



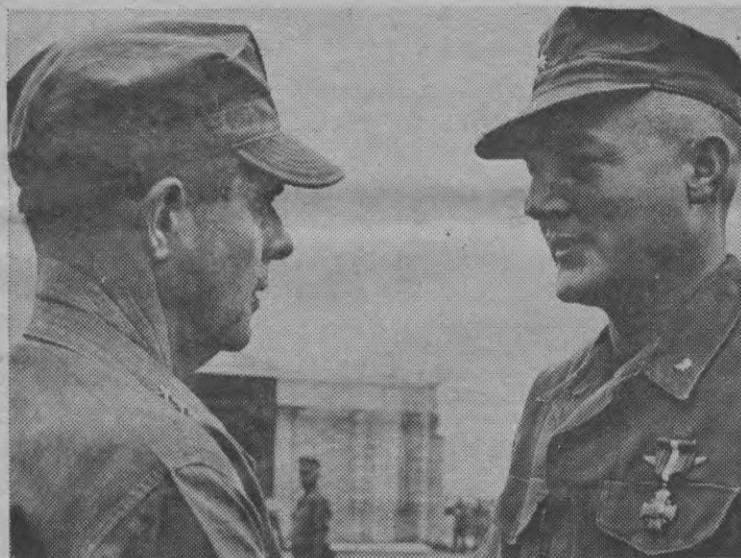
# SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 4

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

January 25, 1967



**FOR HEROISM**—Maj. Vincil W. Hazelbaker is presented the Navy Cross by Gen. Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps.

## Commandant awards Navy Cross Medal

DA NANG—Marine Major Vincil W. Hazelbaker, was awarded the Navy Cross by General Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, Jan. 9.

A helicopter pilot with Marine Observation Squadron Two, he earned the nation's second ranking combat award for resupplying, and then commanding a beleaguered Marine ground unit on Aug. 8.

After watching two unsuccessful attempts to deliver ammunition to the surrounded Leathernecks, Hazelbaker "daringly maneuvered his UH1E helicopter through the darkness and intense hostile fire and skillfully landed near the Marines' position," the citation reads.

He gave the ground unit 3,000 rounds of his own ammunition and then returned to Dong Ha. He asked for, and received, permission to carry more ammunition in to the unit.

Shortly after he returned with 800 pounds of ammunition, his plane was disabled by enemy fire and he was unable to take off. Hazelbaker discovered he was the only officer physically able to lead the ground unit so he took command and reorganized the defense.

During the next few hours, as

a result of his leadership and courage, the Marines held off the attacking force. By daylight they were able to be lifted out of the area by rescue helicopters.

"By his extraordinary courage in the face of extreme danger, bold aeronautical skill, and unfaltering dedication to duty throughout, Maj. Hazelbaker upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service," the citation concluded.

## Silver Star

CHU LAI — Major Richard A. Kuci was presented the Silver Star Medal by Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Jan. 8.

The Marine Aircraft Group 36 major earned his nation's third highest personal award for valor, while leading a helicopter flight to rescue another downed helicopter and its crew.

"As we approached the zone about 35 miles south of Chu Lai, the Viet Cong had already attempted to set fire to the disabled helicopter. The crew, which had left the craft, was engaged in small arms fire with the VC."

"I led all five rescue helicopters right into the zone, to off-load troops to guard the downed bird, and get the crew out of the zone," Kuci said.

"We received heavy fire from the enemy but managed to off-load, and pick up the crew without a casualty," he said.

Kuci led the rescue flight back toward Quang Ngai where he

(Continued on Back Page)

## 61 VC kills confirmed

# Unit stages heliborne raid against two companies VC

By: Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—A company of U.S. Marines staged a heli-borne raid on a village south of Da Nang Jan. 14, killing at least 61 Viet Cong.

Under a smoke screen laid down by jets, Leathernecks of "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines swept into Ban Lanh (2) at noon to kick off the six-hour raid.

Contact was made immediately as the first wave of Marines began to move into a village where they believed some 50 Viet Cong demolitions men were meeting.

They ran into an estimated two companies of hard-core Viet Cong, dressed in blue-green uniforms.

One Marine platoon, attempting to enter the village, found their way blocked by a deep water barrier. Heavy enemy fire came from the other side, some 30 meters away.

At the edge of the water, however, stood a hut which concealed the exit of a VC tunnel. Guerrillas attempting to flee the village came out of the hut "like people coming up out of a subway," said Captain Marshall Carter, the company commander.

As the guerrillas emerged from the hut, Marine marksmen cut them down, killing or wounding at least 40 who were not included in the casualty count, since the Marines could not cross the water to actually count bodies.

The second platoon, meanwhile, was sweeping the village, killing a half dozen Viet Cong, including an officer carrying a map case, which was recovered.

The platoon killed more than 25 Viet Cong during the afternoon in firefights which sometimes raged at distances of 5 to 10 meters.

The raid, the first of its type

in the Da Nang area, was planned after documents found on a guerrilla killed Jan. 10 indicated about 50 Viet Cong leaders were to meet in the village at noon on Jan. 14, then proceed into the mountains for demolitions training.

"Our mission," said Capt. Carter, "was to get in, kill or capture as many Viet Cong as possible, and get out again before nightfall."

"We apparently caught the VC with their pants down," said the

26-year-old West Point graduate, son of an Army general. "We found 81mm mortar rounds, packs and eating utensils just lying around."

The company commander described the Viet Cong his men faced as "well-trained, well-disciplined troops" who thoroughly policed the battlefield to prevent the loss of weapons or ammunition. The 1st Division Marines captured only one carbine despite

(Continued on Page 4)

# Recon patrol spots 1,000 hard core VC

By: Cpl. Cal Guthrie

PHU BAI—"They looked like people leaving a football game when they came pouring out of the hills."

So said Marine Corporal Dale L. Sare, a recon assistant patrol leader as he described a movement of more than 1,000 Communist soldiers sighted by two 3rd Reconnaissance Bn. patrols. They were spotted streaming from the mountains into surrounding lowlands 13 miles west of Hue Dec. 31.

It was the largest recorded sighting by Recon Marines in Vietnam.

It began Dec. 30 when two recon patrols were sent into the area near Hue.

The 3rd Division Marines were dropped from choppers and made their way along respective patrol routes.

One slipped into the jungles in the high ground while the other remained in the marshy lowlands.

In the mountains, evidence of enemy movement was heard and seen by the patrol led by Corporal Vincent J. Rubio.

"We sighted 15 VC moving down a trail heading toward the lowlands," Rubio said. "Right after we got ambushed."

Four Viet Cong were killed in a brief firefight before the second patrol joined them. The enemy broke contact and fled.

The joined units then moved back into the valley to wait for helicopters, delayed by bad weather.

They crept silently through the marshes and set up in a thicket for the night of dense fog, rain and winds. Throughout the next day they saw and heard enemy movement many times along the maze of trails which criss-crossed the area.

That afternoon while moving out of a thicket Sare made his startling sighting.

"We were wading through knee-

(Continued on Page 4)



## Awesome and deadly

Sgt. Denis M. Alessandrine displays one of eight VC "deadfalls" found by a combat patrol from "E" Co., 2d Bn., First Marines, seven miles south of Da Nang. Artillery observer, Lt. John R. Morrison (left) and his radio operator in background, LCpl. Jim T. Pretasky, participated in the patrol with the 1stMarDiv unit.

(Photo by LCpl. K. K. McIntosh)

# SEA TIGER

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Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force

Brigadier General Hugh M. Elwood  
Chief of Staff, III Marine Amphibious Force

Major General Louis B. Robertshaw  
Commanding General, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing

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Commanding General, 1st Marine Division

Major General Wood B. Kyle  
Commanding General, 3d Marine Division

Brigadier General James E. Herbold, Jr.  
Commanding General, Force Logistics Command

Force ISO ..... Col. T. M. Fields  
Editor ..... GySgt. Lee Witconis  
Asst. Editor ..... Sgt. Jerry Simmonis

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## Honorable profession

A professional is defined as a person engaged in an occupation requiring a high degree of training and proficiency. More often than not, the term is applied to those engaged in law, medicine, education, theology or athletics.

By the very definition of the word, we in the Armed Forces are in a calling requiring a high degree of training and proficiency.

We also meet other qualifications as members of a profession. The military profession requires specific technical knowledge, has identifiable doctrine, a complex of institutions peculiar



to itself, educational patterns adapted to its own needs, a career structure of its own and a place in society.

The military profession is comparable to other professions in many ways. In the performance of his duties, the military man often needs the dedication of a doctor, the faith of a clergyman, the stamina of an athlete, the knowledge of an educator, the judgment of a lawyer and a patriot's unshakable belief in his country.

Every member of the Armed Forces, whether serving for two or 30 years, is a professional in every sense of the word.

He is a descendant of the Roman Legions that helped bring civilization to the world, the gallant Greeks at Marathon, the stalwarts of Valley Forge, the men of the Meuse-Argonne, the defenders of Wake Island and the embattled heroes of the frozen Chosin.

The profession of arms, and the men who follow it, have shaped nations and changed the history of the world. Those who follow that profession in today's troubled world hold not only the fate of our nation in their hands, but that of the free world as well.

As a doctor can help heal the sickness of men, a lawyer or educator the illness of society and a member of the clergy the hurts of the heart, the military professional can help heal the sickness of nations.

Walk proudly, for you, too, are a member of an old and honored profession. (AFNB)

## From cook to mule-skinner

DONG HA—Each man in the Marine Corps has an assigned job, but when the chips are down the job may change in a matter of seconds.

Such was the case with Private First Class Charles H. Hammock, a cook with 3rd Battalion, Third Marines one evening last week.

Hammock was in the battalion mess tent a short distance north of the "Rockpile" when the enemy began shelling with mortars. Immediately he went for cover in a nearby hole.

A few minutes later he heard a shout for a "mule" (light weap-

ons carrier) driver to help haul ammunition. So he left the security of his hole and took over the nearest mule.

He continued hauling ammunition to the Marines manning mortars and recoilless rifles in spite of the continuing barrage. Three times while his vehicle was being loaded in the ammo dump, enemy shells landed nearby but failed to explode.

