

# General Norton To Leave Cav



General Norton

Maj. Gen. John Norton is scheduled to pass on command of the 1st Air Cavalry Division today as he prepares to leave Vietnam after a two year tour of duty.

Maj. Gen. John J. Tolson III will accept command of the division in 10 a.m. ceremonies at Landing Zone Two Bits, the Cav's forward command post near Bong Son. Tolson is former commander of the Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker, Ala.

Norton will become new head of the Army Aviation Materiel Command in St.

Louis, Mo., the complex responsible for army aviation design, research, development, product maintenance and engineering.

**For Related Pictures Of General Norton See Centerfold**

On Wednesday Norton received the Vietnamese Army Distinguished Service Cross 1st Class and the Armed Forces Honor Medal 1st Class from Lt. Gen. Vinh Loc, commander of II Corps, at Pleiku. The awards are the highest the nation bestows.

After 13 months as commander of Army Support Command, Vietnam, the general took over direction of the Cavalry on May 6, 1966 in the middle of Operation Davy Crockett, a search and destroy effort near Bong Son where the division is again operating.

Norton successfully completed Davy Crockett and went on to lead Cavalrymen in 11 other major operations including Lewis & Clark; Crazy Horse, one of the division's toughest battles;

(See page 7, col. 1)



General Tolson

## CAVALAIR

THE FIRST TEAM

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## Four-Day Battle Kills 147 Enemy

The 1st Air Cavalry faced the enemy in a decisive four-day battle on the Bong Son Plain last week.

During the bitter and heavy fighting March 19-23, at least 147 communists were killed, and 171 detained. American casualties were not light; 44 men died and 111 were wounded in the combat with multi-battalion elements of the North Vietnamese Army.

Many more of the enemy are believed to have died in the fight, but because the communists are quick to hide their battlefield dead, the true death toll could not be ascertained by actual body count.

The activity took place in the middle of the rice-rich coastal plain, several kilometers north of Landing Zone English. Cavalrymen had to flush the entrenched enemy from fortified island communities which characterize the area.

As Operation Pershing goes into its seventh week, the communists have suffered successive tactical and political defeats throughout the First Team's area of responsibility in eastern Binh Dinh Province.

Since the operation started Feb. 12, at least 1,052 com-

munist have been slain and 3,674 detained. In addition, many hundreds of weapons of all kinds have been captured.

During the week's operations, an ARVN Marine task force entered the treacherous An Lao Valley, a long-time enemy sanctuary and stronghold. A battalion of Cavalrymen went into the valley with the ARVN's, providing

flank security for the thrust.

While contact in the An Lao was relatively light, there were several instances of ground-to-air fire. Refugees in the area provided assistance by pin-pointing enemy locations and artillery and air strikes were called for.

Since the Battle of Binh Dinh started in September 1966, at least 2,567 enemy have been killed.

## 1/9th Troop Leader Wins Silver Star

Maj. Gen. John Norton has presented the nation's third highest award, the Silver Star, to Maj. Charles Bagnall.

Bagnall, commander of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, received the honor for his battle actions on March 6th during Operation Pershing.

On that day, he commanded three platoons of his own company and another company-sized element, directed two fighter strikes and three aerial rocket artillery sections, adjusted numerous artillery concentrations and personally killed eight Viet Cong.

Bagnall's forces, after engaging a well entrenched enemy force in the early

morning hours on the Bong Son Plain, were unable to evacuate the wounded due to heavy automatic weapons fire.

Bagnall flew his helicopter (See Page 6, Col. 3)

## De Saussure New ADC

Brig. Gen. Edward H. De Saussure Jr., formerly artillery commander of I Force V, has assumed duties as assistant commander of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

De Saussure came to Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division in February of 1966 and served as assistant commander of that division.

He received the Silver Star while serving with the

## Captain Awarded Posthumous DSC

MIAMI, FLA. — Capt. William Taylor was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by 3rd Army Commander Lt. Gen. Lewis Truman in ceremonies held at the University of Miami.

Mrs. Taylor accepted the nation's second highest award for her husband who was killed while commanding Company B, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry.

Taylor died while leading his company against a regiment of North Vietnamese Army forces during Operation Paul Revere II in August 1966. His actions during the battle are credited with laying the groundwork for a major Allied victory.

