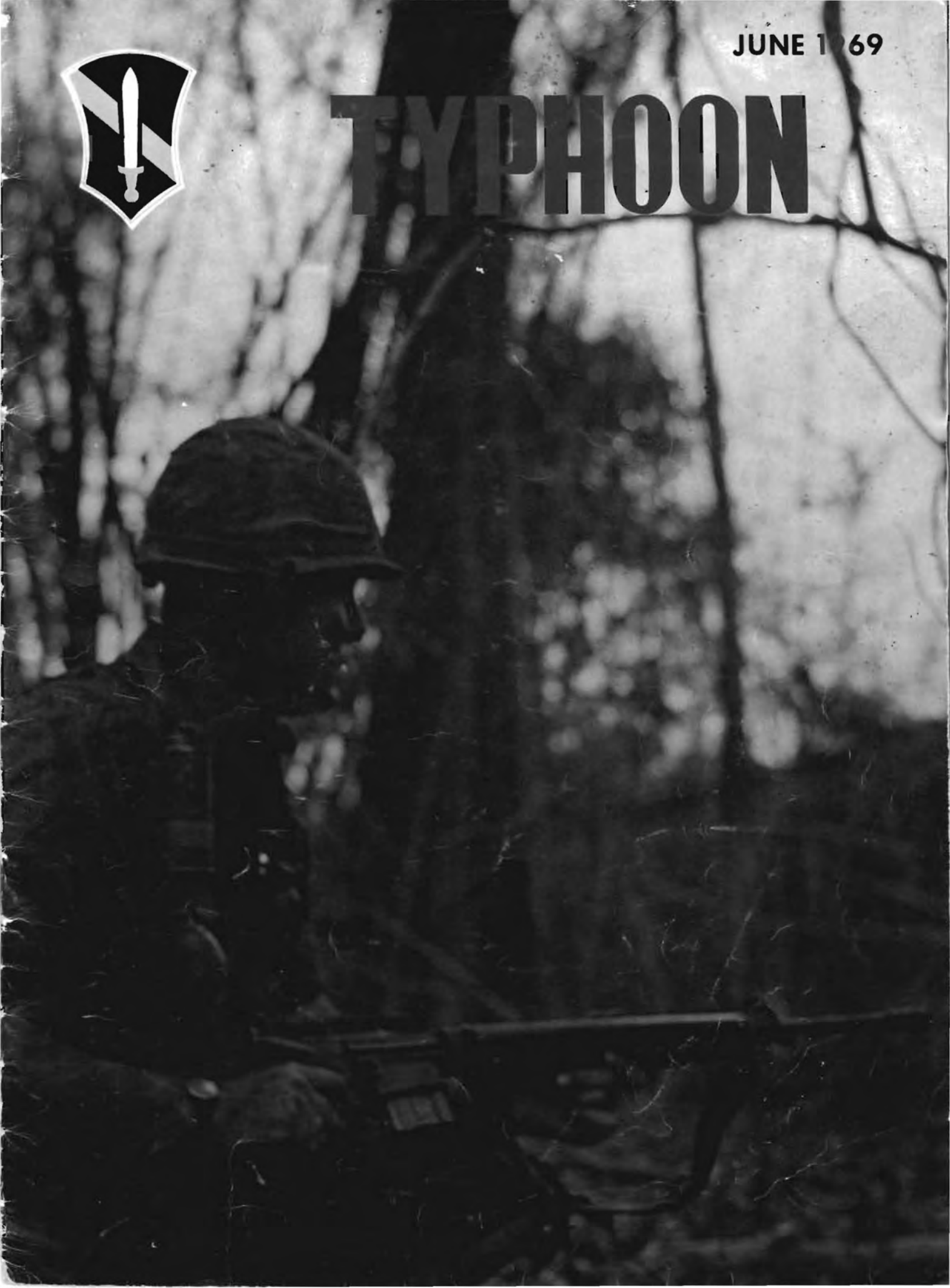

JUNE 1969

TYPHOON

I Field Force Vietnam

TYPHOON

Volume 3, Number 6 June 1969

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ON THE COVER

FRONT: On a patrol in the Central Highlands, an infantryman with the 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry pauses for a rest. Wise to combat, he stays alert, his rifle ready. Photo by Sp4 Clifford Woita, 54th Signal Battalion. BACK: Flares, perimeter lights and red tracers streaming from a Spooky gunship light the sky during a nighttime battle in the highlands. Photo by Sp5 Thomas Lykens, 54th Signal Battalion.

Normandy

The French are now celebrating the 25th Anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944, the Allied invasion that freed Western Europe from Nazi tyranny. People will reminisce about the day; they will recall the steady roar of planes, the naval bombardment, the tens of thousands of troops who swarmed ashore and the happy days that followed success at Normandy.

Some will forego the celebrations for somber recollection of the brave men who died on the beaches. The anniversary will be noted in Vietnam as well, where today the same units that led the invasion forces 25 years ago, the 1st and 4th Infantry Divisions and the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, are again in battle.

Twenty-five years ago men from the western nations—Britons, French, Canadians, Irishmen and Americans—fought the battle that foretold the end of World War II. The stakes were the future of Europe. Success meant a return to peace and freedom; failure, a continuation of war and oppression. The cause was clear. Through common cultures, and, sometimes, common ancestors, we knew the people we were fighting for. Their future seemed tied to our own. The war in Vietnam is not as big, the allies are not as familiar, but the cause is the same: the right of men to be free.

D-Day was the beginning of the end for one of the strongest enemies that free men have ever faced. Others have arisen since. One was stopped in Berlin in 1948, another in Korea in 1953. But the sheer justice of their cause has not always guaranteed victory to free men. They lost in Hungary in 1956, in Tibet in 1959, in Czechoslovakia in 1968, and for a long time they were losing in Vietnam. Men are recurrently asked to defend freedom, even to give their lives for it, and they respond. Even when a powerful threat was met and defeated, however, as it was in World War II, another powerful force—the force of communist tyranny—soon emerged to challenge freedom.

As we think of the men who fight for freedom today and of those who fought and died in France 25 years ago, we might recall Abraham Lincoln's words at Gettysburg:

"It is for us the living, rather, to be here dedicated to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the Earth."

Madison Avenue, Vietnam

It's what you say and how you say it that counts at 8th Psyop Bn

By Sp4 Vaughn Whiting

Handouts must be designed, written, illustrated, printed, and distributed. The first sign of success comes when the people read the literature, as these coastal villagers are reading a handout giving valuable medical information. The final test is how the people respond to the handout.

PHOTO BY SP4 RICHARD LEVINE

PHOTO BY SP4 RICHARD LEVINE

Psyop isn't all Hoi Chanhs and Gabby Spooks. It is also the children of war watching a foreign soldier lay down his M-16 and enjoy being with them. Here Specialist 4 Patrick Marzullo, Chicago, takes time out from his formal duties for the most basic kind of communication.

A hundred miles from the nearest railroad track, the crashing sound of a steam locomotive shakes the jungle night. Whistles shriek. Bells clang. Steam explodes from open valves in a hissing crescendo that makes men cover their ears.

A quiet little valley near the Cambodian border suddenly sounds like the Rock Island Line in the days before diesel engines. But Charlie never sees the train.

The sound comes from loudspeakers aboard a low-flying C-47 on a psychological operations mission with only one object: mess Charlie's mind, mess it so badly that he will shoot at the sound out of pure frustration and give away his position. When that happens, a Spooky gunship, which has been circling just out of sight, glides in with its miniguns ablaze and quiets the valley for the night.

