



# SEA TIGER



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III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

December 14, 1966

## Fourth Marine Regiment awarded Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry

By: GySgt. Ronald M. Harwood

QUANG TRI—Two military units, one Vietnamese and the other American, were decorated for heroism here Dec. 3 in a ceremony witnessed by General Nguyen Cao Ky, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vietnam.

General William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, acting for the President of the United States, presented the Presidential Unit Citation to the 2nd Battalion, First Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

The Fourth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, was awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm by Lieutenant General Cao Van Vien, Chief of the Joint Generals Staff, Republic of Vietnam.

The Vietnamese unit was cited for its action in Quang Tri Province from August 1964 to Oct. 1965. During this time they established an outstanding record for military actions against the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese regulars.

Highlight of their engagements during that period was the defense of Ba Long outpost by two companies of the battalion in October of 1965. Though heavily outnumbered by North Vietnamese raiders, the defenders were able to save the outpost and inflict heavy damage on the attacking force.

The U.S. Marine unit was cited for its "outstanding bravery" during Operation Hastings and Prairie this year. As a result of their efforts, the North Vietnamese were unable to penetrate the area south of the DMZ according to the citation.

"This award will testify to the gallantry of the U.S. Marine Corps and will be a source of admiration to the Vietnamese people," said Premier Ky during the ceremonies.

The Presidential Unit Citation was the first such award given to a Vietnamese military force here in Vietnam.

Following the presentation, General Westmoreland said, "Your extraordinary achievements have set high standards for your countrymen and your actions have shown the way in battle."

"You may be sure of the respect and admiration of our countrymen," he added.

He then thanked the Prime Minister for the award given to the Fourth Marine Regiment and said it "signified another job well done by the United States Marine Corps."

Rear Admiral Thomas R. Weschler, Commander U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, and Brigadier General Lowell E. English, Assistant 3rd Marine Division commander, each were awarded the Vietnamese National Order of Merit, Fifth Class and the Cross of Gallantry with Palm at the ceremonies.

Crosses of Gallantry were awarded individual Marines and ARVN soldiers following the unit presentations.

### Combat action report month of November

By: GySgt. Ronald M. Harwood

DA NANG — Rain and more rain, was mainly what Marines in the I Corps area faced during the month of November.

In the Phu Bai area alone, home of the 3rd Marine Division headquarters, more than 23 inches fell as the monsoons moved northward.

Despite the adverse weather, the Marine air-ground team continued in their hunt and destruction of the enemy.

Combined Leatherneck actions accounted for 443 enemy dead during the month.

Fifty-one of the KIAs came as a result of Operation Rio Blanco—the Marine portion of a tri-nation operation southwest of Chu Lai area. A reinforced battalion of the Seventh Marine Regiment joined Republic of Korea Marines and Vietnamese Army units during the eight day search for Viet Cong.

Operation Prairie continued along the demilitarized zone with sporadic contact between small units providing most of the action. Total enemy deaths as a result of

Prairie rose 64 during the month to accumulative total of 1,276 since the operation began in August.

Two companies of the Third Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, and two ARVN companies joined forces to free a portion of the Cua Valley from communist domination in the operation, 12 miles southwest of Dong Ha.

The action began Nov. 16 and resulted in the death of 33 North Vietnamese and VC soldiers and freedom for at least 30 families held captive for months by communist forces.

In other action in the Chu Lai sector, a platoon from a combined action company of the 1st Bn. Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, trapped and killed 25 VC in the hamlet of Phuoc Thuan, about 13 miles southwest of the Marine Task Force X-Ray headquarters. The Marines trapped the VC on a peninsula on the coast of the China Sea, on Nov. 22.

In addition 88 VC were cap-

(Continued On Back Page)



### Personal Crosses of Gallantry

Vietnamese women presented flower garlands to U.S. Marines and Republic of Vietnam troops after they had received personal Crosses of Gallantry with palm. From right to left are LtCol. William Masterpool, 3d Bn., Fourth Marines and LtCol. Jack Westerman, 1st Bn., Fourth Marines. (Photo by LCpl. H. L. Romine III)

### Truce for Tet also

## Washington-Hanoi agree on Christmas-New Year truce

According to an Associated Press news story President Johnson agreed to a truce in the fighting in Vietnam—including a halt to bombings of North Vietnam during Christmas, New Year and Tet.

The government of the Republic of Vietnam announced 48-hour Christmas and New Year cease-fires. The order was signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky.

Acting Press Secretary George Christian told newsmen "the President made the decision during the day", to hold 48-hour truces starting this December 24 and December 31, 1966. Those were the truce dates sought by the Viet Cong.

The government of the Republic of Vietnam also announced a 4-day cease fire on Tet, the Chinese New Year, which falls on Feb. 8.

The U.S. went further and decided to a truce between 6 a.m. Feb. 8 and 6 a.m. Feb. 12, 1967, the lunar new year.

A communist broadcast earlier announced that they would stop fighting for 48 hours on both Christmas and New Year's.

The British Broadcasting Corporation said the announcement came from Radio Liberation, the Viet Cong transmitter in South Vietnam, and was made in the name of the National Liberation Front.

According to the radio an-

nouncement, the decision was made "to display a deep understanding of the South Vietnamese people toward the struggle movement of the American people and the people of the satellite countries."

### Tiger expands

Beginning with this issue, the SEA TIGER will be sent to all Recruiting and Recruiting Substations across the U.S. Also included on this special distribution will be all Marine Corps Reserve units, aviation and ground.

The Combat Information Bureau welcomes its new readers.

The Liberation Front claims to speak for the South Vietnamese. The satellite countries obviously referred to Australia, South Korea and others who have joined the United States in the Vietnam campaign.

The broadcast also said the National Liberation Front "authorized" the American soldiers as well as the "soldiers of the U.S. satellite countries and soldiers of the southern puppet army" to go to church "under the condition that they be dispersed and not in group formation and that they not carry weapons or spying tools."

In 1965, the Viet Cong proclaimed a truce of 12 hours beginning at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve (Continued On Back Page)



# SEA TIGER

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Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force  
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## Background for troops:

# Basic U.S. Foreign Policy

The peace and security of many nations are threatened if aggressors are permitted to succeed in a strategic area of the world, if vital treaties are broken, and if men and arms are moved illegally across international boundaries to conquer small nations.

### FIRST

Europe knows peace today because free men stood firm in Greece and in Berlin. Perhaps it reflects poorly on our world that men must fight limited wars to keep from fighting larger wars, but that is the condition of the world; we cannot wish it away.

We have peace in Latin America today because the people of the Hemisphere worked together in a common difficulty during the Cuban missile crisis and again in the Dominican Republic.

In Asia too, brave men have been willing to face danger and to turn back aggression — In Korea, and now in Vietnam.

Free nations may not always share the same commitments. We may have differing viewpoints and differing interests. But we are not alone in understanding that vigilance and courage and cooperation are the price of freedom and the pillars of a safe world order in which men can improve the quality of their lives without fear of violence.

That is why 15 members of NATO work together to preserve what we have built with such long and patient labor. In time, it may be that reduced Soviet forces in East Germany or new military technology will permit some of our forces committed to European defense to be transferred. But this is a decision all of us in NATO must arrive at together. We will not carelessly weaken the proven instrument of security for the 500 million people in the Atlantic world.

All of our efforts, however distant in geography and different in degree, grow out of our obligations to help keep the peace and to preserve order in the world.

But to stop aggression is the beginning, not the end of our policy.

### SECOND

People have other enemies — hunger, disease, ignorance, and poverty—which must be met with equal courage and equal persistence.

Here in the Western Hemisphere, we are working with well-laid plans for achieving a better life for all. This year—for the third year in a row—our Latin American neighbors are meeting the over-all goals of the Alliance for Progress.

Not long ago, I met with representatives of the new Organiza-

tion of African Unity. We promised to work with them in efforts to speed up their continent's economic and social development.

In Asia, free nations have made remarkable gains. South Korea has moved ahead with an 8 per cent increase of its gross national product each year. Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore are all moving ahead—toward facing the tough problems of development. And, despite the war, so is Vietnam.

### THIRD

The people of other nations want to play a bigger part in shaping their own destiny.

Just after World War II, there were only two effective world powers. Now, a world of many nation-states, large and small, is taking shape. They do not intend to be anyone's satellites.

In the modern world, nations must group together to be effective. That is why we give our active support to those in Europe who continue to build unity, those in Latin America working toward economic integration, those in Africa building a new framework of regional organization, and those in Asia trying to create a new spirit of regional understanding and enterprise.

Our purpose in promoting regional partnerships is not without self-interest. For as they grow

in strength inside a strong United Nations, we can look forward to a gradual decline in the burden that the United States has had to bear through the past generation. And we can look forward to increased growth and stability in each corner of the world.

### FOURTH

We must prepare for the task of reconciliation which leads to lasting peace.

In Europe, our partnership has been the foundation for building bridges to the East. We and our friends in Western Europe are ready to move just as fast, and just as far, as the East is prepared to go in building those bridges.

We look to the day when those on the mainland of China are ready to meet us half way—ready to devote their enormous talents and energy to improving the life of their people — ready to take their place peacefully as one of the major powers of Asia and the world.

Day by day, quiet victories are being won on every continent. Deep forces for real peace are at work, slowly—almost imperceptibly—creating the conditions and institutions of enduring hope.

—The above article consists of excerpts from remarks of President Johnson at Lancaster, Ohio. —Editor



## Fourth Marines honored

LtGen. Cao Van Vien, chief of the joint generals staff, RVN, pins the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm on the colors of the Fourth Marine Regiment. The Leatherneck unit was honored for its action in Operations Hastings and Prairie. (Photo by LCpl H. L. Romine III)

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## New book published on USMC Reserve

A three-year project becomes "Mission Accomplished" this month with publication of a new book, *The Marine Corps Reserve — A History*.

Researched and written by Marine Reservists from Public Affairs Unit 4-1, of Washington, D.C., the book tells the 50-year history of the Marine Corps Reserve, never before available in complete written form.

More than 20 members of the unit — who as civilians are involved in writing, public relations and other communications fields — participated in the special history-writing project which began in 1963.

The result is a 300-page hard-cover book illustrated with nearly 100 photographs covering all phases of Marine Corps Reserve activities from 1916 to the present date.

List price for the book is \$3.50. It is for sale by the Superintendent

of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office (Washington, D.C. 20402) and Marine Corps outlets, such as the *Gazette* and *Leatherneck* bookstores.

Included in the history are accounts of those farsighted, dedicated men such as General Maas, who were convinced of the necessity for an effective Marine Corps Reserve during periods of the country's history when both private and public sentiment were largely against national defense measures of this type.

Altogether, the activities of 400 reserve units, plus some 800 individual Marines, are cited in the book.

The book's authors included three doctors of philosophy, civilian Navy and Marine publications editors, a former women's page editor, public relations executives, a Girl Scout official, an artist and Navy photo expert, and a Peace Corps officer. The authors used both published and private papers in the course of their research.

Members of Marine Reserve PAU 4-1 commanded by Colonel William P. McCahill who took part in the planning, research and writing include: Colonels Aubrey A. Gunnels, Sylvan J. Kaplan and Barry Zorthian; Lieutenant Colonels Dorsey J. Bartlett, Ruth Broe, Crozet Duplantier, Russell J. Hendrickson, William R. Merkel, William G. Rodd, Henry E. Stevenson, and Helen A. Wilson.

Star-spangled way to send a son to college



U.S. SAVINGS BONDS



## A crack shot

LCpl. Leonard J. Wilson gets set to fire at a North Vietnamese soldier at a range of nearly 800 yards on Operation Prairie. The HqCo., Fourth Regiment Marine is armed with a 30-06 sniper rifle and long range scope. (Photo by LCpl. E. L. Cole)

## Da Nang gets preventive dentistry

By Sgt. H. G. McGrattan

DA NANG — A preventive dentistry clinic, the first of its kind in Vietnam, is operating at the airfield here.

Staffed by U.S. Navy personnel from the 11th Dental Company, a First Marine Aircraft Wing supporting unit, it provides instruction in proper dental care and treatment to prevent dental decay.

Located within the Marine Aircraft Group 11 cantonment, the clinic, which began full scale operations on Nov. 1, treats from 30 to 50 patients a day, both Marine aviation personnel and members of several surrounding U.S. units.

