



SEA TIGER



Vol. III, No. 12

III Marine Amphibious Force, Vietnam

March 22, 1967

Minor damage

VC stage second attack on airfield

DA NANG—Rapid reaction of Marine artillery and air units early in the morning of March 15, "broke the back" of a Viet Cong rocket attack on Da Nang Airfield; the second attack within 16 days.

Two minutes after the first of 15 rockets landed between two runways around 2 a.m., the 1st Battalion, Eleventh Marines located the launch site and opened up with a barrage of counter artillery fire.

Discarded launchers and unfired rockets were found between craters caused by the Marine artillery later yesterday morning, five and one-half miles southwest of the airfield.

The artillery units pin-pointed the launch site from rocket flashes.

In addition, a Huey gunship of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing strafed the area within a quarter of an hour after the first rocket fell. Within another 15 minutes, two flare ships and two additional Hueys had joined the five artillery batteries in battering the enemy position.

Reactionary forces, including a tank-infantry team from the 2nd Battalion, Fourth Marines, headed towards the launch site and threw up blocking forces across possible enemy escape routes.

First MAW officials reported that the rounds which hit the air strip caused light damage to three aircraft and ruptured a fuel line. No friendly casualties were reported.

Enemy casualties from the combined artillery and air counterattack were not immediately known.



Charlie in his sights

PFC Bob J. Beagan fires a burst from his machine gun at fleeing VC as his assistant gunner, PFC Wesley C. Brenno feeds ammo. They are members of 1st Bn., First Marines, taking part in an operation 12 miles south of Da Nang.

(Photo by PFC Clark D. Thomas)

1st Division decorates 66 for action in RVN

DA NANG—In one of the largest 1st Marine Division award ceremonies, 66 Leathernecks were decorated March 10 for actions in Vietnam.

Major General H. Nickerson Jr., commanding general of the 1st Division, made the presentations at the 1st Battalion, First

Marine Regiment, command post, 10 miles south of Da Nang.

Decorated with the nation's third highest award, the Silver Star Medal, were Lance Corporal Daniel P. Pierce and Navy Hospitalman David L. Cooper.

Both were cited for their

(Continued on Back Page)



HOLE INSPECTION—The bullet-ripped helmet of Sgt. Joseph Luca is checked by his company gunny, GySgt. Walter F. Lofink following a fire fight with Viet Cong Regular Forces on March 5, during which the Italian immigrant was wounded his third time while saving at least four Marines in a series of courageous acts.

(Photo by MSgt. G. E. Wilson)

Former hair stylist

Marine-Italian immigrant saves lives of four wounded

By SSgt. Don Summerford

CHU LAI—A five-foot, eight-inch Italian immigrant and former hair stylist who volunteered for the Marine Corps to fight in Vietnam, was called by his battalion commander, "one of the finest and bravest men I have known," as the hairdresser saved the lives of four Marines in a series of courageous acts March 5.

Sergeant Joseph Luca, a former resident of Mamola, Italy, braved intense enemy fire to cross an open field, administer emergency first aid, then carry a quartet of wounded buddies to safety, 25 miles southwest of Quang Ngai city.

He also killed two Viet Cong and repeatedly disregarded his own safety to provide covering fire for other members of his unit ("F" Company, 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division) during Operation DeSoto.

During the action which climaxed a four-day sweep in the Duc Pho area, Luca was knocked cold by an enemy bullet which tore through his helmet while carrying the first wounded Marine, and he was wounded himself for the third time since arriving in Vietnam when he rescued the last two hours later.

Luca's odyssey of bravery began when two platoons of his company were sweeping an area near Tnanh Hieu (2) hamlet, and came under sniper and heavy automatic rifle fire.

The first volley caught three Marines 200 meters in the paddy, wounding them critically.

Dropping his rifle, Luca raced towards the fallen Marines, bandaged one, shouldered him and raced through the enemy fire toward friendly lines. The wounded Marine weighed at least 15 pounds more than the 155-pound Luca.

Halfway back, an enemy bullet smashed into Luca's helmet, tore a swath down the liner then exited out the side, peeling the metal away like a banana skin. Luca was knocked down by the impact.

Shaking its effects off, Luca spotted a tracer from a Viet Cong sniper in a tree overlooking the Marines pinned down in the hedgerow to the rear. Grabbing the wounded Marine's weapon, he shot the Viet Cong out of the tree.

Again shouldering the Marine, Luca returned him to the friendly line.

Again, disregarding his own safety, Luca ran into the open paddy to provide accurate covering fire for the Marines sweeping toward the entrenched Viet Cong positions.

As the main body of the platoon entered the brush on the opposite side of the paddy, Luca saw other Marines fall wounded. He raced through the enemy automatic weapons fire toward the nearest wounded.

He bandaged and carried one Marine to safety, and returned across the paddy to remaining wounded. Before he could move the next man, he had to cover his wound with a banana palm leaf and bandage. He carried him to safety.

As the enemy fire continued, Luca returned to the third wounded Marine, but was unable to carry him. Captain Oliver M. Whipple, company commander, helped Lucas bring the wounded man to safety.

The action took 15 minutes. Whipple called in medical evacuation helicopters to airlift the wounded to a hospital. As the Medevac chopper landed gunships raked the area around the Marine's positions.

Despite the combined fire, the enemy continued to shoot at the Marines now set up in defensive positions around the landing zone.

Later in the afternoon, two more Marines were critically wounded by sniper fire.

Sergeant Nelson Randall raced around the field to reach the wounded men while Luca provided covering fire. Randall brought one of the wounded

(Continued on Back Page)



SEA TIGER

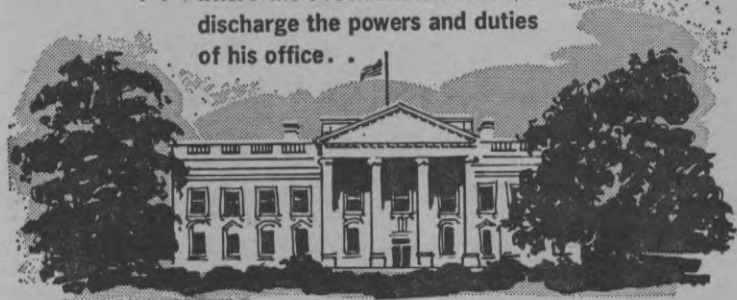
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Published each Tuesday by the III Marine Amphibious Force. The SEA TIGER complies with Marine Corps Order P5600.31 and MCO P5720.44 and is printed with appropriated funds, by The Pacific Stars and Stripes, Tokyo, Japan. The SEA TIGER subscribes to and receives material from the Armed Forces News Bureau (AFNB) whose material herein may be reprinted provided credit and no other copyrights are involved. All photographs are official U.S. Marine Corps Photos unless otherwise credited. Photographs submitted from other sources outside the Marine Corps for publication in The SEA TIGER become the property of The SEA TIGER. Material submitted for publication in The SEA TIGER must reach the Combat Information Bureau, III Marine Amphibious Force, FPO San Francisco, Calif. 96602, on Tuesday of the preceding publication week. Statements, views and opinion expressed in The SEA TIGER are not necessarily those of the Marine Corps and should not be interpreted as directive in nature.
Circulation This Issue 36,000 Copies

Presidential disability

25th AMENDMENT

... where the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.



After 180 years of constitutional ambiguity and many years of careful study and research, the problem of Presidential disability and succession has been resolved and defined within the limits of human foresight and planning.

The 25th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, ratified Feb. 10, 1967, gives the Nation an orderly means of dealing with a crisis caused by either permanent or temporary disability of the President.

Section One of the amendment specifically authorizes the Vice President to become President in the event of the death or resignation of the President, rather than assuming only the "powers and duties" of the office.

Although this has been the custom since 1841 when John Tyler succeeded President William Henry Harrison, it was never officially stated in the Constitution.

To further insure that a qualified alternate is always available to assume the responsibilities of the Presi-

dency in the event of crises, Section Two of the Amendment gives the President authority to appoint, with the consent of both houses of Congress, a new Vice President whenever that office is vacant. Thus, whenever a Vice President succeeds to the Presidency or dies in office and the office of Vice President is unfilled, the President is assured of being able to fill the office almost immediately rather than waiting until the next national election.

Section Three of the amendment provides a method for the President to temporarily transfer power to the Vice President at any time and to resume that power on his own option. This will allow an exhausted or ill President to gain respite from the burdens of his office.

Disagreements over a President's physical or mental condition and the automatic assumption of his powers and duties by the Vice President under certain conditions are covered by Section Four of the amendment.

New Freedom Share bonds ready for issue after May 1

A new type of Savings Bond called Freedom Shares, will be offered after May 1, President Johnson has announced.

The new bonds, which will be available only to those who participate in the payroll savings plan for purchase of Series E Bonds, will be issued in denominations of \$25, \$50, \$75 and \$100. Purchase prices will be \$20.25,

\$40.50, \$60.75 and \$81.00 respectively.

Freedom Shares have a maturity of four and one-half years, earning 4.74 percent interest when held to maturity. They are not redeemable until held one year.

One Freedom Share may be purchased along with each Series E Bond of an equal value. Maximum face value of Freedom Shares purchased is limited to \$1,350 annually for each individual.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

Here's new listing of persons desiring Marine pen pals:

Madeline Steger (16)
RD 6 Steger Road
Erie, Penna.

Mrs. Margery E. Monk
Lyndonville, N.Y. 14098

Ann Palmer
1110 Lincoln St.
Albany, Oregon 97321

Mrs. Donna L. Childress
7054 Carswell
El Paso, Texas 79908

Diane Marshall (18)
107 North Street
Lincoln Acres
Irwin, Penna.

Sandra Reynolds (16)
12 Kazlip Street
Natchez, Miss. 39120

Linda Galloway (19)
769 St. Albans Rd
Richmond, B.C. Canada

Dorothy Shewey
Box 15
Quitman, Missouri 64478

Patricia J. Rankin
3008 Colanthe
Las Vegas, Nev. 89102

Dawn Blackwell
Box 818 Christy Hill Rd
Gales Ferry, Conn.

Jeri Halford
Route 1 Box 112
Ferriday, La.
Nancy Doa

7890 Clark Corners Rd
Gansevoort, N.Y. 12831

Cheri Burns (18)
64 Vaughn
Wheatland, Penna. 16161
Alan Phinney (12)

Laud ARVN

PHU BAI — Staff Sergeant Tran Van Ho, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, (ARVN), received the Navy Commendation Medal from Major General Wood B. Kyle, commanding general, 3rd Marine Division, at division headquarters here today.

Ho was awarded the medal for service as the ARVN liaison officer and interpreter with "K" Company, Third Marine Regiment from January 1 to May 31, 1966.

While serving with "K" Company, Ho proved himself invaluable in screening and interrogating Viet Cong suspects. Prior to reporting to the company he had been the Fourth Marines' interpreter on numerous operations.

During February 1966, while on a search and destroy mission with "K" Company, he left his covered position and repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire in order to contact the Viet Cong.

On the day-to-day operations with the Third Marine Regiment his role was to interpret and call the enemy over to the friendly side. To accomplish his mission as a propagandist required his being forward of the friendly lines where his life was frequently at stake.

Ho rendered great service to the Marines and his work helped the company accomplish its mission on many occasions.

1899 Wiessner Dr. N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97303

Rosemary Kushnerick (21)
780 N. Laurel Street
Hazleton, Penna. 18201

Lucy Pelc
84 Broad Street
New Britain, Conn. 06051

Paula Pope (20)
PO Box 7573
Richmond, Va. 23231

Judy Smith
18101 Oakwood Blvd. Apt. 6
Dearborn, Mich.

Charmaine Kau (26)
1007 Ontario Ave.
Sheboygan, Wisc. 53081

Sandy Groom (22)
13125 S. Lorca Road
La Mirada, Calif. 90638

Dear Sir:

We are attempting to locate all of our former students who are serving in the armed forces so that we may list them on our Honor Roll. However, we are experiencing some difficulty in that Voorhees was a junior college until 1964, and press releases on servicemen in question are being sent to the four-year colleges where they completed their work.