Night after night, these C-47 teams—called Gabby-Spooks—fly over areas where they think large enemy units are camping and broadcast their repertoire of ear-splitting, raucous sounds. Sooner or later, the harassment proves too much for the hungry, sleepy, homesick soldiers below. One of them breaks discipline, rushes into a clearing and takes an angry potshot at Gabby. Then it's all over.

But the job is just beginning for the 8th Psychological Operations Battalion. The 8th Psyop, working under Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS), has several functions. Making the enemy blow his cool is only one of them; the big job is to capitalize on Communist defeats and convince the enemy to throw down his weapons and rally to the Government of Vietnam. Similar to a Madison Avenue advertising agency, the 8th Psyop tries to persuade the enemy to switch rather than fight. The message: "Choose Freedom!"

Armored tracks and soldiers' backs, boats and planes, trucks and helicopters are the delivery media; leaflets, posters, pamphlets, films and loudspeakers bear the message. The enemy's will to fight is the target. In II Corps, the 8th Psyop Battalion and the 9th Special Operations Squadron of the 14th Special Operations Wing, U.S. Air Force, team up to get the message across.

To members of hostile military forces in South Vietnam and to their active supporters among the people, this American unit presents a message with a simple alternative: surrender or be captured, if not killed. Under the Government of Vietnam's Chieu Hoi amnesty program, the message points out, anyone on the enemy's side can rally to the government.

The rewards for the rallier are security for himself and his family and material aid in readjusting his life. Psyop messages emphasize that soldiers can return to their families or relatives. They are urged not to risk their lives fighting their Vietnamese brothers. Both VC and NVA are repeatedly reminded of the hardships and dangers of remaining with their

PHOTO BY SP4 W.L. FISHER

A press run of psyop leaflets is inspected by Private First Class Delmas G. Mauzy, Petersburg, W.Va.

units and of the benefits of turning themselves in.

"The enemy has more potential vulnerabilities than simple lack of adequate cover or concealment," says Lieutenant Colonel William J. Jacobs, Santa Barbara, Calif., commander of the 8th Psyop Battalion. "We try to exploit his hopes and fears and the weaknesses in his thought and motivation."

An extensive intelligence organization helps Colonel Jacobs determine what those weaknesses are and how they can be turned against the enemy. Intelligence specialists compile dossiers, called target profiles, on particular enemy units. The file on a unit contains all the known facts that can be exploited by psyop techniques. Information about the enemy's recent combat losses, epidemics or desertion rates, for example, can be worked into psyop leaflets and broadcasts directed specifically at members of the target unit.

Field teams from the psyop battalion's two provisional companies continually update the intelligence files with timely interrogation reports on Hoi Chanhs (returnees under the Chieu Hoi program). A bandwagon effect has been noted among Hoi Chanhs who decide to rally after reading leaflets bearing a picture of some recent Hoi Chanh and a personal appeal from him to his former comrades. Enemy cadre are known to threaten severe punishment for troops caught reading psyop material, but the appeal of a familiar face often proves hard to resist. Many readers have accepted a returnee's printed statement as proof that he was being well treated. Then, as his associates begin to follow his example and turn themselves in, psyop personnel interview them and use their photographs and statements for another round of leafets. Sometimes, the Hoi Chanh's own voice may be tape recorded for use with loudspeakers.

The psyop battalion also maintains a library of more than 150 tape-recorded messages, each one custom-made for a specific kind of audience in a particular type of situation.

"You have just experienced a barrage of naval gunfire from the U.S.S. New Jersey," says the voice of a native speaker on one such tape. "Lay down your arms and follow your comrades who have already rallied. You never know when the next shell will come."

"We tell them the New Jersey can fire 20 miles. Scare Charlie very much," said ARVN Sergeant Nguyen Anh Tuan, an interpreter attached to the psyop battalion's Company A. New weapons and tactics often have a psychological effect on the enemy when he realizes the overwhelming odds that face him. Shadow gunships, for example, are described in one leaflet as "the evil genie that can see you in the dark." Advanced technology and age-old superstition are thus combined in a powerful psyop message.

Ideas like this one come from many people, but

turning an idea into a complete message, ready for use, is a job for experts working in headquarters of psyop units. Specialists in languages and dialects, draftsmanship, layout, photo engraving and printing are essential to the production of effective psyop materials. Propaganda development centers at both battalion and company-level headquarters can formulate and record or print original psyop messages. The Propaganda Development Center of the 8th Psyop Battalion forms the American contingent of a larger, more comprehensive psyop organization called the Regional Propaganda Coordination Center, which is housed and supported at the battalion headquarters. The center is composed of Vietnamese civilian employees of the U.S. government and soldiers from a Vietnamese political warfare company, the Korean Psyop/Civic Action Company and the U.S. 8th Psyop Battalion.

Recently, the ARVN representative at the center helped sponsor a contest among secondary school children in Nha Trang for original, patriotic poetry. The five poems judged best were printed on leaflets along with a sketch of an attractive young lady or a mother and child. "Some returnees have reported that they and their comrades actually memorized a few of our better poems," said Captain Maurice M. Monihan, St. Paul, Minn., chief U.S. representative at the center.

Delivering the message to the enemy wherever he may be involves psyop personnel in diverse and often dangerous activities. The most effective kind of persuasion requires face-to-face confrontation. Against an armed enemy, however, this is usually too dangerous. Two-man field teams equipped with backpack, 150-watt loudspeakers are often the next best thing available. The 8th Psyop Battalion has 11 such teams. Attached to various U.S. tactical units of I Field Force Vietnam, these men with speakers regularly accompany troops on combat assaults, tunnel and cave explorations and cordon and search operations.

Another kind of field team consists of one officer, two enlisted men and a native interpreter. Province psyop advisors from CORDS direct the teams. The psyop battalion has 10 such teams operating from mobile audio-visual labs mounted on 3/4-ton trucks. These work vans can serve as dark rooms for developing photographs to be used on leaflets. A team's equipment also includes a 250-watt loud-speaker, a tape recorder and motion picture and slide projectors.

Psyop teams frequently accompany Medical Civic Action teams into marginally secure and contested hamlets, using loud-speakers to attract crowds. Taped messages supplied by the Vietnamese Information Service tell what the government is doing for the people and what the people can do in return. Movies and slide shows are presented in the evening. The teams pass out printed materials while the shows are in progress, for they have learned that if they wait, news-hungry villagers will crowd around the van in their eagerness to get the colorful pamphlets and brochures.

In order to reach the more remote areas of II Corps, the psyop battalion relies on the 9th Special Operations Squadron of the Air Force's 14th Special Operations Wing. Everyday, weather permitting, C-47 and O2B aircraft take off from bases in Nha Trang and Pleiku carrying leaflets and loudspeaker broadcasts to the hinterlands. While airborne, the pilots keep in touch via radio with U.S., Korean and Vietnamese ground units in their vicinity. If any unexpected need for immediate psyop support develops, the aircraft can be summoned promptly.

For targets requiring particular tapes or leaflets not already on board the planes in the air, the squadron's C Flight keeps one O2B Bird Dog ready for immediate take-off from Nha Trang Air Base. Minutes after a request, the required message can be on target. Larger, pre-planned leaflet drops, on the other hand, are handled by the C-47s, which can carry three million leaflets on a single sortie. Two sorties per day are also flown by planes from the Vietnamese Air Force.

