

VNAF  
Helicopter  
Pilots  
Graduate

(See Page 6)

# The Observer

Published By The MAAG Information Office  
For U.S. Forces In Viet Nam

1687NP614914

Pacification  
Operations  
Resettle  
Civilians

(See Pages 4 & 5)

Volume II, No 50

SAIGON, VIET NAM

April 18, 1964

DATELINE VIET NAM

## Government Forces Repulse VC Attack In Chuong Thien

In one of the largest recent actions in the war, an estimated two VC battalions attacked the district town of Kien Long in Chuong Thien province early Sunday morning. Two government defense posts in the area resisted the attack.

One post which held a 105mm howitzer was held to the last man. Both the district chief and the assistant district chief were killed at this post before it was overrun by the Viet Cong.

The 105 Howitzer was later destroyed by an air strike.

The other post manned by Civil Guard held out until reaction forces arrived.

More than 600 government troops were poured into the area. An airborne unit with 450 men was paraded to speed the reinforcement.

The losses from the earlier part of the action were listed as 44 killed, 30 wounded, 17 missing and 36 weapons lost by the government forces. The Viet Cong casualties were 30 killed and 10 weapons. An estimated 100 KIA/WIA were carried off.

In the pursuit operation that followed, the government had seven killed, 19 wounded and five missing.

while the VC lost two killed and one captured.

One U.S. enlisted helicopter crewman was killed and seven other American servicemen were wounded during the follow up operation. These casualties are not included in the government figures. At the latest reports, the pursuit operation was still in progress.

Earlier last week a government training center at Phuoc Loi in Long An province was overrun in a pre-dawn attack. Government losses were 28 killed, 36 wounded and 37 missing. Weapons of various types numbering 115 were lost. There were no VC casualties reported.

In Kien Hoa province an operation in Mo Cay district left 50 Viet Cong dead.

The action developed from an ambush sprung by the government forces on a VC unit.

In the clash which took

place late Thursday afternoon, the government force lost 23 killed, 24 wounded and 13 missing. They also lost 41 weapons. A Thompson submachine gun, 10 rifles and a tripod for a 57mm recoilless rifle were captured from the Viet Cong.

On Saturday, April 11, three U.S. Army enlisted men were wounded by a terrorist grenade in front of the To Giang hotel in Tra Vinh, Vinh Binh province. They were returned to duty after treatment at the Station Hospital in Saigon.

Three American crew members and seven Vietnamese soldiers were killed in the crash of a UH-1B

(Continued on page 4)



DOUBLE DECORATIONS—Capt. Clarence E. Strelbel, (right) an L-19 instructor pilot assigned to the 19th Tac. Air Sup. Sqdn., receives congratulations from Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, Commander of the 2nd Air Div., following award of the Silver Star and Air Medal. (2nd Air Div. IO Photo)

## USAF Officer Awarded Silver Star, Air Medals

2nd Air Div.- TSN (OI) — A U.S. Air Force officer was recently awarded the Silver Star Medal for his exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty while piloting an unarmed light observation aircraft against communist Viet Cong guerrilla forces in the Republic of Viet Nam.

Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Moore, commander of the Second Air Division, pre-

sented the coveted decoration to Capt. Clarence E. Strelbel, an L-19 flight instructor assigned to the 19th Tactical Air Support Group.

In the action for which he was cited, Captain Strelbel directed a fighter-bomber attack against a heavily fortified Viet Cong position which he had detected despite the enemy's clever camouflage. He repeatedly exposed his unarmed L-19 to intense enemy ground fire in order to mark the key target areas with smoke grenades. His action greatly increased the accuracy and effectiveness of the repeated bombing and strafing attacks.

Although his fuel was dangerously low and darkness was approaching, Captain Strelbel remained over the target area and pinpointed the enemy strongpoints for a second wave of strike aircraft. His gallantry and skill were vital factors in the successful air/

(Continued on page 8)



LEGION OF MERIT—Capt. Fred Mahaffey, a battalion advisor with the ARVN 5th Inf. Div., receives the Legion of Merit from Maj. Gen. Charles J. Timmes, Chief, MAAG, in ceremonies held recently. Captain Mahaffey earned the medal for outstanding services while assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga.

## MACV-MAAG Merger Set

The combining of MACV and MAAG headquarters in the near future to save on personnel spaces and to improve functioning was announced Tuesday by a MACV spokesman.

No details or an exact date of the change-over was announced.

Nam. Secretary Rusk is making the stopover here, from the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Secretary of State Rusk will make a one-day stopover at Taipei on 16 April, for a meeting with President Chiang Kai-Shek, upon his departure from the Council of Ministers of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization meeting in Manila.

While in Viet Nam the Secretary of State and General Wheeler will confer with Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, Ambassador Henry C. Lodge and other high ranking American and Vietnamese officials.

# The Observer

"Comment is free but facts are sacred."

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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

## EDITORIAL

### Forefathers Showed Concern For Man In Hands Of The Law

(Fourth in a series of ten award winning editorials from the San Diego Calif., Evening Tribune. Reprinted with permission.)

Liberty and justice are precious possessions. Yet how fragile they are.

A tyrant can deprive a man of his liberty by the merest flick of his fingers turning a key in a lock.

Justice is whatever a despot says it is — and no back talk. The founding Fathers of this nation sought to secure the rights of liberty and justice in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

They acted from a sense of concern about how these rights, for which Englishmen had long fought and died, from time to time has been weakened and disregarded.

They wrote into the Constitution:

"The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it."

This ancient writ of habeas corpus (you have the body) antedates that great milestone in man's social evolution, the Magna Charta of 1215. It commands a jailor or other officer to produce a prisoner before the bar so that the legality of the restraints of his liberty may be determined.

It is a safeguard against the practice — still common in parts of the world — whereby a man may be tossed into prison without formal charge and left there without hearing or trial.

To make doubly sure that a man may not be deprived of his liberty unjustly, the Founding Fathers inserted an article in the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution — The Bill of Rights — to the effect that excessive bail must not be imposed.

