



SEA TIGER



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April 12, 1967

March combat report

2,159 Viet Cong killed in March

By: GySgt. Ron Harwood

DA NANG—United States Marines, beginning their third year in Vietnam, killed 2,159 enemy soldiers during March. It is the largest monthly kill count by Marines since they landed at Da Nang on March 8, 1965.

Heaviest action during the month came just south of the demilitarized zone between units of the 3rd Marine Division and North Vietnamese Army troops.

Determined NVA thrusts at Marine positions were repulsed throughout the period, and by the end of March, activity and contact in the area tapered off slightly as scattered remnants of the NVA units limped back across the demilitarized zone for "R&R" (reorganization and regrouping).

On March 3, 3rd Marine Division units killed 206 Viet Cong and NVA regulars near Cam Lo during Operation Prairie II. Elements of the Third and Ninth Marine Regiments were heavily engaged with enemy forces throughout most of the day, and artillery and air strikes accounted for a large portion of the total killed.

Prairie II later terminated (March 19), and the operation moved into its third phase. The second portion, which started Feb. 1, ended as 693 VC/NVA were killed by the 3rd Division Marines. As March ended, kill count for Prairie III came to 179.

Beacon Hill, an amphibious landing just south of the DMZ near Con Thien involving elements of the Fourth Marine Regiment, accounted for 334 of the monthly total.

Chinook II continued in the Co Bi Than Tan valley north of Hue.

(Continued on Page 5)



We cross here

SSgt. Jose A. Roses briefs members of his reconnaissance team on a river crossing mission. The scout swimmers, of the 1st Force Recon Bn., joined the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, during an operation in which 111 Viet Cong were killed.

(Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Moves undetected

'Ghost' of 2/7 rushes to aid of 10 Marines, two corpsmen

By: SSgt. G. J. Howe

CHU LAI—"I heard my buddy call and I had to see what he wanted," said Corporal Arthur G. McRae after dashing across an open rice paddy under intense fire to aid 10 Marines and two corpsmen pinned down by the Viet Cong March 16.

"F" Company, 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division was conducting a search and destroy mission in the Thanh Lam (2) village complex 50 miles south of Chu Lai, and the second platoon came under heavy automatic weapons fire.

The VC were dug in to the south of the platoon and along a river bank to the west.

"Charley cut loose with four .50 cal. machineguns and pinned down half the platoon," said Company Gunnery Sergeant Walter F. Lofink.

"Two Marines were killed instantly and two others seriously wounded when the firing started," added Captain O.M. Whipple company commander. "No one could get to them because of the intense fire," he said.

The heavy firing continued for about an hour, and "everytime Marines moved out to try to reach their comrades the VC fire increased," Whipple added.

The VC fire continued despite repeated air strikes and artillery missions.

Suddenly McRae jumped up from his position, behind a hedge-row, and dashed across the open paddy to get to his fellow Marines. Bullets splashed all around him as he raced the 150 meters across the paddy, the company commander said.

Four of the men had been pinned down in the open for over an hour; two were wounded seriously. When McRae reached them he helped the corpsman administer first aid and planned how

to lead the Marine back to friendly lines.

Of the 12, two Marines and a corpsman were dead when McRae arrived — another Marine died later of wounds.

McRae organized the rest and started them moving back to the company position. He got all of the dead and wounded back to friendly lines. McRae later retrieved the weapons and equipment of the dead and wounded Marines from the rice paddy.

Corporal James A. Hagman was the Marine who originally called to McRae for help.

McRae said he couldn't understand what Hagman said, "So I went out to him."

"I looked up and saw McRae standing there," Hagman said, "and I said 'man, what are you doing out here? You're crazy to come across that field'."

McRae, who carries his Bible because "it makes me feel safer," was still standing. He wanted to take the Bible out of his pocket before taking cover behind the dike, so it wouldn't get wet.

McRae said, "I was grazed on the arm going out, but I didn't realize it till I got back."

His company commander calls McRae "the Ghost," because when he's on an operation he's

continually ahead of the company watching for the VC and booby traps. "No one knows how he gets there but when the company comes up, there he is," Whipple said.

New generals

Major General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., who earned the Navy Cross during World War II, assumed the duties of Deputy Commander, III Marine Amphibious Force, on April 1, 1967. He arrives here after serving a tour as Commanding General, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

At Chu Lai, Brigadier General Foster C. LaHue became the second commanding general of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division and assistant division commander, 1st Marine Division on March 24. He relieved Brigadier General William A. Stiles, who has been reassigned to the Landing Force Training Command, Atlantic.



FINAL FAREWELL—Cpl. Arthur G. McRae, of "F" Co., 2nd Battalion, Seventh Marines takes part in the honor guard at a memorial service for his comrades in arms who gave their lives on Operation De Soto, a search and destroy operation 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

(Photo by LCpl. W. Pierce)



SEA TIGER

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To define an ideal



As members of the Armed Forces, often assigned to duty in a foreign country, we may be called upon to explain American democracy.

This is a difficult job sometimes, inasmuch as it is hard to define an ideal. It is particularly difficult when we must put our definition into terms that have meaning to a person who has never experienced the freedoms and opportunities we take for granted.

Democracy is not limited to the United States. In various parts of the world it has developed in different ways. There are, however, certain basic ideals of democracy, common to all its areas, which inspire and mark it as a unique way of life.

In a democracy, the basic equality of men is recognized and the individual is valued more than the state. A democratic government is based upon the rule of law rather than upon the rule of men and the government is the servant of the people, not their master.

Reason and experience guide the democratic government, keeping it vital and flexible. And, although the will of the majority is the governing factor, the rights of the minority are not infringed upon.

Following these basic precepts, democratic means and procedures rather than force and coercion, are employed to gain social, political and economic goals.

These are our basic democratic ideals. Each of us has, or should have, an understanding of them and their application and relationship in our individual lives. Unless we are able to offer tangible definitions of them, we can never hope to explain them to people of another country.

As members of the Armed Forces, we must be secure in our own knowledge of the democratic principles which ample to millions of people in the world. (AFNB)

Credit cards not honored here

PHU BAI — The firm of "Jordan and Gordon" is largely responsible for keeping Marine vehicles used in Operation Chinook running constantly.

The pair of Marines are Lance Corporal I. Jordan and Private First Class R. E. Gordon. Their business is fuel supply — and the two are experts at it.

Members of the 7th Separate Bulk Fuel Company, with headquarters at Da Nang, they are assigned to Marine units from Dong Ha to Chu Lai.

Handling a dozen types of fuels, oils and greases, Jordan and Gordon keep the tanks, Otters, trucks, personnel carriers and jeeps at the operation headquarters 25 miles northwest of Phu Bai, rolling along.

"Since we arrived Feb. 16," Jordan said, "we've dispensed an average of 1,100 gallons of gas and 400 of diesel fuel daily."

Supply trucks ferry in the fuel in 55-gallon drums each day from Phu Bai.

"We off load them, roll them into place and start giving it out," Gordon said.

Sea Tiger Mail Bag

New pen-pal listing:

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3-D map

PHU BAI — A three-dimensional map made from sand and food coloring is helping the Fourth Marine Regiment plot more accurately the movements of Viet Cong in the area of Operation Chinook II.

The map (72" by 36") shows the Co Bi Thanh Tan Valley and surrounding area.

The relief production of mountains, hills, rivers, roads, trails and types of vegetation is the brain-child of Staff Sergeant Roger E. Boyajian with the regimental command group.

"I was trying to trace the progress of a refugee who had been forced to carry rice for the Viet Cong but I just couldn't get anywhere," Boyajian said.

"He just couldn't understand a sand map. Then I had the idea of this sand map. Refugees can usually spot a landmark on the sand map and from there trace where the Viet Cong had taken them," he said.

It took 30 hours to mold the various features of the map.

With food coloring he marked the vegetation, rivers, roads and mountain trails.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: "Personnel should be aware of the possibilities of being exploited or unwittingly contributing to hostile intelligence gathering efforts when engaging in "Pen-pal" correspondence."



Hamlet entrance

Marine of "F" Co., 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, moves through the entrance to a hamlet during an operation 25 miles south of Da Nang. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

School-trained volunteers explore underground world

By: LCpl. Ray Wilkinson

PHU BAI — Armed with acetylene torches, generators, gas blowers and sound telephones, Marines are exploring the underground world built by the Viet Cong about 25 miles north of here.

These Marines are especially trained to ferret through VC tunnel complexes in search of the enemy, his ammunition caches and food supplies.

A team from "B" Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, is supporting units of the Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment.

Its leader, Corporal Billy J. Bibbs said, "Each tunneller is a volunteer and school-trained. My group trained at Dong Ha."

At the school they learned how to enter tunnels, check them properly, spot booby-traps, mines

and snakes and to use tunnelling equipment.

Two-man teams armed with gas masks, sound-power telephones, calibrated ropes, lanterns and .38 pistols then enter the tunnel.

"Two men must be in the complex at all times for safety," Bibbs said. If the team discovers a fork in the tunnel, one Marine guards the intersection while the other explores further.

"This is to prevent a VC hiding in the second passage from sneaking up behind the team," explained Bibbs.

He said another reason for the two-man team is if one Marine is injured or in some way incapacitated, the second Marine can go to his aid.

Once the tunnel has been explored, it is blown up so it can't be used again.



Unwelcome house guest

Cpl. John M. McElroy holds a shirt riddled by shrapnel when a mortar shell came through the roof of his "hootch"—and sand-bagged bunker used for living quarters—during an enemy attack. PFC Tim B. Morris, also a tenant, holds an engine stake that was blown in half by the explosion while another one, twisted and bent, lays next to his head. The two men had left the hole when the attack started to man their weapon, an 81mm mortar. When the shell entered their "home" they were about five feet behind it preparing to fire back at the enemy.

(Photo by Sgt. T. D. Stephens)

Close air mission support fishermen

By: SSgt. Lynn Parnell

CHU LAI—Residents of a small fishing village near the mouth of the Pra Khuc river had lived peacefully for many years.

Then Viet Cong guerrillas came and forced the villagers to give them food, money and shelter.

As time went on, more and more villagers left to find protection with allied forces, because the Viet Cong were taking over their homes and the sampans they used to earn a living fishing in the river.

The VC were making fortified positions of the homes, digging foxholes and trenchlines around the village and using the sampans to ferry supplies across the river.

All loyal Vietnamese had left the village by March 28 when a friendly force began receiving mortar fire from it. March 29, small arms and automatic weapons fire was received by the unit.

They used their radio and within minutes a telephone rang in a small hut on the Marine Aircraft Group-13 flight line. The hut was the MAG-13 air-to-ground alert shack, and as the call was received, three Leatherneck pilots ran to their F-4B Phantom jets. The fourth was on the phone getting all information pertaining to the mission.

It was a close air support mission to be flown in support of the Marine Amphibious Force. The target: the same village once filled with quiet fishermen, now

infested with communist Viet Cong.

Captain Richard K. Bardo, was flight leader of the two Marine Fighter - Attack Squadron - 542 Phantoms that hit the village with 250 lb. bombs and 20mm cannon fire.

After five runs the flight had accounted for 17 confirmed kills, 18 structures destroyed and five others damaged.

"We were receiving fire as we made our runs," First Lieutenant John R. McCord, wingman for the mission, said, "but it didn't bother us."

McCord had Captain Jerome A. Welch as his radar intercept officer. Captain Brendan D. Lynch was RIO for Bardo.

Eastern Orthodox Easter Schedule

In contrast to celebration of Easter March 26 by Christians of Western Churches, Christians of the Eastern Orthodox Churches will celebrate Easter this year on April 30.

Following is the schedule of Worship Services for Eastern Orthodox personnel. Services will be conducted by Chaplain Boris Geeza, Eastern Orthodox Chaplain in the Memorial Chapel, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing:

April 28 — 3 p.m. Good Friday Service: Burial and Lamentation at the Grave.

April 29 — 3 p.m. Holy Saturday Service Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

April 30 — 10:45 a.m. — Holy Resurrection Service: Holy Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, followed by Easter AGAPE.

Typical headache-full day at Chu Lai's Dispensary

By: LCpl. R. R. Keene

CHU LAI—The Marine Aircraft Group-12 dispensary claims to be the best equipped and staffed in Vietnam.