Headed by Lieutenant Commander E. Thompson Witte, the staff consists of five technicians — Dental Technician First Class George R. Elliott, Dental Tech-

nicians Third Class Gary H. Tarter, Thomas W. McElhenie, Charles D. Lane, and Dentalman Dennis M. O'Keefe.

Morning hours are devoted to extensive cleanings and cases which require treatment by a dentist. These are scheduled from a previous afternoon treatment session.

An afternoon session consists of tooth brushing instruction and an examination by a technician. Some 10 patients an hour are handled during this period.

Food dye is used as an aid during the brushing instruction. It stains food particles which have adhered to the teeth and the patients must brush off the stain.

After brushing is completed, each man is checked by a technician who removes calcium deposits and polishes the teeth with stannous fluoride which makes teeth surfaces more resistant to decay.

During this portion of treatment, if the need for more extensive cleaning becomes apparent, the man is given another appointment.

This preventive treatment is provided to new arrivals and referrals in addition to afternoon unit participation.

Doctor Witte pointed out that although this is the first preventive dentistry clinic in Vietnam, it is an extension of services being performed at many stateside posts and stations and a very important mission of the U.S. Navy Dental Corps.



## Pizza king

DA NANG—Staff Sergeant Aldo Bleggi may become the pizza king.

Bleggi, a member of Marine Aircraft Group-36 Tactical Airfield Fuel Dispenser Systems unit spent his first few months without even as much as a taste of his favorite food.

Then he built his own pizza oven out of a five-gallon water can and wrote his wife to airmail the ingredients.

He explained that his home-made stove was easy to make but it did take awhile for his wife to find the right type of pizza.

Bleggi said the only trouble with his oven is that the bottom of the pizza gets done before the top.

## Heintz for Bjorklan

CHU LAI—Major William H. Heintz assumed command of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-314 during ceremonies here.

He relieved Lieutenant Colonel Darrel F. Bjorklan, who has commanded the squadron since May, 1966.

Heintz was Marine Aircraft Group-13's operations officer prior to commanding the "Black Knight" squadron.

Bjorklan has been reassigned as the MAG-11 operations officer.

## River crossing

LCpl. Lewis Williams, Jr., skillfully "tight ropes" a bridge crossing a river south of Da Nang. A member of "I" Co., 3d Bn., 1st Marines, Williams was on a patrol mission during a search and destroy mission. (Photo by PFC Clarke D. Thomas)

# Playful little dogs can be dangerous

By GySgt Harry R. Duke

Twenty three Marines were in trouble, serious trouble, and for a while they didn't even realize it. They do now, and the agony they are going through, shouldn't happen to a dog.

The trouble began during a three-day period in October, it was reported by Dr. H. A. Baker, Force Surgeon, III Marine Amphibious Force. It began with an expression of fondness for a little brown dog. The pup, two or three months old, was tied up outside the camp dispensary near the Dong Ha combat base.

On October 22, the dog was brought to the PMU, kept overnight, and then taken to a veterinarian. Two days later the dog died and the trouble began. "The dog was found to be rabid," Dr. Baker said.

Word was sent to the unit and the action started.

"One Marine told of being bit by the dog", said the doctor, "and medical personnel began to wonder how many more Marines had been bitten or scratched by that little brown dog."

Messages were sent, when the answer came in, 23 Marines were involved.

"Immediate treatment of the Marines came next," according to Dr. Baker. "But it wasn't that simple," he said. "The Marines were members of three different companies. Some were still at Dong Ha, some in Chu Lai, and others were homeward bound aboard the USS Washington County."

Word was flashed to the ship—its medical department had no anti-rabies serum. Two choices were left—send the ship to the nearest port, or fly serum to the ship. "The ship was ordered to the nearest port, and now all 23 Marines are undergoing anti-rabies treatment," he said.

The Force Surgeon said this isn't an isolated case. "As of April, 39 different dogs have bitten people. Thirty-two were known, or assumed with good reason, to have been immunized. Roughly, 120 men were bitten while playing with 14 of these dogs."

Want more? "Of 190 animal bites between April and September, 120 of the bites were by rabid animals. Fifty-six men were involved with several animals while 40 were involved with just one," the doctor said.

tor said, looking through his reports.

"And, 64 bites were reported last month," he said, "not counting the latest case involving the 23 Marines mentioned earlier."

The rabies situation is serious. It could be deadly, he indicated.

Figures show that 25 percent of the dogs examined by the lab were found to be positive rabid. There is a chance that the same percentage holds true of other animals.

One case was reported of a rabid bat biting a Marine in the Monkey Mountain area.

"In Vietnam, rabies seem to be prevalent," stated the doctor. "It's a big problem, but not unsolvable. All it really takes is common sense," he indicated.

The best solution is simply to leave the animals alone. But, rough, tough, fighting Marines are also tender-hearted when it comes to animals and they simply won't do that.

"Another problem we run into," Dr. Baker said, "is that veterinarians can't immunize dogs or pets before they are three months old. People naturally assume that these pets can't carry rabies."

"This is untrue," he added, "they can."

"We have several remedies we're working on right now," he continued. "One would be to allow no dogs or pets under three months old in compounds. A second, would be to limit the pets to unit mascots."

It would help, he added, "if we could get civilian authority to comb areas outside of our compounds and get rid of animals not immunized."

I Corps Coordinator Notice 6400 of Nov. 6, 1966 outlines the standard procedures for the control of animals. Every Marine in Vietnam should read and initial it.

If you get bitten, scratched, or licked on an open sore or wound by any animal, report it immediately.

## Unit predicts moves made by Viet Cong

By Cpl Ira Taylor

CHU LAI — The rain-soaked Marine company moved slowly along the narrow trail.

"Get out of the clearing and take ten," came the word from the company commander.

Staff Sergeant Herbert J. Peoples of Charley Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, talked quietly to a Marine nearby.

"It's been too quiet. They're (the VC) up ahead just waiting for us and it won't be long."

A few moments later and less than a hundred yards down the trail, his prediction came true. Viet Cong snipers opened fire on the left flank. A barrage of 3.5 rockets and 60mm mortars silenced the snipers.

It was an old story to Charley Company. They had received sniper fire from the elusive Viet Cong for two days of the three-day operation which ended Nov. 19.

The snipers were armed with automatic weapons, carbines and .30 caliber machine guns.

After "softening" the sniper positions with rockets and mortars, the Marines would sweep through the hamlet only to find it deserted or occupied by women and children. The VC had made their escape through the dense jungle undergrowth.

Two snipers were killed, one VC suspect was captured.

Snipers harassed the Marine company throughout the operation, even during the extraction by helicopter. CH-46 (Sea Knights) braved enemy automatic weapons fire as they lifted the first wave of Marines out of the landing zone, HU-1E (Huey) gunships blasted the snipers from above with rockets and machine gun fire and remained in the area until all the Marines had been extracted.

## War stories making rounds

It was bound to happen sooner or later. The first really shaggy-dog story to come out of Vietnam. While its veracity can't be vouched for, here is the latest story making the rounds in Marine Corps circles:

A helicopter landed to resupply a Marine unit that had been involved in a heavy fire-fight with the Viet Cong. The crew quickly unloaded the chow and ammo they had flown in and began putting the wounded aboard for the short trip back to the hospital.

About halfway back to the field hospital, one of the wounded Marines sat up and looked around. "Where am I?" he asked.

The helicopter's crew-chief attempted to calm him with, "Just take it easy buddy, you're on your way to sickbay."

"Sickbay! Hell, I ain't wounded, I just lay down to get some sleep!" the Marine exploded. "I gotta' get back to my outfit, I'm a squadleader."

When the chopper landed at the field hospital, the misappropriated squadleader, anxious to return to his unit, was the first to leap out of the craft to help unload the wounded.

Yes, you guessed it. In his haste, he broke his leg and had to be evacuated to the States.



## Quick treatment

A Vietnamese woman accidentally injured during a sweep by Marines from 2d Bn., 5th Marines is treated by Hospital Corpsman R. Washington. (Photo by Sgt. Kevin B. McVeigh)

## Observer plane attacks

DA NANG — A Marine pilot converted a light observation plane into an attack aircraft Nov. 14 with deadly results.

Captain Myron Johnson, a former jet pilot, was on patrol in a small O-1C observation plane near Da Nang when he spotted a group of Viet Cong.

The VC saw the captain's "bird-dog" at the same time and dove for cover. Just then six more VC's appeared and made a desperate attempt to flee in a

## Jungle aid

DONG HA — Two thousand Montagnard men, women and children from three villages near Cam Lo, voluntarily cleared a 150-yard area of tall grass and dense vegetation last week. It was done for two Marine battalions who needed a clearer field of fire against communist insurgents.

Captain Nguyen Duc Nhien, Cam Lo district chief, told the Montagnards the Marines are protecting them from the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese invaders.

The mountain people showed their gratitude and cleared the area.

## Bedside switch

DA NANG—Colonel Kenneth L. Reusser, his hand bandaged because of wounds received in battle, passed the folder colors of Marine Aircraft Group 16 to his successor, Colonel Frank M. Hepler.

The informal change of command ceremony took place at Col. Reusser's bedside in the Da Nang Naval Hospital on Nov. 21.

Col. Reusser had commanded MAG-16 for only a month when the UH-1E helicopter in which he was flying was shot down south of Da Nang Nov. 14. He has been evacuated to the U. S. and is reported to be recovering well from burns he got in the crash.

His successor, Col. Hepler, came to MAG-16 from 1st MAF headquarters where he served as Wing Comptroller.

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# Choppers get aid

By: LCpl. Dan Lubell

DONG HA — Marines fighting along the southern boundary of the Demilitarized Zone rely heavily on the helicopter ("sort of like an aerial jeep," as one Marine put it).

However the aircraft has natural enemies. Heavy jungle growth, towering trees interlaced with wrist-thick vines for example. A whirling rotor blade striking these objects could mean disaster.

Support engineers attached to Marine infantry battalions are lessening the chances of this — and making both the air and ground Marines feel more secure.

A recent instance was the evacuation of wounded from where the 2nd Battalion, Ninth Regiment was battling North Vietnamese soldiers near Hill 492, 15 miles west of Dong Ha. The day long battle produced light casualties for the Marines, but the problem was — how to evacuate them without a landing zone (LZ).

A five-man team headed by Corporal Elbert Patterson, and "A" Company, 3rd Engineer Bn., solved the problem. Work began at dusk and continued through the night as Patterson and his men wielded machetes, axes, and explosives to blast an LZ from the jungle canopy. One-hundred-foot trees were felled, and their stumps blasted out. The thick mass of vines was hacked away with machetes. Waist-high elephant grass suffered the same fate.

At dawn the first helicopter swooped in: To a safe, secure, landing zone. A half-hour later all the wounded were out.

## Air strike

CHU LAI—Two Marine pilots destroyed a Viet Cong area on an air strike 17 miles south of Chu Lai.

Major J. M. Cox, and Captain Malcom W. Wehrung, flew the mission in their "Skyhawks" to provide landing zone protection for friendly troops operating in the area.

The pilots made four runs through overcast skies.



## Loaded for action

PFC Samuel Paoletti, a member of "I" Co., 3d Bn., 1st Marines, wades through a flooded rice paddy south of Da Nang during a search and destroy operation. Recent heavy monsoon rains have soaked but not dampened the spirits of these 1st Marine Division Leathernecks as they continue the search for the elusive Viet Cong.

(Photo by PFC Clarke D. Thomas)

# Second rescue try saves recon team

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG — Two Marine "Sea Knight" helicopters, led by Captain Joseph James took off from the Marble Mountain Air Facility on the afternoon of November 4 and headed west.

The Marine reconnaissance team they were assigned to pick up was completely surrounded by enemy forces. Arriving over the Marines' location, they orbited until they spotted the colored smoke which marked the zone and started in.

That was when the trouble started. All they could see in the jungle and elephant grass were enemy troops who opened fire on the choppers. Unable to land, they pulled out and called for fixed wing air strikes.

While the choppers were refueled, Marine jets raked the area with machine gun fire. The helicopters returned and Captain James took his plane down for the pick-up while his gunners fired their machine guns to keep the enemy heads down.

The enemy troops weren't to be put off so easily. They continued firing at the chopper as long as it was within range. Unable to land on the steep hillside, Captain James hovered just above the ground while the 14 recon men raced from their hiding place to the aircraft.

Upon reaching the plane, they were hauled up into the side door by combat photographer, Sergeant Paul Johnson, 23, of Compton, Calif., who found himself too busy for picture taking during the peak of the action.