This was also the result of well-remembered English history.

An English prohibition of excessive bail goes back beyond the discovery of the New World and is similar to our own.

The American colonists' sense of fair play made certain that the right of trial by jury was preserved.

This right was in jeopardy in early America when the British Parliament sought to extend the jurisdiction of the courts of the admiralty beyond their ancient limits so as to try the colonists without a jury.

Jury trial is mentioned in three places in the founding documents — once in the Constitution and in two amendments in the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution and the Sixth Amendment guarantee jury trial in criminal cases; the Seventh Amendment extends it to civil cases in which the amount in controversy exceeds \$20.

Throughout his toils our laws, which are necessary for the safety and order of society, an accused person in the United States is presumed innocent until proved guilty.

These rights under our laws are further reasons why we set such a precious price on the American way of life.

## War College Class Visits Viet Nam

A group of thirty-seven civilian and military members of the faculty, staff, and class of The National War College, led by Lt. Gen. Francis H. Griswold, USAF, Commandant, arrived in Viet Nam Apr. 8, for a three-day visit as part of a three-week study tour in the Far East.

Four other groups from the college are visiting countries in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

The National War College is the senior educational institution in the Department of Defense and prepares selected members of the four Services and Department of State to exercise high-level policy, command, and staff functions.

While in Saigon the visitors heard government and American officials comment on United States policies abroad and will report on their significant findings to the College as a whole.

## PROMOTIONS

**Sergeant Major**  
 MSGt. Charles E. Dohlmair  
 MSGt. John C. Koon

**Master Sergeant**

SFC Reginald A. Dorey

**Sergeant First Class**

SSgt. Leo F. Davan

**Specialist Seven**

SP8 Willie Walker

**Staff Sergeant**

Sgt. Richard Demers  
 Sp5 Ralph P. Hurst

## SECRETARY



**CHARMER** — Our pick this week is Miss Quan Le Hoa of the MAAG Personnel Division. She is 22 years old — has worked for MAAG for three months and lives in Cholon.

## Our Role In Vietnam

"The U. S. role in South Vietnam . . . is: first, to answer the call of the South Vietnamese, a member nation of our Free World family, to help them save their country for themselves; second, to help prevent the strategic danger which would exist if Communism absorbed Southeast Asia's people and resources; and third, to prove in the Vietnamese test case that the Free World can cope with Communist 'wars of liberation' as we have coped successfully with Communist aggression at other levels."

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, March 26, 1964.

## CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

### Note The Emphasis

By Chaplain (Maj.) VICTOR A. BIEBERLE, USA

There were many occasions when our Lord stressed the importance of our doing first what most of us by nature are inclined to do last. He didn't say, "Love thyself and then, if it isn't too much bother, love others."

Most emphatically, He put it just the other way, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

He could have urged us to be "...simple as doves" and "wise as serpents." Most good people now are "simple as doves" — which requires little effort — whereas most of those vent on evil are "wise as serpents." Once there are enough followers of Christ who combine both qualities in the proper order, then great things are bound to happen.

Again, Christ did not say, "...we should go into the byways and the highways. He purposely put the more important first: "...Going into the highways and the byways."

Christians at present are largely confining themselves to the "byways." Those striving relentlessly to destroy the world and enslave mankind concentrate almost entirely on the "highways," knowing that once they control the main spheres of influence (education, government, labor, management, press, etc.) they automatically control the "byways" as well.

We might well reflect on the fact that we as individuals can accomplish much in this area. By taking a real interest and putting forth honest effort, combined with sincere prayer, we can match the daring enterprise of the godless and go into the "highways" as well as the "byways" — and thus win the world back to the cause of God and love of neighbor.

## Department Of Army Releases Promotion Quota For April

Washington (ANF) — The Department of the Army has released the following temporary promotion quotas to major commanders for the month of April 1964.

Grade	Quota
E-9	61
E-8	451
E-7	100
E-6	200
E-5	1000
E-4	7500
Total	9312
E-5	074, 132, 164, 166, 166, 168, 172, 178, 191, 194, 217, 223, 224, 231, 232, 234, 245, 248, 251, 274, 285, 299, 322, 342, 354, 437, 525, 533, 542, 551, 676, 678, 772, 815, 832, 921, 943,
E-6	051, 074, 164, 166, 171, 172, 177, 178, 191, 194, 214, 221, 231, 285, 313, 354, 421, 443, 461, 466, 524, 526, 542, 546, 551, 553, 555, 626, 643, 676, 677, 678, 717, 724, 732, 733, 761, 762, 763, 765, 772, 841, 843, 921, 941, 942, 943, 944, 946, 967, (All Bandsman 021 thru 033)
E-5	074, 132, 164, 166, 166, 168, 172, 178, 191, 194, 217, 223, 224, 231, 232, 234, 245, 248, 251, 274, 285, 299, 322, 342, 354, 437, 525, 533, 542, 551, 676, 678, 772, 815, 832, 921, 943,
E-4	051, 074, 164, 166, 166, 168, 172, 178, 191, 194, 217, 223, 224, 231, 232, 234, 245, 248, 251, 274, 285, 299, 322, 342, 354, 437, 525, 533, 542, 551, 676, 678, 772, 815, 832, 921, 943,
Total	9312
E-5	074, 132, 164, 166, 166, 168, 172, 178, 191, 194, 217, 223, 224, 231, 232, 234, 245, 248, 251, 274, 285, 299, 322, 342, 354, 437, 525, 533, 542, 551, 676, 678, 772, 815, 832, 921, 943, 952, 967 (All Bandsman 021 thru 033)

Appointments to the following MOS in the grades listed are not authorized except for token appoint-



**THIRD CIB AWARD** — Veteran combat infantryman SFC James L. Johnson, (Right), receives his third Combat Infantryman Badge from Col. Fred A. Pierce, (Left), Sr. Advisor to the ARVN I Inf. Div. at Da Nang. Sergeant Johnson is an advisor to the 32nd Civil Guard Bn. at Hoi An.