At 8 a.m. the routine of the day begins although the dispensary is "open" 24-hours daily for emergencies.

A line of Marines has formed since 7:30 a.m. and Hospitalman Bruce Ramsey listens patiently at his window as each Marine describes his problem. He then directs the Marine to the proper treatment area.

As the morning goes along, the line of patients has shortened. Ramsey takes a break to get an APC to relieve a slight headache. Corpsmen aren't supposed to get sick.

He sits back down at his window and says, "Next." A young Marine steps up and says, "Doc, I got this pain..."

In another section of the clinic, Hospital Corpsman Second Class James Allison checks eyes on Chu Lai's only Phoropter eye machine. After putting drops in the patient's eyes, he asks him to read the chart 20 feet away. "Read it again," he orders. "Are you sure you just aren't trying to get a pair of pilot's sunglasses?" The dispensary is equipped to handle most minor eye troubles.

The dental clinic also opens at 8 a.m. "It doesn't need to be pulled, does it? Well, it doesn't hurt anymore Doc, really, I swear it!" Two dentists and four technicians treat approximately 500 patients a month, from cleaning and filling teeth, to extractions. The patients are in a state-side atmosphere with tiled floors and air conditioned rooms.

"You're not sticking me with that!" roars a Marine from another section of the dispensary. "You either get caught up on your shots or you don't go home," is the stern reply. There is a groan, then the stillness of submission. The dispensary gives approximately 2,000 immunizations each month. "We can't stress enough how important it is to keep up your shots," the corpsman tells the Marine.

HM1 James Crossan sits six Marines down in the audio booth, which is the only one in Chu Lai. The Marines listen into the earphones as Crossan checks their hearing. "Being on the flight line as these Marines are can cause real ear damage if they aren't careful. We try to check them all regularly. Most of them wouldn't know they have ear damage if we didn't check them. After a year of working next to screaming jet engines an undetected injury may be uncorrectable," states Crossan.

The senior medical officer, Navy Lieutenant Terry Happel, reports to one of the four air conditioned surgery rooms to watch HM2 Francis Wilson dress a small wound. Happel keeps a close eye on both corpsman and patient. Often he asks for an opinion and the corpsman is eager to give it. Dr. Happel knows it's best to have his corpsmen ready to treat anything. A few weeks ago they treated a sentry dog with a punji wound.

Shortly before noon one of the two MAG-12 ambulances pulls up to the ramp. These corpsmen have returned from a MedCap (Medical Civil Action Program). Like most Marine units the MAG-12 corpsmen conduct regular MedCaps, in addition to having a corpsman stationed in the village of An Tan seven days a week. The corpsmen are taking regular lessons in Vietnamese, in addition to their nightly class to keep proficient in their medical skills.

The work continues in the af-

ternoon. HM2 Bill Kelly blinks his eyes a few times to relieve the strain of looking through his microscope at lab specimens. He averages approximately 1100 lab tests each month.

In other departments, the pharmacy fills more than 180 prescriptions a month, and the x-ray department studies almost 300 pictures of the inner body.

The dispensary gives approximately 60 physical exams each month, ranging from flight physicals to the ordinary check up. "I'm okay ain't I?" questions a concerned Marine. "Well we may have to remove your Zurch," says the seemingly serious corpsman. "No, anything but my Zurch!" gasps the horrified Marine. "By the way, what's a Zurch?" The corpsman bursts into laughter and says "Take off Marine, you're all right."

In most cases the Marines are all right. To the four surgeons and 28 corpsmen at the MAG-12 dispensary, it is important to stop trouble before it starts. "Most people think that the only time to see a doctor is once they are sick. If they get regular check-ups and practice good health habits, take salt and malaria pills and keep their shots up, they may never have to see him," states Chief Hospitalman Louis M. White.

All the way

CHU LAI—Don Delia never went through Marine Corps boot camp. He's never worn a Marine uniform. In fact, his only military service was four years in the Air Force.

But to jet mechanics of Marine Aircraft Groups-11, 12 and 13, Don is a Marine "all the way."

Chu Lai and Da Nang-based Marine mechanics are always glad to see him visit for the Pratt and Whitney field representative can, as one veteran maintenance chief put it, "solve a lot of headaches for us."

He supplies the technical liaison and training of all Pratt and Whitney engines the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing uses. The jet engine expert has been working for the company since 1956.

Don's job in Vietnam is a big one. Four different 1st Wing jet planes are powered by Pratt and Whitney powerplants: the A-4E Skyhawk, the twin-engine A-6A Intruder, the F-8E Crusader, and the TF-9J Cougar.

Called by Marines a "tech rep," he operates mostly in the Chu Lai area with MAG-12.

"Chu Lai is my home while I'm in Vietnam, but anytime I'm needed by a Marine unit in Da Nang I fly up immediately," Delia said.

"The main engine problems here are brought on by malfunctions of fuel, oil and air systems. But thanks to an outstanding group of Marine mechanics we manage to keep a lot of airplanes flying," he added.

Before being selected as a field service representative, Don spent more than seven years at Pratt and Whitney's main plant in East Hartford, Conn., where he was quality control man.

His only previous assignment with Marines was at the Beaufort (S.C.) Air Station.



Improvising helps

Marine helicopter recovery team members use a stretcher to remove a jet turbine engine from a downed CH-46 helicopter on a hillside near the DMZ. Due to the area of the crash, the Marines were forced to strip every possible ounce off the plane before recovery could be made by another helicopter.

(Photo by Cpl. Russell Cowen)



Holiday observed

Jewish Marines at the Da Nang Naval Hospital receive traditional foods for the observance of the Passover. They are (left to right): LCpl. Richard A. Szabo, a member of 26th Marines; LCpl. Lawrence Caro; LCpl. Marshall Hahn, and Chaplain David B. Saltzman.

(Photo by LCpl. P. C. McDonald)

Maint. Ordnance Company

By: GySgt. Tom Donaldson

DA NANG—The combat Marine in Vietnam requires the best maintenance and repair of his "fighting equipment" to successfully accomplish his mission.

His needs, whether it be the repairing of a tank or an infantry weapon are filled daily by specialists from Maintenance Ordnance Co., Maintenance Battalion, a unit of the Force Logistic Command.

The Company located on the west side of the Da Nang airstrip, provides field maintenance service to all Marine units in I Corps. Equipment serviced can range from the 93,000-lb., eight-inch self-propelled gun to a two and a half lb. .45 cal. pistol.

Although most of the equipment undergoing repair and maintenance is completed at the Da Nang shop, many requests are performed in the field by contact teams. The teams, usually composed of three or four members, travel to combat areas performing on-the-spot field repair.

A typical example of the unique team system was exhibited recently when they traveled to An Hoa to assist an artillery unit.

The specialists replaced two 155mm gun tubes in 18 hours, a task usually requiring two days. The team worked throughout the night without removing the artillery piece from its gun site.

At the Da Nang shop personnel replaced 13 155mm tubes, getting the guns back into action in six days.

In addition to performing outlying field maintenance, the teams are also responsible for assistance and recovery of mine damaged vehicles from combat areas.

"All of the repair and maintenance service requires thousands of individual component parts," said Captain K. E. Noland, officer in charge. "Our stock list contains more repair parts than a Sears and Roebuck catalog," he added.

If a particular part is needed and not readily available, the machine shop, one of six shops making up the company, makes it.

During an average 90 days period, the company received 3,236 repair orders and completed a total of 2,700. Contact teams utilized for this period reached 218, performing services in the field for 1,046 items of equipment.

Under supervision of Equipment Operator Chief Galen R. Tarter, 66 Seabees began a new phase of construction there Jan. 24. Within the first 40 days, (by Mar. 5), they had increased the length of the battalion's airstrip from 2900 to 3500 feet. Accomplished despite 13 days of monsoon weather, a mortar barrage and near knee-deep mud, the lengthened airstrip now allows C-130, cargo planes to land at An Hoa.

Parking areas for these planes are now being expanded to allow up to four aircraft to unload at the same time.

The Seabees are also building 28 new "hardback" huts for troop quarters. Each hut, tin-roofed and screened on four sides, holds 12 Marines.

Also under construction is a new 500-man messhall, a combination staff non commissioned officer and officer club, a water tower and a new shower unit.

"Weather and mortar barrages permitting," Tarter said, "we have set the first week of May as our target date for completion of our An Hoa project."



Soccer war

Capt. Stewart White, battles with his Ky Hoa opponent for control of the ball. The 1st Marine Aircraft Wing soccer team from Marine Aircraft Group-12 lost to the Vietnamese, 6-2 on Easter Sunday.

(Photo by PFC Dave Johnson)

Short Rounds

Brick factory

DA NANG—Marines of the 7th Engineer Battalion, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Frank Harris III, are responsible for a civil affairs project producing 1100 bricks daily, six days a week by 38 Vietnamese workers.

"The project was organized last June 20, to meet the construction demands in the immediate area," said Second Lieutenant Val P. Prost, the battalion legal and civil affairs officer. At that time there were 11 Vietnamese employed and three molding machines.

"Now, Prost said, "we have hired 27 more employees and added five machines."

Since last June, 104,000 bricks have been produced. Monthly totals are nearly double since beginning production.

In the nine months the yard has been operating, it has supplied free bricks for the construction of 14 schools, three market places, and an orphanage in the Da Nang area.

Bricks are distributed to the Vietnamese through the III Marine Amphibious Force civil affairs section.

"Response to the project is enthusiastic," Prost said.

Seabees

DA NANG — As Viet Cong continue their attempts at destruction of Vietnamese and U.S. military facilities, a group of Navy-men continually re-construct buildings razed by the action while adding new structures.

Seabees of Mobile Construction Battalion-4 are currently operating at An Hoa, 25 miles south of Da Nang, and the home of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division.

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Near miss

CHU LAI—The Viet Cong bullet ripped into the Marine's pack, passed through three C-ration cans and burst out on the other side.

"It looks like they waited for me to make corporal before picking me for a target," said Corporal Leland R. Smith of the 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

Only an hour before the sniper's bullet narrowly missed him, the 21-year-old fire team leader from Mendota, Calif., had been notified of his meritorious promotion.

Smith's unit, 2nd Squad, 1st Platoon, "C" Co., was engaged in an operation northwest of Chu Lai when the snipers opened up.

Speaking of the shot that almost ended his NCO career an hour after it began, Smith remarked, "It felt like a large-caliber round. Whatever it was — it sure was close enough."

Targets

CHU LAI—While setting up in defensive positions northwest of here, Marines of "B" and "C" Cos., 1st Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, discovered several silhouette targets used to train Viet Cong riflemen.

The targets were man-shaped, resembling the new "C" course silhouettes on a Marine Corps rifle range. Some were life-size shapes cut from bamboo mats. Discarded C-ration case cardboard furnished material for smaller "distance" targets. To support each target in any desired position, a sharpened bamboo stake was attached.

Corporal Robert L. King, a combat engineer attached to "C" Co., and Private First Class Michael B. Mason, Ind., "C" Co. interpreter, found some of the targets in a heavily wooded area near the company command post. The VC apparently set them out to represent Marines moving through dense cover at varying ranges.

Kit Carson

CHU LAI — A former Viet Cong guerrilla, repatriated and presently serving as a "Kit Carson" scout with the Fifth Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, identified a Vietnamese detained for questioning as the Viet Cong chief for a large area northwest of Chu Lai.

The man was discovered in the hamlet of Ty Tra as Marines of the 1st Battalion Fifth Marines, moved into the area. The scout recognized him during routine interrogation.

Vietnamese "Kit Carson's", all former VC, have given valuable support to 1st Division combat operations with their knowledge of local terrain and Viet Cong. They work closely with battalion intelligence personnel, assisting with the interrogation of detainees and identification of captured documents.

Four hits

DA NANG—It wasn't until the raging day-long battle had ended that Marine Private First Class John T. Helms, realized that he had been "hit" four times.

The 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines Leatherneck was struck in the canteen, the flack jacket, the pack and on his rifle stock during an operation 30 miles southwest of Da Nang.

He came out of the fight without a scratch.