Johnson had a special reason for giving a helping hand. His younger brother, Phil, 20, is a corporal in the First Marine Reconnaissance Bn., stationed in Chu Lai.

"Every time one of those guys looked up, I expected to see Phil," said Johnson.

While the second chopper made strafing runs over the enemy positions, Captain James lifted safely out of the zone.



## Eight-foot pet

Four Marines of the Security Platoon, Sub Unit #2, HqCo., HqBn., 1st Marine Division, hold an eight-foot python they discovered while stringing communication wire near Chu Lai's Division Postal unit. The Marines, who intend to keep the python as a pet are: (left to right) PFC Robert J. Sitka, LCpls. Charles E. Mitchell and Robert L. Alexander, and PFC Donald E. Whiting.

(Photo by Cpl. Garry R. Gaspard)

# SPORTS

## Cage Scores

### Friday Night EAST

Villanova 72 Phila. Textile 63  
Union (N.Y.) 71 Pratt 62

### MIDWEST

Dana 74 Friends 66  
Clarkson 68 Case 62  
St. Ambrose 68 Coe 66  
Central St. (Ia.) 60 Macalester 49  
Sioux Falls 110 S.D. Tech 70  
Kearney 77 Southern 74  
Gen. Beadle 85 Minot 73  
Jamestown 63 Black Hills 62  
Dickinson 89 Rocky Mtn. 74  
Doane 77 Neb. Wesleyan 74  
Hastings 81 Midland 71  
Concordia 82 J.F. Kennedy 63  
McCook 79 Pratt 65  
Ill. Wesleyan 70 Wayne St. 60  
Rockford 63 Blackburn 53  
Carthage 94 Augustana 82  
Knox 66 Lake Forest 47  
Aurora 100 Greenville 79

### SOUTH

N.C. Methodist 86 S.C. Coll. 47  
M. Harvey 110 Beckley 80  
Maryland St. 98 Eliz. City 91  
Virginia Tech 85 Duke 71  
Tenn. Wesleyan 75 Biscayne 55  
Valdosta 83 Baptist 62  
Ark. St. Tchrs. 85 Ozarks 78  
Ark. Tech 61 Ark. College 53

### Grambling Invitational

(2d Round)  
Grambling 106 Dillard 59  
Southern U. 94  
Tex. Southern 93 (Ovt.)  
Tex. College 91 Paul Quinn 80  
Miss. Ind. 88 H-Tillotson 77

### SOUTHWEST

Baylor 104 Arlington St. 74  
Texas 106 Texas Wesleyan 63  
Midwestern 90 McMurry 86  
Hardin-Simmons 83 Pitt. (Kan.) 62  
S.F. Austin 122 Houston Bapt. 61  
Drury 76 Austin Coll. 74  
Bishop 91 Texas Lutheran 70  
Wiley 89 Bergstrom 87  
SW Texas 78 St. Edwards 57

### WEST

Xavier 69 Air Force 65  
Brigham Young 97 New Mex. St. 66  
Iowa 66 Washington 50  
Colorado St. 96 Idaho 71  
Denver 92 Wayne St. (Neb.) 50  
Oregon St. 61 Hawaii 51  
Washington St. 72 Gonzaga 70  
San Fran. St. 74 Portland 70  
W. Washington 101  
Pac. Lutheran 93 (Ovt.)  
Cal. Western 83 Fresno Pac. 72  
San Diego St. 78 NW. Mo. 55  
Idaho St. 100 Chapman 87  
Loyola 89 Occidental 59  
San Fernando 94 Fullerton 86  
Portland St. 81 Br. Columbia 69  
Central Wash. 83 Chico St. 46  
Long Beach St. 86 Irvine 80 (Ovt.)  
Coll. of Ida. 70 Sacramento St. 66  
Arizona 79 San Jose St. 68  
Nebraska 79 Oregon 56  
Cascade 61 Pacific 52  
Lewis & Clark 97 E. Oregon 65  
S. Oregon 68 George Fox 63  
Oregon Tech 95 Ore. College 85

### Redlands R Club Tourney

(Semifinal)  
Redlands 87 Westmont 69  
Pomona 64 Claremont 63  
(Consolation)  
Cal. Lutheran 105 Pasadena 88  
Riverside 88 Azusa 77

### NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

| W        | L  | T  | Pts. | GF | GA |    |
|----------|----|----|------|----|----|----|
| Chicago  | 10 | 5  | 2    | 22 | 62 | 46 |
| Toronto  | 7  | 4  | 7    | 21 | 47 | 48 |
| New York | 8  | 6  | 5    | 21 | 62 | 48 |
| Boston   | 6  | 9  | 3    | 15 | 55 | 62 |
| Montreal | 7  | 8  | 1    | 15 | 34 | 43 |
| Detroit  | 5  | 11 | 2    | 12 | 51 | 64 |

### Friday Night

(No games scheduled).

### Saturday

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

### Sunday

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

### AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

| W           | L  | T  | Pts. | GF | GA |    |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|----|----|
| Hershey     | 12 | 5  | 2    | 26 | 94 | 5  |
| Quebec      | 11 | 7  | 3    | 25 | 84 | 70 |
| Baltimore   | 11 | 6  | 1    | 23 | 64 | 54 |
| Springfield | 7  | 9  | 3    | 17 | 60 | 70 |
| Providence  | 2  | 14 | 4    | 8  | 50 | 89 |

### Western Division

| W          | L  | T  | Pts. | GF | GA |     |
|------------|----|----|------|----|----|-----|
| Rochester  | 12 | 7  | 1    | 25 | 92 | 67  |
| Pittsburgh | 11 | 6  | 3    | 25 | 71 | 65  |
| Buffalo    | 5  | 13 | 4    | 14 | 65 | 103 |
| Cleveland  | 5  | 9  | 3    | 13 | 62 | 69  |

### Friday Night

Baltimore 3 Providence 1  
Pittsburgh 3 Buffalo 1  
(Only games scheduled).

### Saturday

Quebec at Cleveland.  
Springfield at Hershey.

Providence at Pittsburgh.  
Buffalo at Rochester.

### Sunday

Cleveland at Buffalo.  
Baltimore at Providence.  
Rochester at Quebec.

### CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

| W          | L  | T  | Pts. | GF | GA |    |
|------------|----|----|------|----|----|----|
| Okla. City | 10 | 5  | 5    | 25 | 68 | 62 |
| Houston    | 9  | 6  | 3    | 21 | 67 | 58 |
| St. Louis  | 7  | 5  | 6    | 20 | 68 | 57 |
| Omaha      | 8  | 8  | 2    | 18 | 68 | 59 |
| Tulsa      | 6  | 10 | 5    | 17 | 66 | 80 |
| Memphis    | 6  | 12 | 1    | 13 | 66 | 87 |

### Friday Night

Tulsa 5 Houston 2  
St. Louis 11 Memphis 2  
(Only games scheduled).

### Saturday

Oklahoma City at Omaha.  
Houston at St. Louis.  
(Only games scheduled).

### Sunday

Omaha at Memphis.  
(Only games scheduled).

### WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

| W           | L  | T  | Pts. | GF | GA  |     |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|-----|-----|
| Portland    | 15 | 3  | 5    | 35 | 101 | 57  |
| Vancouver   | 12 | 6  | 2    | 26 | 74  | 60  |
| Los Angeles | 9  | 13 | 2    | 20 | 84  | 102 |
| California  | 8  | 8  | 3    | 19 | 52  | 64  |
| Seattle     | 8  | 11 | 3    | 19 | 59  | 67  |
| Victoria    | 6  | 10 | 4    | 16 | 61  | 63  |
| San Diego   | 6  | 13 | 1    | 13 | 61  | 79  |

### Friday Night

Vancouver 5 California 3  
Seattle 4 Victoria 3

### Saturday

San Diego at Los Angeles.  
Vancouver at California.  
Portland at Victoria.

### Sunday

Vancouver at San Diego.  
Portland at Seattle.  
(Only game scheduled).

### EASTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

#### Northern Division

| W           | L  | T  | Pts. |    |
|-------------|----|----|------|----|
| Clinton     | 19 | 3  | 1    | 39 |
| New Jersey  | 14 | 10 | 0    | 28 |
| Johnstown   | 12 | 2  | 0    | 24 |
| New Haven   | 10 | 15 | 0    | 20 |
| Long Island | 4  | 18 | 1    | 9  |

#### Southern Division

| W            | L  | T  | Pts. |    |
|--------------|----|----|------|----|
| Nashville    | 15 | 5  | 1    | 31 |
| Knoxville    | 12 | 12 | 0    | 24 |
| Charlotte    | 10 | 15 | 0    | 20 |
| Greensboro   | 10 | 13 | 0    | 20 |
| Jacksonville | 8  | 11 | 1    | 17 |

### Friday Night

Johnstown 4 Greensboro 2  
Nashville 4 Charlotte 3  
Clinton 4 Long Island 4  
New Jersey 8 New Haven 3  
Florida 7 Knoxville 6

## Pro Standings

Compiled From Wire Services

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE

#### Eastern Division

| W        | L | T | Pct. | PF   | PA  |     |
|----------|---|---|------|------|-----|-----|
| Buffalo  | 8 | 3 | 1    | .727 | 317 | 220 |
| Boston   | 6 | 3 | 2    | .667 | 235 | 228 |
| New York | 5 | 5 | 2    | .500 | 257 | 242 |
| Houston  | 3 | 8 | 0    | .273 | 271 | 301 |
| Miami    | 2 | 9 | 0    | .182 | 159 | 298 |

#### Western Division

| W         | L | T | Pct. | PF   | PA  |     |
|-----------|---|---|------|------|-----|-----|
| Kan. City | 9 | 2 | 1    | .818 | 402 | 241 |
| Oakland   | 7 | 5 | 1    | .583 | 287 | 278 |
| San Diego | 5 | 5 | 1    | .500 | 248 | 208 |
| Denver    | 3 | 8 | 0    | .273 | 148 | 308 |

### Saturday

Oakland 28 New York 28

### Sunday

Buffalo at Boston.  
San Diego at Houston.  
Miami at Denver.

### NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

#### Eastern Conference

| W            | L | T  | Pct. | PF   | PA  |     |
|--------------|---|----|------|------|-----|-----|
| Dallas       | 8 | 2  | 1    | .800 | 366 | 181 |
| St. Louis    | 8 | 2  | 1    | .800 | 227 | 180 |
| Cleveland    | 7 | 4  | 0    | .636 | 295 | 176 |
| Philadelphia | 6 | 5  | 0    | .545 | 229 | 268 |
| Washington   | 6 | 6  | 0    | .500 | 289 | 287 |
| Pittsburgh   | 3 | 7  | 1    | .300 | 189 | 259 |
| New York     | 1 | 9  | 1    | .100 | 188 | 388 |
| Atlanta      | 1 | 10 | 0    | .091 | 135 | 357 |

#### Western Conference

| W           | L | T | Pct. | PF   | PA  |     |
|-------------|---|---|------|------|-----|-----|
| Green Bay   | 9 | 2 | 0    | .818 | 274 | 123 |
| Baltimore   | 7 | 4 | 0    | .636 | 253 | 182 |
| Los Angeles | 7 | 5 | 0    | .583 | 243 | 182 |
| San Fran.   | 5 | 4 | 2    | .556 | 258 | 261 |
| Chicago     | 4 | 5 | 2    | .444 | 163 | 182 |
| Chicago     | 4 | 5 | 2    | .444 | 163 | 182 |
| Detroit     | 4 | 7 | 1    | .364 | 197 | 266 |
| Minnesota   | 3 | 7 | 1    | .300 | 223 | 227 |

### Saturday

(No games scheduled).

### Sunday

St. Louis at Dallas.  
San Francisco at Green Bay.  
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia.  
New York at Cleveland.  
Detroit at Los Angeles.  
Chicago at Baltimore.  
Atlanta at Minnesota.



**MARINES IN BERETS**—The 1st MAW Band gets aligned by Drum Major, GySgt. Jim Rippard, as they march up a downtown Saigon street during dedication ceremonies of a RVN Marine Corps statue. Earlier, the band had been honored by the Assistant Commandant of the Vietnamese Marines when he presented each man with an official RVNMC green beret for their playing of the Southeast Asian Marines hymn—the first time it had been played by a band. (Photo by Sgt. F. K. Burke)

## Sea Tiger Spotlight on:

# 1st Marine Air Wing Band

By: Sgt. F.K. Burke

**DA NANG**—There are a group of 39 Marines who have been spreading joy and goodwill throughout South Vietnam—often popping up at remote Air Force communications bases, an Army field hospital or in a small Vietnamese hamlet.

