

VNN Takes Over "Slingshot"

BEN LUC (USN) -- The U.S. Navy's "Giant Slingshot," an operation with resources a bit more potent and varied than the Biblical David had to work with against Goliath, was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in ceremonies at Ben Luc in Tan Province recently.

The operation, which began Dec 6, 1968, has had the objective of stopping the movement of enemy troops and supplies along the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers which converge 15 miles south of Saigon.

Replacing Commander Arie C. A. Sigmond, commander of Giant Slingshot, was his deputy, Vietnamese Navy Lieutenant Commander Pham Van Tieu. Tieu will be the "on-the-scene" commander of the operation with headquarters at Ben Luc.

At the same time, Vietnamese Navy Commander Trinh Xuan Phong became Giant Slingshot's operational commander with headquarters at Cat Lai.

Giant Slingshot is an outgrowth of another Navy operation, "Sealords," which began in October 1968 and

which for the first time brought together in the Mekong Delta elements of all three in-country Navy combat forces. They were Task Forces 115, 116 and 117.

According to Sigmond, the operation has been successful in showing the Vietnamese civilians living in the area that the Saigon government can provide protection and freedom of movement.

The enemy has consistently tried to use the two rivers to infiltrate the Republic of Vietnam from the "Parrot's Beak," a portion of Cambodia

which juts deep into III Corps. The two tributary rivers join and become the Vam Co, forming a "Y" shaped waterway which led to the name "Giant Slingshot" for the operation. Friendly forces patrol the 203 miles of the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers daily.

"When we came here in December of 1968, the rivers were completely dominated by the enemy," Sigmond said. "We have now progressed to the point where people can move in relative safety on the rivers."

Sigmond said that the

sampans traveling the rivers are now larger and that wood cutters, reed cutters, pineapple farmers and other Vietnamese can now be seen going about their business in normal fashion.

"Since the inception of the operation, the density of friendly sampans on the rivers has increased 100 per cent," Sigmond said. "Commercial traffic is really on the upswing."

"The increased sampan activity on the rivers is an excellent indication of the success of our operation," he added. "We've had reports from people that they now have confidence to go out and cut reeds, wood and so on. Enemy movement along the rivers has definitely decreased."

The operational turnover of Giant Slingshot is part of the U. S. Navy's ACTOV (Accelerated Turnover of U. S. Navy Assets to the Vietnamese) program.

The first all-Vietnamese naval units were assigned to Giant Slingshot in February 1969, and in June 1969 a combined command was established. U. S. Navy boats were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in February, June and October of 1969 and March 1970.

"We've worked on Vietnamization since October of 1968," Sigmond said. "The overall performance of the Vietnamese in this operation has been excellent. The Vietnamese are operating so much like American units that I personally feel that the VC don't know whether it's a U. S. or RVN unit except for the flag on the boat."

(Continued on Page 12)

Allies Hit VC Camp

196th INF BDE (USA) -- A small team of Vietnamese PFs recently combined with Americal Division artillerymen to account for 20 VC dead 10 miles southeast of Tam Ky.

The PFs were night laagered in an open field when they spotted an estimated VC company moving toward a woodland. They immediately relayed the information to Tam Ky. From there the intelligence was passed on to Battery A, 3rd Bn., 82nd Arty., supporting the 196th.

"At that time we had half of our battery on LZ Hawk Hill and half just outside Tam Ky," said Second Lieutenant David Thomas, fire direction officer. "We computed the necessary data at Hawk Hill and then passed it on to the other section."

The enemy was barely within the range of the Tam Ky guns. The three 105mm howitzers fired 21 rounds on the suspected enemy location. The next morning Vietnamese RFs searched the tangled woods and confirmed the dead enemy! The kills were reported to Battery A that afternoon.

"Frequently we fire missions where the outcome is uncertain," said First Lieutenant William Butler from Tucson, Ariz., who commanded the Tam Ky section of Battery A. "It was gratifying to set some concrete results this time."

THE OBSERVER

FIRST IN VIETNAM

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USAF Halts Enemy

PHAN RANG (USAF) -- Recently two Air Force F-100 Supersabre pilots from the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing aided Allied forces in contact with the enemy 28 miles east-northeast of An Khe. They were credited with killing 50 enemy troops.

Pilots on the mission were Colonel Robert M. Denny of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Captain Daniel E. Brown III of Knoxville, Tenn., both assigned to the 35th Tactical Wing.

When the battle damage report was returned to the base, Denny commented on the mission. "The forward air controller (FAC) told us an Army camp had been taking heavy mortar fire. The enemy was at the edge of a small hill and we would be making our passes directly toward it."

"The FAC directed us to drop one bomb at a time so we could saturate the area. On one pass we noticed an additional white smoke marker had been set-off. A quick check with the FAC confirmed it as one the enemy had set off, hoping to cause us to drop our ordnance on the Allied positions."

"We continued bombing under the FAC's direction until our ammunition was expended. He then told us the enemy's mortars had stopped firing and to head for home."

"After we left, a ground force swept the area and confirmed that we had killed 50 enemy soldiers. I've many good missions over here, but this was by far the best," concluded Denny.



Firepower For Allies

The 1st Cav convoy of 175mm and eight-inch guns winds its way along dirt roads, through isolated villages, fords streams then circles up to form an instant firebase deep in suspected NVA territory near the Cambodian border. The artillery pieces from the 6th Bn., 27th Arty., were too heavy to be lifted by helicopters but the overland move was executed with very few delays. (See story and photo feature on pages 6 and 7)

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 James McCabe)

Cooperation Between Services

101ST ABN DIV (USA) -- A dozen - and - a - half men, dressed in blue, wearing the Screaming Eagle patch adhere to the motto "Ready to go." They are airmen of the Air Force Tactical Air Control Party, 2nd Brigade.

Each of these men, whether a radio-telephone operator, aircraft maintenance specialist or FAC pilot, is on call 24-hours - a day to fulfill the Air Force's mission of direct air support for the brigade.

"Although our major mission is to fly FAC for the fighters, visual reconnaissance and bomb damage assessment missions, we must also coordinate all aspects of Air Force support of the brigade," explained Major John

F. Lennox, Air Force Liaison Officer from Rancho Cordova, Calif.

Maj. Lennox also noted that the pilots can perform several types of special missions, such as directing defoliation, landing zone construction with ordnance and adjusting tube artillery, if necessary.

"We have two types of FAC controlled missions," he explained, "the Preplanned and the Immediate Strike."