"We were halfway across an open field when they (the Viet Cong) opened up on the platoon," said Helms. "They hit us with everything from small arms to mortars and 57mm recoilless rifle fire."

It was after the VC had been routed from their entrenched hill-top position that Helms thought he might have been wounded.

"I felt something wet running down my leg," said Helms. "I rubbed my hand over the spot and came up with water which had drained from my canteen," he said.

Inspection of his gear revealed the three additional hits.

NVA rockets

DONG HA—A company of 3rd Battalion, Third Regiment Marines unearthed 118 rocket rounds and three launching devices during a sweep four miles north of Cam Lo village.

"K" Co. found the launching site in a brush-covered valley. The rocket rounds were discovered buried in holes nearby. They were 102mm and of Chinese manufacture.

Blood-soaked clothing found at the site was thought to indicate that Marine artillery drove the enemy away.

The launching site consisted of shallow pits with bamboo stakes driven into the ground to support the rockets and launchers. Lengths of heavy rope were used to tie the rounds and launchers into firing positions.

The rockets are designed to be fired over a large area rather than at precision targets.

An explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team of the 3rd Marine Regiment destroyed the rockets.

No pets in Chu Lai

CHU LAI — The disease of rabies is 100% fatal to human beings.

Although no exact figures concerning the exact percentage of rabidity in dogs, cats and other animals in Vietnam is available, studies have shown a "significant prevalence" of the disease among local dogs. For this reason, dogs and other pets are forbidden in the Chu Lai area.

"Because rabies is fatal in all untreated cases, individuals bitten by dogs should prevent the disease by going to the nearest medical facility as soon as possible, since the serum requirement for the victim doubles every 12 to 24 hours," says Lieutenant Commander David Weisenburg, MC, USN, chairman of the Rabies Control Board, and head of the Department of Medicine, 1st Hospital Company, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

If a dog is seen to stray onto a combat base, he adds, it should be reported to the commanding officer of the base as soon as possible. The Marine should not attempt to either catch or destroy the animal himself.

Also, if a dog which is known to have bitten someone is caught, it should not be destroyed at all, but should be taken to the nearest medical facility, for shipment to a laboratory, where it can be analyzed for rabies.

Fastest gun

DA NANG — Marine Corporal William L. Smith had just finished his noon meal and was getting ready to move out with his squad when a Viet Cong stepped out of a tree line directly in front of him.

"I was scared," Smith said, "I didn't have time to think or anything. I just brought up my rifle and fired three times."

A second enemy soldier appeared and other Marines of Smith's squad killed him.

A short time later, Smith and his squad, from "F" Company, 2d Battalion, Fifth Marines, were called on to check out a group of men.

Coming up behind what they now know to be a group of three Viet Cong, Smith requested they surrender.

One tried a version of the "wild West" shoot out. Once again Smith proved he was the fastest gun.



Viet Cong weapon

PFC Donald G. Lane prepares a tag for an M-1 rifle taken from a VC. Leathernecks of the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, conducted a four-day search and destroy mission 30 miles south of Da Nang. They claimed 111 VC kills. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)



Last salute

Members of "F" Co., 2d Bn., Seventh Marines, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, render a last salute March 29 to Marines of the Company who died on Operation De Soto, a search and destroy operation being conducted 50 miles south of Chu Lai. (Photo by LCpl. W. Pierce)

NCOIC, Mail Room

He's high-ranking corporal

By: Cpl. Ira L. Taylor
CHU LAI — Although he is only a corporal, he ranks high on the list of important people to the personnel of Sub-Unit No. 2, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division.

He is Corporal Richard J. Wilson, NCOIC of the Sub-Unit No. 2 Mail Room. Wilson and his assistant, Lance Corporal John Kenworthy handle mail for more than 900 Marines and Navy personnel assigned to the unit.

"Most people don't realize the amount of work that takes place to put out the two 'Mail Calls' each day," Wilson said. "Much of it is done before it gets to us but we still have to sort it out by section. After each mail call we resort the mail that could not be delivered for various reasons

such as transfers, people at schools, etc."

In addition to handling and sorting the mail, the mail clerks keep a record or mail card for every man assigned to Sub-Unit No. 2. When a man checks in, the mail room is on the check in sheet and a card is filled out at that time. Subsequently, when a person checks out, his card is pulled from the file and replaced with a change of address card.

"That seems to be one of our biggest problems," Wilson continued. "Too many people fail to check out with us when they have a change of address, therefore their mail is sent back to the main post office and is routed through the Fleet Post Office directory system. When this hap-

pens, it could be much longer before the person will receive his mail."

"Another way to speed up mail delivery from the sender is to make sure they know your APO or FPO number and use it," Kenworthy added. "The same thing goes for mail from here to the United States; if the correct zip code is used, the mail will get to its destination much faster."

Wilson, who arrived in Vietnam in June last year, has been assigned to the Mail room since October.

In August, he received the Purple Heart Medal for a wound sustained on the Chu Lai Combat Base perimeter.

Commenting on complaints from individuals and mail orderlies, Wilson said, "There seems to be two basic things Marines complain about everywhere — chow and mail, and there isn't much that can be done about either one. Most of them aren't really serious anyway. I believe in the old Marine saying that 'a complaining Marine is a happy Marine.'"

Calif. Jaycees back CA

SAN FRANCISCO—The Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action fund for Vietnam has been adopted as a statewide project for 1967 by the California State Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycee).

The Fund now has the backing of 295 Jaycee Chapters throughout California. The decision to

adopt the Fund was the outgrowth of a presentation made by Brigadier General Russell A. Bowen, USMCR, to the Jaycees during their state convention.

Monthly combat report—

(Continued From Page 1)

Throughout the month, the enemy used mortars, rockets and artillery in an unsuccessful effort to counter U.S. Army and Marine artillery firing into North Vietnam and the demilitarized zone from Carroll artillery plateau and Gio Linh.

In the Da Nang area, elements of the 1st Marine Division conducted four major operations.

Operation Lafayette, which began Feb. 26, terminated March 7 with 77 enemy confirmed killed.

Operation New Castle, a four-day search and destroy mission by units of the First and Fifth Marine Regiments, ended March 25 with 111 enemy killed.

Deckhouse VI terminated March 3. Units of the Fourth Marine Regiment killed 280 enemy soldiers in the amphibious operation that started Feb. 16, 60 miles south of Chu Lai.

Operation De Soto, involving elements of Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, continued 50 miles south of the Marine airstrip at Chu Lai. Enemy killed in this operation totaled 355 by the end of March.

In small unit actions, early in the morning on March 15, the Viet Cong attacked the Da Nang airbase with 1450 mm rockets for the second time. Marine counter-battery fire was returned immediately. At the airbase, a POL line was broken and two aircraft slightly damaged by the enemy rocket fire.

The day, elements of the Fourth Marine Regiment found 12 enemy rocket positions south of Da Nang. Fresh craters in the area indicated that Marine counter-artillery fire was "on target," and 33 launchers, 11 rockets, 11 fuzes and eight cannisters were recovered by Marines.

On March 26, a combined action company on a medcap mission near Chu Lai were his by an estimated 100 well-armed Viet Cong. The VC inflicted casualties with machinegun and automatic weapons fire. Fourteen members of the patrol were killed and two wounded. Eight VC were confirmed killed in the action.

In the air war, Marine jet pilots flew 353 missions north of the DMZ and 6,873 strike sorties in South Vietnam. Helicopter pilots set a record flying 37,577 sorties in support of I Corps' units.

Bird hunt with 3/9

By: Cpl. Dan Lubell

DONG HA—An ambush set up by Marines of the 3rd Battalion, Ninth Regiment, turned into a "pheasant-type hunt."

The Marines waited all night for enemy troops. At first light, they saw three North Vietnamese Army troops moving across the ambush site.

The enemy scattered into the bush as Lance Corporal John Puga fired his machinegun.

The Marines began their hunt to flush the enemy.

The point man was out in front of the "hunters", like a bird dog, trying to spot blood trails.

At the sound of automatic weapon fire to the front, one of the Marine riflemen, Private First Class Ken Cogswell shot into the bush, killing one of the enemy. He shot another as the NVA fled.

It was Cogswell's first action since arriving in Vietnam. He called it "just like hunting birds back home in Michigan."

The platoon found two more NVA troops in the bush.

Platoon commander second lieutenant John C. Holmgren Jr. and his radioman advanced up a draw. They found two NVA troops who surrendered. One was a captain, and the other a political officer of an NVA unit.

Huey Pilots Kill 27 VC

By: LCpl. Woody Price

DA NANG, — Enemy forces were pouring heavy fire into the medical evacuation zone, making it difficult for Marines of "K" Company Seventh Marines, to get their casualties to the waiting CH-46A helicopter.

Overhead the roar of two UH-1E "Huey" helicopters momentarily drowned out the sound of the enemy automatic weapons, as Major Claude E. Hendrix and his wingman First Lieutenant Jerry A. Buerger, raked the area with machinegun and rocket fire.

"When the Sea Knight helicopters landed on their medevac, the VC really opened up. Their positions were camouflaged but we had no trouble spotting them from the air," Hendrix said in describing the action three miles south of Nui Dang, March 27.

"There was no time to wait for jets to bomb the area, so I radioed for permission to attack," he added.

Hendrix and Buerger were credited with 25 Viet Cong confirmed killed.

Four of the enemy actually surrendered to the Hueys, standing up and raising their hands over their heads. They were taken captive by "K" Co. Marines.

After refueling and rearming their guns and rocket pods at Nui Dang, the Hueys escorted Sea Knights of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165 back to the zone to pick up additional casualties and the VC prisoners.

As they approached, the Huey pilots spotted two black pajama-clad enemy running across an open area in an attempt to escape Marines sweeping the area on the ground.

Hendrix killed both, bringing the Huey's final count to 27 enemy dead and four captured. Buerger killed seven of the total.

Later, 44 more of the enemy were captured by the Marine infantry.



Machine gun up

Leathernecks blaze away at fleeing VC with M-14 rifles and an M-60 machine gun. The Marine riflemen accounted for 111 dead VC during the four days of hard fighting Mar. 21-25. The operation, conducted by members of the 2d Bn., Fifth Marines, took place 30 miles south of Da Nang. The Marines suffered light casualties.

(Photo by LCpl. T. L. McClory)

Fearless flying skill saves Marines from mortar attack

By: GySgt. J. F. McAllister

DA NANG—Flying skill, steeply sloping terrain, and a little luck resulted in 15 Marines, including eight wounded, being successfully lifted out of a mortar attack.

Captain Arnie Reiner, a pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 164, flew the CH46 Seaknight that carried the Leathernecks from a zone some 2,400 feet up the side of a mountain two miles west of Khe Sanh.

He did this in an overloaded aircraft that had damaged rotor-blades and more than 150 shrapnel holes in it.

Reiner, with Captain Russell Verbael, also from HMM-164, had flown from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh to fly medical evacuation missions. Twice he had flown as wingman when Verbael went into the mountainside zone to pick up wounded Marines. Both times Verbael brought out the wounded with little trouble, reporting light sniper fire.

When a third call came from the zone it was discovered that Verbael's CH46 had developed mechanical troubles and Reiner took over the mission.

Escorted by two UH1E Huey gunships and two UH34's, he returned to the landing zone. As he was maneuvering into the small area surrounded by trees, mortar fire came in and he withdrew, returning to Khe Sanh for fuel while air strikes were called into the zone.

"A short time later I was back and started into the clearing," Reiner said. "The entire zone sloped at about a 35 degree angle and when approaching it from the side, to keep out of the enemy's sight, there wasn't room to set down directly into the zone. I angled in and then backed into the slope, lowered the ramp and hovered in that position with only the rear wheels and the ramp on the deck," he said.

While he was backing into the slope the rear rotor blades hit some trees but he managed to hold the aircraft steady while eight wounded Marines were brought aboard.

"We were only in the zone a minute or so when a mortar landed about six feet from us. I was reasonably sure we had taken some damage from the blast. I wasn't aware that there were seven other Marines aboard who had been assisting the wounded when I decided it was time to get out of there, and started to lift out. It was a good thing we did,

three more mortar rounds landed in the zone as we left," he said.

The seven extra passengers, along with some 400 pounds of water and ammunition intended to be left in the zone, considerably overloaded the chopper.