The battle for men's minds is one of the most important of the war. While Gabby-Spook teams are used tactically to goad the enemy into revealing his position, the strategic mission of psychological operations is much larger and, in the long run, more important. To convert an enemy's loyalty by giving him facts that lies cannot refute is a more sure form of victory than that achieved by force alone. In the battle for men's minds, the most powerful weapon is the truth. ■

PHOTO BY SP4 W.L. FISHER

An ARVN soldier broadcasts a message to the people of a coastal village from a Navy Coastal Patrol Boat. With him are First Lieutenant John D. Meiners, Hermosa, S.D., and Specialist 4 James K. Havelka, Hyattsville, Md.

Major General Lu-Lan

Where the Buck Stops in II Corps

By Sp4 Howard Maniloff

He plays basketball for a half hour or so each night, enjoys reading Greek history and listens to music on a stereo tape deck and 100-watt amplifier. He also commands all Vietnamese military forces in the II Corps Tactical Zone.

Major General Lu Mong Lan does not act as movies have taught us generals do, but he is a general and is deeply respected by both his Vietnamese subordinates and his American advisors. In fact, he impresses his staff so well that one Vietnamese officer, who usually speaks in understatements, remarked, "General Lu-Lan radiates a kind of determination and love of country and faith in the future of the country that constitutes a source of inspiration to staff and subordinates."

High-ranking officers live within an aura of importance, created by their positions, their demeanor and their staffs. No general officer can seem as relaxing as an old friend, but General Lu-Lan comes close. He not only acts as though he enjoys talking with junior enlisted men, he really does.

In this war, the military must care not only for itself, but for civilians as well. Thus, a commander of both fighting forces and pacification workers, General Lu-Lan bears complex responsibilities. The forces he commands in II Corps include all ARVN units, Regional and Popular Forces, Civilian Irregular Defense Groups, Revolutionary Development and Truong Son cadre and Vietnamese Special Forces. In II Corps, he is where the buck stops.

A general is paid to make decisions; a good general makes sure that he has all available information before he decides anything. His staff prepares reports for him, commanders come to brief him and he travels to see things for himself. General Lu-Lan does not want to hear long briefings when he arrives at an outpost. He might confer quickly with his host and then go to the troops as soon as possible to talk with them. The briefings and daily reports tell him how the troops are doing in the field; the chats tell him how their morale is holding up.

"He is interested in the welfare of the troops and their families," an aide explained. "He often just drops by and talks very informally, trying to solve their problems. Just talking to him sometimes solves the problem."

Like most general officers, General Lu-Lan is usually seen by his men only when he is in the field, inspecting troops, presenting awards or meeting with his American or Korean allies. But it is in his office at II Corps headquarters in Pleiku that he prepares for his trips to the field and ponders what he has seen.

The office reflects its occupant's personality: it it modest. The room is large and high-ceilinged, but hardly luxurious. On the walls are maps. The general's desk is in a corner, a conference table to the left, a couch, coffee table, and chairs to the right. General Lu-Lan is likely to ask a visitor to sit on the couch, while he sits facing his guest in a simple chair bearing two red stars on the back. An orderly brings in a tray with coffee and sweet rolls, but the guest who comes to talk about Vietnam and politely waits for the general to start on the coffee will find his host too caught up in the conversation to stop for refreshment.

General Lu-Lan listens quietly, waiting for his guest to explain a point, not just marking time until he can speak again. A conversation with him is not a rapid fire exchange. The general carefully phrases each sentence before speaking. He speaks excellent English and French, but is sometimes at a loss for the one word he is seeking. Then it almost seems as if he is translating his Vietnamese thoughts into French and then into English. In fact, he often uses French syntax, even though he is speaking in English.

When General Lu-Lan talks, he is a photographer's dream. Before answering a difficult question, he lowers his head in thought, eyes seeming to stare at his hands and the paper clip they are fiddling with. When he speaks, he emphasizes his points by gesturing with his hands. Talk of children, books or

PHOTO BY II CTZ INFORMATION OFFICE

In a ceremonial role that brings him genuine satisfaction, General Lu-Lan pins the aspirant's bars on a Montagnard who has completed the officers candidate school at Thu Duc.

PHOTO BY II CTZ INFORMATION OFFICE

A Vietnamese general sees more than a battleground when he goes to the field; he sees and walks the land he loves and has devoted a lifetime to protect.

Here General Lu-Lan talks to men in the Civilian Irregular Defense Group at Dak Pek, the northernmost outpost in II Corps.

his country's independence brings a sparkling light to his eyes. His features are boyish, though few men who have reached his age of 41 in mid-20th-century Vietnam look youthful.

In his office, he fulfills both the ceremonial and executive roles of a commanding general. He greets visiting dignitaries, decorates valorous soldiers and confers with his staff. The general spends much of his time poring over piles of reports and documents.

"I have worked with many high-ranking officers," an aide said, "but he does the most paperwork of any officer I've ever seen. He reads it all. Some officers just look at brief points. He pays great attention to details."

Staff officers and enlisted aides are aware of the mystique surrounding general officers. They do not wait for their commander to express a preference; they try to anticipate his wishes and comply with them before they are expressed. Thus, a general officer can speak softly and still be effective, like Lu-Lan.

He is aware that, because his army is comparatively young, he must teach as well as command. Rather than depend on his formal authority, he uses persuasion in dealing with subordinates. They know not only what to do, but why they are doing it.

General Lu-Lan's genuine humility suggests a man who has risen from poverty to great success and has never forgotten his background. But he comes from a well-to-do family: his father owned and developed land in Quang Tri Province and had built up a herd of 70 water buffalo when the Viet Minh took his land in 1946. The general's humility seems more a product of his Buddhist religion and trained graciousness than of undistinguished origins.

The patriotism that subordinates quickly detect in General Lu-Lan has only been strengthened by the trials it has endured. General Lu-Lan has seen his country ruled by the Japanese and French and terrorized by Communists, but he has kept his vision of a truly independent country. He still recalls his first consciousness of the need for independence:

"I remember that it was in high school, while sharing my class with French students, that I recognized that my country was not independent. We all followed what was happening in the war, but we thought that if the Allies won, we would be closer to independence. Many of the youngsters and schoolboys my own age thought we would realize the dream of an independent country, ruling itself, with its own anthem. Each of us thinking and inventing his own flag, composing his own anthem, all of us thinking we would fight if need be."

Like many other Vietnamese students, General Lu-Lan joined the Viet Minh in 1945 to fight for his country's independence. The British replaced the defeated Japanese and allowed the French to return and start reoccupying the country. Resistance seemed to be the only way to defeat colonialism. General Lu-Lan, however, soon became disillusioned with the Viet Minh. "They said they were working for the total liberation of the country. They said they were a front for all nationalists," he recalled.

PHOTOS BY SP4 CALVIN CULP

"I remember that it was in high school that I recognized my country was not independent."

But soon, the Viet Minh began eliminating all non-Communist nationalists.

"At that time," General Lu-Lan said, "I reasoned that I could not become a Communist. The religion of Vietnam, the customs, the culture, the way of life, could not get along with communism."

"I analyzed my future," he continued. "My country had two enemies: communism and colonialism. The most dangerous was the Communists. I saw how they had eliminated the other parties. I thought it would be easier to fight communism first."

General Lu-Lan eventually joined the French Nationalist Army. He entered the Vietnamese Military Academy at Dalat in 1950, and graduated a year later as a second lieutenant. When the Geneva Accords were signed in 1954, he was a captain. Working with other Vietnamese officers, he set about building an army. There were many problems, but the biggest was of neither supplies nor men:

"We did not have a doctrine for our army," General Lu-Lan recalled. "We were undecided between the Viet Minh and the French Expeditionary Corps over what kind of Army to build. On one side, what the Communists call the people's army, indoctrinated and motivated. They will fight a tank with a rifle; they don't care about uniforms."