If it is possible, we would like for you to include an item in the SEA TIGER asking our former students to contact the Public Relations Office at Voorhees College.

Mrs. L. Fontellio-Nanton
Assist. to the President for PR
Voorhees College
Denmark, South Carolina

Background for troops:

The challenge came in Vietnam

"What are we doing in Vietnam? It's 10,000 miles away!" Such a question is indicative of the somewhat provincial East Coast-Atlantic Ocean orientation which has traditionally colored our attitudes toward Asia. Vietnam is much less than 10,000 miles from our West Coast and even still to Hawaii.

Fundamentally, the question of nearness to Vietnam must be measured in newly scaled terms. In the past 60 years, while the inhabitants of the earth doubled, we have all been drawn together by a series of technological developments: radio, television, airplanes, space satellites, and the ominous coupling of missiles with nuclear power. Any one of these might have been enough to end isolation; in sum, they have revolutionized the relationship of man.

This rapid change has been as much political, economic, and social as it has been technological. At the end of World War II much of the earth lay prostrate. The airplane had come into its own. It foreshortened distances and left no men or places isolated on earth.

There had also been a revolution in communications, bringing new ideas and new expectations to colonial lands. Another force, long fermenting, rose to view in major dimension. Communism, given new stature by Russian war victories, renewed its international thrust. Its aim was clearly apparent to dominate the world scene. Its tactic was twofold: subvert the industrialized nations, and fill the power vacuum in once-colonial lands.

The United States alone had the residual wealth, strength, and spirit to take the initiative on behalf of the free nations. However reluctantly, it moved to assume this leadership.

It soon became clear that we had entered into a continuing struggle. On the one side were those countries who wanted to create a decent world order in which nations could freely choose their own institutions, and live in peace. On the other side were those whose aim was a world of one political and economic system for all.

Those who puzzle about Vietnam today (should) first study what happened in Iran, Greece, Berlin, South Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Malaya during the past two decades. Had we and our allies not resisted communist aggression, how free would their peoples be today, and what kind of a world would we be living in?

The basic issue at stake can be put in several ways. General Giap, commander of the North Vietnamese Army, has stated publicly: "South Vietnam is the model of the national liberation movement of our time . . . If the special warfare that the U.S. imperialists are testing in South Vietnam is

overcome, then it can be defeated everywhere in the world."

Lin Piao, Communist Chinese Minister of Defense, set forth the issue in clearest detail in a manifesto which all Americans would profit by studying. He pictures a move from conquest of the so-called "rural areas"—Asia, Africa, Latin America—to conquest of the so-called "cities of the world"—North America and Western Europe. Vietnam is . . . "now the focus of the struggle of the people of the world against U.S. aggression."

We have had overwhelming evidence that the basic issue is indeed one of outright, external communist aggression:

- When the Viet Minh supposedly withdrew to the north in 1954, they left behind a military and political cadre to organize resistance.

- The public statements of Hanoi and Peiping themselves included the announcement, in 1960, from Hanoi—not from South Vietnam—of the formation of the so-called "Front for the Liberation of the South."

- We observe the alien character of the supposedly indigenous Viet Cong. The heroes of the enemy are Ho Chi Minh and General Giap, not South Vietnamese.

- We have seen the Viet Cong employ unrestrained terror against a land which, in theory, they are defending against so-called "aggression." In 1964-65 alone, more than 2,100 South Vietnamese officials and nearly 22,000 other civilians were murdered or taken away.

- We have the constantly mounting evidence of arms and ammunition supplied from North Vietnam, China and other communist nations.

- We have proof of every sort of massive, organized land and sea infiltration from the North. Regular North Vietnamese divisions have invaded South Vietnam, and the hard core Viet Cong units rely increasingly on North Vietnamese replacements.

U. Alexis Johnson recently (said): "The question is not whether Vietnam itself, or indeed Southeast Asia as a whole, is of such political, strategic or economic importance as to justify asking our men and women to risk their lives there."

"Rather, the question is the worldwide effect of permitting the Communist to breach by force any of the lines that were drawn in the various post-war settlements . . . The principle of self-determination is paramount . . . Shall we merely watch as (countries) are subjected to infiltration, invasion and terrorism?"

As the leader of the community of free men, we have committed our word to the defense of freedom.



LEATHERNECK GHOST — Capt. Albert J. Ransom, known as "Nam Do Ka Be" (big happy ghost) to Marines of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, calls in jet attack aircraft in support of the Blue Dragon brigade.

ROKMC honors "big happy ghost"

CHU LAI—"Nam Do Ka Be" (the big, happy ghost) is what men of the 2nd Republic of Korea Marine Brigade called Captain Albert J. Ransom when they cited him March 2.

Ransom was presented the In Hun Medal for gallantry while serving with the Korean unit as air liaison officer.

On January 10, during Operation Sein, 70 Korean Marines were ambushed by 300 Viet Cong. The captain had the only working radio and for 24 hours kept the brigade commander, BrigGen. Yun Sang Kim, informed of the situation and recommended action regarding air coordination.

To the Koreans of the Blue Dragon Brigade the captain is a kind of Pied Piper. They have flocked to him since he first joined the unit six months ago. He demonstrated an interest in them by learning their language and made it a special point to learn Korean customs.

The Koreans soon came to admire his courage. Major Dae Seon Ha said, "His spirit I respect. He is one of the best officers I ever saw in combat."

The major recalled Operation Estuary when the evacuation of Korean forces was in the hands of Capt. Ransom. "He stayed under enemy fire, until the last man had been evacuated."

"Everybody remembers Nam Do Ka Be," continued the major. "He is very brave and we consider him a brother."

When he left the Korean brigade Ransom received a letter of appreciation and a Blue Dragon plaque for his outstanding service.

The Korean Marines had not seen the last of their friend in action. On Feb. 15 they engaged a large force of Viet Cong. The battle turned into a smashing victory for the Blue Dragons . . . one of the Skyhawk jet attack pilots providing the close air support for the brigade was the "big happy ghost."

He is presently flying with Marine Attack Squadron 121 at Chu Lai.

Brick factory—big business

By: Cpl. D.L. Cellers

DA NANG — Keeping in mind the old adage, "a house of bricks is better than a house of straw," the 7th Engineer Battalion Brick Factory, located in the Force Logistic Command Civic Action area five, observed the production of their 100,000th brick March 6.

Lance Corporal Stephen R. Williams supervises more than 35 Vietnamese civilians who man the 1st Marine Division unit's brick factory.

"When we first began manufacturing the bricks, the Vietnamese workers didn't know anything about the project," Williams said. "They really caught on fast and now are working like professionals."

"I know some key words in Vietnamese so the language barrier is not a major problem," Williams said. "Through the use of

these words and a little sign language, they usually understand what I am saying," he added.

Beginning in July of last year with a daily output of 800 bricks, the factory now manufactures over 1,100 a day.

Bricks from the factory, the only civic action brick factory in South Vietnam, have helped complete 10 schools and an orphanage constructed in the area.

The cement used in the brick factory is provided by the USAID and the eight brick press machines were contributed by CARE.

Clay is taken from the hills surrounding the engineer battalion and transported to the factory.

In place of wages, Vietnamese workers received 125 lbs. of rice a week for their services.

Helping celebrate the event were Brigadier General James E. Herbold Jr., commanding general, FLC, and Lieutenant Colonel Frank W. Harris III, commanding officer, 7th Engineer Battalion.

Sea Tiger Spotlight On:

Kit Carson Scouts

By: 2ndLt. Dick Arnold

DA NANG—Since last July, a small group of former Viet Cong fighting men who turned themselves over to Marine units have been leading the Leathernecks into the lair of their former comrades-in-arms with striking success.

First used on small unit operations, county fairs and for psychological purposes, the Chieu Hoi returnees were organized into a pilot group of three two-man teams in October to live and work with units of the 1st Marine Division in the field on a permanent basis.

The decision came following unqualified success of the returnees while working with the small units — one such former VC identified over 30 of his former comrades in two months while he was a scout with a Marine unit.

Since then, use of the returnee has been so successful that the 1st Marine Division asked the program be expanded so that a pair of former VC be provided to each rifle company in the division.

And with the expansion, the returnees have been given a name — Kit Carson Scouts (after the famous guide used in early American history).

The Scouts have solved one of the field commanders most difficult problems — identifying the guerrilla. They have been particularly successful when used in their former area of operation with the VC because of their knowledge of the terrain and techniques used by local VC units.

There has not been a single instance in which a returnee turned against a friendly unit in any way or attempted to lead it into an ambush.

As the program expands however, the possibility of the VC being able to "plant" a scout increases. To combat this, screening process of the returnees before their use as scouts is often lengthy and highly selective.

The Kit Carson Scouts are most effective in the detection of VC and the finding of their equipment and supplies, since they can often make positive facial recognition of the enemy and know many of his techniques to hide supplies and equipment.

They also assist in controlling and identification of the population and their personal testimonial of rallying adds considerable

credibility when they speak to the population of hamlets and villages to gain support for the government of South Vietnam.

Valuable intelligence information is gained through their identification of enemy dead and wounded, and by their speaking with new ralliers to the Chieu Hoi program who often give im-

mediate information as the Scout strengthens a decision for defecting.

Scouts are usually assigned to units in pairs to help overcome their problems of adjusting to a new life. While they operate from the same base, they do not patrol together at all times. Scouts are paid by Marines.

USMCR CA fund goes over \$423,000

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund for Vietnam, sponsored jointly by Marine Reservists and CARE, Incorporated, recently exceeded \$423,000, according to Headquarters Marine Corps.

Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Force, in a recent report on the fund, made the following statements:

"The momentum of the civic action program is dynamic and growing. It is playing a most vital part in furthering the development of Vietnam's many resources — human and natural. The efforts of Marine Reservists at home have given me the ability to support the civic action projects I consider essential in our overall efforts to win this war."

"The Marines have found that fighting the insurgency in Vietnam requires a forceful approach in which one hand must be a fist used militarily to eliminate a fanatical enemy bent on destroying the government of South Vietnam. The other hand is extended in friendship to the people of South Vietnam in order to help

them rebuild their nation and to help provide a tangible indication of a brighter future.

"Absolute essentials are food for the starving; medicine for the sick; new schools with books and qualified teachers for the young people; and materials such as cement, tools and equipment for the many phases of construction work."

"On behalf of the Marines in Vietnam, on behalf of those Marines who have left all or part of their lives in this country, and on behalf of the Vietnamese recipients of your generosity, I want to thank you for entrusting us with your funds so that we may help Vietnam find the future it so richly deserves and so desperately needs."

New Amtrac CO

CHU LAI—Major Frederick N. Van Sant, assumed command of the 3d Amphibious Tractor Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

He relieved LtCol. Jack D. Rowley, who has been assigned new duties as Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines.



Combat baptism

Protestant Chaplain, C. Frank Jordan, right, performs baptism ceremony for (left to right) Cpl. John F. Hill, Cpl. Jerome A. Ray and Pfc. Wayne F. Oxford. The ceremony was conducted Sunday afternoon, March 5, in the South China Sea surf at Chu Lai. Chaplain Jordan is attached to Marine Aircraft Group-12.

(Photo by: GySgt E. C. Nolan)



Mortar crew in action

Marine mortarmen of Weapons Platoon, "M" Co., 3d Bn., Fourth Marines, fire on a North Vietnamese position. The 3d Division Marines are engaged in Operation Prairie II, north of Cam Lo. Since the beginning of the operation on Feb. 1, 558 NVA kills have been confirmed as of March 11.

Part of Revolutionary Development Plan

Col. Radics' 'baby battalion'

By: SSgt Jack "W" Jansen and
Cpl Lowell L. Carson

DA NANG—During January the First Marine Regiment assumed the additional responsibilities of taking over the Nui Loc Son outpost, some 30 miles south of Da Nang, in the Hiep Duc and Que Son valleys.