## HONOR ROLL

### BRONZE STAR MEDAL

#### Third Award

Lt. Col. Cecil G. Dansby  
Lt. Col. Robert B. Nett

#### Second Award

Lt. Col. Joe H. Bruton Jr.  
Maj. Kern B. Posey  
Maj. Ralph K. Ritz  
Capt. Del L. Briscoe  
Capt. Claude C. Harrubey  
Capt. Rafael Miranda

#### First Award

Maj. Louis E. Abele  
Maj. Richard R. Beuch  
Maj. James R. Boggs  
Maj. Thomas F. Craven  
Maj. Richard H. Durr  
Maj. Ernest R. Johnson  
Maj. Marcus D. Moreman  
Maj. Rold D. Tausch  
Capt. Maurice M. Arrigado  
Capt. Anthony Bonavire  
Capt. Isaac Borras-Rosello  
Capt. Raymond E. Burrell  
Capt. Spruill Gregory  
Capt. Robert S. Sage  
Capt. Ralph D. Sanders Jr.  
Capt. John E. Swindell  
Capt. Reginald J. Barlamant  
Capt. John O. Childs  
Capt. David P. Cole  
Capt. John A. Dennis  
Capt. George E. Hill  
Capt. Morris Lafever  
Capt. Romeo J. Laroche  
Capt. William P. O'Bryan  
Capt. Frank G. Salimene  
Capt. Robert J. Taylor  
1st Lt. James C. Adams  
1st Lt. Howard J. Floyd  
1st Lt. Malcolm P. Schwarzenbach

### COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE

#### Second Award

Capt. Ernest E. Brant  
SFC Leo V. Houck  
SFC Luis H. Pratts-Munoz

#### First Award

Capt. Allan W. Harris  
Capt. Robert L. Merrick  
Capt. Frederick L. Nuffer, Jr.  
Maj. Windford R. James  
Sgt. Fernando Garcia  
PFC Thomas C. Grosso

### MEDICAL BADGE

#### First Award

SFC John P. Grady

### PURPLE HEART

#### First Award

Capt. Donald S. Cunningham  
1st Lt. William F. Edgar  
1st Lt. Frank S. Reece  
Maj. Roger D. Comstock  
SFC Odd O. Pedersen  
SFC Edward R. Rivera  
SFC Walter K. Wywick  
SSgt. Robert F. Ellis  
Capt. William C. McCulloch  
1st Lt. James K. Cooksey  
1st Lt. Theodore A. Speaker  
1st Lt. Fred S. White  
WO Dean A. Pomeroy  
SMAj. George Booth  
Sp5 Howard E. Ladnier  
Sgt. John W. Watson  
Sp4 William J. Foody  
Sp4 William J. Foody  
Sp4 Michael W. Iten  
PFC Alfred K. McDowell

### ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL

Maj. Richard D. Boyd  
Maj. Richard R. Cook  
Maj. James W. Grimes  
Maj. George R. Swilley  
Capt. Gordon B. Frank  
Capt. Franklin N. Harris  
2nd Lt. Robert A. Nelson  
WO Billy J. Southern  
Maj. Carlos Garcia  
SFC Harrison J. Faust  
SSgt. Ernest P. Cerdas  
SSgt. Charles F. Crisp  
Sp4 Manuel T. Amaral  
Sp4 Gale D. Flinn  
Sp5 Steven W. Larson  
Sp5 Maurice D. Adams  
Capt. Gerald D. Dyer  
WO John P. Moores  
Capt. Gerald L. McDonald  
1st Lt. John H. Greene Jr.  
Sp5 Richard A. Ehrlich  
Sp4 Joseph E. Lambert

### GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Fifth Award  
SFC William F. Bumbaugh  
Fourth Award  
Sp7 Robert Moore  
Maj. Ray L. Martin  
SFC George D. Miles



**COMM CONTROL** — Capt. Fred G. Harris (right), communications officer, 145th Avn. Bn. explains the radio unit on a control UH-1B to Lt. Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff For Operations, DA. General Johnson visited the U.S. Army Support Command on his recent inspection tour of Viet Nam.

(39th Sig. Bn. Photo by Sp4 Chmura)

## Viet Nam Photos Win 1964 Picture Awards

Washington (ANF) — Army photographers copped four of six category first prizes in the annual military "Picture of the Year Competition." Judged by representatives of the World Book Encyclopedia, the National Press Photographers Association, and the University of Missouri's School of Journalism, the winning pictures were chosen from some 680 Armed Forces entries. All category first prize winners will receive a 37-volume encyclopedia.

"A Red Talk," a series of photographs by Sp6 Henry Chang of the Pacific Stars and Stripes was the top picture story of the year. Specialist Chang portrayed the questioning of a Viet Cong prisoner in South Viet Nam.

In the news category all of the prize photographs were those of Army personnel. Both the first and second award went to Maj. Allan W. Galfund, Headquarters, First Army, Governors Island, N.Y. and formerly Deputy MACV Information Officer, with his "Rice Paddy Warfare and "Eagle Flight" entries.

The top two prizes in the portrait and personality category also went to a single Army photographer. SFC Gary G. Beylickjan, Headquarters, Fifth Army, Ill., who was cited for his pictures entitled "A Smile" and "Miss Kim."

## POCKETFUL of NOTES

By SSgt. Bob Reid  
USAF



**KEEPING UP WITH THINGS** — Funny thing about our language and customs. The most painful things in life are always the object of the greatest humor when heard in spoken English.

This of course, is particularly true of physical afflictions. Take good-old fashioned gout for instance. The very mention of the word sends listeners into uncontrollable fits of laughter like a Donald Duck Cartoon shown in kindergarten on the last day of school.

Never mind that the victim of gout is suffering all the agonies equivalent to all the miseries ever dreamed up in a third level dungeon in the Spanish Inquisition.