Hammock also transported several wounded Marines to the battalion aid station and later to the landing zone for evacuation by helicopter.

The next day he was a cook again.

## Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New pen-pals are:

\* \* \* \* \* Dale Simpson (19)

229 Third Avenue

New Westminster, B.C. Canada

\* \* \* \* \* Miss L. Greenizan (20)

12411 60 Avenue

North Surrey, B. C. Canada

\* \* \* \* \* Teresa Balachanoff (16)

1674 King George Highway

White Rock, B. C. Canada

\* \* \* \* \* Charlotte Thompson (18)

638 Paulison Avenue

Clifton, N. J. 07011

\* \* \* \* \* Miss. M. G. Carter (20)

The Cottage, N. Marine Rd.,

Flamborough N.R. Bridlington

Yorkshire, England

\* \* \* \* \* Rose Burgoon (18)

651 Park Avenue,

Farrell, Pennsylvania

\* \* \* \* \* Linda Thompson (16)

638 Paulison Avenue

Clifton, New Jersey 07011

\* \* \* \* \* Roberta Burek

66 Albert Street

Garfield, New Jersey

\* \* \* \* \* Elizabeth Eakin (18)

11760-86 Avenue

N. Surrey, B. C. Canada

\* \* \* \* \* Marles Deveau (15)

Shewville Road

RFD No. 1

Mystic, Connecticut

\* \* \* \* \* Pat Nowakowski (16)

RD No. 6 Knoyle Road

Erie, Penna. 16510

\* \* \* \* \* Marilyn Bulishak (17)

706 Hess Avenue

Erie, Penna. 16503

\* \* \* \* \* Joan M. Krysiak (17)

Chapman Lane

Gales Ferry, Conn. 06335

Marie L. Mueller (18)

1208 Mount Avenue

Verona, Penna. 15147

\* \* \* \* \* Linda Huston

920 S. Columbus Street

Xenia, Ohio

\* \* \* \* \* Christine King

407 West 52d Street

New York City, N.Y. 10019

\* \* \* \* \* Pauline Paul

61 Winter Street

Manville, Rhode Island

\* \* \* \* \* Margaret Faltisco

390 Sheppard Avenue

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11208

\* \* \* \* \* Fran White (17)

122 Hendrix Street

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207

\* \* \* \* \* Judy Smith (22)

1317 Prospect Place

Brooklyn, New York

\* \* \* \* \* Kathy Lovell

384 East Lake Avenue

Massapequa Park, N.Y. 11762

\* \* \* \* \* Pat Nowakowski (16)

RD No. 6 Knoyle Road

Erie, Penna. 16510

\* \* \* \* \* Marilyn Bulishak (17)

706 Hess Avenue

Erie, Penna. 16503

\* \* \* \* \* Joan M. Krysiak (17)

Chapman Lane

Gales Ferry, Conn. 06335

Dianne Sproles  
153 Lee St., Byren's Sub.

Ferriday, Louisiana

\* \* \* \* \*

Dona Amanick (26)  
1963 Lougheed Highway  
New Westminster, B.C. Canada

\* \* \* \* \*

Carolyn Martin (20)  
888 S. E. Garden Terr.  
Palm Bay, Florida 32901

\* \* \* \* \*

Judith Brasslett (14)  
Hudson, Maine 04449

\* \* \* \* \*

Paulette Aptman (17)  
Balta, North Dakota 58313

\* \* \* \* \*

Molly Scudder  
Box 202 Davis & Elkins College

Elkins, West Virginia

\* \* \* \* \*

Connie Kury (15)  
24375 Ross Ct.  
Detroit, Michigan

\* \* \* \* \*

Darlene Miles (24)  
YWCA 174 Union Street  
Bangor, Maine 04402



## Background for troops:

## An Asian view of Vietnam

Thanat Khoman, Foreign Minister of Thailand, reviewed the Vietnam situation in an address to the United Nations General Assembly. Remarks abridged from his address appear below.

There are a number of reasons why the crisis in Vietnam has so far defied the various and many-sided efforts that have been made to solve it on a just and reasonable basis.

In the first place, the instigators who planned and are waging the war of aggression against South Vietnam have, so far, entertained a hope they might be able to attain their objective of ultimately seizing that country and finally placing it under their ruthless totalitarian rule. That is why they still persist in their infiltration, subversion and terrorism which have brought untold suffering to their victims.

### Ideological and political empires

Their hopes, unfortunately, have been kept alive and in fact, fueled by the provision of the necessary means from their allies to wage war. Economic aid, as well as military equipment, have flowed from external sources into North Vietnam which enable that country to carry on its war of aggression.

For countries siding with the aggressors, it is important that the war in Vietnam must be won by their friends and partners—because victory would further extend their own ideological and political empires.

Although not all of these Communist countries are prepared to share the cost and bear proportionate sacrifices, they seem to be willing to show their solidarity to the extent of their immediate national interests and practical capability. In respect to propaganda, at least, this is shown by their willingness to blare in unison that the war in Vietnam is a "Holy War of National Liberation." Such actions in effect, seek to conceal the stark fact that the people of South Vietnam are being subjected to a war of conquest and colonial expansion from across the northern border.

The well-drilled chorus of martial singers seems to be bent upon pursuing to the end their path of war. They repeatedly have spurned various suggestions for more peaceful approaches. They seem to be fortifying themselves with a belief that by rejecting every peaceful suggestion, they are more likely to attain their war objectives. That is why they have contemptuously brushed aside genuine yearnings for peace with their repetitive statements of arrogant intransigence. It appears to make no difference to Hanoi and Peking that many of the peaceful overtures they spurn come from fellow Asians. Such behavior conceals not inherent strength but a fundamental weakness which has come to the surface in the case of Communist

China, disguised by the euphemism of "great proletarian cultural revolution."

While the defenders in South Vietnam show their willingness to discuss unconditionally the ways and means to resolve the war peacefully, the aggressors consistently close the door to every probe for negotiation and peaceful settlement.

The intransigence of the aggressors, moreover, has been encouraged by small and misguided minorities in various countries. Although these elements are least familiar with the true facts of the situation, they nevertheless allow themselves to be carried away by abstract and unrealistic constructions. Suggestions and opinions from these quarters benefit no one except the enemies of freedom and liberty.

It is tragic but true that while innocent victims are daily maimed, molested and massacred by fanatic terrorists, certain misinformed persons and groups commiserate not with the unfortunate victims, but rather with those who kill, torture and terrorize. Other advocate courses of action which would in effect sacrifice the victims and condone aggression. Such divergent voices are comparatively few in number, but, unfortunately, they have helped further the erroneous impression that the aggressors can count upon the defenders of freedom to become wearied of war and ultimately yield to force.

In the face of these divergencies and dissents, it is the hope of all freedom-loving people that the South Vietnamese, who are fighting for their survival—and liberty, will persevere so as to inspire the confidence of all who support them in this vital struggle.

### A just solution to Vietnam War

A truly just solution to the Vietnam war must guarantee that aggression shall not be rewarded—and that the South Vietnamese people will preserve their rights of self-determination. They must not be delivered with bound hands and feet to the aggressors.

No one has the right to sell away the inherent right of South Vietnam—or, for that matter, any sovereign nation. If such an unfortunate precedent were to be created now, the survival of many other nations would become greatly compromised.

As for the aggressors, although they deserve to be punished for their crimes, the free world should be farsighted enough not to be vengeful and should not seek to bring about their destruction. Rather, it would be in the interests of all to persuade them to renounce their expansionist designs and join hands with other peace-loving nations in building a future of peace, progress and prosperity.

# Oriental "Year of the Horse"

## a year of expansion, action

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—The "Year of the Horse" in the orient, 1966, was the year of expansion and action for the Leathernecks of the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam.

In January there were 38,500 Marines in Vietnam, roughly 17 per cent of total Marine Corps strength. At year's end, there were more than 64,000 Leathernecks here, about 23 per cent of the Corps.

The past year also saw two Marine divisions committed to battle for the first time since World War II when, in March, the 1st Marine Division established its headquarters at Chu Lai to join the Third Marine Division in Vietnam.

The Force Logistics Command was also activated in March. Designed to handle the supplies for two divisions and an aircraft wing, it is unique in the history of the Marine Corps.

However, the primary purpose of the Marines in Vietnam is to meet and defeat the enemy in battle, and this they did.

From "Double Eagle" in January to "Chinook" in December, the Marine air-ground team accounted for nearly 11,000 confirmed Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers killed during 1966.

Of these, 4,775 were killed in the more than 141,000 small unit actions initiated by I Corps Leathernecks. These engagements ranged from company-size search and destroy missions to four or five man reconnaissance patrols and ambushes.

Another 6,181 enemy troops became statistics during the 90 battalion size or larger operations conducted by Marines.

September was the most active month for large operations as 11 resulted in 1,267 enemy deaths. The majority fell in Operation Prairie near the demilitarized zone in northern South Vietnam where North Vietnamese troops attempted to mass for a pre-monsoon and pre-election offensive.

During these operations the Marines expanded the area under their influence from about 900 square miles in January to nearly 2,000 by the end of the year.

Leathernecks were stationed at four main areas during 1966 in Vietnam—Da Nang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai and Dong Ha. In October the emphasis moved towards the DMZ as the 1st and 3rd Divisions moved their headquarters northward.

The 3rd Marine Division established its headquarters in Phu Bai and became responsible for the tactical area south of the DMZ. Da Nang became the 1st Division's headquarters although they still maintained a task force in southern I Corps with its headquarters at Chu Lai.

First Marine Aircraft Wing pilots, crews, and support personnel had a busy year in support of I Corps ground units. In addition, Leatherneck jet pilots flew north of the DMZ in support of 7th Air Force missions.

In South Vietnam, helicopter pilots flew 404,115 sorties, carried 559,845 passengers and hauled 32,663 tons of cargo. They flew

support missions for Vietnamese and Norean units as well as for U.S. Forces in the I Corps area. Jet pilots flew 61,663 sorties (including missions north of the DMZ) during 1966.

In November, A6 Intruder jets were added to the Wing's arsenal when Marine all weather attack squadron (VMA) (AW)-242 flew across the U.S. and the Pacific from Cherry Point, N.C. The arrival marked the first time the Intruders were used by Marines in Vietnam.