But the South Vietnamese, trained by the French and forced to work quickly, patterned their army after Western models. Western military traditions, however, were not sufficient to deal with guerrillas and terrorists. "We had learned just the discipline, the duty of a citizen to his country in normal times, but not during a revolution," said General Lu-Lan.

The officers worked hard to build the army during the few years of peace that followed the Geneva Accords. Then, in the late 1950s, the Communists returned, this time in the form of the Viet Cong. War began again. Meanwhile, General Lu-Lan, who had started as a company commander in 1951, was moving up in the military hierarchy. After serving in battalion and staff positions, he attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. He returned to Vietnam in 1958 to become deputy chief of staff and, later, operations officer for the Joint General Staff. Since 1962, he has commanded, in turn, the 23d, 25th and 10th Divisions. He assumed command of the II Corps Tactical Zone, which includes the 22d Divisions and the 24th Special Tactical Zone, in February, 1968.

For more than a year, General Lu-Lan has commanded, consulted and counseled. Waging war in a war-weary country, he has studied psychology as well as tactics:

"We had 1,000 years under Chinese domination. During these 1,000 years, how many times did we rise up and realize victory? Each time the whole country recognized the national goal.

"From the history of Vietnam, we can learn the importance of motivating the populace, but many of us have neglected that. Our enemy in the North has worked more strongly on opinion, not only in the country, but in the world. That is where we have been weakest."

But that is where General Lu-Lan is very good. ■

"How many times did we realize victory? Each time the whole country recognized the national goal."

Water! Slicks carry cans to a parched LZ, where soldiers pick them up and hustle back to cover.

PHOTO BY SP4 TOM BAKER

Ganging Up

By Sp4 Gerhard S. Bartmann

From afar, they looked like ants shinnying down a thin thread dangling from a bird's belly. In fact, the silhouettes were a squad of air cavalrymen from the 7th Armored Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry rappelling from choppers onto a hilltop late in the afternoon.

They were the vanguard of a two-day reconnaissance-in-force operation in the highlands 40 miles south of Pleiku. The operation, which included an artillery platoon and an infantry company from the 4th Infantry Division, was placed under the operational control of the 7/17th commander, Lieutenant Colonel Calvin R. Bean, Muskegon, Mich.

He explained that the squadron was the principal element, "because of the large area that must be covered, and the fact that we have the men and means to conduct this mission."

Proficient through practice, the squad rappelled quickly onto the tree-covered hilltop. The faces of the men tensed as their eyes cautiously searched the surrounding terrain for signs of the enemy. After a brief orientation with the squad leader, called Little John, the men set to work clearing a landing zone for the troopers who would come later.

VC and NVA forces were using the surrounding hillsides as a staging and resting area. The 7/17th was sent to locate the enemy, destroy supplies and camping areas and gather intelligence.

The hot mid-afternoon sun drenched the fast-working team in sweat, changing the color of their fatigue jackets from olive to black-green. Occasionally a branch snapped loudly and unexpectedly, causing the men to freeze momentarily, and then grab for their M-16s.

Within an hour, the ruddy, sun-burned faces of the squad had relaxed. The radio telephone operator called the rest of the troops in the rear staging area to say the LZ was ready. It was already late in the afternoon, but the operation had to begin. Colonel Bean gave the order to move out. Equipped with several canteens of water, light field gear, food, ammo, and weapons, the men of Alpha and Delta troops piled into the choppers and deployed to the landing zone.

Two Cobras and two Light Observation Helicopters (called Loaches) kept constant surveillance over the troop movement into the landing zone, drowning out the initial noise of cracking twigs and branches as the men started patrolling. One troop headed south;

PHOTO BY SP4 GERHARD S. BARTMANN

A tracker patrol rests cautiously while its retriever sniffs for the enemy. Below: a Blue barrels through the forest toward a firefight.

With Blues, Cobras and Loaches, the 7/17th Cavalry hunts the enemy

the other moved east down the slopes from the LZ. The noise of the choppers died away as the ships returned to base camp.

Nightfall came soon, forcing Alpha Troop to find a suitable night location quickly. Pausing a couple hundred yards from the crest of the hill, the troop rested on one of the slopes in the darkening forest. Deciding it was too dark to proceed further, they set up defensive positions, ate their Cs and began bedding down. Sitting in small groups, the dust-covered infantrymen talked quietly about the mission, terrain and weather. Voices floated in whispers among the men until the last traces of light slipped behind the hills and the myriad sounds of lizards, insects and birds filled the night. Each man settled into position. Except for the shifting of guard duty, the Blues—the infantrymen—slept peacefully.

As the sun rose, Alpha Troop shrugged off the initial chill of morning and headed down the slope and through the underbrush in search of enemy locations. Initial reports alleged that the enemy had evacuated the area a day or two before. Still, each man inched along cautiously, trying to minimize noise. The lead man, trained in long-range patrolling, walked in a crouch, eyes shifting constantly to study

PHOTO BY SP4 CLIFFORD WOITA

He hacks an LZ out of the jungle--gathers vital resupply from a chopper--patrols a steaming hillside. Then at twilight, the tired air cavalryman broils a chicken for dinner.

With Cobras, Loaches and Slicks filled with infantry Blues, the 7/17th finds the enemy and fights him with professional aplomb.

PHOTOS BY SP4 CLIFFORD WOITA

each tree and bush. Within an hour the point man called for a halt as he spotted the first sign of an enemy camp: a wad of dirty rags.

He took a squad forward to investigate and found the enemy camp 100 feet away. It seemed to be a platoon-size camp, apparently abandoned. Squads fanned out immediately for security. Two well-concealed, hastily-built shelters and several underground bunkers pockmarked the forested slope over a 100-yard radius. Tension eased as it became clear that the enemy had evacuated, leaving canteens, cooking utensils, food and documents.

One squad located a pen of clucking chickens, but visions of roast chicken dinner faded as the troop commander ordered his men to move out. Before leaving they destroyed the shelters and bunkers and gathered documents to take back for intelligence analysis. Throughout the morning, they marched through the brush and forest along VC trails. Late in the afternoon they were lifted out of the landing zone to begin reconnaissance somewhere else.

For the Blues, this mission differed from many others only in location. Working in the same area of operations as the 4th Infantry Division, the 7/17th provides reconnaissance and security to all elements there. Another element supports Task Force South nearly 200 miles to the southeast. Yet another element fights for the 173rd Airborne Brigade along the northern coast of II Corps.

Besides infantrymen, the 7/17th boasts two other backbones: the Cobras and Loaches. On a wall outside the squadron's offices hangs a plaque which indicates the feeling the pilots of Slicks, Cobras and Loaches have for their part of the mission:

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh, I have slipped the surly bounds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings.
Sunward I've climbed and joined the tumbling mirth,
The sun-split clouds, and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of; wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,
I've chased the shouting wind along,
And flung my eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, Up, delirious along burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew.
And while with silent lifting mind, I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.
--John Gillespie McGee Jr.

Because of its versatility, the 7/17th is often called on to perform operations that have stymied others. "It seems that whenever a unit we support wants something done in a hurry," said a soldier from Delta Troop, "they give it to us." The unit was called on recently to search an area in the highlands west of Kontum. An American patrol had been ambushed there and no subsequent reconnaissance of the area had been possible. Other units had tried but had been driven back by enemy concentrations.