Even we, straight-shooter that we are, have laughed mirthlessly at the poor gout sufferer.

But he who laughs last, eh? And all that.

We are scribbling this piece in pencil, lying flat upon our back, for we have been caught up with by another of those "funnies": dengue fever.

Pronounced 'dingy', as in "dingy in the head."

The first remark we heard from friends was, "my, that's appropriate."

Someone else heard of us being bed-ridden with the dengue. "We knew it all along," said this wit. "You mean he's just now getting around to discovering it?"

Now about dengue, see. You get up in the morning feeling fine. By coffee break time you have a small, nagging pain in the small of the back. By noon it's a savage fist beating you in the kidneys. By six in the evening you think you have malaria, with Eskimo chills one moment and fire of hades flushes the next.

By nine at night your family thermometer — which you haven't used in years — says 104 and you know you're gonna kick any minute. So, with this imminent threat of death staring you in the face, you mad-dash it to the hospital.

Now be it civilian or military hospital, people who show up sick at 9:30 on a Saturday night are as welcome as wild tigers without their rabies shots are in Times Square on New Year's Eve.

The only people that hospitals generally condescend to see after office hours are those that are either (a) bleeding, or, (b) not breathing.

Surprise!

The fellas at the Navy Station Hospital greeted us cordially, welcoming us like we were the only customer they'd had in weeks — which is about as far from the truth as one can be. They're loaded with business.

They marshalled their forces quickly and cheerfully. Not once, mind you, did anyone say "Why didn't you come back Monday morning."

Everybody hustled and hustled with blood tests, X-rays, blood pressures, et al, including the ominous empty bottle they give you. You know what for, don't you, Charles?

(Oh, and about that blood business. Have you ever noticed in other places, how they spear you in the arm, and suck out a whole teapotfull of blood, and then, when they're through there, they slash your finger with a razor blade and gather up a few drops more, for a glass slide?)

We wondered about this for years. Like, it's the same blood, ain't it? So why not get it all in one place, in one full swoop?

We are happy to report that the Navy Hospital here has finally figured that one out probably a first in medical science, huh?) and just takes one shot of blood for everything.

And our slogan of the week, courtesy of Rocky Bridges, via 'Sports Illustrated': "Little League Baseball's O.K. It keeps parents off the streets."

# Joint Operations Resettle Civilians In

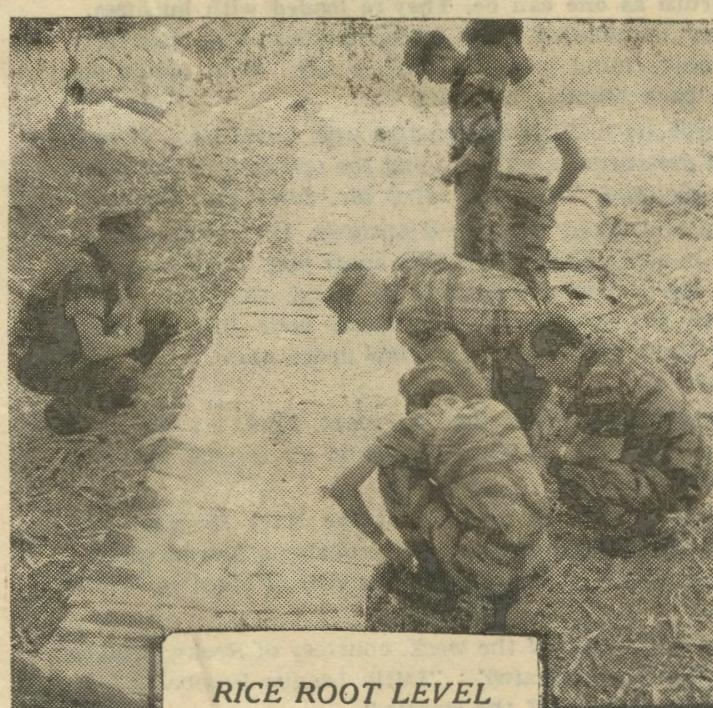
## The Planners



HIGH LEVEL



VILLAGE LEVEL



RICE ROOT LEVEL

## BY LAND, WATER, AND AIR — THE MARINES ARRIVE

The "Pacification Program" initiated by Prime Minister Maj. Gen. Nguyen Khanh got underway Apr. 1, when the ARVN 4th Ma-

rine Battalion under the command of Maj. Nguyen Kien Hung, received orders to assist in a joint ground-sea-air operation.



AT VINH LONG — Marine contingent arrives at Vinh Long after traveling by truck convoy from the Cuu Long Marine Camp in Saigon.



HELICOPTER SUPPORT — Food and medical supplies are flown in from Vinh Long to Hiep Thanh for the use of evacuating civilians.

## The Friend



TOUGH MARINE — Loaded with field gear and weapon, Vietnamese marine returns to assembly area for return trip on LST.



AFTER THE  
SITUATION WELL IN HAND — After the Hiep Thanh area was cleared of Viet Cong, the marines took time off for chow and a brief relaxation break. Taking time off for a late lunch are (Left to Right) Capt. Fred Daly, 9th Div., G-2 Advisor, Capt. Joe N. Smith, USMC Bn. Advisor, Maj. Nguyen Kien Hung, Bn. CO, and Capt. Nguyen Van Nho, Bn. ExO.

Prior to the mission was Hiep Thanh, a staging area of the Viet Cong guerrillas located at the mouth of the Mekong River some 60 miles southwest of Saigon. The 600-man marine contingent was assigned the mission of evacuating 300 civilians with all their personal belongings including cattle, pigs and other livestock.

Briefings were conducted at Vinh Long by Maj. Gen. Duong Van Duc, IV corps commander, who was assisted by his advisor Col. Sammy N. Homan and other ranking Vietnamese and US officers.