Infantrymen of "F" Company, 2nd Battalion, First Marine Regiment; artillerymen of "W" Battery, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment; engineers and a helicopter support team (HST), are the Marines manning the outpost.

These Marines are what is known by the 1st Marines as a "baby battalion" or, as Colonel Emil J. Radics, commanding officer of the Regiment says, "They are my 4th Battalion."

"Nui Loc Son is one of several locations in the I Corps area that have recently been taken over by the Marines," said Colonel Radics. "It was necessitated by the decision of the I Corps commanders that Vietnamese troops should work basically in the Revolutionary Development Plan. That meant working with the people instead of being operational against the Viet Cong," he said.

When word came to the First Marines that they would take over operations of Nui Loc Son, the regimental command post took on the aspects of an "aggravated bee hive."

One heavily reinforced company with supplies for five days was the initial order. Radics soon changed that to a minimum of 15 days supplies.

"I don't want to have to start worrying about those men if the weather holds up resupply runs for a week. Now I know they have enough food and ammunition for a two week period," he said.

It became the job of Major Howard L. Snider, air liaison officer for the regiment, to obtain helicopter and fixed wing support for Nui Loc Son.

"Without air there would be no Nui Loc Son," he said. "The only way supplies can be delivered is by air."

The pilots who started the build up had to maneuver their helicopters between rocks onto an improvised landing zone. Within a month the engineers had blasted the rocks out and constructed a prefabricated landing zone on the hill.

On Jan. 31, the first of the Marines landed on the mountain. For four days after the initial lift choppers were grounded because of adverse weather. They made up for the lull by delivering 100,000 pounds of supplies the fifth day.

"Since that time," said Major James L. Gatloff, logistics officer for the regiment, "We've had 155 air lifts averaging 15,000 pounds a day."

During the first days of the move nearly every helicopter came under fire from the Viet Cong. Marine air and artillery were used to silence the enemy in the valley.

During the daylight hours Marines of "F" Co., tore down old bunkers and began building new ones. They dug trench lines and increased the sanitary conditions.

Engineers destroyed mine fields and constructed the landing zone for the choppers. From early morning until dusk the helicopter support team guided in choppers and unloaded supplies.

At night all Marines stood guard on the perimeter, rounding

out a long day's work.

Now the Marines have lived on Nui Loc Son for over a month. They have torn down the old and built the new. "An outpost acceptable to Marines for defense," says Colonel Radics.

The Marines must now begin their second and biggest job at the outpost. They must observe, control and eliminate the enemy in the populated, rice-rich area surrounding Nui Loc Son.

They have already begun accomplishing this mission through civic action for the people and hard fought battles with the enemy.

Leathernecks at Nui Loc Son carry on the Marine Corps' "double barrel" attack against the Viet Cong day and night. "It is through this type action," says Colonel Radics, "that this enemy will be eventually defeated."



Surrender

A North Vietnamese soldier walks in to surrender to a Marine of "A" Co., 1st Bn., Ninth Marines during Operation Prairie, north of Cam Lo.

(Photo by LCpl. S. M. Leighty)

World of Sports

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSN.

Eastern Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Philadelphia	66	13	.835	—
Boston	58	21	.734	8
Cincinnati	38	42	.475	28½
New York	36	43	.456	30
Baltimore	20	58	.256	45½

*—Won division title.

Western Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
*San Fran.	43	35	.551	—
St. Louis	38	42	.475	6
Los Angeles	35	44	.443	8½
Chicago	31	48	.392	12½
Detroit	30	49	.380	13½

*—Won division title.

Thursday Night			
Cincinnati 114	St. Louis 111		
Boston 132	Detroit 109		
San Francisco 145	Philadelphia 131		

(Only games scheduled).

Friday	
San Francisco at Chicago.	
Los Angeles at Baltimore.	

Saturday	
San Francisco at Cincinnati.	
Boston at New York.	
Detroit at St. Louis.	
Baltimore at Philadelphia.	

Sunday	
(Regular Season Ends)	
New York at Boston.	
Los Angeles at Chicago.	
San Francisco at Detroit.	
Philadelphia at Baltimore.	

NATIONAL INVITATION TOURNEY

Thursday Night			
At New York			
(Semifinals)			
Marquette 83	Marshall 78		
Southern Ill. 79	Rutgers 70		

NCAA COLLEGE DIVISION			
At Evansville, Ind.			
(Semifinals)			
SW Mo. St. 93	Illinois St. 76		
Winston Salem 82	Ky. Wesleyan 73		

NAIA TOURNAMENT			
At Kansas City			
(Quarter-Finals)			
Morris Harvey 77	Tenn. Wesleyan 68		
St. Benedict's 88	St. Mary's 73		
Okla. Baptist 66	SW Louisiana 65		
Cent. Wash. 60	E. New Mex. 58		

NATIONAL JC TOURNEY			
At Hutchinson, Kan.			
Ferrum 83	St. John's 64		
Burlington 91	Wright 77		
Cameron 89	Powell 79		
Moberly 70	Boise 50		
Vincennes 63	Hiawasse 51		
Dodge City 86	Broome Tech 82		

WOMEN'S AAU TOURNAMENT			
At Gallup, N.M.			
(Quarter-Finals)			
Plainview 52	Des Moines 33		
Long Beach 47	Stratford 32		

Cent. Wash. 66				2. New York 60			
* * *				* * *			
NATIONAL JC TOURNEY							
At Hutchinson, Kan.							
Edmund 82				St. John's			

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE						
Eastern Division						
	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Hershey	33	20	10	76	243	187
Baltimore	31	24	8	70	225	220

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE						
	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Portland	39	20	7	85	242	194
Seattle	33	25	7	73	200	185
Vancouver	35	25	2	72	193	176
Los Angeles	28	30	5	61	233	230
California	26	27	9	61	187	201
Victoria	26	30	7	59	194	198
San Diego	16	46	3	35	183	250

Thursday Night			
(No games scheduled).			

Friday	
(No games scheduled).	

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

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

Thursday Night			
Seattle 3	Portland 2		
Vancouver 7	San Diego 4		

Friday	
Vancouver at California.	

Saturday	
California at San Diego.	
Los Angeles at Victoria.	

Sunday	
Vancouver at California.	
Los Angeles at Portland.	
Victoria at Seattle.	

INT'L HOCKEY LEAGUE			
Thursday Night			
Dayton 6	Port Huron 3		

Friday	
Dayton at Columbus.	
Des Moines at Muskegon.	
Fort Wayne at Toledo.	

Saturday	
Des Moines at Toledo.	
Columbus at Port Huron.	
Fort Wayne at Muskegon.	

Sunday	
Toledo at Dayton.	
Des Moines at Columbus.	
Muskegon at Port Huron.	

COLLEGE HOCKEY			
NCAA Semifinals			
Cornell 1	North Dakota 0		

20,000 rounds			
PHU BAI — "C" Battery, Twelfth Marine Regiment, is creating somewhat of a supply problem on Operations Chinook I and II, but everyone is happy about it.			

In the two months the battery has been in Vietnam, it has fired some 20,000 rounds—a record for Marine 105mm howitzer batteries in Vietnam.			
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"On our busiest day we fired 1,468 rounds," First Lieutenant Richard Dean, executive officer said.			
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Since the unit began keeping figures Jan. 20, it has been credited with more than 100 Viet Cong killed.			
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Dean said the battery's worst enemy was the weather.			
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"With all this rain, moisture collects in the gun sights," he said, "sometimes causing the sight to be sent back to a rear area to be completely overhauled."			
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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.



Sniper team in action

A Marine sharpshooter sights in on a Viet Cong during Operation De Soto, 25 miles south of Quang Ngai city, while a second member of team calls the shots with field glasses. (Photo by: CPL. K. K. McIntosh)

LBJ recommends pay raise

President Johnson says he will shortly recommend to Congress a pay increase for members of the armed forces.

The statement was made in a message to Congress which also called for revamping of the Selective Service system to draft 19 year olds first and tighten college deferments.

The President said the armed forces will continue to rely on those who volunteer to serve. He said improving the quality of service life and increasing the rewards for

service itself encourages volunteering. It was in this connection he told of the forthcoming pay increase recommendation.

The Chief Executive also noted such career inducements as the military medicare program, the cold war GI bill and the Vietnam Conflict Servicemen and Veterans Act of 1967.

"I have asked the Secretary of Defense to submit to me this year a comprehensive study of military compensation and retirement system," he said.

President Johnson's proposals on the Selective Service System included:

- Extension of the Selective Service four years past its June 30 expiration date.
- Reversal of induction order, drafting 19-year-olds first.
- Tightening of policies for deferment of college undergraduates with no deferment for graduate work except in medical and dental schools.

Jet engine repair shop

CHU LAI, — Marine Sergeant Dan Schmaltz, watched a panel of instrument gauges. Attached to vital spots on a jet engine, they monitored the engine's performance.

"When one of our four tactical squadrons have problems with an engine, it is brought to us for a full check," said Sergeant Robert E. McCracken, NCO in charge of the Marine Aircraft Group-12 power plant division.

"When a 'sick' unit arrives I assign a check crew to go over it completely. If the trouble isn't spotted, the engine is secured to our portable testing rig and we evaluate its performance up to maximum thrust. This lets us know if we can repair it locally," McCracken said.

He added his crew had worked on more than 500 engines during the past year — 100 getting the full test.

The power plant performs in-

termediate-level maintenance on three different types of jet engines: the J-52 used in the newer A4E attack planes, the J-65 Curtiss-Wright which powers the A4C, and the small GFC-85 jet starting units.

Intermediate-level maintenance, according to McCracken, is the repairing of the component parts of the "hot" combustion portion of the powerplant where most of the heat is generated. If trouble is traced to these three areas, the MAG-12 shop can generally make repairs.

If the problem cannot be corrected locally, the powerplant is "canned" — packed in a large metal container and shipped to the engine rebuild facility at Cubi Point, Philippines. There it will be completely reworked by civilian, Navy and Marine mechanics. MAG-12 keeps six of its mechanics at Cubi Point for this purpose.

Short Rounds

Messhall

PHU BAI — The importance of timeliness in operating a messhall without refrigeration can be best measured in the success of its results.

The messhall serving the 3rd battalion, Twenty-Sixth Regiment, has been largely responsible for the high morale of the unit, despite the dampening effects of monsoon rains and lack of refrigeration.

"Since Christmas, we've prepared hot coffee and soup, hard-boiled eggs and hot meals for the troops," Master Sergeant S. P. Sienski, mess chief said. "Each company receives a hot meal — every fifth day or so," he said, "and in addition, bread and fresh fruit whenever we could get a hold of it."

Last month, the messhall began serving two hot meals a day. About 500 Marines and soldiers are fed at the 8-10 a.m. breakfast and 3-5 p.m. meal.

The messhall's equipment includes eight field ranges and immersion burners, but no refrigerators since there is no electricity.

Mess officer is First Lieutenant Marty A. King Jr., Sienski's assistant is Gunnery Sergeant T. C. Middlebrooks.

Chief cooks include: Sergeants K. L. Stockbridge; W. Thacker; and Charles A. Barnett.

Sgt. Lester Carroll bakes the doughnuts, cakes, pies and biscuits.

Resupply to the messhall must be made daily by truck from Phu Bai, a 25-mile journey.

'Three sisters'

PHU BAI—Operating from the "Three Sisters" ridgeline north of Cam Lo, the 1st Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, has tallied more than 100 enemy confirmed killed in three days of savage fighting.

Heli-lifted into the area March 1, the battalion joined other Marine units engaged in Operation Prairie II in the Cam Lo area, just south of the demilitarized zone. Most of the enemy casualties came from artillery fire and air strikes called by the battalion.

During a sweep of the area north of the "Three Sisters", one company fought its way through an ambush, killing eight North Vietnamese soldiers and capturing seven enemy weapons.

