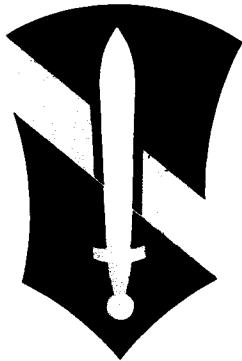




THE  
**TYPHOON**

February 1968





# TYPHOON

A Publication of I Field Force Vietnam

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## I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM

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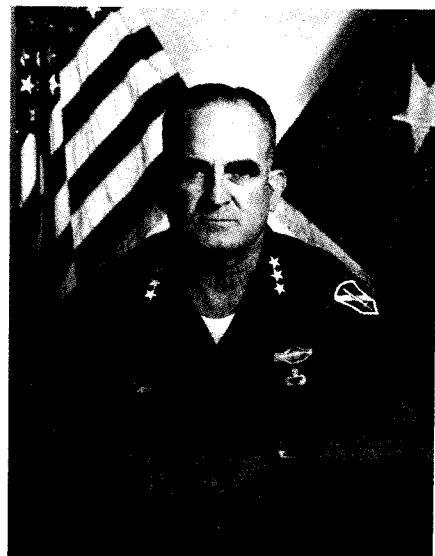
# Commanding General

Every American serviceman in this command has a dual role—that of professional soldier and that of representative of the United States. Each of us is vitally aware of our responsibilities as a member of the Army-Navy-Air Force-Marine Corps-Coast Guard team, but we must be equally cognizant of the necessity for and importance of our responsibilities as an ambassador—responsibilities shared equally by the most senior members of our Armed Forces down to the most junior.

The Vietnamese people judge the United States by what they see in the conduct of Americans in their presence, including the image presented to the local nationals by each individual serviceman. The enemy would like to convince the Vietnamese people that we Americans are arrogant, vulgar and cruel. By any inconsiderate or thoughtless action which supports this allegation, we aid the cause of the enemy and degrade our own effort. The

most effective counter to the enemy's propaganda is that sort of attitude and conduct that will win the praise and respect of the Vietnamese.

While rude, loud, discourteous, crude and unruly behavior detract appreciably from the image and reputation of the United States in the eyes of the local nationals, the appearance and manner of dignity, compassion, consideration and integrity reflect favorably on our country, our forces and our program in support of the Republic of Vietnam. We must make a concerted effort to inform ourselves on the culture and traditions of the people of South Vietnam, to understand their way of life and to respect their customs. Moreover, in our day to day dealings and encounters with the local populace we must lose no opportunity to create a favorable image of Americans through courtesy on the road, a friendly greeting—indeed, any polite or considerate act.



**Lt Gen W.B. Rosson**

Let us remember that the victory we seek involves more than the military defeats we and our Vietnamese and Free World comrades are inflicting on the enemy. Of equal, if not greater, importance is the need to win the loyalty, support and confidence of the population. Proper attitude and conduct on the part of each one of us are essential to success in this effort. Let us not be found wanting on either count.

## Chaplain's Message

### PERSEVERANCE

Chaplain (Cpt) Sholom I. Glicksman

Many of us are away from home for the first time. It's true we were at basic training camps and stateside assignments. But, there was always the telephone link to home. What is more important, wherever we were it was always American and a familiar pattern of life.

Now we are in a strange land, far away from home and loved ones. Some of us are in areas where life and death are the basic issues. And, many of us are subject to the effect of prolonged isolation. How will we respond to this new threat to our personality?

There are those who will return home

with a feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment, while there also will be those who (with the exception of fulfilling their national commitment) will



find that they have wasted a year of their life. But this is no inevitability. We can, and should, make the utmost of our year in Vietnam.

The secret to our dilemma was explained by a philosopher who said that wherever a man be, regardless of the situation he finds himself in, he must always remember that he is a man. This is a much deeper concept than it seems at first glance. Many of us really never have learned how to satisfy ourselves, the essence of our manhood. Now, for

our very self-integrity, we must discover how to satisfy our inner selves.

The simple pursuit of pleasure is not the answer. As most of us realize this only delays the basic problem. The next morning we still have to face ourselves. The answer is found in our ability to stimulate the mind. We have the opportunity to acquire an education, to read many of the books and publications that we never have had time for, and we have an opportunity through the religious program to consider life and its meaning (maybe for the first time). These are rare opportunities. There is USAFI, there are libraries and there are chapels. Sure, it's all a bother and requires effort. But, it makes all the difference in the world as to whether this will be a lost year or a personally enriching one. I hope that it will be the latter for all of us.

## Chief of Staff Tours II Corps



(Above) General Harold K. Johnson, chief of staff, U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel Le Khanh (3d from right), Khanh Hoa province chief, and an interpreter chat with pupils of the Xuan Hoa refugee village during General Johnson's recent visit to Vietnam.

(Left) General Johnson and Lieutenant Colonel Le Khanh are welcomed to Xuan Hoa by the village elders. (Photos by SP5 Julian Chacon).

## Army's Top EM Visits I FFORCEV



(Above) During his Christmas visit to Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam (I FFORCEV), Sergeant Major William O. Wooldridge, sergeant major of the Army, visits the 8th Field Hospital at Nha Trang. While making his rounds of the medical facilities, SGM Wooldridge stops to talk with Captain Mary Diane Williams of Sacramento, Calif., head nurse of the surgical ward.



(Right) Sergeant Major Bruce S. Shankland (right), command sergeant major, I FFORCEV, presents Sergeant Major Wooldridge with a plaque of appreciation for his devotion to Duty, God and Country. (Photos by SP5 J. Rock)

**BTRY A, 3/18**

# THE ROAD TO DAK TO

Story by SP4 T.H. DECKER

Photos by SP4 T.H. DECKER and SP5 A.P. HONEGGER

The job of an artillery unit is lery, the toil, long hours, glory and never glamorized. All the glory and credit became theirs at Dak To in credit is reserved for the foot sol- dier. But ask any infantryman what he appreciates more than mail, and his reply will be--artillery support. The artilleryman's job requires just as much toil and long hours as the infantryman's. For the men of Battery A, 3d Battalion, 18th Artil-

Brigade and 4th Infantry Division, equally determined to halt the NVA advancement. Throughout the ensuing bloody, monthlong campaign the battery supported ground units in their efforts to crush the enemy, accounting for more than 150 confirmed kills.

Bitter fighting was staged on Hill 1338 where the 4th Division's 3d

*A convoy moves along winding and treacherous road toward Dak To. Dust nearly blocks crew of 175mm howitzer from view (insert).*



## **Battery A, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery**

Battalion, 12th Infantry, struggled for three days to reach the summit. It was an exhaustive battle for the foot soldiers. Two hours of constant pounding by the artillery battery finally enabled them to take the hilltop with only slight resistance from a few straggling snipers.