HALF-WAY MARK — Fast conferees, Maj. Gen. Nguyen Kien Hung, (Center) Commanding Officer, Capt. Joe N. Smith, (Left), USMC Bn. Advisor, and Capt. Nguyen Van Nho, (Right) Bn. ExO., during

# Pacification Program In Mekong Delta

the landing of together.

battalion at air and ground the immediate area. The insurgents hasten out of their leaving three rifles, ammunitions, documents

meese marines are on launches ST and immediate advance recon

troops to secure tered villages. men and young are assisted by in getting all al belongings

During the 60-hours ope



conference is conducted between Maj. commander of the 4th Marine Bn., and 'C Bn. Advisor and Capt., Nguyen during a brief break.



BATTLE

REST FOR THE WEARY — Capt. Joe N. Smith, (Left) Bn. Advisor, watches Maj. Nguyen Kien Hung, ARVN Marine Commander, ride a bull while Capt. Fred Daly, 9th Div. Advisor, takes advantage of the lull to catch a catnap.

## The Living... And The Dead

Helicopters flew into the 25-kilometers area to supply the civilians with food, medical supplies and milk. General Duc also gave the villagers money on behalf of the government.

All the civilians were located by the Navy on two LCUs. Personal property was brought aboard the vessels for evacuation to their new homes.

The Viet Cong base was razed to the ground denying the guerrillas a source for their food and other much-needed supplies and manpower.

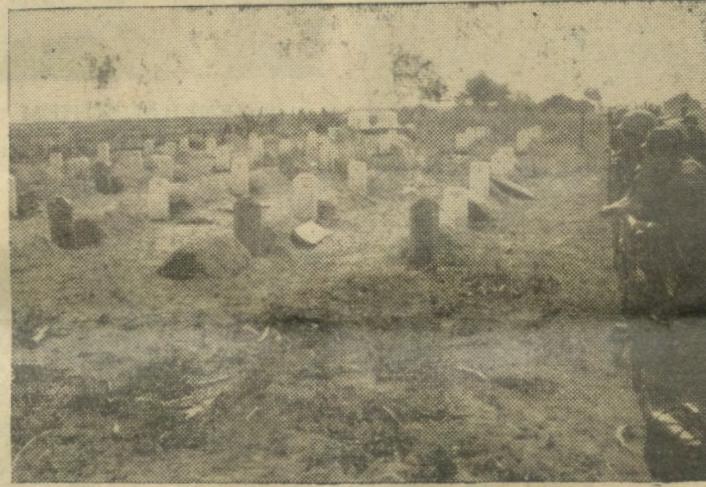
During the 60-hours ope

ration, they coordinated between the different armed services and devastating firepower pushed the Viet

Cong into the defensive. No casualties were incurred by the ARVN forces during the action.



VC ROUND-UP — Vietnamese marines enter one of the small villages in search of VC guerrillas during mopping-up operations. VC foxhole is located at the foreground.



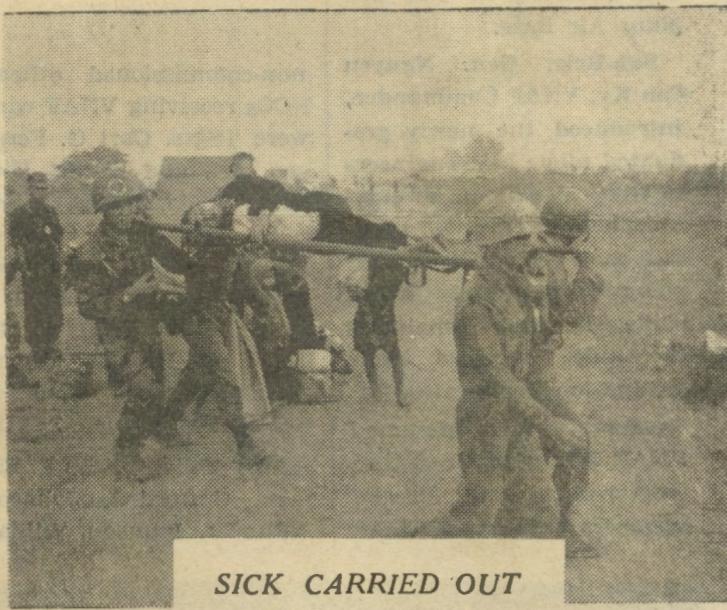
VC GRAVEYARD — Marines inspect the battalion-size graveyard of the Viet Cong guerrillas. The VC dead, killed in operations against government forces in the Delta area, were buried at the Hiep Thanh stronghold.

## The Enemy

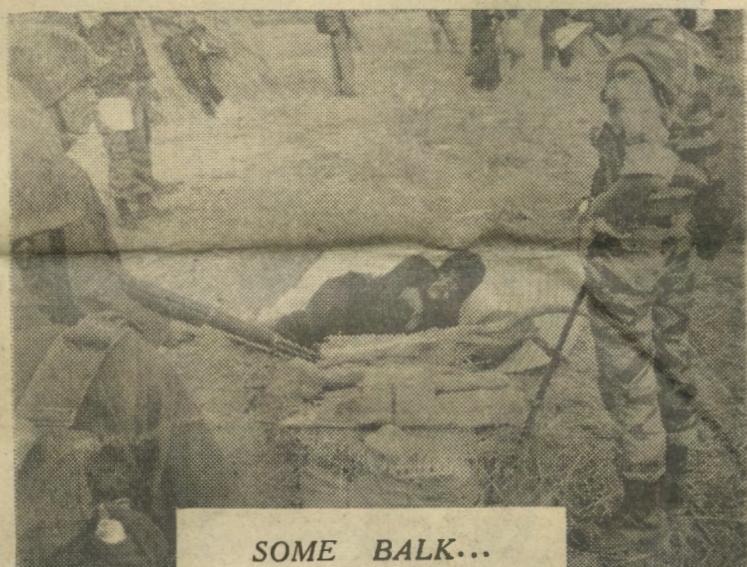


DEAD VC SNIPER — Sharpshooting Vietnamese marines put an end to the career of this VC guerrilla. Three insurgents were killed during the operations.