"If the area hadn't sloped some 30 to 45 degrees we wouldn't have made it. As it was, we barely managed to keep above the trees

and it wasn't until the terrain dropped almost straight down that I managed to dive enough to get adequate flying speed," Reiner stated.

After checking the damaged blades, Reiner counted more than 150 holes in the underside of the aircraft caused by the mortar round. No member of the crew was hurt.



Captured Viet Cong

A captured Viet Cong is escorted by a pair of 1st Bn., First Marines Leathernecks after being routed from a cave during a search and destroy mission south of Da Nang. (Photo by LCpl. R. A. Lowes)

Rt. 5 recommended for trip to An Hoa

By: SSgt. T. A. Kraak

DA NANG—There are two reliable land routes from Da Nang to An Hoa. For those interested in a long scenic trip, route 5 is recommended. But if you are running a daily resupply convoy, the convoy control coordinator of 1st Battalion, Twenty Sixth Marines can get you through in about 30 minutes.

More than 2800 military and civilian vehicles have chosen the short and safe route since Jan. 1.

The man responsible for guiding an average of six convoys a day from Da Nang to An Hoa via the Ninth Regimental headquarters, to the bridge at Duc Ky (2) and along Liberty Road south and north is Staff Sergeant Victor M. Beverage.

"We have handled as many as 110 vehicles in one day," relates Beverage, "but a convoy of two vehicles gets the same security and communication facilities."

The security is provided by Marines of the 1st Bn., Twenty Sixth Regiment.

According to Beverage, "We have six check points along the route. Each convoy is given a map and radio communications. They are required to check in with our control net at each check point."

Since the first of the year, only four vehicles have been halted by mines. Before the road opens at about nine thirty each morning,

four mine-sweep teams from the 3rd and 7th Engineer Battalions clear the route. After five in the evening, travel is discouraged along the route due to VC snipers.

Each day a convoy of two to four trucks resupply two CAC units, two companies of the 1st Battalion, Twenty Sixth Marines, and personnel at the ferry site near Quang Dai (2) on the Thu Don river. With the exception of the monsoon rains and mud that slowed the vehicles down, this convoy has been able to make it run without fail.

The job of coordinating the convoys is sometimes complex.

"All units using this route must check in with us," said Beverage, "in addition we have to coordinate the travel with Sea-Bee and engineer units along the way."

"Judging by the number of convoys that have gone through so far, and the number expected in the future, the convoy control coordinator section has a good system going," said Beverage.

Lucky Jose credits good fortune to 'No. 2'

By: MSgt. G.E. Wilson

DA NANG, — Lucky Jose of the 1st Military Police Bn., credits his continued good fortune to being a member of the 2nd Platoon — any Second platoon.

Corporal Jose A. Baez says his good luck began in 1965 when he belonged to the 2nd Plt., "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Sixth Marines in Santo Domingo.

Despite a lot of action, "I came through the campaign without a scratch," he said.

In November, 1966 he earned his nickname while serving as a squad leader with "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, Seventh Marines

near the demilitarized zone.

Baez's squad was on the point moving up "Hill 400." Before his platoon got started it was replaced by another. The replacement squad was hit heavily by the enemy, and Baez's squad was moved up for the assault on the enemy.

Baez while leading his squad against the entrenched enemy force, stumbled into a mortar crater, spraining his ankle.

Unable to rise he continued to provide supporting fire for his squad's advance. Because he was injured under fire, he was awarded the Purple Heart Medal by his company commander.

Three weeks later near Hill 55 south of Da Nang, Jose was escorting a group of refugees when he had a curious feeling something was going to happen.

Suddenly a "loud clapping noise" sounded in front of his face. He was spun around and dumped head first into a rice paddy.

Two snipers, one with an automatic rifle, pinned him down. Reinforcements arrived, driving off the Viet Cong, and a corpsman found Baez, his face covered with mud and blood.

Cleaning off his face the corpsman discovered a gash across Lucky's cheek and tip of his nose. "Another inch," the corpsman said, "and you're dead, Baez."

"That's why they call me Lucky Jose," Baez said.

1st Regt. gets 118

DA NANG—Between Mar. 10-23, units of the First Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division confirmed killing 118 VC and captured 25 more—all in small unit operations.

Regimental units operating south of Da Nang established the kill and capture mark with actions ranging from four-man fire team ambushes to a company-sized sweep mission.

Many of the kills came from supporting arms.

Decorations and awards

CHU LAI—Combat awards in the form of a Silver Star Medal, two Bronze Star Medals with Combat "V", and six Purple Heart Medals were the order-of-the-day March 23 for Third Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment Leathernecks as Brigadier General William A. Stiles, Commanding General, Task Force X-Ray, presented the medals during a field formation at Nui Dang, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

The general also made two meritorious combat promotions and presented a Certificate of Commendation from the Commanding General, First Marine Division.

SILVER STAR

The Silver Star Medal was awarded to Private John B. Spencer, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action . . . against the enemy" on Oct. 17, 1966, according to his citation.

The citation accompanying the medal credits Spencer with assuming command of a platoon when the platoon commander was wounded and the squad leader went to his aid during a fire-fight just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

"Advancing quickly through the dense undergrowth, he positioned the platoon in a defensive perimeter and directed fire on the enemy until he was wounded by grenade fragments in the right ankle," the citation continued. He continued to shout words of encouragement and direct the platoon's fire even though wounded and exposed to hostile fire.

"As a result of his heroic efforts, the enemy suffered seven killed and five wounded, while the platoon sustained no additional casualties and was successfully evacuated," the citation read. "By his daring initiative, courageous leadership and loyal devotion to duty, Spencer upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service."

BRONZE STAR

Corporal Don L. Harper was presented the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" for heroic achievement in connection with operations against the Viet Cong last November. He was a lance corporal at the time.

"While on a sweep and clear mission . . . in Quang Ngai Province southwest of Chu Lai, during an operation Harper's platoon came under small arms and automatic weapons fire from an undetermined number of Viet Cong concealed in heavy brush," read the citation.

Members of the platoon were advancing across rice paddies flooded by torrential monsoon rains when they came to a swollen stream.

According to the citation, "The left squad started across a small foot bridge over the stream when the enemy opened fire from their concealed positions on the far side, wounding one Marine."

The squad rushed across the bridge, delivering a heavy volume of fire while the remaining two squads started across the flooded paddies wading through waist deep water.

"They were almost across the paddies when two Marines stepped off into water over their heads and began struggling in the strong currents," the citation continued. "Observing his comrades being swept away by the current, Harper, although under enemy fire, plunged into the water in an attempt to rescue the men."

"With complete disregard for his own safety, he swam through the treacherous water until he reached one of the Marines and then guided him to a submerged island in midstream."

The man was suffering from shock and had to be held on the island until additional help arrived to bring him to shore.

The VC subsequently broke contact.

The citation further stated that, "Displaying uncommon courage, he (Harper) tied a line around himself and courageously reentered the water to help search for the other drowning Marine and a would-be rescuer, who was also missing. After repeated attempts, the bodies of the drowned

Marines were brought to shore."

Harper was credited with saving the life of a fellow Marine at great personal risk to his own well-being.

The second Bronze Star with Combat "V" was awarded to Lance Corporal Donald G. McWatters.

He was leading a night ambush patrol last Sept. 8 when they suddenly encountered a Viet Cong force. He was seriously wounded in the neck and back during the initial burst of enemy automatic weapons and machine gun fire.

"With complete disregard for his own serious and painful wounds," the citation read, "he bravely continued to supervise his men, established a defensive perimeter and directed their fire on the attacking enemy."

During the fight, he crawled more than 25 feet under heavy VC fire to rally and encourage his men. When the enemy fire subsided, he crawled an additional 15 feet to his radioman to call in a medical evacuation helicopter. Only then did his men realize that he had been seriously wounded.

Shortly after the arrival of a reaction squad, the MedEvac copter arrived but was forced to land about 500 yards from the ambush site due to the intensity of enemy fire.

"Again demonstrating tenacity and courage," the citation continued, "he walked unassisted to the helicopter and boarded, only after he was assured of the safety of his men."

According to the citation, "His heroic actions and uncommon concern for the welfare of his fellow Marines was instrumental in preventing serious losses to his unit."

PURPLE HEARTS

General Stiles presented the Purple Heart Medal to Second Lieutenant Jay H. VanDyne; Gunnery Sergeant Anthony A. Figueroa; his second award; Corporal Charles W. Jones; Lance Corporal Bernard F. Boyle; Lance Corporal Ronnie M. Coulter; and Lance Corporal Grant L. Carter.

OTHER AWARDS

Sergeant Ronald W. Wood, was presented a combat promotion to his present rank in recognition of the job he has been doing as a squad leader.

Lance Corporal Robert A. Scipio, was meritoriously promoted to his present rank and was presented a Certificate of Commendation from the Commanding General, First Marine Division, for "exceptional achievement while serving as an automatic rifleman . . . at Chu Lai" last Oct. 16.

While leading a patrol on that date, a member of the fireteam, sized unit was wounded by an enemy explosive device. Lance Corporal (then PFC) Scipio immediately called for a corpsman and went to the aid of the wounded Marine, reviving him by applying external heart massage and prevented him from lapsing into shock.

"His prompt actions undoubtedly kept the wounded Marine alive until he could be evacuated . . ." according to the certificate.

LCpl. Coleman

DA NANG—Lance Corporal Mathew Coleman, a member of "L" Company, 3rd Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division was presented the nation's third highest award for bravery, the Silver Star Medal, Mar. 25.

Acting as point man on a search operation, Coleman was leading his platoon toward a ham-

let in Quang Nam Province Jan. 1, when one of three Viet Cong inside a hut threw out a hand grenade.

Without hesitation, Coleman picked up the grenade and tossed it back into the dwelling. He was wounded and knocked down by the explosion, but quickly got on his feet and assaulted the hut, killing one VC and wounding the other two.

Although painfully wounded, he refused to be evacuated for medical treatment until he had captured the two VC and searched the hut for weapons and equipment.

His action is credited with saving Marines in his platoon from being wounded.

The medal was presented by Colonel Emil J. Radics, regimental commander.

LCpl. Whitfield

DA NANG—A Marine radio operator who, though severely wounded, directed in a relief force and effective artillery support for his unit while it was under attack from a large Viet Cong force, was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Lance Corporal Douglas W. Whitfield was operating with the 81mm mortar section of the 3rd Battalion, First Marines on Nov. 12, 1966. The company to which the section was attached was acting as a security force for the hamlet of An Trach (1) when it was attacked by a large Viet Cong force.

Using satchel charges, grenades, automatic weapons and small arms, the enemy force penetrated the defensive perimeter and started destroying buildings, emplacements and bunkers with explosive charges.

The citation notes that "numerous Marines were killed and others wounded, including Whitfield, who suffered multiple fragmentation wounds. Even though severely wounded and suffering from shock, he quickly realized the seriousness of the situation and began searching for communications equipment that had not been damaged."

Finding all radios and field telephones in the command post destroyed, he went to the location of the radio used for directing fire missions and brought it back.

Whitfield located his command net and for the next hour and 45 minutes, he disregarded his wounds to remain at his post and relayed information to the relief force, directing them to his unit's position.

Although not trained as a forward observer, Whitfield called in artillery barrages which forced the enemy to break contact.

Whitfield then devised a plan to help the relief force linkup with his unit. "Lacking signal equipment, he requested the reinforcing elements to fire flares and directed his own men to reply with warning shots. His plan was extremely effective and resulted in the subsequent rescue of his unit," the citation reads.

Until evacuated, Whitfield continued to offer medical aid and encouragement to fellow Marines who were wounded.

The presentation was made by Colonel Radics.

Col. Jenkins

DA NANG—Colonel Robert M. Jenkins has assumed command of the Ninth Marines.

A Marine officer since 1942, Jenkins assumed command of the regiment March 21 when Col. Robert M. Richards was medically evacuated to the United States.



BRONZE STAR WINNER—A Marine whose fast and effective action resulted in the breakup of a Viet Cong ambush, is awarded the Bronze Star Medal March 19, during ceremonies at headquarters, 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment, Task Force X-Ray. Cpl. Calvin J. Cissell, Jr., a member of the 3rd Bn., Fifth Marine Regiment at the time of the action, receives his decoration from BrigGen. William A. Stiles, at Chu Lai.

