

Engineers Rebuilding Bridge For Bong Son

U.S. Army engineers are rebuilding a bridge destroyed by the Viet Cong for the people of northern Binh Dinh Province.

Cut by saboteurs in October 1966, the bridge links the district capital of Bong Son with the main highway to the markets of the provincial capital of Qui Nhon.

Engineers of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and supporting engineer units immediately threw up a pontoon structure for traffic. The low bridge is sufficient for military traffic. The original Bong Son bridge was too narrow for heavy military trucks which bring supplies to the 1st Cavalry from Qui Nhon.

But the Americans were determined to replace the original bridge for civilian traffic as a civic action gesture. There was

a problem though. The Bong Son bridge was made by the French with measurements in meters. The American engineers had to find pieces of Eiffel bridge before they could begin.

By summer, the pieces were found and a platoon from B Company, 35th Engineer Battalion started work. They plan to be finished by August.

The first stages are being completed with standard work methods. A fallen span has been jacked up and wooden piles will be driven into the river bed to support new spans.

But then the airmobility of the 1st Cav will take over and speed completion of the bridge.

Huge CH-54 Flying Crane helicopters will lift the spans onto the piles and the new civilian bridge for Bong Son will be complete.