First Marine Aircraft Wing personnel and equipment was also stationed at four areas during 1966. Fixed wing jet squadrons operated from Da Nang and Chu Lai, while helicopter and transport units flew from Phu Bai and Dong Ha as well as the former locations.

In 1966 the battle against the Viet Cong was not the only war being waged. Another, and in the long run perhaps more important, war was being waged by III MAF personnel against disease, poverty, ignorance and uncleanness.

More than 1 1/4 million Vietnamese people received aid of some kind through the Marine Corps' Civil Action program. The actual count, as near as can be

### 650 combat missions

CHU LAI—There's a Marine at the Ky Ha airstrip who spends almost as much time in the air as he does on the ground.

Corporal James I. Collum, Marine Observation Squadron 6, has flown hundreds of hours on more than 650 combat missions during the past year.

Collum is a crew chief aboard one of the squadron's UH-1E "Huey" helicopters.

Before each mission he gives his aircraft "Lucky," a pre-flight test to be sure his "bird" is ready to be airborne at a moment's notice.

Collum arrived in Vietnam in Oct., 1965, and has extended his Vietnam tour six months.

determined, was 1,752,781 people aided.

Navy doctors and corpsmen treated 1,030,266 persons for ills and injuries ranging from cuts and scratches through shrapnel wounds to tuberculosis and heart diseases.

Another 40,643 persons received dental care from Navy dentists and their corpsmen.

To combat hunger and exposure, 2,362,210 pounds of food and 103,164 pounds of clothing were distributed to needy Vietnamese. For personnel hygiene, 225,109 pounds of soap were given out.

In addition, 1,378 structures were either built or rejuvenated under the auspices of the Civic Action programs. In the majority of these, materials were furnished and local craftsmen did the actual building of the structures. This is in keeping with the Corps' concept of Civic Action as "self-help."

### Commendation

DONG HA—Corporal Rudy C. Hershberger was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" here last week, for his actions during Operation Al- legeny.

During the operation in the Dong Lam Mountains, 14 miles west of Da Nang, Hershberger's unit was pinned down by a well-entrenched enemy force.

Acting as radio operator for forward air control for "G" Co., Third Marine Regiment, Hershberger "willingly climbed a steep hill exposing himself to enemy fire to call in and observe air strikes."

The VC concentrated their fire on Hershberger when they realized he was directing the air strikes.

Hershberger fired several shots at the enemy troops killing one. He then continued his mission which was responsible in part for forcing the enemy to retreat.



### Harmless Huey

2d Lt. Lionel D. Taker, MABS-13 administrative officer, spends a moment with "Baby Huey", one of six goslings brought back from Bangkok by MABS CO LtCol. W. E. Domina. When older, Huey and his look alikes will be turned loose in the inlet that winds through the group's officers' billeting area at Chu Lai. (Photo by GySgt C. V. Stallings)

### Extensions on rise

CHU LAI—Fifty per cent of the enlisted ordnance men assigned to Marine Observation Squadron 6, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, at Ky Ha, are on voluntary extensions of their overseas tours.

Because they wanted to play a part in the actual use of the armament systems they maintain on the squadron's UH-1E helicopters, five of the ten men with the VMO-6 ordnance section elected to remain in Vietnam past their normal rotation dates.

It came about when Second Lieutenant James D. Wright, 34, of Montgomery, Ala., invited ordnance men with fixed-wing squadrons, whose rotation dates were drawing near, to extend for duty with VMO-6.

Wright, ordnance officer for VMO-6, said that the men who arm the "choppers" would get a chance to fly as aerial gunners, so they could see positive results of their labor—an opportunity not possible in fixed-wing units.

In addition to the opportunity to fly, the five are to receive 30-day leaves as part of their extension benefit.

They include: Staff Sergeant Nicholas Marinos, who plans to take his leave in the U.S. or Europe; Sergeant Dawson E. Flinchbaugh, who is taking leave to Taiwan; and Corporal Paul S. Rampon, who plans to return home for his 30 day leave.

The others are Lance Corporal Bruce T. Gossar and Corporal David T. Robinson, who have selected Japan and Thailand respectively, for their leave.

In addition to maintaining the armament systems on the squadron's "Huey" helicopters, the men of the VMO-6 ordnance section are responsible for providing aerial gunner training for other members of the unit.

### Heliborne—

(Continued From Page 1)

the high casualty count.

Jet air strikes preceded the actual raid, and armed gunships and fixed wing aircraft were used throughout the encounter in support of the ground troops.

As the company prepared to move out and be extracted by helicopters, a fierce firefight ensued with the Viet Cong. Machine gun and rocket fire from the armed choppers came within 20 meters of Marines on the ground during the two-hour battle.

It was critical that the company be extracted before dark, the captain explained, since the Viet Cong were known to be capable of massing a battalion of men in the area.

The insurgents were spread out, however, living among the people, and required from 12 to 24 hours to assemble. As it was, Capt. Carter said, there were nearly an equal number of troops on each side, during the battle. Marine casualties were moderate.

"But if we had been there this morning, without reinforcements, we'd probably have been in a rather tight situation," he said. "While the VC initially tried to flee, they were beginning to move back into the area as we left."

Captain Carter declined to name any individual heroes during the battle. "There were just a lot of people out there doing their jobs," he said.



### Ready corpsman

HM3 Donald F. Campbell (left) gets ready to leave a UH-34D helicopter of HMM-363 to help load wounded aboard, while the crew chief, LCpl. D. R. Martin, stands by to provide covering fire. Campbell was recently presented the Navy Commendation Medal for "Heroic achievement" while assigned to accompany medical evacuation flights with HMM-364 on Sept. 10, 1966.



## From Bravo, with love

A 105mm artillery round is inserted into a howitzer by PFC Gene J. Bradford, as "B" Battery, 1st Bn., Eleventh Marines readies for a fire mission against the VC. Manning the radio and giving the fire commands is Sgt. Raymond P. Jeffi, section chief. The battery fires in support of the 1st Marine Regiment, south of Da Nang.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

## Marine's first battle

PHU BAI—Marine Lance Corporal Calvin L. Richmond huddled in his fighting hole shivering in the cold rain and frigid wind.

The "I" Company, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division fire team leader had yet to fire his rifle in actual combat.

He soon got his answer. Through the haze he spotted several shadowy figures in front of his hole. He held his fire not wanting to give away his position, and glanced around to see if fellow Marines had seen the enemy.

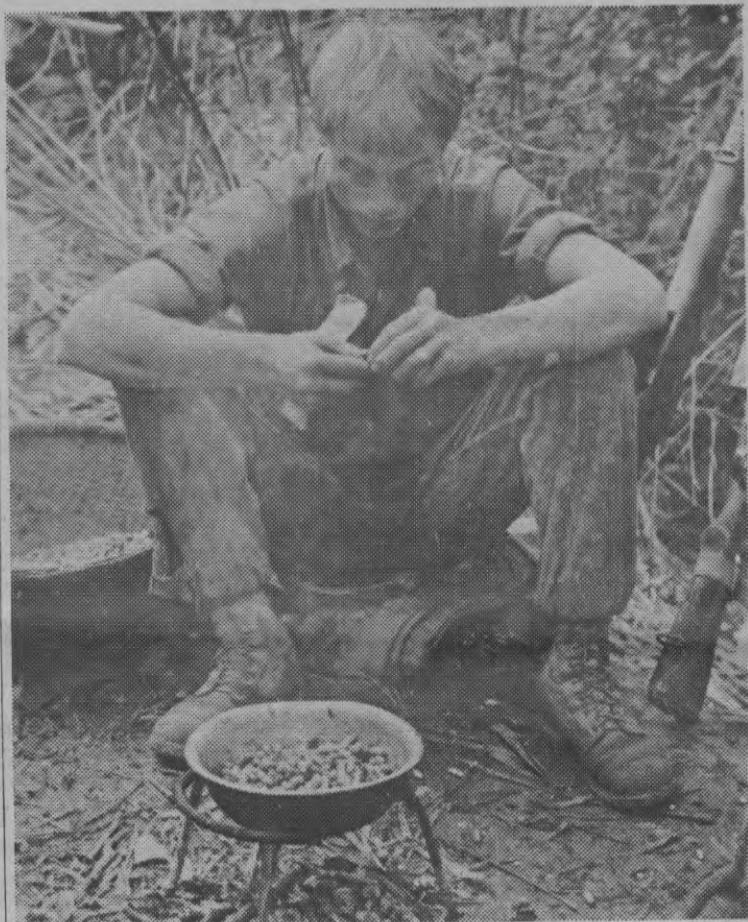
Richmond listened to the jabbering enemy soldiers and waited for the attack he knew would come.

"The grenades came first," Richmond recalled. "Then they opened fire with automatic rifles and rockets."

Suddenly the enemy soldiers mounted a series of fierce, four-man charges. Each was preceded with showers of grenades.

Richmond and his squad met the attackers with a hail of bullets to throw back enemy charges for two hours.

During the early part of the battle Richmond was wounded in the hand by a grenade fragment. He continued fighting until dawn when the enemy withdrew.



## "Feast" coming up

PFC Russell L. Lamkins roasts some peanuts during a break in a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang Jan. 11. The multi-company size operation was conducted by elements of the 3d Bn., Seventh Marines.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## Project Mimeograph Machine

DONG HA—"Project Mimeograph Machine" ended last week when 1st Battalion, Third Regiment Marines presented a hand-operated duplicating machine to the Tin Lanh mission.

The machine will be used to print Sunday school lessons, Sunday church bulletins, and eventually a local newspaper. It will be in the dialect of Montagnard villagers of the Vietnamese National Protestant Church mission at Khe Sanh, 23 miles west of Da Nang.

The "all-hands" project was instigated by the Third Regiment chaplain, Paul H. Lionberger, who first discovered the need for the machine at the mission.

On a routine visit, the chaplain spoke with American missionaries Eugenia Johnston, a teacher, and Patricia Bonnell, a nurse, who conduct classes and a clinic. They told him that when copies had to be made of bul-

lets or lessons a long drive into Hue was necessary.