On the evening of November 21, First Lieutenant Paul E. Radice, Gary, Ind., battery executive officer, observed flashes on the hillside opposite the base camp. Fearing a possible mortar attack, he immediately

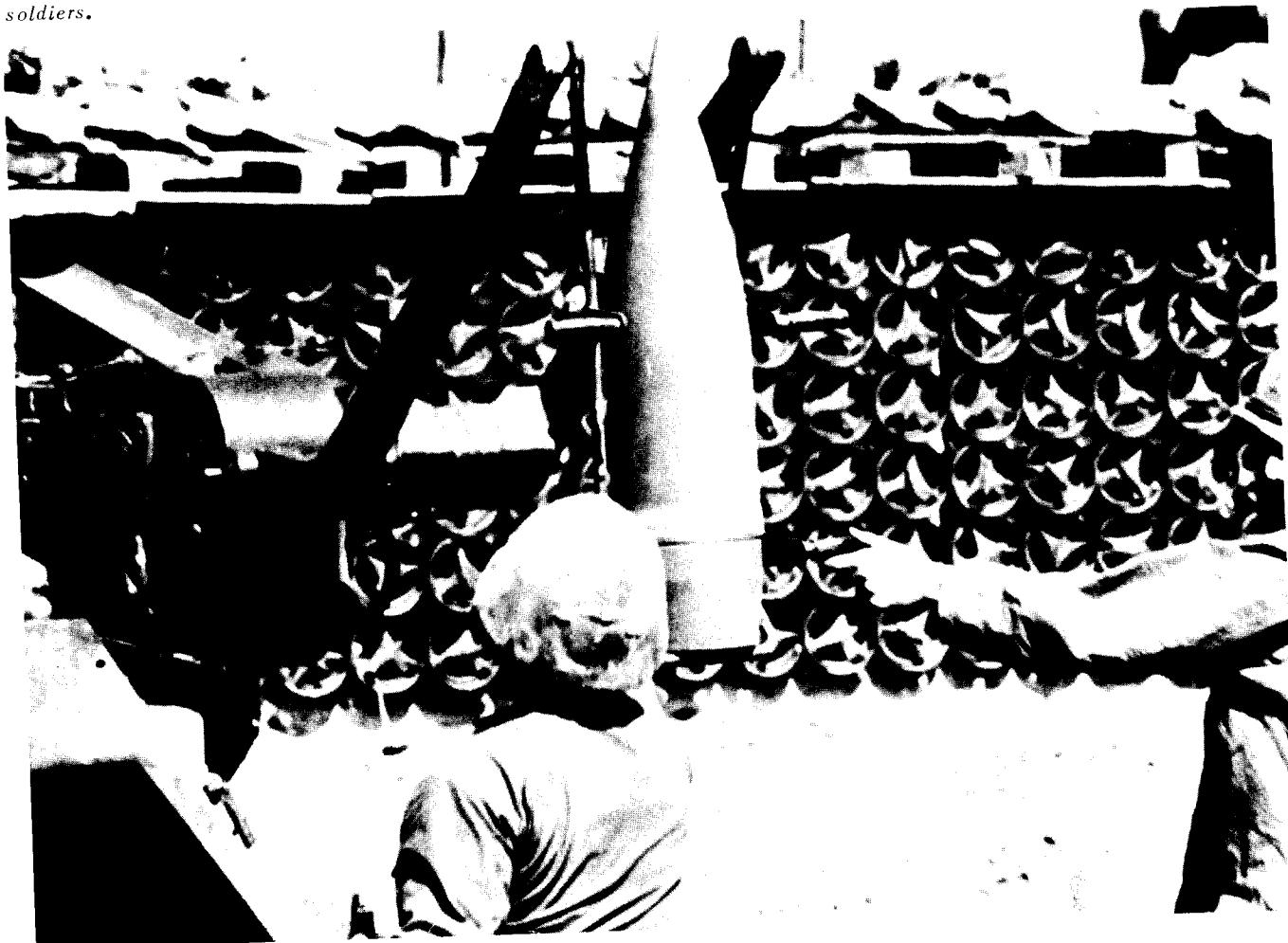
contacted the perimeter defense group as the camp started receiving the incoming mortar rounds. Lieutenant Radice then directed the crew of one 175-millimeter howitzer to level the gun in the direction of the target. The crew fired five quick rounds and wiped out the mortar position.

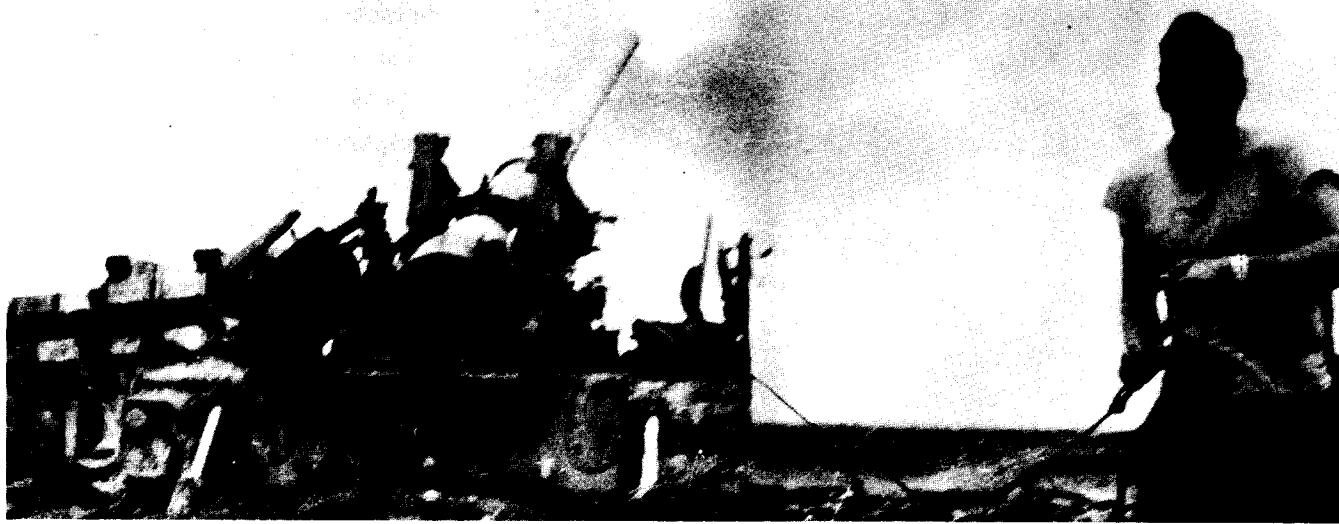
The road to Dak To is dusty, winding and treacherous. For the battery's guns, the journey started one year ago when they began supporting units and operations throughout II Corps Tactical Zone. It was a

journey which earned the unit the Presidential Unit Citation.

Much of the battery's Vietnam tour has been away from its parent battalion, located in Chu Lai. Occasionally the four guns have been separated into two sections, and the crews saw each other only as they passed on a road traveling in opposite directions. Frequent road marches have made the giant 175mm howitzers "probably the most photographed weapons in Vietnam," according to Lieutenant Radice.

*A 200-pound shell is lifted by the arm of a hydraulic loader-rammer onto an eight-inch self-propelled howitzer of Battery A, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery. Guiding the shell upwards are PFC Kenneth Black (right), Sacramento, Calif., and PFC Gilbert Bguia, Chicago, Ill. During the battle for Dak To, the battery's guns killed more than 150 North Vietnamese soldiers.*





*175mm howitzer thunders into action.*

Landing Zones (LZ) Tom, Boom-Boom, Pony, English and Crossroads are exotic sounding locations for the unglamorous job of war. The artillermen have dealt deadly blows to the enemy at these and other far-flung sites.

"We have moved where the action is," stated Captain Jesse L. Taylor, Huntington Beach, Calif., battery commander, "often staying only a few days at each LZ," as they pursued the VC and NVA.

On May 6, 1967, two gun crews participated in "Operation Bravo" at An Khe, a six-day joint Army-Air Force operation. Later in June, after a three-month separation, the two gun sections rejoined at LZ Oasis, southwest of Pleiku, where

they supported the 4th Infantry Division for 18 days.

In late October of last year, the "Ivymen" received support from Battery A at Boun Blech. After a day-long, bone-jarring trip, the battery pulled into a nighttime position

midst a seven-foot-high-jungle.

All was quiet for three days at the 4th Division firebase. The fourth night the enemy began raining mortar rounds into the Ivymen's position. The division's twin-40-millimeter "dusters" defending the perimeter battery. They can road march 200

emptied their load. The NVA were walking behind the falling rounds shoot."

and the firebase was in danger of being overrun.

