

Meal time finds some 500 children waiting in the chow line. In addition to the An Loc children, small waifs off the streets wander in at meal time, and are never turned down.

The role of Company C in assisting the orphanage is a vital one, according to Madame Ngai. "The boys help us in many ways. They provide food supplies and manpower, and we are very grateful."

Private First Class Charles Keller, Cleveland, Ohio, is one of the men of Company C who is actively helping the orphanage. "We get food and clothes for the

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### ATTENTION!

Important news! The Big Red One Association raffle has been expanded in that there will now be a grand total of 51 winners! That's right—51 lucky people will be winners in this exciting raffle. The grand prize winner will receive a brand new 1970 Mustang delivered right to your door in CONUS. The second prize winner will walk away with a Sekor Camera worth \$126.00. Five people will be third prize winners. Each will become the proud owner of a Peteri Racer Camera worth \$31.50. There will be a total of ten fifth prize winners each of whom will be given a portable Panasonic Radio valued at \$24.00 each. Wait! That's not all. Twenty prize winners will receive Big Red One Watches! And wait . . . there's more to come. There will be fourteen sixth prizes of \$10.00 gift certificates. 51 winners in all! This is a deal you simply cannot afford to miss. Don't wait!

The drawing will be held on 15 July instead of 4 July as originally announced.

the "Declaration of Independence." The basis of this historic document is that all men have certain fundamental rights. Among them are "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

As our forefathers fought for liberty, so now we are fighting in Vietnam for the same reason. Once the fighting was on the commons and greens at Lexington and Concord. Now we are here in the rice paddies, the jungle and the rubber. Yet, the goal is the same—that the rights of the individual be recognized and preserved.

We as a nation and as individuals have no design on any foreign land or anything associated with such land. As President Nixon stated recently, "What we want is very little, but very fundamental. We seek the opportunity for the South Vietnamese people to determine their own political future without outside interference." On this Independence Day, let us rededicate ourselves to insuring this inalienable right.

And as long as God gives us the strength, may we always recognize and, if necessary, defend with force the dignity of man and the inalienable rights of free people to live in a free society.

ORWIN C. TALBOTT  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

provides a formidable threat to Charlie when the dusters are used as convoy escorts. Covering Highway 13 from Saigon to Quan Loi, elements of Battery A are always welcomed as traveling companions.

The duster is proving to be a vital ally to the infantryman as well. Staff Sergeant Theodore Brasfield, a Section Chief from Athens, Ga., fully agrees. "The dusters work hand in hand with the infantry," he said. "Not only for transportation, but for their firepower as well." Speaking of the comparative value of tanks, Sergeant Dave Schmidt, Eau Claire, Wis., added, "They don't match the dusters."

Used on ambush patrols, the duster can serve as a blocking force, and hopefully push VC into the grasp of awaiting "legs." Were the VC to elude the infantry, the dusters could bring quick, devastating, indirect fire upon the enemy.

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NICE SHOOTING—B-52s unleash their "thunder" on North Vietnamese positions near the Big Red One's Fire Support Base Gela. The "Black Lions" of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry enjoyed the show of support.

(Photo By Sp4 Christopher Parsons)

## Trackers Aid BRO Units

By Sp5 James Holmes  
(Div 10) — Combat tracker teams are a valuable asset to Big Red One Infantry units. Their capacity to trail the enemy, after contact has been made, assist the units in carrying out their mission.

A tracker team consists of five highly trained men and a Labrador tracker dog. The dog handler has the sole job of carefully observing for the dog's alert during tracking operations. Often, it is just the cocking of an ear, an unusual head movement, or just hair raising on the dog's back.

The visual tracker looks for any signs of enemy presence, such as a broken branch, footprints or any other signs which point out recent movement through an area. By looking at a sign the visual tracker can estimate when someone passed through the area.

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ther help comes from the headquarters men, in the form of a Ready Reaction Force. Within minutes of notification, alerted members of the force move into nearby, strategic fighting positions.

Though not trained as infantrymen, the men are "up-tight" in their knowledge of guard procedure. "I've seen guards in Korea, Germany, Vietnam — and the men here are truly excellent. On a sliding scale of quality, from 0-100 percent, these men would fall between 90 and 95 percent," said Major Weeks.

After thorough inspection of preparedness, the detailed guards review the halting and

the heartland of the Big Red One.

Even were no enemy contact to be made by these guards and Reaction Forces for the duration of the Vietnam conflict, the performance of their job would be of substantial value as a deterrent.

## Know Your Government

By SP4 V.L. Spadafora Jr.

(Div CIO) — The average American enters a voting booth feeling he is about to cast a ballot to elect a president directly. But although the names of all presidential candidates appear on the ballot, the vote cast technically is not for the president but for the presidential elector.

Electors chosen in the 50 states and the District of Columbia are members of the Electoral College. Since each state may name as many electors as it has seats in the U.S. Congress, and an additional three electors are authorized for the District of Columbia, membership in the College totals 538. To become President, a candidate requires a majority — or 270 — of the electors' votes.