## The Refugees



SICK CARRIED OUT



SOME BALK...



OTHERS WAIT...

Story By  
SFC TONY BERMUDIZ

Photos By  
SP5 RAY JEWET

# VNAF Helicopter Pilots Graduate

Defense Minister Maj. Gen. Tran Thien Khiem presided over the graduation ceremonies of the second helicopter pilot course last Saturday at Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

Sub-Brig. Gen. Nguyen Cao Ky, VNAF Commander, introduced the newly graduated pilots and engineers to General Khiem. Twenty-nine helicopter pilots received their third lieutenant commissions and wings while 32 flight engineer-mechanics received their graduation certificates.

General Ky presented VNAF Wings to USAF instructor-pilots and Aircrew Members Wings to 26 USAF

Story By  
**SFC TONY BERMUDEZ**  
Photos By  
**SSgt. BOB REID**

non-commissioned officers. NCOs receiving VNAF wings were TSgts. Carl G. Ferguson, Jr., and Robert Hickman; SSgts. James O. Benson, Thomas B. Crowder, Benny A. DeGaetano, Harold E. Dempsey, John T. Duffy, Allen H. Dyer, Col. Bert Ezell, Paul J. Gorman, Don M. Hassman, James A. Health and Francis L. Hill.

Also SSgts. Clifton E. Einman, Clifford L. Johnson, Walter J. Johnson, William

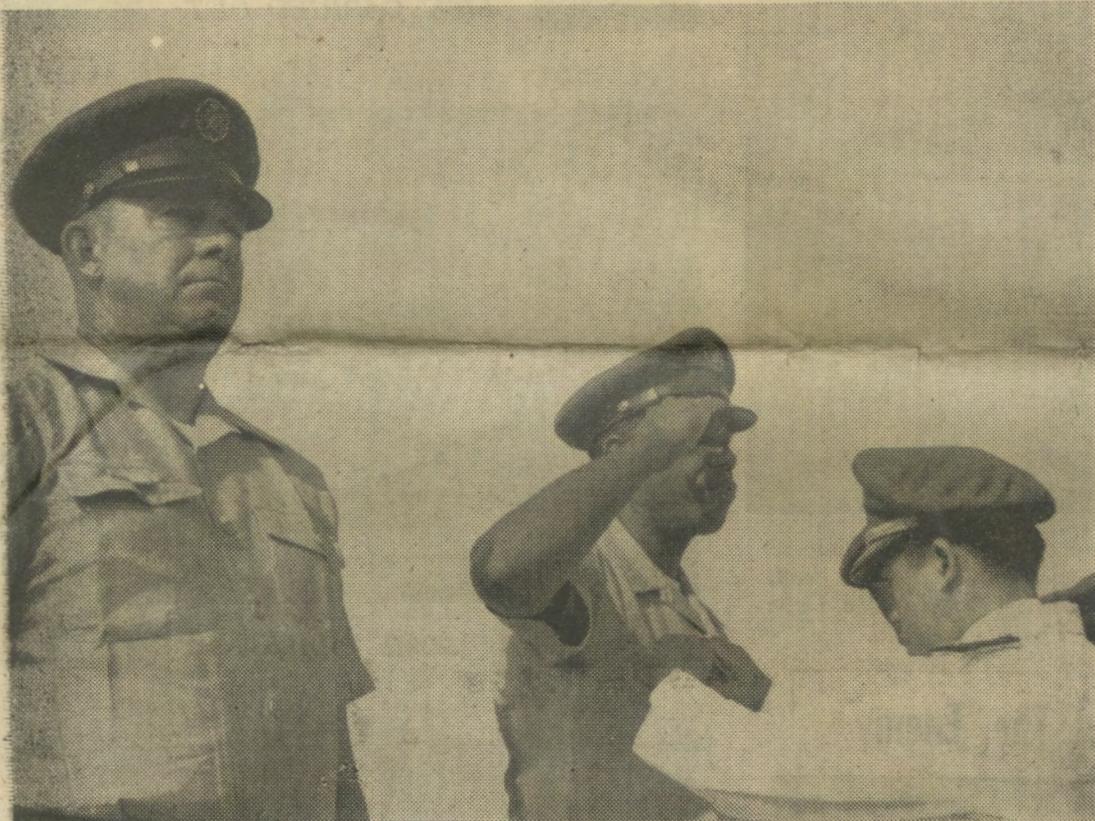
B. Killough, Clifford Langley, Thomas E. Madden, Charles C. Maxwell, Walter H. May, Jerry E. Milliken, Alan L. Milner, Curtis W. Pert, Robert E. Runninger and Everett W. Wright.

Brig. Gen. Robert R. Rowland, Chief, AF Section, MAAG and General Ky pinned wings on the distinguished graduates while course instructors pinned wings on the remaining graduates.

General Ky also pinned VNAF wings on Lt. Col. F.M. Carney and Maj. Jack M. Cannon. General Khiem, assisted by Generals Rowland and Ky, presented plaques to the USAF instructor-pilots and mechanics.



GENERAL KHIEM (Right) PINS TOP GRAD  
VNAF Commander (left) looks on.