The mission began early in the morning with the men, the pilots and the choppers standing by at Camp Enari helipads, waiting for the weather to clear in Kontum. The Blues, carrying light field gear, sat around the choppers waiting for the word to move out. "It's the boring wait before a mission that really

Darting through the treetops, a Loach spots an enemy bunker. Then it zips away to lead in the Blues.

PHOTO BY SP4 TOM BAKER

wears us out," said a squad leader as he sat in the shade of his chopper. "When we're out there, we really don't have much time to think about being tired." The Slick pilots talked with their crew chiefs and door gunners while the Cobra and Loach pilots checked last minute details.

An hour before noon the Slicks flew Alpha and Delta Troops to a landing pad outside Kontum. There, in a short briefing, the operation commander said: "There are no friendlies out there. If something moves, get it."

Delta Troop remained behind as a reaction force, while Alpha Troop went out to scout the site for equipment and traces of the enemy. As the first troop-carrying Slicks arrived at the landing zone in the middle of a field of elephant grass 10-feet high, the Loaches and the Cobras continued their constant surveillance of the area. The Cobras circled widely, several hundred feet above the jungle, while the Loaches hovered like insects, darting here and there a few feet above the treetops.

As the infantry patrol gathered in a clearing, the Loaches' responsibilities increased. They are primarily reconnaissance aircraft, usually carrying one or two observers plus the pilot. Initially they were to scout the entire path the infantry was to take that afternoon, attempting to draw fire if the enemy was still hiding in the area. They did this before the Blues landed. Now the Loaches began the second part of their mission—guiding the infantrymen along the safest, most accessible route to their destination. Capable of flying along the contours of the land, seeming to barely avoid crashing, the Loaches have developed a remarkable record for reconnaissance. "Once," recalls Colonel Bean, "I was with one of my company commanders in the field when a Loach observer reported spotting a Chinese grenade on the ground near an abandoned hut. Within 45 minutes we came to the reported site, and sure enough, we picked up the Chi-Com grenade. If they can spot things that small, they're uptight. It's a pretty effective way to fight a war."

"We have three main elements in conducting our mission," said Colonel Bean. "The Blues, the Loaches and the Cobras. Without any one of them we couldn't accomplish our mission. Each depends on the other."

As the patrol moved along a wide path that reportedly was a major VC infiltration route, the two Cobras circling high overhead opened up with a barrage of rocket and heavy weapons fire on an area about 300 yards away.

"That's to make sure nobody'll be waiting for us where the patrol got hit last time," said the veteran platoon sergeant acting as point man. "Those Cobras can spray an area the size of a football field and leave nothing alive." "If our Blues or our scouts run into trouble, we rely heavily on our gunships," said Colonel Bean. "In fact, the enemy is more reluctant to fire on our scouts because of the Cobras. If he does fire at the Loaches and the pilot or observers drop a flare, the Cobras could wipe out any number of the enemy. He knows this. And he knows that if he cuts loose on us, he's going to get those Cobras right down his teeth."

The patrol continued late into the afternoon. The Loaches kept circling and weaving ahead of the column of moving soldiers. As the infantrymen neared the ambush site, the Cobras moved closer to the ground, prepared to fire. On a steep-sloped hill, covered with heavy underbrush, the patrol halted. A member of the unit that was ambushed here identified the spot. A thorough search turned up numerous empty magazines, empty cartridges, a burned field pack and a steel helmet. Nothing else. The patrol returned home.

Twice before other units had attempted to penetrate the area but had failed each time. "Even though we didn't find anything significant, we consider the mission a success," said Major James McCraken, the executive officer of the 7/17th. "No one else had been able to go into that region, and reach the ambush site. The 7/17th went in there and proved it could be done." ■

PHOTO BY SP4 CALVIN CULP

Tracing our brothers' tracks,

We search for something we fear is there.

Is it? We don't know. We never do until...

Tracing our brothers' tracks,

We leave our own for those who follow.

PHOTOS BY SP5 THOMAS LYKENS

When a Montagnard Dies

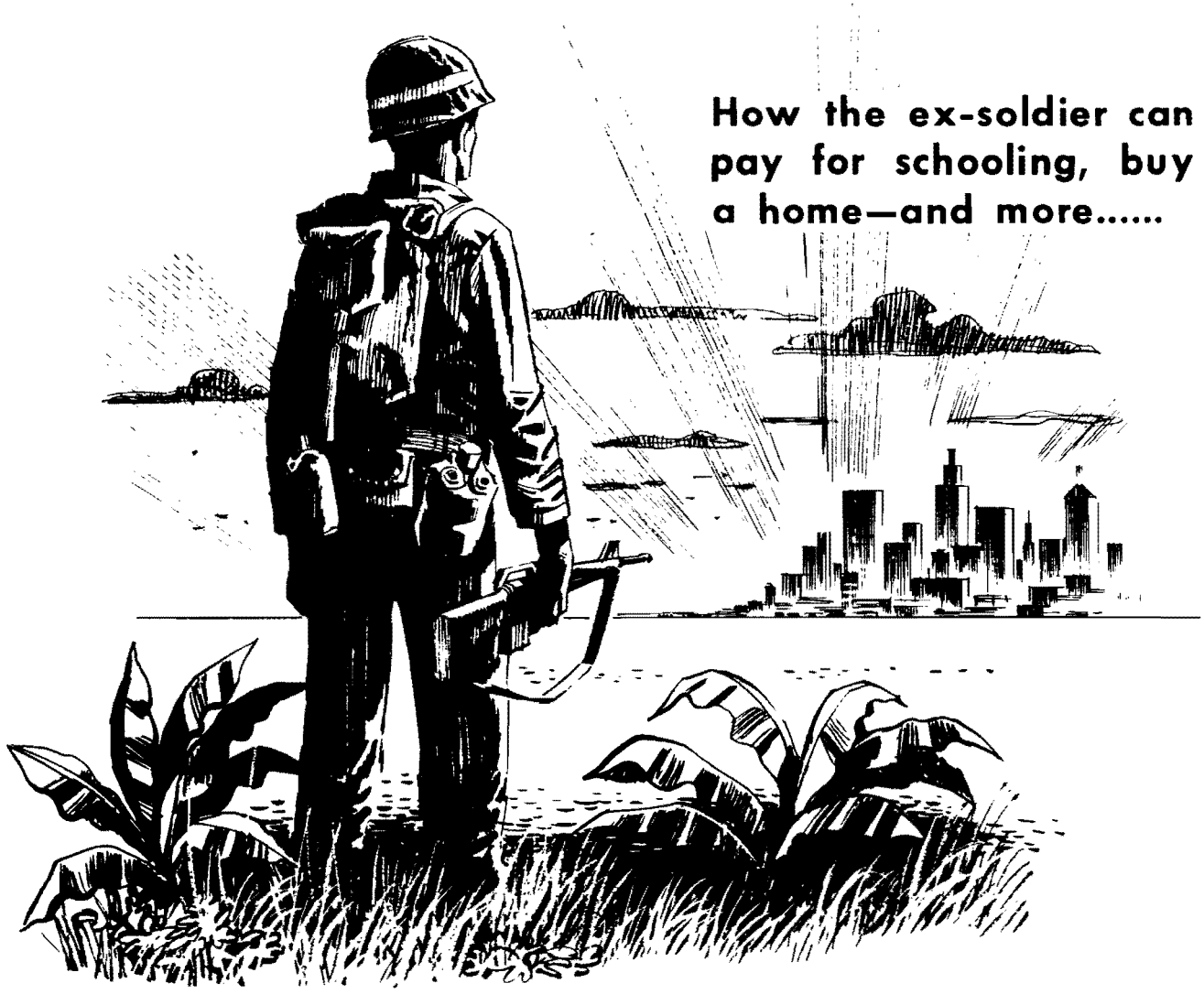
People die, and their survivors mourn. Most pray that a father or brother or daughter will reach heaven, and they discuss what a fine person the deceased was. Montagnards are different. They respect the deceased, but their prayers are directed more to the welfare of the living than of the dead.

