

Top Freedom  
Award  
"A Letter  
To My Son"  
(Page 2)

# The Observer

"Comment is free but facts are sacred."

Volume II, No 43

SAIGON, VIET NAM

February 29, 1964

VC Secret Base  
Demolished By  
Combined  
Forces

(Pages 4 & 5)

## Dateline Viet Nam

### Viet Cong Death Toll 46 In Three-Day Operations

Sixteen scattered encounters between government forces and the Viet Cong this week resulted in 46 VC dead against nine government soldiers killed during a three-day reporting period.

Two U.S. Army captains were wounded Feb. 23 during two separate operations in the jungles of Binh Duong province. One officer was evacuated to Saigon while the other advisor returned to duty after on-the-spot treatment.

In the I Corps area, five VC were killed Feb. 23 when a Self Defense corps unit encountered Viet Cong guerrillas 8 miles southwest of Tam Ky, the provincial capital of Quang Tin. No losses were reported by government forces.

In Quang Nam, an SDC squad ambushed a VC unit Feb. 22 killing three VC 8 miles northwest of Dien Ban district town.

Five separate engagements with Viet Cong insurgents were reported in the II Corps area with the VC suffering a toll of 21 dead while three government soldiers were killed in action.

Operation Phu Yen, which started Feb. 18 and

terminated Feb. 21, bagged 7 Viet Cong killed with no losses on the government side. Three suspects were arrested. Twenty six sampans and 27 structures were destroyed.

In Pleiku the VC encountered a civilian defense group (CIDG) 35 miles south east of the town Feb. 21 and lost two guerrillas with the CIDG reporting one KIA. The following morning, another encounter by the CIDG bagged five VC KIA and the government side suffering one killed in action and two missing.

A Viet Cong squad disguised as ARVN soldier made a surprise attack on a unit checking traffic on National Road 13 in Binh Duong province Feb. 22. Five VC insurgents were killed. Government troops lost three KIA and a Thomson submachine gun and a carbine.

Operation Chinh Nghia II in Tay Ninh, an overnight

(Continued on page 8)



CINCPAC VISITS VIET NAM—Adm. Harry D. Felt, Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, is welcomed by Brig. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu, (right) Chief of the Joint Staff, Vietnamese Armed Forces, upon the admiral's arrival at Tan Son Nhut Feb. 20 for a two-day visit. Admiral Felt conferred with top U.S. and VN government and military officials.

### Armed Services Committee Releases Viet Nam Testimony By Mc Namara

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara testified Feb. 18 before the House Committee on Armed Services and said, "...that the Republic of Viet Nam, with effective political and military programs and troops trained as well as equipped by the United States, can win even an extended war against the Communist Viet Cong."

Secretary McNamara reaffirmed his earlier statement that most American military personnel now training the Vietnamese Armed Forces could be withdrawn by the end of 1965.

"I simply believe that the war in Viet Nam will be won primarily through Vietnamese efforts; it is a Vietnamese war. It is a war of the counter-guerrillas against guerrillas. We are

only assisting them through training and logistical support.

Scheduled to arrive in Viet Nam sometime next week, Secretary McNamara visited Viet Nam last December. His visit to Viet Nam will give him a first hand appraisal of the current situation here. Secretary McNamara will be accompanied by top military leaders.

In Washington Monday, a high-level U.S. government committee has been set up to coordinate policy and operations in Viet Nam. According to the State Department press briefing the committee will be headed by Mr. William H. Sullivan, special assistant to Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

Included in the committee will be representatives of the Defense Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and the U.S. Information Agency.

In reply to a question by the House Committee on whether the Defense Secretary contemplated another "Korean War" from our point of view, the secretary said, "...No Sir, I don't believe that pouring in hundreds of thousands of troops is the solution to the problem in Viet Nam. We have no plans to introduce large numbers, say hundreds of thousands of U.S. combat troops into that area."

### Freedoms Foundation Names Winners Of Letter Contest

Valley Forge, Pa. (AFPS) — Army Lt. Col. Bernard G. Elfert's "Letter to My Son" has been announced here as first prize winner of the 1963 Freedoms Foundation Letter-Writing Contest. (See Page 2 for winning Letter).

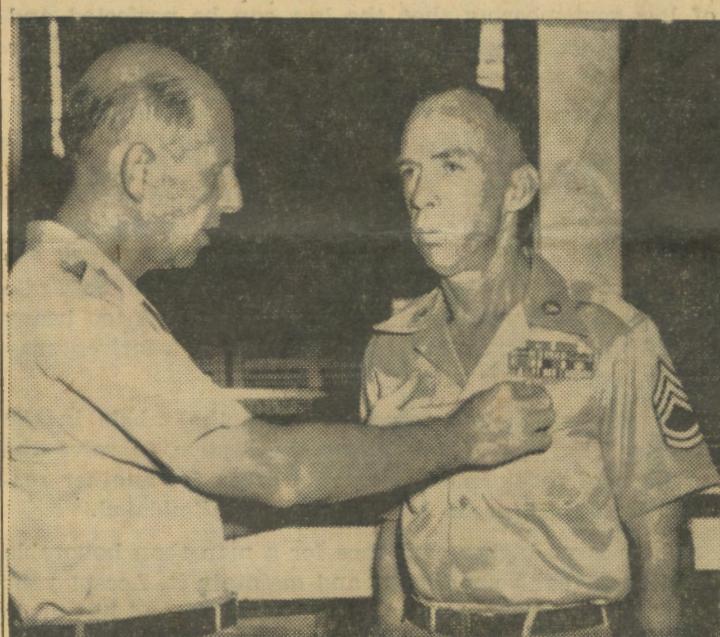
Colonel Elfert, who is stationed at Edgewood Arsenal, Md., took top honors with a moving message to his son, urging him to "accept, wear with dignity and maintain the obligations of your citizenship and the... principles freedom demands."