The women are members of the Wycliffe Bible Translators whose missionaries travel to remote regions of the world. They live with underdeveloped tribes and help with religious needs of the natives and to translate tribal dialects into a written language.

Aided by the 1st Bn. chaplain, Michael A. Ondo, donations for the project quickly surpassed the original goal of \$325 for the machine. The amount is now nearing \$600.

All excess donations will help support the pediatric clinic set up by the battalion in Da Nang.

When the Marine delegation delivered the machine, together with a year's supply of ink and enough paper for 1,000 bulletins, the 40 Montagnard schoolchildren at the mission surprised the Marines with a gift of their own—a Christmas show.

Complete with costumes, narrators, props and carols sung in both their native Bru dialect and in English, a reenactment of the Christmas Story was staged for the 3d Division Marines.

### WM coming here

MARINE CORPS SCHOOLS, QUANTICO, Va. — Captain Vera M. Jones, commanding officer of Headquarters Company, Woman Officer School, will be the first Woman Marine officer to be assigned duty in Vietnam.

The Captain will arrive in Saigon for a one-year tour, sometime in June, where she will assume duties as officer in charge, Marine Corps Personnel Section, Personnel Management Branch, Personnel Division, with the U.S. Military Assistance Command.

Prior to being sent to Vietnam, Jones will attend the Defense Language Institute, the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., where she will take a 12-week course in Vietnamese.

Jones will be detached from Marine Corps Schools on Feb. 1 and will begin her studies at Monterey on Feb. 19.

## Hard-fought battle: with new weapons

CHU LAI—Marines and sailors of the Chu Lai area engaged in a hard fought, four-hour battle recently. Their weapons were guitars, drama and vocal music.

Winners of the fight for the title of "Best Band in the Area" was a combo from the 1st Motor Transport Battalion and 1st Engineer Battalion, called "Sounds Limited".

The group has been together since Nov. 1966. They are under direction of Sergeant Thomas C. McElwee.

Other members of the top combo are Corporal Danny J. Emerson guitarist; Lance Corporal Barry L. Albright drummer; Corporal Levan P. Ellis singer; Lance Corporal Barry B. Taepfer guitarist; Sergeant Homer L. Barlestone II singer; Corporal Michael J. Nerburn guitarist; and Lance Corporal James R. Wheeler, guitarist.

The battle was witnessed by nearly 2500 area servicemen.

Judges selected the "Seabeats" from Mobile Construction Battalion-40 as the group with the best guitarists.

Corporal Richard L. Matta from Marine Aircraft Group-13 won top honors as best singer. Matta, who recently joined MAG-13, and has performed in supper clubs throughout the Gulf Coast area. He also has made recordings under the American Recording Artists Label.

Other combos in the contest were the "Phantoms" from MAG-13, and "Meatball and the Vegetarians" from Supply Co., Force Logistics Support Group-B.

Judging the contest was a local combo, "The Deacons".

They kicked off the afternoon's entertainment with about an hour of music before assuming the judges' role. Criteria for judging was variety of music and program, music ability and technique, and audience reaction.

## Recon spots VC—

(Continued From Page 1)

deep mud toward another bamboo thicket when I saw 60 or 70 of them moving four abreast down the trail just like they were in a parade."

Sare counted more than 200 guerrillas in 20 minutes. They continued to pour down the trail carrying machineguns, mortars, ammo and other supplies. They kept coming from all directions for the next one and one-half hours. The final estimate was more than 1,000.

The radioman called in the position and nature of the sighting and the Marines settled back to await instructions.

While they waited, an enemy flank patrol came dangerously close and they had to steal quietly and quickly through the foliage to avoid detection.

About 45 minutes later they received a message to move east quickly.

They moved about 1,000 yards to a stream and were about to cross when they heard artillery.

"We heard the rounds whistle

overhead and didn't waste any time diving into the stream," recalled Hospitalman Roger C. Wines, "We stayed there with our faces buried in the bank for about an hour while the artillery plastered the area on both sides of the stream," he said.

While they were in the stream they could hear the excited talk of enemy soldiers who had also taken refuge in the stream about 30 yards away around a bend.

There was a short break in the artillery barrage and they crept up the bank to a new shelter. They found a large mud hole near the stream and settled down for a third cold, wet night.

Marine and ARVN artillery and Marine air strikes continued to smother the enemy masses throughout the rest of the night.

A heavy fog and enemy patrols prevented an accurate assessment of enemy casualties from the previous night. They spent a fourth cold and wet night, after a dinner of taro roots dug from a nearby vegetable patch.

The next afternoon "L" Co., Twenty-Sixth Marines met them and led them back to the Operation Chinook area — a 15 mile march.



## Australians entertain

BGen. W. A. Stiles (center), CG, Task Force X-Ray, meets the members of an Australian USO troupe that gave two performances at Chu Lai Dec. 30. From left are: Terry Scanlon, Patricia Burke, (performer third from left unidentified), General Stiles, Sheryl Blake and Mike Lawler, John Hayton and Leon Isackson.



## Stopping the Viet Cong

Privates First Class John J. Schindo 20, the gunner, and his assistant, Robert N. Straithe, 22, strafe Viet Cong trying to escape across the river during a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang on Jan. 11. Both are members of "M" Co., 3d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st Marine Division. (Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## Marine enlisted, commissioned, retired—now back on active duty as enlisted pilot

By GySgt. C.V. Stallings

CHU LAI—Master Gunnery Sergeant Joseph J. Quinn, of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-13, Marine Air Group-13, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, has been a master sergeant five times, yet has never been "busted;" was commissioned twice; retired once; and has logged more than 4,000 flight hours as a Marine Corps pilot.

Quinn is one of the nine enlisted Marines on active duty (four serving in RVN) who wear the wings of a Naval Aviator.

Now in his second month in Vietnam, he pilots a C-117 passenger-cargo plane from his home base at Chu Lai.

Quinn began his Marine Corps career in 1941. Before being selected for flight training, he served as a rear seat gunner in an OS-2 patrol plane, flying out of the Virgin Islands.

In 1946, as a master sergeant, he graduated from flight training, was designated a Naval Aviator receiving the gold bars of a second lieutenant.

A year later he was reverted to master sergeant, then technical sergeant, due to the reduction in strength in the Marine Corps.

In 1950, Quinn was promoted to master sergeant again (for the third time) and a year later arrived in Korea, where he won a Distinguished Flying Cross and three Air Medals flying combat missions while flying a F7F night-fighter.

In 1952, he was commissioned a second lieutenant for the second time and was later promoted to first lieutenant. In 1957 he was again reverted to master sergeant.

"I would have bet this was the last time I'd be a master sergeant," said Quinn, "but it's a

good thing I didn't. When the Marine Corps revamped its enlisted rank structure I made master sergeant again, this time as an E-8."

In 1960 he was advanced to master gunnery sergeant.

A year later, following 20 years of active service, Quinn transferred to the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, and went to work for the Federal Aeronautics Administration in Memphis.

With the build-up of the war in Vietnam, he began to "get the itch" to get back on active duty. He volunteered to return to active duty and was accepted.

"I had a good job and no complaints," said Quinn, "but I wasn't flying, and that's what I know best. I also knew the Marine Corps needed pilots, and I guess I sort of felt obligated."

Quinn, whose wife and six children reside in Memphis, added he has a son who plans to enter the Marine Corps in a few months.

"Who knows," he remarked, "I just might run into him over here. Wouldn't it be something to have him as a crew member in my plane."

### 311 night mission

CHU LAI—Two Marine Attack Squadron-311 pilots destroyed 42 structures during a strike on a Viet Cong stronghold 20 miles southwest of Da Nang.

Captain "Butch" C. Miller and First Lieutenant Don Beary, flew the night mission by radar.

The A4C "Skyhawk" pilots, in two passes each, were credited with killing seven Viet Cong and causing numerous cave-ins in addition to destroying the structures.

**ADD ZIP  
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ENLISTED PILOT—MGySgt. Joseph J. Quinn sits at the controls of the C-117 passenger-cargo plane he flies from his home base at Chu Lai. (Photo by GySgt. C. V. Stallings)



# SPORTS

## Late Basketball Scores Compiled From Wire Services Saturday Night

EAST	
Cornell 74	Columbia 40
Penn St. 102	W. Virginia 99
Colgate 86	Lafayette 71
Western Ky. 95	LaSalle 86
Southampton 102	Kings Point 98
Army 72	Dartmouth 44
St. John's 95	Pittsburgh 66
Wagner 97	Lycoming 87
Rider 73	Fairfield 70
Bridgeport 63	Westchester 49
Seton Hall 81	Iona 74 (Ovt.)
Trenton St. 94	Newark Coll. 71
St. Peter's 75	Manhattan 73
Monmouth (N.J.) 83	Marist 61
Connecticut 67	Fordham 66
California (Pa.) 98	W. Liberty 89
Alliance (Pa.) 81	Geneva 80
Wayneburg 77	St. Vincent 76
Millersville 90	Elizabethtown 86
Broome Tech 94	Alfred 59
Albright 77	Scranton 63
Bentley 119	Babson 62
Hawthorne 91	SE Mass. Tech 84
Windham 77	St. Francis (Me.) 66
Fairfield 70	Bridgeport 63
Oberlin 99	Allegany 47
Central Conn. 109	St. Michael's 96
New Hampshire 101	Vermont 74
East. Nazarene 74	Gordon 73
Holy Cross 70	Springfield 64
Waynesburg 77	St. Vincent 76

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### Takes care of friends

LCpl. Edward G. Harrington hands out soap to a group of Vietnamese children deep in Viet Cong territory, southwest of Da Nang. He was participating in a search and destroy mission when his unit, 3d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st MarDiv, stopped for a rest in the hamlet. (Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## CMC presents DFC to three

CHU LAI — The Distinguished Flying Cross was presented to three members of Marine Aircraft Group-36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, by General Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, Jan. 8.

Receiving the awards were Majors Rawley M. Gregory and William E. Dodds, and Captain Clyde O. Childress.

As executive officer, Marine Observation Squadron-6, Gregory, led a flight of UH-1E helicopters on escort missions for troop-lifts and medical evacuation missions during Operation Colorado.