These are the men of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Band under the direction of CWO-4 Victor Shul and assistant band leader, Warrant Officer G.K. Smith. The band, in the spirit of traveling bands back in the '20's, live out of suitcases, handbags and seabags. They play 45 minute concerts in the hot sun, courtyards, and auditoriums.

At their Da Nang home there are very few idle moments and they play concerts on base and in Vietnamese hamlets.

One such appearance took place after a bumpy truck ride over native roads that ended at a bridge too small to hold a truck. From there they proceeded on foot, carrying instruments, through about a mile of deep, soft sand to a small, crowded hamlet where they played for about 30 minutes and headed back.

Primarily, the band's mission is to support the troops' morale but on certain occasions they too become "troops". In the 1st MAW compound, band members are often called upon to stand night watches at interior guard posts.

Just recently they were invited to Saigon, the capital city of South Vietnam, to represent the U.S. Marine Corps in the Nov. 1 "National Day Parade," celebrating the third anniversary of the overthrow of the Diem regime.

Arriving five days prior to the parade, the band gave an outdoor concert for patients at the U.S. Army's Third Field Hospital.

Here, fighting men of all services recovering from battle wounds, forgot about war as they listened to a selection of jazz, classical, pop, and modern show tunes.

A few hours later, the 1st MAW Band performed on stage at the Saigon USO.

During the slack before the parade, GySgt. Larry Nelson was given an additional assignment. The Vietnamese Marine Corps had one copy of their hymn which

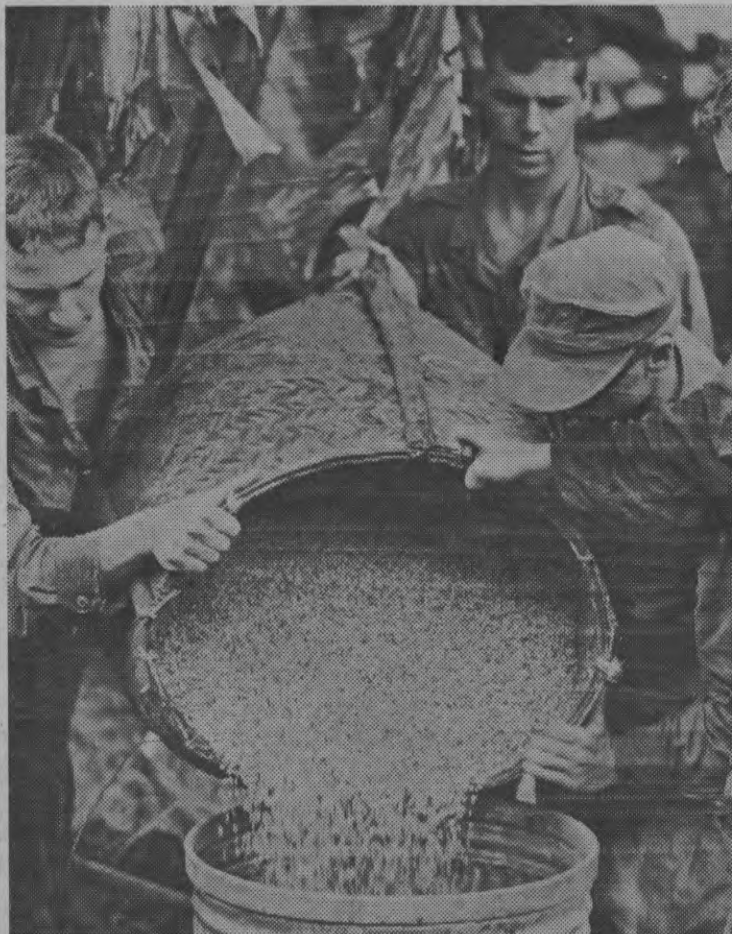
had never been played by a band. Nelson scored the hymn for full band. When the day arrived for the VNMC concert, the band was ready and the music perfect. In appreciation the Assistant Commandant of the Vietnamese Marines presented each bandsman an official VNMC green beret.

On the day of the parade, an explosion echoed through the city streets and occasional small arms fire could be heard.

With Drum Major Rippard in the lead, the band began their

three mile march. Thousands of cheering Vietnamese hailed the band as they marched down Thuong Nhut Ave., toward the reviewing stand.

As the band neared Premier Ky's box, first a Vietnamese and then an American announced over the PA system, "Representing the United States Marine Corps in Vietnam, the First Marine Aircraft Wing Band from Da Nang!" A thunderous roar rose from the crowd as the band played "Ruffles and Flourishes" saluting the Premier and passing in review.



## Enemy rice

Marines of 1st Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, transfer captured Viet Cong rice into barrels for transit to Chu Lai, where it will be distributed to refugees. In all, five tons of rice were taken. (Photo by LCpl. Ronald Curry)



## Thanksgiving registration

A USO hostess in Chu Lai looks on as LCpl. Robert F. Schonarrer signs the guest log. The USO gave a free Thanksgiving dinner for servicemen in the Chu Lai area.

(Photo by Sgt. E. E. Evans)

# The death of a village

By: 2dLt. Paul Berger

PHU BAI—Cong Quan hamlet died last week.

Skeletons of houses stand roofless where several hundred Vietnamese farmers once lived simply, but peacefully.

Until Nov. 22, Cong Quan, six miles south of here, had become a stopping-off place for Viet Cong moving from the southern hills to Hue in the north. When the VC stopped, they took food and shelter where they found it.

Failure to cooperate with the VC resulted in death for several Cong Quan residents, including the hamlet doctor. Some villagers were murdered just to terrorize the people and show them who was boss.

A patrol of 3rd Division Marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces went to Cong Quan at the request of the Loc An village chief, to provide security for the frightened residents while they moved from the hamlet.

The patrol started in an early morning rain. It wound through palm-lined trails, past groves of breadfruit and banana trees and across long paddy dikes.

Huge water buffalo wallowing in the flooded rice fields glared

fiercely at the patrol, causing Marines to shift their paths to the far side of the dike.

As the patrol went deeper into the area, fewer children waved and called out "Number one" and "Okay"—an indication of the feelings of adults in the neighborhood.

"This is VC country at night," said patrol leader Sergeant Byron A. Mezick. "In the daytime it belongs to whoever is the boldest," he added.

From Ha Vinh, the patrol crossed about a mile of flooded paddies in native dugouts and

thatched straw pirogues. The boats, with only a few inches showing above water, moved smoothly, rocked precariously and leaked rapidly during the half-hour crossing.

Marines joked from boat to boat, singing "Indian Love Call" and "The Volga Boatman."

When the boats came within small arms range of Cong Quan, everyone became serious and stared intently ahead through the misty rain.

The landing was uneventful.

Cong Quan was deserted!

The people the patrol had come to move were not there.

Suddenly from behind bushes and dikes in the flooded fields, boats came skimming toward Cong Quan. The people, no longer afraid, were returning.

About 50 women, children and old men had taken to the water rather than be caught in the middle of a battle.

The VC chose not to fight and slipped quietly out the back door and across the water out of sight of the patrol.

Everyone pitched in and helped move the remaining residents and their belongings into boats for the one-mile trip to safer areas of Loc An village. Entire houses were dismantled; gardens prematurely harvested.

On the return march the rain slackened off.

While drums, probably played by local VC, announced direction changes and departure, the Marines and PF's waved at the children, smiled and walked a little faster.

The mission was accomplished.

The people will live without the constant threat of death and the VC have lost a useful way station in the rich coastal lowlands.

"The VC forced the issue," a Marine said. "And another scar has been added to an already much-scarred land."

Cong Quan is a ghost town.



## Uncovers rice cache

SSgt. Robert M. Cobb, "B" Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, uncovers a VC rice cache during a search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai. (Photo by SSgt. R. E. Wilson)

# Short Rounds

## New tie

WASHINGTON—Marines' present 3 1/8-inch wide tie is being narrowed to a 2-inch tie, Marine Corps Bulletin 1020 has announced. The new tie should be available in the supply system in approximately 18 months; Marine Corps exchanges may have them sooner. Present wide ties may be worn until July 1, 1969.

To conform to the narrower tie, the necktie clasp also is being reduced in size. The design will remain the same. Marines who hang onto their wide ties until July 1, 1969 must also retain the larger clasp, the bulletin points out. The new, shorter clasp will be worn only with the new, narrower tie.

## Safety award

DA NANG — Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, now serving in Vietnam, has received the Fleet Marine Force, Atlantic, Annual Aviation Safety Award.

The award was earned by the squadron for its accident free record while a part of the Second Marine Aircraft Wing during the 1966 fiscal year. It was received on November 17.

The achievement was particularly noteworthy since it occurred during a period of transition from the UH-34D helicopter to the CH-46A "Sea Knight." HMM-265 has been flying in support of American and allied ground forces in Vietnam since May 1966.

## Third war

PHU BAI — Forty-one-year-old Charles H. Pichon is seeing combat action in his third war—and he's doing it the hard way.

The first class hospital corpsman came off the Fleet Reserve (retirement) roll after a 20-year career which ended in 1962 to serve in Vietnam.

"I felt there was a great need here," he said. "I wanted to help the people of Vietnam, many of whom have never had the benefit of medical care."

He brings with him experience garnered when he won the Silver Star Medal for heroism while tending a wounded Marine at Iwo Jima during World War II. He also wears the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received during that battle.

During the Korean War he was aboard the aircraft carrier USS Bon Homme Richard, supporting Marine ground forces.

Now he is providing a boost to the 3rd Shore Party Battalion civic action program on Thuan An Island, 10 miles northeast of here. Three times weekly he visits villages and hamlets to treat the ill and injured.

Pichon was the initiator of an idea to build an aid station for the islanders. It will be completed this week, and the people will receive daily treatment.

## Thanksgiving

DONG HA — Marines holding the important ground on the southern edge of the demilitarized zone celebrated Thanksgiving today, some by fighting, others by helping Vietnamese gather their rice crops and a few, the lucky ones, just by loafing.

However, wherever they were, they had a hot holiday meal of turkey with all the trimmings. They consumed over 3,000 pounds of the historic bird, another 3,000 pounds of ham, along with 750 pounds of shrimp.

This was topped off with 4,500 pounds of fresh bread, 900 pounds of fruit cake, 54 cases of oranges, 135 quarts of olives, and more than 500 gallons of piping hot coffee.

The holiday meal was delivered by helicopters, trucks and on foot to the fighting men who are stationed along the 32 mile long DMZ.

Perhaps the most unusual dinner spot was high atop the "Rockpile," an awesome pillar of rocks jutting high above the rich valleys of Quang Tri Province. Here a handful of Marines maintained a vital observation post in the middle of the North Vietnamese infiltration routes. There turkey was delivered by a helicopter which had to hover and lower the meals by rope.

Elements of the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division had to eat their turkey while on the move. They were busy ferreting out the elusive NVA along the thick jungle trails and in marshy and scrub along the shores of the Tonkin Gulf.

## Saves Child

DA NANG—Fast work and cool efficiency by a Marine Aircraft Group-36 corpsman may have saved the life of a seven-year-old Vietnamese boy dying of the plague.

HM3 Willie J. Barnes, 20, was flying with a medical evacuation mission of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-363 to a village 30 miles south of Quang Ngai.

"When the boy was first put aboard he was almost dead," Barnes said. "He needed transfusions to keep his blood pressure and strength up."

Barnes had the intravenous transfusion going within minutes, and then did his best to bring down the boy's 104 degree temperature.

Twenty minutes later the boy was delivered to the Quang Ngai hospital, showing some signs of recovery.

"He was alive and was in better condition than when we picked him up," Barnes said.

## Skydiver

CHU LAI — Gunnery Sergeant Roy F. Minor, MAG-36, is the kind of man who likes a challenge and does something about it.

Minor, Materiel Chief of HMM-361 at the Ky Ha airfield, finds his challenge in "skydiving," and has completed 392 jumps since first parachuting for sport.

Ironically, Minor made his first jump while serving with a helicopter squadron in Vietnam during his first tour of duty in this country more than three years ago.