Taylor's old battalion has named its officer's club "Taylor's Tavern" in his honor. The phrase "watch to the east" will be burned above the doorway of the club. The warning words

were Taylor's last before his company was rushed by the enemy.

The university's ROTC cadet corps trooped in mass at the Florida campus for the award presentation.

## Seven Honored For One Action

Seven members of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry have been decorated for valor they displayed in a March 11th battle which cost the enemy 43 dead.

SFC Alberto Cuellar, SSgt. Jimmy D. Shoemaker and SSgt. Charles Dawson, all

related story page 3

of Company D, were awarded Silver Stars for their heroic actions during the fight which dislodged Viet Cong forces from heavily entrenched positions near Hoa Tan hamlet in the central highlands.

Sp4 David Studstill of

(See page 3, col. 1)

25th. Among his other awards are the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Medal.

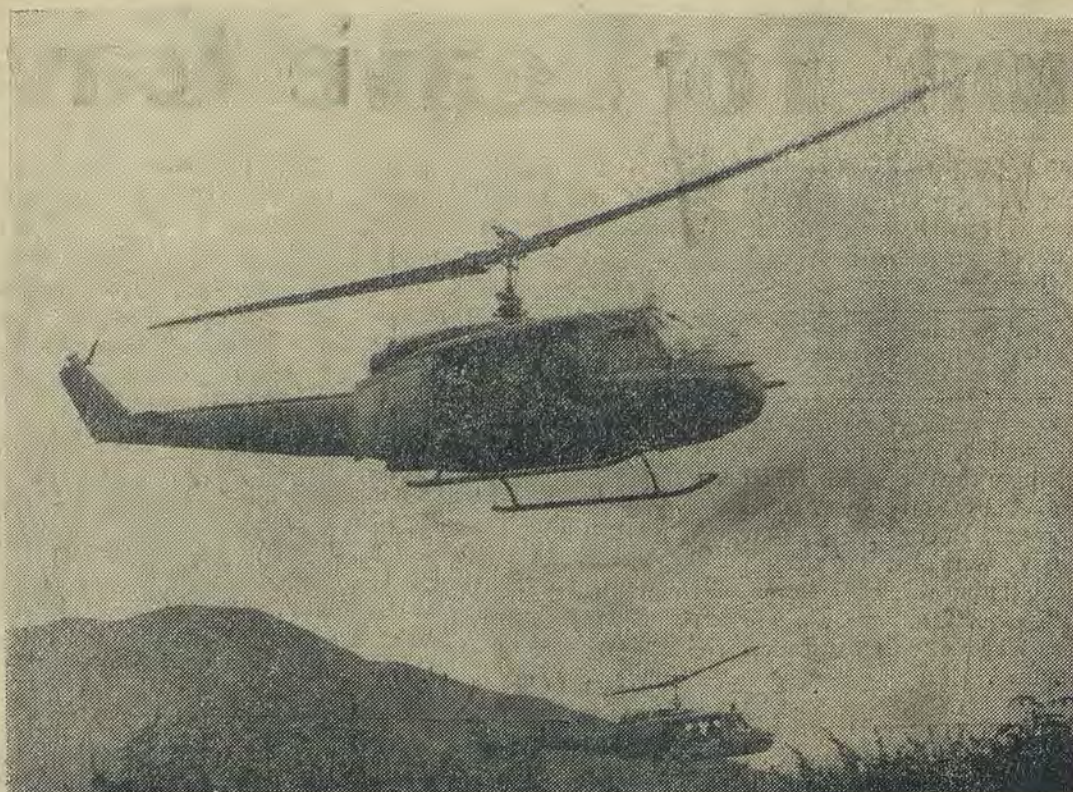
A graduate of West Point, De Saussure has attended numerous army schools including the Command and General Staff College and War College. In 1949 he received his master's degree from Johns Hopkins Univer-

sity.

Originally from El Paso, Texas, De Saussure, 48, now calls Charleston, South Carolina his home. His wife, Frances, and five children are currently residing there.

De Saussure replaces Brig. Gen. Alfred J.F. Moody who died of a heart attack after being with the 1st Cav less than a week.





**INTO THE BATTLE** — Helicopters of the Cavalry go down into an LZ in the An Lao Valley to unload Skytroops from Troop C, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry. (Photo by Sp4 Bruce Montoya)

## Savings Plan Allows Leave Withdrawals

(MACV) — Servicemen may now withdraw their savings from the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program when going on special 30-day leave. Such withdrawals will not, however, include accrued interest which remains on deposit.