The only available support came from Battery A. With frightening

exactness, the artillery rounds slammed into the earth as close as 100 meters from the firebase. One 4th Division trooper commented later, "I heard a whistle overhead, looked up and Charlie was lying all over the place."

A sweep of the area the following morning found blood trails as well as destroyed machine guns, mortar and rocket launchers. Captain Taylor has high praise for his men "who take pride in their guns and pride in the

spirit was best described by Lieutenant Radice, "We don't brag about our job, we just do it."



Story by CPT ROBERT LOOMIS Photos by SSG C.B. CANADY

Bien Hoa was under mortar attack and moments after landing, U.S. First Lieutenant Barbara (Bobbi) Shipp was running to a sandbagged bunker. The thump of the exploding rounds stood out as a warning that her stay in Vietnam might be both dangerous and busy, and that a little more training and experience would be gained during the next 12 months.

Nothing in Lieutenant Shipp's background had prepared her for the ride from the airfield bunker to the replacement battalion--lying down on a bus. Even a girl who likes sky-diving and swimming and carries a Playboy Key Club membership card normally favors a more comfortable way of traveling.

The lieutenant is assigned to the 8th Field Hospital in Nha Trang

where a staff of doctors and nurses bring their professional skill to the aid of Americans, their allies, and--the enemy.

Recently, at 11 p.m., the flapping of a helicopter announced the arrival of a "dust off" flight at the hospital. A group of Vietnamese soldiers had been injured by shrapnel. As each casualty received rapid and expert care by the doctors, the concern and compassion etched on the face of the young nurse from Lincoln, Ill., brought the men much needed comfort.

Though spending long hours working at the hospital, the lieutenant has given much of her free time to the Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP). This benevolent activity has taken her to Montagnard villages scattered throughout the Central Highlands of Vietnam where she has helped bring modern medicine to hundreds of primitive people.

Superstition and ignorance, among the greatest challenges for the MEDCAP teams, made Lieutenant Shipp intensely aware that she is not only dealing with infection and disease but, equally important, with people of different culture, habits

and beliefs. She notes that "after tackling relatively minor problems, I realized I could give only a minimum amount of medicine. The Montagnards trade among themselves for different colored capsules and tablets. Instead of three red tablets, they want one red, one yellow and one blue. These mountain tribes strongly adhere to their traditional beliefs."

The young nurse recalls two instances that directly effected the MEDCAP mission. A man requiring an emergency appendectomy refused to be evacuated without his tribal "doctor's" permission. Another case was less fortunate. A girl had a badly broken leg and was in great pain. She would not permit American doctors to touch the leg. "I was able to convince her to let me look at the leg," Lieutenant Shipp continued. "It was infected and she should have been air-evacuated immediately. The girl refused to go, maintaining that she would remain in her village to die."

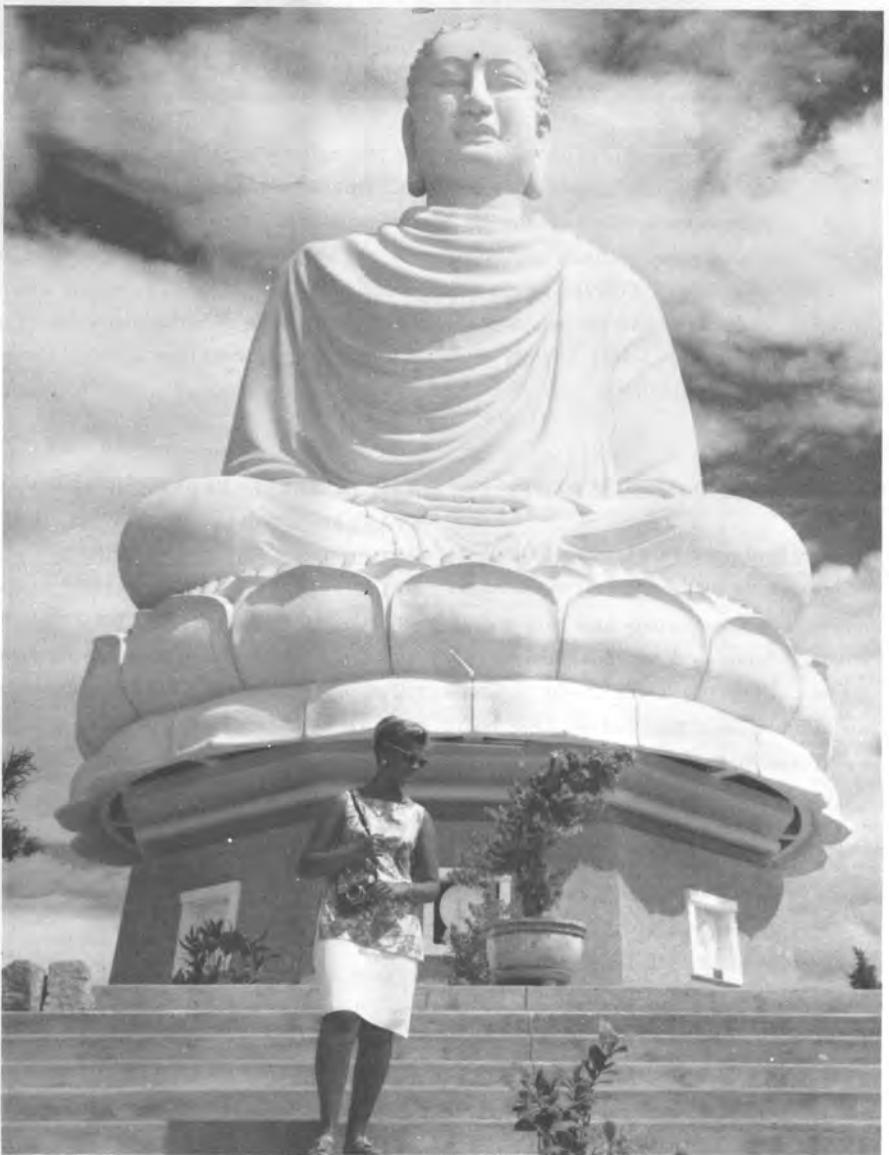
Despite incidents like this, Lieutenant Shipp feels that she has been accepted by the mountain people. On a recent MEDCAP visit to a hamlet, the local population was so taken by the sight of an American nurse that they invited her to a celebration. She sat in a circle with the doctors of the team and the hamlet elders, while a long straw used for sipping rice wine was passed from mouth to mouth in ceremonial fashion. Then the elders gave her a brass bracelet to show their friendship and esteem.

Lieutenant Barbara Shipp is determined to get as much out of her tour in Vietnam as possible. When her schedule permits, she relaxes on the Nha Trang beach or goes sight-seeing along the bustling streets of the city. When the day comes for her to return to America, not only will she have many personal memories of Vietnam, but also the thanks of many people.



*Examination of a Rhode woman takes place during one of Lieutenant Shipp's many Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP) trips to a Montagnard village near Duc My.*

*Overwhelming his visitor, the Great Buddha in Nha Trang sits unconcerned.*





# THE STORY OF CORDS

Figures will show that there are 792 military personnel and 292 civilians in the II Corps area involved in a program called CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support). Yet, though numerous soldiers stationed in II Corps area installations are familiar with the name, TYPHOON has found many military personnel who are unaware of the function this joint military-civilian organization performs. CORDS is the amalgamation of all U.S. Government civilian agencies (State, AID, USIA, Embassy) and the military which are engaged in Revolutionary Development (nation building) work. In the article which follows we hope to explain the workings of Civil Operations Revolutionary Development Support-CORDS.

## THE RESPONSIBLE PARTY

The best way to examine CORDS is to look at its many component divisions and branches and study how this organization, whose work touches almost every facet of Vietnamese life in the II Corps area, functions. Many of us have heard about American sponsored projects such as medical missions, refugee relocations, construction of new provincial schools or an organized sports program in an isolated village. It may be safely stated that the guiding force behind most such projects is CORDS.

