now risen to more than 50.

The Combined Action Companies (CAC) in the area play a major role in the success of the hospital. Patients whose condition is too severe to be treated in the field are brought and admitted to the hospital.

The hospital caters to over 30,000 children in the Hoa Khanh area, and occasionally, patients from Da Nang arrive for treatment.

"Our three most common diseases are skin infections, worms and malnutrition," states Master Chief Frank G. Alvau. "We are trying to teach the children sanitation."

With a staff of one Navy doctor, three corpsmen and three Vietnamese nurses, the hospital

is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Through the efforts of our hospital staff, we are making great strides in winning the confidence of the Vietnamese people," concluded Alvau.

In dedicating the hospital, Brigadier General James E. Herbold Jr., commanding general, FLC, stated, "this hospital is dedicated with 'love, happiness and freedom' in honor of our Vietnamese friends."

Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general, 1st Marine Division, and Major Hai Xuam Hau, District Chief of Hoa Vang District, were among the honored guests along with local village chiefs.

To the Marines—with love

KANSAS CITY — Somebody really loves those Marines!

This statement was made by Jon Holiday, program director for Radio Station KMBC in Kansas City, as he referred to the thousands of valentines stacked in his office which were sent to Marines in Vietnam.

The station began a campaign during late January to collect valentines for Marines, offering an 11-piece cookware ensemble to the adult submitting the best

home-made valentine. A coaster wagon and 120 candy bars were prizes to the youngster sending in the best home-made entry.

The few hundred valentines Holiday expected multiplied several times over. He had to abandon his original plans to send the valentines by airmail to the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam.

"There were thousands of them; probably enough to send one to each man in the division," said the program director.

After several telephone calls, the shipping problem was solved when two Marine Corps district headquarters and Trans-World Airlines volunteered to assist KMBC in getting the valentines to Vietnam.

They were flown from Kansas City by T.W.A. to San Francisco where they were met by marines of the 12th Marine Corps District. The marines then delivered them to the fleet post office for further shipment to the combat Leather-necks.

Wanted: Dead—any member of 3d Tank Bn. CA team

By: Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—Wanted: Dead. Any member of the civic action team of the 3rd Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

The Viet Cong haven't tacked up any "wanted" posters yet, but the word is out that there is a price riding on the head of each member of the team.

The bounty: 5,000 piasters (about \$42).

The reason: The unqualified success the tank unit's civil affairs team has had in working with the people of Phong Bac hamlet, three miles south of Da Nang.

The team, headed by First Lieutenant William F. Lochridge has tried a new approach in civic action, turning the hamlet into a laboratory for capitalism and encouraging the villagers to become economically self-sufficient.

It has been a long struggle. It is not finished yet. But the unit has shown marked progress since it began with what Lochridge calls the "soap and candy" stage. The expressed bounty is just another example of how the program worries the Cong.

"What's happened," Lochridge said, "is that we've forced the Viet Cong to take their main effort away from the Vietnamese people and concentrate their attention on the Marines. Needless to say, this is one of our main goals."

"Before," he continued, "a villager of Phong Bac had nothing but his life. He was quick to change sides when the VC came along."

"Now, since we've given him an opportunity to advance himself, he has something worth hanging on to, and isn't so quick to be jumping from one side of the fence to the other," Lochridge said.

"Frankly, we're more flattered than frightened" by the reward, says Staff Sergeant J. J. Biedrzycki, non-commissioned officer in charge. "The reward is like getting a tribute from our enemies."

Staff Sergeant E. S. Lambert agrees. "This indicates we're taking the right approach," he said.

Lambert pointed to one tangible display of unity in the hamlet. During a previous national holiday, four Republic of Vietnam flags flew in Phong Bac. For the

first day of Tet, some 300 were in evidence.

If anything, the team has intensified its efforts since learning of the bounty from intelligence sources. One precaution now taken, however, is that the team moves tactically when in the village.

Otherwise it's business as usual: working with local fishermen, assisting merchants in setting up a shopping center, building pens for hogs to be purchased with proceeds from sale of the fish.

And as far as the Viet Cong are concerned, business as usual can be nothing but bad news.

Roving squad finds VC infiltration route

By: Sgt. Roger Ynostroza

DONG HA—A roving Marine squad—patrolling in densely-jungled mountains south of the Rockpile—discovered an important enemy infiltration route early this month.

The enemy trail, complete with handrails, presumably for night travel, was studded with chest-deep fighting holes spaced 30 to 40 yards apart. Trenches were heavily fortified with logs, and steps were installed at steep inclines.