Applications for withdrawals will be forwarded through local finance channels. Checks will be mailed on to addresses within the U.S. or its possessions.

The high interest rate program pays 10 per cent compounded quarterly. Personnel completing tours in Vietnam may apply for withdrawal of their money immediately upon return to the States, or they continue to earn interest up to 90 days after their return.

The recent change enables

servicemen to receive high interest while saving for their tour-extension leaves.

## GM Autos Available Through PX

(MACV) — The Vietnam Regional Exchange last month granted General Motors a concession to sell its cars. Ford, Chrysler and American Motors began selling here in October.

The GM representative presently works only out of the Cholon Exchange, but the concession is expected to expand soon to Tan Son Nhut and Bien Hoa stores. Meanwhile, inquiries can be mailed to GM Military Sales, c/o Headquarters, Vietnam Regional Exchange, APO 96243.

A minimum downpayment of \$1000 for luxury class cars and \$250 for others is required for GM sales contracts (as for those of the other companies). Financial requirements must be satisfied at least two weeks before delivery. Stateside dealer delivery is made to PX patrons, with discounts ranging from 11 to 18 per cent.

## Vietnam Village Elections Set

(MACV) — The Republic of Vietnam will hold elections of village and hamlet officials during April, May and June.

Key administrative officials to be elected include members of the village councils, hamlet chiefs and deputy chiefs. Each village council will elect one of its members as the village chief. Depending on the size of the village, the

council will include from six to 12 members.

The elections will restore self-government at the local level, a system abolished early in the Diem administration.

The spring elections will be held in some 1,300 villages and 5,500 hamlets of South Vietnam. The village election will be held on five consecutive Sundays beginning on

Sunday. The hamlet elections will start on May 14 and will run for five consecutive Sundays.

Since the Viet Cong consider the development of a representative government in Vietnam a threat to their political survival, they can be expected to mount a campaign of terror and intimidation against the

elections.

Servicemen should take extra security precautions during the elections and stay away from polling places.

U.S. forces throughout the country are urged to avoid providing support or the appearance of support to any candidate or slate of candidates.

## Some AID Goods Are Intended For Sale

(MACV) — Many people have assumed mistakenly that goods bearing the U.S.

Agency for International Development (AID) emblem — clasped hands on a red, white and blue shield — cannot be sold. The fact is that

the majority of U.S. Aid to Vietnam is intended for resale.

In order to avoid misunderstandings in the future, goods for resale will be labeled "May Be Sold In Vietnam".

Last year, 512.2 million dollars worth of AID-supported commodities were sent to Vietnam for resale. These goods were supplied under the Commodity Import Program (CIP).

The AID-financed CIP and the Government of Vietnam's foreign exchange financed program of commercial imports were established to absorb the excessive amounts of piasters in circulation, thereby reducing inflationary pressures within the Vietnamese economy.

Under the CIP, the United States finances commodities imported into Vietnam through normal commercial channels for direct sale to consumers or for use in manufacturing.

Importers of CIP items must pay in piasters the equivalent of the dollar value of their import purchases.



**SECURITY** — A Regional Forces soldier stands guard while a laborer repairs a storehouse in a Binh Dinh Province village. (Photo by Sp5 Francis Moffitt)

# CAVALAIR

THE FIRST TEAM

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<p>Commanding General.....</p> <p>Chief of Information.....</p> <p>Editor.....</p>	<p>Maj. Gen. John Norton</p> <p>Maj. Wesley G. Jones</p> <p>PFC Stephen Fleming</p>
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# Nine Hour Battle Bitter

The man sat quietly hunched over on a case of C-rations.

Tears fought day-old mud the length of his face before they trickled onto his buddy's half-finished letter lying on the helmet between his filthy boots.

His buddy would never finish it.

Pagoda Mountain, the 1st Air Cavalry Division, middle-aged Vietnamese women throwing grenades, trenches and bunkers, three Silver Stars, nine hours, four Bronze Stars, 43 North Vietnamese dead, Tra-O Lake, machine-gun fire.

The tears stopped muddying the letter. His wife will want this.

The battle of Pagoda Mountain began at 10 o'clock, the morning of March 11th.

When it was over the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry had killed 43 North Vietnamese Army regulars and detained 81.