Reading the statement of purpose of CORDS, I Field Force Vietnam (I FFORCEV), one finds that the organization's mission is "TO ADVISE AND ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF VIET-

NAM IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STABLE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BASE DESIGNED TO BRING ABOUT A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND DEMOCRATIC VIETNAM."

As a CORDS staff officer explained, "Our name indicates what we do—support all operations designed to improve the social and economic status of the South Vietnamese."

## WHAT CORDS DOES

From the I FFORCEV CORDS headquarters in Nha Trang (see chart on page 11), an administrative staff of 177 persons directed by Mr. Robert E. Matteson, deputy to the commanding general, I FFORCEV, for CORDS, Mr. Hatcher M. James, assistant deputy for CORDS, and Colonel John M. Forbes, executive officer

for CORDS, assist in organizing and coordinating the functions of 907 field workers in addition to the Nha Trang staff. Usually these field teams are composed of both civilian and military personnel, as well as a third group known as TCNs or Third Country Nationals. One finds Philippinos, Swiss, New Zealanders, English, Chinese, Koreans, or Australians among the third group, doing such varied tasks as nursing, communications, translating or taking part in field and village medical teams.

Five-hundred-and-twenty Vietnamese also participate in the program and it is not uncommon to find a CORDS field team composed of Vietnamese, TCNs, American military personnel and civilians working together on a joint project.

The day-to-day administration of CORDS' vast network of support to maintain the organization is handled by the Management Support Division (MSD), a combination of G1, G4, some G2 and G3, plus Finance, Inspector General, Signal, Post Engineer and others. Management Support, as stated by the chief of this division, provides everything for CORDS' U.S. personnel support in II Corps, from quarters, transportation (vehicle and aircraft), building maintenance and renovation, personnel, fiscal/finance, contracting, property management, procurement and communications, to tort claims and communication control and records.

The Logistics branch of MSD handles the task of storage, accounting, distribution of goods and shipment of all Government of Vietnam (GVN)-CORDS commodities in support of the Revolutionary Development programs. When the recent rice shortage occurred in remote Gia Nghia, Quang Duc Province, CORDS, through the Logistics branch, handled the emergency and dispatched rice to the stricken area. In addition, the Logistics branch advises the Government of Vietnam on management of warehouse facilities at Nha Trang and Qui Nhon where a considerable input of goods and equipment is handled.

#### NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT

Perhaps the largest of CORDS nine divisions is the New Life Development Division (NLD). As Mr. Frank W. Campbell of Denver, Colo., chief of the division, phrases it, "We realize much of our planning is long range. We aren't racing to meet a deadline but our progress is definite." "New Life" is just such a program, and its diverse branches include agriculture, education, engineering, public administration, youth affairs, self help and the ethnic minorities affairs.

A major category in the CORDS overall effort is agriculture. A staff of college graduates in the agricultural sciences, most of whom possess a background in rural development in emerging nations, instruct and advise the Vietnamese farmer in such areas as

crop production and yield, animal husbandry, fertilizer use and land reform. A program allied to agricultural development is the new "4T" program which resembles the "4H" program in the U.S. This program is designed to create interest among rural Vietnamese youth in such agricultural projects as pig raising and animal care.

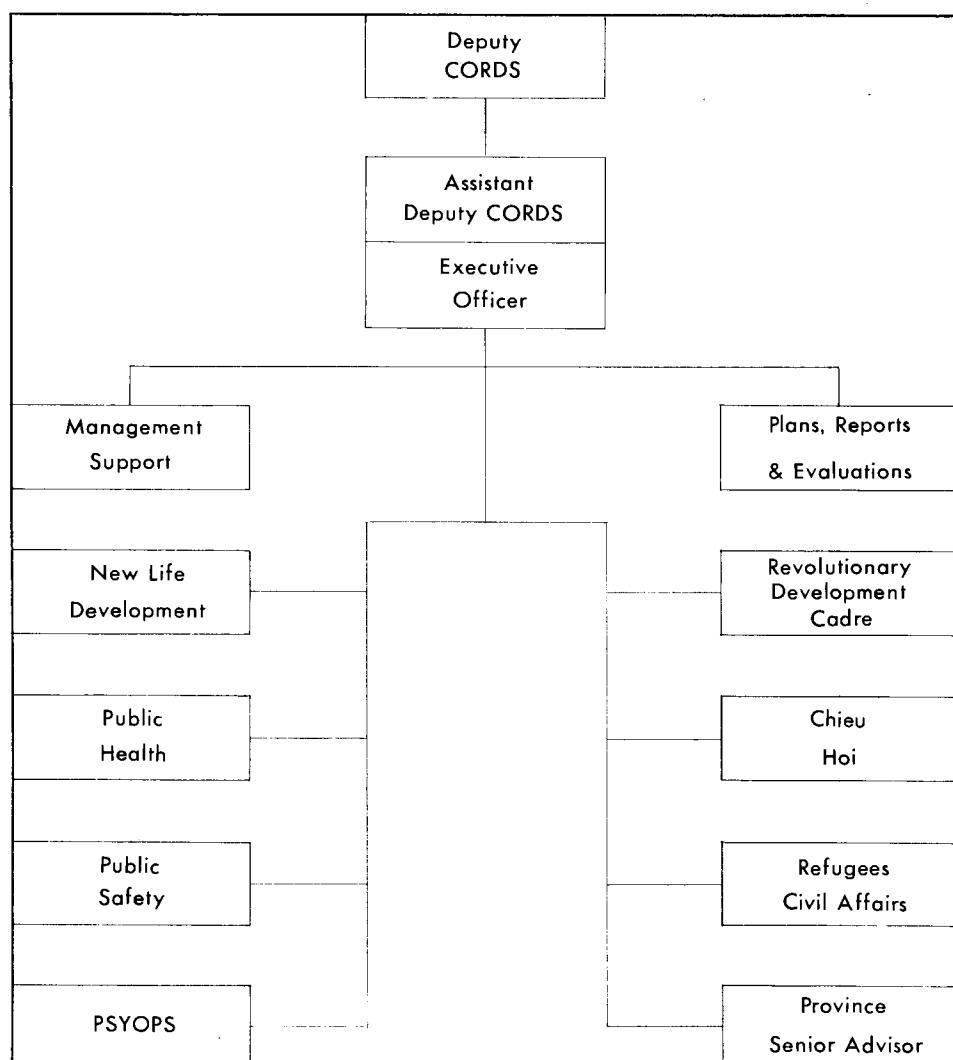
The Education branch of NLD has, among other responsibilities, the mission of instructing teachers how to teach, advising and assisting the GVN in planning for new schools and advising on the curriculum of schools. In addition, this branch assists in the distribution of textbooks to Vietnamese and Montagnard school children, many of whom have never before possessed their own classroom materials. As of this writing more than one million text-

books have been given to Vietnamese schools through the auspices of CORDS.

The Public Administration branch of NLD takes as its objective the development of Vietnamese governmental and political institutions and programs which help to create a sense of nationhood in the rural and urban areas. This branch assists and advises the GVN in the establishment or improvement of local and rural government, fiscal administration, legal administration and similar processes which are required to provide good government to the people of Vietnam.

The Engineering branch provides advisory assistance to the GVN in II Corps in such matters as road and highway building and repair, construction of government buildings, port development, electrification and engineering planning.

## Organization of CORDS



# THE STORY OF CORDS

The Youth Affairs branch's primary objective is to encourage and support the growth of youth groups oriented toward nation-building goals. Its intent is to broaden the Vietnamese leadership base through the development of today's youth to be the Vietnamese leaders of tomorrow.