In one six-hour period he repeatedly "braved intense fire" to deliver ordnance against well-entrenched enemy forces. At night, despite adverse weather

conditions, Gregory directed aircraft illuminating the area with flares, and coordinated helicopter airlifts of troops in the zone.

Dodds, assistant operations officer for VMO-6, received the award for his actions during the same operation, which took place near Tam Ky, Quang Ngai Province, Aug. 10.

As Tactical Aircraft Controller, Dodds repeatedly exposed his craft to hostile fire, while directing fixed-wing aircraft attacks, supporting Marine ground units.

At night Dodds also flew as escort for troop-lifts and medical evacuation missions, providing covering fire until all wounded personnel had been evacuated.

Childress received the medal for heroism during Operation Hastings, near Dong Ha, July 18.

The captain, a pilot with VMO-6, was flying in support of a special landing force during the operation, when ground elements became pinned down by heavy enemy fire. Childress made numerous aerial attacks against the enemy positions, despite several hits on his craft.

As a result of the accuracy of fire by Childress, the ground forces were able to maneuver for better positions and gain fire superiority.

### Dental Society to be formed

DA NANG — More than 55 Air Force and Navy dental officers attended the first scientific meeting to take place in Vietnam last week.

The program was under the auspices of the 3d Marine Division's 3d Dental Company, commanded by Navy Captain Louis H. Cordonier. The meeting was a forerunner to the expected formation of an I Corps Dental Society.

Navy Commander Bill C. Terry, an oral surgeon assigned to the hospital ship USS REPOSE discussed dental-surgical aspects of facial wounds in Vietnam.

Opening remarks were delivered by Cordonier and Captain K.L. Morgan, III Marine Amphibious Force dental officer.



### Teamwork

LCpl. Donald C. Schloss, 2d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st MarDiv., places a 25-pound bag of captured VC rice on the shoulder of a Vietnamese refugee during a search and destroy operation south of Chu Lai. More than two tons of rice was uncovered in a large cave. Vietnamese were flown in to carry it out for distribution at their refugee center. (Photo by LCpl. Ronald Lowes)

## Short Rounds

### New Calif. law

If you're planning on "living it up" when you get back to California and you're under 21 and plan to use a car, here's a word of caution from state officials:

"A new California law which went into effect on December 1, 1966 states that no person under the age of 21 shall knowingly possess, transport, or have under his control in any motor vehicle any alcoholic beverage, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. The only other alternative is if the minor has an Alcoholic Control Board license. The penalty for violation of the law will be the impounding of the vehicle for not less than one day, nor more than 30 days—at the owner's expense. "This law applies to Marines under the age of 21 as well as any other minors."

loading of supplies aboard the helicopters, making sure each "bird" is not overloaded.

"I enjoy working with 'choppers,' and my loadmaster duties are probably the most enjoyable of all my jobs," he explained.

### Close shave

DA NANG—While on a scramble mission eight miles south of the airfield, Captain James A. LaRue's F8E Crusader jet was hit by a Viet Cong .50 caliber bullet.

It ricocheted off the left front wind screen of the Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron-232's plane.

LaRue was on his fourth pass over a treeline near the Vinh Dien river. His first two passes were strafing runs with 20 millimeter cannons.

On his last rocket pass he heard a sharp crack just after releasing his rockets from their pod.

"Although my helmet viser was covered with shattered glass my first reaction was my instruments," LaRue said. "When I discovered that they were working properly I radioed the flight leader that I was hit and returning to the field."

The strike accounted for four Viet Cong killed.

### Social security

An increase in Social Security payroll deductions to 4.4 percent from 4.2 of taxable income began January 1, as the second in eight projected boosts to cover added costs of medicare.

Increases will continue until a 5.65 percentage is reached in 1987.

Along with each monthly increased percentage is a higher annual cutoff figure.

The higher rates began in 1963 with a 3.625 percentage and an annual maximum of \$174. In 1966 it went to 4.2 percent and \$277.20 maximum. It will be 4.4 percent and \$290.40 in 1967-68, and 4.9 percent and \$323.40 for 1969-72.

### Jinx

DA NANG — Captain William Barnes Jr., and Lance Corporal Allen Handcock, are avoiding each other these days.

There is no hard feeling between the pilot and crew chief from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263, but they seem to bring each other bad luck.

Twice, while flying together on medical evacuation missions near Da Nang, they had close calls when their UH-34D helicopter was hit by enemy ground fire.

On December 6, they were shot down and spent two hours with Marine ground forces before a rescue helicopter could pull them out. Their plane was recovered and repaired and on January 4, they set out together once more.

Again they received enemy fire but were able to remain airborne. Capt. Barnes nursed the crippled chopper to the Da Nang Air Base where he made an emergency landing.

Coincidence between the two flights made the Marines wonder if they might be jinxed.

### "Magpie"

KY HA—Marine Aircraft Group-36's adjutant is a busy man.

Though his primary job is group adjutant, Captain Henry W. Tutterow, Jr. finds time to serve as MAG-36's career advisory, legal, education, and personnel affairs officer.

"During my spare time I stay busy writing, editing, typing and publishing the group's newspaper, the 'Magpie,'" explained the busy captain. Three editions of the "Magpie" are distributed to MAG-36 Marines each week, thanks to Capt. Tutterow.

The captain also spends many hours in the Chu Lai area boondocks serving as a helicopter "loadmaster." He supervises the

DA NANG — The daring rescue of a downed Marine helicopter, chilling rains, flooded streams and muddy trails occupied Marines during an operation which terminated Jan. 9, 40 miles south of Da Nang in the area known as "Antenna Valley".

On Jan. 7, one of two resupply helicopters was shot down by Viet Cong sniper fire approximately five miles southwest of An Hoa.

Major Charles E. Dorffeld, pilot of the lead helicopter, immediately landed beside the downed craft under intensive ground fire and picked up the crew.

"We were only on the ground about one minute before the Major dropped down to pick us up," First Lieutenant Leonard J. Mazzoni, pilot of the downed chopper said. "We were sure glad to see him."

One Viet Cong was killed and one captured during the five-day operation.

Marine casualties were light.



### This is the way

Mothers of Hoa Thanh hamlet get instructions on proper baby care from HM3 Charles E. Wilkinson. Following the demonstration, 30 women received baby kits containing oil, powder, soap and lotion, donated by an American manufacturer and distributed by the 3d Bn., Ninth Marines, 1stMarDiv.

## DOD reaffirms U.S. position on North Vietnam air strikes

The Department of Defense has reaffirmed this country's position that no U.S. aircraft have been ordered to strike any civilian targets in North Vietnam at any time.

A statement, signed by Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) Phil Goulding, disclosed that all reasonable care is taken to avoid civilian casualties.

He said U.S. policy is to program military targets only, and there has been no deviation from this policy.

"We have no knowledge that any pilot has disobeyed his orders," Goulding stated, "nor deliberately attacked dikes or any other non-military targets in North Vietnam."

"It is impossible to avoid all damage to civilian areas," he continued, "particularly in view of the concerted effort of the North Vietnamese to emplace anti-aircraft and critical military targets among the civilian population."

"In view of the great strength of U.S. air power, it is patently obvious that the damage would

## Three different wars same Marine officer

By: LCpl. Woody Price

CHU LAI—Three different wars in which U.S. forces have participated found Chief Warrant Officer John V. Cox, ready to leave his civilian occupation to serve his country.

He is serving as briefing officer with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 165 at Ky Ha.

His first taste of military life came in 1931 when he left the Marshall News, a weekly newspaper business his father left him, to join the Army Air Corps. He was 18-years-old at the time.

He served as an aerial photographer until discharged as a corporal in May 1937. Cox then worked with an aerial survey team in Texas prior to being employed by the Army Intelligence Service in 1940.

In June 1943, he entered the Marine Corps as a warrant officer in an aerial photography specialists' program. He was instrumental in establishing the first Marine aerial photo unit at Cherry Point, N.C., and served with that unit until ordered to Guam in 1945.

Cox remained in the Marine Corps Reserve following his release from active duty in Jan. 1946. He joined the topographic Division of the Department of the Interior's Geological Survey section.

Assigned to Denver, Colo., with the survey unit, he became a member of Marine Fighter Squadron 236 when that reserve unit was formed in 1949.

When VMF-236 was called to duty in Nov. 1950, CWO Cox left the civil service to serve as an intelligence officer with carrier-based squadrons operating off the coast of Korea. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal.

Again released from active duty, Cox resumed his work with the geological survey unit in July 1953.

Last June, at 55, Cox left his post with the Department of the Interior when his request for active duty was approved, and was assigned to HMM-165 at El Toro, Calif.

Cox has more than 23 years as a Marine reservist, 13 on active duty. His 18 years of Civil Service gives him a total of more than 31 years as a government employee.

### Memorial Club

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

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



### Pair of dolls

A Vietnamese girl holds a doll donated by the people of Oriskany Falls, N.Y. area. LtCol. Kurt L. Hoch, base coordinator at Dong Ha, delivered the doll which came from his home town, along with other gifts. (Photo by Sgt. G. E. Jones)

## The Unknown Soldier —from a Swiss view

(This editorial appeared in the Swiss Army magazine, *Der Schweizer Soldat* (The Swiss Soldier) 31 March 1963. Translation by Mr. K. F. Kempf, Curator of the Ordnance Museum, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and published in the December 1966 issue of the Army Digest.)

During last August and September I was able to visit the United States of America for a few weeks. None of my readers should be surprised that I took every opportunity to speak with members of the American armed forces and visit those places which have played an important role in American history. I saw West Point, the oldest and most important officers' school of the country, and I stood in the famous Arlington Cemetery, where the common soldier lies next to the great military leaders, where the grave stones for the highest and lowest rank are all identical and, in democratic simplicity, bear only the name of the deceased.

It was on a hot, sunny September day that I stood with hundreds of visitors from all states of the country at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and was moved by the sober yet exceedingly impressive ceremony of the changing of the guard.

Day and night, year-in, year-out, the finest soldiers of the Army stand guard for their unknown comrade. They wear the perfectly fitting and painstakingly clean dress uniform. The rifle is shouldered. The guard marches back and forth continuously in a special, quick step on the short, narrow path in front of the tomb.