Twenty-two Americans died and 23 more were wounded.

That morning, Company C was searching southwest of the Crescent area nine miles southeast of Bong Son.

The Third Platoon was suddenly pinned down by heavy automatic weapons fire from entrenched positions.

They needed help. The Second Platoon reinforced them.

As the casualties mounted with the increasing enemy fire, the First Platoon climbed into choppers to join the battle.

They couldn't get in—the fire was too heavy.

Two ships were hit by

★ ★

## 2/5th Skytroops Win Honors For Nine Hour Fight

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Company D and PFC Jesse J. Togeant, Sp4 James A. Hickman, SSgt. Ronald Morrison of Company C, and SSgt. Shelton McComb of Company A, were given Bronze Stars with V device for their performance during the nine hour fight.

The awards were presented by Maj. Gen. John Norton, commanding general of the 1st Cav, the week following the battle under the recently initiated "impact system" whereby recognition for acts of heroism are acknowledged as soon as possible after the action.

enemy fire and limped off toward Landing Zone Anchor, three miles away. They barely made it.

Ten minutes later the First Platoon moved back in to try a second time when the ground fire slackened.

They made it.

Meanwhile, Lt. Col. Robert Stevenson, battalion commander, moved Company D into blocking positions on

the east side of one of the mountain's many projecting fingers in an attempt to prevent the enemy's escape if contact was broken.

Company A was dropped on the other side.

Pinned down, the Cavalrymen crawled behind small hedgerows and called for aerial rocket artillery and howitzer support.

The wounded lay where

they fell, their comrades unable to get to them. Those who had tried lay among the injured, themselves dead or wounded.

When the fire slackened, medevac ships roared in to evacuate the wounded. That afternoon three of the flying ambulances were hit.

The commander of Company D, Capt. Richard McInerney, had been moving

under fire from position to position, getting his men prepared to move forward to overrun the communists.

Company D got up and started their assault.

McInerney and one of his men were wounded as they crossed a hedgerow. Somehow, they managed to find a hole and fell in it.

As he took out a grenade, ignoring his wound, the captain asked the direction of the incoming fire and the distance. The man pointed and answered "about 25 meters".

McInerney stuck his head out of the hole to pin-point the target and fell back inside, dead, shot through the head.

For hours American and NVA regulars fought toe to toe.

One wounded Cavalryman, feigning death, watched as a VC removed a radio from a dead radio operator.

The company first sergeant took over after McInerney died, then was wounded.

SFC Alberto Cuellar took over, screaming orders, getting the men organized and moving. He won a Silver Star for his efforts.

All the while the men kept moving forward.

The troopers mistook enemy women cadre for innocent civilians from a nearby village. The women gave away the American positions and one middle-aged woman threw a grenade which exploded in a group of Americans.

When darkness settled in that evening, the fighting tapered off to sniper fire and an occasional exchange of grenades. It went on all night.

The next morning the fighting ended and the Cavalrymen began the job of cleaning up the battlefield.

As air force jets screamed overhead on a bombing run on the enemy's escape route on the other side of the mountain, one Cavalryman put down the body slung over his shoulder.

With hands on his hips, squinting into the jungle sun, he quietly cursed and after a few seconds added forcefully, "Give 'em hell".

Then stooping to pick up the body, he continued his work.



JUMPERS — Air Cavalrymen prepare to jump into the An Lao Valley on an air assault during Operation Pershing. (Photo by Sp4 Bruce Montoya).

## Cavalrymen Silence Enemy With Knives

For 10 minutes they crawled. Then, with knives drawn, they pounced into the guerilla machinegun pit.

A few brief moments of flashing steel and it was over. The communists were dead, the machinegun silenced.

SSgt. Delmar D. Harris and Sp4 Robert Kasun wiped the blood off their knives, sheathed them, and rejoined their company.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry counted the 39 enemy bodies that lay around them. The company took no casualties in the battle.

The Cavalrymen had been on a search and destroy mission in the Kim Son Valley, 25 miles north of Qui Nhon, when they were ambushed. Heavy machinegun fire crashed in on them.

More than 40 M-79 grenade rounds were fired at the enemy fortifications knocking out all but one of the machinegun nests. Harris and Kasun

took the last by skirting around the pit and attacking from the rear.

When the area was later

searched, weapons of Chinese origin were found in addition to more than 800 rounds of ammunition.