The Montagnard in II Corps present a different challenge to CORDS. With headquarters in Nha Trang, the CORDS Ethnic Minorities Affairs branch is moving toward bringing the Montagnard up to the economic and social level of the Vietnamese population by providing boarding schools and such public work projects as water supply, dams and irrigation aimed specifically at Montagnard problems in these areas. Though the majority of this branch's effort is directed toward improving the lot of the Montagnards, they also assist, as the branch's name implies, other minority groups in II Corps.

When a Vietnamese has an idea for a project in his own village, a small market for example, and needs funds to see his concept through, he turns to the Self Help branch of NLD. Funds can be arranged through CORDS Self Help if the provincial council and the province chief both consider the project

to be in the best interest of the area and worthwhile to the populace.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

Public Health is a serious problem facing Vietnamese and American officials in their efforts to build a better Vietnam. CORDS Public Health Division assists the Vietnamese at the local level with health programs, and provides doctor and nurse teams to play an advisory and operational role in provincial hospitals. Six Free World medical teams figure in Public Health projects under CORDS supervision in this Corps area. Concentrated effort is applied to areas of malaria control, preventive medicine and medical supply by highly specialized sanitation and medical teams.

The Vietnamese National Police Force and the National Police Field Force, often the only source of protection and security in outlying villages, have been improving their effectiveness steadily under a guiding and instructional hand from CORDS Public Safety Division (PSD) advisors in the areas of police techniques and procedures. American ex-police officers, and ex-military police who are now PSD members instruct and advise the Vietnamese

National Police on law enforcement techniques.

A major problem area being improved under Public Safety's advisory hand is the reorganization of the Vietnamese prison structure. Penal experts are provided by PSD to aid in this highly specialized area.

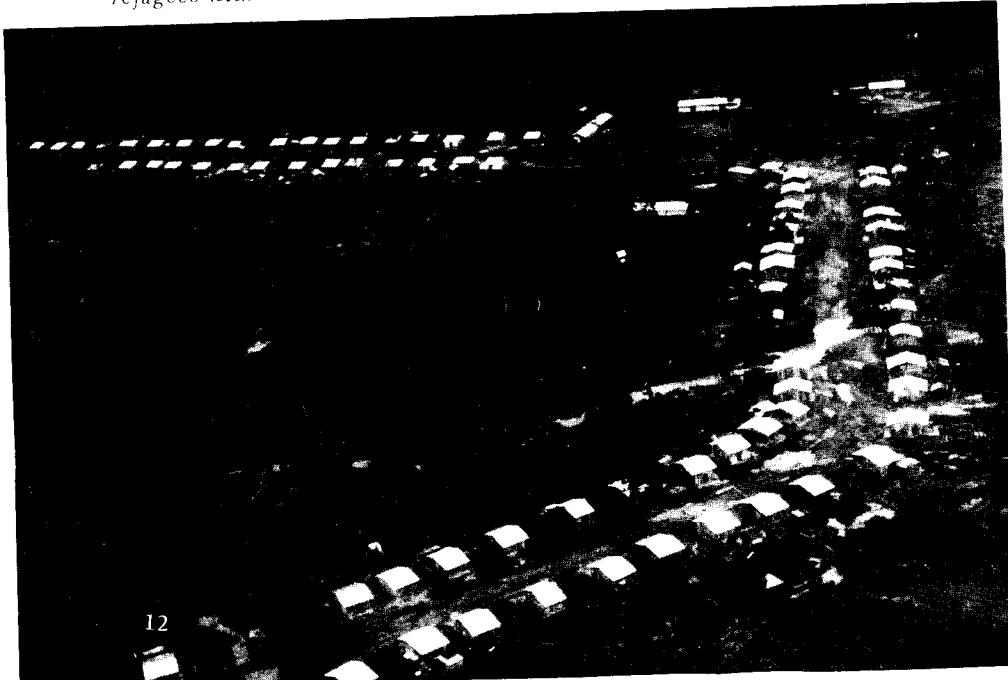
## CIVIL AND MILITARY PSYOPS

Informing the Vietnamese people of the various programs available to them under CORDS and insuring they are informed of CORDS progress, is the job of Civilian Psychological Operations (PSYOPS) Division.

Major functions of the division and the PSYOPS representatives in each province is to advise the Vietnamese Information Service (VIS) in modern methods of mass communications. This includes assisting provincial VIS elements in publishing newspapers, preparing photo posters of GVN/CORDS projects, and providing motion pictures for schools, Vietnamese army units and various organizations. A recent activity of civilian PSYOPS representatives was advising VIS personnel on the placement of USAID procured TV sets to insure that the greatest possible number of people, especially in Binh Dinh and Phu Yen provinces, could view the telecasts of "Blue Eagle," an airborne TV station under the auspices of Military Assistance Command Vietnam and Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office.

In addition to informing the Vietnamese people, CORDS is also responsible for organizing psychological operation campaigns against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army units. This activity is coordinated and managed by the Military Psychological Operations/Chieu Hoi Division. To support this effort, qualified military psychological operators are assigned to the staffs of each Operational Control unit and each advisory team. They are backed up by the 8th PSYOPS Battalion, the U.S. unit that provides leaflet and broadcast material to support not only U.S. requirements, but those of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and Republic of Korea forces as well.

*A Vietnamese relocation village near Cam Ranh Bay is a fine credit to CORDS efforts in the area of refugee supervision. This particular village was built by refugees with CORDS advice and aid. (Photo by CPT J. L. Turner Jr.)*



The impact of psychological operations on the people of Vietnam and the enemies of the people is having a profound effect on shortening the war.

Chieu Hoi, or the "open arms program" under CORDS advisorship, gives the enemy a chance to turn himself over to the side of free Vietnam without fear of retribution. He is given food, lodging, taught a trade and, in summation, the chance to begin a new life.

Not only has the open arms program met with success but statistics show that it is much less costly to win over the individual enemy soldier through Chieu Hoi than to eliminate him militarily.

#### REFUGEE AND CIVIL AFFAIRS ASSISTANCE

A disturbing but natural result of the war in Vietnam is the complex problem of refugees. CORDS has done much to help the GVN solve the question of refugee resettlement. The construction and administration of 116 temporary and 97 permanent resettlement camps have been completed. With U.S. assistance, over 400,000 refugees in the II Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ) have been either resettled or returned to their original areas since 1964. This relocation in the native village is especially important to the Vietnamese people who tend to remain near the graves of their ancestors.

Working closely with the CORDS Refugee and Civil Affairs Division is the 41st Civil Affairs Company commanded by Lieutenant Colonel P. A. Paulson. This company has a number of Civil Affairs teams composed of interpreters, medics and intelligence personnel, performing a full range of civic functions in the field. Within II CTZ, teams are presently assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) and the 4th Infantry Division. Teams are also active in other areas throughout the II CTZ.

#### HEART OF THE SYSTEM

The vast amount of planning, analysis of past programs and organization for the future presents a considerable



(Above) The CORDS-advised Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Center for Khanh Hoa Province, located in Nha Trang and built by Chieu Hoi personnel, accommodates 80 returnees and their families during the 60-day Open Arms Orientation program. (Photo by SSG C.B. Canady)

(Below) Members of the CORDS Public Health Division inspect this newly-built well that services the only maternity dispensary in Dien Khanh Province.



workload for CORDS personnel. To handle this great amount of reporting, coordination and evaluation, CORDS relies on the Plans, Reports, and Evaluation (PRED) Division. Acting in much the same fashion as a military G3 division, this section is really the "heart of the CORDS system."

Among its varied responsibilities, the division advises the ARVN II Corps staff on pacification programs and conducts all CORDS briefings. PRED also assumes responsibility for investigation of problem areas within the CORDS structure and proposes projects to alleviate them.

#### SUGGEST, RECOMMEND AND ADVISE

It should be pointed out that CORDS exists as an organization primarily to suggest and advise the government of Vietnam in areas of revolutionary development.