(Photo by LCpl. Ronald P. Curry)

Corpsman Manget in two ambushes

By: SSgt. Jack "W" Jansen

DA NANG—"We were approaching an L-shaped bend in a stream bed when all of a sudden we were hit by small arms fire and grenades."

"I was about a half mile back from the ambush site," continued Navy Hospitalman Second Class Victor R. Manget, "when the call came for 'corpsman up'."

Disregarding the heavy enemy fire the 22-year-old corpsman from Albany, Ga., ran forward through the North Vietnamese fire, to aid the wounded.

"The noise was deafening," he said. "Most of our casualties were on the opposite side of the stream bed and I had to cross over to get to them."

Marines laid down a base of covering fire for the corpsman and he made his way to the shelter of some large rocks near the wounded Leathernecks.

The Marines of "I" Co., 3rd Battalion, Fifth Marines, were in constant contact with the enemy for the next three hours, before routing the NVA.

Three days after being caught in the streambed ambush, one platoon moved over a hilltop and were caught in another ambush.

"This one was not just another small skirmish," said Manget, "unlike all the others, this time the North Vietnamese Army troops seemed really determined."

Manget and another corpsman again rushed to the aid of wounded Marines. After about 20 minutes of fighting the Marines set up positions atop the mountain and dug in for an all-night fire fight with the enemy.

"For the next two hours," Manget said "the enemy was pouring mortar shells in on us. We couldn't even get medical evacuation helicopters in to fly out the wounded men."

When the choppers tried to get in, the North Vietnamese troops shooed them off with heavy fire. The aircraft did manage to drop in needed medical supplies, however.

Enemy soldiers climbed into trees to throw grenades down on the defending Marines and the

mortar attacks continued sporadically.

To treat injured Marines during the mortar barrages Manget counted the rhythm of the falling shells.

"I noticed that you could hear the rounds being dropped into the mortar tubes and then it would be about 30 seconds before the explosion would follow," he said.

Manget would run out to stricken Marines, give aid, counting the seconds remaining, and at the last possible moment, duck back to shelter.

"In the morning our reinforcements came up," Manget said, "and the enemy began throwing tear gas at us. It was after we finally managed to chase them off the hill that we found out that we had been up against a battalion of the North Vietnamese Army. They really had our backs to the wall for a while there," he added.

Manget has served in Vietnam now for nearly a year. He is currently at the An Hoa Air Terminal Dispensary, attached to the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines.

McPherson for Fenton

KY HA—Lieutenant Colonel Gordon D. McPherson assumed duties as Commanding Officer, Marine Air Support Squadron-3, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, during a change of command ceremony at Ky Ha, Vietnam, March 29.

McPherson, who entered the Marine Corps in September, 1940 relieved Lieutenant Colonel Donald L. Fenton who has been reassigned as 3rd Marine Division Air Officer.

Recon unit fights off guerrilla force of 30

By: SSgt. Don Summerford

CHU LAI—Nineteen Marines of "D" Company, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion, Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, were hit early April 1 by a guerrilla force estimated at 30 or more while on a recon west of Nui Dan, 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

The patrol, led by Gunnery Sergeant Everett E. Cannon, was heli-lifted into the area the previous morning in support of Operation De Soto.

After removing enemy booby traps the Marines immediately set up their defense.

"We were dug in good before dark," said Lance Corporal Larry N. McClellan. A veteran of 13 previous combat patrols, he was later slightly wounded for the second time since arriving in Vietnam last December.

"Things were quiet until 3 a.m.," said McClellan. "Then we heard them closing in on us," he added.

"I think they knew we were in the area, but from the way they were jabbering to each other I don't believe they thought we were so close," he said.

Under the bright moon the Marines could clearly see at least 15 Viet Cong approaching their location from two directions — along the ridgeline and from below.

"We wanted to hold our fire as long as possible to keep from giving our positions away, so we just kept them in our sights and waited while they moved towards us," said McClellan.

"Everyone held their fire," he explained, "until they tripped one of the anti-personnel mines. Then both sides opened up."

The Viet Cong hit the patrol with hand grenades, automatic weapons and rifle fire for several minutes until the Marines pushed them back.

"They were in pretty close when they opened up," related McClellan, who killed one Viet Cong less than 10 yards from his two-man foxhole.

He was wounded by grenade shrapnel during the initial attack, but continued to fight as the Viet Cong attacked again about ten minutes later with a reinforced unit.

It was then that the Leather-necks called in artillery support.

When it was over the Marines accounted for 15 dead Viet Cong. One Marine was killed and two were wounded.

The patrol also captured two rifles (an M-14 and an M16), a carbine, an automatic rifle, sub-machinegun, Chinese communist grenades, two packs and assorted ammunition.

McClellan, who had already returned to duty with his recon buddies, says, "I think my biggest surprise came after the fight when I discovered a ChiCom grenade in my foxhole with the pin pulled." He added that his biggest relief came when it didn't explode.

Eight kills

By SSgt. G. F. Selby

DA NANG—When the shooting was over, Marine scouts from the 1st Battalion, First Marines had killed eight Viet Cong and taken three detainees.

Operating ten miles south of Da Nang, 15 scouts and two snipers, led by Sergeant William Jennings B. Liester Jr., moved into an ambush position during the early morning hours of darkness.

The first group of Viet Cong came down the trailer two and a half hours later.

A few shots and ambush number one was over. Two VC had become statistics.

With a slight shift in position, the Marines were ready again. Soon four more enemy walked into the Marines rifle sights.

Scratch four Viet Cong.

Another shift in position and the Marines waited for one more encounter before returning home.



Hot business

2dLt. N. R. Hoskot wipes the sweat from his brow as temperatures soar in the mid-day Vietnam heat. Hoskot is a member of the 1st Bn., First Marines.

(Photo by LCpl. R. A. Lowes)

Corpsman stays ready

Speed essential on Medevac

By: SSgt. Ted Scott

DA NANG—A ringing bell on the flight line of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-361 sets five helicopter crewmen into action.

Four, the pilot, co-pilot, crewchief and gunner, are Marines. The fifth is a Navy corpsman.

Usually, the helicopter is airborne within three minutes.

"Speed is the important thing on a medical evacuation mission," emphasizes Hospitalman First Class Thomas Doyle. "There's at least one Marine somewhere in the field who needs help and needs it fast."

Doyle's record makes him an authority on the subject. Now on his second tour of duty in Vietnam, he has yet to lose a wounded Marine.

He credits teamwork between crewchief and corpsman for much of the success of a medevac mission.

"The crewchief can establish radio contact with the troops in the zone," he said. "He can tell the corpsman the number of patients and the nature of their wounds. With advance knowledge of the situation, a corpsman can save precious seconds."

"For example, if I know the wounded will be able to walk, I can save time by not carrying out a stretcher," Doyle said. "On the other hand, if I know in advance one is needed, I'll have it ready."

Contents of Doyle's medical kit are slightly different from a regular field corpsman's kit.

"I carry extra rubberized bandages, as well as a pneumatic tourniquet," he said, "for pressure bandaging and stopping severe blood loss."

Doyle also keeps a medical supply chest on the flight line.

"That way," he said, "I can save a trip to sick-bay between flights, and still have everything I need for an emergency."

Doyle's preparations pay off. During one day this month, he was on 11 medevacs. The longest time involved in getting a patient to the hospital was just over 30 minutes.

Because of his experience, Doyle's also an apt instructor for corpsmen recently arrived in Vietnam.

"I like to accompany each new corpsman on his first four or five missions," Doyle said. "By then

he's got his system refined, and is able to go it on his own," he added.

"I emphasize to the new men what I practice," said Doyle, "the need for speed. When we have night duty I sleep in the plane. That way I can help hurry things along."

He recalls that during his first tour in Vietnam things were different.

"We all stayed in the sick-bay then, and when a medevac call came through we had to take a jeep to the flight line," he said.

Milk at last

CHU LAI—Cold milk, one of the tastiest ways to beat the heat, has finally come to Chu Lai.

Master Sergeant Robert D. Blackwell, food services technician for Task Force X-Ray, 1st Marine Division, reports that 3,000 gallons of milk is now being flown here from Da Nang daily.

"Although the milk is the recombined type, everyone I have talked to says they cannot tell the difference between this milk and the milk they have at home," Blackwell says.

For easier distribution to smaller outlying units, 2,000 pints of the milk comes in pint containers. In the near future Chu Lai will have its own plant, which will be able to produce ice cream and cottage cheese, in addition to a greater quantity of milk.

III Marine Amphibious Force Food Services coordinates with the Naval Support Activity in Da Nang to supply milk to personnel of the Chu Lai area.

Sgt. York

CHU LAI, Vietnam, Mar. 26—Fourteen months after being drafted Marine Sergeant Hillous York, was presented a meritorious combat promotion to his present rank.

It marked York's second combat promotion in seven months of service in Vietnam. He is platoon sergeant for the 3rd Plt., "C" Co., 1st Battalion, Fifth Marines.

York was advanced to corporal in December for his assistance in the capture of several Viet Cong suspects.

His March 19 advancement to Sergeant came during Operation De Soto/Deckhouse VI while leading his point squad through hilly terrain 50 miles south of Chu Lai.

A Viet Cong force was engaged by the company, and another squad was assigned to envelop the enemy.

It became York's job to "push" the VC into the envelopment. According to Lieutenant Jack D. Jewell, platoon commander, the maneuver was made largely because of the outstanding control which York had over his squad.

With but 10 months left in the Marine Corps, the former country and western musician has one more goal—staff sergeant.



All eyes

Marines of the 1st Bn., First Marines keeps a watchful eye for Viet Cong while sweeping a rice paddy south of Da Nang.

(Photo by LCpl. R. A. Lowes)

World of Sports

Exhibition Ball

Saturday
At Jacksonville, Fla.
 Baltimore 000 000 000-0 4 1
 New York (N) 001 201 00x-4 8 0
 McNally Drabowsky (3), S. Miller (5), Fisher (7) and Roznovsky, Etchebarren (8); Seaver, Fisher (5), Taylor (9) and Grote, Goossen (5). HR-New York, M. Buchek.

At Washington
 St. Louis 001 200 010-4 7 2
 Washington 000 700 00x-7 7 0
 Jackson, Willis (3), Woodeschick (4), Briles (6), Carlton (8) and Romano, McCarver (8); Moore, Knowles (5), Lines (7), Humphreys (9) and French. HR-Washington, Howard.

At Richmond, Va.
 Philadelphia 000 100 110-3 6 1
 Pittsburgh 010 001 04x-6 12 1
 Bunning, Hall (6), Ramos (8) and Dalrymple; Pizarro, Sisk (3), Short (8) and Gonder.

At Winter Haven, Fla.
 Detroit 000 110 000-2 7 2
 Boston 101 000 04x-6 13 1
 McLain, Podres (4), Sherry (6), Pena (8) and Freehan, McFarlane (6); Lonborg, Santiago (4), Wyatt (7), McMahon (9) and Gibson. HR-Boston, Gibson.

At Wrigley Field
 Chicago (A) 000 111 110-5 16 4
 Chicago (N) 002 200 40x-8 10 1
 Howard, Peters (4), Locker (7), Higgins (8) and McNertney; Simmons, Culp (5), Koonce (9) and Bertell. HR-Chicago (N), Gigon; Chicago (A), Hansen.

At Kansas City
 Los Angeles 103 000 000-4 11 0
 Kansas City 000 002 000-2 8 1
 Osteen, Perranoski (7), Regan (8) and Torborg; Krause, Lindblad (4), Duliba (7), Aker (9) and Suarez.

At Shreveport, La.
 Cincinnati 010 201 001-5 12 1
 Cleveland 003 000 032-8 10 1
 Pappas, Queen (5) and Pavletich, Edwards (8); McDowell, Hargan (4), Bell (7) and Sims. HR-Cincinnati, Perez, Robinson; Cleveland, Colavito.