## Lone Rear Guard Wins Bronze Star

By Sgt. T. Willoughby

Sp4 Harry L. Leach acted as a one man covering force for his platoon and thus won the Bronze Star.

Leach of Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was acting as a machinegunner when his unit engaged a heavily dug-in enemy force.

Within seconds, Leach's platoon was taking casualties. He dropped into a kneeling position and, firing from the shoulder, sprayed the trees with machinegun fire to eliminate a sniper.

Seeing puffs of smoke

rising from a thicket, Leach spotted an enemy machinegun that was pinning his platoon. He ran through a deadly hail of bullets to set up his machinegun and fire on the enemy.

Hurling hand grenades and firing his machinegun, Leach remained in his exposed position until all the wounded could be evacuated.

As darkness fell, Leach voluntarily moved forward and retrieved several valuable items of equipment that might have otherwise fallen into enemy hands.



# General Norton: Active Commander



CONFERENCE— General Norton talks with Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara during the Secretary's visit to the Cavalry forward command post during Operation Thayer II.



COMMUNICATION— General Norton talks to his Cavalrymen. He visited the men often to honor them, to celebrate with them and to talk with them.



WORSHIP— General Norton sings at the Billy Graham Christmas Eve service at Camp Radcliff. Flanking him are his assistant division commanders, Brig. Gen. William A. Becker, left, and Brig. Gen. George S. Blanchard.



COOPERATION— The general cuts a ribbon during a dedication ceremony in Binh Dinh Province. General Norton cooperated closely with ARVN forces in the province, Vietnam's largest, in a drive to clear out the 3rd North Vietnamese Army Division and bring the population back under government control.



MEMORIAL— The Cavalry commander stands at attention as a monument is unveiled for the men of the 7th Cavalry at the 3rd Brigade's Garry Owen Day in November.



PROMOTION— The general pins star on then Col. George S. Blanchard as a surprise. The two officers were guests at another ceremony when the general asked if he could present something to Blanchard.



## Ice Plant Makes 60 Tons A Day

Sixty tons of ice slide down the conveyor ramps at the 1st Air Cav's new ice plant each day.

Built by Company B of the 84th Engineer Battalion, the new ice plant took seven months to build and, according to Capt. Edward L. Winton, company commander, it is the first ice plant in Vietnam built entirely by troop labor.

"It was a real challenge," said Winton, "because it involved so many different construction phases. Extensive electrical, masonry and carpentry work was necessary."

To convert water into 100-pound blocks of ice, water-filled tanks are submerged in a swirling brine solution (water and calcium chloride) held at 14 degrees Fahrenheit. It takes 24 hours to freeze one 37 gallon tank of purified water. At any one time, 500 tanks are in the process of being frozen.

Upon completion of the plant, the operation was turned over to the Pacific Architects and Engineers (PA&E). Kenneth W. Behm, plant supervisor, said the new plant is as good or better than most stateside ice plants.

"It's one of the best I've seen," said Behm, "and the physical layout can't be beat."

## Sgt. Maj. Defeats Cagey Rat Thief

The three-month battle of Sgt. Maj. Robert Chinn is over.

For three months Chinn has been waging a private war against a nightly visitor

## Time Reduced In Ration Issue

Rations will now be issued from a single building at the 1st Air Cavalry, cutting the ration issue time down to three hours.

Previously, rations were stacked outdoors and units completed their daily ration pick-up one item at a time which took up to six hours.

Class I, distributor of all Cav rations, is operated by the 15th Supply and Service Battalion under the supervision of Capt. Robert T. Jones. The new building was built by the 70th Engineers.



**CHOW DOWN**—Sp4 Guillermo Rendon (left) and Sp4 Elbert Snow chow down after digging a fox hole during Operation Pershing. Rendon and Snow are with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry. (Photo By Sp4 Bruce Montoya)

## Sawed-Off M-79 Useful

By Sp4 R.A. Haverkate

SSgt. Delmar D. Harris did not like the M-79 grenade launcher he captured from Viet Cong guerillas the way it was. So he sawed off part of the barrel, turning it into a sidearm.

Harris later saved his platoon from possible annihilation with his improvised

weapon.

As the platoon of Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry was moving down a jungle trail near Bong Son, automatic weapons fire crashed in through the foliage.