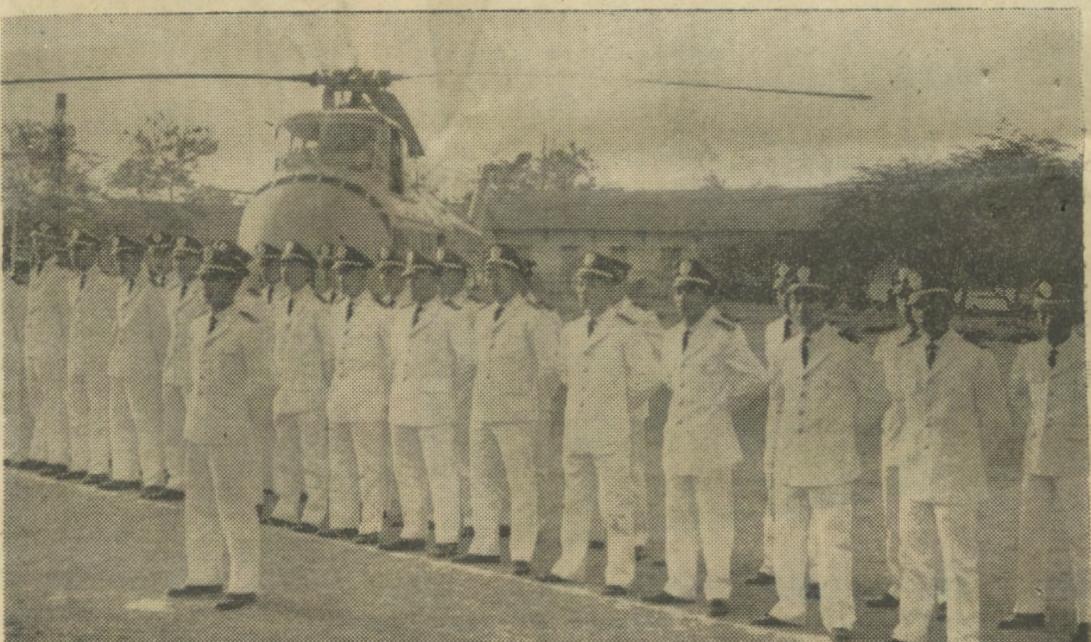
FLIGHT MECANICS AWARDED VNAF FLIGHT ENGINEER WINGS  
TSgt. Carl G. Ferguson (1) and TSgt. Robert Hickman are decorated.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATE  
General Rowland pins on wings.



MAJOR CANNON (L) AWARDED VNAF WINGS  
VNAF Commander pins on wings.



NEW HELICOPTER PILOT GRADUATES  
Twenty-nine newly commissioned pilots stand in front of H-19.

## Roving Photographer

## Americans In Viet Nam Mourn MacArthur's Death

Americans serving in Viet Nam felt the 'fading away' of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur as a personal loss. Throughout the country, wherever U.S. advisors were pulling duty with their Vietnamese counterparts, the conversation was about the legend of MacArthur.

Our Roving Photographer, visiting the I Corps, was able to interview a number of GIs from Arkansas, who were specially proud of coming from the state where the late general was born.

This week's question is: How do you feel about the death of General MacArthur and what do you think of him as an American?



COLE BUSH

Sp4 Jesse J. Cole, Aviation Mechanic, Hq. & Hq. Co., 52nd Avn., Da Nang, (Bay, Ark.): "All of us men from Arkansas here at the 52nd feel terrible. You know the General was born in Arkansas! I feel a personal loss in General MacArthur's passing away... he was a soldier's soldier."

Sgt. Archie E. Bush, Enlisted Advisor, Advisory Team No. 1, Da Nang, (Winthrop, Ark.): "I am proud to have been born in the same state as General MacArthur but prouder still that I am an American soldier, in the service of my country. I feel this way because in General MacArthur's gallant death, he has made the profession of arms... a proud and useful career. He is one of the greatest Americans of all time!"



BRADY

VEHAWN

Sp4 Chris Brady, Classified Clerk, Office Chief of USASEC, MAAG, (Durham, N.C.): "The passing of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur was inevitable but he now belongs to the history of the American people. It will take a long time to produce another great man of his type and in the meantime he will serve as an inspiration to all Americans."

YNI George C. Vehawn, Special Operations Group, MACV (Lewiston, Mont.): "We lost a good man and a great military leader. He is truly one of the greatest military figures of the century."



BAWIEC BENNETT

Sp4 Leonard J. Bawiec, Chief Clerk, G-3, I Corps, Advisory Team No. 1, Da Nang, (Beaverdale, Pa.): "America's youth mourns the passing of one of its greatest heroes. He symbolized the strength and forwardness of its young people and serves as an inspiration for achievement and service to American ideals. I mourn his passing with deep sorrow."

Sp5 Samuel L. Bennett, Admin. Specialist, Hqs. I Corps, Da Nang, (Louisville, Ky.): "General MacArthur is a proud son of America... a great soldier and his passing ends a life dedicated to service. America has been blest with soldiers of his kind dedicated to Duty — Honor — Country."



**AFA CITATION** — Maj. Gen. Rollen H. Anthis, (center) former Commander of the 2d Air Division, was awarded the Air Force Association's Citation of Honor by Retired Gen. Nathan F. Twining, USAF, (left) former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at an AFA meeting in Washington last Mar. 25. Mr. Jack Gross, (right) Chairman of AFA's Board of Directors, was also present for the award. General Anthis, now Special Assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Counterinsurgency, was cited for "outstanding leadership and professional achievement in support of the Vietnamese Air Force, while serving as the Commander of the 2d Air Div., PACAF, and of the Air Component, Military Assistance Command, in Viet Nam and Thailand."

### USAF Chief Of Staff Gen. LeMay Extended

Washington (AFNS) — President Lyndon B. Johnson announced Apr. 8 that Gen. Curtis E. LeMay has agreed to the President's request that he continue as chief of staff of the Air Force until Feb. 1, 1965.

General LeMay's tour in the Pentagon was to have ended June 30 of this year. General LeMay was originally appointed for a two-year term by the late President John F. Kennedy and received a one-year extension last year.

Prior to 1961, General LeMay served four years as vice chief of staff under Gen. Thomas D. White. Before that, he spent more than nine years as commander-in-chief of the Strategic Air Command.

### General Johnson Presents Awards

Lt. Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff For Operations, Department of the Army, visited the U.S. Army Support Command, Viet Nam, during his recent tour and presented Air Medals and Purple Hearts to 14 men.

The ceremony, held on the Nha Trang airfield, honored men of the 17th Avn. Co., 339th Trans. Co., and the 362d Sig. Company.