It is CORDS senior province advisor and the province chief who must agree on a project, whatever its nature, in all its stages from inception to completion. The basic reason for CORDS' existence is to insure revolutionary development work being done in Vietnam is to the best mutual interest of both countries. It is evident after even a brief study of this organization, that their work is indeed in the best interests of the Republic of Vietnam and the United States of America.

## 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery

# Keeping TAB On "Charlie"

Story by SSG D. E. MALLICOAT and SP4 W. RANDALL

Photo by SSG C. B. CANADY

Variety marks the lives of the men of Headquarters and Headquarters Target Acquisition Battery (TAB), 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery. Everything from rebuilding generators to gathering of specific information necessary for effective artillery support throughout II Corps Tactical Zone make up a normal day's activities.

Located near Qui Nhon, the battery provides the complete data for a variety of artillery, counter-mortar and survey missions. In addition to I Field Force Vietnam (IFFORCEV) artillery units, the battery has been supporting artillery units of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 4th Infantry Division, and the Republic of Korea since its arrival in-country January 19, 1967.

Scattered from the Demilitarized Zone in the north to the rambling port of Cam Ranh Bay in the south, the battery's several sections are highly mobile and ready to move on a moments notice. The unit is divided into five sections--headquarters, radar, meteorology, survey and communications--in order to best accomplish its task.

In the headquarters section, the normal administration takes place.

Here, First Sergeant John M. Guides of Larksville, Pa., keeps close tabs on the entire operation as Captain Lewis Gordon of Salina, Kan., battery commander, travels throughout his unit's area of responsibility, constantly checking on its efficiency and effectiveness.

The personnel section of the 8th of the 26th not only handles its own unit's problems but takes on the added responsibility of Battery B,

29th Artillery (Searchlight).

The mess, one of the finest of its kind throughout I FFORCEV, also feeds the men of the searchlight battery.

The maintenance section has an enviable record. The 8th of the 26th has not turned in one vehicle due to maintenance problems since its arrival. In addition, it has taken six of the searchlight battery's vehicles that were due to be turned in for salvage, put them into working

a "radio sonde" device. The device measures and transmits back to the metro stations on the ground all atmospheric conditions through which it passes. Comprised of two separate sections, the meteorology teams are highly mobile and have moved 15 times in the past year, to provide efficient and effective support.

The battery's survey teams measure and plot battery positions and control points for artillery commanders, enabling them to pinpoint and mass their fire on any given point.

Comprised of three sections and a headquarters platoon, the teams have recorded more than three and one-half million meters of survey information since their arrival in Vietnam.

A point of pride for the 8th of the 26th is its civic action program. In the small village of Tuy Phuoc located in Binh Dinh Province, the men support an orphanage, usually donating approximately 12,000 piastres per month. Cement, lumber, food, clothes and medicine are also supplied. The home, operated by Catholic nuns, has 60 children ranging in age from two to 16 years.

Three guitars (one of the nuns teaches music), stateside seeds and other gifts have made civic action a two-way street. In return, the orphanage has provided good, rich topsoil which has been used to grow grass, banana trees and pineapples throughout the headquarters area.

The battery makes a candy run through the outlying villages bi-monthly, giving candy to the children.

"All in all," Sergeant Guides summed up, "It's been a good year."



Private First Class Melvin Metoyer, Phoenix, Ariz., a member of the communications section, monitors the switchboard that connects the battery perimeter and internal commo nets.

dition, and are still driving them today.

To insure accuracy of fire, the meteorology section collects data for field artillery units scattered throughout the northern and central regions of the Republic of Vietnam. Information on air density, temperature, wind direction and speed are collected. To accomplish this, the "Rawinsonde System" is used, comprised of a helium-filled balloon and

# American Aid For Montagnards

Photos by PFC D. NYE



A dollars worth of toys in exchange for a million dollar smile.

Thanks to Catholic Chaplain (LTC) Anthony Fracasso, assistant chaplain for Headquarters, 1 Field Force Vietnam (1 FFORCEV), three Catholic parishes in the states and soldiers here in Vietnam, nearly 2,000 pounds of candy, food, school supplies, clothing and other urgently needed items were donated to the villagers of Vinh Cam village near Cam Ranh Bay.

The soldiers of Headquarters Company, 1 FFORCEV, donated 35,000 piastres (\$295.00) and the men of Company C, 864th Engineer Battalion, donated 15,000 piastres (\$125.00) in addition to purchasing various toys, games and an assortment of candy for the village children. The money will go toward building a school and church for the villagers.



Happiness is a new toy.



The little rascals? Not really. Just children at Vinh Cam village.

# 937th COMBAT ENGINEERS



Story by PFC B. FRIEDMAN

There are moments in the Central Highlands when dust clouds literally blot out the sun. It is fair to estimate that much of this flying powder is created by the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) as they bulldoze, dig, asphalt, bridge and build the Central Highlands of Vietnam into a more combat capable area.

Today, "The Group of the Highlands," as the 937th is known, is responsible for all major building projects over 40 percent of the II Corps area. Its 4,500 men and officers, comprising three combat battalions and one construction battalion, cover nearly one-seventh of Vietnam.

But the 937th has not always concentrated its efforts in Vietnam. Established July 15, 1942, as the 937th Engineer Camouflage Battalion (Aviation), the Group took as its mission the camouflaging of airfields

and ground emplacements in Europe and concentrated as well on the instruction of camouflage techniques to air force units.

In March of 1944, the 937th Group moved to England and subsequently to Normandy in July of the same year. During the first month of its presence in Normandy, the 937th camouflaged 24 different airfields. After World War II the 937th remained in Europe and was responsible for the construction and maintenance of various airfields in Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

November of 1966 saw the arrival of the 937th at Qui Nhon, Republic of Vietnam. One month later it came to its present site on Engineer Hill, just north of the city of Pleiku in Pleiku Province. As most of the 937th was setting up shop in Pleiku,

one battalion stayed behind at An Khe to build what is presently Camp Radcliff, home of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

Commanded by Colonel Robert C. Marshall of Mt. Holly, N.J., the 937th has added many feathers to an already decorated cap since its arrival in Vietnam. Colonel Marshall admits that "We're in the austere construction business. No pools, and not too many sidewalks. We're combat engineers and we build to 'get a guy out of the mud.' Above all our first rule is quality combat construction."

The proof is in the building. The 937th has completed construction of the \$6 million 71st Evacuation Hospital at Pleiku and finished the 4,356-foot airstrip at An Khe, the first in Vietnam to be built by military personnel. They have

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# "The Group Of The Highlands"

Photographic assistance furnished by 937th Engineer Group (Combat)

hacked other airstrips out of the jungle and up-graded those at Duc Co, Due Cap, Blat Blech, Polei Djereng and presently at Ben Hot. All these airstrips are capable of taking C-130s with the exception of Ben Hot. All attest to the 937th's contribution to the air-mobility of allied men and supplies throughout the Highlands.

But runways, hospitals, bridges and roads are only part of the 937th's wide range of construction activities. An asphalt plant near Pleiku City, under 937th management, mixes more than 10,000 tons of road topping per month and a concrete "batch" plant turns out several tons of concrete mix daily.

Most of the asphalt is used to pave 65 miles of LOC Highway 19 from An Khe to Pleiku, one of the major surface arteries in the Highlands. Beside Highway 19, the 937th is installing a fuel pipeline which Colonel Marshall explains will remove many of the 10-ton tankers from the roads.

Since June 1967, the 937th has devoted 80 percent of its time and effort to direct support of operations in the Dak To area. The major task facing the engineers is keeping the roads and bridges open. There are 27 bridges for the 937th to worry about between Pleiku and Dak To. Eight of them have been blown and rebuilt in recent months. Numerous others have been damaged and patched by the bridge building specialists of the 937th.