When the squad first discovered the trail, they also found what appeared to be a way-station for groups traveling over the trail. There were two small grass huts, one long shed that could house up to 100 men and an observation post farther down the river. All the buildings were well-kept and tracks appeared fresh.

"The day we found this trail we tried time and again to make them fire on us," said Gonzales. "But they wouldn't return our fire, they simply were trying to avoid contact."

"Maybe they thought we'd forget about this trail and go on our way. But we're sure this is a main resupply route and we'll probably follow it out soon."

Gonzales's squad met with the enemy several times that day. At one time, it seemed the enemy was all around them, but no large-scale attack was mounted against the squad.

"I was alright until our RF guide said the footprints we found indicated there were between 75 and 100 VC in the area," said Gonzales. "Then I got scared and thought we might be in serious trouble."

Lance Corporal Donald McKenzie, a forward observer, called in artillery in a 360-degree circle around the squad's tight perimeter. Later a circling O-1C spotter plane "talked" the squad out of the enemy area by radio and a Huey gunship made three straf-

ing runs.

Several days later, the squad returned for another look, but this time they brought the rest of the 2nd platoon with them.

The Marines and Regional Forces South Vietnamese troops were given the order to destroy and burn the enemy positions. While they were destroying the buildings, several enemy soldiers were sighted and sporadic firing broke out.

During their second foray to the resupply route, light contact was made. The platoon casualties were light while signs indicated several enemy soldiers had been hit or killed.

Viper snake

DONG HA—The Marine cautiously picked up the discarded Viet Cong pack to check it out for documents, but sensing a booby trap, he turned it upside down and shook out a deadly bamboo viper.

Staff Sergeant Carl W. Fountain spotted the VC pack partially hidden in the bushes while on a sweep in the Cua Valley with "F" Company, Third Marine Regiment.

Fountain, a company platoon sergeant, was just behind the point fire team when he spotted the pack. He called for his platoon leader and checked the pack to see if it had any wires attached.

"It's the first time I've seen a booby trap using a bamboo viper," he said, "but you can't be too careful with snakes like that around."

The viper was killed by Fountain.



LOOK AT ME—GySgt. Lon V. White, motor transport chief, 2d Bn., 11th Marines checks the fit of a skirt and blouse he has presented to a happy young girl of Tien Sung hamlet. The clothing was donated to the villagers of Ky Khuong Province by churches, civic clubs and schools of Dooly County, Ga.

Villagers get clothes from Georgia folks

CHU LAI — The villagers of Khuong Binh and Tien Sung hamlets in Ky Khuong Province, became a little better dressed last week, thanks to Gunnery Sergeant Lon V. White and the people of Dooly County, Ga.

White, battalion motor transport chief, of the 2nd Battalion 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division, and the men of his section distributed clothing donated by Dooly Countians to the villagers.

The stateside end of the project was headed by Mrs. Madge Methvin, editor of the Vienna (Ga.) Weekly News, who told of the need through the newspaper.

Georgians responded through church groups, civic clubs and schools. Mrs. Methvin personally paid postage on the packages to Vietnam.

It was not the first association between the Motor Transport Section and the people of Dooly County. Although the Marines stem from as far west as California, as far east as Pennsylvania

and as far north as Oregon, they are the adopted sons of Dooly County. White refers to his section as "the 6th Georgia Cavalry."

The project came about when Mrs. Methvin wrote to White asking what the citizens of the county could send overseas to make the lives of the Marines a little more pleasant.

White replied the Marines were well cared for, but the villagers around their area were badly in need of clothing.

Ordnancemen

DA NANG — For many a VC the last sound he ever hears is the muted whisper of a UH1E "Huey" helicopter from Marine Observation Squadron 2.

By then, it is usually too late to escape the 2.75 inch rockets which spit from the twin pods of the darting helicopter. More than 3,000 rockets are fired by Hueys of VMO-2 in an average month.

Making sure they fire is the job of Staff Sergeant John F. Ogden and his team of 11 ordnancemen. They also keep each Huey's six M-60 machine guns in top-notch order.

But the rockets are their biggest job. Each Huey that takes to the air from Marble Mountain Air Facility first has its rockets' electrical circuits checked by a trained ordnanceman.

"A mis-fire could mean the difference between life for a ground Marine, and death for the VC he's facing," says Ogden.

A circuit tester searches through the wiring of each rocket to detect any possible irregularity. It means a lot of checking as each Huey carries a minimum of 14 rockets, and sometimes as many as 18 on each side.

A twice-weekly refresher class is held for all ordnancemen.

Ordnancemen know both ends of the business—each is also a qualified aerial gunner.