And when he has reached one end he halts at attention. Then follows the precise, drill-manual execution of the about face. This is a remarkable performance of body control and strength of will. The hourly or two-hourly (according to the season of the year) guard change is conducted by a sergeant. Sharply, with few, short movements he inspects the new guard standing at attention. Then he steps in front of the monument and turns toward the attentive visitors who momentarily are silent. While cameras click and movie cameras hum, he explains briefly in a clear voice why the Honor Guard

stands at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is a brief but stirring patriotic talk.

Then the simple, military ceremony proceeds, without music, without drum roll, in complete silence and with an unexcelled precision.

When a reader wrote in and criticized the "Swiss Soldier" magazine and suggested that in order to forget the danger of Communism the USA would abandon Europe in case of a war. "Not only that," continued the reader, "the Americans sooner or later will make a deal with the Russians and we West Europeans will be the sacrifice."

As I read this absurd statement, the picture of the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington came back to mind. Again I could see the moved faces of the women, men and children who were watching the changing of the guard. I saw once more the long rows of grave stones and saw once more the huge fields of white crosses of the American cemeteries in Europe.

I remembered that it had been the Americans who sealed the fate of the armies of the German emperor; that it had been the Americans who, with unheard-of sacrifice in blood, aided the cause of freedom in the Second World War; that it had been the Americans who established the airlift for brave Berlin; that it had been the Americans who bore the brunt of the war in Korea; that it is the Americans who with men and money (with the American taxpayer's money) strengthen the position of the free world; that it is the Americans who commit the lives of their soldiers in the crises spots around the world; and that without the Americans, West Europe, the greater portion of Asia and a good portion of Africa would have long suffered under the red Gessler\* hat.

Clearly the Americans do this or that in their own interest also, but in pursuing their own interest they are defending and protecting everyone in the free world—our country included.

These facts which no one can dispute who knows the lessons of recent history and who follows current world events. It was the Americans who put out the fire started by the Communists in Cuba, and it is the Americans who, despite West European disunity, build and strengthen Europe's position with perseverance and patience.

That we Swiss are still free and have neither had to fight a war for more than a hundred years nor endure foreign domination, is due in great part to those thousands of young American soldiers who have given their lives and will yet give their lives and for whom the Unknown Soldier in the Arlington Cemetery at Washington has become a symbol.

Perhaps not everything the Americans do and allow is good, but that is outweighed by the fact that without them the free world would not stand a chance today to enjoy that which we consider good and valuable.

That the polemical reader did not consider that places him in the category of a shallow critic. \*Note. Gessler is a symbol of oppression to the Swiss. He was the Austrian governor when the Swiss were fighting for their independence from Hapsburgs.



### Team of mortar men

A team of mortar men from "I" Co., 3d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st MarDiv, set up their mortar during a pause in a search and destroy operation southwest of Da Nang.  
(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## No sound of shot fired as chopper hits ground

By Sgt. P. L. Thompson  
PHU BAI—Four members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163 had their UH-34D shot out of the sky and never even heard a round fired.

On a resupply mission near Dong Ha, Vietnam, the HMM-163 chopper, carrying an external load, hovered near the side of a cliff and dropped its cargo.

"All of a sudden the blades

were not making any sound and we started going lower," said Sergeant George E. Williams, the crew chief. He went on to say that the chopper settled down on a large outcropping of rock that started ripping a hole in the underside of the plane.

"I yelled to the pilot to bring it up," said Williams. "When we reached an altitude of about fifteen feet the whole tail section of the aircraft came off and the chopper started spinning.

"We spun some 15 times before we hit the ground," said Williams. At this point the pilot, Major Peter N. Samaras, forced the controls to pin the chopper to the ground.

"The plane stood still for a moment and then crashed over on its left side just a few feet from the cliff," Williams recalled.

Later that day a maintenance crew from HMM-163 went into the zone to salvage some of the UH-34D's equipment. In part of a blade they found bullet holes. "It must have been the bullets that knocked us out of control," said Williams. He added they never knew they had been fired upon.

### Wayward shells

DONG HA—During a mortar barrage on "Payable" Hill near the Rockpile Dec. 28, 3rd Battalion, Third Regiment Marine received approximately 110 enemy rounds, among them at least seven 120 mm rounds.

One of the 120 mm rounds struck near the ammo dump, but failed to explode. It buried itself 10 feet below the surface.

This shell was recovered by an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team consisting of WO F. Ehrenreich and Staff Sergeant Donald R. Nielson after six hours of digging.

It is only the second of these 35-pound projectiles to be recovered in the country. The first was recovered last September in a position occupied by 1st Bn., Fourth Marine Regiment near the Rockpile.

When the round hit, the fuse was knocked off. The shell then followed a rock fault down before coming to rest. The fuse continued five feet beyond the remainder of the shell.



### He's a hero

Woton, a German police scout dog, 1st MP Bn., 1st MarDiv, is a hero in the eyes of 1st Recon Bn. Marines. They credit the dog with saving them from ambushes six times during patrols deep in VC territory. PFC Nicholas J. Wills, his handler, was with Woton, Dec. 30 when the dog was wounded after he had warned the patrol of an ambush.  
(Photo by Cpl. D. D. Linton)

## His only concern: a Marine is hurt

By 2d Lt. C. B. Tyler

CHU LAI—CORPSMAN UP . . . !!! Hospitalman Third Class Gerald J. Borel raced through the night, ignoring the bullets and grenades of a firefight between Marine and Viet Cong.

A Marine was hurt, that was all that mattered.

Borel is the senior corpsman for Echo Company, 2d Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. His job is to save lives—no matter what danger he faces.

He reached the wounded man—shrapnel. Bullets and grenade fragments tore through the air around him as he treated the wound. As he finished another cry was passed down the line: "Corpsman . . . !!!"

Borel made another wild sprint through the heavy fire and reached the disabled Marine.

Then another man was hit.

The Viet Cong were attempting to destroy a machine gun position, set up in a small hamlet 15 miles south of Quang Ngai. They attacked just before midnight with automatic weapons and grenades and were finally

repulsed by Marines rushing into the fight.

Two VC were killed—three Marines were wounded, none of them seriously.

Borel stayed with them until they were evacuated by a helicopter to the 1st Medical Battalion at Chu Lai.

The next day was more of the same.

Echo moved out of the hamlet towards other objectives. Snipers opened up and two Marines fell wounded.

Borel was up and running through the fire, with another corpsman right on his heels, HM Verl H. Matthews.



THE "DOC"—HM3 Gerald J. Borel treats a Marine's injured hand. Borel is the senior corpsman for "E" Co. 2d Bn., Seventh Marines.  
(Photo by Sgt. L. E. Lenin)

### MAG-36's utility section

CHU LAI—The responsibility of providing Marine Aircraft Group-36 Marines with living and working quarters, fresh water, and electric power, rests on the shoulders of the group's utilities section.

The utilities section is comprised of five separate departments. Each department is assigned specific duties in carrying out the section's mission.

The heavy equipment department utilizes various machinery in maintaining the Ky Ha airstrip, roads, construction sites, and the leveling of land.

All of the more than 250 buildings located throughout the camp-site were constructed by carpenter shop personnel.

To provide the air facility with electric power, the unit's generators are maintained by personnel of the electric shop.

"We have installed more than

400,000 feet of electric cable and have put up more than 250 telephone poles," Gunnery Sergeant Richard Robertson, and non-commissioned officer in charge of the section, stated.

The drinking and bathing water for the local Marines is purified by the unit personnel. Each day there are more than 77,000 gallons of water pumped through 9,000 feet of pipe, which was installed by the members of the plumbing shop.

The base laundry also falls under the command of the utilities section.

"We wash and dry more than 30,000 pounds of clothing a day," said the NCOIC, Gunnery Sergeant C. Howell.

"My men work seven days a week and are doing an outstanding job," stated the section's officer-in-charge, CWO-2 Joseph Backo.

# Walk in rain ends with swim in river

By: 2dLt. John P. Novak

CHU LAI—It started out as just a "walk in the rain." But on the first day of a current search and destroy operation, being conducted by "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division northwest of Chu Lai, the "walk" turned out to be a fight against the forces of nature.

Shortly after leaving their combat base Jan. 2, the company encountered the first of many obstacles they were to face during this first week, the Ba Tuc River.

Swollen to new depths and widths by the monsoon rains which were even then pouring down, the river had to be crossed if the operation were to proceed as scheduled.

Without hesitation, the "A" Company commander, First Lieutenant Arthur Blades, shed his combat gear and dove into the raging torrent and attempted to swim across. He was swept downstream and his first try proved unsuccessful.

Choosing a new spot he again dove into the chilly waters. This time he battled his way to the other side. He carried a line with him and when the opposite end was secured it acted as a safety line for the Marines that were to follow.

Within minutes, eight Marines made their way across, inching hand over hand on the safety line, using brute strength to keep from being swept down by surging waters. The ninth Marine was about a third of the way across when he was swept under the line and down the river.

Immediately, other Marines went to his aid and managed to pull him safely to the river bank. When another Marine was almost swept away the commanding officer decided to look for another spot to cross further up river.

The 10 Marines that had successfully crossed the river moved up river, following the balance of the company on the opposite bank. A crossing was found and shortly afterwards the company was reunited and the operation resumed.



ALL WET—Marines from "A" Co. 1st Bn., Fifth Marines, strain to hold a line taut while one of their buddies comes across a rain swollen river during a search and destroy operation conducted northwest of Chu Lai.

(Photo by LCpl. Roger Van Druff)

## Okinawa medevac call picked up in Vietnam

A request for an emergency medical evacuation crackled over the radio at Con Thien outpost near the DMZ.

A Marine in the field had been bitten by a snake that was thought to be of the pit viper family and needed assistance. However, the snake bite victim was on Okinawa, not in Vietnam.

Through a fluke in the airwaves, Major Jimmy Hicks, took the call on his radio from more than 1,500 miles away.

Hicks, an advisor with a Vietnamese Army artillery battery, knew the call sign was not that of a Vietnam-based unit. He then started a return message on its way to Camp Butler, Okinawa. The message for help was relayed to the 12th Marine command post and from there to III MAF headquarters in Da Nang.