At San Francisco (16 Innings)
 California 100 000 010 001 000 3-6 11 4
 San Francisco 200 000 000 001 000 0-3 6 1

Rubio, Sanford (3), Willhite (7), Rojas (8), Coates (10), Clark (13), Cimino (15) and Rodgers, Hibbs (7), Satriano (14); Perry, Sadecki (9), McDaniel (13), Gibbon (15) and Haller, Dietz (7), Barton (14).

Minnesota at Atlanta (night).
 New York (A) at Houston (night).

Friday Night
At Houston
 New York (A) 000 000 000-0 9 0
 Houston 001 000 00x-1 9 0
 Downing, Tillotson (6), Bahnsen (8) and Gibbs; Dierker, Schneider (9) and Bateman.

At Atlanta, Ga. (11 Innings)
 Minnesota 200 010 000 00-3 8 1
 Atlanta 000 200 001 01-4 6 0
 Chance, Kline (8), Ollom (10) and Battey, Zimmerman (10); Johnson, Niekro (7), Ritchie (9), Hernandez (11) and Torre. HR-Minnesota, Rollins, Killebrew, Versailles; Atlanta, Jones, Torre, Aaron.

Sunday
 Minnesota at Atlanta.
 Cincinnati vs. Cleveland at Little Rock, Ark.
 New York (N) vs. Baltimore at Durham, N.C.
 Philadelphia vs. Pittsburgh at Richmond, Va.
 St. Louis at Washington.
 Chicago (N) vs. Chicago (A) at Chicago (Comiskey Park).
 New York (A) at Houston.
 Los Angeles at Kansas City.
 California at San Francisco.
 Detroit vs. Boston at Lakeland, Fla.

EXHIBITION STANDINGS

American League	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	16	9	.640
Baltimore	14	12	.538
Boston	14	12	.538
Washington	13	12	.520
Detroit	13	13	.500
California	11	13	.458
Cleveland	12	15	.444
New York	12	16	.429
Minnesota	11	16	.407
Kansas City	10	16	.385

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.

National League

	W	L	Pct.
San Francisco	16	9	.640
Pittsburgh	16	10	.615
Cincinnati	17	11	.607
St. Louis	16	11	.593
Houston	14	13	.519
New York	12	13	.480
Atlanta	11	12	.478
Chicago	11	13	.458
Los Angeles	11	15	.423
Philadelphia	9	19	.321

Hockey Playoffs

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Stanley Cup Playoffs (Best-of-7 Semifinals)

	W	L	Pct.
Chicago	1	0	1.000
Toronto	0	1	.000
Montreal	1	0	1.000
New York	0	1	.000

Friday
 (No games scheduled).

Saturday
 New York at Montreal.

Sunday
 Toronto at Chicago.

AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE

Calder Cup Playoffs (1st Round)

Friday Series A
 Pittsburgh 3 leads best-of-7 series 2-0.

Series B
 Quebec 8 (Best-of-5 series tied 1-1).

Series C
 Cleveland 4 (Cleveland leads best-of-5 series 2-0).

Saturday
 Pittsburgh at Hershey.
 Rochester at Cleveland.

Sunday
 Baltimore at Quebec.

Monday
 (No games scheduled).

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Semifinal Playoffs)

Friday
 (No games scheduled).

Saturday
 Oklahoma City at Houston (Oklahoma City leads best-of-7 series 2-1).
 Memphis at Omaha (Omaha leads best-of-7 series 2-1).

Sunday
 (No games scheduled).

Monday
 Houston at Oklahoma City.
 Omaha at Memphis.

WESTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Semifinal Playoffs)

Friday
 Vancouver 3 (Vancouver leads best-of-7 series 2-0).
 Seattle 4 (Seattle leads best-of-7 series 2-0).

Saturday
 (No games scheduled).

Sunday
 Seattle at California.
 Vancouver at Portland.

Monday
 Portland at Vancouver.

EASTERN HOCKEY LEAGUE

(Final Playoffs)

Friday
 Nashville 4 (Best-of-7 series tied 1-1).
 New Jersey 2

Saturday
 Nashville at New Jersey.

Sunday
 (No games scheduled).

Monday
 (No games scheduled).

Aid to infantry

DA NANG — Helicopters from Marine Aircraft Group-16 carried a rifle company into action against a reinforced Communist platoon about 18 miles southwest of Da Nang March 30.

The action took place shortly after a unit of Marines engaged the enemy just north of the Song Vu Gia river.

The Marines called for reinforcements which were picked up at An Hoa by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadrons 164 and 265. Armed helicopter gunships from Marine Observation Squadron-2 flew escort.

The crew-chief of one of the Sea Knights was wounded.



VC FIGHTER NOW—Former military heavyweight boxing champion, SSgt. Percy J. Price (left) leads his platoon on an operation south of Da Nang. The six-foot, four-inch, 210-pound Leatherneck defeated Cassius Clay in the 1960 Olympic trials.

(Photo by LCpl. R. A. Lowes)

Man who defeated Cassius Clay now serving here with 1stMarDiv

By: SSgt. George Selby

DA NANG—"My troops don't give me any problems," said former all-service heavyweight boxing champion Marine Staff Sergeant Percy J. Price Jr.

Price decided on Cassius Clay for a berth to the 1960 Olympics.

The 30-year-old Philadelphian is now a platoon sergeant with "B" Company, 1st Battalion, First Marines, 1st Marine Division.

The 6'4", 210-pound Price worked for an optometrist before enlisting in the Corps in 1955. It was while serving as an infantryman in Hawaii that he began his boxing career.

The easy-going heavyweight carried the titles of Hawaiian All-Marine and All-Service boxing champion for 1956 and 1957. In 1957 he also added the title of Hawaiian AAU heavyweight

champion to his laurels.

Completing his Hawaiian tour, Price returned to the States and gained the National All-Service title for 1960-61. With this title he earned nomination to the U.S.

boxing team for the 1960 Olympics.

It was during the Olympic trials at Ft. Dix, N.J., that Price and Clay clashed in a four-round bout. The decision went to Price, but both he and Clay were selected for the Olympic team.

Both returned from the Olympics victorious. Price earned a Bronze Medal in the heavyweight class, while Clay took a Gold Medal in the light-heavyweight field.

Price claims many boxing contacts and personal friends from his boxing activities and considers Clay as one of his best friends.

"We write to each other a lot and he even asked me to come to work for him as a sparring partner," says Price. "I still play a little football," he continued, "but because of a knee injury my boxing is finished."

Price's right knee cap slipped out of joint during a match in 1963 and subsequent surgery has kept him out of the ring. With more than 100 fights to his credit Price claims to have been cut only once.

The men of "B" Company's 3rd Plt., have no difficulty in locating their platoon sergeant whether Price is walking through the company area or in the brush and rice paddy on a sweep mission. There is just too much of Percy Price for him not to stand out.

Carper for Shelly

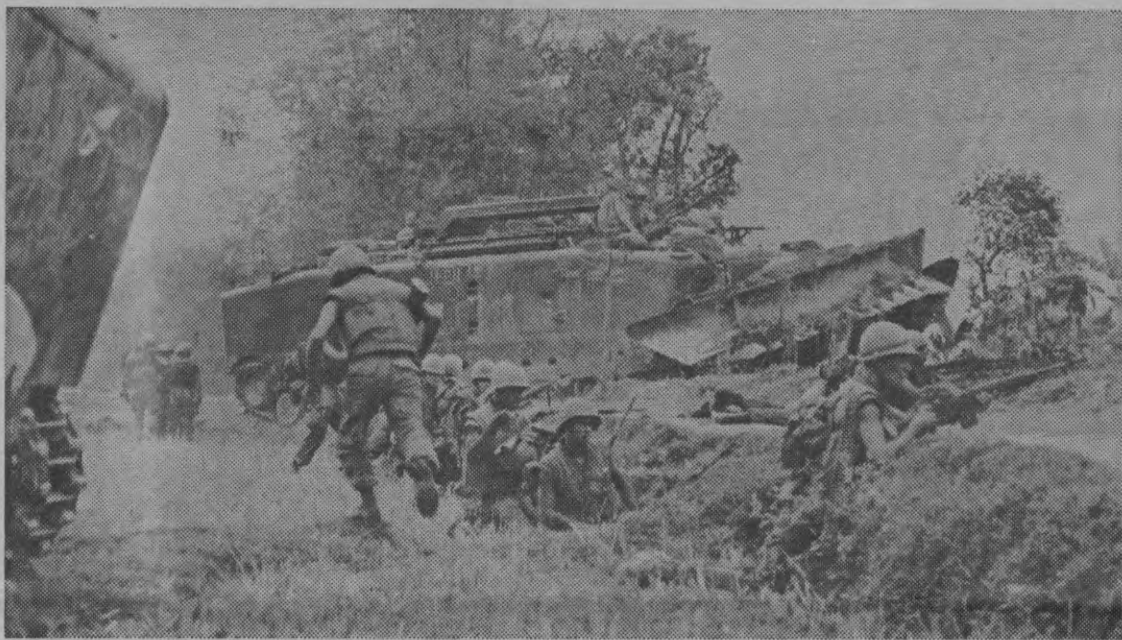
HOA KHANH—Colonel Kermit H. Shelly, former commanding officer, Force Logistic Support Group "Bravo", 1st Force Service Regiment/Force Logistic Command, passed the colors of the 1st Service Bn. to Lieutenant Colonel Eston C. Carper Jr., who succeeded Shelly in formal ceremonies held at Chu Lai.

SEA TIGER 9



Black Cats

PFC Thomas Allison, A1C Peter Akeke, SP4 Faye Conway, Alex Richburg and Charles Alman SP4 (l to r) compose the Black Cats rock and roll band which entertained Leathernecks of the Seventh Marines, at their command post near Chu Lai Mar. 30.



Monsters to rescue

Tractors from the 1st Amphibious Tractor Battalion churn into position to squelch a Viet Cong ambush which had Leathernecks from the 2d Battalion, Fifth Marines, pinned down. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Sea Tiger Spotlight On:

Task Force X-Ray at Chu Lai

By: Cpl. Philip Hamer

CHU LAI—Task Force X-Ray was organized Oct. 10, 1966 when the 1st Marine Division inherited the Da Nang tactical area of responsibility from the 3rd Marine Division which was moving north.

The 1st Marine Division divided its headquarters and created the separate tactical command to maintain the Chu Lai Combat Base and its tactical area of responsibility (TAOR). The TAOR extends into two provinces—Quang Ngai to the South, and Quang Tin to the North.

Since Oct. 10, 1966, 1201 Viet Cong have been killed and 1,224 detainees taken into custody (figures correct as of 28 Feb. 1967) as the result of operations and sweeps in the operating area.

Brigadier General Foster Carr LaHue, Assistant Division Commander, is the second commanding general of Task Force X-Ray having relieved Brigadier General William A. Stiles on March 24, 1967.

Colonel Fred Haynes is Chief of Staff for the Task Force, a position he assumed Dec. 27, 1966.

Task Force X-Ray, consists of a tactical command and control headquarters, elements of two infantry regiments, a field artillery group and all ground and combat support units necessary to fully satisfy operational requirements.

Its mission is a four-fold one:

To execute coordinated or unilateral offensive operations, emphasizing rapid reaction to exploit contact gained by small units conducting patrols and ambushes throughout the tactical area of responsibility. Unilateral or coordinated offensive operations in conjunction with Army of the Republic of Vietnam and/or Korean Marine Corps forces are conducted as frequently as possible in areas which are believed to contain significant enemy forces or extensive supporting facilities and installations.

To protect the Chu Lai base area, the air field complex and other facilities.

To protect or participate in the defense of other selected U.S. or Vietnamese critical installations as directed.

To conduct pacification and civic action programs.

The TAOR, recently expanded north and south to 250 square miles, contains 23 villages averaging four hamlets each and a civilian population of 95,161. A full-scale civic action program is underway to benefit the Vietnamese people.

Task Force X-Ray Units have built 11 dispensaries, 70 well and shower points, and a major road near Chu Lai. More than 251,238 medical treatments have been administered to the local population

'Doc' saves two Marines

DA NANG,—Leaving the relative safety of a hedgerow and crawling under heavy fire into exposed areas, Corpsman James Watson Jr. saved the lives of two Marines.