The company accounted for another five KIA during an ambush March 3, and captured two NVA soldiers near their perimeter the same afternoon. One, an NVA officer carrying a Russian-made automatic pistol, was apparently a disarming officer as he carried a large sum of North Vietnamese currency.

Air strikes in the open valleys surrounding the "Three Sisters" caught more than 100 enemy soldiers, accounting for 30 per cent of the enemy kills credited to the action.

'Country Doctors'

CHU LAI—The Marine Corps' Medical Care and Assistance Program (MedCap) to benefit the Vietnamese people is turning the hospital corpsmen of 7th Communications Battalion, 1st Marine Division into "country doctors."

They go into the hamlets and villages to work with the people toward improved health and sanitation.

The Vietnamese are grateful and enthusiastic in their support of the program. In a village near Chu Lai, they are building a small hospital—the "House of Band-aids."

There, Navy doctors and corpsmen, like Hospital Corpsman Roy A. Jenks, and Hospital Corpsman Ted Chacona, offer medical treatment.

"House calls" are often necessary to treat patients too sick to visit the hospital. Rugged hills and dense jungle often separate the doctor from his patient, and a long, rough walk is the only answer.

Relocation

DA NANG — In a joint Marine-Vietnamese project, 240 villagers, harassed by Viet Cong terrorists for more than two months have been relocated just outside the fences of the 3rd Anti-Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

A delegation representing 41 Vietnamese families came to the battalion area two weeks ago, and told of VC acts of terrorism against them in their hamlets.

Major Hau, the Vietnamese Province Chief of Hoa Vang, decided that for the safety of the people, they would have to be moved further north.

"The problem with the move was that these people have spent their entire lives in or around this area, and didn't want to just pack up and leave," said Second Lieutenant Fred A. Quile, battalion adjutant.

The Marines paid a visit to Hau, and outlined their plan for the people to stay in the general vicinity, but under the Marines' protection. Hau agreed and the move was under way.

Sergeant Tran Van Dinh, battalion interpreter, recruited 100 villagers from the nearby hamlets of Phong Bac, Cam Le and Binh Thoi, to assist in the relocation of the people.

The Vietnamese moved, homes and all, to the site of their new hamlet. Homes were reconstructed and a bamboo stockade is being erected which will eventually surround the entire hamlet.

Marines of the anti-tank battalion are standing security watch as the new hamlet is built.

Safe conduct

PHU BAI—The two "Huey" helicopter gunships were on a mission of peace, dropping thousands of safe conduct passes to the enemy below.

A few die-hard North Vietnamese troops didn't appreciate the gesture. They opened up on the Hueys with a volley of small arms. The two gunships stopped dropping leaflets, peeled off and made a few rocket and strafing passes. The enemy was silenced.

With gun barrels still smoking, the Hueys began dropping "peace" pamphlets once more.

Payroll

PHU BAI—A North Vietnamese Army disbursing officer lost his money and his life when he accidentally walked into the "D" Co., Ninth Marines perimeter March 3.

The enemy officer and an enlisted man were spotted by Marine riflemen as they crossed a clearing headed for the friendly positions. Marine rifle fire cut down the two almost immediately.

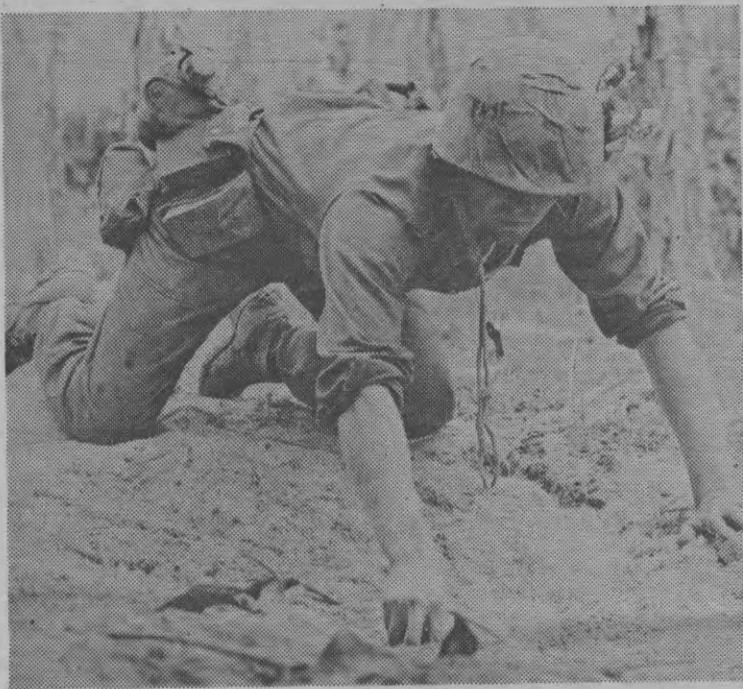
A squad sent to retrieve the enemy also discovered a large payroll in North Vietnamese currency, and a Russian-made automatic pistol on the officer, and two assault rifles. The enlisted man was treated for wounds and evacuated to a field hospital.

SEA TIGER 5



Chu Lai A Go-Go

Marines at Chu Lai join Lynn Ficken, a dancer for a USO show, as she demonstrates dances currently popular in the U.S. (Photo by Sgt. Earl L. Lewis)



Mine probe

LCpl. John Kirkendall cautiously probes for mines during a recent sweep and destroy mission 12 miles southwest of Da Nang. He is a member of the 3d Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Company overruns NVA battalion command post

By Sgt. Thad Washington

DONG HA—Marines of "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Third Marine Regiment, overran a North Vietnamese outpost and

Day of combat topped off with football game

CHU LAI—The Marines of first platoon, "A" Company, First Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, exchanged glances of confidence as they approached their objective—a hill deep in enemy territory.

The "recon" Marines had been on the hill before and expected contact with the Viet Cong. Their mission was to observe enemy activity in the area.

Gunnery Sergeant Jim Rudman, the patrol leader, signaled his men to move to higher ground after leaving the helicopter. Ten minutes later, they formed a small perimeter around a clearing on top of the hill.

The patrol's radioman, Private First Class Steven S. Smoger, made contact with an overhead aircraft whose pilot reported a small group of Viet Cong moving toward the Marines' position.

There was a sudden movement by a Viet Cong. Two Marines opened up with automatic rifle fire and two of the Viet Cong fell dead.

Heavy enemy small arms fire was received from point-blank range. Marines returned the fire with automatic rifle, machinegun and M-79 grenade fire. The Marines called for air support.

Jet aircraft and gunship helicopters strafed the Viet Cong with cannon and machinegun fire, and rockets. The radioman called for extraction.

The helicopter came in and the Marines lifted out.

Later, back at their headquarters the Marines topped the day off with a football game.

6 SEA TIGER

battalion command post, during a search and destroy mission three miles south of the demilitarized zone.

While approaching a clearing in the thick brush, the Marines received heavy small arms fire and retaliated immediately, killing three and capturing one as they drove the enemy back.

After passing through the outpost the Marines found communication wire leading into the woods. The wires led to a large camp complex believed to be a battalion or regimental command post. As the Marines moved through the command post complex they were again assaulted by heavy fire. A hard fire fight developed and they fought their way through with the assistance of artillery and air strikes.

When the company returned to the command post they found the NVA had abandoned their packs in their retreat. The abandoned packs were loaded with grenades, medical supplies, maps and map overlays, communication equipment, uniforms, cooking utensils, weapons, parts of mortars, ammunition and more than 1,300 pounds of rice.

A total of 47 NVA were confirmed killed and one captured. Marine casualties were light.

Mongoose

PHU BAI—The 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion boasts an unusual mascot—a gray, six-inch long mongoose from Thailand with the appropriate name of "Claymore."

Claymore (named after the mine) is a pet of Staff Sergeant Richard Lamoreaux, and was a gift from a Thai friend.

"I guess the battalion has more or less adopted Claymore as the unit's mascot," he said.

The mongoose, who rides around in his master's shirt pocket, also has a practical advantage. "He is a far better mouser than any cat," Lamoreaux declared.

Eventually, Claymore will grow to a length of two-feet on a diet of grapes and raw hamburger. "He also drinks the heck out of beer," the Recon Marine said.

Combat Operations Center—hub for planning, control

By: LCpl. Charles Geisler

PHU BAI—A Combat Operations Center (COC) is typical of any nerve center monitoring and planning successful business transactions for corporations. But in Vietnam it is a tactical planning and control center of warfare.

Instead of many ticker-tapes and teletype machines sending timely information, the COC has several radios, a teletype message center and a telephone net in constant contact with subordinate maneuvering elements and higher headquarters. Walls are covered with maps of the 3d Marine Division's Tactical Area of Responsibility (TAOR) with the various unit positions marked by colored pins.

The 2nd Battalion, Ninth Marines COC, located at Camp McCarthy, is typical of war planning rooms run by all Marine battalions. It controls and coordinates all tactical movements and operations of units within their assigned areas.

This engrossing job of trying to out-think the enemy and successfully deploy troops is accomplished through the cooperation and coordination of the intelligence section, operations and planning section, fire support coordination center (FSCC), and the air liaison section. These sections are all located in the COC.

Through the combined efforts of Marine reconnaissance teams, Vietnamese agents, farmers, and woodcutters in the area, the intelligence (S-2) personnel gather detailed information concerning enemy movements and locations.

Every terrain feature of the area is studied with maps and aerial photographs. From these the S-2 gathers information on terrain, vegetation, rivers or streams (how wide and how deep they are) and any other information that would be of use to units operating in the area.

Information collected by the S-2 is turned over to the operations section (S-3) which uses the data to help plan and coordinate all offensive and defensive operations.

The main mission of the local S-3 is the defense of the Phu Bai vital defense area. This is accomplished by extensive patrolling, search and destroy operations, coordinating with Combined Action Companies (CAC), and by close liaison with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) 1st Division's operations.

Psychological warfare is another of the S-3 section's responsibilities. Marine battalions fully

recognize the necessity of winning the people, overcoming their fear of the Viet Cong, gaining their aid and assistance in combating the VC and winning their support for their government.

The artillery support (FSCC) and air liaison (ALO) sections function to give maneuvering elements the artillery, naval gunfire, and close air support wherever and whenever it is needed. It is essential every phase of an operation be planned with the aim of providing maximum effective utilization of whichever supporting arm is appropriate for the mission.

Secondly, the supporting arms section recommends to the S-3 officer defensive fire support for all installations, fire for the harassment of enemy troops, as well as fire support plans for future operations.

The COC watch officer keeps

air and artillery support personnel informed of the everchanging location of friendly units. Every effort is made to protect civilians and friendly areas from devastation by supporting arms.

Defense of the Phu Bai area is provided by "Hell in a Helmet" platoons and companies operating out of patrol bases throughout the TAOR, backed up by immediate reaction forces. Should a villager inform a patrol that a VC unit has entered a village, these units can conduct an immediate search of the area.

When missions require air support the air liaison section can place a helicopter or a jet in the area of operation in a very short period.

Through the efforts of many people working as a team, the battalion COC is truly the "heart" of a smooth functioning battalion.

Name school in honor of Cpl. killed in action

CHU LAI—When Ly Son's new school is complete it will be named in honor of Marine Cpl. John H. Mooney, a member of MAG-36, who was killed in action.

After Mooney's death members of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-362 donated money to purchase flowers for their fellow Marine's funeral.

But, by the time the money had been collected, it was too late for the flowers to arrive U.S. in time for the funeral services, so Lieutenant Colonel Marshall B. Armstrong, the squadron commanding officer, searched for a good use for it.

After talking with MAG-36 civil affairs team members, Armstrong decided the money should

be used to help buy building materials needed to construct a school MAG-36 Marines planned to build on the island.

Last month tons of lumber and cement (much of it purchased with the flower money) were loaded aboard a boat at Ky Ha and sent to the island. Marines, sailors and Ly Son islanders unloaded the material and took it to the site of the new school.