### Protestant Marines Donate New Organ To CMA Chapel

Da Nang, Marine Task Element (IO) — Normally Christmas is thought of as the season for giving, but the Protestant men of the Marine Task Element have taken this same custom and applied it to the Easter season.

Col. Robert A. Merchant, Commander, Marine Task Element, and Chaplain Lt. Ernest A. Dollar, presented an organ to the Christian Missionary Alliance work here at Eastertide.

The formal presentation was made in the Marine Chapel where Reverend Stebbins, the Mission Director accepted the organ on behalf of the mission.

The organ was purchased in Hong Kong and transported to Da Nang aboard a Marine C-117D aircraft. It will be used in one of the local Vietnamese churches. Funds for the purchase of the organ came from money contributed by the Protestant Marines to the Protestant Chapel Fund.



**MUSICAL OFFERING** — New organ is presented to Vietnamese protestant church at Da Nang where ceremony was attended by (left to right) Chaplain (Lt. Ernest A. Dollar, Col. Robert A. Merchant, Rev. I. Dinh To, Rev. John Fitz Stebbins and Vo Ngoc Ky, (ated) organist. (UIC Photo).



**FIELD TOUR** — Lt. Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Deputy Commander MACV, exchanges courtesies with a Montagnard village chief during his recent tour of the II Corps Tactical Zone. (USAF Photo.)

## Charles A. Wetzel Wins Top USN Civilian Award

HSAS (IO) — Charles A. Wetzel, chief maintenance quartermaster for the HSAS Public Works Department received the U.S. Navy's highest award for distinguished civilian service Apr. 9 during ceremonies held at the Public Works compound.

The Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service award was presented to Wetzel by Capt. M.C. Friedman, HSA Commander, on behalf of Secretary of the Navy Paul Nitze.

The award was in recognition of Wetzel's heroic rescue of a seriously injured U.S. Navy enlisted man last July from the wreckage of a truck tractor after an accident in San Diego, California. He is credited with saving the sailor's life.

Wetzel, then employed at the Naval Air Station in San Diego, conducted rescue operations to remo-

ve the trapped sailor at great personal risk.

Despite the possibility of an explosion from a leaking gasoline tank, he used portable cutting tools for two hours to remove portions of the wreckage, which was in constant danger of collapsing further. The smashed tractor cab had pinned the sailor inside and twisted parts had actually penetrated his body.

Wetzel, who has been with HSAS for four months, has over 21 years of service as a Navy civilian employee.

## R & R SCHEDULE

Date of Departure/Return	Passenger Check-in TSN	Spaces Available
** 21-6 * 28 Apr ** 29 Apr	NO HONG KONG 0500-0530 0530-0600 0600-0630	36
25-3 Apr.	TO BANGKOK 0500-0530	
24-1 Apr.	TO NHA TRANG 0600-0630	

\* Passenger departs at Da Nang. Reporting time Da Nang personnel: 1130 for 1230 departure. \*\* Passenger departs Nha Trang. Reporting time Nha Trang personnel 1030 for 1130 departure.

## "Perry Mason" To Return To VN

Actor Raymond Burr, famous for his weekly television portrayal of criminal lawyer Perry Mason, is scheduled to return to the Far East — this time at the request of the Department of Defense and the U.S. State Department.

Mr. Burr, who paid the Republic of Viet Nam a "unique" two-day visit last January is scheduled to visit here from May 28 through June 15.

### ▲ Dateline

(Continued from page 1) helicopter on April 10, ten miles north of Ca Mau.

The helicopter was transporting the soldiers in support of ground operations in An Xuyen province when the tail boom of the helicopter separated from the main portion of the aircraft.

The seven Vietnamese and two of the Americans were killed instantly. One of the crew members died on the way to the hospital. The co-pilot is presently in the Station Hospital in Saigon. His condition is serious.

The dead are: 1st Lt. Joseph G. Galambos, Sp4 William T. Cavanaugh, and PFC Albert L. Shimek.

An investigation will be conducted to determine the cause of the accident.

### ▲ Silver Star

(Continued from page 1) ground operation against the communist forces.

Captain Strelbel was awarded the Air Medal during the same ceremony for his other outstanding achievements in combat missions over Viet Nam. He has been serving in Viet Nam for over nine months.

## FOOF'S SPOOFS

ONE OF THE MOST RECENTLY DEVELOPED ELECTRONIC COMPUTERS IS SO HUMAN IT BLAMES ITS MISTAKES ON OTHERS.



## Eligibles Versus Quotas: One Chance For 20 Candidates

(Second of a two part article)

Although the following article concerns only Air Force personnel, it is printed here because of its significance to all USAF enlisted personnel in explaining the knotty problem of airmen promotions.

By Air Force regulation, every eligible airman must be given promotion consideration. Eligibility criteria, as set forth in the regulations, includes possessing the appropriate Air Force specialty, meeting minimum time-in-grade requirements, being recommended by the immediate commander and high performance. The weight given each of these factors, as well as other criteria used by individual promotion boards, is left to the discretion of commands and their lower echelons.

When there are more personnel assigned than are authorized, promotion is restricted to EWQ airmen. This category assures that all eligible airmen are given the chance to compete for promotion.

This formula is applied to each of the top six grades for each career field and the results placed on a Promotion Allocation List. The list is sent to each command along with its prorata share of the Air Force promotion quota.

Command quotas are based on the number of eligible airmen assigned. For example, if the Air Force quota to master sergeant is 4,000 and there are 80,000 eligible technical sergeants, only one in 20 or five per cent can be promoted. Thus, if the Strategic Air Command, which has the largest number of personnel, should report that 25,000 of those eligible are assigned to it, then its promotion allocation to master sergeant would be  $25,000 \times .05$  or 1,250.

In the top two enlisted grades, where the promotion quota often is not large enough to permit a breakdown to commands in some career fields, a central board is held at Hq. USAF. Commands nominate candidates for promotion and the board makes the final selections.

## Mail THE OBSERVER

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