But problems facing the 937th

are not limited to the enemy or a thick stand of jungle to be cleared. "In this modern and exotic age," states Colonel Marshall, "we still have to fight an age old enemy, 'ol' General Mud."

Keeping the roads from Pleiku to Dak To and surrounding areas open during the monsoon season has proven to be one of the major accomplishments of the 937th. Many miles of construction with primitive log roads, much like the "corduroy" roads of colonial America, have proven an effective means of fighting the mud and water. But this is not the type of work done by heavy machinery. It is the hand labor of the engineers of the 937th who in the end must complete the construction of these log roads in the face of heavy rains. And, in mud so deep



*A bulldozer operator of the 937th Engineer Group protects himself from the down draft of a landing helicopter. The bulldozer is used to clear a portion of the jungle for an artillery unit near Dak To in the Central Highlands. (Photo by SP5 A.P. Honegger)*

## The 937th Builds "To Get A Guy Out Of The Mud"

that water buffalo were drowning in the muck.

The 937th has constructed bridges, dynamited obstacles out of their path and, with tracked vehicles pulling their trucks, have laid enough corduroy to keep the roads passable and in excellent condition considering the hostile weather.

Not only hampered by rain, the engineers of the 937th must also contend with mines, which Colonel Marshall explains, "are becoming harder and harder to detect. When we build a road, the enemy can see exactly where we are going. All they have to do is plant the mines in advance. West of Dak To we must sweep every day, but it is becoming a real tough problem because the enemy is wrapping his explosives in bamboo and using plastic detonators. Sometimes you just can't detect them at all."

During the Dak To incidents of

last November the 937th Engineers were forced to repair the airstrip at night while at the same time construct new artillery emplacements and tank installations. The land clearing team, with the help of an air-mobile bulldozer (broken down into two pieces and airlifted to the tops of hills around Dak To and reassembled there) began the task of clearing out the hill-top jungles around Dak To.

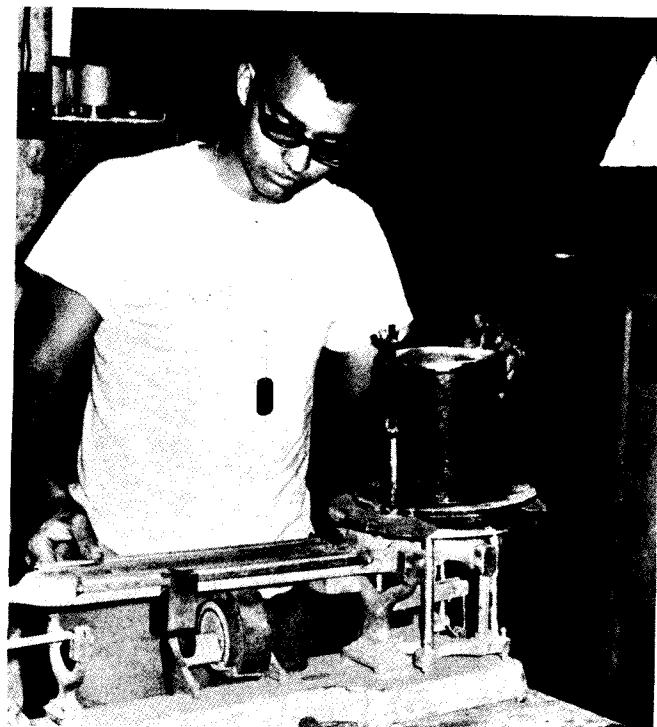
While on operations the 937th is always combat prepared. Colonel Marshall jokes that "the enemy seems often to concentrate on us 'friendly engineers.' We build the roads and bridges they often use at night and still they blow those same bridges, mine the roads and pick on our equipment." But the humor of this soon fades in the jungle. Since the 937th works much of the time with outlying units, in the big construction business traveling only by jeep or truck, they

are often subjected to hostile action. For this reason work parties are forced to secure themselves and their perimeters, often unable to obtain protection from other units. Colonel Marshall talks of how, just before the battle of Dak To, a main Viet Cong unit heavily ambushed a 937th truck convoy, evidently mistaking it for a supply run. But 937th riflemen provided immediate response and the attack was beaten back and the enemy overrun.

At the 937th quality comes first. Involved in an excellent quality control program, the 937th boasts a complete lab adjacent to the headquarters building at Pleiku for testing soils and rock as well as the mixtures of asphalt and cement from their own plants. "We're in the tough construction business," admits Colonel Marshall, "but we're and quality must come first."



(Above) Men of the 937th Engineer Group, using floats and draped over the "running board" of a paving machine, put a smooth finish on a concrete slab near An Khe. (US Army Photo)



In the 937th Engineer Group Quality Control Laboratory at group headquarters near Pleiku, a lab technician drops a piece of asphalt in an extractor machine used to determine amounts of various components in the paving mixture. (Photo by SP5 A.P. Honegger)



*Members of the 937th Engineer Group carry torpedos into bamboo thickets to clear a fire base for an artillery unit. (Photo by SP5 A.P. Honegger)*

*Mines are a constant menace for the combat engineer, as a minesweeper from the 937th can attest, along this stretch of Route 512, west of Dak To. (US Army Photo)*



This is the company we fly with

# 201ST AVN. CO.

Story by SSG D. E. MALLICOAT

Photos by SP4 T. H. DECKER

Three men trudge onto a small aluminum and will peel like a grape section of the large airstrip located in the air. Lucky we caught it. I'll be in the city of Nha Trang. It is 4:30 a.m. and their day is about to begin. You're going to have to switch aircraft. Twenty missions are to be flown during the day, the first at 6:45 a.m. "Craft." It is now 6:30 a.m., 15 minutes until take-off.

It is the task of these men to insure that the aircraft are ready.

As the early morning light begins to streak the sky, more men begin to arrive--pilots, crew chiefs, mechanics, operations personnel, POL men--all with a specific job to do.

A mechanic rushes over to the pilot of a UH-21A, "There's a slight crack in this nose spinner. It's

Crew chiefs, meanwhile, conduct pre-flight checks; check gas levels and drain the water that has accumulated in the tanks overnight; and insure that the inside--and outside--of the aircraft is clean, ash trays emptied, floor mats and seats cleaned and dusted, and windows washed.

The quiet soon gives way to the hustle and bustle of a large city



airport. Phones begin to ring at an almost constant rate and passengers arrive, each with his own peculiar problem that must be solved. The 201st Aviation Company (CORPS), I Field Force Vietnam's (IFFORCEV) own private airline, has started another day.

Small in size, it has only 11 aircraft--UH-21As and UH-1H "Hueys"--the 201st has a large job. Not only does it provide IFFORCEV with normal aviation support, but it also runs "Baron Operations" (code name for "Army Hot Spot" control center) and services all transit Army aircraft with the exception of the "Chinook."

The 201st was formed July 1, 1967, at Ft. Bragg, N.C., under the command of Major T. L. Williamson, Lebanon, Ill. The unit arrived in Cam Ranh Bay October 26 and by November 10 was completely operational, absorbing the old IFFORCEV Aviation Detachment and replacing the Airfield Army Operations Detachment.

*Specialist 4 John J. Bello, Pittsburgh, Pa., (on ladder) gets a helping hand from Specialist 4 Joe L. Andrade, San Francisco, while refueling a transit aircraft.*





The UH-1H "Huey" helicopters of 1 Field Force Vietnam's 201st Aviation Company fly throughout Vietnam. Wherever they fly, the unit stresses safety and service.

Each month the 201st handles an average of 2,250 scheduled passengers and an additional 500 unscheduled. Missions range around 600 monthly.

Mechanics pull their own first and second echelon maintenance, with further support being rendered by the 608th Transportation Battalion, also located at the Nha Trang airstrip. Pilots and crew chiefs also carefully check their aircraft, knowing that an overlooked item can mean a last flight.