"There is no higher eminence for a man than honorable freedom," Colonel Elfert wrote.

First prize is \$1,000 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal. Receiving second place awards of \$100 and honor medals and listed among the top 10 winners were:

Capt. Milton W. Kohut, USAF, 7101st AB Wing, APO 332, New York; Lt. Cdr. Edward C. Kinley, USN, USNRTC, Erie, Pa.; Capt. Irene F. Knolie, USA, Ft. Sam Houston, Tex.; TSgt. Lochland D. Jeffries, USAF, 2004th Comm. Sq., APO 121, New York.

Lt. C.E. Aldrich, USN, NAS Lakehurst, N.J.; Sp4 Jerome Dupont, USA, 251st USASAL Proc. Co., APO 757, New York; Maj. Ro-



THIRD MEDICAL BADGE—SFC Clarence Bonzell, MEDCAP NCO-advisor, receives the Medical Badge with two stars, the first in the history of the U.S. Army, from Maj. Gen. Charles J. Timmes, Chief, MAAG, in an awards ceremony held at MAAG Hqs. Sergeant Bonzell is a veteran medic of the European campaigns during WW II and the Korean War.

# The Observer

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**COMMANDING GENERAL** ..... Gen. Paul D. Harkins  
**CHIEF MAAG** ..... Maj. Gen. Charles J. Timmes  
**INFORMATION OFFICER, MACV** ..... Col. B.L. Baker  
**INFORMATION OFFICER, MAAG** ..... Maj. William V. Koch

**STAFF**

**OFFICER-IN-CHARGE** ..... 1st Lt. Richard W. Emmert  
**EDITOR** ..... SSgt. Bob Reid

## "Letter To My Son" ...Service To Liberty

Today as you sat playing on the floor, I looked on with love and with the hope of a father's heart that you might grow to honorable manhood. I wish you all of the happiness, prosperity and success of life but know that no measure of treasure can suffice to ensure lasting good fortune. Your most valuable heritage will be a spirit, a way of life and a set of values which will be a part of all your years long past my days. If I can transmit that to you we shall both be blessed and I will have discharged my greatest obligation as a father.

As free Americans, we are a race of princes, we are the ruling class! Our special status entails duties and obligations which we must meet if our privileged position is to endure. We are free men! We are also the rulers!

As men of this privileged class we must follow a code that does not admit corruption and falsehood. We must be honorable and generous in manner and ever mindful of our grave responsibilities. The subject and the slave may sometimes live with abandonment, for those who rule assume the responsibility for their government, but we, even in our happiest moments, can never be without an awareness of our station.

Behave always in good conscience and with dignity as becomes a gentleman and a free lord. Uphold the rule of law remembering that the law can be perfected and improved in ways that men, with their human defects and flaws, can not. Grow to be a man of courage, tolerance, strength and peace. All who rule must accept both sword and scepter, embrace them. Perceive the sword as an instrument of law, order and peace. Make it the servant of the scepter. Scorn the cowardly, the weakling. They so fear the blade they mistake the evil it may do as being a quality of steel rather than of the human hand which may wield it. Shun the coward's counsel that extols the shield and the wall. A too heavy shield will bend your back and the walls of a fortress may easily become your prison.

All who rule must sometimes face the rabble in the streets. They would overthrow the system to solve the problem of today and tomorrow's order for another reason. Heed just needs but do not be intimidated.

There is no higher eminence for a man than honorable freedom. Wear your dignity and maintain it. Accept your duty and the obligations of your citizenship and live up to the principles freedom demands. This is not an easy path to follow. It will require that you accept your part of the burden, quell selfish desires and serve the common weal. I pray that I may be a worthy example of these high ideals and that you may grow up to uphold these beliefs. This is my service to liberty, my promise for freedom's future, that you, my son, may join, with full awareness, the nobility of free men!

# USO

This week's USO schedule really starts off with a bang — the bang of the drums of Napoleon and his combo at the Leap Year Party from 8 to 11 p.m. tonight. Come early, stay late and enjoy this Leap Year fete to its fullest.

Chess players get in their licks on Sunday and Tuesday with a Chess Tournament at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon and a Chess enthusiasts meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday evening.

Events scheduled for this week at the USO include:

Today: Leap Year Party with Napoleon and his combo from 8 to 11 p.m.

Tomorrow: Coffee Call from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. followed by a Chess tournament at 3:00 p.m. Jam Session at 4 p.m.

Monday: Films of faraway places including "London Festival" and "Fair Country of Air — Scotland" at 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Chess enthusiasts meeting at 7:30 p.m. Show your own slides at 8 p.m. Projectors and viewers will be provided by the USO.

Wednesday: Open bridge starts at 7 p.m. followed by the Comedy Corner at 8 p.m. Comedy Corner features Mort Shal this week on record.

Thursday: Darkroom instruction begins at 8 p.m. for all camera "Bugs". Music from Hawaii at 8:30 p.m.

Friday: All of the local folk singers will get together at 8 p.m. for the Folk singers jamboree.

### New Unit Designation

Effective Mar. 1st, United States Army Support Group, Viet Nam, officially becomes United States Army Support Command, Viet Nam.

### SECRETARY



**BASHFUL** — Miss Hong Thi Bach Tu yet, clerk typist, has worked with the Training Aids Section, MAAG, for the past 16 months. She was born and still lives in Saigon and is 24 years old.