The 25-year-old corpsman, from Philadelphia, was attached to a company of Marines of the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines, 1st Marine Division, during a search and destroy operation when the action took place.

While acting as company point, the platoon he was attached to encountered heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from a platoon of North Vietnamese regulars.

The platoon was immediately pinned down and several Marines were injured. Other Marines went to their aid and were themselves wounded and trapped in an exposed area.

Disregarding his own safety, Watson moved into the open and began moving from casualty to casualty. He aided five of the injured men, and dragged the two more seriously wounded back to the safety of the hedgerow, for treatment. His action is credited with saving their lives.

Watson then crawled back into the danger area to further aid the four others.

"When the action started I just didn't take time to think about anything but my job," said Watson. "It is just instinct that gets you moving when you know back in your mind that this could be it for you. I believe that I just acted automatically," he said.

Watson said, "the most depressing time of all was when it was over and we were just sitting around waiting for the rest of our battalion to join up with us."

and dental clinics have performed more than 13,011 treatments. Approximately 6,212 Vietnamese have attended English language classes organized by Task Force X-Ray.

Construction of the Dickey Chappelle Memorial Dispensary in Chu Lai-New Life hamlet is a major effort to provide for continuing medical attention to the people of the area. The civic action programs continually emphasize education of the populace in sanitation and applicable technology.

Within the TAOR and for several miles beyond its boundaries, combat operations, "County Fairs" and "Golden Fleece" type rice harvests protected by Marines are conducted frequently by units of the Task Force.



Machine gun pit

An unidentified engineer attached to the 2d Battalion, Fifth Marines, prepares to blow up a machine gun pit used by a main force Viet Cong battalion that fought the Leathernecks for more than nine hours. The battle took place 30 miles south of Da Nang. The mission accounted for 111 dead Viet Cong. (Photo by LCpl. J. L. McClory)

Vietnamese attack pilot has over 600 missions

By GySgt. C. V. Stallings

DA NANG—Slender, soft-spoken, and with scholarly air, he could easily be mistaken for a professional businessman.

But the young Vietnamese is a veteran attack pilot, with more than 600 combat missions to his credit.

Lieutenant Colonel Nguyen Duc Khanh, of the Republic of Vietnam Air Force, commands the 41st Vietnamese Aircraft Wing at Da Nang. The 41st's Operations Group contains a squadron of Douglas A-1 Skyraiders, two helicopter squadrons, and a squadron of Cessna observation aircraft.

Khanh has been in the Air Force since 1954, and is a graduate of the French Air Academy at Salon. He's also attended flight training in the United States, in both propeller-driven and jet aircraft.

Although Khanh's duties as wing commander prevent him from flying as often as he'd like, he still gets in plenty of combat missions in the AD's. He attacks the same type of targets as his pilots, braving Viet Cong small arms and automatic weapons fire in the sturdy, but slow, propeller-driven Skyraider.

"Once I was shot down," he recalls. "My aircraft took five hits in the engine and I was forced to bail out. All of us know what it is to be shot at," he said.

Basically, Khanh's 41st Wing functions much the same as a U.S. Marine Aircraft Wing. His attack planes are utilized mostly for close support of ground troops; his helicopters fly medical evacuation, resupply and troop carrying missions; and his observation aircraft serve as spotters, carrying forward air controllers, airborne.

Although most of the 41st's missions are in support of Republic of Vietnam forces, they are also called upon to aid American and other friendly units in the I Corps area. And, they fly their share of missions north of the demilitarized zone where, as the colonel describes it, "the ground fire is very intense."

Khanh doesn't consider himself young, at 35, for the job of wing commander.

"By American standards, yes, I am young for such a position," he said, "but it must be remem-

bered that we South Vietnamese have a young Air Force. In my experience, and in my service, I am not considered a young man."

Among Khanh's decorations is the Vietnamese National Order, which he compares to the American Medal of Honor. It does not, however, according to him, signify any one particular incident of heroism or achievement, but is awarded for a number of accomplishments over a period of time.

Vietnamese pilots fly day in and day out, with never an end in sight other than possible death. They cannot look forward to return to home and peace, since they are fighting in their own backyards.

Yet, they are a proud and dedicated group of men, and their morale is high.

As Khanh describes it, "Most of us are fortunate in having our families with us, which means a lot. My wife and two sons are with me here at Da Nang. My countrymen and I feel certain that we will win this war one day, and things will be better for all of us. Until then, this is a way of life. We must continue to fight."

Villagers find booby-traps for Marines

DA NANG — If a child from Don Son (3) or La Son hamlet tugs at the sleeve of Staff Sergeant Carlos C. Chambers, chances are that another Viet Cong mine or booby trap will be destroyed.

In the past three and a half months, the NCO in charge of civil affairs for "L" Btry., 4th Battalion, Twelfth Marines, has collected more than 500 rounds of ammunition and various booby traps set up by the VC.

Recalling one particularly good "find" Chambers said, "At one time I received an 81mm round and four booby traps from a couple of the Don Son villagers."

The villagers "are great," according to Chambers. "They often lead me to booby traps planted by the VC and most of the time we uncover M-26 fragmentation grenades," he said.

Although the Marine Corps offers a cash reward for arms and ammunition, some of the Vietnamese will not accept payment for the ordnance they turn in.

"I believe it's the faith the Vietnamese people have in the Marines that leads them to turn in the ammo," Chambers said.

In addition to the large collection of ammo and booby traps to be found in the civil affairs office, Chambers "good neighbor policy" has also resulted in 53 Viet Cong prisoners captured.

"The prisoners were taken as a direct result of the cooperation and information given by the Vietnamese people," said Chambers. "The villagers are anxious to help."

Chambers has been in Vietnam since March, 1966.

MASS-3 assists pilots in all-weather bombing

By: LCpl. Woody Price

CHU LAI—Radar, born during World War II, is being used with precision by Marine Aircraft Support Squadron-3 to control accurate bombing of targets both at night and during bad weather in Vietnam.

Utilizing an advanced model of the system developed during Korea, MASS-3 personnel pinpoint both aircraft and target areas, and can even bring the aircraft back to its homebase after a run, through use of the Radar Course Directing Central (AN/TP-Q-10) system.

Capable of being transported by air, the system is broken down into a power unit, control center and radar unit. Through use of the radar, the computer equipment in control center even tells pilots the exact moment to drop their bombs on enemy targets.

Since its arrival in Vietnam last November, MASS-3 has controlled more than 3,000 night and all-weather bombing missions, guiding more than 5,000 tons of ordnance onto the enemy.

Basically, the system begins operation when aerial observers or intelligence reports targets to a Fire Support Coordinating Center. The FSCC confirms that the target is not friendly forces or in a heavily populated area. Once cleared, attack aircraft are assigned the mission through Direct Air Support Centers.

Pilots of aircraft assigned to the mission contact a Marine Aircraft Control Squadrons and remain "on station" flying an orbital pattern.

The radar team is notified of the plane's position and as the radar is turned to "lock-on" the aircraft, the strike controller inserts data on wind direction, speed of aircraft and target location into the system.

Once the aircraft is "locked-on", the pilot changes his radio frequency to that of the radar team, and tells the team the type and quantity of bombs he is carrying.

Fed into the computer, the system automatically computes aircraft guidance and the point at which the bomb release

command is to be given. As the pilot's path is plotted by the controller, radar operators call for corrections if he slips off-course.

Normally, the point of bomb release is given orally, but the system is also capable of releasing the ordnance automatically with the aid of ground control bombing system components at-

tached to both the computer and the aircraft.

In addition to guiding bombing missions, the system can control precision para-drops of men and equipment, flare drops, medical evacuation and resupply missions, and aerial photograph and reconnaissance missions. It will even guide the aircraft back to its base, if necessary.

MAG-12 jet pilot saves trapped, injured troops

By: LCpl. Larry Belcher

CHU LAI—"It was the most self-satisfying and exciting mission I've flown since I received my commission and wings almost 12 years ago," explained Major Dorsie D. Page Jr., after receiving a Distinguished Flying Cross during ceremonies at Marine Aircraft Group-12.

He was awarded his DFC while flying in support of two Marine Aircraft Group-16 helicopters downed by enemy

strafing runs, and said he played, as decoy several times to draw enemy fire off the ground forces.

"I turned on all my lights and strafed the VC positions," he said. "I figure it was easier for the VC unit to hit the men on the ground than me," he added.

A veteran of 260 combat missions over North and South Vietnam, evaluated the success of his mission by the fact that all of the trapped Marines were able to be evacuated safely.

Major General Louis B. Robertshaw, commanding general, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, presented the award and congratulated Page on his "extraordinary achievement in aerial flight."

Since arriving in Vietnam, Page has received 15 Air Medals, and the Vietnamese Service Medal.

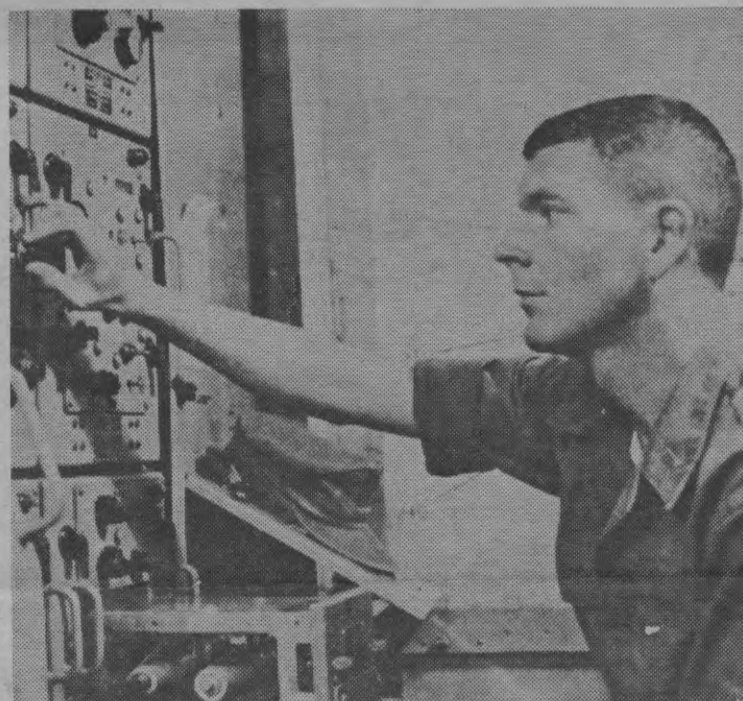
According to the citation, Page willingly and without hesitation, exposed himself to enemy recoilless, small arms and automatic weapons fire.

The Marine Attack Squadron-214 pilot said when he arrived over the zone, two CH-46A Sea Knight helos and more than 30 passengers, all of whom were wounded, were trapped by a larger VC unit.

The enemy had surrounded the Marines and was within 50 yards of friendly positions, and according to Page "about to overrun them."

Page repeatedly attacked the enemy, sighting-in on the VC's recoilless rifle flashes.

The Vietnam veteran of more than 12 months, made bomb and



COMPUTER INSERT—Marine 1st Lt. William H. Dotterer, an aircraft strike controller with Marine Aircraft Support Squadron-3, inserts information on target location, wind direction and speed, into the computer system of the radar course directing central. The system is used for radar control of precision bombing of targets in Vietnam. (Photo by PFC Dave Johnson)

Four 'brothers' serve in Vietnam together

By: MSgt. G. E. Wilson

DA NANG—When the 1st Military Police Bn. came overseas 11 months ago they brought with them four brothers.

Of the quartet, two are still with the battalion, one has joined the Army, and the fourth walks post for the RMK construction company in Da Nang.

Their names are Ceaser, Boot, Bear and Thunder.

They are four German Shepherds purchased by men of "C" Co., to serve as mascots for the 1st Division's Military Police Bn.

Transfers of their respective keepers has caused the separation of the four, originally assigned to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd platoons and "C" Co. headquarters.

While "C" Co. was billeted near the sentry dog platoon, last June, the four pups took basic sentry dog training. Their training paid off, and the mascots were assigned to sentry duty within the compound.

When Captain Eugene N. Litz

was transferred to an infantry unit, Boot became the property of the RMK Construction Company in Da Nang. He now stands watch over one of their compounds.