Upon his arrival in Vietnam in December, 1962, the gunny was assigned to HMM-162. A short time later he was given the opportunity to receive parachutist jump training by a nearby Army unit. Minor accepted, and made his first jump the following February. He made a total of eight jumps before receiving orders to MCAF New River, Jacksonville, N. C.

Upon his return to the U.S., Minor joined the Marine Sport Parachute Club at Cherry Point, N.C. While a member of the club he qualified for a "D" class parachutist's license, and made a total of 383 jumps including nine night and six water jumps.

The gunny has competed in jumping events and performed for air shows in many parts of the U. S., including the NAS at Glenview, Ill., Swansboro and Fort Bragg, N. C. and at Lake Moultrie in South Carolina. Since his return to Vietnam in September, Minor has had little time to devote to his sport, though he did manage to make one jump on Okinawa while enroute to Vietnam. However, he has tentative plans to form a sport parachute club in Vietnam.



## A special visitor

Archbishop Iakovos, Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North America, holds Communion at the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Chapel at Da Nang. Archbishop Iakovos spent a week touring Vietnam and holding services for U.S. servicemen. (Photo by SSgt. C. Hantzis)

# Nothing stops 7th Motors

By: Sgt. Mike McCusker

DA NANG—The rugged little jeep bounced along at the tail-end of a truck convoy on Highway One.

Marines and supplies were crowded into the steel beds of dusty trucks returning from Tam Ky to Chu Lai. Fifty-caliber machine gunners stood in the open cabs above the drivers, leaning against their gun mounts and watching for Viet Cong that might be waiting in ambush in hedgerows, clumps of trees or behind rice paddy dikes.

Vietnamese came out of their huts in the hamlets and watched as the five-tonners grumbled past.

It was a routine run for the Seventh Motor Transport Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

The jeep's dirty-faced driver was grumbling his routine curses at the dust and road holes that kept him bouncing in the seat. Then something flickered past the corner of his eye and landed in the back seat.

Whatever it was rattled around inside and fell out. The driver slammed on the brakes and stopped in his tracks after leaving the jeep to retrieve the object.

"That's what I said," he repeated to a buddy at the battalion's "motor pool" a few hours later, "... received one incoming 14-foot spear."

The Viet Cong have thrown a lot of things at jeeps and trucks of the Seventh Motor Transport Battalion since its arrival in Vietnam last March.

In over 120 tactical convoys they have tried to stop the trucks with mortars, mines, grenades, automatic fire—and with snakes.

Another convoy was on the road from Tam Ky about a month after the spear incident. Some Vietnamese children were standing along the road and when the trucks passed one of the kids tossed a snake tied to a stick into a vehicle.

The confused reptile was sent flying out faster than he came in.

Nothing stops the convoys.

They have fought their way out of ambushes, forded streams past blown-out bridges, eased through hundreds of crowded hamlets, chugged through roads clogged

with mud, roared over other roads dangerous with mines, hauling along other trucks crippled along the way by enemy fire or mechanical failures.

Day and night the convoys run.

A single convoy may rush men and supplies to a combat zone, and turn around to haul prisoners and captured weapons back to Chu Lai. Later it was loaded up with tons of fertilizer, a handful of medical corpsmen and the division band for a civil affairs program in a local hamlet.

Seventh Motors has logged 834,487 miles in Vietnam. They have hauled 205,600 troops and 10,500 tons of war supplies.

Tactical runs are only part of the job.

Seventh Motors' trucks have helped unload the hundreds of ships that anchor in Chu Lai bay. They have hauled thousands of tons of cement; barbed wire; C-rations; ammunition for rifles, artillery, tanks and jet fighters; food-stuffs for the mess halls; clothes; helmets; desks; refrigerators; books and magazines; oil and gas; iron and steel beams; lumber; rice and fertilizer in the massive aid program for the Vietnamese.

## Medal of Honor

The White House announced award of the Medal of Honor to four Army men for conspicuous gallantry in Vietnam.

Two of the MOH awards were posthumous. They were to SP4 Daniel Fernandez of Los Lunas, N. Mex., and 2nd Lt. Robert J. Hibbs of Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The other two award winners are currently serving stateside. They are: SP5 Lawrence Joel of Fayetteville, N.C., assigned to the 82nd Airborne Div. at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and 2nd Lt. Walter J. Marm Jr. of Washington, Pa., assigned to the Ranger Dept. at the Ft. Benning, Ga., Infantry School.

The Nov. 16 White House announcement said the presentation ceremony will be conducted at a later date "at which time the official citations will be made known."

The announcement brings the total of Medal of Honor awards for the Vietnam conflict to nine. Three of the previous five were posthumous.

namese.

The gigantic build-up of the Chu Lai base, pacification of local hamlets, quick mobility of troops and supplies—could not have been accomplished without the help of the motor transport battalions like Seventh Motors.



## On operation

LCpl. Dennis L. Winkler, machine gunner with "B" Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, pauses during a break while on a search and destroy operation last week west of Quang Ngai. Winkler's unit was part of the battalion-plus force which found a main force of Viet Cong Nov. 25 and confirmed 51 VC killed during the first six days of the operation.

(Photo by SSgt. R. E. Wilson)

# 8 men vs. 200 VC but no Marines hit

By: SSgt. Norman MacKenzie

PHU BAI—"I'll always remember my first patrol in Vietnam," said Corporal James H. Yates, 22, "It was the first time I was shot at."

Since then the "B" Company 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion platoon sergeant has tangled with enemy troops on 27 patrols during five months.

However, an eight-man squad against 200 Viet Cong was the most exciting of them all for the Marine.

The squad was to locate trails, harbor sites and determine the extent of VC activity. Also to engage small enemy units and make every effort to capture documents, weapons and prisoners.

It got more than was bargained for.

Shortly after landing, the patrol was attacked by an estimated 100 Viet Cong. It was pinned down for two hours by a heavy enemy fire from all sides.

Yates said as soon as the patrol was hit it was all automatic reactions. The Marines immediately went into a tight circle defense perimeter and began battling back. They fought through the encircling enemy troops to a better defensive position in the valley.

The patrol leader then called in an artillery barrage on the attackers.

Meanwhile, an air observer spotted another "100 or so VC" on the far side of the hill attempting to flank the Marines. Jet aircraft and UH1E "Huey" gunships were called.

The jet flight leader radioed to the patrol leader informing him the enemy was too close to the Marines position to make a strike by plane.

However, Huey gunships bom-

barded the enemy with rockets and strafed with machine guns while the patrol pulled back. It then was heli-lifted from the battle zone.

Yates has another reason to remember his first patrol—none of the Marines were injured.

## CAC-8 protects Loc Son village

By: Sgt. Dave Sturgeon

PHU BAI—A contingent of Combined Action Company Marines and Vietnamese Popular Forces troops, protect the Loc Son village, six miles south of here.

Headed by Corporal Charles Poma, the Marines form CAC-8—one of the many squads deployed at villages along Highway 1.

Each day the Marines conduct daylight and night patrols in the Loc Son area.

CAC Marines are volunteers who have already served at least six months with an infantry unit. They sleep, live and fight alongside the PF soldiers of the village they defend.

The Marines' presence there also helps strengthen the Vietnamese village government.

"They depend on us," Poma said. "They say if we left, the Viet Cong would come in and force them to give up their rice."

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Phillip M. Cooper plays a large role in the CAC unit's mission. The squad's corpsman holds sick call at the compound treating about 40 patients a day.

"At first they were a bit nervous about being treated, but once we showed them we were here to help, they came willingly," said Cooper.

Corporal Donald R. Bryan, who extended his overseas tour to remain with the 3rd Division's combined action company, said, "you feel you are accomplishing something and can see the results."

"The only way we can win the war is by working with the people," Bryan said. "Destroying the local VC is only part of it," he added.

Lance Corporal Robert S. Ochoa is the squad's interpreter. He speaks Vietnamese well enough to hold conversations with the people and feels everyone should know a little of the language.

"They trust and confide in you if you are interested in their customs and language," said Ochoa. "I wanted to know what the people were saying and be able to talk with them."

Ochoa learned Vietnamese on his own. He read books on the language and talked with many of the people.

Regardless of the jobs of the Marines in the CAC unit, each agrees, they are there to "help the people help themselves."

## Marine Corps tailors sports

Marine Corps is retailoring its All-Marine and Interservice Athletic Championships for 1967 to expand and place more emphasis on intramural competition and to encourage greater participation.

SEA TIGER 7

# Men behind the gun

By: Sgt. Dave Sturgeon

PHU BAI — Sergeant Robert Brown, commands a typical 155mm howitzer crew in Mortar Battery, Twelfth Marines, 3rd Marine Division.

Four men work for Brown, doing major tasks and numerous chores to keep their 12,700-lb. howitzer in or ready for action 24 hours a day.

Aiming, setting fuses and powder charges, loading the 100-lb. steel-jacketed projectile, closing the breech and firing are the main job of Brown's crew.

These Marines are just a few of the thousands who seldom see the results of their work.

Corporal Larry F. Barlow, Lance Corporals Richard J. Bries, John H. Allen, and Peter L. Albiso are the other-heard-from-but-seldom-seen type who go quietly about their business and take pride in their work.

"They're gung ho guys," said Brown. "They work hard and are especially proud of themselves after a particularly long and demanding fire mission."

Whether firing routine harassment rounds or building a wall of flying steel around a forward Marine unit, artillery is one of the important tools of the reconnaissance-in-force operations used by Marines in Vietnam.

## 15,000 patients flown to U.S.

The Military Airlift Command has returned more than 15,000 patients from the Pacific area so far this year, Col. Herbert H. Kerry, director of medical materiel at the Defense Personnel Support Center in Philadelphia, told delegates attending a meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons.

He noted that aeromedical evacuation of wounded servicemen from Vietnam has resulted in the highest medical save rate in combat history.

Statistically, Col. Kerry explained that of wounded servicemen who get substantial medical attention—more than battlefield first aid—only about one percent die.

The same type casualty in the Korean War was more than double the rate in Vietnam. In World War II the rate was about 4.5 percent and about 8 percent in World War I.

A wounded American in Vietnam who reaches "definitive medical aid will survive 99 times out of 100," the colonel said.

## Calling card

PHU BAI—Riding a helicopter in a combat zone is not exactly a pleasure flight but the members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163 try their best to make their passengers happy.

When a passenger boards the chopper he is handed a card that reads "Welcome aboard, you are being moved by the Ridge Runners of HMM-163, Marine Aircraft Group-16, First Marine Aircraft Wing."

The man responsible for the card idea, HMM-163's executive officer, Major Joseph P. Beno, said, "Our cards are not only printed in English for American troops but also in Vietnamese on the reverse."

Beno added, "It's like they say on Madison Avenue, 'it pays to advertise'."

8 SEA TIGER



## Through churchyard

Sgt. Mert L. Harmsen leads the 60mm mortar section of B Company, 1st Bn., Seventh Marines through a South Vietnamese churchyard during a search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai. Harmsen's unit was part of battalion-plus force which found a main force of VC on Nov. 25 and confirmed 51 VC killed during the first six days of the operation.

(Photo by SSgt. R. E. Wilson)

# Marines chuckle over PTA "To my buddy" letter program

By: MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—"Hi! I've been told to write you because nobody writes you. So I'm going to cheer you up," said one of 58 fifth and sixth grade students who wrote to Marines in Vietnam from Ditmar School in Oceanside, Calif.

The letter writing campaign was started by the Ditmar Parent Teachers Association in a program called "To My Buddy."

The letters indicated that the students were up on world events, proud of their hometown and school, and eager to prove their patriotism.

Like most children, the students were candid in their thoughts and quickly got to the heart of the matter. Here are some samples of thoughts expressed in the letters; which have been distributed to Marines in the 1st Marine Division.

"My dad is a fireman and he and his buddies go out scuba diving and bring up lobster, scallop, and abs (abalone). Sometimes I go out with them and in a few years I will dive too. I swim a lot, climb trees, sing and the rest of the time I'm a tomboy."

"Is it true that in Vietnam, if you eat outside you get worms in your stomach that can't be cured?"

"I hope our side wins. At home we always watch and see what's going on in Vietnam. On the news we see some Marines capturing the Vietnamese."

"You must be brave to be over there. I think that the world should find some other way to settle differences. Man hasn't been at peace for over 200 years."

"I don't know who you are but I hope I'll like you. . . My Dad is a Marine. I'm doing this because our class is. But I like it. . ."