**CHAPLAIN HONORED** — Chaplain (Capt.) Arthur P. Craig, (right) receives the Air Force Commendation Medal from Col. Richard C. Bender, 33rd Tac. Gp. Commander at a recent ceremony. Chaplain Craig was cited for his services as a Catholic chaplain and for his humanitarian projects in the Saigon-Cholon area in 1963. (2nd Air Div. IO Photo.)

### CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

## How Tall?

By Chaplain (Capt.) ROBERT A. SLOAN, USAF  
How tall are you? Six feet, five foot ten?

In the Bible, Saul, the first king of Israel, is described as a man who was "taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward." Although this describes Saul's physical stature, there is a double meaning,

We think of a man as truly big only when he thinks and acts as a big man should. If one is tall from the shoulders up, it would indicate that he has vision, perception and power of thought.

The next time you think about your size, consider how tall you are from the "shoulders upward." Are you tall enough to see over the fence of bigotry, above the clouds of confusion, into the valley of hope? We need men who are tall from their "shoulders upward."

As we get older our physical stature shrinks — sometimes by half an inch or more. What of our height from the "shoulders upward"? There is no necessary shrinkage here, unless we allow it to happen.

There are persons who shrink in mind and perspective as age increases. Their outlook narrows until they become no bigger than a fair sized bias. They turn the growing years into the groaning years.

How tall are you from the "shoulders upward"? Are you as tall as you were when you were 18 or 21 or 30? You should be taller. There is never a time when we can settle back and say, "I guess I have now become full-grown."

Life is a process — a growing process — and we must grow with it. We need persons who not only are tall from their "shoulders upward" but are growing taller every year.

There are heights to reach, horizons to scan. If you have stopped growing take the vitamins of renewed interests. Stretch to your limited — and beyond — to reach heights you never thought possible.

How tall are you — are you becoming — from your "shoulder upward"?



**AWARDS AT KONTUM**— Lt. Gen. William C. Westmoreland, deputy commander, MACV, presents the Purple Heart medal to Capt. Thomas W. Atwood at awards ceremonies held at Kontum. (USAF Photo.)

## General Westmoreland Pins Medals On MAAG Advisors

During a recent visit to the II Corps Tactical Zone, Lt. Gen. William C. Westmoreland, deputy commander, MACV decorated four members of the 22nd Div. MAAG Advisory Team.

### Admiral Monroe Presents Books To VN School

R/Adm. J.P. Monroe, Commander of Naval Forces, Philippines, and Capt. M.C. Friedman, CO., HSAS, presented two sets of the Book of Knowledge encyclopedias and numerous text and songbooks to 4000 students of Gia Long high school Feb. 25.

The books, which came from the United States to the Philippines through Operation Handclasp, were sent on to Viet Nam by Admiral Monroe. Upon their arrival in Viet Nam, Chaplain (LCDR) Harry R. Miller, coordinated the distribution through the American Women's Association of Saigon.

Admiral Monroe visited three of the class rooms and answered the student's questions. Two of the most popular questions were "Where are you from?" and "What do the two stars mean?"

### PROMOTIONS

#### TO MAJOR

(2nd Air Division)  
Robert E. Burkhardt  
Calvin Hammond Jr.  
Buford L. Mask  
Fred L. Owens  
Jack W. Sheen  
John S. Smith  
Kent C. Spears Jr.



## 309th TCS Lifts Mercy Supplies To Montagnards

By SSgt. Henry Marquez

Hq 2nd Air Div., (OI) — The 309th Trp. Carrier Sqdn. here recently provided a C-123 to airlift the first ten thousand pounds of 144 measurement tons of clothing, construction materials and medical supplies donated by the people of Hawaii to the Montagnards of Viet Nam's highlands.

The first load, accompanied by Capt. John D. Granger, MACV Civil Affairs, left for Cheo Reo, a hamlet which was recently overrun by the Communist Viet Cong and had 34 of its houses burned. These materials will be used to help rebuild the hamlet. Captain Granger is the project officer for this particular people-to-people program.

The C-123 carrying this first load was piloted by Capt. C.N. Smith, and his crew including Capt. Lyle W. McNeely, copilot, A1C Stanley C. Hildebrand, flight mechanic, and SSgt. Billie Sipple, loadmaster.

All these supplies, essential in helping Montagnard refugees, were collected through the joint efforts of the Hawaii and Saigon Rotarians. Gen. Paul D. Harbins, MACV, commander and Adm. Harry D. Felt Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, have personally endorsed this project, according to Captain Granger.

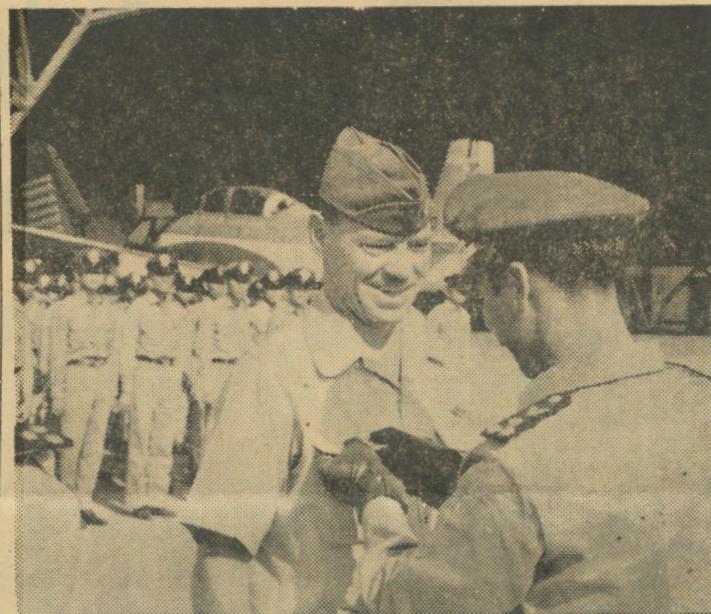
The supplies arrived in Viet Nam on the light cruiser, the USS Providence, believed to be one of the largest ships ever to dock in Saigon.