In the first type, the planning, coordination and clearance for the mission is completed approximately one day before the actual strike. The FAC's main job here is to find the target, mark it and lead the fighters to it.

"An 'immediate' occurs when the infantry has a unit in contact or when someone sees a target and calls for air support," the Major said. He explained that when the brigade Air Force unit receives a call for air support, the Division Air Force liaison officer is called and the request for the aircraft is handled by Division. Brigade or Division Artillery is responsible for the strike clearance on all targets.

When the request is confirmed, the FAC piloting an Air Force O-2A, flies to the target area, reconnoiters it and waits for the fighters.

Before the fighters arrive at the target, the FAC pilot compiles a short briefing for

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Cambodian Haul

3rd ARVN Airborne Division soldiers line up weapons captured while operating in the "Fish Hook" area of Cambodia. (USA PHOTO)

It's An NVA 'West Point'

1ST MARINE DIV -- A reconnaissance team, commanded by First Lieutenant Henry C. L'Orange of Pensacola, Fla., recently discovered a NVA regimental basecamp southwest of Da Nang.

HIDDEN BY DENSE FOLIAGE

The terrain was steep and rocky. The sun was totally shut out by the dense jungle canopy. It was hot. The going was slow for the Marines and ARVN Rangers.

Suddenly the point man stopped. A thatched roof was visible in the dense foliage below.

Lance Corporal Joel E. Diaz of San Antonio, Tex., reported his discovery to L'Orange and the Assistant Patrol Leader, Sergeant Jimmy D. Adkins of Big Stone Gap, Va.

L'Orange decided to take the team and check the area.

TEAM SEARCHES COMPLEX

"The entrance was a gate made of saplings and bamboo," described L'Orange. Above the arch was a bamboo star. Directly behind the gate was a bulletin board of woven matting. A thatched roof covered it to keep the rain from destroying the attached notices.

"To one side was a large dwelling we determined to be a BOQ," he continued. "It had enough room to accommodate twenty. Beneath it was a bunker about four feet deep and reinforced with 12-inch logs. We found similar bunkers in every one of the 20 other dwellings."

There was a hospital in which was found several containers of medicine.

OUTDOOR INSTRUCTION FACILITIES

Further up the slope on which the camp was built were sleeping quarters for enlisted personnel. A classroom and messhall capable of serving 80 men at once was also found. Directly below the classroom was what appeared to be facilities for outdoor instruction. Signs, written in Vietnamese, were attached to three nearby trees. "Think Clean, Be Clean, Eat Clean and Drink Clean" read one sign. Another proclaimed that the NVA soldiers who left that base camp were "Ready to Fight." The third sign was a field order, cautioning the NVA soldiers on patrol to be swift and silent.

Dominating the camp was a large 'operations' bunker which was dug into the hillside. Within it were tables and benches made of bamboo.

UNEXPECTED VISITORS INTERRUPT

It was mid-afternoon and the search had gone on for at least four hours. The team had just about finished checking things out when the rear point man, Private First Class Larry E. Sparks of Cincinnati and Lance Corporal Paul Sales of Las Vegas, N.M., spotted movement in the bush in front of the camp. The baying of dogs confirmed their suspicion that the camp's intruders were being sought. The two Marines reported hurriedly to L'Orange and the recon team left the large camp. Later, they directed artillery into the area.

The camp was estimated to have at one time housed over 800 enemy soldiers. The enemy had left the camp approximately one month before the team from the 1st Reconnaissance Battalion walked through its main gate.

Marines, Inf. Team Up

The following information is provided by the Press and Information Office, General Political Warfare Department Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, Saigon.

21ST INFANTRY DIVISION

The 21st Infantry Division completed an operation east of Dam Toi in An Xuyen Province recently, killing 105 enemy soldiers. Participating in the action were three infantry battalions, one Marine battalion and one 105mm battery. Ninety-two enemy suspects were detained for questioning.

In action north of Kien Binh, Kien Giang Province, 145 of the enemy were killed. Three infantry battalions and three

Marine battalions participated in the battle. Eight suspects were detained and two crew-served weapons captured.



In other action, 42 enemy soldiers were killed in Bac Lieu and Phong Dinh Provinces. Three crew-served weapons were also captured.

REGIONAL AND POPULAR FORCES (RF/PF)

In Kien Tuong Province, five RF companies, three CIDG companies and one armored cavalry regiment killed 134 of the enemy and detained three suspects in a combined action recently. Nine crew-served weapons were also captured.

In other scattered action throughout the country, RF/PF units killed 284 of the enemy. Two crew-served weapons were captured and seven suspects detained.

22ND INFANTRY DIVISION

The 22nd Infantry Division completed an operation near Phu My recently killing 40 enemy soldiers. Four infantry battalions, one armored unit and one 105mm battery participated in the operation.

They Make Photo Maps

U.S. ARMY ENGR. CMD. (LONG BINH) -- Due to the continually changing landscapes in the RVN, such as new roads, airfields, additional loading areas in harbors and jungle clearing operations, maps are easily outdated. The constant production of updated maps becomes a necessity.

The preparation of a standard five-color topographic map is a lengthy process. But the 66th Engineer Company of the 79th Engineer Group has a substitute. It produces photomaps to give an updated picture of the changing scenes.

Photomaps are simply pictures of the ground taken from an airplane. Numerous pictures are fitted and glued together to form a mosaic. Then technical data, such as an arbitrary grid, marginal data and place names are plotted on another sheet. A printed plate is prepared for a printing press from a composite of the mosaic and technical data sheet -- and the maps are printed.

The finished photomap is black and white. It is not as detailed and accurate as a five-color topographic map used in most tactical situations. The photomap grid coordinates

themselves are not accurate enough to call for artillery or air strikes. The chief advantages of the photomap are realized when it is used in conjunction with a topographic map.

When a new map is needed, the cartographic and reproduction platoons of the engineer company team up to produce a finished product in about two days, working around the clock. The company is the only U.S. Army unit of its kind in the RVN, and its work stretches over all four corps tactical zones.

Currently, the 66th is making photomaps of the RVN's major basecamps from Da Nang in I Corps to Can Tho in IV Corps. Certain basecamps, such as Long Binh, require up to 20 separate sheets at a scale of 1 to 5,000. Smaller basecamps, such as Vinh Long, require fewer sheets.

The great advantage of having a basecamp photomap is to allow commanders to see up to date changes in the area. The primary function of a photomap is not to replace the reliable five-color map but to supplement it with current data.

Big Kitty Visits Bn.

4th INF DIV (USA) -- A live panther apparently tried to join forces with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry near Camp Radcliff recently.