The men flattened themselves on the ground. Harris located the communist bunker, sighted in with his sawed-off grenade launcher and blew a grenade through a small hole in the structure.

He killed the four communists who were only 25 yards away.

Harris said, "I carry an M-16 rifle too, but my sawed-off M-79 is most effective in tight situations."

## Major Wins Silver Star

(Cont'd from Page 1)

directly in front of the enemy position, drawing their fire so the wounded could be moved.

His helicopter took seven hits and his door gunner was wounded.

After silencing several of

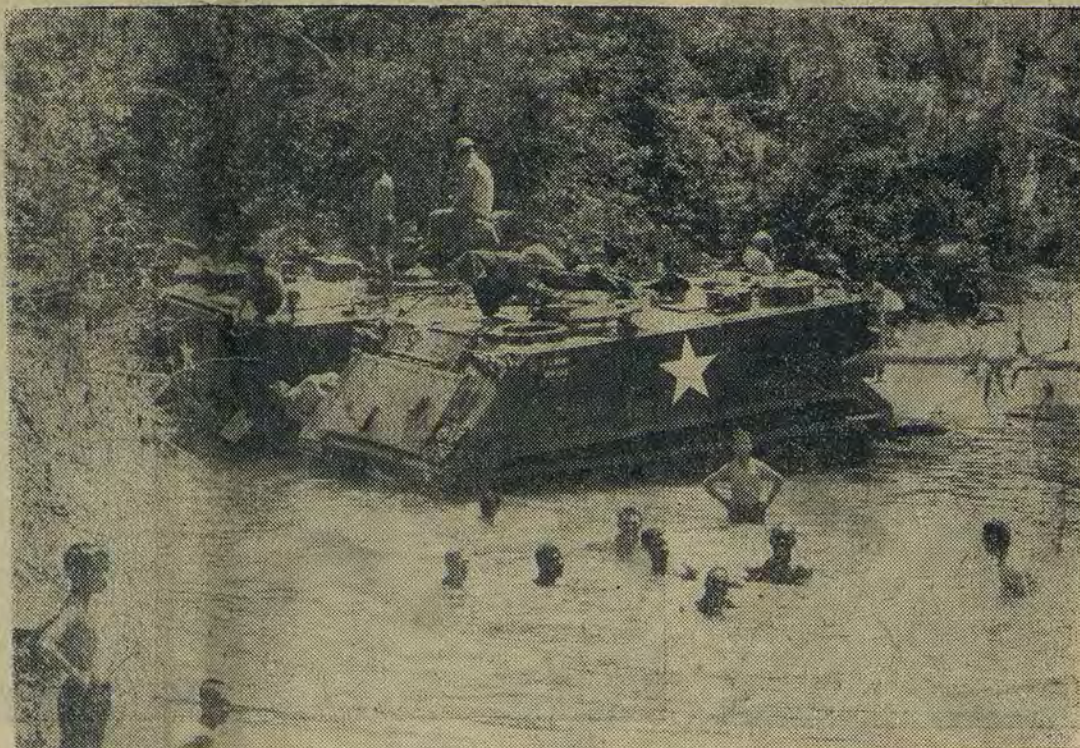
the enemy positions, Bagnall flew the wounded gunner to medical aid and then returned to the fighting.

Because the enemy and American forces were so close to each other, the enemy positions had to be precisely pinpointed so support artillery

would not also hit the friendly forces.

Bagnall flew above the enemy bunkers, marking their positions with grenades.

When reinforcements arrived, Bagnall personally directed them to the critical positions.



**SWIMMING HOLE**—Men of 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and the 1st Air Cav share a water hole with Vietnamese children. The units are participating in Operation Pershing near Bong Son.



# General Directs Cav Growth

(Cont'd from Page 1)

Hawthorne; Nathan Hale; Henry Clay; Paul Revere II; and the continuing series of operations in Binh Dinh Province called by Cavalrymen The Battle of Binh Dinh.

In September 1966, after spending the summer sending his Cavalrymen throughout the central highlands to keep

the enemy off balance, the general moved with the bulk of the division into Binh Dinh to stay.

His mission was to clear the province of the 3rd North Vietnamese Army Division and its Viet Cong allies and to help bring the province population back under government control.

A member of the Howze

Board which first formulated the airmobile concept, Norton made full use of the Air Cavalry's resources, jumping his units from landing zone to landing zone throughout the province.