The III MAF duty officer called Okinawa to complete the unusual chain of events.

However, the snake bite victim, Private First Class Charles L. Mellinson, was all ready receiving medical assistance by the

time the call was completed.

His unit, Third Battalion, 12th Marines, was conducting a field exercise when he was bitten on the back of the left wrist. The incident occurred just 200 yards from base camp, where he was immediately taken.

The unit's radio operator, Lance Corporal Paul E. Mefferd, was intending to pass word of the incident to base camp when the freak transmission occurred.

In a message to III MAF, officials at Camp Butler praised Maj. Hicks and the III MAF staff duty officer for "prompt response to what could have been a tragic incident."



## Captured VC supplies

Hospitalman Corpsman William J. Boatman (right) and PFC Larry E. Pancaky sort out medical supplies captured in a VC controlled hamlet southwest of Da Nang Jan. 11. Both are members of 3d Bn., Seventh Marines, 1stMarDiv engaged in a multi-company search and destroy mission.

(Photo by Cpl. W. E. McDonald)

## Rescue teams prevent loss of aircraft to enemy hands

By: Cpl. Mike Saska

DONG HA—Five men huddle together in a CH-46 "Sea Knight" helicopter as it lifts off from Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Forward). The wind bites through their field jackets as they look downward through an open hatch in the floor of the helicopter.

Each of them will pass through that opening in a few minutes. A crew chief adjusts a harness that will lower the men to the ground.

The five men, comprising a helicopter rescue team from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-163, are on their way to retrieve a squadron UH-34 helicopter that had a power failure and crashed while making a resupply drop to Marine ground forces eight miles west of Dong Ha the previous day.

As the pilot hovers some 40 feet over the twisted wreck, the crew chief adjusts the harness again and the first man to be lowered, Gunnery Sergeant Paul E. France, a maintenance control chief, begins the descent.

Within a few minutes the remaining team-members; Staff Sergeant Harold D. Testerman, and Lawrence P. Scheeter, both section leaders; Sergeant Hal A. Clark, a helicopter mechanic; and Corporal James P. Byer a hydraulics mechanic, are on the ground. With them comes their equipment including a tool box, sledge hammer, braces and a rescue hook-up.

Following a briefing by ground forces as to the situation in the surrounding area the rescue team goes to work. Each man moves to a separate area of the aircraft and begins stripping it of readily removable salvage material in order to lighten the load for the helicopter that will lift it from the area.

Rotor blades, radios, engine and

### NUC for VMCI-1

DA NANG—Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron One First Marine Aircraft Wing, was presented the Navy Unit Commendation by General Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, during his tour of Vietnam.

The unit, which operates jet aircraft on reconnaissance missions, was cited for this actions over North Vietnam during the period from April 17, 1965 to Nov. 1, 1965.

Flying in support of Navy and Air Force missions, the squadron was credited with being a vital factor in the success of those missions.

other vital equipment are quickly removed. Caution must be used in and around the aircraft due to the fire hazard presented by broken fuel lines and tanks.

Within hours the downed helicopter is ready to be heli-lifted out. But in this case another problem presented itself... insufficient clearing to allow the rescue helicopter an approach avenue. With the help of ground troops, small trees are cut away

and larger ones blown up. Soon the area is accessible.

Once the stricken aircraft is lifted from the area and on its way back to MAG-16 (Forward), another helicopter arrives to remove the remaining equipment and the five man rescue team who, once again, have accomplished their mission of preventing possible loss of an aircraft and valuable equipment to the enemy.

## Marine ambush nets four loudmouth VC

By: LCpl. L.L. Carson

DA NANG—Four heavily armed North Vietnamese soldiers fell into a Marine ambush, because they talked too much.

A squad-sized patrol from the "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division, was moving down a jungle trail three miles southwest of Da Nang when they stopped because of a deadfall across the path.

Suddenly the point man heard voices coming from a house near the trail. He called the squad leader, Corporal Pierre A. Corneau and the Vietnamese Scout, Staff Sergeant Tran Trung Dung.

"Dung listened to the talk for a few minutes and started gesturing and saying VC, VC," said Corneau.

"The rest happened quickly. I called for two men as there were only the three of us near the Viet Cong.

"Before we could get ready the VC ran out of the house. We dropped where we were and waited for them to cross our sights," Corneau said he and the point were the first to open up, then the rest of the patrol joined them.

Corporal David G. Adams was in the rear of the column reporting the deadfall on the radio when the VC were sighted. He made

his way to the front of the column. "I saw the VC at the same time I heard the point open up on them, I dropped to the ground and started firing," he said.

"The Viet Cong didn't have a chance to return one shot," said Corneau. We caught them completely by surprise.

As the Leathernecks searched the area they found weapons, grenades, documents and both South Vietnamese and North Vietnamese money.

"They were dressed in uniforms and very well equipped. They had letter writing gear and accessories which indicated that they were far from home. From the uniforms we determined that they were North Vietnamese soldiers," said Corneau.



**He's not fishing**

Pvt. Fred Cambell secures a rope to a grappling hook which is used in pulling booby-trapped barbed wire from the path of advancing Marines. Cambell is from "H" Co., 2d Bn., First Marines. (Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

## MAG-16 Civic Action still big program in 67

DA NANG.—In May 1966, ground Marines swept through Son Thuy Hamlet two miles east of here.

Enemy contact was light.

After the hamlet was secured, Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-16 Marines began a project which is still in progress.

Civic Action team from the nearby helicopter group commenced distributing clothing, soap and medical supplies to the needy villagers.

Despite sporadic harassment from Viet Cong, Marines succeeded in helping Vietnamese build a dispensary, school and other projects.

To bolster the people's confidence, Marines provided the hamlet with police protection and an advisor.

More MAG-16 volunteers became interested in Civic Action, lending their efforts on a part-time basis. Gradually the program snowballed until now it encompasses a five mile area around Marble Mountain.

Within this area is Hon Long

### Change over

DA NANG—An end to the static in the 1st Marine Division telephone communication system is the goal of the wire platoon, 7th Communication Battalion.

With nearly 32 miles of wire strung, the battalion is putting the finishing touch on a completely new system.

"Operation change-over" began Oct. 25. The original field wire is being replaced by polyethylene cable.

"We call this the second stage of field communications," said Sergeant Adam D. Schulacher. "Field wire is set up hastily and is never intended to be permanent."

Village which is comprised of six hamlets including Son Thuy. Officials estimate pacification now envelops more than 90 per cent of the area's 9,000 Vietnamese.

About 2,800 lbs. of clothing, and more than 6,800 bars of soap have been distributed throughout Hon Long by volunteer Leathernecks. Scrap wood in excess of 16 truckloads, along with 28 tons of cement have been contributed.

Schools have been built offering classes in English to help Vietnamese-American communications. Shelter has been provided for hundreds of Vietnamese youngsters left without parents as a result of war.

Latest additions to the village are an irrigation system, two wells, and a shower unit.

Civic Action, besides improving Vietnamese living standards, has been a formidable obstacle to the Viet Cong. Without the villagers' support, Viet Cong efforts in the area have become less effective.

A new phase in the Civic Action program is the Vietnamese-American Cultural Association (VACA) located in Da Nang. Mission of the VACA is to provide educational materials and cultural guidance for Vietnamese. Its main aim is to lower the language barrier between Vietnamese and Americans.

Accomplishments of this sort marked Marines' success in Civic Action for 1966.

According to MAG-16 volunteers, 1967 figures to top last year.

## Transition from "new men" to "old salt" comes quickly

By: Cpl. David Hines

DA NANG—Daily, Marines fresh from boot camp and the United States, filter into infantry battalions in the 1st Marine Division. They bring with them feelings of excitement at being in a war for the first time, and pride at being a Marine.

Eagerly they await their first patrol, their first contact with the Viet Cong.

Then comes the day they have waited and sweated for—the day they seek out their first Viet Cong.

Private First Class Richard G. Bazaco is new in Vietnam. He entered the Marine Corps in July, 1966 and arrived in Vietnam the last week of November.

On Jan. 6 he made his first patrol. He prepared for it carefully, wondering if contact would be made, or if it would turn out just another wet walk, as the "veterans" called it.

He moved out with platoon from "C" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marine and headed north.

Throughout most of the day the Marines received sporadic sniper fire, but nothing big or real threatening.

Later in the day Bazaco had the opportunity to see his first action as a combat Marine in Vietnam.

As the platoon started across a rice paddy dike, the point man spotted Viet Cong running away from them, across the paddies.

He hollered for them to stop. They disregarded his warning and continued to run, heading for the treeline on the other side of the paddies.

The Marines opened fire, killing one and wounding another. The third continued to run and made it to the treeline.

After insuring that they were not walking into a trap, the Marines began searching the hamlet just inside the treeline.

Hunched with an elderly lady and some children was the pant-

ing communist. They immediately apprehended him and began questioning.

Under interrogation, the Viet Cong gave them names of other VC in the vicinity. It turned into a very profitable patrol.

"I am amazed at how quickly and smoothly the battle and pursuit was pulled off," Bazaco said. "They did it with little risk and a lot of precision."

Bazaco is no longer the "new man," but now a tested veteran. The 18-year-old Leatherneck is anxiously awaiting his next encounter with "Charlie."

He probably won't have long to wait.

## U.S. Army "Duster" unit attached to 3rd Mar Div

It's a long way from Fort Bliss, Texas and the Oro Grande, New Mexico desert training area, but the 1st Battalion (Automatic Weapons) (Self Propelled) of the 44th Artillery Regiment made it.

The Army battalion is now settled in the Dong Ha base perimeter and adds its tremendous firepower to the 3d Marine Division. The battalion is unique in that it has the "Ocelots" of Battery G, (50 CAL MG) 65th Artillery attached as a machine-gun element.

The battalion has had a long and proud heritage of the 44th Artillery which it now carries to the DMZ. Twenty-six battle streamers and two presidential citations add body to the battalion colors; ranging from World War I through World War II campaigns and the Korean Conflict.