Construction is under way on the Cpl. John H. Mooney school,



Marine Platoon leader

2dLt. J. E. Garney gives the men of 1st platoon, "A" Co., 1st Bn., Ninth Marines, the word to "move out" during Operation Prairie II being conducted by the 3d Marine Division north of Cam Lo. (Photo by LCpl. S. M. Leighty)



Taste-tempting drink

Coconut juice hits the spot for Marine LCpls. Jon C. Pahl (left) and William L. DeLine, Jr. The two Leathernecks are members of "F" Co., 2d Bn., Fourth Marines, and were participating in a sweep and destroy mission southwest of Da Nang. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Some USAID goods intended for resale

SAIGON (MACV) — Many people have assumed mistakenly that goods bearing the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) emblem—clasped hands on a red, white and blue shield—cannot be sold. The fact is that the majority of U.S. Aid to Vietnam is intended for resale.

In order to avoid misunderstandings in the future, goods for resale will be labeled "May Be Sold In Vietnam".

Last year, \$512.2 million worth of AID-supported commodities were sent to Vietnam for resale. These goods were supplied under the Commodity Import Program (CIP).

The AID-financed CIP and the Government of Vietnam's foreign exchange financed program of commercial imports were established to absorb the excessive amounts of piasters in circulation, thereby reducing inflationary pressures within the Vietnamese economy.

Under the CIP, the United States finances commodities im-

ported into Vietnam through normal commercial channels for direct sale to consumers or for use in manufacturing.

Importers of CIP items must pay in piasters the equivalent of the dollar value of their import purchases.

Other AID-financed commodities such as grant-aid donations or goods destined for specific projects, may not be resold. These goods are marked "donated by the People of the United States of America. Not To Be Sold or Exchanged".

This type of aid amounted to \$215.8 million last year.

Third wound

DA NANG—A Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman with Marine Aircraft Group-16 who enjoys flying, has been grounded.

John T. Goodwin, 29, received his third wound recently while on "missions of mercy."

The first came in October when he was a member of a civic action team operating in a village south of Chu Lai. The village was hit by a Viet Cong mortar barrage. Goodwin was wounded in the leg, but escaped from the attack with only one "souvenir" of shrapnel.

During January he received his second Purple Heart Medal while with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-263, four miles south of An Hoa. After lifting off with five wounded, the helo was hit by machinegun fire. One of the rounds tore through the floor under Goodwin and missed him by inches, but shrapnel carried with it lodged in his arm.

Goodwin's last wound and "ticket home" came while flying with HMM-361, 18 miles west of the Marble Mountain Air Facility. Goodwin was seated on a stretcher with his legs outstretched when the helo received two hits. One round passed between his legs and two metal splinters struck him in the right leg.

Decorations and awards

PHU BAI—A Marine second lieutenant who led two highly successful reconnaissance patrols against Viet Cong forces in the Phu Bai area has been awarded his second Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action.

Second Lieutenant Jerry E. Siler led the first patrol deep into VC territory on Dec. 21, to gather intelligence information.

Placing his eight-man patrol in a hasty ambush position after spotting a guerrilla force moving towards them, Siler waited until the enemy was within 10 yards of the Marines before taking them under fire.

Siler's patrol killed five VC and wounded two others during the firefight.

Despite the fact that the ambush had revealed the Marines' general position, Siler kept them in the area for three more days while directing barrages of artillery on known Viet Cong positions.

The information gathered by Siler's patrol during the three days resulted in a highly successful B-52 bomb strike on the enemy positions.

Siler returned to the area on Dec. 30, this time with 16 men to assess the results of the air strikes.

The Marines had separated into two patrols to cover more ground when the left flank unit was hit by automatic weapons fire. Siler quickly rallied the remainder of the patrol and counter-attacked the VC sending them fleeing through the underbrush.

After directing the clearing of a landing zone for a wounded Marine, he called in artillery fire on the retreating enemy.

The next morning, when his assistant patrol leader spotted a large enemy movement, Siler led his men to a vantage point where they observed more than 1,000 enemy carrying mortars, machineguns and other weapons.

After ascertaining the enemy force was headed for Marine positions to the north, Siler reported his finding, and directed both air and artillery strikes on the enemy.

Siler remained in the area with his patrol for two more days despite cold, wet weather and food shortages.

On the morning of Jan. 2, as his patrol was moving out of the area to join friendly forces, he spotted another platoon-sized guerrilla force. Siler directed his patrol to open fire on the enemy, killing two and wounded two, then directed artillery on the VC as they fled southward.

SILVER STAR

CHU LAI—Second Lieutenant Earl G. Darlington, received the Silver Star Medal for extraordinary heroism as leader of a 1st Reconnaissance Bn., 1st Marine Division patrol during Operation Rio Blanco in November, 1966.

While his patrol was supporting Seventh Marine Regiment troops south of Chu Lai, Darlington directed 14 successful artillery and air support missions against Viet Cong guerrilla forces in the area.

When a heavily-armed VC unit attacked the small patrol, the lieutenant continually exposed himself to enemy fire while organizing his men to repel the attack. The Marines were safely extracted, with only one man slightly wounded.

BrigGen. William A. Stiles, commanding general, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, presented the Silver Star.

Darlington is presently serving as Security Platoon commander for Sub-Unit No. 2, Headquarters Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

DFC

KY HA—"I've had some close calls since I began flying combat missions last April. But, this one was too close," explained First Lieutenant Steven Wilson after receiving his Distinguished Flying Cross during ceremonies at Marine Aircraft Group-36.

The Marine Corps veteran of five years earned his DFC while

escorting two Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165 CH-46A "Sea Knight" helicopters on an emergency reconnaissance retraction mission near Chu Lai, last September.

According to the citation, Wilson was called on to provide suppressive fire against a large enemy unit which had trapped a small Marine force. He willingly and without hesitation, exposed himself to enemy fire as he made several strafing runs against the VC, peppering them with fire from six M-60 machine guns, and 2.75-inch rockets.

The veteran 'chopper' pilot recalled that bad weather had set in and that it was difficult to direct the attack jet's fire.

A 40-man Viet Cong force had surrounded the recon team and, according to Wilson, "were about to overrun it."

Wilson repeatedly attacked the enemy. The Viet Cong began to run into the nearby jungle as two MAG-12 A4E "Skyhawk" jets hammered their positions with 250 pound bombs and 20mm cannon fire.

"Wilson did a great job out there. He's a real tiger," said LtCol. William R. Maloney, VMO-6 commanding officer, who was flying as Tactical Air Coordinator Airborne, during the same mission.

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

the award.

Since arriving in Vietnam, Wilson has flown more than 620 combat missions, earning 31 awards of the Air Medal, the Purple Heart, and the Vietnamese Service Medals.

BRONZE STAR

DA NANG — Lance Corporal Erwin M. Guyett, who raced 150 meters through enemy fire to rescue a fellow Marine was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroism.

Guyett was cited for his actions in rescuing a 1st Marine Aircraft Wing helicopter crew member while serving as a fireteam leader.

During a strafing run in support of Guyett's company, an UH-1E (Huey) gunship helicopter was downed by enemy fire and crashed in flames near his position.

With complete disregard for his own safety, Guyett rushed to the burning aircraft and rescued a wounded crew member, then led the aviation Marine to a rice paddy to extinguish his burning flight suit.

Despite hostile fire, Guyett carried the critically wounded crew member to the company position and a medical corpsman.

Guyett was presented the medal by Lieutenant Colonel Charles E. Wydner Jr., of West Springfield, Va., and commanding officer, Marine Air Base Squadron-16, Marble Mountain Air Facility.



Silver Star

Sgt. Robert Bright III, was recently presented the nation's third highest combat award by MajGen. Wood B. Kyle, 3rd Marine Division commanding general. Bright was cited for heroic actions while on a recon patrol.

(Photo by: Sgt. D. E. Weimer)



Trooper surrenders

Marines of "A" Co., 1st Bn., Ninth Marine Regt., search a North Vietnamese soldier who surrendered to them during a fire-fight. The action took place during the 3rd Marine Division's Operation Prairie II, north of Cam Lo.

(Photo by: LCpl. S. M. Leighty)

New helicopter rescue at sea completed off USS Repose

USS REPOSE—A new type of rescue at sea was successfully completed off USS REPOSE (AH16) recently. The rescue of a Marine helicopter by another helicopter off the flight deck of the hospital ship in Danang Harbor, was a first for a new prototype of Marine helicopter and a new use for a combat boot.

During regular helicopter operations on 25 January a HC 34 helicopter attached to HMM 263 in Danang was making a routine approach to the REPOSE helicopter deck. As the helicopter approached to about twenty yards from the lip of the helicopter deck the helicopter engine suddenly stopped and the 15,000 pound craft dropped about thirty feet to the helicopter deck. The rear wheel of the helicopter landed in the metal trough around the helicopter deck and just within the safety wire net.

The 34 piloted by Captain W. G. BARNES, USMC, was making a run from the beach returning

REPOSE personnel. As other helicopters circled REPOSE to bring patients and personnel, HMM 263 worked on the best method to remove the downed helicopter. The job of removing the 34 went to a new member of the helicopter team in Vietnam, a CH 53.

The huge 53 made an approach

over REPOSE and it was decided, because of the close range of the smoke stack, to remove the blades from the 34. The helicopter crew began the 45 minute job of disassembling the blades with the assistance of the Second Division of REPOSE.

The problem faced by the 53 crew was to thread a guide line from their belly pick up hook through the steel pick up brace on the 34. The first attempt involved the use of a small hook which came loose from a guide line because of the great whirl wind put up by the 53. A few minutes later a combat boot appeared out of the belly of the 53. The boot held to the guide line and a member of the 34 crew threaded the boot through the metal pick up brace on the 34. The 34 crew member then climbed down the side of the 34, pulling the shoe. The pick up hook of the 53 followed and the big pick up hook was securely in place. The nylon cord attached to the pick up hook tightened and the 34 was gently lifted off REPOSE.

The 34 pilot stated that it was he believed, to be the first time that the new 53 had been used to lift another helicopter since it arrived in Vietnam service. The 34 fell to the REPOSE helicopter deck at 1535 and at 1725 REPOSE tower reported it was ready to resume normal helicopter operations. After a quick sweep down by the Second Division helicopter landing number 2886 took place without incident.

Men calling home from Chinook CP

PHU BAI—The first step is only 50-feet-long—from the communications tent to the radio-relay van—but when the radio-telephone circuit is finally completed, Marines taking part in Operation Chinook may reach halfway around the globe.

"We think it's another 'first' for the Fourth Marines," said Major James W. Christopherson, regimental communications officer.

"Previously, when a Marine wished to put through a long distance MARS station call to the States, he'd have to ride by convoy to Phu Bai, stay overnight to make his call at the station there and come back out here the next day.

"Now he can call direct from Chinook headquarters at the Fourth Marines command post."

8 SEA TIGER

The first attempt to complete calls from Co Bi Thanh Tan, 25 miles northwest of here was highly successful. Fifteen calls were completed while 14 others received a "Don't Answer" at the other end.

Completed calls were made to cities in New York, Florida, Michigan, Missouri and even Mexico City. Most of the calls were health and welfare reports, according to Maj. Christopherson.

Nearly 3,000 men can take advantage of the service which is expected to continue on a one night per week basis. The major, together with his wire chief and radio supervisor, Sergeant Douglas W. Mercer, work on the phone patches to put the calls through.

The phone service was originally encouraged and authorized by Colonel R.H. Thompson, Fourth Regiment commanding officer.

Amtrac crewmen rescued by Sgt.

By: SSgt. Jack "W" Jansen

DA NANG—Braving a hail of enemy fire, Marine Sergeant Herman R. Brewer Jr. jumped into the Vinh Dien river, Mar. 6, climbed aboard an unmanned amphibian tractor and rescued several wounded Marines.

On a resupply mission during an operation six miles south of Da Nang, Brewer, a member of "A" Company, 1st Amphibian Tractor Battalion, was driving his tractor down the river when his and another vehicle were caught in a Viet Cong ambush set up on both sides of the river.