It is possible for a candidate to win the Presidency without a plurality of the popular vote. In each state, all electoral votes go to the candidate receiving the greatest number of popular votes in that state. It does not matter whether he wins by a large or a narrow margin. Thus, if a candidate achieves victory in a few states by very broad margins but loses in the remaining states by very slim margins, he can win the popular vote while losing the electoral vote — and the Presidency — to his rival.

## It Was A Gas

By SP4 Stuart M. Richel

(Div IO) — "It was a present for us, in celebration of Buddha's birthday." At least that's the way it appeared to Captain Thomas G. Mendonca, commanding officer of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry.

The 1st Division unit, aboard craft of the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group (RAG) Number 28, was quietly cruising down the Saigon River, south of the village of Ben Chua, when some sharp-eyed sailors spotted an odd reflection along the east bank. Investigation proved worthwhile, as the men were soon busy hauling 30, five-gallon containers of gasoline onto the RAG boats.

In capturing the fuel, the combined Vietnamese-American forces have deprived many VC of their overland mobility. "They will have to keep their dune buggies off the beach," chuckled Navy Lieutenant Kenneth Levin, senior American advisor to RAG 28.

men the opportunity to shoulder their own responsibilities, they have helped overcome the apathy and indifference which followed in the wake of 90 years of colonial domination."

The former commander in Vietnam continued, "No one who has known them — or who has seen them perform — could

The Electoral College was authorized under the Constitution. Its members formally vote on the Monday after the second Wednesday in December of the election year, in accordance with a law enacted by Congress in 1934. Thus, the electors meet in their respective state capitals, and in the District of Columbia to cast their ballots, which then are sent to the national Capitol in Washington. There the ballots are counted in the presence of the members of Congress.

The Constitution stipulates that if no candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes, the decision shall then be made by the House of Representatives. In the event that this should happen, each state and the District of Columbia would be allotted one vote only. A majority of all the votes would be necessary for a choice. A presidential election has been decided by the House of Representatives on only two occasions — in 1800, when Thomas Jefferson was elected, and in 1824, when the House chose John Quincy Adams.

## Passes Exam With Ease

By Sp5 James Holmes

(Div IO) — After several months of work one would expect a man to relax on his R & R, but Captain Wayne Kekina, 1st Administrative Company (Postal Section), spent his time taking tests.

The Big Red One soldier left for his home in Honolulu on a regular R&R to not only see his wife and child, but also to take the strenuous five-day bar exam.

After studying in Di An during his free time he passed the tests and returned to his job at the Army Post Office. About a month later he returned to Hawaii on an administrative leave to be sworn in by the Hawaii Supreme Court and the Federal District Court.

Captain Kekina was graduated from Hastings Law School in San Francisco with a Juris Doctorate Degree. Prior to attending law school he went to the University of San Francisco.

## Receive Gifts

By Sp5 James Holmes

(Div IO)—The top students of the schools of the Tan Uy tract, a few miles north, were awarded small graduation ceremonies.

It is an old custom, students who excel in their academic achievement in the school year. To follow tradition, the 2nd Brigade, donated gifts to the winners to be awarded to standing young students end of the term.

The presents were given by the district chief, who turned over to headmasters of the tract schools. The gifts were wrapped and passed out to the different grade levels.

The high school students were awarded gifts of bound Vietnamese-English dictionaries. Pupils in the senior primary grades were given books of Vietnamese rhymes and legends, and the youngest students received small kits, containing various school supplies.

The gifts served both as a reward and an incentive for next year's students who received a prize and also for those who did not.

## Trackers...

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Since the dog handler always has his eyes focused on the Labrador, a security man is needed to look for any danger which might affect the team. This cover man remains at the dog handler's side at all times.

The team also consists of a team commander and radio operator.

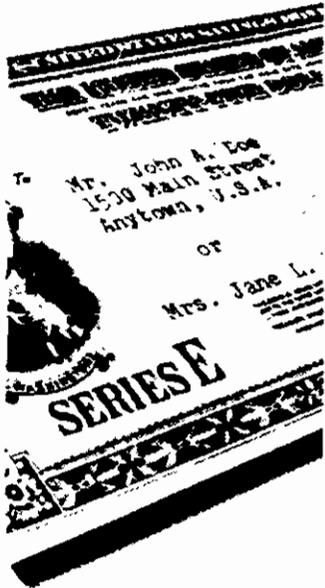
The use of tracker dogs in Vietnam is relatively recent. Originally, Labradors were used by the British. The United States adopted the idea from them, and now has a tracker dog training school at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

The most essential part of the training is breaking the Labrador's natural instinct to follow animal scent, and train him to adapt to the scent of a human.

The primary mission of the combat tracker team is to re-establish contact after an infantry unit has made an initial contact with the enemy.

The 61st Infantry Platoon (Combat Tracker), commanded by Lieutenant Daniel E. Harring, Miami, Fla., is the only tracker unit in Vietnam that works for three major units. Although the platoon is assigned to the 1st Division, it also works in the areas of the 82nd Airborne and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The platoon is comprised of four five-man teams and five Labradors.

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