The flights themselves may be routine or special one-time-only missions, all scheduled 24 hours in advance. Passengers range from a three-star general to a civilian entertainer but by 8:30 a.m. the aircraft of the 201st are scattered throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

Keeping tabs on these missions

# I FFORCEV AIRLINE

## SERVES VIETNAM

is the job of the 201st operations section. They flight-follow all of their own flight plans. They also work in conjunction with the coastal operations center, located in Nha Trang, providing assistance whenever possible and guiding Army aircraft to a tie-down point at the "Hot Spot."

Service is a big word with the 201st. Beyond its support of I FFORCEV, the 201st assures that every incoming Army aircraft is fueled and lubricated as well as receiving the necessary maintenance. The only exception is the "Chinook"

which is serviced by the Air Force.

Pilots find a newly refurbished air-conditioned lounge and rest area complete with lockers. Transportation is available to any place on the airfield and, if necessary, billeting and messing are provided.

An average day finds the 201st's POL section dispensing approximately 8,000 gallons of fuel and servicing an average of 100 aircraft. This figure is more impressive when one realizes that each of the unit's three tankers must be refilled three times daily in order to maintain its workload.

*A small two-engine UH-21A sputters to life under the watchful eye of a 201st Aviation Company crew chief. Monthly the 1 Field Force Vietnam airline carries 2,750 passengers.*





*The early morning sun silhouettes a 201st crew chief as he cleans the windows on his UH-21A aircraft.*



*Nothing is overlooked, not even the floor mats. Specialist 4 Robert Vigil, Denver, Colo., crew chief, readies his aircraft for a full day's service.*



*Specialist 4 James R. Wellner, Dearborn, Mich., takes a close look at the engine block. His primary job is to check for engine cracks and weld the damaged parts together.*

Although VIP and staff visits make up a great percentage of the support provided I FFORCEV, the flights are not as glamorous as they sound. Recently, during Operation MacArthur in the Dak To area, one aircraft belonging to the 201st took off only moments before an initial mortar round exploded. Support also

reaches into the remote special forces camps regardless of combat conditions.

Eight of the unit's 25 aviators, as well as several of its noncommissioned officers, are on their second tour in Vietnam. The returnees have found that the basic complexities of combat flying in RVN—haz-

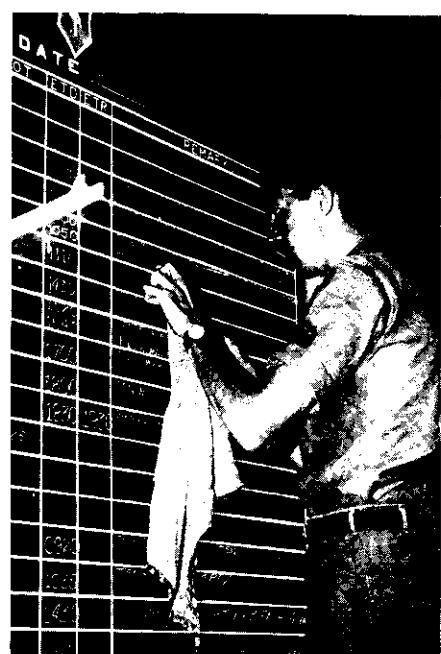
ards of the monsoon, the dry season, terrain and "Charlie's" tactics—remain the same. With this experience to guide them, the new pilots rapidly become professional veterans.

At I Field Force Vietnam, the 201st stands ready to serve, competent and capable, whenever and wherever the need arises.

*Operations Clerk Specialist 4 Harley D. Greenwood, Tulare, Calif., keeps a close watch on the latest weather information.*

*At the booking window, Specialist 4 Jack B. Fillmore (left), Vermilion, Ohio, operations clerk, provides time of departure and flight number for Specialist 4 Charles B. Kirby, El Paso, Tex.*

*Listing the day's missions and the crews is the job of Specialist 5 Richard J. Wentworth, Silver City, N.C. All flights are scheduled 24 hours in advance.*



## In Just Four Days

# A Vital Link

Story and Photos by PFC B. FRIEDMAN

When Captain Harold A. Davidson, of Alexandria, Va., commanding officer, "C" Company, 864th Engineer Battalion (Construction) first saw the spot 10 miles north of Nha Trang, where the 709-foot Dien Khanh Bridge had been standing just 10 days before, he remarked, "One couldn't tell a bridge had been there. I could barely see dark spots under the water." All that remained of the span were 52 pilings, some damaged beyond repair, standing in the rushing water.

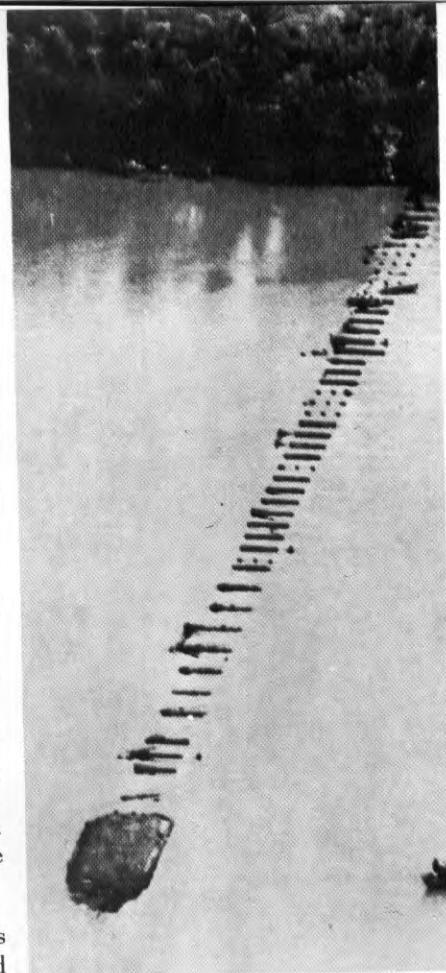
The wooden bridge in question, located on HL 1 (Nha Trang bypass) where it crosses the Song Cai River, is a vital link in the only road capable of carrying heavy convoy traffic north from Cam Ranh Bay. Late November flooding completely ripped the superstructure from its pilings and washed it away. Captain Davidson's mission was to rebuild the bridge as soon as possible and restore the transportation link. The time necessary for the 864th to complete the bridge was an unbelievably short four days.

The surveyors of the 864th appeared on the scene the morning of

December 1. Two hours later the arrival of supplies and equipment. "Everything had to be carried by hand," comments Captain Davidson. "It was raining daily and everyone finally shed their ponchos it was so wet. It took eight men to carry the six-by-sixteen-foot planks. You can bet they slept well."

But sleep was short during the entire operation. Using flood lights at night and working 12-hour shifts around the clock, three platoons from "C" Company and one platoon from "B" Company worked toward each other from opposite sides of the timber trestle.

Fifty-six-hundred pounds of nails and 860 bolts later the timbers stood secure. In just four days the entire project had been completed. An hour after the last nail had been driven and the final clamp welded into place, 60 vehicles rolled from Nha Trang with supplies destined for points north. As another example of outstanding engineer support in Vietnam, the Dien Khanh Bridge stood ready to carry its load.



*The Dien Khanh bridge, its superstructure completely washed away by the flooding Song Cai River as it stood November 30, 1967, and the completed span, less than 100 hours after the 864th Engineers began construction. The bridge now insures a safe crossing point for military and civilian traffic using the Nha Trang Bypass, a vital link in HL 1 between Cam Ranh Bay and points north.*



FROM: SP4 Mansfield RA 12770598

APO

Staple

TO: miss Kathy Diagiano



Fold back along broken line

## The Flag Of The Republic Of Vietnam

*The yellow background is the symbolic color of the former imperial dynasty and the Buddhist faith; the red stripes represent the union of the country's traditional regions: North, Central and South Vietnam.*