He worked closely with ARVN forces in the efforts of Operations Thayer I, Irving, Thayer II and Pershing in Binh Dinh.

He took over operational control of the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division in January for Operation Thayer II and Pershing.

In August the general dispatched the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry to Phan Thiet to support the Revolutionary Development Program of the South Vietnamese government in a unique operation.

Norton was concerned with more than just combat operations during his 11 months in command of the Cavalry.

Camp Radcliff was developed from a tent city into a secure garrison base in the field. Buildings replaced tents as the "Green Line" perimeter barrier was made impregnable.

Services available to Cavalrymen were increased. Camp Radcliff now has a tailor shop, movie theaters, a recreational center, a swimming area and athletic fields. A fishing lake is being developed.

Unit chapels moved into permanent buildings. A handsome stone chapel was constructed for the division.

A training center was established for division replacements. Novice Cavalrymen learned airmobile skills like rappelling before they went into combat. A course was set up to train combat leaders.

The general instituted a malaria prevention program and the number of malaria cases declined sharply.

## 2/8th's Seago To Be USARV Sgt. Maj.

A 1st Air Cavalry soldier has been selected to be sergeant major of USARV.

Sgt. Maj. Benjamin Seago was chosen after careful screening of eight sergeants major from divisions throughout Vietnam.

Seago served with the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry as sergeant major since July 1966.

He briefed leading government and military leaders on the concepts and accomplishments of the Air Cavalry. Among his visitors were the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Army, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senators and congressmen.

Norton was decorated by the South Vietnamese with the National Order 5th Class and the Gallantry Cross with palm in ceremonies attended by Nguyen Cao Ky, prime minister of South Vietnam.

Tolson, a 1937 graduate of West Point, is a veteran army aviator and paratrooper.

He has served as Director of Army Aviation, Office Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development and was a combat paratrooper in World War II.

## Cavalry Dog Fights Jungle To Get Home

By Sp4 R.A. Haverkate

He was accidentally left four miles behind by his own men.

Four hours later he limped into his unit, tired and bedraggled, but very much alive.

The hero, Victor Bravo, is a dog, but a most remarkable dog to the men of Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry. For ten months he has been their mascot and their team mate.

The dog was captured from Viet Cong guerillas as a pup, raised by the men and trained as a scout dog. He soon had the admiration of every soldier in the unit. Where the men went, Victor Bravo went.

He was deserted when the unit was heli-lifted from the Kim Son Valley, 25 miles north of Qui Nhon, after a day's patrol. Everyone assumed he was on one of the choppers.

Victor Bravo's absence was noticed immediately when the men unloaded at their forward base camp, Landing Zone Pony. Although the loss was deeply felt, there was nothing the men could do.

Victor Bravo, apparently by following the sound of the artillery, found his unit four hours later. Panting and his tail still wagging, he had found his way home.



General Norton points out facilities of the Cav's forward command post to Gen. Paul D. Freeman, commander of Continental Army Command, during the latter's recent visit.

### FOR PHAN THIET KIDS

## Cavalrymen Are 'Big Brothers'

"Sir, I've been in Vietnam since November 1965 and this is the best afternoon I've had in the 15 months" said Sp4 Carter Butler as he and another member of Company A, 227th Aviation Battalion were returning from an

afternoon spent with two Vietnamese children in Phan Thiet.

Under the supervision of Capt. Schneider, civil affairs officer for Task Force 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Butler and Sp4 James Dickerson had volunteered to participate

in the "big brother" program.

Capt. Schneider arranged with the province officials to have members of the task force sponsor some of the children for an "afternoon on the town" in Phan Thiet.

Butler, a door gunner and

Dickerson, an aircraft mechanic, sponsored two young boys from the Binh An refugee camp. The boys were treated to lunch and ice cream and returned to their refugee camp wearing new shirts, new shoes and matching cowboy hats.



# Radcliff Adding Old Fishing Hole

It'll soon be summertime and the catfish will be biting ...not just on the Mississippi but here at Camp Radcliff's Lazy Acres, a fishing lake now under construction.

Lt. Col. Powell D. Murphy, who is developing the area, predicts that the fishing and recreation center will be officially opened by April 15th.

Located near Route 70 just inside the Cav's perimeter, the 5-acre lake has not been fished for years, Murphy said.

"And the fish are not just hungry," he added, "they are ravenous."