"Hope this doesn't find you in a foxhole. . ."

"I'm an ugly little girl in the 6th grade. . . I don't know who you are but I'm willing to write to you. . ."

"I was hoping you could send me a souvenir like one of the Viet Cong daggers or a bayonet or something like that. . ."

"I hope you win the war so you can come home and enjoy the United States. I was going to send a picture of me but all my pictures have long hair. I hope you write to me. I will feel you are a big brother. . ."

"I don't know your name but I intend to find out. I am a guman being and I'm writing you be-

cause I like to talk to people."

"My teacher is real nice with the girls but with the boys is real mean but anyway he's real nice. . ."

"Oceanside has 36,000 people. It is an awful big place. I wish you were out to see the play (school play). Then you could stay long enough to see what Oceanside is really like. It is a beautiful place to live. . ."

"The television shows are starting to come on now. They are pretty good but some of them are sort of stupid. If someone forgets to do their homework he really gets to them (the teacher). One kid said he had an upset stomach and the teacher said he had assignmentdoides. . ."

"Are you married. I'm not getting married. Cause all women do is get you in trouble and you have to give them all your money and can't go out with other women. I might go steady at something but I won't get married. . ."

"My teacher's name is Mr. Gorszweck. Gary makes fun of people some times. My dad is a lifer. Are you one? I'm a paper boy for the Blade Tribune. Roller derby is very good (talking about TV shows). The girls pull hair, kick and fist fight."

"My teacher is a man and he is pretty tough. I have one stupid brother and lots of friends. . ."

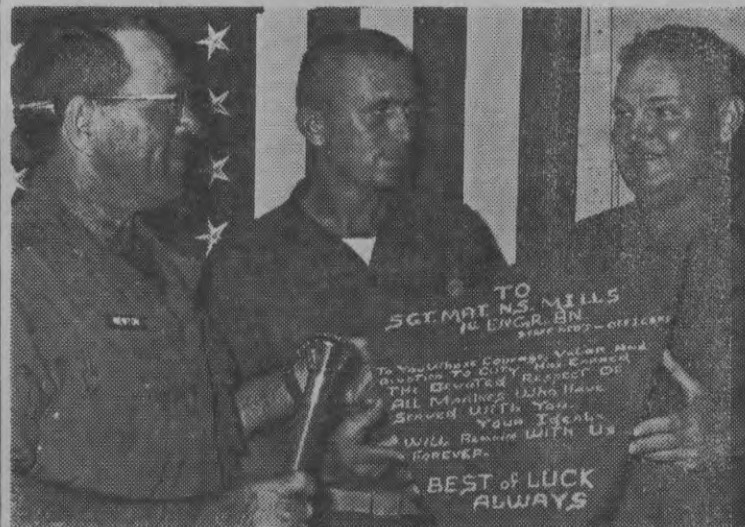
## Congratulations

"The Officers and Men of the III Marine Amphibious Force, U.S. Marine Corps, extend sincere congratulations to our gallant comrades-in-arms on the occasion of President Johnson's award of the Presidential Unit Citation to the valiant 2nd Battalion, Vietnamese Brigade."

LtGen. L. W. Walt USMC  
CG III MAF

"I've been wondering how old you have to be to enlist right now. I am only 11 1/2 years of age. Since I was eight I've been saving gear. I all ready have two helmets, a tent, three bullets in a carbine, a belt, a pack and a couple of shirts. I have been saving them for a long time. Last summer my aunt came and we played football. She had the ball and was running to make a touchdown and I tackled her when she fell she landed right on me and under me was a rock I got three cuts on my hand. About a week later she went to Germany and after that she went to Paris, France. She says it's not so hot there and it wasn't clean. . ."

Kids will be kids.



## Vietnam retirement

Maj. C. O. Newton (left) CO, 1st Engineer Bn., 1st MarDiv., presents a plaque to SgtMaj. Nelson G. Mills (right) upon his retirement Nov. 19 after more than 23 years USMC services. Assuming the duties of BnSgtMaj. is SgtMaj. Lawrence T. McQuaide (center).

(Photo by Cpl. Garry D. Gaspard)

# Pacification to get more support

President Johnson has been told that the government of Vietnam is moving ahead rapidly with concrete plans to provide the continuous local security needed for rural-development pacification efforts.

"Prime Minister Ky and President Thieu told me the Government of Vietnam intends to allot the bulk of its regular forces to this mission," Presidential staffer Robert Komer reported to Mr. Johnson.

He said new plans have been drawn up for 1967 and that "several ARVN/U.S. mobile training teams have already been assembled in Saigon to receive the new doctrine and then provide on-the-job training to ARVN troops in the field."

Mr. Komer also reported that General Westmoreland plans to strengthen the U.S. advisory effort and support for revolutionary development by assigning more senior officers to advisory tasks and by putting greater emphasis on road and canal clearing.

Pointing out some American units will participate in the clear and hold operation, he said, "But this will normally be only a secondary mission for U.S. Forces."

Mr. Komer, who followed up on the Manila Conference, termed the over-all GVN program announced at the conference as one of the pluses of the talks and deserving more attention than it has received.

## Sgt. paints 'genie eyes'

PHU BAI—Sergeant Morris S. Turner Jr., of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163, Marine Aircraft Group-16, has an unusual job. He is in charge of painting the "Genie Eyes" that appears on the squadron's UH-34D helicopters.

The eyes, painted on the front of the HMM-163 choppers, are white with black pupils and large enough to be seen from a considerable distance.

"The eyes come from Vietnamese mythology and are normally seen on Vietnamese fishing boats. They are supposed to chase away evil spirits and bring good luck," said Turner.

# Why we can't bring back the "coonskin" to America

MGySgt.  
Garry M. Cameron

CHU LAI—When President Johnson visited Cam Rahn Bay in late October, he expressed the hope that the troops "would soon bring back that coonskin to hang on the wall."

The coonskin, symbol of victory, may never be brought back to the United States. For in a war such as the one being fought in Vietnam, that symbol of victory, in order to have meaning, must be placed in the hamlets, villages and cities of Vietnam and left there.

Victory here, unlike anywhere else in the world where the U.S. has fought, means winning over the hearts and minds of the people—not just hills, plateaus, and towns.

And towards this goal, Marines in Vietnam have organized a unique and workable concept—Operation County Fair.

Basically the county fair is programmed to eliminate the VC organization and enable the villagers to be placed under control of the South Vietnamese Government.

When the devious VC, through threats and terror, begins strengthening his position in a village the friendly troops nearby suffer an increase in mines, booby traps and sniper fire. Intelligence reports gathered from patrols and sympathetic villagers soon reveal the location of the offensive area and it is then a county fair operation is offered as a possible solution.

To create a holiday atmosphere in an area that can erupt at any moment with the explosion of an enemy mine, or the crisp sound of fire from an automatic weapon, requires sensitive cooperation between Vietnamese Government Officials, U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Teams, and the U.S. Marines.

In an effort to understand how the American military, cooperating with the Vietnamese, have put a practical and enjoyable approach to an act that could very possibly alienate many villagers, we went to Chu Lai for Operation County Fair.

Our destination was Mike Company of the Third Battalion, Fifth Marines. M Company was participating in the County Fair scheduled for the following morning.

Climbing aboard a truck immediately after disembarking from the aircraft we headed into the black night with a certain amount of trepidation. We were running late and had to cross a bridge that would be closed shortly.

However, the ride was uneventful and we arrived at the hilltop command post of the Third Battalion, Fifth Marines and were met by Lieutenant Colonel E.J. Bronars, the battalion commander.

He turned us over to Captain J.M. Sims, the S-2 officer. Capt. Sims explained, "we will be going to the hamlet of Ky Long, Ly Tin District, a distance of about 2,000 meters from our present position." He added, "a 16 year old Vietnamese from Ky Long had tipped us off that there were about 8-10 VC in the village and they were the ones causing local increase in enemy activity."

We were told government officials of Vietnam would do most of the administration and the Marines would provide security. First Lieutenant Dennis Perkins, the battalion S-5 said the Marines were also setting up medical teams with one U.S. Navy

Doctor and Dentist with Navy Corpsman assisting. Some civic action material was being distributed, rag dolls from the Girl Scouts of America, tooth brushes, soap and lollypops.

At 4 a.m. 150 combat ready Marines, commanded by Captain Harold Pettingil, and 100 soldiers from the Vietnamese Popular Forces moved into the outer perimeter of Ky Long. They quickly, and quietly cordoned off the village to prevent any VC or suspect from making a sudden escape.

The roar of an approaching helicopter heralded the days first light at about 6:15 a.m. Momentarily startled to see a 'copter hovering over their village, they soon calmed down as they heard a voice in Vietnamese giving instructions and outlining the day's activities.

Ky Long Hamlet is a combine of thatched huts located in a lush green meadow at the foot of three mountain peaks.

The leader of the local Popular Forces Company had all the adults in one group and was giving them an initial indoctrination as to what the South Vietnamese Government was trying to do—and without their help and cooperation it was a lost cause.

All the children were moved to another location for games and group singing. This program was handled by South Vietnamese entertainers from Da Nang.

The tension and doubt which was so visibly evident on the faces of the villagers during the early morning hours was noticeably disappearing.

Huge cooking pots handled by Marine Corps cooks were preparing food to be served later.

Di We Bai of Ly Tin District was in the main interrogation tent and was making his first appearance as the new district chief for Ky Long. He was very anxious to make a good first impression.

Without pushing, or an obvious fanfare, villagers were gently ushered to the tent in small groups of twos and threes. The atmosphere was entirely friendly. After being offered a cigarette and light by Dai Ky the questioning began.

"Please let me see your papers? How long have you lived in Ky Long? How many in your family? Where are they? What are your problems in crop cultivation? What are your complaints? Any sickness? Toothache? and so on."

Based on their answers they were either released to remain in the roped off area or directed to the dental clinic or doctor, depending upon the complaint—and in a very few cases they were taken to the interrogation booth for a detailed examination by intelligence specialists.

The interior of two LVTs were temporarily converted into a dental clinic and a doctors office respectively.

Lieutenant Donald M. Barrett, a U.S. Naval dentist, checked over 50 patients and made 35 extractions. He said, "the villagers have a long way to go before they eliminate their tremendous problem of dental hygiene."

Navy Doctor Don A. Thornton treated everything from worms, minor cuts to headaches. He too typifies most of the military medical personnel here with an obvious compassion for the Vietnamese. As he noted, "they need medical supplies, treatment and a program of education on personal hygiene and sanitation."

Lines formed near the LVTs where all were given a bar of soap, boxes of bubble soap, gum, toothbrushes and ragdolls for the

girls.

The program was progressing smoothly and the spirit of a holiday had caught on. Families were gathered together happily eating the rich soup and rice provided by the "visitors".

Lilting strains of a popular musical tune soon made a bid for their attention and they began moving toward the sound. A Vietnamese group featuring a singer and an electric guitar played everything from classical to the latest rock and roll.

Later they provided the musical background for two magicians who confounded the children and adults alike with their dexterity and magical tricks.

Behind the scenes of the unusual holiday, the serious work of the Popular Forces was continuing. They moved through the empty village, destroying caves, or other positions valuable to the VC. A thorough search was conducted for hidden mines weapons or booby traps. Any found were quietly identified with the owner of the home and he ended up in the intense interrogation booth.

At the fair grounds the day's activities were beginning to tell. They were happy, but tired, and the children were beginning to fuss. Slowly the villagers followed the narrow path leading back to their hamlet.

Tents were struck and the area policed up. This was the day's end and the County Fair was over.

Over? Far from it! Let us check a box score...Everyone in Ky Long had been asked for identification, eight of them were classified VCS, immediate medical complaints had been satisfied. They were exposed to the new district chief as a friend and were given government policy in easy doses.

They had seen a display of military force, and most important of all received assurance that they were not being left to the mercy of the VC.

With the rural development specialists from the World Development Team studying the various agriculture problems they also realized the government of South Vietnam was sincere in effecting a program to improve their living conditions and crop productivity.

And it is hoped they realized it will require courage and motivation on their part to resist the VC. This is the key they will need to open the door to confidence and self-pride. And that is the way we will win.

## Kid-evac

DA NANG — On Thanksgiving Day, the pilot and crew of a Marine helicopter took time out from the war in an attempt to save the life of a sick Vietnamese infant.