The Jarai tribesmen, who built the tomb shown on these pages, are practical people. Their main concern about a dead man is not whether he will enjoy heaven or any other such place, but whether he will return to haunt his family and friends. Jarai might mourn a death for months or even years. Richer families mourn longer than poor families; widowers longer than widows. The length of the Jarai mourning period might be related to the need to return to the fields for planting and caring for crops.

The survivors build tombs not only out of concern for the dead, but for their own welfare as well. While mourning and building, the Montagnards are trying to appease the spirits who decided that it was time for the deceased to leave Earth for another world. Thus, the Jarai sacrifice animals and place the skulls at the tomb in hopes that the spirits will be pleased and will look elsewhere when they need immigrants to their world. Richer families try to sacrifice a water buffalo; the poor must be satisfied with a goat or chicken.

The Jarai tomb is usually wall-less, the peaked roof supported by poles. For centuries the Jarai built thatched roofs for their tombs. The Americans came and brought with them corrugated tin, a more durable roofing material. In many of the villages, row upon row of tin roofs gleam in the sun, but over the isolated tombs in Pleiku and Kontum Provinces, the dust of the Central Highlands settles into a red blanket covering the roof. A square fence, about 10 or 15 feet long on each side, surrounds the tomb. The thin, yard-high logs that make up the fence are separated every few feet by a larger log that bears a carved design. In these pictures, taken in Kontum Province, the carvings are simple designs—the sort you might see on Montagnard bracelets for sale throughout Vietnam. On many of the older graves, the Montagnards have carved figures representing the deceased. The four comic figures at the corners are a tradition of Jarai graves: each one carved from a single log, they sit with elbows on knees, their expressions sometimes happy, sometimes quizzical.

The quizzical expression might indicate that the problem of death has troubled Montagnards just as it has other men. Carvings, tombs, and sacrifices are ways that Montagnards have found to cope with death.



How the ex-soldier can pay for schooling, buy a home—and more.....

Good Things Waiting in the World

By Sp5 David Hall

Sergeant Williamson settled into a seat on the bus headed from Ft. Lewis, Wash., to the Seattle airport. For perhaps the tenth time he reached into a bulging manila envelope for another look at his separation papers. He grinned. He felt good. After two years in the Army—one as a rifle-squad leader in Vietnam—Mister Williamson was going home. In two weeks he was getting married; in the fall he was going back to school.

Thousands of veterans go home each month to interests postponed because of military service. They return to school, get married, buy homes, start businesses, resume careers. It is a happy time and can be even happier for those taking advantage of benefits provided under GI bills. The veteran who asks, "What's in it for me?" will be delighted when he finds out.

The biggest help, for most, will be cash. The government makes direct payments for schooling and guarantees loans for buying real estate. Hospitalization and dental care, disability compensation, special insurance programs, civil service job preference and, in some states, veterans' bonuses are also among the benefits.

Cash for School and Job Training

Monthly checks from the government go a long way toward paying for an education. The money finances work at junior colleges, teachers' colleges and four-year colleges and universities. Veterans are paid for vocational and business schools, commercial flight-training programs and correspondence schools. Payments supplement salaries for veterans taking apprenticeship, on-the-job and farm training programs.

Payments vary according to whether the veteran is studying full or part time and whether he has dependents. In Sergeant Williamson's case, he plans to re-enter his state university as a full-time student to study engineering. Because he will be married, his monthly check will be $155, the rate for a full-time student with one dependent.

Cash for School and Job Training

MONTHLY PAYMENTS

Type of Program	No Dependents	One Dependent	Two Dependents	Each Additional Dependent
Schooling				
Full time	$130	$155	$175	$10
3/4 time	95	115	135	7
½ time	60	75	85	5
Less than ½ time or while on active duty	Payment either of tuition and fees or as the appropriate percentage of $130, whichever is less.			
Correspondence	Cost only, paid quarterly.			
Flight Training	Entitlements reduced by one month for each $130 paid.			
Farm Training				
Full-time	$105	$125	$145	$7
3/4 time	75	90	105	5
½ time	50	60	70	3
Apprentice & OJT				
First 6 months	$80	$90	$100	Same as
Second 6 months	60	70	80	for two
Third 6 months	40	50	60	dependents
Fourth and succeeding 6-month periods	20	30	40	

A veteran who decides to follow apprentice, on-the-job or farm training will receive a monthly check to supplement his salary. The government payments decrease at six-month intervals as his regular salary increases and he works toward becoming fully qualified in his field.

GI bills give special attention to the ex-soldier who needs either to finish high school or take refresher courses to qualify for college. He can receive assistance payments for as long as necessary for these courses without diminishing his entitlements for college or vocational training.

The veteran earns one and one-half months of financial assistance, up to a maximum of 36 months, for every month or fraction of a month spent on active duty. A soldier is entitled to the full 36-month benefit if he has served at least 18 months on active duty and has completed his active military obligation. And some older soldiers, who come under legislation from the Korean War era, may be entitled to assistance for up to 48 months. Any payments already received, however, will be deducted.

Eligible veterans are those who, after Jan. 31, 1955, have served at least 181 consecutive days on active duty or were released for a service-connected disability. A man with a dishonorable discharge forfeits all benefits.

The ex-serviceman must complete his study or training within eight years after his release from active duty. Payments stop then. Soldiers can receive the benefits while still on active duty if they have served for more than two years.

The money for education and training awaits the veteran. Whether to enroll in college, vocational training or apprenticeship training is his choice. The only requirements are that the veteran be accepted for a school or training program and that the school or program be approved by the Veterans Administration. An application form supplied by the VA, must be submitted. The veteran will be told whether his proposed education or training is approved. Approved courses can also be checked by inquiring at state departments of education and state and Federal labor offices.

Veterans Get Cheaper Loans

Besides getting a good education, another major goal of American families is property ownership—their own home, farm or business. Achieving these goals may be a little easier for a veteran, because the Government of the United States puts its credit behind loans to GIs.

GI loans are not loans from the Federal government. Private lenders—such as banks and savings and loan associations—lend the money, so the borrower has to shop for credit in the private market. But the government does guarantee a portion of the loan, thus enabling the veteran to get a lower rate of interest than others pay. The current interest rate on VA-guaranteed loans is 7½ per cent a year, compared with 8 or 9 per cent for conventional loans.

Veterans can borrow money to build new homes and buy existing houses. Money can be borrowed to alter, repair or improve a home. The veteran can borrow money to buy a farm, along with supplies and equipment, and to obtain money to start operating his farm.

The VA guarantees payment of either $12,500 or 60 per cent of the loan principal, whichever is less. Thus, if a veteran borrowed $20,000 for a home, $12,000 of that loan would be guaranteed. A $25,000 loan would be guaranteed for $12,500. Even though the guaranty is not for the full amount, the interest on the entire loan is still 7½ per cent. If the veteran

"The cash for school, the guaranteed loans, the medical care—these are a Veteran's rights."

should default on the loan his home can be repossessed and the government is liable for the guaranteed amount. Any money the government has to pay then becomes a debt the veteran owes the government.