New 1st Marines CO

DA NANG — Colonel Emil J. Radics assumed command of the First Marine Regiment unit Jan. 28, during traditional change of command ceremonies at the regimental command post.

He relieved Colonel Donald L. Mallory who has been appointed assistant chief of staff for civil affairs.

Magician

PHU BAI—A Marine magician kept more than 300 Vietnamese children and adults wondering what amazing feats would come next with his art of producing baffling illusions by sleight of hand.

Private First Class James A. Carter was performing Feb. 5 for the Loc Bon village three miles south of here at a civil affairs pre-holiday celebration held by the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Regiment, 3d Marine Division.

The 20-year-old magician has been performing since he was eight. Carter explained he enjoys working with sharp-eyed children because they are harder to fool with the art of trickery.

Battlefield commission

Marine Corps personnel who demonstrate outstanding leadership in the Vietnam conflict may be eligible for temporary appointment to second lieutenant under a recently revived "battlefield commission" program.

According to Marine Corps Order 1421.7, exceptional performance of duty in combat is defined to mean "outstanding combat leadership while under fire."

Personnel nominated for appointment to second lieutenant must be U.S. citizens, 20 years old but not past their 37th birthday by the end of the fiscal year in which recommended; have a minimum GCT or AA of 110; must not have been convicted by court-martial, or by civil authorities, or the subject of an offense which involves moral turpitude, or an offense for which the maximum penalty includes death, dishonorable discharge or confinement in excess of one year, and be of "unquestionable moral integrity and of commissioned officer caliber."

Recover missile

DA NANG — UH-34D helicopter pilots from Marble Mountain Air Facility braved enemy automatic weapons fire to retrieve a "sidewinder" missile accidentally discharged from a Marine F-4B Phantom jet, Feb. 4, 15 miles southwest of Da Nang.

The helicopters, from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263, swooped down to disarm and recover the air-to-air missile before it could be captured.

As enemy .50 cal. machine guns barked at the aircraft, the crew chief and gunner returned the fire with their M-60 machine guns and escorting Huey gunship helicopters added supporting fire.

The missile was recovered as the enemy opened fire again. The UH-34D although hit five times, returned to its Marble Mountain home.

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.

Rough and ready combat cook book

By: LCpl. Ray Wilkinson

DONG HA — C-rations have been the object of many service jokes, but 3rd Division Marines have developed a rough and ready "Cook book" to add variety to their field meals.

A favorite with the Fourth Marine Regiment is a dish known simply as pudding. Take some C-ration jam, mix with peanut butter, crumble in a bread roll, add a little water and stir all the ingredients and you have pudding.

For the field version of a ham and cheese sandwich, slice ration white bread into four parts and toast on each side. Fry the individual slices of ham, melt a can of cheese and pour the cheese on the bread.

Field troops also get more mileage out of the small bread



Which way?

Cpl. Vernon Roberts makes a visual check of the route his patrol will take after dark. A member of Combined Action Company 2, located about ten miles north of Da Nang, Roberts led a squad of fellow Marines and Vietnamese Popular Force soldiers on a combat patrol in a search for the VC.

(Photo by GySgt. Ron Harwood)

Black Panthers, Marines conclude joint operation

PHU BAI—A joint operation by the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Regiment, 3rd Marine Division and crack troops of the Black Panther unit of the 1st Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, killed seven Viet Cong, captured three VC suspects and a North Vietnamese in the Royal Tombs area southwest of Hue.

The operation tallied a cache of enemy hand grenades, mines, small arms ammunition and other intelligence documents, reported Captain A. S. Reynolds of Daytona Beach, Fla., and assistant operations officer for the Marine battalion.

Casualties

Department of Defense statistics reveal 6,978 U. S. service personnel lost their lives in the Republic of Vietnam through hostile force actions from Jan. 1, 1961 through Jan. 26, 1967. An additional 1,603 lost their lives from non-hostile action causes.

The operation began at 10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 3, when the Black Panther unit was heli-lifted from Hue to Phu Bai where a heliborne flight of Marines joined to drop into the area approximately five miles southwest of Hue.

The Viet Cong fired on the ARVN troops shortly after landing while the Marines moved into a blocking force position around the Hac Bao village complex as an estimated two platoons of VC attempted to slip through their lines.

Following a sweep of the village by the ARVN forces, the Marine blocking force of "E" Company, 2nd Battalion, Ninth Regiment pulled out of the area and set in for the night across the Hue river. They marched back to their Phu Bai camp the following day.