"I know it's the Panther Battalion, but this is ridiculous!" exclaimed Specialist 4 Jerry A. Knapp of Oral, S.D.

Knapp was climbing from his bunker to relieve the guard when "I saw this long black cat coming closer and closer."

"It was about three feet high I started talking, calling the other guys and backing up," he added.

Knapp said several other men came over and the big cat disappeared, slinking through the perimeter wire and back to the jungle.

The next morning the men checked their wire and found four-inch wide tracks left by the real-life panther.



High 'n 'Dry'

Realizing it's a lost cause trying to keep his feet dry, PFC Tom Langtry of Bronx, N.Y., at least manages to keep his pants dry. The RTO was on patrol with the 1st Air Cav's Company B, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, northeast of Tay Ninh. (USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Bob Borchester)



BUNKER BUNNY

SEZ,

"I bet you fellas know a good sound investment when you see one. So why not invest in yourself by buying U.S. Savings Bonds. Bonds are safe. If lost, stolen, or destroyed they are replaced. When needed they can be cashed at any bank. Tax may be deferred until redemption. Regardless of your other investments, can you think of any easier, better, or safer way to build a nest egg for yourself? U.S. Savings Bonds have always been a good buy. Now with a higher interest rate, they are better than ever. U.S. Savings Bonds now pay 5 per cent interest when held to maturity of 5 years 10 months. So, take stock in yourself by taking stock in America." And I think most of you will agree that our "Bunker Bunny" this week must come from fine 'stock' from the looks of her assets.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF PLAYBOY)

P.O. Cracks Down

WASHINGTON (AFPS) -- Commissioner of Customs Myles J. Ambrose has warned that mail from the Republic of Vietnam and other overseas post offices is receiving closer scrutiny for contraband.

He said Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has committed the Defense Department to join the Bureau of Customs in a concerted effort to discourage military personnel from using the mails to send home illicit war souvenirs as well as marijuana and dangerous drugs.

Intensified inspection of mail packages arriving at U.S. ports of entry has resulted in a marked increase in seizures of contraband, he said. At the same time, military customs officers at overseas stations are using such techniques as metal detectors and specially-trained dogs to eliminate shipments of contraband.

Commissioner Ambrose said military personnel are not responsible for any major part of the over-all drug traffic, but he

emphasized that the traffic in stolen weapons and illicit war trophies has increased since the Vietnam conflict.

The Commissioner added that all detected violations will be reported to military authorities. He said military personnel who mail contraband are violating Federal statutes as well as military regulations. "People

who mail contraband are violating, first of all, postal regulations. Because the items come across the border, the general smuggling laws are also violated. If the item crosses state lines, the Treasury Department's tax regulations are violated. So there is no want of legal authority for prosecution in these cases."

Power Of Attorney Delegates Authority

(AFNS) -- Occasions arise when it is necessary to have someone act as your agent to handle a particular piece of business. This is done by giving your power of attorney.

A power of attorney is a legal document by which you, the grantor or donor, give to someone else, called the attorney-in-fact or the donee, the authority to act as your agent or attorney -- either

generally, or more often, for some specific limited purpose.

A general power of attorney gives your agent the right to conduct practically any business transaction you could do personally, including the right to run up bills for which you will be responsible.

A special or limited power of attorney gives your agent the right to act on your behalf for some particular transaction. Examples would be registering your car, shipping household goods, leasing a house or signing for quarters.

A general power of attorney is seldom necessary and may be less effective because a special power of attorney is more likely to be accepted. Also, for certain transactions, a special form of power of attorney may be a legal requirement.

Should you decide that drawing up a power of attorney or a will is in order, be sure the check the requirements of the state in which you have legal residence. Variations do occur.

Consult your local legal assistance offices for full information on a power of attorney.




Beautiful Monica Peterson would like to remind you that the current Freedoms Foundation Award contest will close November 1.

The Freedoms Foundation Letter Awards Program is open to both active duty and reserve servicemen and women. To enter the contest, send a letter of not less than 100 nor more than 500 words on "Freedom: Privilege or Obligation?" to Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481.

The two best letters -- one from an active duty member and one from a reservist -- earn \$1,000 each and George Washington Honor Medals, to be presented during ceremonies at Valley Forge. An additional \$7,500 in prize money will be given.

Letters should include the complete name, rank, SSAN, military and home addresses, and branch of service or reserve component.

(PHOTO By: 20th Century-Fox)


FIRST IN VIETNAM

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'Old Book Trick' Means Future \$

MACV -- What kind of job will give an average man a \$70,000 bonus after four years of work, or a \$220,000 bump if he's got the guts to stick to it for eight years?

The answer is education; the old book trick....

An average man with a grade school education can expect to earn \$180,000 in his lifetime. If he has a high school education, the figure goes up to \$250,000; and a college degree is worth more than \$400,000 during his working years.

Education means money or, in the service, better promotions, assignments and more responsible jobs. And a man does not have to put off his education until his military obligation is completed.

While on active duty, servicemen and women can obtain grade school or high school certificates, get a start on a college degree, or, if they are enlisted and within six months of completing their active duty, receive training for civilian employment.

In addition, financial assistance in paying for college degree studies may be available.

Information and counseling on the types of educational assistance available to servicemen and women while still in military service are available at the Education Office on any military post or installation.

Editor's Corner

The 1st Amendment

MACV -- Ever since the American journalist John Peter Zenger challenged the censorship policies of the British Governor before the Revolutionary War, the freedom of the press has been an essential part of the American social philosophy.

It was written into the Constitution in the Bill of Rights as the freedom of speech amendment, and it has continued to the present day only slightly modified by libel and slander laws.

The freedom of speech amendment, and particularly freedom of the press, which it encompasses, has been called the most important amendment in the Bill of Rights.

Why should the right to freedom of speech be more important than other constitutionally declared rights, such as the right to bear arms?

In a democracy the citizens, through general elections, decide the future course of their state. Decisions are not made by a well-educated elite, nor are they made by a king or dictator who could claim sole access to the information necessary to making a well-informed decision. In a democracy the decision-making process is a function of all the citizens. This requires that the citizenry be well-informed.

The sort of information essential to the general public can vary from a straightforward statement of fact, "This morning, December 7, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor...." to a columnist's

personal opinion, "In the view of this reporter, lowering the federal income tax would...."

Both facts and different interpretations of facts must be available to the people of a democracy in order that they can best make the decisions which will enable their form of government to prosper.

It was for this reason that the original 13 states adopted the constitution only with the understanding that it would be limited by a series of amendments guaranteeing the rights of the people. And it was for this reason that the first amendment of the Bill of Rights read in part:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or bridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...."