Thunder, when his master was transferred, was purchased by an Army warrant officer in charge of a Da Nang detention compound. The dog also serves as a sentry.

Ceaser became a member of the field provost marshal's section and Bear joined the Armed Forces Police in downtown Da Nang as a result of their keeper's transfers.

Then in December, brothers Ceaser and Bear got together again as members of the MP Battalion's provisional company.

For a brief period, Ceaser joined the 2nd Battalion, Fifth Marines, then returned to the provisional company after his master was killed.

The reunion between the brothers was typical of many members of the same family—they got into a fight.

Today however, they are good friends and have the run of the provisional company compound.

Bear at 100 pounds is the largest, while "little" Ceaser tips the scales at 80 pounds.

542 strike

CHU LAI—A scramble mission flown by Marine Fighter Attack Squadron-542 "Tigers," accounted for 15 Viet Cong confirmed killed, three structures destroyed and three others damaged.

Captain Leo A. Cullum led the flight of two 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Phantom jets March 8 in support of ground Marines, west of the Quang Ngai river, 23 miles southeast of Da Nang.

Captain Delbert M. Bassett was wingman for the flight.

Radar intercept officers were Captain Arthur B. Tozzi and First Lieutenant Paul A. Fratarcangelo.

SEA TIGER 11

R&R lawyers

CHU LAI — The generosity of a group of New York Lawyers touring the Far East gave the families of two Marine officers a pleasant surprise recently.

Lieutenants C.S. Sim and Steven Palmer were on R&R in Hong Kong.

During their first night there, Palmer entered into conversation with a fellow elevator passenger, Charles Buckley of Baldwin, N.Y., who was on a tour with other members of the Nassau County (New York) Lawyers Conference.

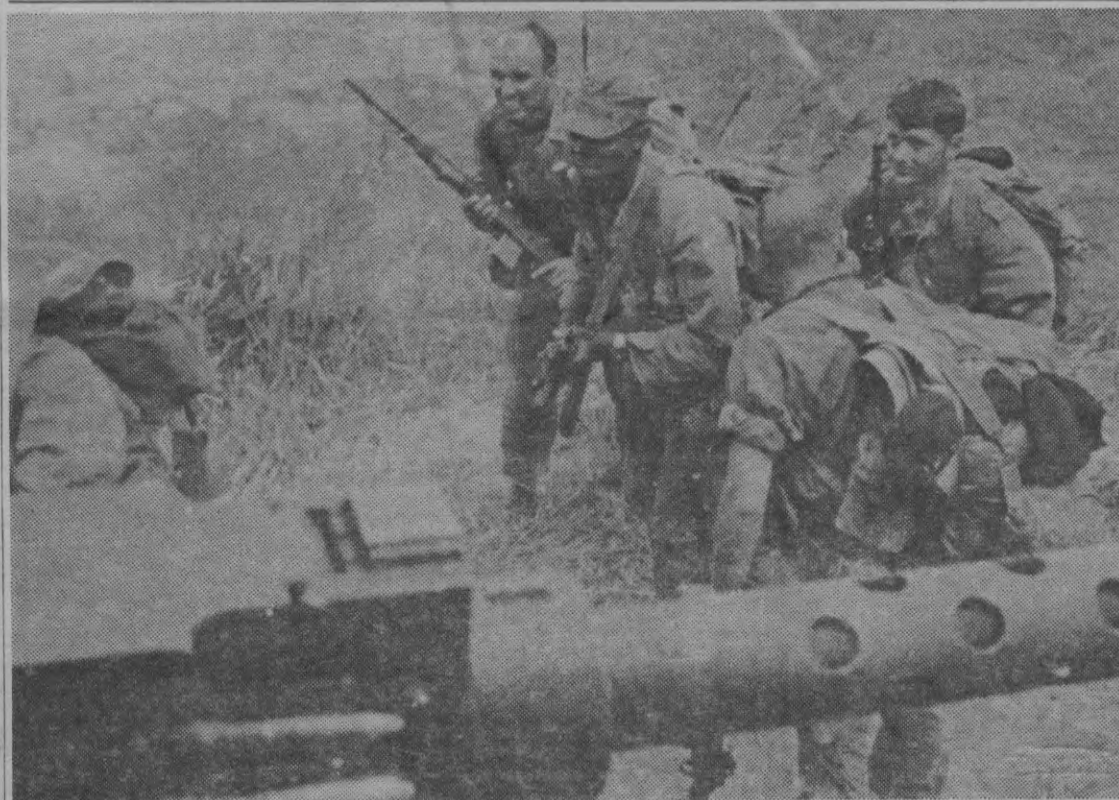
When Buckley found out that Palmer was on R&R from Vietnam, he invited him and his friend, Sim, to join the group of lawyers and their wives for a cocktail party. He subsequently extended an invitation for them to remain for dinner.

Following the five-course meal, the Vice-President of the conference, Nathan Zausmer, Glen Cove, N.Y., brought forth a motion that the two lieutenants call their families at home, at the expense of the Nassau County Lawyers Conference.

The more than 100 lawyers present readily approved the motion.

Sim said, "It's a great thrill and very gratifying to know that there are people in the States who extend such fine hospitality to servicemen."

Sim had an additional treat when, through conversation with one of the couples present, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Longworth of Rockville Centre, N.Y., he found that they were long-time friends of his family.



Quick getaway

A Marine reconnaissance team scrambles aboard a CH-46 Sea Knight under the protection of the helicopter's .50 caliber machinegun, as MAG-16 copters lift Marines from a surrounded position. (Photo by Cpl. Russell Cowen)



Airborne life line

A 1st Marine Aircraft Wing helicopter lands at a mountain-top helo pad for the Marine company occupying the lofty position. Steep slopes and no roads made the position inaccessible other than by air. Helicopters lift up to 30,000 lbs of supplies daily. (Photo by LCpl. T. J. Mercurio)

10-year-old orphan girl learns VC, Marines, not 'same-same'

By: LCpl. R. R. Keene

CHU LAI—Ten-year-old Vu Thi Lien stared with apprehension at the Marines who had come to the chapel to pray on Easter Sunday.

She stood proudly, but with a twinge of stage fright, as the time drew near for her and the 20 other children from the Binh Son Catholic Orphanage to sing during the Mass at the Marine Aircraft Group-12 chapel.

She and the others had put on their best dresses earlier that morning, before the Marine trucks arrived to take them to Chu Lai, 20 miles north.

Sister Nativity, who runs the orphanage, had taken special care to see that the girls' dresses were starched stiff to hold in the heat of the morning sun.

Vu Thi Lien, who was not used to starch, found it uncomfortable. What might have been a pleasant Easter experience was becoming an ordeal for her, for she feared the Marines.

It wasn't just the Marines. She feared all soldiers, especially the Viet Cong. She did not understand the reason for fighting, nor did she care. She knew only that because of it she was an orphan. To her, Marines and VC were "same-same."

What Vu Thi Lien did not know, since she was relatively new to the orphanage, was that the Marines had been working on the orphanage for almost a year, and they did want to be her friends.

Father Frank McDonnell,

Catholic chaplain for MAG-12, solemnly gave communion. Vu Thi Lien reverently accepted the wafer. This she could grasp; this she accepted with the faith only a child has.

She felt a little more at ease when she had Communion with the Marines, for she was relieved to see that they prayed in the same way that she did.

Her voice wasn't as shaky singing the last hymn as it had been during the first.

She observed quietly as Private First Class Patrick McAdler, presented Sister Nativity with the Stations of the Cross mounted on tile figures of plastic. This indeed was a beautiful gift from people who believed the same as she, thousands of miles away.

She warmed up a little bit after they were served rolls and

cooling drink, and she enjoyed having her picture taken by the Marines.

Her tour of the dispensary was interesting. It was there that she saw television for the first time.

They ate at the MAG-13 mess hall and there was more food than Vu Thi Lien was used to. She did manage to finish the ice cream dessert though.

She was beginning to understand Sister Nativity's words a little more. The nun had told them that the Marines were friends and not to be feared.

She did not fear them now. She felt that she knew them now.

Vu Thi Lien smiled and experienced a feeling of security as the Marine lifted her off the truck when she returned to the orphanage. Security felt good.

Footbridge

PHU BAI—Combat engineers on Operation Chinook II, 25 miles northwest of Phu Bai, are keeping fellow Marines' "powder" and feet dry at the same time.

A platoon of "B" Company, 3rd Engineer Battalion often put together a 75-foot pontoon footbridge in minutes, according to Staff Sergeant F. Turner.

To make the bridge, treadway ramps are placed on top of pontoon boats and extended out across the stream. Later, ropes are strung along the ramp to serve as handrails. The temporary bridge is anchored by bridle lines attached to each bank.

"About 150 Marines can cross the footbridge in an hour while still keeping their interval of 10 to 15 paces," Turner said. "With the same type material, we can build a pontoon float with bridle lines and buoys."

The platoon is commanded by Second Lieutenant Ken Kariacopoulos.

Survival shop gives Marine pilots edge

By: SSgt. Lynn Parnell

CHU LAI—Pilots flying combat missions in Vietnam are constantly in danger of being shot down over enemy territory or in the jungle.

If it should happen, pilots of Marine Attack Squadron-211 feel they have an edge over the elements, thanks to their safety and survival shop.

Sergeant H. L. Gonzales, heads the seven-man section which is responsible for the squadron's survival equipment. It includes everything from the parachute to small plastic bags that can be used as canteens, and adds up to about 75-lbs. of life-saving gear.

Everything required to survive an ejection, be it over the jungle or the ocean, is packed into the A-4E Skyhawk's seat pan.

The parachute is packed to form the back cushion of the seat, and its harness straps also serve as the pilot's seat belt.

When a pilot ejects, all he does is pull down a face curtain. Everything else is automatic, including a time mechanism which opens the chute's canopy. In case of malfunction, there is a manual pull ring to open the parachute.

The seat pan's bottom cushion is comprised of two units placed in a canvas bag.

A Survival Escape and Evasion Kit (SEEK) makes up the first portion.

Gonzales and his men have expanded on the basic kit and added several items including a survival axe, which can be used to cut through thick jungle brush, and an extra radio.

The SEEK kit itself comes in two sections.

One is a complete miniaturized medical unit, and the other contains everything from an arrowhead to flint and steel for starting fires. There is also a life raft located in the bottom section in case the pilot must eject over water.

Most of the equipment located in the seat pan is also duplicated in a survival vest worn by the pilots.

Until recently, it was a large belt containing two zipper pockets in which the SEEK kit and radio had to fit. When worn, it looked like an inner tube around the pilot's waist.

Sergeant Thomas R. Wynn, re-

cently modified the bulky belt.

Using the shop's sewing machine, he reworked the original belt to one that contained the SEEK kit and radio but also has large pockets for a .38 cal. pistol, extra ammunition, a pencil flare gun with extra flares, a strobe light, and a long distance antenna sewn in.

According to one pilot, the first time he had been able to see all of his instrument panel without bending over was after Wynn made the more compact belt.

"It still weighs about the same, but gives the pilot a place to put other gear normally carried without taking up as much room," Wynn said.

"Pilots only have one chance when they eject," Gonzales said. "All the equipment has to be perfect or we are short one pilot."

"Although we aren't the ones flying, we try to anticipate any situation that could arise and include what we can in the equipment to save the pilot's life," he said.

ARVN lift

CHU LAI—Six Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-165 Sea Knights airlifted Vietnamese Army troops to a zone 20 miles north of here, March 17.

The Marine Aircraft Group-36 'choppers received light small arms fire as they delivered the Vietnamese soldiers to an area near Tam Ky.

Prior to the ground forces landing, Skyhawk jets of MAG-12 hammered the area with 250 and 500-pound bombs, and 20mm cannon fire.

Two Marine Observation Squadron-6 UH-1E Huey gunships helped soften the zone with 2.75-inch rockets and M-60 machine gun fire.



Gen. Buse visits

LtGen. H. W. Buse of Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, is greeted on his arrival in Vietnam by MajGen. H. Elwood (center) and BGen R. G. Owens (right). Buse is Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs and made a two day visit of Marine installations in the I Corps area. (Photo by Cpl. A. C. Ferriera)

Mail The Sea Tiger Home

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