The supplies were collected mostly by school children. It took approximately one year to gather them. Local Rotarian, Clyde Bauer was the coordinator for the Saigon Rotary Club.

## Three Airmen Win January USAF Award

Three men were recently selected as Airmen of the Month for the month of January. They are: A1C Larry L. Phegley, 2nd Air Div., A1C Ned Phillips Jr., Air Policeman of the Month, 2nd Air Div., and A1C Joseph A. Wischers, 1964th Cmd. Gp.

Airmen Phegley and Wischers received certificates, treasury checks and Letters of Appreciation. Airman Phillips received a three-day pass and a Letter of Appreciation.



**VNAF WINGS**— Col. Nguyen Cao Ky (right), commander of the Vietnamese Air Force, pins Vietnamese Air Force Wings on Maj. Willard G. Mattson, Senior Advisor, 716th Squadron, in ceremonies held last Saturday at Tan Son Nhut.

## HONOR ROLL

### COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

#### Second Award

Maj. Reed G. Jensen  
SFC Alvin J. Moore

#### First Award

Capt. William A. Brand  
Capt. William W. Dickey  
Capt. Theodore K. James  
Capt. Marion T. Porter  
1st Lt. John J. Theologos  
Sp5 Sam Nusenfress  
Sp4 William D. Benline  
PFC Ronald W. Silva

#### PURPLE HEART

#### Fourth Award

SFC Floyd H. Davis  
Maj. Ludwig Faistenhamer Jr.

#### Second Award

Maj. Robert L. Cushing  
Maj. William V. Koch  
Maj. Thomas E. Miller  
Capt. Jewell M. Dorris Jr.  
Capt. Sanford D. Boyd  
Capt. Thomas R. Shupe  
Capt. Harold W. Sims  
1st Lt. Charles C. Patton  
1st Lt. Richard W. Emmert  
SFC Cleveland E. Stokes  
SFC Howard M. Sullivan, Jr.  
SFC George W. Shomaker  
SFC Hershel L. Anderson  
SSgt. Martin W. Niedringhaus  
Sp5 CECIL H. Dutton  
Sp5 Armando Garcia-Visbal  
Sp5 Michael H. Townsend  
Sp4 John W. Datz Jr.

#### MEDICAL BADGE

#### Second Award

Sp5 George F. Martin  
SFC William H. Spurling  
SSgt. Locke H. Wambach

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

#### Third Award

Maj. James C. McIntosh  
Maj. Louis Okyen  
MSgt. Ernest E. Fields  
MSgt. Daniel W. Lackey  
Capt. William C. Marsh

#### Second Award

Lt. Col. Verner C. Koch  
Maj. Talbott Barnard  
Maj. Loren W. Roth  
Maj. George L. Boal  
Maj. Donald W. Kiehnau  
Maj. George W. Lehman  
Capt. Dean E. Adams  
Capt. Malcolm P. Henry  
Capt. Edward W. Houy  
Capt. Stanley L. Rodina  
Capt. Harry J. Walther  
Sgt. Maj. Franklin C. Jones  
Maj. Elvis W. Oswalt

SFC Warren E. Twombly  
SFC Patrick E. Schoen  
SFC George H. Schweitzer  
Sp5 Alvin J. Smielewski

#### First Award

Sp5 Charles L. Davis  
Sp5 Donald F. DeGrave  
Sp5 Virgil W. McFarling  
Sp5 Gerald M. Whitney  
Sp4 Theodore H. Roberts  
Capt. William B. Rippert  
Capt. Stanley H. Roe  
Capt. Charles W. Strang Jr.  
Capt. Clifford F. Terry  
Capt. James I. Town  
Capt. Felix Vega  
Capt. Raymond E. Willis  
Capt. Lawrence I. Ebesugawa  
Capt. John E. Wise  
1st Lt. Clyde M. Reedy  
MSgt. Alvie Godwin  
MSgt. Arthur C. Hansen  
MSgt. Ralph H. Putman  
MSgt. Walter P. Witsch  
SFC Ronald J. Hodgkinson  
SFC Joseph T. Mills  
SFC Thomas Williams  
SSgt. Jerry W. Buttry  
SSgt. James A. Glasscock  
Sgt. Edward J. Wilk  
Sp4 Jerry K. Hope  
1st Lt. Samuel J. Ady  
1st Lt. Edward W. Edson  
1st Lt. Karl L. Sannicks  
1st Lt. Ronald G. Weaver  
Sgt. Maj. Edward C. Burgon  
MSgt. Carlton L. Kyzar  
MSgt. Delmar L. Miller  
SFC Claude H. Childers  
SFC Hugh Gilman  
SFC Harold E. McCloskey  
SFC Winfred H. Mullins  
SFC Rolin J. Christensen  
SSgt. William D. Bradish  
SSgt. William R. Goodman  
Maj. Leonard P. McGuire  
Maj. James T. Reppert  
Capt. Leo A. Brooks  
Capt. William C. Cumbie  
Capt. Thomas J. Hessler  
Capt. Kirby P. Kirks  
Capt. Charles C. Mitchell  
Capt. Harlan F. Peterson  
Sp4 Robert J. Tuzinski  
Sgt. James A. O'Loughlin  
Sp4 Harvey D. Swanson  
Pvt. Gerald Levine  
Pvt. Raymond R. Robinson

#### GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

#### Fifth Award

SFC Harold R. Chittum  
MSgt. William W. Harper  
SFC William Webb Jr.  
SFC Johnnie F. Dart  
SFC Lester L. Hall  
SSgt. Edward D. Henderson

#### Fourth Award

MSgt. Rudolph A. Serra  
SFC Warren F. Wolf  
Sp5 Floyd W. Sjoholm  
SFC Donald L. R. Scalf  
Sp5 Roy Pitts  
SFC Carl W. Sizemore

#### Third Award

SSgt. Anthony S. Pluff  
Sp5 Henry J. Schaefer

# Combined Navy And G On Viet Cong Secre:



**LANDING FROGMEN**— Vietnamese Navy underwater demolition team prepare to land on the heavily mined beach on the southern shore of Ilo Ilo at the start of the Joint Operation.

By land and by sea they came; and when they left the communist insurgents had lost another of their major secret bases.

Under the direction of the Chief of Staff, Vietnamese Navy, Cdr. Lam Nguon Tanh, and his advisor counterpart Cdr. Aaron Levine, USN, the Vietnamese Navy and land forces teamed up to clear the Viet Cong from the island of Ilo Ilo, located 35 miles southwest of Saigon in the Mekong River Delta early this year.

For more than an hour prior to the landing of troops on the southern shore, naval gunfire support was concentrated on the objective.

Upon landing on the beach the troops encountered numerous anti-personnel mines armed with one second fuses.

Eleven minutes after the initial landing the Vietnamese government forces drew their first hostile fire

By JO3 JOHN E. JONES, U.S. Navy Photos

from the nearby village.

In less than an hour the Viet Cong guerrillas in the village withdrew, leaving one dead and one wounded. Two ARVN soldiers suffered minor injuries from the explosion of a mine.

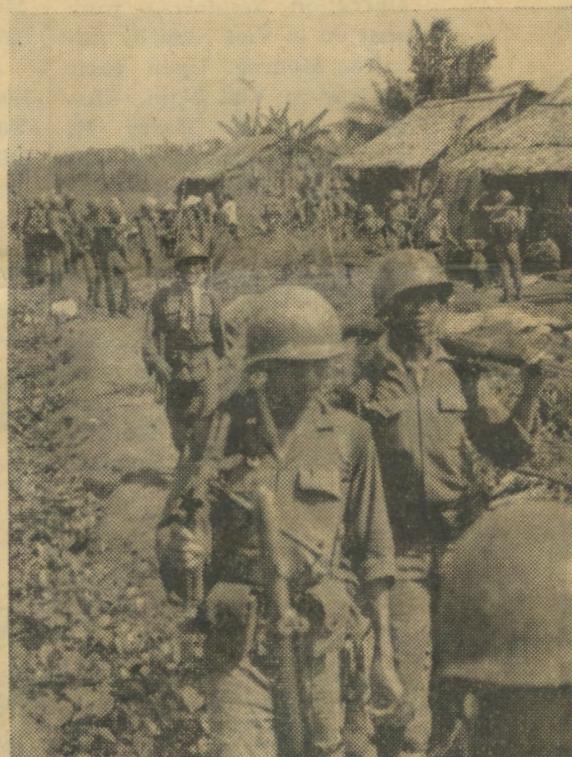
After being the village, the to the nor the island wh namese directe of 81 mm mort the Army pe sued them.



**AID FOR CIVILIANS**— Cdr. Aaron A. Levine (left) Senior Operating Forces Advisor, gives a woman on Ilo Ilo prior to her evacuation as a Vietnamese government's program of assisting the relocation of civilians.



**BRIEFING EVACUEES**— Three days after the landing on the southern shore of Ilo Ilo, the local people were gathered together for evacuation briefing and the government's mission in relocating and assisting them explained by the Vietnamese Navy Chief of Staff, Cdr. Lam Nguon Tanh.



**SEARCHERS**— The 3/12th Battalion ARVN a thorough search of a village in Ilo Ilo. The was searched twice during the three days operati

# Ground Forces Converge at Ilo Ilo Island Base

, USN

ing driven from

, the VC retreat-  
northern side of  
where the Viet-  
erected ten rounds  
mortar fire before  
personnel pur-

No additional contact with the communists was established at this time. However, one of the night patrols was hit from the rear by a VC grenade.

In the three days before the evacuation of the civilian populace friendly forces searched the entire island twice.

Junk Division-32 searched a total of 12 junks and the four small boats controlled by HQ 328 searched 10 more.

Underwater Demolition Team personnel from Junk Division-32 destroyed six junks and the Junk Force destroyed an additional 19 junks along the western shore of the island. No civilian junks or sampans were allowed to sail in the area surrounding the island during the operation.

Through questioning of junkmen it was revealed that 30 hardcore Viet Cong insurgents had occupied the island for a period of two years.

Information gained re-

Levine, USN,  
ives money to a  
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ng in the relo-



**FROM THE SEA**—Junk Division 32 brings in some of the local junks for inspection. No junks or sampans were allowed to operate in the area around Ilo Ilo when the operation was in progress. A total of 25 junks were sunk along the western shore of the island.

vealed that the island had been under the control of the 514th VC Battalion. The VC encampment included two ammunition and arms factories with professional facilities, one small junk repair facility, two hospi-

tals, a medical training center, a resupply area where food was being raised, a rest area and a stop-over point for travel up and down the coast and river and a billeting area. Of the 35 major structures

on the island, 20 appeared to be used primarily for sleeping quarters.