The Declaration of Independence proclaims "...that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." It goes on to say that it is "to secure these rights" that governments are set up.

One of the strongest guarantees we have that the freedoms promised us as American citizens will endure is contained in the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America: the freedom of the press.



An Army "Chinook" gets ready to set down and reload with supplies in support of 11th ACR operations in Cambodia.



11th ACR troops push on in search of enemy fortifications during recent operations in the "Fish Hook" area of Cambodia, 65 miles north of Saigon.

US Actions In Cambodia

MACV - U.S. forces including elements of the 4th Infantry Division and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment recently moved into Cambodia. The 11th ACR moved into the area known as the "Fish Hook," while the 4th Inf. Div. moved into the Se San base area west of Pleiku. The units entered Cambodia in search of enemy headquarters and resupply systems which have been built up over a period of several years.

Since entering Cambodia allied forces have captured so many enemy supplies that it will take the Communists many months of humping supplies south over jungle trails to replenish their plundered stores.

The total of enemy stores taken inside Cambodia already amounts to more than all those discovered in the giant enemy caches of the A Shau Valley in three months during the winter of 1969.

Most of the weapons found have been either of Chinese Communist design or Chicom copies of Soviet weapons. Most of the individual weapons found are Chicom copies of the Soviet SKS, a bolt action carbine said to be the standard weapon of the Communist Chinese Army.

Story And Photos By MACV



Large assortments of enemy weapons were recently discovered by members of the 11th ACR at "The City" during operations in the "Fish Hook" area in Cambodia.



SILHOUETTE TARGET - A 4th Infantry Division soldier holds a silhouette target used by the enemy in a training school discovered inside the Cambodian border.



TRAINING DEVICES - A wooden jet fighter-bomber model, a silhouette target made of woven bamboo, and wooden models of Chicom hand grenades were some of the enemy training devices discovered by 4th Infantry Division soldiers while operating in the Cambodian jungle.



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT - Medical equipment and supplies, enough to fill two UH-1 helicopters was captured by elements of the 4th Infantry Division while operating inside Cambodia.



Just part of one of many caches discovered by the 1st Cav. This one contained everything from rice to chain saws to typewriters.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 James McCabe)



Capt. Kevin Corcoran of Westport, Conn., company commander, Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, 1st Air Cav Div, sits amid enemy weapons discovered in a huge NVA supply depot in Cambodia.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Dean Sharp)

NVA Flees 'Bunker City'

1ST AIR CAV DIV — Hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition, an unknown number of weapons and various other types of equipment were uncovered by Company C, 1st Bn., 5th Cavalry. The storehouse was uncovered during the search of a mammoth enemy military complex 4 kilometers south of FSB Terry Lynn, Cambodia.

"Asking a unit commander to evaluate what is out there is like putting a man in the middle of Long Binh, handing him a piece of paper and a pencil, and asking him to tell you what's there," according to Lieutenant Colonel James L. Anderson, battalion commander.

As the search continued, skytroopers turned up an additional four bunkers of .51 caliber ammo, one building full of various weapons ranging from an old flintlock to shotguns and new SKS rifles, fifteen .30 caliber anti-aircraft machineguns complete with wheeled carriages and extra barrels and six cases of 9mm machineguns with drums and magazines.

Also uncovered in the 4½ square kilometer installation were numerous 60mm mortar tubes with a quantity of ammunition, crated 120mm mortars, two bunkers of 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, an unknown number of 57mm recoilless rifles, two bunkers of explosives, medical supplies, an unknown number of "grease guns," optical equipment and many other types of military supplies. Very little rice was found in the area.

Captain Kevin Corcoran, company commander, said, "It is elaborately stored and extremely hard to spot from the air. We were 15 to 20 meters from the bunkers before we even spotted them."

Only minutes after the 1st Air Cav helicopters set them down, troopers from Company C moved out in an attempt

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STORY By: U.S.



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1st Cav- y' Closed

locate the NVA complex. It had been spotted from the day before by members of Troop B, 1st Squadron, Cavalry.

According to Warrant Officer James Cyrus, a LOH pilot in Troop B, the complex was discovered during a fine scouting mission.

"We found the building complex almost by accident, 12 meters west and 25 north of the Cambodian border. We were looking for something in the area, but didn't see anything at first.

Then I spotted one hooch well camouflaged. Unless we were at treetop level, it would be invisible.

"I just followed the bamboo walks from hooch to hooch, by the street signs, bridges with walkways and paths, and what looked like a motor pool and lumber yard," he added.

By late afternoon of the first day, Company C set up its defensive position less than a kilometer from the enemy installation. As the Skytroopers approached the bunkers at the edge of the NVA base, they received light 47 fire from two of the bunkers. They quickly silenced the enemy, killing four NVA soldiers.

The following morning, as the search of bunkers and buildings intensified, it became apparent that, as Corcoran said, "the size of this area and the amount of weapons and ammunition just staggers the imagination.

Every time we think we may have hit the end of the installation, we move a couple of hundred more meters and find additional buildings and bunkers.

"This apparently was a major supply depot for a large NVA headquarters. Our find here is damn sure going to bind in the enemy's logistics program."

U.S. Army



Specialist 4 Leslie Stevens of Chula Vista, Calif., checks out one of many typewriters found in the cache.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp4 James McCabe)



Members of the 1st Air Cav look over enemy equipment uncovered in a huge supply depot in the Fishhook region of Cambodia.

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Dean Sharp)



Men of Co C, 1st Bn, 5th Cav, sort through a case of new SKS rifles, discovered in a huge enemy supply depot in Cambodia. The enemy cache site has been nicknamed "The City."

(USA PHOTO By: Sp5 Dean Sharp)



Leaving the curtained voting booth, a young mother drops her voting envelope into the ballot box. Each ballot bears a candidate's name and his symbol so that an illiterate voter can easily select the candidates he wants.



Polling place in Long Dinh hamlet, Tan Tru District, Long An Province is built of thatch. The hamlet council and village chief elections were held in 29 villages and 77 hamlets in the province. Long Dinh hamlet was only recently pacified.

A Vote For Freedom

JUSPAO -- This year one half of South Vietnam's 2,130 villages and nearly 4,000 of its 10,725 hamlets are holding election as the three-year terms of officials elected in 1967 come to an end. Also in 35 villages and 229 hamlets elections will be held for the first time.