Captain Richard Hendrie was flying his UH-1E "Huey" gunship on an escort mission near Dong Ha when he received word to evacuate a seriously ill Vietnamese child from the mountain outpost of Khe San.

The pilot flew to the jungle airstrip which lies in the northwest corner of the republic of Vietnam.

The Marines found the child in the arms of his father who was hesitant to enter the aircraft.

The gunner, Corporal Richard David, took the baby into the plane and returned him to his father after the man had summoned the courage to enter the "strange" machine.

There followed a quick flight to the Quang Tri Naval hospital, 35 miles away.



## Pleased to meet you

Lt. William Bach, platoon commander with B Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, makes friends with a South Vietnamese calf during a lull in a combat mission west of Quang Ngai.  
(Photo by SSgt R. E. Wilson)

## Operation Dragon Eye concluded by Koreans

By: ROKMC PIO

Operation Dragon Eye was started on November 9 during the rainy season. Its purpose was to destroy enemy forces located in the area of the Tra Khuc River, 54 kilometers southwest of Chu Lai. At the conclusion of the operation at 4 p.m. on Nov. 27, the results achieved by the Korean Blue Dragon Brigade were: 171 VC KIA(C), 31 VC KIA(P), 5 VCC, 78 VCS, 60 Ralliers, 24 weapons captured, 123 ChiCom hand grenades captured and more than 3,000 rounds of small arms ammunition confiscated.

On Nov. 19 the Blue Dragon forces pushed the enemy to the bank of the river at which time the Viet Cong had to decide whether to stand and defend their positions to the last man, or cross the river to safety.

They crossed the river in the disguise of inhabitants and merchants selling goods, but at 4 a.m. the next day they came back to raid the 9th Company, under Captain Kim Yoon Hyung, with the 48th and 60th battalion of Main Forces. These VC forces outnumbered the Korean Marines 10 to one.

This attack was routed after hand-to-hand combat within the 9th Company lines and the enemy retreated leaving 92 KIA confirmed, 1 VCC, 19 weapons, including one heavy automatic rifle, 110 ChiCom grenades and more than 3,000 rounds.

After this crushing defeat the enemy didn't come out to fight again during Operation Dragon Eye.



Lieutenant Nguyen Xuan, a former North Vietnamese regular forces officer, turned himself in to the Blue Dragon's CIC. He disclosed that the rest of the 48th VC battalion were mostly wounded and lost their combat capacity; also reporting that the 60th battalion was reduced to a fighting strength of about 230 men.

The Blue Dragon unit then conducted a joint operation with the U.S. Marines, and ARVN which resulted in 26 VC KIA(C), 40 VC KIA(P), 5 VCC, 18 VCS for a total loss of 89 to the enemy by the U.S. Marines.

Thus Blue Dragon Brigade succeeded in driving the VC out from their refuge along the river Tra Khuc.

## Clean sweep for A-1-5

By: Cpl. Divid Hines

CHU LAI — Marines of "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division concluded a five day search and destroy operation, Nov. 18.

During the operation they fought their way out of an ambush, unearthed a Viet Cong training center and captured five tons of communist rice.

The action took place about 15 miles north of Chu Lai.

The company was headed back to their command post when they were suddenly brought under heavy automatic and small arms fire.

Following 90 minutes of heavy fighting, Marines drove the Viet Cong out of the village—a Viet Cong training center complete with classrooms and living quarters.

Around the buildings were a number of large bunkers; expended shells were everywhere. Marines also discovered a series of tunnels that extended throughout the village.

A few days earlier the company swept through another hamlet from which they had been receiving sniper fire and found five tons of rice.

The rice was transported to Chu Lai by helicopter, where it was distributed to Vietnamese refugees.



## Birthday "cake"

LCpl. William B. Howard with the 81mm mortar section of B Co., 1st Bn., Seventh Marines, pauses during a search and destroy operation west of Quang Ngai to celebrate his 19th birthday with a feast of field ration crackers and peanut butter.

(Photo by SSgt R. E. Wilson)

## Comm gets free pop

CHU LAI — Marines of the Communications Section, H&S Company, 9th Engineers Battalion, 1st Marine Division, ran into their own version of the "loaded gold mine" Nov. 21, when they received 22 free cases of pop, compliments of an Atlanta, Ga., bottling company.

The 264 cans of soft drinks arrived at their area just ninety days after they sent a letter to the firm.

"Back in August we were having trouble getting soda in our battalion area, so we put our heads together and came up with the master plan of buying some from the states," said Sergeant Arthur R. Gasdic, radio chief. "I was elected by the section to send the firm a letter."

Mr. Paul J. Austin, president of the Atlanta branch of the bottling company, wrote a personal letter, informing them that 22 cases of soda were on the way. He added a note of thanks to the Marines for their role in Vietnam and added that it was being handled in "the usual efficient Marine manner."

## Recover guns

DA NANG — Cooperation between the Navy and Marine Corps successfully prevented the Viet Cong from recovering two M-60 machine guns from a downed Marine helicopter near Phu Bai.

The crew of the craft had to abandon the weapons when their CH-34 helicopter was ditched about 300 yards off the coast.

A Navy swift boat was dispatched to the scene to stand guard and prevent suspected VC sympathizers from reaching the helicopter.

Later in the afternoon, two CH-34's from Marble Mountain ferried a team of Navy underwater swimmers to the swift boat and the drivers went over the side and salvaged the guns and other equipment from the sunken helicopter.

10 SEA TIGER

# Chu Lai Education Center fills Marines school needs

By: Cpl Ira Taylor

CHU LAI—A Marine corporal who has one year left on his enlistment, plans to go to college when his enlistment is up. He knows being away from school for four years could put him at a disadvantage in comparison with his classmates fresh from high school.

It is at this point the Marine Corps, with its policy of "taking care of its own," takes over and offers a helpful solution—the education center.

"The mission of the Chu Lai Education Center is to help servicemen who want to

continue their education," said Second Lieutenant Warren E. Munn, education officer. "We can't make them come to us," the lieutenant said. "They must be willing to learn. Once that first step is taken, then we can help them."

The center, which serves all military personnel in the Chu Lai area, specializes in counseling and information concerning United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) correspondence courses. It has in stock or on order all USAFI courses listed in the latest edition of the USAFI course catalog.

However, helping a Marine brush up for college is not the only function of the education center. They offer courses for personnel desiring to finish high school and administer the high school General Educational Development (GED) test which, if successfully passed, is equivalent to a high school diploma.

Another service is registering applicants for the USAFI program. This is done through the education officer or noncommissioned officer from the individual's battalion or unit. The Chu Lai center processes and forwards these applications to the Institute.

Corporal Edwin H. Wilson Jr., education NCO at the Chu Lai Center, named GED testing as the biggest time consuming task.

## New VMA-233 CO

CHU LAI — Lieutenant Colonel Leonard C. Taft assumed command of Marine Attack Squadron 233 from Lieutenant Colonel Robert B. Sinclair during change of command ceremonies here Nov. 26.

Colonel Sinclair commanded the MAG-12 unit since April, 1966.



## Means business

Fritz, a sentry dog with the 2nd Sentry Dog Platoon, 1st Marine Division, glares menacingly at a "would be assailant" in a sentry dog demonstration held at the Chu Lai USO Nov. 19. The show consisted of a demonstration of the three basic stages of the dog's training: obedience, agitation, and attack.

(Photo by SSgt. Gene Jones)

"We test about 30 people a week and are limited only by testing space," he said. The GED test is given in two parts and takes two days to complete.

Also available at the center is the Comprehensive College Test which, if successfully passed, is the equivalent of two years of college. This is the only test used for Marine Corps Officer Selections.

During the coming year, the Chu Lai center plans to increase their stock of some of the basic or more popular courses such as English, Algebra and Social Sciences.

Beginning Dec. 3, regularly scheduled college entrance examinations are being given. Test papers are sent to the College Entrance Examination Board at either Berkeley, Calif., or Princeton, N.J., for grading. The results of the Scholastic Achievement Test are then forwarded to three schools the prospective student may elect to attend.

"Of the percentage of personnel desiring to further their education, about half plan to get out and go to college, the other half are career men trying to better themselves," Wilson explained. "We also have those who plan to get their college education and come back into the Marine Corps

as officers."

"Whatever their intentions are, we are more than happy to help in any way we can," concluded Lieutenant Munn.

## Thanksgiving meeting

By: PFC R. R. Keene

CHU LAI—For most Marines in Vietnam, Thanksgiving is celebrated by a large dinner and only memories of past holidays spent with loved ones.

This Thanksgiving offered something very special for Corporal James R. Wright of Marine Attack Squadron-311, MAG-12. Cpl. Wright was visited by his father, James E. Wright of Detroit, Mich.

Wright is an efficiency expert from the Army Tank Automotive Command in Detroit. He is currently making a tour of various bases in the Orient with the Department of the Army, to determine appropriate actions to improve supply and maintenance effectiveness.

Knowing that his son had been in Vietnam since April, Wright informed the Army of his desire to see his son, and it was arranged. The Air Force flew Wright from Saigon to Da Nang and the Marines flew him to Chu Lai.

Corporal Wright knew that his father was in the area. He had been on R&R in October and called home. From the call, and letters, he learned the approximate time his father would be in Vietnam.

Nevertheless it was still a surprise when his father walked into Cpl. Wright's barracks unannounced.

"You don't really know what your feelings are going to be until it happens," Cpl. Wright said happily.

Father and son ate Thanksgiving dinner at the MAG-12 mess-hall and attended Thanksgiving services at the group chapel.

Wright departed Chu Lai on Nov. 25, for Hawaii to visit his other son, Robert, who is serving with the Coast Guard.

## Grandmother sends tree

CHU LAI — Christmas just wouldn't be complete without a Christmas tree. At least that's what a Miami, Fla. grandmother believes.

She sent her grandson, Lance Corporal William D. Creelman, also of Miami, a Christmas tree with all the trimmings.

"I just couldn't believe it," said the 21 year old clerk of the Fifth Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. "When the mail clerk told me, I thought he was kidding."

The 30-inch high tree was sent airmail from Miami in Early November. The tree was still in good condition.

Creelman's family (Father, Mother, Sister, Grandfather, and Grandmother) decorated the tree, complete with everything but electric lights.

"It's become quite a attraction around here," he said. "Everyone who passes by, stops and looks at it. They can't believe it either."

## Operation rat-fink

By: Cpl Bob Pitner

DA NANG — "Operation Rat Fink," launched earlier this month, is progressing victoriously for the men of Marine Aircraft Group-16.

The score to date is 32 "enemy" captured with no friendly casualties.

Lest anyone be misled, "Operation Rat Fink" is not being waged against the Viet Cong. Its goal is to halt the insurgent rodent forces in their attempt to overrun the Marble Mountain Air Facility, four miles south of Da Nang.

Task force commander for the operation is Captain Bob Segrest, group special services officer. He initiated the operation as a competition between squadrons to help control the base's rat population.

So far, the only team to challenge his special services section is a group of Marines from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-164. HMM-164 is leading with 21 rats to their credit.

All catches are turned over to the group Sick Bay for official verification. Any prisoner not bearing a Geneva Convention Card is promptly and humanely dispatched by one of the corpsmen.

Although his special services team is running second, Segrest is quick to praise the accomplishments of his men. They have caught the largest specimen so far — an 18-inch long rat—and made two "very rare" daylight catches.

The captain is interesting other squadrons of MAG-16 in the operation since rats could become a serious health hazard if uncontrolled.

Meanwhile, the word from task force rat headquarters is, "situation well in hand."

# Christmas letter from Maine

Dear Marine in Vietnam,

We are writing to you from your home State of Maine. It is only November 11, Veterans Day here; but we are informed that we must write this early if we want assurance that this will get to you before the Christmas holidays.

The task of putting our feelings into words is a monumental one, but one that has for us a compelling urgency. We believe that our country is the greatest nation in the world and that in spite of criticisms and slanderous remarks, we believe that we are a generous nation. We hold that we are a nation that is dedicated to the policy of hon-

estly trying to assist those "have not" people of the earth to achieve some of the abundant rewards that our system of free enterprise has brought about.

In some college classrooms and even in church pulpits, we can hear today words that advocate the betrayal of the freedom that has provided our prosperity. In some cases, these voices would even deny the need to defend the principles for which United States servicemen have fought for and died.