After all materials and equipment had been removed and ripe fruit taken for troop consumption, the VC facilities were destroyed.

Other food, including domestic animals, was removed with the civilian evacuees. This action, in conjunction with the burning of all buildings, eliminated the island as a Viet Cong Secret base.



**MUNITIONS**—Some of the Viet Cong arms and munitions captured by the Vietnamese Navy on the island of Ilo Ilo. These were taken from two arms and ammunition factories that the VC had established on the island.



**HAND GRENADE MOULDS**—Unidentified Vietnamese Navy officers inspect some of the hand grenade moulds that were found in one of the arms and ammunition factories on the island of Ilo Ilo. These moulds are an example of the professional quality of work done in the factories.

Stand By

# "This Is Paris Control Calling!"

Story By Capt. Robert J. Rinck

Photos By A2C Mark B. Mayer Jr.

The word, "Paris," for most people brings to mind the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, or the Rue Pigalle.

However, in Viet Nam, at least for aircrae members, it is the call sign of Detachment 2 of the 5th Tactical Control Group at Tan Son Nhut airfield near Saigon, better known as "Paris Control."

Paris Control is staffed

This radar unit provides control and direction for air operations in the Saigon area and in the Delta region to the south, as its sister units at Ban Me Thuot, Pleiku, and Da Nang perform similar services for the area north of Saigon.

## 315th Troop Carrier Group Post Impressive 1963 Record

Operating out of jungle airstrips, segments of abandoned roads, hardened river banks and cow pastures the 315th Troop Carrier Group flew more than 28,000 hours, hauling 36,000 tons of combat support cargo and 190,000 troops and passengers in 1963.

### Three Em Rescue Two Officers

Three men assigned to the U.S. Army Support Group, Viet Nam, were credited recently with saving the lives of two officers drowning at a public beach at Vung Tau.

Sp5 Pharon R. Enochs and Sp4 Neil T. Campbell, both from the 330th Trans. Co., heard two officers call for help when they were caught by a powerful undertow. Without regard to their own safety, the two men plunged into the water and swam to the aid of the distressed swimmers.

At this time, Sp5 Louis Ribble from the 611th Trans. Co. floated to the spot on an air mattress to give assistance. With their combined efforts, the three soldiers pulled the officers ashore to safety.

This impressive total was achieved with a daily aircraft commitment of less than 35 C-123 "Providers."

Exposed to Viet Cong guerrilla fire constantly, two of the C-123's were lost in hostile actions.

From the mountains of the north to the jungles and flat water logged delta region of the south these workhorses of the Air Force flew everything from live pigs to 155 mm. howitzers in their effort against the insurgents.

The professional Air Force pilots in the airlift section of the 2nd Air Div. accomplished this 1963 performance with only two accidents recorded out of more than 24,000 operational missions flown.

and operated by the Viet Nam Air Force with a small complement of USAF advisors. At present, the VNAF operates most of the operational jobs within the unit and control the Vietnamese aircraft.

The USAF advisors still direct United States Army, Navy, Air Force and Australian aircraft, however, they are working steadily toward the day when the entire operation will be operated by the Vietnamese.

Currently a new class of Vietnamese students are receiving instructions in the Operations field. Detachment 2 USAF personnel are aiding the program by supplying guidance and instruction.

Among the more important daily jobs are the control of Air Strike missions. During the day time such strikes may be against Viet Cong units operating in the open; to aid supply trains under attack; to strike Viet Cong supply depots located by reconnaissance, and to protect threatened villages.

During the hours of darkness, most air strikes are flown in support of the new rural life hamlets which are attacked nightly by the Viet Cong. In such instances Paris Control becomes directly involved.

When Paris VNAF personnel are alerted for a VC attack, the USAF-VNAF team locates the position of trouble and directs flare aircraft to spotlight the village being threatened. Then Paris Control vectors fighter-bombers to support the village by air strikes.

Other important functions of Paris Control are the directing of rescue operations; the recovery of aircraft in distress; navigational aid to aircraft, particularly during inclement weather; the identification of all air traffic over South Viet Nam, and Air Defense.

Life at Paris Control is often interesting and sometimes frustrating. There are moments of stress and excitement and also endless hours of waiting and watching. As many pilots will testify, this operation is a necessary and vital one in support of the operations against the Communists in South East Asia.

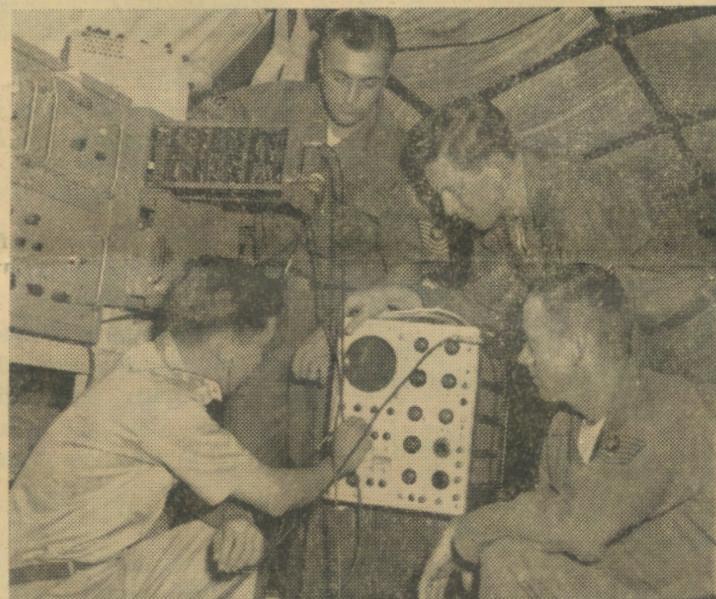


**TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD**—Maj. Gen. Sam Maddux, Jr., 13th Air Force Commander, presents the "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Traffic Safety Award" to Maj. John J. Kane, (left) 2d Air Div. Safety Director while Brig. Gen. Milton B. Adams, center, J-5, MACV, looks on. The trophy was presented to PACAF for having the best safety program among the major USAF commands. All units within PACAF are periodically presented the trophy to signify their participation in the program.