Growing acceptance of democratic practices is reflected in the results of elections held in March which show increased participation by both voters and candidates. Those running for office this year include farmers, civil servants, soldiers, former village and hamlet officials and small tradesmen. In earlier elections candidates were mostly village elders.

The central government attributes this increased interest in local politics to greater security in the countryside because of better trained and more effective People's Self Defense Forces (PSDF). Local officials are no longer unguarded and unprotected targets of Viet Cong terrorism.

In addition, thousands of local officials have participated in government sponsored training programs to develop political, economic and administrative skills necessary for effective self-rule.

Another factor is the increased authority and responsibility that has been granted to the village councils. These bodies now collect their own taxes, prepare and approve their own budgets and control the funds allotted to them by the central government for rural development projects. They have authority over land transfers, public services and legal matters. They control the Popular Force platoons assigned to protect their villages as well as the local People's Self Defense Forces.

It is the hope of the Government of South Vietnam that these measures and growing satisfactory experience at the local level with the electoral process in the last three years will produce even higher quality leaders to serve the people in the years to come.



Neighbors watch as a villager casts his ballot at Binh Nhut hamlet, Binh Phuoc District, Long An Province. Local residents elect the hamlet council and three hamlet chiefs for a two-year term of office.

**Story And Photos By:
Vietnam Press Service**



Voters at Van Cui hamlet, Bien Hoa Province are voting for the first time. The large banner reads: "To elect a village council and hamlet chief is to end corruption and the evils of exploitation."



Village schools serve as convenient polling places. Voter identification is checked by the girls on the right. The clerks at the long table are assembling packets of ballots, and voters on the left are depositing their votes in the locked ballot box.



OK, Now Say It In English!

Sergeant Preston Winkler of Baltimore, left, explains English pronunciation to a Vietnamese student while his interpreter, Sergeant Sang, center, listens. The two civil affairs workers, both with the 2nd Bn., 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division, teach English class every Tuesday and Thursday at Ky Le Village, seven miles northwest of Tam Ky. "If there is something I have trouble conveying in English," says Winkler, "Sgt. Sang can convey it in Vietnamese." (USA PHOTO By: PFC Laszlo Kondor)

Viets Rise Above Confusion

199TH INF BDE (USA) -- Vietnamese artillerymen recently spent a week here relearning the techniques of fire base surveying from the survey team of the 2nd Battalion, 40th Artillery.

At the outset, Staff Sergeant John R. White of Cleveland, N.C., section chief, and his survey crew were not overly optimistic about the success of the project. After all, they felt, it took them six weeks of training in the states to learn what they now were asked to teach in only one week. In addition, their pupils from Bahery B, 181st ARVN Artillery, III Corps, had a limited knowledge of English.

White started the course with a general introduction which an interpreter conveyed to the students. Next came the definition of terms -- and a total failure to communicate.

The interpreter, a student himself, was unfamiliar with survey terms in English. Nearly 45 minutes passed as White and the interpreter tried to

understand each other, attempting to get across with hand gestures and facial expressions the concepts they couldn't relate in words.

The students were getting restless and began to talk among themselves. One leaned over to Specialist 5 Thomas A. Smith of Republic, Kan., drew a few angles, grid coordinates and a traverse scale on the wooden

bench between them, and asked, "This what they try to show?"

Smith groaned, laughed out loud, and interrupted the two men up front, "Sarge, they already know this stuff!"

Shortly thereafter, Second Lieutenant Ngyen Hoang Chau, the students' platoon leader, came in and explained that his men had already taken an artillery survey course, and only

needed to brush up on what they had learned.

Also, they had been taught how to use the Army's M-1 aiming circle, but needed to know how to use the newer M-2 aiming circle.

Combined TOC Means Efficiency

XUAN LOC (USA) -- The "Dong Tien" or "progress together" program means more than just combining muscle on combined field operations to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 8th ARVN Div., who operate together in Long Khanh and Binh Tuy Provinces.

The two units have literally linked their nervous systems with the organization of a joint Tactical Operations Center (TOC) here to fully coordinate their activities.

Located in the 18th ARVN headquarters compound, the joint TOC not only synchronizes U.S. and ARVN operations, but also those of the RF and PF in the Long Khanh area.

The Royal Australian Task Force, which operates southeast of the 199th, also keeps a liaison in the multi-national TOC, which was organized last August.

"Our main purpose is to keep all the units working in our area of interest continuously informed of what their counterparts are doing," explained Captain David Rathje, TOC operations officer. "Half our energies are spent just keeping track of where everyone is."

"We also share intelligence information through ARVN and Australian S-2 liaisons," he continued. "Since we have so many units all working in the same area, constant communication of both intelligence and operations information becomes all the more important."

"This is where a combined TOC comes in handy," Rathje added.

Probably the best example of the joint TOC's value is the relative ease with which it obtains artillery clearances.



Lieutenant Nadine Wahner, an Army nurse at the Americal Division's 27th Surgical Hospital at Chu Lai, takes time out from her normal duties to tend a Vietnamese infant in need of medical care. She was part of a medical civic action program in a refugee center south of Chu Lai. (USA PHOTO By: Sgt. Paul F. Kelly)

Nurses Dazzle 'Em

CHU LAI (USA) -- A recent MEDCAP by the Americal Division's 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry, was a little out of the ordinary, to the delight of the Vietnamese civilians treated that day.

Ordinarily the twice weekly MEDCAPs include a group of medical officers and enlisted medical personnel. That group also included First Lieutenants Cheryl Leonard of Pontiac, Ill., and Nadine Wahner of Canistota, S.D.

The patients, most of whom had never seen an attractive American woman, were enthralled as the two nurses spent the afternoon dispensing everything from adhesive bandages to aspirin.

Many of the "patients", however, were only suffering

from an acute case of curiosity. The treatment prescribed was a combination of ingredients -- a warm smile to ease shyness and a friendly greeting to promote comfort.

"From the moment the jeep arrived at the center until it left after treating more than 100 patients, the two nurses were the center of attention," said Sergeant Paul F. Kelly, the NCOIC of the 1/52, S-5.

The nurses were invited along on the MEDCAP not so much to create an image, but to emphasize the usual mood of the program.

"Friendliness and understanding are the keystones for 1/52 MEDCAPs," Kelly said.

Construction of the partially-completed structure began in the fall of 1968. The pavilion is currently comprised of a spacious dining hall area and sleeping quarters, complete with nursery.

According to Rev. Smith, the labor was done by hired Vietnamese workers, supplemented by American servicemen's volunteer work.

"Completion of the structure will begin when funds become available," Rev. Smith said.