Each qualified veteran can wait at least 10 years to apply for a loan after leaving active duty. He is eligible an additional year for each 90 days of active duty, up to a maximum of 20 years. The eligibility requirements are the same as for educational assistance. Sergeant Williamson, who served his full two years, or 730 days, is eligible for a GI loan for 18 years from the day he left the Army at Ft. Lewis.

Before visiting a lender, the veteran should apply to the nearest VA office for a certificate of eligibility, which tells the lender the veteran is qualified for a VA-insured loan. After a lender is found, application must be made to VA for a loan guaranty. Most banks and savings and loan associations have the forms, and will help the veteran make application. When obtaining a loan, the borrower must also pay the VA a fee of one-half of one per cent—$100 on a $20,000 loan. Frequently this fee may be included in the loan and paid to VA by the lender. Maturity on the GI loans can be up to 30 years for home loans, 40 years for farm loans and 10 years for non-real estate loans (such as loans for farm equipment).

Normally a veteran can obtain only one GI loan. He may apply to VA for restoration of his privilege, however, if he moves because of his job, his home is taken through eminent domain, his home is destroyed by a disaster, or some other unforseen circumstance causes him to require another loan. The VA judges each application individually.

What about the veteran who wants to open his own small business? He may qualify for a loan from the Small Business Administration. Such loans run as high as $350,000. The VA does not make business loans, but the SBA is giving priority consideration to loan applications from veterans.

Extra Benefits for the Disabled

For the veteran who becomes either partially or totally disabled during active duty, the range of benefits includes monthly income, assured free hospital care for his disability and vocational rehabilitation. Disability payments run from $23 a month for a 10 per cent disability to $400 a month for a 100 per cent disability. VA determines disability and makes the payments. All the entitlements of a totally disabled veteran—such as eligibility for loans and educational payments—are available to his wife. Should he die, entitlements are available to his children under the provisions of the War Ophans Act.

Vietnam veterans who become either permanently or totally disabled for reasons not service-connected may be eligible for a VA pension. Payments range from $29 to $230 a month. No pension will be paid to those with sizable estates or outside income.

If a veteran has a VA-determined disability of 30 per cent or more, he is entitiled to vocational rehabilitation in a profession of his choice. The VA will pay all tuition and charges plus a monthly subsistence allowance.

The VA guarantees free medical care to a disabled veteran who needs treatment for illness resulting from the disability. For a veteran who is disabled but needs treatment for an ailment not connected with a disability, free medical care is given on a bed-available basis. The veteran who certifies he cannot pay for private hospitalization will be admitted if beds are available.

Any veteran can receive post-service dental care once. If he applies at a VA outpatient clinic within six months of his discharge the necessary work will be done with no reference to medical records. If the veteran applies after six months, the clinic will review his records and will do only the work that he needed when he was discharged.

Serviceman's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) policies can be converted to regular commercial policies without a medical examination within 120 days of separation. The low rates provided the serviceman will not apply, but the conversion privilege is advantageous for any veteran who, because of medical problems, might not be able to obtain a commercial policy at standard rates. Upon separation, the veteran is provided with a list of companies in his home area that will convert his insurance.

Disabled veterans are also entitled to take out a National Service Life Insurance Policy through the

VA. The insurance is for $10,000, and is available in a range of types from term to ordinary life. This also makes insurance available at a reasonable cost to persons who either could not qualify for life insurance or who would have to pay expensive rates. Application must be made within one year from the date VA notifies the veteran of his disability status.

Help for Job Seekers

Many veterans will be returning to work; others will be seeking their first job. At VA regional offices in every state there are U.S. Veterans Assistance Centers to help ex-servicemen find jobs both inside and outside of government. Competitive examinations are used to select civil service employees, but veterans are given preference. Five points are automatically added to the scores of veterans who take the examinations, and when a veteran and a non-veteran are equally qualified, the veteran gets the job.

A veteran who was forced to leave his job to enter military service is usually guaranteed his job back with full seniority rights—if he took a formal leave of absence or worked until a reasonable time before entering the military. If the job he left is not available, he will be given an equivalent position. He must make application to his employer within 120 days of separation from the service. The states enforce these laws.

Unemployment compensation is payable to veterans who are unsuccessfully trying to find work. The amounts vary with each state, but in all cases benefits are payable for up to 26 weeks. The veteran must be ready, willing and able to work. He registers with his state employment office, which will try to place him in a job commensurate with his skills. A draftsman, for instance, would not have to take a menial job.

Six states have passed veterans' bonus laws since the Vietnam war began. Several others have bills pending. Connecticut pays $10 for each month of active service up to a maximum of $300. Delaware pays $15 a month for stateside service to a maximum of $225, and $20 a month for foreign service to a maximum of $300. Illinois pays $100 to any resident who was on active duty. Louisiana will pay $250 to a veteran, but the payments will not be made until the official end of Vietnam hostilities. Massachusetts pays $300 to any veteran who served in Vietnam, and $200 to all others. Pennsylvania pays $25 for each month spent in Vietnam up to a maximum of $750. Bonus payments are tax free. Each state has different payment procedures and different starting dates for eligibility. The veteran should check with the nearest office of his secretary of state to determine how to obtain payment.

The Key to the Future

Military service—especially wartime service—is a sacrifice for most people. But GI bills since World War II have sought to compensate for some of this sacrifice. The cash for school, the guaranteed loans, the medical care, the employment assistance—these are a veteran's rights.

Before Sergeant Williamson stepped up the ramp of that big jet headed home, the VA gave him a blue folder stuffed with pamphlets, brochures and application blanks. During that long ride home he read, thought and planned. His GI benefits, Sergeant Williamson found, meshed nicely with his goals for himself and his fiancee. He was ready to start working for these goals. ■

Fighting an elusive enemy, 3/506th uses dispersion and mobility. Their leader is...

BLACKHAWK

"This is Blackhawk!" From his command-and-control helicopter, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel C. Alves spends much of his day directing ground troops in battle

Story and Photos By Sp4 Vaughn Whiting

"One of the Seahorse aircraft has been shot down," said the swarthy, hawk-nosed commander, pulling his web gear on. Grabbing his steel pot, he hurried out of the command post. On the helipad before him, the pilot and crew of his personal command-and-control ship hastily readied the craft for take-off. Lieutenant Colonel Manuel C. Alves, commander of the 3d Battalion of the 506th Infantry (101st Airborne Division) climbed aboard the waiting helicopter, and the ship lifted off the ground. Moments later, Colonel Alves made radio contact with one of two helicopter gunships circling above the spot where the disabled observation plane had crashed.

"Sting-ray Lead, this is Blackhawk," said the colonel, using a nickname given to him by a former commander. "Understand you report negative signs of life near the Seahorse. Break. Our door gunner just spotted some Charlies moving up along the stream bed to your nine o'clock. DO NOT let them get to that aircraft!"

"Blackhawk, Sting-ray Lead. Roger that," replied the gunship pilot as the metal dragon-fly banked sharply to the left and leveled off just above the treetops. Rockets streaked from the gunship's exterior pods and burst violently on the ground. Miniguns spewed streams of lead at the enemy. The threat momentarily checked, the colonel turned his attention to the problem of securing the plane wreckage with a ground force.