(USAF Photo)



**PLOTTERS**—Studying a plotting map, Capt. Robert J. Rinck and 2d Lt. Nguyen Manh Dung determine the exact location of an outpost under attack by Viet Cong guerrillas. After obtaining a fix, they will vector VNAF strike aircraft to the defense of the outpost.



**TOP MAINTENANCE**—A continual check is made on all equipment. Checking the alignment of a radar component are (left to right) 2d Lt. Do Van Van, MSgt. John G. Graham, TSgt. W. B. Coffey and TSgt. William C. Hampton Jr.

## The Weather Eye

As he cautiously peeks around the corner at March, the old weatherman sees an interesting month ahead. The mean maximum temperature is up to 93° and the all time maximum is a boiling 103°; the record minimum is 63°. All of this figures out to a monthly average of 83°.

The relative humidity is an average of 72°. The winds have a tendency to be south southeast at 12 knots. Precipitation and cloud cover come out as follows—Cloud cover averages 50%, and rainfall averages four-tenths of an inch with a high of 5.1 inches and a low of zero.

The all time high for one day's rain fall is 4.1 inches. The month of March averages one day with a thunderstorm and two days with rain. The daily flying weather is still over an 87% chance of being VFR. Well that's it for now.

The old weatherman will keep watching his charts, and speak again next month.



**CIVIC ACTION PROGRAM** — Capt. James F. Bodine, (right) civil affairs advisor and Capt. Duong Khac Can, (center) executive officer of the 5th Arty. Bn. observe the progress of school building being built for hamlet children in the Camp Le Van Duyet area. Several 5th Div. civil affairs projects such as the construction of a three-kilometer roadway between the villages of Honai, valley Dong Hai hamlet and a combined dispensary and information hall are underway. (III Corps IO Photo)



(AFPS Feature)

What type of a man would most likely win the title of "Mr. Armed Forces?" A burly sailor? A broad-shouldered, rugged-looking marine? A handsome, strapping airman? A strong-armed Army private?

Last year, contrary to the stereotypes, it was none of these. Instead, Mr. Armed Forces was an eye doctor, Air Force Capt. Craig Whitehead of Lackland AFB, Tex.

But eight years ago the 28-year-old ophthalmologist might have made the same guesses. Then he was one of those "140-pound weaklings" ducking bullies on the Beach.

The doctor acquired an eye for weightlifting and bodybuilding when he was a pre-med student at the University of Miami, Fla. He focused on a set of barbells left behind by a roommate who quit school and, the doctor said, "I've been at it ever since."

Now nationally known as a weightlifter, Dr. Whitehead recently added another title to his growing list of laurels. He won the Southern AAU-Louisiana State Weightlifting Championship in New Orleans by outlifting another well-known, Terry Brunet, 890 pounds to 885. The Doctor pressed 285 pounds, snatched 295 and cleaned and jerked 310 for his total.

Besides his latest award and the Mr. Armed Forces title, the captain has been crowned Mr. Hawaii, Mr. Southern USA and last year he finished third in the Mr. America competition.

Dr. Whitehead says that his eight years of body-building have added 80 pounds and 1½ inches in height. His measurements today: weight, 205; height, 5ft. 11½ in.; biceps, 18 in.; waist, 31 in.; chest (expanded), 48 in., and calf, 16½ in.

What advice does the doctor have for would-be muscle men in the Armed Forces? "High protein food and rest are essential," he said. "Most important, however, is exercise and plenty of it."

**EXTRA POINTS** — The U.S. Olympic biathlon (skiing and shooting) team, made up mostly of Army men, finished out of the money in the Winter Olympics at Innsbruck, Austria. A Russian, a Norwegian and another Russian took the first three places.

Two Army men — Quarterback Rollie Stichweh and Guard Dick Novak — were named on the Naval Academy's All-Opponent team. Navy voted quarterback Duke Carlisle of Texas honorable mention.

The Quantico Marines basketball team is led again this year by sparrow guard, 2d Lt. Brian "Puddy" Sheehan. His scoring and floorplay led Quantico to the All-Marine championship in '63.

## QUIZ

(AFPS Feature)

1. What National League pitcher holds the single season high winning percentage?

2. What was the greatest number of runs scored in a half inning in a Major League All-Star baseball game?

3. How many times did Ty Cobb get more than 200 hits in a season?

4. What race horse was the last winner of the Triple Crown?

5. What are the odds against a bridge player being dealt a perfect hand, 13 spades?

Answers to Quiz

389,900.

13 card suit (1 in 158,753).

13,559,600. The odds are a bit better for getting any

hit chance is 1 in 635.

1948 won the Kentucky Derby, the

and once 1950.

three other times over 190

18 won and 1 lost, in 1959.

1. Eirloy Face, Pittsburgh

With a .947 percentage —

2. The National League

scored 5 runs in the top of

the 4th inning during the

game they lost 11-9 in Cle-

veland in 1954.

3. Nine times over 200,

18 won and 1 lost, in 1959.