"However, due to the rising costs of materials and labor, it will cost about as much for one additional level as it did for the previous two."

The pavilion was sponsored by many international relief groups and individual donors.



In Safe Hands

Lance Corporal Charles C. Sead, of Portsmouth, Ohio, assigned to Company C, Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, carries an elderly Vietnamese villager to a helicopter waiting to take her to the An Hoa Combat Base for processing to a refugee center.

(USMC PHOTO By: LCpl. R. L. Pearson)



Last Minute Inspection

Making sure the smoke marker rockets are secure on their 0-2 Super Skymaster observation plane are USAF LT Robert Kennedy of San Diego, left, and ROK Air Force Captain Soung Nam Hong. (USAF PHOTO By: Sgt Robert W. Inganni)

Fight Charlie With Ex-VC

25TH INF DIV (USA) -- One of the most effective military and political weapons being employed by U.S. forces in the RVN today is the Kit Carson Scout.

Kit Carson Scouts are former VC who have rallied to the GVN and who are employed by American military units as interpreters and pathfinders.

The first step in becoming a Kit Carson Scout is for the VC soldier to become a Hoi Chanh. As soon as he has turned himself in, he is given a shower, a meal and a soft drink. If married, the man's wife is then informed that he has rallied.

Captain William Goodman of

Philadelphia, the OIC of the Psychological Operations section of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry "Wolfhounds," said, "After these people turn themselves in, they are asked why they rallied. The answer most often given is fear of death."

After questioning, the Hoi Chanh is taken to a rehabilitation center where his wife may live with him. Staying at the center no less than one month nor more than four months, the man is given the choice of taking up a trade, such as farming or welding, or becoming a Kit Carson Scout. If he does choose to become a scout, arrangements are made for him to be assigned to a unit operating near his home.

"There are quite a few reasons why these men choose to be Kit Carson Scouts," Goodman said. "They are given a 30-day leave each year plus three days off each month. A scout may also ask for emergency leave whenever necessary, and he receives the same pay monthly as an ARVN E-6."

Once a Hoi Chanh officially becomes a Kit Carson Scout working with an American unit, he employs his talents as an interpreter, pathfinder and expert on enemy tactics. The Kit Carson Scout also teaches American soldiers how to recognize boobytrapped areas and how to dismantle enemy weapons and mines.

There is many a grateful GI who owes his life to an observant Kit Carson Scout who steered him away from an enemy boobytrap.

They Came Back To Start Anew

AMERICAL DIV. (USA) -- In August of 1969 a VC offensive pushed the people out of the myriad of tiny hamlets that make up the village of Binh Quay. But they waited for the chance to return to their ancestral lands. That opportunity has finally come.

Soap 'Cleans' Out Rats

1ST CAV DIV (USA) -- Soap is also useful for cleaning out rats. At least Specialist 4 Mike Wick of Adrian, Minn., and Staff Sergeant Sam Duncan of Columbia, S.C. are giving it a try.

It seems as if the rats are seeking shelter from the early spring rains in the tent of Wick and Duncan.

"Several mornings in a row I noticed that soap had been eaten out of my opened dish," said Duncan, "so I decided to used Ivory on them."

"While Ivory may be 99 and 44/100 per cent pure for humans, it is 100 per cent bad for a rat," the sergeant added.

A combined effort involving Mr. Duc (the local PF leader), Americal Division soldiers and the villagers themselves made it possible.

Overlooking the vast rice paddies and heavily vegetated islands that make up the village is a nearly completed observation post (OP). The OP is manned by Mr. Duc's PF soldiers and a company from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Infantry Brigade. Construction of the base is the first step in permanently reclaiming the land from enemy forces.

"Mr. Duc had used almost every waking hour since the VC took over to solicit support for his project," says Captain Alfred Porter of Des Moines, Iowa, commanding officer of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. "The only favors he asked were for the purpose of helping build the OP and the return of his people to their land."

"Most of them live in refugee centers around LZ Hawk Hill. They walk the two miles to the OP every day. Early in the morning, before the sun comes up, you can see several hundred

of them coming through the rice paddies."

Each day the steep sides of the OP are spotted with Binh Quay villagers who patiently hack away at the tough vines and bushes that cover the hill. Cleared fields of fire are slowly emerging as a result of their persistent efforts.

American and ARVN patrols are ridding the area of VC. Supporting fire from mortars of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry has claimed the lives of eight soldiers and wounded another 13.

The commander of Company A is impressed with the performance of the PF soldiers. "They are good at finding boobytraps," says Porter. "They are aware of the signs that indicate a boobytrapped area and know where to look. We have learned a lot from each other."

A project of equal priority with construction of the OP is that of harvesting the rice crop. During the VC occupation the rice paddies were planted and cultivated by the VC. Secured by Company A, the villagers are now harvesting the enemy rice. The crops will be taken to the

OP where it will be distributed among the Binh Quay villagers.

Two refugee camps have sprung up near the hill. The occupants, numbering about 100, are primarily people from VC occupied hamlets who have decided to seek the protection of the ARVN and American forces.

"Fifteen Hoi Chanh recently came in and brought 12 rifles with them," said Porter.

The final move will be to rebuild the village itself. "Just about all of the hamlets have been destroyed by the VC. But the people are putting their efforts in the right place. They know what they want and are willing to work for it," concluded Porter.

Scouts Hold Jamboree

III MAF (USMC) -- One of the few organized activities for the children in this country is the Boy Scout Association of Vietnam. Like scouts throughout the world, Vietnamese Boy Scouts have adhered to the basic principles of idealism, leadership and scoutcraft.

THREE GROUPS

Divided into three distinct groups, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Rover Scouts, the program is open to boys and men from the age of 7 to 25. Rover Scouts are identical to Explorer Scouts in the United States.

Although similar to the Boy Scouts of America, the Boy Scout Association of Vietnam resembles more closely the Boy Scouts of England and France.

The Boy Scouts of Vietnam are organized into four ranks; Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class and Boy Scout of Vietnam, which corresponds to Eagle Scout, the highest rank which can be attained in scouting.

OUTSTANDING LEADERS

As in the United States, leaders play an important role in directing scouts toward a useful and purposeful life for themselves and their country. Throughout the year, jamborees and conventions are held as scouts display their skill in competition and leaders meet to discuss plans for future scouting programs.

More than 400 Vietnamese Boy Scouts and leaders from the Da Nang and I Corps area recently participated in a three-day national conference and jamboree at Da Nang. The purpose of the convention was to discuss future plans for the scouting organization and a jamboree of scouting activities for the scouts.