Colonel Alves' tactical area of responsibility in Binh Thuan province of central South Vietnam comprises a territory that would normally be considered large enough for a brigade. To accomplish his task of seeking out and destroying elusive, widely scattered enemy forces, he relies heavily on dispersion and mobility of his own troops. As the situation demands, the colonel divides companies, platoons and teams into smaller provisional elements and sends them on independent operations. This obliges him to spend several hours in his helicopter every day

directing and supporting the activities of soldiers temporarily detached from their normal chain of command.

Thus, the motto of the former 506th Parachute Regiment, "Curr Ahee"—an American Indian phrase meaning "We stand alone"—acquires renewed significance in the context of the Vietnam war. And matching the enemy's small-scale, independent methods means plenty of action for the commander known as Blackhawk and the men of the 3d Battalion of the 506th Infantry.

While the two gunships continued to strafe the positions of the hostile troops trying to approach the wrecked Seahorse, Colonel Alves called back to the battalion's tactical operations center at Landing Zone Betty, west of Phan Thiet. "Where's our reaction force?" he demanded.

"Three Slicks have been diverted from other missions and are refueling now, sir," responded the voice from the TOC. "The troops are standing by to board as soon as the choppers are ready." To the concerned commander, peering out of the open door of his Charlie-Charlie ship, it was apparent that the reaction force could not possibly reach the scene soon enough to stop the enemy from getting to the downed plane first. "Put me on the ground, Mr. Morrison," he barked over the intercom to the helicopter pilot. "I've got to make sure whether anyone's still alive in that aircraft."

Whirling around in his seat, Warrant Officer Greg A. Morrison, Freeborn, Minn., looked back to see whether he had heard correctly. He saw the battalion operations officer, Major Malcolm A. Danner, Johnson City, Tenn., leaning forward to plead for moderation: "You're doing all you can, sir. Don't let them get to you." The colonel looked at the major, then again at the situation developing on the ground. It appeared he would be more effective in the air. "Let's go where the door gunner can kill some VC. He's been spotting them all over the place," the commander said.

In the compartment directly behind Blackhawk, Specialist 4 Michael Smith, San Antonio, Tex., swung his M-60 machine gun into position and yanked back on the operating rod. At the same time, Major Danner reached automatically for his commander's M-79 grenade launcher with one hand and with the other pulled a round from a wooden case beneath his seat. As the ship's co-pilot, Warrant Officer Peter C. Wendt, IV, Boonton, N.J., rolled the craft into a steep downward arc to the left, a hail of machine gun fire and fragments from exploding grenades fell on the enemy positions below. The enemy scurried for cover in the underbrush or ducked into burrows dug into the steep banks of the dry gulch.

When there were no more targets in sight, Colonel Alves spoke again: "Let's go back upstairs and take another look around." Everyone aboard scanned the ground intently for signs of the Viet Cong. The helicopter climbed in a wide spiral.

Just as a platoon of tanks from the 1st Battalion of the 69th Armor came into view, the lead tank commander radioed his position and requested instructions from Colonel Alves. "Move to the dry stream bed to your Lima," he said. "Put one tank in the bed, the rest on either side and follow it to the November. You'll find a lot of bad guys in there. Out."

Continual contact with his fighting men is a trademark of Blackhawk (Lieutenant Colonel Manuel C. Alves). Here he pins sergeant chevrons on an infantryman in a promotion ceremony in the field.

The tanks lurched forward, gray dust rising behind them. The battalion commander turned his attention to the approaching reaction force. Major Danner, who had been monitoring another radio frequency, pointed out the troop-laden choppers sweeping in below from the southeast. Circular clouds of dust ringed the helicopters as they landed near the wreckage. Soldiers jumped out and quickly disappeared into the brush.

Sitting next to Blackhawk in the circling command ship, Captain John N. Stavropoulos, Peabody, Mass., spoke into his portable radio-telephone. Inaudible to others in the helicopter, the artillery liaison officer talked to the fire support coordination center at LZ

The command-and-control helicopter of the 3/506th waits to medevac an injured soldier.

Betty. Then the captain reported through the intercom, "Redleg in the tube, sir." Colonel Alves looked up and waited for a moment. He fixed his eyes on an area along the stream bed a few thousand yards to the north. Enemy troops could be seen furtively trying to escape to the jungle-covered mountains in that direction. There was a flash, and a mushroom cloud of gray smoke and dust sprang up through the trees and brush. Then another flash and cloud appeared. As the thundering reports of the first high-explosive rounds reached the ears of those in the helicopter, a small forest of mushroom clouds arose directly across the enemy's apparent route of escape.

The command helicopter swung around to the opposite direction, and Colonel Alves noticed that the tanks had not yet moved into the stream bed as instructed. Instead, they were drawn up on line, parallel to and facing the gully. As he called through his radio to ask the tank commander what was going on, puffs of thick, white smoke leapt from the tanks' gun barrels.

"Cease firing!" the colonel commanded. "You have friendly troops to your front. Check fire!"

There was a pause. Everyone in the command ship listened. The throbbing roar and scream of whirling rotor blades made them strain to hear the least sound from the tanks below.

Through the radio headphones, a loud hiss of static noise followed by a startling electrical pop preceded the voice of the tank commander. He acknowledged the check-fire command and reported all tanks had complied. "Sir, we were receiving B-40 rocket fire from the stream bed. We fired point blank on the enemy positions," explained the voice. Blackhawk redirected the tank platoon to straddle the gulch farther downstream, then move northward again and attack the enemy from a more favorable angle.

From the crash site to the west, word came that both crew members had died in the wreck. The ground troops were now advancing toward the gully, attempting to intercept the retreating enemy force. The enemy had a head start, and the terrain favored them. They managed to escape, but not without leaving behind some of their equipment and documents.

That evening, at the end of the daily briefing, Colonel Alves stood before the officers and NCOs of his staff. He indicated that the day's events—the discovery and subsequent routing of the enemy force—had been significant. The enemy's presence in the area had been detected, his plans possibly frustrated.

Then, solemnly, he spoke about the death of the two aerial observers. "They died like professional warriors, doing their job," he said. "Because of their attention to their mission, the people on Firebase Sherry can sleep a little more securely tonight. Let us pause for a moment to render silent tribute to these men and ask for their repose, each in his own way."

Heads bowed. A few lips moved, inaudibly whispering. Then the colonel snapped to attention and saluted his staff as he uttered their motto, "Curr Ahee!" ■

Major General Joseph R. Russ

New Deputy Commander

Major General Joseph R. Russ, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, has assumed duties as deputy commander of I Field Force Vietnam. He comes to Nha Trang from Ft. McPherson, Ga., where he was deputy commander for Reserve Forces, Third U.S. Army.

General Russ graduated from West Point in 1935 and was commissioned in Infantry. During World War II he was assigned to the Operations Division, War Department General Staff. He landed in Salerno, Italy, with the 45th Infantry Division in 1943 while serving as a War Department observor. He participated in four European and one Pacific campaign. He served as battalion commander, regimental executive officer and regimental commander of the 346th Infantry Regiment in Europe.

General Russ earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge twice. He holds the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star, the second and third highest awards for valor. The general has been awarded the Legion of Merit twice and the Bronze Star three times. He is a Master Parachutist.

During the Korean War he was deputy commander of the 187th Airborne Infantry Regimental Combat Team and commander of the 32d Infantry Regiment, 7th Division.

General Russ' later assignments have included duty as executive officer of the National War College; assistant chief of staff, Plans and Operations, Headquarters, Allied Forces Southern Europe; assistant commander of the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Ft. Carson, Colo.; and commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division in Germany.

FROM: _____

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Two Air Mail Stamps

TO: _____

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