Leaflet drop

DONG HA—Marines conducted the largest propaganda leaflet drop of the year Feb. 7, dropping 2,900,000 leaflets south of the demilitarized zone.

Third Division Psychological Warfare Operations prepared the leaflets, which urge the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers to lay down their weapons and work for the government of South Vietnam.

The messages stress a better life in South Vietnam and offer safe conduct through friendly lines.

Corpsmen trio build their own med lab

DA NANG—Combining ingenuity with hard work, three Navy corpsmen with the 3rd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, built their own field medical laboratory.

The lab was brought to reality by Hospital Corpsman First Class Dewain L. Hoffman Jr., a trained laboratory technician assigned to the battalion's aid station.

Until Hoffman's arrival, all lab work was sent to the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang, which is the standard procedure by most aid stations.

But when Hoffman reported to the battalion it was decided to utilize his abilities by setting up a small lab section in the dispensary, thereby eliminating the need for sending a man to Da Nang everytime a lab test was needed.

It eventually became evident that the dispensary facility was overcrowded, so Hoffman decided to build a separate laboratory adjacent to the dispensary.

Actual construction of the nine foot square building was done by

Hospital Corpsman Third Class John R. Bailey, and Hospitalman Terry L. Smith, both attached to the dispensary.

The new lab has a wooden floor, aluminum roof, shelves, working benches and a sink. The entire project took four days to complete.

In addition to their regular duties, Hoffman and Bailey are researching diseases carried in the blood of the local Vietnamese civilian populace, malaria, and drinking water in the surrounding hamlets.

Green jokes

DA NANG—The Marine Corps' penchant for making everything forest green has prompted a flood of "green" jokes.

The latest addition: A sign in the command post of the 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, presumably posted by the career advisor.

Its message: "Keep Vietnam Green . . . Extend."

Wins Silver Star

PHU BAI—A Marine infantry advisor to the 1st Army of the Republic of Vietnam was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his actions during a fierce Viet Cong attack on his Vietnamese battalion last July.

Captain Kenneth T. Taylor, was serving as senior advisor to the 3rd Battalion, Third ARVN Regiment near Da Nang on July 31, 1966, when the unit was attacked by a large Viet Cong force.

The communist soldiers during a grenade and small arms charge threatened to overrun the battalion's position.

When the battalion commander was wounded by a grenade Taylor quickly rallied the command group. He led them to a safer position, and under intense enemy fire set them into fighting positions.

Taylor then radioed an adjacent ARVN battalion for assistance in beating back the charge.

As a relief force moved to his assistance Taylor moved from position to position encouraging the men and directing the defense of the perimeter.

While directing the fire he personally accounted for five enemy killed.



Capt. Kenneth T. Taylor



Silver Star for bravery

The Silver Star Medal is presented to Cpl. Dennis P. May by MGen. H. Nickerson, Jr., CG 1stMarDiv, near Da Nang Jan. 31. May was cited for conspicuous gallantry in charging an enemy emplacement while firing his rifle and hurling grenades to break up an ambush. He killed two of the VC soldiers during the action. May is a member of 3d Bn., 1st Marines.

Divining rods used on "Independence"

By: SSgt. J.W. Jansen

DA NANG—An old-fashioned method of locating water in arid areas, the "divining rod" has been updated and put to military use in Vietnam.

It was recently tested by Marines during Operation Independence, three miles west of An Hoa. It met with some success.

A method for locating underground structures and other objects by use of wires, "Matacia's Wire Rudder," was used by the Marines during the final three days of the operation.

Introduced to Marines of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, the "divining rods" were greeted with skepticism, but did locate a few Viet Cong tunnels.

Private First Class Don R. Steiner, a battalion scout with the 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment, tried the rods for the first time on a Feb. 5 patrol.

He didn't find any Viet Cong caves or tunnels, but Steiner did find enough to be convinced the

device works.

He discovered a large pot of rice, buried about two feet underground and covered with a piece of tin.

The rods also spread apart as Steiner passed a Vietnamese hut, but Marines dug about two feet into the earth without finding anything. Upon checking inside the building, however, they discovered a tunnel led to a family bunker underneath the trail, right where the rods had reacted.

The roof of the bunker was six feet underground.

Recommended to the Marines by Louis J. Matacia of Falls Church, Va., a certified land surveyor, the apparatus was first tried at the Southeast Asia Village, Marine Corps School, Quantico, Va., last November.

According to Matacia the wire rudder's applicability is limited only by the imagination of the user.

With no prior knowledge of the tunnel complex at Quantico, Matacia found all tunnels and many of the communication lines within 20 minutes. Marine officers there also tested this system for locating tunnels and some were successful.