DISCUSS FUTURE PROGRAMS

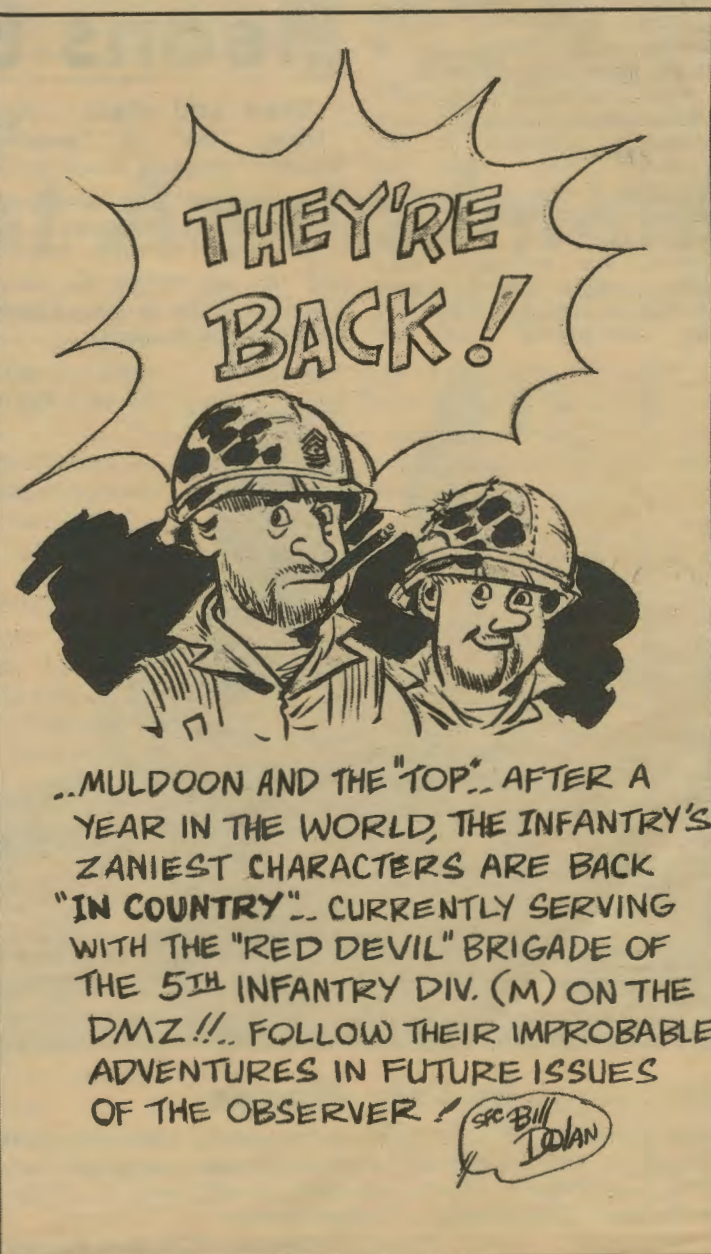
Following opening ceremonies, committees were established for the scout leaders to discuss future programs, while the scouts returned to their camping grounds at the Sacred Heart Orphanage and proceeded with their scouting program.

The leaders were given a tour of the USS Waddell, a destroyer anchored off the coast of the RVN. Upon completion of the tour they returned to Da Nang where they resumed committee meetings. Meanwhile, the scouts spent their morning attending religious ceremonies and engaging in various social activities.

HONOR OUTSTANDING WORKERS

In the afternoon, scouts, scout leaders and Vietnamese and American military officials met at the orphanage for a reception honoring individuals who had contributed their time and effort toward the betterment of the scouting program.

Closing ceremonies were held during the morning of the last day of the affair. Awards were presented to outstanding scouts and leaders.



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker

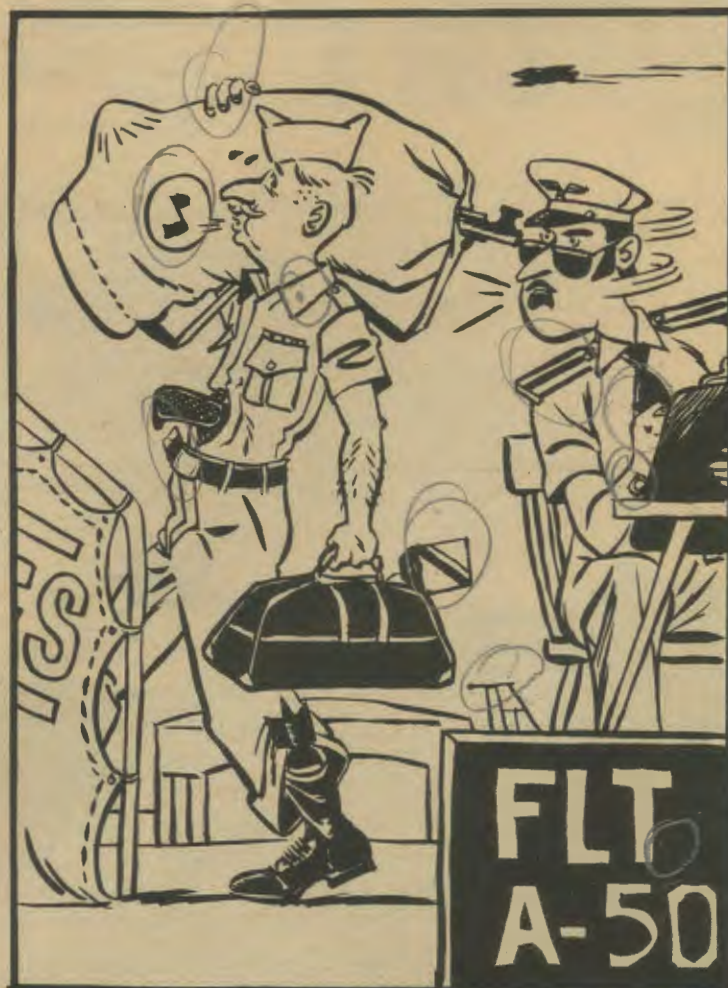


Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Trying to take unlicensed weapons home can cause you needless trouble. Remember, no fully automatic or crew-served weapons can be taken home, but bolt action and semiautomatic rifles and foreign-made pistols can be if they are properly processed and licensed. A little extra effort will insure you keeping your trophy. Now with a little effort see if you can detect 10 subtle differences in these two drawings.