Murphy, special assistant to assistant division commander-B, said he had been waiting for six months to develop the area "primarily for the benefit of the men who have been engaged in the combat areas for months at a time.

"We have to have something here where people can enjoy themselves when they come in from the operational areas," he said. He pointed out that while the lake is primarily filled with catfish now, plans are underway with the 1st Cavalry Association to stock the water with 5,000 bass from the states.

"As it is now," he declared, "anyone who has got worms and tackle can catch a

10 to 15 inch catfish without any problem."

"When the area is completely developed, there will be three boats available free to Skytroopers, latrines, barbecue pits, fishing tackle and a PX concession offering refreshments, including beer and soda," he said. "There might be a small charge for worms, too."

The colonel, an avid fisherman himself, said that the lake was once known as Leech Lake.

"I don't want anyone to think he can swim there without crawling away carrying leeches four to six inches long," he said.



AN ALLY—An ARVN soldier stands guard on his unit's perimeter. The 22nd ARVN Division is working with the Cavalry in Operation Pershing. (Photo by Sp5 Francis Moffitt)

## Cav Aids Displaced Villages

Hardship for civilians is an inevitability of any war and for more than 25 years the people of Vietnam have lived with terror, death and uprootings.

Sometimes, though, what appears to be a hardship turns out to be beneficial. In September of 1965, the villages of An Dan and Tan Tao were situated on what

was to become the world's largest helipad in the center of the 1st Air Cavalry Division's sprawling base camp.

The village had to be moved; the Air Cav helped.

A site outside the Cav's perimeter was chosen and the 11th Aviation Group was assigned the task of assisting in the relocation of the Vietnamese civilians. A disloca-

tion allowance was given to the villagers and new homes were built. But the homes only provided a skeleton for a vibrant community; much still had to be done.

A pig cooperative was started with a small herd of donated pigs. Recreational facilities were built for the children. Schools were established. A dispensary was built. The population swelled to 1500.

Construction has started on a new high school to serve the entire district — a \$20,000, 12-room, two-story structure. The 11th Aviation Group has donated two thousand dollars toward the cause.

Although the Cav has assisted the people of Dan Tao, the real credit goes to the people of the village.

Almost exclusively, they have done the work and carried out suggested projects.

Ceremonies were held recently officially designating the villages of An Dan and Tan Tao as the single village of Dan Tao.

Assistant Division Commander Brig. Gen. George S. Blanchard presided at the ribbon cutting ceremony and praised the villagers for their work.

The province chief presented certificates of achievement to Col. Howard I. Lukens, 11th Aviation Group commander, Capt. Donald Alsbro and SSgt. Leon Fletcher of the civil affairs team.

Blanchard presented a certificate to SSgt. Nguyen Van Rep, the Vietnamese interpreter for the civil affairs team.

## S-4 Ingenuity Topples Trees

A chain saw donated for a test against the tough teak and mahogany forests of South Vietnam is "running smooth as silk" after three months of combat punishment, according to Maj. Ed Langbein, 2nd Brigade S-4.

Air assaulting into the central highlands' hardwood forests requires the quick clearing of areas in which helicopters, filled with combat troops, can land.

Company B of the 8th Engineer Battalion, which supports the 2nd Brigade,

had been having trouble with its chain saws.

Langbein, reading a magazine, spotted an ad advertising a chain saw which could slice through 15 inches of the hardest wood in 10 seconds.

He wrote a letter to the firm and asked for one of the saws to put it to a real test.

The major received a reply saying that the saw was on its way for the test, free of charge.

## Green Line Swept Again By Marauders

"Murphy's Marauders" swept out of Camp Radcliff recently on their second search and clear mission.

The 2,200 man force, composed of clerks, mechanics and technicians, searched out two miles around the base camp perimeter.

Named for Lt. Col. Powell D. Murphy, base development officer who organized the group's two forays, the "Marauders" found some TNT, booby traps, duds and a suspected cache area.

Murphy termed the operation a success. It added to base camp security and proved that "at that moment, Charlie wasn't out there" he said.

"We made a good hard push" Murphy claimed.

"These men certainly are fine troopers," the colonel said.



SKILLED LABOR — Vietnamese boat builder at Phan Thiet calks plank hull. The 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry is currently assisting with Revolutionary Development at Phan Thiet. (Photo by PFC Bruce Herland)