A Soviet 40mm shell hit his tractor, went through the metal plating and blew out an escape hatch on the opposite side. Fifteen seconds later the amphibious vehicle sank.

Brewer made his way to shore amid the devastating enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire and pulled himself to safety.

Disregarding his personal safety he jumped back into the river and swam out to the remaining tractor, which had been hit, blowing the crew into the water.

"I saw the remaining amtrac floating down the river and knew that without it there would be no way for us to get the wounded men out of the river to safety," said the sergeant.

Still under heavy fire from the ambush site he maneuvered the amtrac about the river picking up all the Marines in the water.

He then drove to a nearby Vietnamese army camp where medical evacuation helicopters were called in to pick up the wounded. According to First Lieutenant

Dennis R. VanDervoort, platoon leader of Brewer's platoon, this was not the first time the sergeant has displayed such courage.

"Sgt. Brewer is the best Marine I have ever met," said the lieutenant. "He is a quiet, shy type, but always in there doing his job with that little extra something that is the mark of a good non-commissioned officer. He has been in similar situations before and always reacted calmly, quickly and with confidence."

Sgt. Brewer completes his 13-month tour in Vietnam during April.

MAG-13 air strike

CHU LAI—F4B Phantom jets from Marine Aircraft Group-13 in an hour-long bombing run March 3 killed 70 Viet Cong caught in an open area just south of the demilitarized zone.

Eight planes, four each from VMFA-542 and 323, made 28 bomb runs on the VC before they disappeared into a treeline.

First Lieutenant R.J. Curtis, and a radar intercept officer with VMFA-323, lamented many of the enemy battalion escaping.



Big game hunter

Sgt. Howard J. Greene is the NCO in charge of the 1st Bn., Ninth Marines sniper team in Operation Prairie II south of the DMZ. The snipers are making kills at ranges up to 1,200 yards with their scope-sighted rifles.

Complex chain of events

Typical air strike no simple matter

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

DA NANG—As two F4B Phantom jets pulled away from the smoking enemy trench complex, approximately 10 miles southwest of Da Nang, the first wave of troop-carrying helicopters began their descent.

Yesterday, the area was swarming with well-armed enemy troops. This morning the helos land with little or no opposition. Each helicopter discharges a dozen Marines who join others to mop up enemy survivors of the air strike.

In less time than it takes to finish a C-ration meal, the jets had destroyed the enemy resistance. Yet simple as the strike appears to the Marine rifleman on the ground, it was actually the result of a complex chain of events.

The previous night, a call was placed from the Fire Support Coordination Center of the 1st Marine Division to the Tactical Air Control Center at 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Headquarters. FSCC requested an air strike for the following morning and gave a description of the target and the time the strike was needed. The men in the Tactical Air Control Center took it from there.

Lieutenant Colonel H.A. Stiles, Weapons Employment Officer, studied intelligence information concerning enemy fortifications. Combining his knowledge of the target and the destructive capabilities of various types of ordnance at his disposal, he was able to determine the number and kinds of bombs needed for the job.

He passed this information to Captain Gordon A. King, one of three jet "frag" officers. The term "frag" refers to a fragmentary portion of the total operations order for a given day. To "frag" a flight of planes is to assign them a particular mission.

King had information concerning the availability of the aircraft of each of the three Marine jet aircraft groups in Vietnam. Combining this knowledge with the experience gained in 200 combat missions, he decided that two F-4B Phantoms could best handle the job.

The requirement, along with other "frags" for the next day, was passed to Marine Aircraft Group-13, in Chu Lai. There a group briefing officer selected one of MAG-13's three squadrons to supply the planes. A Squadron operations officer selected the pilots, and Radar Intercept Officers who fly back seat in the Phantoms.

At approximately 5 a.m. the following morning, the pilots and

First weeks

DA NANG—When First Lieutenant Charles T. Allen arrived in Vietnam he expected to see a lot of action—but not quite as much as he did his first two weeks.

Shortly after joining Marine Observation Squadron 2, Feb. 25, he was sent to Khe Sanh, southwest of the demilitarized zone, to fly gun support for aircraft operating there.

The first night for the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Leatherneck was sleepless as enemy mortars pounded the airstrip, causing minor damage. His UH-1E helo was hit in 25 places by shrapnel.

Several days later he was flying escort for an emergency medical evacuation mission. Forced to fly low due to weather, Allen's helo was hit by four enemy sniper rounds, and he was wounded by shrapnel from a round that hit under his seat.

RIOs listened attentively to the briefing and intelligence officers as they gave them the location of the target, its nature, launch time, time on target, expected resistance, radio frequencies, and type of ordnance.

At 6:45 a.m. they were airborne. By 7 a.m. they had contacted their Tactical Air Controller (Airborne), and five minutes later were making their initial runs on the target, dropping 500 lb. Snake Eye bombs and churning the ground with 20 millimeter cannon fire.

DA NANG—Firing from camouflaged trenches and fortified structures, the Viet Cong had temporarily halted the Marine advance when two red-nosed F-8E "Crusader" jets arrived on the scene.

During four passes over the enemy positions, the jets released 13 250-pound bombs on their target. They destroyed two of the structures and ripped open 40 yards of trenchline, allowing the Marine riflemen to continue their attack.

The "Death Angels" of Marine All Weather Fighter Squadron (VMFAW)-235 were back in country and on the job.

They arrived at Da Nang Feb. 15, after a three-month training and reforming period. Combat operations began the following day.

This is the squadron's second tour in Vietnam. During nine and a half months of 1966 (VMFAW)-235 compiled an impressive record of more than 6,000 sorties and 7,000 flight hours in support of Marine and allied forces. The squadron's pilots earned a total of more than 200 Air Medals.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward R. Rogal, the commanding officer, summed up the feelings of his men upon returning to the war.

MAG-12's LOX plant provides liquid gasses

CHU LAI—Providing liquid oxygen and nitrogen so vital to aviation could be a problem at Chu Lai if it weren't for the portable Liquid Oxygen (LOX) Plant at Marine Aircraft Group-12.

The LOX Plant provides 12,800 gallons of liquid oxygen and 194,800 cubic feet of gasses a day. Pilots, welders, and medical personnel represent only a few of the personnel dependent on liquid oxygen or nitrogen produced by the plant.

Actually five separate plants in one, the completely portable operation keeps its 29-man section working around the clock to meet the demands of Marine Air in the Chu Lai area.

A relatively new military occupational specialty, the cryogenic equipment technician field created in Aug., 1965, is made up of many former utilities men and engineers.

Making pure oxygen and nitrogen, which gets as cold as minus 367 degrees, requires the utmost caution. Exposed to these extremely low temperatures, a rubber ball will shatter like glass.

Each plant, powered by a diesel engine consumes air at the rate of 120 cubic feet at 3,000 pounds of pressure per minute. Once air is pulled in and compressed, it is channeled into a machine called a Colum, which separates the nitrogen, oxygen and rare gasses



Captured NVA equipment

PFC James L. Rucker carries captured North Vietnamese equipment back to the 1st Bn., Ninth Marines CP. The NVA-abandoned cooking pots, rolls of communication wire and a blanket roll are tied onto a Vietnamese don ganh (carry pole). The equipment was captured on Operation Prairie II, north of Cam Lo.

(Photo by LCpl. S. M. Leighty)

Death Angels back after reforming period

By: Cpl. Bob Pitner

"We are proud of our old record, but we have the potential for beating that record. We have a lot of talent in the squadron and we are glad to be back," he said.

The F-8E "Crusader" flown by the "Death Angels" is a supersonic fighter capable of carrying a wide variety of weapons. It is armed with four 20mm cannon and can carry two types of air-to-ground rockets and up to 4,000 pounds of bombs.

In Vietnam, the Crusader is used primarily in support of ground forces. Types of missions frequently flown by the squadron include helicopter escort, convoy escort, close air support for ground units, and day or night all-weather bombing.



Happy Birthday

PFC Tony Balenti takes time out during an operation to celebrate his birthday "field style." A member of "C" Co., 3d Engineers, he constructed the cake from the only thing available—"C" rations.

(Photo by Sgt. G. D. Sullivan, Jr.)

Scramble

DA NANG—Two Marine jets on a mission south of Da Nang March 10, ran out of targets before they ran out of ammunition.

Major Robert A. Gillon, and Captain Richard D. Hearney, of Marine All-Weather Fighter Squadron 232 scrambled in support of Marine ground force 17 miles south of Da Nang.

The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Crusader jet pilots made four bombing runs over the enemy position, but planned strafing and rocket runs were not necessary. Marine riflemen moved in to clear up the remnants of the enemy force.

The pair was credited with five enemy killed.

Sweet tooth Viet Cong

PHU BAI—The Viet Cong have a sweet tooth, too.

Included in the possessions of one of four VC killed by a platoon of "M" Company, Twenty-Sixth Marines, was about 25 pounds of assorted hard candy.

"I guess we must have caught the enemy on a candy run," said Private First Class Robert D. Wetzel, who serves as a sniper.

The platoon killed two VC during one early morning ambush and accounted for two more in a similar ambush a day later while operating in the Co Bi Thanh Tan valley, 25 miles northwest of Hue.

"One of the VC was a paymaster. He was carrying his records with him," Second Lieutenant John D. Manzi, the platoon commander said. "We also captured some food supplies and clothing in addition to the candy," he said.

Manzi said three Viet Cong walked into the first ambush, but apparently began to suspect something just before they reached the kill zone. Only one escaped into the brush, however.

Recon lift

DA NANG — A 36 man Army special forces reconnaissance team was lifted from encircling Viet Cong forces by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-265, 31 miles west of Phu Bai.

Four CH-46 Sea Knights were launched from Phu Bai to rescue the Special Forces troops, who were pinned in a 250-pound bomb crater by Viet Cong fire.

As the flight leader descended, his aircraft drew intense enemy fire and was hit several times by small arms fire while trying to avoid trees surrounding the area.

Unable to complete his descent due to damaged rotors, he lifted from the zone with his crew chief and gunner returning the enemy fire and causing secondary explosions.

Following their return to Phu Bai, Captain Hal Clark leading two other helicopters returned to the area for another attempt.

The Special Forces Team called for an emergency extraction or additional troops because, "the VC are closing in fast."

The helicopters returned to Phu Bai for the second time and called for jet attack aircraft from Marine Aircraft Group-12 to make air strikes against the enemy. Following the jet strikes, the recon team asked for a lift out again.

Four helicopters for retraction and five HMM-164 with a Marine reactionary force aboard, arrived to complete the mission.

New location

DONG HA—Vietnamese civilians of Di An hamlet, near Dong Ha, have been moved into a temporary village nearby.