Reactivation at Fort Bliss, Texas, in March 1966 was followed by intensive basic and advanced unit training at Oro Grande Range Camp, neighboring White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, in preparation for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

The 44th brings into combat weapons that have been re-established in the Army arsenal; M42, twin 40mm gun, mounted on a light track chassis, with latest modifications, and M55, 50 Caliber (Quad 50) mount machine-guns. The M42 has been known as

the "DUSTER" since its conception, and has proved the title well earned in dry weather. The M55 "Quad" type machinegun earned the title "WHISPERING DEATH" from the Chinese Communists

during the Korean Conflict. Both have a tremendous firepower as a ground support weapon and still maintain the ability to fire against low level air targets in the Dong Ha base defense.



**Mortar mender**

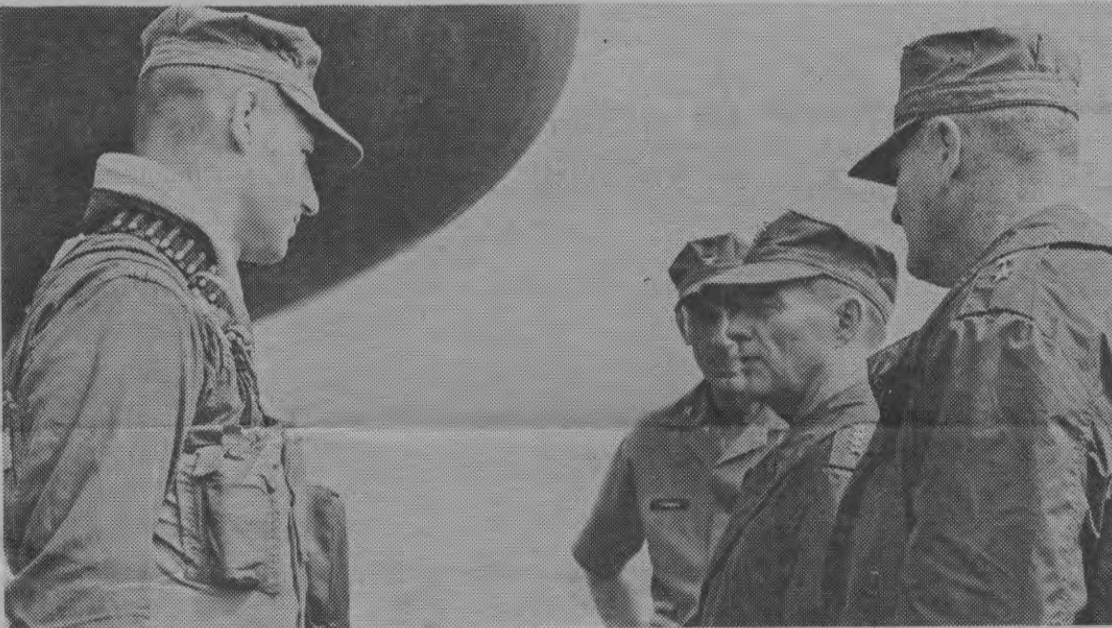
PFC Thomas D. Price adjusts an 81mm mortar at FLSG "G" 's Logistic Support Area (LSA) located at Quang Ngai. The LSA ordnance maintenance team receives damaged weapons flown in from combat units in the field, makes necessary repairs and sends them back out as soon as possible.

# -Photo views of Gen. Greene's visit-



## Visits Korean Marines

Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps (second right), and BGen. Kim Yun Sang, (right), CG, 2d ROKMC Brigade, tour the 2d Brigade CP south of Chu Lai. Walking behind the generals are (left) Maj. Song, PMO for 2d Brigade and Lt. Chung, Aide-de-Camp to Gen. Kim.



## Meets aviation personnel

The Commandant talks with Capt. Edward M. Weber (left) about his job as bombardier-navigator in the A6A Intruder jet aircraft of VMA (AW)-242. CMC visited 1st MAW facilities at the Da Nang airfield Jan. 9. Accompanying him are MGen. Louis B. Robertson (foreground) and Col. Franklin C. Thomas, Jr., CO, MAG-11. (Photo by SSgt Bill Brown)



## Sergeant Major of Marine Corps

Pvt. D. R. Wright, 1st Bn., 26th Marines talks to Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj. H. J. Sweet. The sergeant major accompanied Gen. Greene on his visit to Vietnam. (Photo by Cpl. A. C. Ferriera)



## Reward for suggestion

GySgt. Jerome E. Quimby, FLSG "A", receives a Beneficial Suggestion Certificate and check for \$300 from Gen. Greene for submitting a better method of removal and cleaning of the vent assembly on the 106mm rifle. (Photo by Cpl. A. C. Ferriera)

Commandant pins Navy Unit Commendation ribbon on colors of 3d Medical Battalion.



### Turn 'er loose

LCpl. Larry A. Hample lets loose a burst of machine gun fire after his squad was hit by VC small arms fire while on patrol seven miles south of Da Nang. PFC Harold C. Kleindienst feeds in the ammo and watches for other targets. (Photo by LCpl. K. K. McIntosh)

## 3rd Tank Bn. Festival

By: Cpl. W.L. Christofferson

DA NANG—Senior citizens of Phong Bac hamlet were guests of 3rd Tank Battalion personnel Jan. 8 for an Elders' Day festival that included a social hour, entertainment, gifts and dinner.

Some 150 persons from the hamlet south of Da Nang gathered near the battalion's command post for the affair, which was visited by General Wallace M. Greene Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps.

After being afforded an opportunity to obtain medical treatment, they gathered for a social hour and an opportunity to play Co Tuong, or "elephant chess" against a member of the battalion civil affairs team, who has taken up the Oriental game.

A drama team from Quang Nam Province headquarters provided the entertainment, beginning with the Vietnamese national anthem and a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The troupe, affiliated with the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office,

### Silver Star—

(Continued From Page 1)

planned to refuel.

"We never got there. I received a call from the Marines guarding the helicopter, saying they were pinned down by a strong force of Viet Cong," he said.

Kuci called for jet close air support, and turned his helicopter flight back to the area to pick up Marines who had been wounded in the fighting.

presented several vocal numbers in the midst of a downpour while the elders watched from the shelter of tents.

Gen. Greene stopped briefly at the festival during his tour of the Da Nang area to greet some of the Vietnamese and battalion personnel.

Following the entertainment, gift packages of Vietnamese cigarettes, hair oil and cloth (to make new clothes for Tet, the Vietnamese New Year) were distributed, along with a Republic of Vietnam flag.

A meal of chop suey, chow mein noodles, pork fried rice, French bread, nuoc mam, green tea and chilled pears capped the event. The meal was prepared by four Vietnamese women who are undergoing training as nurses through the unit's civil affairs program.

The aim of the festival, obviously, is partly political and aimed at unifying the hamlet's elders under the government of

Vietnam," explained Staff Sergeant J.J. Biedrzychi, civil affairs NCO. "But we thought the best way to accomplish that was simply to see that the elders had a good time," he said.

Captain Waterbury orbited the area once, dropped to a landing and picked up Captain Merrel F. Adams of Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-12, stationed at Marine Corps Airfield, Chu Lai.



### At checkpoint Two

LCpl. John B. Wynne of "C" Co., 1st Recon Bn., 1st Mar Div., checks in via radio during a recon patrol in the Da Nang area. The recon Marines continually run patrols in enemy territory and report date to their CP near Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. R. M. Cadwell)

### Mail The Sea Tiger Home



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

# Flight line chief uses funny words

DA NANG—"First launch for this shift . . . Take a TUD and put an NCPP-105 on 28, and a GTC and NC-5 on 20 . . . O.K. gang, let's go!"

A new language? No, just the jargon of Sergeant James H. Pike, one of the shift chiefs with the Marine Composite Reconnaissance Squadron 1 flight line crew at the airfield here.

These instructions by him are typical of those given each of the shift crews of Marine Aircraft Group-11 squadrons as they begin their 12-hour stints. They will hear them several times before the end of their shifts.

To the crew, a TUD means a diesel powered tractor used to move external power units such as the NCPP-105 (electrical); the

GTC (gas turbine air compressor); and the NC-5 (generator), used in starting various jet aircraft. The numbers 20 and 28 indicates the two aircraft to be launched.

Once this equipment is in place, the crew literally swarm over the aircraft checking gauges throughout the planes, and the external surfaces for loose screws, rivets or signs of cracked seams. Each man signs a "yellow sheet" (flight and maintenance record of each plane) attesting that he completed his portion of the pre-flight check and found everything satisfactory.

The completion of this check does not mean, however, that Pike's crew is finished. When the pilots arrive, the external power units are activated and a check of the controls is made. Only after all systems are found to be working properly are the ground safety pins removed and the pilots waved off on their mission.

His crew, like all the others, have plenty to do while waiting for this flight to return. This includes making minor repairs on aircraft that have returned earlier from missions and changing tires where necessary.

When a flight returns the crew again swarms over it making a rapid post-flight check with the engine running. After shutdown, refueling and repacking the drag chute signifies the completion of the plane's cycle.

As the darkness begins to settle over the flight line, Pike's voice booms out the ever welcome . . . "Wrap it up gang, the night shift is here."

As they walk away they hear the familiar . . . "First launch for this shift . . ."

### Bronze Star

DONG HA—Corporal Russell L. Clites was awarded the Bronze Star Medal by Brigadier General Michael P. Ryan, 3rd Marine Division commander forward, during ceremonies here Jan. 7.

He was cited for his heroic achievement against the enemy as a fire team leader with Company "I", 3rd Battalion, Fourth Regiment on October 1, during Operation Prairie.

Clites' squad was acting as the point for his company as it proceeded toward the summit of a steep, napalm-blackened, jungle hill.

Suddenly, his squad came under deadly small arms and automatic weapons fire and grenades from an undetermined number of North Vietnamese regulars.

In the initial burst of fire, from four well emplaced positions, his squad leader and another Marine were killed.

Unhesitatingly, Clites aggressively took command of the squad and accurately directed its fire against the enemy.

After gaining fire superiority, he maneuvered his unit to a more advantageous position so that supporting arms could effectively be poured into the enemy emplacements a few yards to their front.

Clites, with the help of other Marines successfully recovered the bodies of the two Marines who had been mortally wounded earlier in the battle.