Solution: 1) Finger missing on hand holding duffle bag. 2) Musical note shortened. 3) Collar brass missing. 4) Angle of belt tip changed. 5) Stripe on baggage tag runs in opposite direction. 6) Shoulder board shortened. 7) Pencil missing from shirtfront. 8) Watchband removed. 9) Antenna missing from aircraft tail. 10) Period after FLT missing.

VNN Takes Charge

(Continued from Page 1)

The commander emphasized that U. S. and Vietnamese navy men do not operate in strictly separate units, adding that no native Vietnamese craft are used in Giant Slingshot.

"There isn't a boat on this operation that doesn't have Vietnamese on it," he said.

The 2,100 men assigned to Giant Slingshot - Americans and Vietnamese - now manning 115 boats, are presently expanding their nighttime operations since this is when the enemy normally tries to use the rivers.

But U.S. and Vietnamese navy men are still carrying out daytime "water resources control" operations, which involve the searching of sampans and the checking of Vietnamese civilian identification cards. The men also support an orphanage in Ben Luc and carry on extensive medical civic action programs (MEDCAPs) involving medical treatment and the distribution of hygienic items such as tooth brushes, toothpaste and soap.

Commander Sigmond said that each month an average of 10 enemy personnel or VC sympathizers have surrendered to boats on the rivers under the "Chieu Hoi" (open arms) program. He added that the local civilian population has been helpful by providing popular forces and intelligence reports.

Since the four-province operation began, U. S. and Vietnamese forces have killed nearly 2,400 enemy and engaged in over 1,200 firefights. In addition to the firefights, Slingshot personnel have been plagued with mining incidents and swimmer/sapper attacks.

The past 16 months have also netted over 525 tons of enemy supplies in 300 different caches, including about 140 tons of munitions.



SN Gullino and LT. Roper count out bundles of money to fulfill the payroll requirements of NSA's detachment at Chu Lai. (USN PHOTO)

Dry Dock Services Everything From Small Tugs To Tankers

DA NANG (USN) - Slowly, foot by foot, the waterline recedes as the ship settles on the wooden keel blocks on the deck in the floating dry dock.

A group of well-trained sailors moves about the ship's rusty hull, still spattered with barnacles. Diligently they work servicing the craft from stem to stern, for soon, another will take its place.

Located at the U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, AFDL-23 (auxiliary floating dry dock) is one of two dry docks of its class operating in Vietnam. The second is operated by the Army in Cam Ranh Bay.

Since its 1966 arrival in Vietnam, AFDL-23 has had the task of servicing all types of craft - everything from small tugs to auxiliary tankers.

Having a capacity of 1,900

tons, the dry dock can handle ships up to 300 feet long and 45 feet wide.

With a crew of 80 men working two shifts 24-hours-a-day, the dock services an average of 40 craft a month.

"Any work that can't be accomplished above the waterline," said Warrent Officer James W. Johnson, OIC of AFDL-23, "we will do in the dry dock."

"Our main job," Explained Johnson of Baltimore, Md., "is repairing hulls and main propulsion systems of the boats. We also do ship preservation which consists of scraping and painting the various sized hulls."

Working on as many as five boats in the dry dock at one time, routine repairs take anywhere from 24 to 48 hours with extensive repairs taking up to four days.

The 'Buck' Stops Here

DA NANG (USN) - When President Harry S. Truman was in office, he kept a sign on his desk that read: "The Buck Stops Here." And, in most cases, it did.

But, for four Navy men attached to U.S. Naval Support Activity, (NSA) Da Nang, this phrase could hardly apply because it was their job to pass the buck - thousands of them daily.

They are members of the NSA Disbursing Office and were responsible for the safe-keeping of some \$63 million that flows through their office each month. Their office, which has been dubbed by them as "Fort Knox East," was a small vault at NSA's Camp Tien Sha.

Two of the men, Lieutenant Junior Grade D'Arcy W. Roper and Warrant Officer H. B. Alvarez alternated in the position of Bulk Funding Officer during the past year and, therefore, both were alternately in charge of the operation and accountable for the funds. They were assisted by Disbursing Clerk Third Class Stanley G. Peterson and Seaman Phil A. Gulino.

"Fort Knox East" has been in operation since 1966 and until May 1, was the central funding office for all U.S. military disbursing officers and U.S. civilian finance officers in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

In disbursing terms, this meant that Fort Knox East was tasked with the responsibility of providing \$10 million in Military Payment Certificates, \$7 million in U. S. currency and 250 million Vietnamese Piasters to approximately 40 disbursing and finance officers each month.

To accomplish this, Fort Knox East had to maintain a cash balance which averaged \$25 million. This was accomplished by making average daily collections in excess of \$250,000 in MPC from the Vietnam Regional Exchange and the Freedom Hill R&R Center and by making bi-weekly "money runs" to Saigon to purchase an average of \$3.5 million in U. S. currency and 175 million Vietnamese Piasters.

As if this were not enough to keep them busy, the Fort Knox staff was also responsible for providing the Piasters to pay some 12,000 Vietnamese civilians who were employed by the U. S. military forces throughout I Corps. These payrolls amounted to 100 million Piasters a month and were paid by 150 paying agents who converged on Fort Knox at least once a month to pick up their money and payrolls.

Now after nearly four years' operation, the vault has been phased-out and NSA will provide funds only for the military personnel assigned to the command and Vietnamese employed by it.

What this means is going from a \$68 million a month operation to a \$3 million a month operation overnight. Fort Knox East is now closed, but the experiences and impressions of funding millions of dollars will linger in the memories of the four men who staffed Fort Knox East.

"I know of no other dry dock in the Navy," said Johnson, "that docks as many craft as we do here and I've spent most of my Navy career working in dry docks."

Tactical Control...

(Continued from Page 1)

them. This includes the target description, location of the nearest friendly unit, direction of heading, bail-out heading, attack heading, nearest recovery base and a brief description of the weather and terrain.

Meanwhile, the RTO at brigade has established a rendezvous point for the FAC and fighter pilots. At this point, the FAC meets the fighters, briefs them and leads them to the target.

With the fighters in sight, the FAC flies over the target, marking it with smoke rockets, then circles near the target area and clears each fighter's pass. Corrections are made from the point of the previous bomb's impact.

"Once the fighters have finished their job, we assess the bomb damage of the target," said Lennox, explaining that this assessment is passed on to the fighter pilots, at brigade and division.



Heavy Lift

A Marine CH-53 helicopter carries a small bulldozer to Fire Support Base Ryder some 31 miles southwest of Da Nang. Nearly all supplies and equipment are flown to the base by Marine aircraft.

(USMC PHOTO By: Cpl. P. J. LaBreque)

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