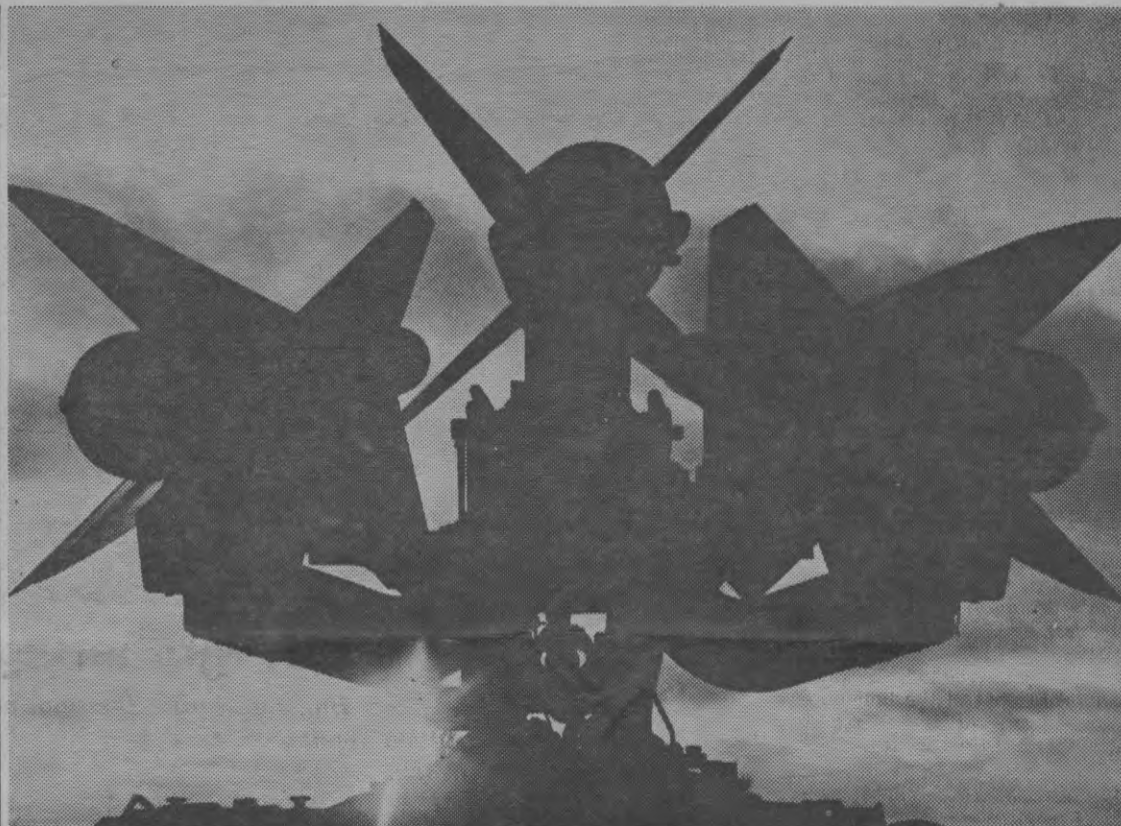
The move was necessary to expand the perimeter of the combat base.

According to the village chief, his people were happy to make this "small sacrifice," compared with those being made by Marines and Vietnamese soldiers who are defending his homeland.

Captain Clarent G. Simpson, of the base coordinator's office is in charge of the move. He and his Marine and Army troops ensure each family retains all its possessions during the move.

Marines provide material for the homes at the new location near Highway One.

10 SEA TIGER



TWILIGHT VIGIL—Sunset silhouettes three Hawk missiles as they stand their silent vigil into the night. (PHOTO BY: Sgt. R. C. Hathaway)

"Hawks" never used in anger but they're constantly on alert

By: Sgt. H.G. McGratan

DA NANG—Flames spewing from its tail, the 1,300 pound bird leaves its nest and soars swiftly through the night in pursuit of its prey. Suddenly the night sky erupts with a brilliant flash of fire.

The "Hawk" has made its kill.

The Marine Corps' "bird of prey" (Homing All the Way Killer) missile is used by Marine Corps Light Anti-Aircraft Missile Battalion's (LAAM's).

In Vietnam, the battalion at Da Nang and Chu Lai, provides a constant augmentation to the defenses of nearby Marine Corps air and ground installations.

From positions circling these vital areas, each of the battalion's three batteries maintains a 24-hour-a-day vigil. The units include detection and tracking radar, as well as identification, friend or foe (IFF) equipment.

Should an enemy aircraft ever attempt to invade this barrier, either at tree-top level or some five miles high, day or night, the "Hawk", using a highly-sophisticated electronics system, will find it.

It takes a five-man Marine team in each battery to "unlock the door" to the Hawk's cage.

The team, consists of a tactical control officer, tactical control assistant, azimuth speed indicator operator, and two fire control operators.

Packed into a small control center, they plot and identify a suspected "bogey", track him (including direction, speed and height), and when the illuminator radar signifies the target is within range, the "Hawks" are activated.

Upon direction of the tactical control officer, a fire control operator punches a fire button, and a "bird" is on the way.

No amount of dodging or aerial maneuvering by the enemy can shake it due to a tracking antenna on board the missile which homes in on energy reflected by the target.

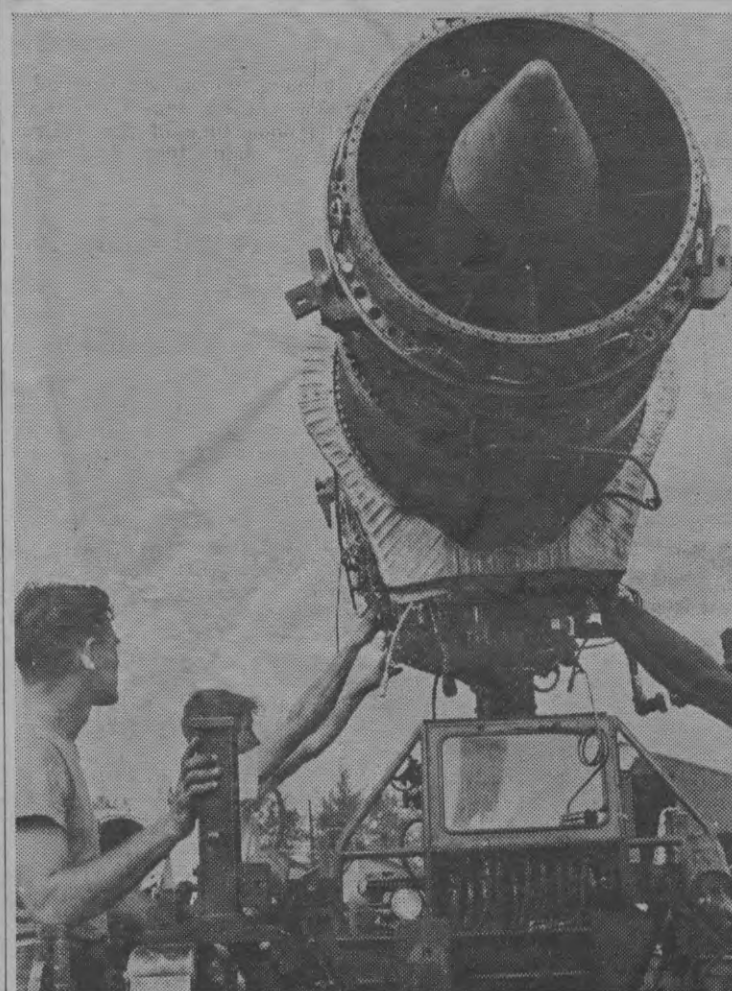
Aircraft are not the only "natural enemies" of this bird. The "Hawk" missile has also proved itself against surface-to-surface missile systems of short-range artillery class.

The "Hawk" scored the first known intercept and kill of an airborne missile when it destroyed an "Honest John" artillery rocket. It has also successfully engaged both the "Little

John" artillery rocket and the "Corporal" missile.

Though a "Hawk" missile has never been fired in conflict by

the Marine Corps, they're constantly on the alert, as are the men of the missile battalions serving in Vietnam.



Easy does it

Engine shop mechanics of Marine Aircraft Group-12 guide a jet power plant on to the test stand where it will be tested at maximum rpm. The test detects any malfunction through a panel of gauges attached to vital points on the engine.

Scholarship fund set up at Purdue

PHU BAI—A memorial scholarship fund has been established at Purdue University by the parents of a Marine killed in Vietnam during Operation Chinook.

The fund is in memory of Private First Class Charles Swain, who was killed in February when he stepped on a mine while serving as a scout with the 3rd Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Swain of Batavia, said in a letter to Capt. Richard Sasek, commanding officer of H&S Co., that the "Charles M. Swain Memorial Scholarship Fund would be available to any Marine who has served in Vietnam and who has been honorably discharged."

The letter said Marines wishing to complete their education and needing financial assistance would be eligible.

Swain had intended to complete his college education at Purdue upon discharge from the Marine Corps.

End of era

DA NANG—The mighty Sikorsky CH-37's are seen daily lifting supplies and troops throughout the I Corps area—but its days are numbered.

Eight of the helicopters—the last in the Marine Corps—are assigned to Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-16 at Marble Mountain Air Facility.

They are manned and maintained by 10 officers and 63 enlisted of the CH-37 detachment, led by Major Richard Hawley.

Despite their official designation, the big birds are popularly called "Deuces," a hold-over from their original nomenclature HR-2S. Like their aircraft, detachment personnel are nicknamed the Deuce Detachment.

Most of the Deuce Marines have long-standing acquaintances with their aircraft. Captain Robert Carlson has more than 1200 hours at the controls.

The Deuces arrived in Vietnam in Sept., 1965 at Ky Ha, but shortly after were flown to Marble Mountain.

Their primary mission is flying heavy cargo and troops. The big machines can lift up to 7,000 lbs., but their normal load averages 4,000 to 4,500 lbs.

They are due for rotation to the U.S. this spring.

New Sgt/Maj.

PHU BAI — Sergeant Major Borge E. Freeberg assumed the duty as the new sergeant major of the 3rd Marine Division during appointment ceremonies at division headquarters here March 6.

His predecessor, Sergeant Major Clyde M. Long, who held the post since Aug. 4, 1966, has been transferred to the 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Prior to his assignment with the 3rd Marine Division, Freeberg served as sergeant major of the Inspector-Instructor Staff, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines, at Santa Monica, Calif.

Pilots have round drop in their laps

KY HA — Beads of perspiration trickled down the two young helicopter pilots' brows. They had had some close calls since last December when they began flying combat missions over Vietnam, but today had been too close.

Many Marine pilots have been faced with probable death while participating in operations against the Viet Cong. But not many of them have had a 30-caliber round literally drop in their lap.

VMO-6

CHU LAI — Since arriving in Vietnam 17 months ago, UH-1E helicopter pilots of Marine Observation Squadron-6 have flown more than 88,000 combat missions, tallying almost 23,000 hours in the air.

Ninety per cent of these missions have been in support of other MAG-36 helicopter squadrons involved in troop lifts, medical evacuations and emergency rescue operations throughout South Vietnam.

During normal troop lifts, two of the squadron's Huey gunships are deployed to the landing zone. The zone is usually in Viet Cong territory, and gunship pilots expect to be shot at. The senior pilot of the two helicopters assumes the responsibility of airborne tactical air controller, while the other acts as wingman.

Before transport helicopters enter the landing zone, both Hueys scout the area. If the zone is clear, the TACA will radio for the landings to commence.

But if the area is VC infested, he will call in attack planes and artillery fire. He and his wingman will also help soften up the area with 2.75 inch rockets and M-60 machinegun fire.

While supporting medical evacuation missions, the TACA determines the best approach to the zone for the rescue helicopter; call in attack planes if needed; and provide suppressive fire themselves to cover the rescue 'copters as they recover the wounded.

Most emergencies are medevac cases, but the Hueys are additionally requested to assist the rescue of friendly ground forces trapped or pinned down by VC

Such was the case with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM)-262 pilots, Captain Duncan McLaurin, and First Lieutenant Richard Kalata, during a reconnaissance retraction mission near Chu Lai.

The two veteran CH-46A "Sea Knight" pilots said the round smashed through their "bird's" instrument panel, spraying the cockpit with splinters of glass. Several fragments ripped through Kalata's flight suit, lodging in his right leg, while others were imbedded in McLaurin's hands and wrists.

Despite their wounds, the pilots managed to control the helicopter as they began the return trip to their home base at Ky Ha.

On their way back, Kalata inspected the aircraft for damages, and discovered that their tachometer had been completely destroyed by the impact of the round.

"As I continued my inspection, I happened to look on the floor", explained Kalata. "And there, rolling slowly back and forth was this wicked-looking chunk of lead that could have had my name on it".

McLaurin said the round had come through the nose of the aircraft, traveled the length of the tachometer, and evidently lost its momentum and fell to the plexiglass floor.

542 strike

CHU LAI—A close air support mission flown in support of Operation De Soto, 35 miles south of here, caused extensive damage to Viet Cong installations and accounted for eight enemy dead Feb. 18.

Captain Leo A. Cullum and a pilot with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-542 led the two F4B Phantom jet flights which in addition to the confirmed kills, destroyed 12 enemy structures, damaged 11 others and knocked out a bunker. A secondary explosion was also touched off by the raid.