You have heard, perhaps, that in the affluent America of today, there is a growing laxness, an inertia, even an indifference concerning our morals, principles, and even our very freedom. You have probably read of forces in America today who are opposed to our system of law, order, and decency. You have read of the mobs of pimply faced beatniks and long-haired males who claim to represent the "new wave" of America. And you have had moments, possibly, wondering about

## Wing hoopsters beat by Viet

By: Cpl. Jim Paynter

DA NANG—A team of All-Star Vietnamese basketball players parlayed a fast break and an amazing 80 per cent mark from the floor to defeat the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing hoopsters 64-59 in Saigon Nov. 30.

The Vietnamese team, comprised of members of various Vietnamese military services, will represent the Republic of Vietnam in the coming Asian Games later this year.

High scorer for the Marines was five-foot, eight-inch Leon Carter, a 22-year-old guard from Indianapolis, Ind., who scored 20 points, mostly on jump shots from the inside corner.

A crowd of 300 Vietnamese basketball fans watched as the game got off to a fast start with the Vietnamese scoring first.

The Marines ran the score to 8-2 before the Vietnamese could pull themselves together and put their fast break to use. From then on the Vietnamese kept the Marines off balance and were never in danger of losing.

Half-time score showed the Vietnamese ahead 34-30.

In the second half, the All-Stars continued their fast break tactics, and at one time led by eight points.

all of it and asking yourself, "Why?"

We, the representative body of nearly 459 students at Southern Maine Vocational Technical Institute in South Portland, want to report to you with utmost sincerity that these factions we speak of above are a very, very small minority; that 99.6 per cent of all of us young Americans

## Truck hits mine

DA NANG—What started out as a quiet day ended up with a bang for Corporal Charles A. Zvosechz.

Zvosechz is a truck driver with Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division. While on a routine run to the trash dump, his truck struck a mine that had been uncovered earlier that morning by a bulldozer.

The tall Leatherneck was thrown hard against the cab of the truck. The mine was not a fragmentation type, "Strickly TNT," Zvosechz said.

After a day at the 3rd Medical Bn., where he was treated for a concussion and a perforated ear drum, Cpl. Zvosechz was returned to duty.

## Honest man

DA NANG — Thanks to the honesty of a fellow Marine, Corporal Patrick R. Willett, of Marine Air Support Squadron-2, will be able to go on R&R after all.

The 22-year-old Marine from Lexington, Ky., lost his wallet containing more than \$100 while riding in a truck Thanksgiving day.

Later that day Lance Corporal Juan M. Gonzalez riding in the same truck, found the wallet.

Willett, upon discovering his loss, immediately began a search for the money. Retracing his steps, he returned to the Marine Exchange where he had been earlier hoping to find it there.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez, an electrician with Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron-1, was busily trying to locate Cpl. Willett.

Two days later, Willett, now resigned to the loss of the money he had been saving, was informed that the wallet had been found.

The grateful Willett, upon meeting Gonzalez, offered the 20-year-old Texan a reward.

"No thanks, maybe someone will do the same for me," Gonzalez said, refusing the offer.

"back home" still get a lump in our throat when we hear the strains of the "Star Spangled Banner." This great majority still thanks a merciful Lord that we were lucky enough to be born an American citizen.

We still think that the ideals we hold are honorable, and we stand ready to offer to all: justice, mercy, compassion, and brotherhood. We recognize that freedom can only live as long as there is a demonstrated willingness to fight for it; and, when the time comes, we will join you in the age-old battle against cruelty, intolerance, aggression, and selfishness.

This is our message to you on this Christmas Eve for the security and comfort you are giving to us; for the preservation of the freedom you guard for us so that we may continue uninterrupted in our selected educational programs; and for the honorable and patriotic stance you are making for us in a far-off land.

We thank you with never dying devotion, and wish for you a safe and merry Christmas.

With all respect,

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## Wet going

An unidentified Leatherneck of "I" Co., 3d Bn., First Marines finds the going wet as he struggles across a knee-deep river on a search and destroy mission south of Da Nang recently. (Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

# Cool, cloudy day but things got hot

By: Cpl Bob Pitner

DA NANG—It was a cool, cloudy day until past eight a.m. on Nov. 7, when things began to get very hot for the pilots and crews of six Marine helicopters.

Led by their commanding officer, Major Frank B. Ellis, they carried two companies of Marines into a communist-infested area 10 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Smoke was still rising from intensive artillery, naval gunfire, and fixed wing air strikes as the "Sea Knights" ceased their orbiting and separated into groups of three.

They were still a mile from their objective when Viet Cong regulars opened up with small arms and automatic weapons.

"When you take fire that far out, you're usually in for a hot one," said Lance Corporal Richard Bryant a gunner on one of the helicopters.

By the time the choppers reached their prospective landing zones, the fire became a constant chatter and muzzle flashes winked from the windows of surrounding houses.

As the enemy fire increased, the helicopter gunners answered with their own machine guns. Then, flaring up over the landing zones, they settled and discharged their troops, and lifted out, firing all the way.

Three more times, the choppers exchanged fire with the enemy as they swooped down to insert the ground Marines who fanned out and began to advance on the fortified positions.

When all the troops were landed, the helicopters took off and headed for home. Their mission was a success.

At noon, the choppers took off again and headed south. Their

## Red Cross Strength

The American Red Cross will have increased its Vietnam staff by 250 per cent before the year is out. ARC said 105 field workers were in Vietnam as of January 1966 and 275 are expected to be there by January 1967.

objective this time was a communist occupied area two miles from their base at the Marble Mountain Air Facility.

Again the planes split into groups of three. Each group carried a Marine rifle company into a separate landing zone.

The heli-lifted Marines were to link up with forces moving in on the ground to encircle the stronghold.

## Crew Chief no gambler

DA NANG—Despite his name, Marine Sergeant Darrell Gamble, a helicopter crew chief, does not take chances while flying.

On Nov. 29, his precautions may have saved his life.

The 27-year-old Coupville, Wash., native was manning a machine gun in his CH-46A "Sea Knight" when he thought he heard a bullet strike the aircraft. A quick check of the helicopter failed to disclose evidence of a hit.

After the pilot, Capt. George Cumpst, 30, of McDonald, Pa., landed the plane, Gamble was removing his flak vest when he noticed a small tear in the cloth covering.

Closer inspection showed that an enemy round had struck the vest just above his heart and glanced off the inner core.

SEA TIGER 11



## In memory of fallen Marines

Marines of the Fourth Marine Regiment bow their heads in memory of Marines who have fallen in battle during Operations Hastings and Prairie near the DMZ in Vietnam.

(Photo by LCpl. E. L. Cole)



## How to win friends

1stLt. William Mooney, civil affairs officer, 1st Bn., 26th Marines shows a Vietnamese boy how to blow a bubble during a County Fair operation in Bich Bac hamlet. The Ninth Marines, 1st Marine Division unit organized the first Mass in over two years for the predominantly Catholic hamlet during the fair. (Photo by LCpl J. L. McClory)

# Thanksgiving party for 800

By: Sgt. Jerry Simmons

DA NANG—Lieutenant Colonel Van D. Bell, commanding officer, 1st Battalion, First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division and his men threw a Thanksgiving party at battalion headquarters Nov. 24 for some 800 children of Hieu Hon and Dien Ban districts. The children were from three villages that the battalion patrols

each day. Colonel Bell thought it would be appropriate to have the children in for some fun and games on the day of thanksgiving.

He sent out a bulletin to all three villages in Vietnamese asking the parents to let their children come to the party and he would supply the transportation to and from the villages.

Ten Marines had been designated to act as escorts for the children and show them a good time, but when the first trucks arrived back in the battalion command post, 100 Marines were there to meet the children.

Lance Corporal Robert Schittone, and his helper, Lance Corporal Raymond Leslie, had 80 gallons of jello, 45 gallons of milk and 2,500 cookies ready for the children.

Other Marines had candy, apples, soap and chewing gum for the happy visitors.

Many different games were played. Football, volleyball, and the old "Hand is quicker than the eye game was played." Running that little show was the old river boat gambler, Major John A. Scott, executive officer of the battalion. Twenty children were gathered around Major Scott as

he moved three dixie cups around with a piece of candy under one. The children had to guess which cup the candy was under. "Somehow they always seem to know," said Major Scott.

"These children are like kids all over the world, they love a party and my men gave them one. We even had 30 minutes of cartoons for the kids and many came back four or five times to see them again," said Colonel Bell.

"The party started at 10:00 a.m. and was supposed to end at noon but the children were having such a good time running and jumping and eating that it lasted until one," said the colonel.

## New 3/5 CO

Lieutenant Colonel E. J. Bronars has been relieved of duties as Commanding Officer of 3d Battalion, 5th Marines by Major James T. Elkins. Colonel Bronars, who has been assigned to the G-3 Section, Task Force E-Ray, was also presented the Bronze Star Medal by Colonel C. F. Widdecke, Chief of Staff, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

## Truce—

(Continued From Page 1)

and generally are credited with observing it. But they accused the United States and its allies of violating Viet Cong terms.

The United States and South Vietnamese proposed a 30-hour cease-fire starting at 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The U.S. and allied forces made an effort to observe this period but field units reported several instances in which the Viet Cong ignored the cease-fire after their own shorter truce ended.

But even after the ground fighting resumed generally, the United States continued to withhold air strikes against North Vietnam for a period totaling 37 days and meanwhile pushed a vigorous "peace offensive" on a virtually global basis.

# 7-year-old boy gets new hope to walk

By: SSgt. Lyn Parnell

CHU LAI—A seven-year-old Vietnamese boy may walk without the aid of a crutch thanks to the perseverance of a Naval hospital corpsman and doctor.

Hospital Corpsman First Class Harry R. (Sully) Sullivan, Jr., was serving with the 4th Battalion, Eleventh Marines, last June when he saw Dang Khn in the village of An Tan.

The little Vietnamese boy could not walk without a crutch.

No matter how hard Sully tried to win the boy's friendship his efforts met with little results.

Then one day, after trying everything also he started throwing pebbles to Khn.

This got results.

The youngster started throwing pebbles back.

After awhile Sully pretended he was tired and asked the boy to come sit with him. He had no sooner won the boy's friendship and trust when he received orders to Marine Aircraft Group-13.

When the group's first Medical Civil Affairs Program (MedCap) got underway it was to Khn's village of An Tan.

As the truck pulled to a stop in the small town, the first thing Sully heard was Khn calling to him while still on his crutch.

"I don't think I could have been more amazed," Sully said. "I had been gone for almost three months and considering the trouble I had gaining his friendship I never expected him to remember me."

Navy Lieutenant Thomas W. Hagan the flight surgeon for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-542, watched the boy talking to Sully and also became interested

in him.

When the medical team returned to group headquarters, Hagan began questioning the corpsman about the boy.

Hagan set the wheels in motion to get an orthopedic surgeon to look at Khn. He contacted Commander Charles R. (Ray) Ashworth, an orthopedic surgeon with the 1st Medical Battalion, and arranged for Khn to be examined.

It was learned that Khn had polio when he was about two years old. The disease left his hip and knee crooked, causing his left leg to be much shorter than his right.

Ashworth said an operation would straighten it.

Khn has had the operation and his leg is in a cast.

After the cast is removed Hagan and Sullivan will try to fly him to Saigon where a brace can be made.

"Khn will still have to use the crutch after he is fitted for the brace," Hagan said.

"However, we hope that by putting his weight on the leg he will be able to build the remaining leg muscles up enough so he can do away with the crutch eventually," the doctor said.



STEADY HANDS—Navy Cdr. Charles R. (Ray) Ashworth and Lt. Thomas W. Hagan operate on seven-year-old Dang Khn to straighten his left leg. Ashworth is an orthopedic surgeon with the 1st Medical Bn. and Hagan is the flight surgeon for VMFA-542. (Photo by: Sgt. Ron Hathaway)

## Has his own land mark

DA NANG—Sergeant Dave Simmons, a heavy equipment operator with "A" Company, 1st SHORE Party Bn., 1st Marine Division, has his own land mark here in Da Nang.

For the past several weeks, Sgt. Simmons has been working with RMK-BMJ construction company putting in light poles around the Da Nang Airbase.

One of the companies' jobs is building Air Force toilet and shower units. They built a 60

foot tower where a 600 gallon drum was to be placed atop for a shower water.

That is where Sgt. Simmons and his Marine Corps crane came into the picture.

The 12 year veteran placed the drum perfectly atop the tower. Each time he passes the tower, the husky Marine breaks into a little smile knowing well that the big drum is his own little land mark.

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