Marines operate the divining rod by holding one in each hand, level with the ground, pointing in the direction of their movement. As the carrier moves over, under or along a hidden structure the wires will swing into alignment with the structure.

Adm. T. R. Wescheler of NSA departs RVN

"The enormous progress which we have made during the past year is a tribute to your outstanding personal leadership and can-do attitude. The growth and efficiency of the entire Naval Support Activity has been and is a magnificent accomplishment of which you can be justly proud.

The Marines here owe much to you for the tireless support which is always there, around the clock, and I speak for all in saying "thanks." You will be sorely missed by me and your many other close friends in III MAF.

—LtGen. L.W. Walt

Sea Tiger spotlight on:

1st Military Police Battalion

By: Cpl. W. L. Christofferson

DA NANG—The duties of a Marine military police battalion would, it seems, be self-explanatory anywhere but in Vietnam.

Ask any member of the 1st Military Police Battalion, 1st Marine Division, stationed near Da Nang. He'll tell you that most Marines of the unit, since arriving in Vietnam, are doing almost any job imaginable.

The military defense of the airbase is the primary mission of the Leathernecks under Lieutenant Colonel P. G. Stavridis' command, and they accomplish that by constant patrolling around the base perimeter and in surrounding hamlets.

The second phase of operations is the combined action company (CAC) program, in which Marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces live, work and fight side by side.

The battalion has a dozen CAC units scattered throughout Da Nang and Da Nang East. Their primary mission is to provide self-defense for the Vietnamese in the area, by means of patrols, ambushes and sweeps.

The extensive CAC program lends itself to the third responsibility of the battalion — civic action.

Through the CAC units, the MPs have built a dozen dispensaries where Marine and Popular Forces hospital corpsmen hold sick call twice daily, treating up to 15,000 Vietnamese civilians a month.

"The close contact we have with the Vietnamese people through the CAC program gives us a direct channel for conducting civic action," explains first Lieutenant Earl W. Young, battalion civil affairs officer.

"That, plus the fact that our unit is stationed here in a more permanent status than most other units, such as infantry battalions, makes it possible for us to conduct a more extensive program," Lt. Young said.

The unit's record since its arrival here May 31, 1966 bears him out. Working both through and in addition to the CAC companies, the unit has:

—Initiated 12 English classes, taught by all ranks of Marines, with from 8 to 140 students.

—Assumed responsibility for a refugee camp, tackling such problems as rat extermination, employment, providing classrooms, and giving hygiene hints to Vietnamese civilians who fled

their homes due to Viet Cong terror.

—Conducted an extensive psychological warfare campaign, in cooperation with the U.S. Army, using Viet Cong defectors, movies, posters, pamphlets, and other devices to steer the people toward recognition of the legitimate government of Vietnam.

—Showed its humane side by assisting Vietnamese in the area in time of tragedy, be it plane crashes, floods or fires.

—Provided paint, desks, and blackboards for schools, firewood

for the poor, market places for villages, and landscaping for a village headquarters, often by simply showing local officials how to obtain the materials needed through regular government channels.

"We try to work on a personal basis," says Lt. Young, "without fanfare and without commercialization. And we're interested primarily in enabling the people to be able to stand on their own after the Marines leave, whenever that may be."



Chat with the admiral

RADM John S. Cowan (MC) USN, Pacific Fleet Medical Officer, chats with LCpl. Daniel M. Lyons at the First Hospital Co., Chu Lai. Cowan was touring Naval Medical Facilities in Vietnam and while in Chu Lai, toured the 1st Medical Bn.

3/26 praised

PHU BAI — Major General Hoang Xuan Lam, I Corps Headquarters, conveyed his commendations to the 3rd Battalion Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, in a letter sent Jan. 2, to Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force.

General Lam, commanding general of the I Corps Tactical Zone, cited the battalion for its gallant actions during Operation Chinook near the ancient capital of Hue.

During the early part of the operation, the Viet Cong attacked the battalion perimeter with 60mm mortars from the Phong Dien District, 27 miles north of Phu Bai. The infantry companies sent a counter-attack against the VC, killing 27 and capturing 20 enemy weapons.

Later in the day, the Viet Cong launched another attack on the battalion from the same area. The Leathernecks killed 32 more and captured an additional 21 weapons.

For three nights, the VC lobbed in more than 900 mortar rounds on the battalion positions.

The Twenty-Sixth Regiment Marines, over the three-day period, killed a total of 156 Viet Cong, apprehended five more, and captured more than 50 weapons (including machine guns and mortars), and some 200 grenades.

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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