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**VALENTINE GREETINGS**—Maj. Harold A. Susskind, Hq 2nd Air Div, looks through some of the Valentine letters he received from the second grade class of the St. Charles School, Albuquerque, N.M. of which his daughter Susie, is a member. His reaction was, "They're priceless, I intend to answer each one personally". More than 50 letters arrived here on Valentine's day.

## Tax Tips...

(Fourth in a Series.)

Many service members receive per diem and mileage allowances for expenses incurred while on official duty from their regular duty station. Legally, these allowances are taxable and must be included in gross income; however, ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in performing the duties for which reimbursement was received are deductible.

To simplify reporting procedures, the tax laws provide that taxpayers making an accounting to their employer of their expenses, where the expenses equal the allowances, need not report allowances received as gross income. Moreover, in view of the fixed amount of military per diem and mileage allowances that can be paid, the Internal Revenue Service has ruled that service members who receive such allowances shall be deemed to have accounted to the government for these payments.

Therefore, military personnel who have received per diem and/or mileage allowances should take the following steps in preparing their federal income tax return:

- Check "yes" as an answer to the two questions appropriate on the second page of Form 1040 relating to expense account information, or check the appropriate item on Form 1040A.
- If allowances received equal expenses, no further action is required.
- If allowances exceed expenses, the excess must be reported as gross income on Line 1, Page 1, Form 1040 as "Excess Reimbursements." Form 1040A cannot be used to report this type of income.
- Where expenses exceed payments, the excess may be deducted on Line 1, Page 1, Form 1040 as "Excess Travel Expenses," provided Form 2106, Statement of Employees Business Expenses, or a detailed expense statement is attached. For this purpose, expenses attributable to travel, meals, lodging, tips, laundry and cleaning can be deducted.

Military personnel having questions relating to travel expenses should consult their local Legal Assistance Officer.

## VAA To Present "Hat Boi Drama"

Traditional acting techniques and a one-act play designed for a foreign audience will be presented tomorrow evening at 8 p.m. at the VAA gardens at 28 Phung Khac Khoan.

The drama and art presentation is entitled "An Introduction to Hat Boi" and is staged in native dress and costumes.

Tickets for the March 1st affair are available at the VAA activities offices for 100\$VN and 150\$VN. There will be an English commentary and provisions have been arranged for the audience to photograph the actors and actresses in their colorful costumes.

### ▲ Dateline

(Continued from page 1) mission, resulted in the loss of two VC killed and two captured. Six rifles were captured and a number of structures and communications trenches were destroyed. Government troops suffered two wounded.

Operation Vinh Binh in the IV Corps area Feb. 21 resulted in three VC killed, 25 suspects arrested, several sampans sunk and the seizure of a Russian-made rifle and six grenades. In Vinh Long, the same day, two government troops were wounded by land mines while the Viet Cong insurgents left three dead.

In an encounter between SDC troops and the VC 5 miles southwest of Can Tho, the VC lost two dead while the government troops suffered two wounded.

### Treasury Offers Refund In Bonds

New York (AFPS) — The Revenue Service is again reminding taxpayers of a plan which allows them to take their Federal tax refunds in U.S. Savings Bonds.

Taxpayers with refunds due may accept Series E Savings Bonds, payment by check, or they may apply the amount of the refund to the next year's tax.

The practice of allowing taxpayers to take their refunds in Savings bond began last year (1962 income) as a result of a Treasury Department survey.

## Sec. McNamara Sends Draft Of FY65 Pay Bill To Speaker Of House

Washington (AFPS) — A new pay bill that would put more than 142.6 million additional dollars in the pockets of members of the Armed Forces during Fiscal Year 1965 has reached the House of Representatives.

The new raise is proposed to become effective Oct. 1, 1964.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara has asked for a basic pay increase of 3 percent for officers and 2.4 percent for enlisted members with over two years service.

In his letter accompanying the bill to Speaker of the House John W. McCormack, Secretary McNamara said the raise is needed to keep military pay in step with civilian rates and quoted the late President Kennedy's pledge made to members of the Armed Forces when the 1963 boost was signed.

"In supporting this legislation before the Congress," President Kennedy said, "this administration pledged to use its best efforts to assure that in the future military compensation will keep pace with increases in salaries and wages in the civilian economy. I think that I speak on behalf of all of us when I say that is a pledge we intend to keep."

To fulfill this pledge and policy, a procedure for an annual review of active duty military pay has been developed. In addition, the entire structure of military compensation will be studied approximately every five years, the House leader was told.

If effective on Oct. 1, the raise will cost an additional \$142,616,000 for the balance of FY65. This includes

costs of retirements after the raise. FY66 increased costs will be about \$194,062,000.

An Army captain or Navy lieutenant with over six years service would be raised from \$560.00 monthly or \$576.00 base pay, an increase of \$16.80.

Increases for enlisted members are more modest. The proposed bill raises the base pay of an E-5, with over six years, \$5.88 to \$250.88.

This proposed legislation implements President Johnson's recommendations in his FY65 budget message to Congress concerning the need to keep military pay rates in line with private industry.

The new bill does not raise retirement pay for personnel now on the retired list.

Officers in grades 0-1, 2 and 3 with over four years active service as enlisted members would, in some cases, receive more pay than their contemporaries without enlisted service.

## California Has Most Veterans

Washington (AFPS) — Statistics show that California has the largest number of veterans and Alaska the least.

The Veterans Administration said that as of July 1 California had 2,303,000 living veterans. Alaska, with 24,000, had the smallest number.

## Mail THE OBSERVER Home

From :

Major Edward R. Hicks  
HQ MAAG USASEC-Low-MW.  
APO 143, San Francisco, Calif.



TO :

Mrs. Edward R. Hicks  
Floresville, Texas 78114