Cullum's wingman was First Lieutenant Robert L. Snyder.



Fireside gathering

Marines of the 3d Engineer Bn., 1st Marine Division, pause to dry out boots and warm up during an operation conducted by the 2d Bn., 26th Marines, along the Cu De River south of Da Nang. (Photo by Sgt. G. D. Sullivan)

Try Tokyo for an R&R

SAIGON (MACV) — The R&R traveller's first taxi-ride impression of Tokyo is that of a sprawling, traffic-choked, industrial metropolis. But one soon discovers the traditional beauties mingled with modern conveniences in this most progressive of Asian nations.

You'd do well to make the Tokyo USO your first stop. Located on the Ginza, the USO offers a variety of services including hotel reservations, sightseeing tours, ticket and travel service and a giant-size information center.

Through the USO's discount hotel reservation program, a hotel room can run you as little as \$3.34 a day. The same room booked without USO help costs about \$8.34. A single room at the Tokyo Hilton costs as low as \$5.

An easy way to see the city's high spots and get to know your way around is to take a bus tour. For \$3.34 you can take a morning or afternoon tour of the Tokyo area; a night tour including drinks and dinner costs \$13.89. Tours outside Tokyo include a one-day trip, with lunch, to Nikko (\$15.), Kyoto (\$26.39) and Mt. Fuji (\$15).

Kyoto, Japan's ancient former

capital, is called by many the country's most beautiful and cosmopolitan city. The New Tokaido Line's superexpress train Hikari, rocketing along at a world record 125 m.p.h., gets you there in two and a half hours.

Your R&R visit to Japan is your best opportunity to experience a genuine Sukiyaki dinner, with sake, served by a graceful cook-waitress clad in kimono and obi. This is an elaborate Japanese meal, best taken with a group of friends. Sake, Japan's national alcoholic beverage, is a very pleasant drink brewed from rice and drunk warm from tiny porcelain cups. Ten or a dozen miniature cupsful of it can give you a cheerful glow.

Tokyo buzzes with entertainment ranging from baseball to burlesque. In the Ginza district, night clubs, bars and late-night coffee shops abound. The coffee shops and tea rooms are worth visiting for their artful decor and musical entertainment — some live and some on hi-fi systems—ranging from Bach to the Beatles.

The USO has up-to-date information on the better cabarets, restaurants, bars, theaters and music halls. Tickets can be obtained for baseball games (a big thing in Japan now), movies, sumo, boxing, kabuki, concerts and the stage shows at Asakusa and Nishigeki theaters.

At the Kokusai Gekijo, Tokyo's answer to Radio City Music Hall, 300 girls come onstage at the same time, and the special effects (waterfalls, earthquakes, fires, etc.) are breathtaking. Then there is the Nishigeki Music Hall, where burlesque as our father knew it years ago in the States still exists.

A word on the myriad of Ginza district bars: some of them refuse to serve "foreigners," and some will try to fleece you by serving high-priced bowls of unasked-for peanuts while charging outrageous prices for hostess drinks (Tokyo's equivalent of Saigon tea).

Tokyo offers a special treat for theater fans: Japan's traditional kabuki theater, one of the world's most unusual forms of stage art combining drama, dance, music, and elaborate costuming and makeup. You can buy a ticket for the whole five-hour-long show, but the newcomer may prefer to buy a ticket (for 150 yen or about 40 cents) for a single play on the program. The reasonably priced Japan Travel Bureau tours include kabuki on the itinerary.

Less popular than the kabuki is the austere noh drama, characterized by use of masks, symbolic

dances and poetic recitation. The abstract and slow-moving noh plays dramatize the teachings of Buddhism.

No visit to Japan is complete without seeing at least one Shinto shrine and one Buddhist temple. Meiji Shrine, dedicated to the Emperor Meiji who restored the Imperial house to power and planted the seeds of modern Japan, is one of the best-known in Tokyo.

Exhibits ranging from centuries-old religious art and Japanese folk toys to contemporary Western painting can be seen in display halls in large department stores.

The wealth of attractive goods available in Tokyo may tempt you to go on a shopping spree. The most popular buys in Tokyo are cameras, cultured pearls, silk materials, "tourist kimonos," transistor radios, watches, audio equipment and folkcrafts. Along the Ginza you pass a camera store every 100 feet or so (photography being modern Japan's number-one pastime). Local military exchanges generally beat the Ginza store prices, although selections may not be as large.

Transportation by taxi, subway, bus and train is plentiful and not expensive. Tipping and price-bargaining are not generally practiced.

Deadly game

DA NANG—The enemy played a deadly game of hide-and-seek, with an OI-C Detachment spot plane five miles southwest of the demilitarized zone on March 1 and lost.

The "game" cost 30 enemy lives.

The pilot of the Cessna, Marine Captain Jan Horak, Marine Aircraft Group-16, was flying in support of Operation Prairie II, when his aerial observer, Captain Charles Goode, sighted an enemy company within 600 meters of a nearby Marine position.

"They wore khaki uniforms with field packs," Goode said "and they were creeping in two columns towards a Marine unit."

Spotting the OI-Charlie, the enemy dispersed among the trees and tall elephant grass along the trail.

The spotter plane called in two Huey helicopter gunships, which raked the area with machinegun and rocket fire. Then two Skyhawk attack jets climaxed the air assault on the enemy force.

SEA TIGER 11



Fighting grenadier

Cpl. D. E. Anno, grenadier with "A" Co., 1st Bn., Ninth Marines, fires his M-79 grenade launcher at fleeing North Vietnamese troops during action on Operation Prairie II north of Cam Lo. (Photo by: LCpl. S. M. Leighty)

Helicopter recovery team overrun by VC near DMZ

By SSgt. Ted Scott

DA NANG—A helicopter recovery team from Marine Helicopter Squadron-164 returned to base March 9 from five days in the jungle near the demilitarized zone. Although the team was unable to recover a downed helo, the seven men were credited with three enemy confirmed killed.

Members of the salvage team included: Corporals Raymond Rothenberger and John Wickline; Lance Corporals Daniel Trower; Robert Tremaine and Donald Bonner; and Privates First Class Francisco Martinez and Alla Holmes.

The crew was sent to retrieve by salvage, a HMM-164 Sea Knight helicopter forced down near the demilitarized zone.

Before they could begin stripping the helicopter, an enemy force attempted to overrun an encircling defensive perimeter held by Army special forces. The Marines joined the Army troops in fighting off the attack which continued into the night, as the forces called in more than 70 air strikes.

Attempts by the Marines to strip the Sea Knight the next day

were foiled by sniper fire.

After three days and nights of unsuccessful attempts to dismantle the downed craft, the Army special forces commander was forced to withdraw from the position. Enemy reinforcements were converging on the tiny hilltop perimeter, and his ammunition was running low.

The Marines and Army troops destroyed the helicopter.

During their stay at the site, Tremaine had augmented his armament with a Chinese auto-

matic rifle recovered from a NVA soldier he had killed with a hand grenade.

Martinez, who killed two of the enemy during his second day in the zone, called the nights "particularly bad. Everytime we tried to dig in at night, big earthworms would crawl out of the mud. Some of the worms were nearly three feet in length," he claimed.

The trip to the lift-out zone took a day and a half. The troops hacked their way through jungle beset by leeches which dropped from trees and swarmed in the brackish jungle streams they crossed.

"But at least the enemy was having a tough time keeping up with us," Rothenberger said. "Except for an occasional sniper round, the only problem was the jungle. It seemed to take hours to make a few yards of progress," he said.

On the afternoon of their fifth day, a flight of CH-46 Sea Knights from Marine Aircraft Group-16 dropped into a small clearing to pick them up.

"I never saw a prettier sight," Holmes said, "the helos were dirty and muddy, but beautiful."

New 1/7 CO

CHU LAI — Lieutenant Colonel Jack D. Rowley assumed command of the 1st Battalion, Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, last month.

He relieved Lieutenant Colonel Basile Lubka, who will assume duties as Assistant Chief of Staff, (G-4), Task Force X-Ray.

Prior to assuming his new command, Rowley served as commanding officer, 3d Amphibian Tractor Battalion, 1st Marine Division, since last October.

Decorates . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

"heroic actions" after their company had been ambushed.

Rushing the enemy position, Pierce delivered heavy suppressive fire on the enemy, then while exposed to enemy fire, assisted in the evacuation of the wounded.

Cooper, who had earlier been stunned by an enemy grenade, rushed to wounded Marines, giving medical treatment while exposed to heavy fire.

The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to Sergeant William J. E. Leister, and Corporal Harry Brown. Leister also received the Navy Commendation Medal.

In addition, five other Navy Commendation Medals and 56 Purple Heart Medals were awarded to members of the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Van D. Bell.

Marine-Italian saves four . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

to safety. Luca raced across the open area through enemy fire to reach the other Marines. He half carried and half-dragged the larger Marine towards safety while continuing to fire his rifle with one hand as they crossed the field.

It was then Luca received his third wound. A bullet ricocheted, hitting Luca in the hand and arm, and went on to strike the wounded Marine being

brought to safety.

Spotting a sniper in a clump of bushes, Luca shot the Viet Cong.

"It knocked him out of the tree back and he landed motionless in the brush with his arms in the air," he said.

A corpsman ran across the field to give aid to the wounded Marine while Luca provided covering fire. The three then continued their trip across the field, still under heavy enemy fire.



Youth

"It fell upon me and I had to do the job," says Sgt. Richard C. Small, 21, after assuming command of a platoon in the 2nd Bn., Seventh Marines, 1st MarDiv., recently when the platoon leader and platoon sergeant were wounded. While under intense fire, Small took charge, called med evac helicopters and directed the movement of the wounded. According to Capt. O. M. Whipple, Jr., Sgt. Small remained cool all the time, controlled the action well and did an outstanding job.

(Photo by: CPL. Keith McIntosh)

Ground forces rely on Cessna spotters

By: Cpl. Charles Hardy

DA NANG—Some people call them "bird-dogs," others say they're "FACs." But the men who fly the tiny Cessna spotters from Marble Mountain Air Facility call themselves OI-"Charlies."

Under command of Lieutenant Colonel Jack W. Evans the 15 Leatherneck pilots fly missions daily in the I Corps area to find and mark the enemy with spotter rockets for attacking Marine jets or artillery.

The planes they fly aren't sleek, powerful jets. Except for their paint jobs, they look like planes found in hundreds of flying clubs across the United States.

The only armament consists of six spotter rockets, three under each wing, and the pilot's personal weapons. Most of the OI-"Charlies" choose to augment their meager arsenal with an AR-15 rifle.

Their flying is done low, within easy range of enemy small arms fire. The VC have found them to be tempting targets. Several times the daring pilots have returned home with holes in their planes.

But it isn't all one-sided. Recently Captain Myron J. Johnson flying his OI-"Charlie" 10 miles south of Da Nang, spotted five

VC fleeing to a hidden riverboat to escape a Marine patrol.

Unable to call in artillery because of friendly troops nearby, Johnson made a low dive, launching three spotter rockets at the VC. One of the spotters scored a direct hit, sinking the riverboat and killing three of the enemy.

Ground forces often rely on the OI-"Charlies" to detect enemy ambushes.

Last December, a Marine patrol six miles south of Chu Lai, was approaching a VC ambush.

OI-"Charlie" sighted the enemy and contacted the patrol's squad leader who called in artillery, inflicting heavy enemy casualties.

The OI-"Charlies" log more than 600 flight hours per month, flying some 300 missions.

On most, an aerial observer is along. His job is to spot enemy activity and call in air strikes or artillery.



Silver Star

Lt. Marvin T. Hopgood is presented the Silver Star Medal by Col. A. D. Cereghino, commanding officer Fourth Marines. The medal was awarded Hopgood for supplying 3rd Division units while wounded and under enemy fire.

(Photo by: SGT. K. B. McVeigh)

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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