

# 11th Cav Wins Top Unit Awards

## BLACKHORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

Vol. 1, No. 2

BLACKHORSE

JULY 1969



WAR'S END—For this Viet Cong captured by the ARP's. (See story page 11)

### 236 VC Killed During 11th Cav Actions

AN LOC — Elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment killed 50 enemy soldiers during fighting around An Loc June 9th. This was near the area where Second Squadron had killed 94 enemy in two days fighting previously.

The 9th's fighting began when Blackhorse tanks and ACAVs rushed to the aid of two companies of First Infantry Division infantrymen pinned down under heavy enemy fire. An armored thrust through the enemy force broke the attack and resulted in 36 enemy dead.

The day before in the Blackhorse basecamp AO "B" Troopers and armored cavalry elements from the 18th ARVN Division had been sweeping along Route One, east of Xuan Loc, when they ran into an estimated battalion-sized enemy force dug in and waiting to ambush friendly forces.

A sweep of the battle area the next morning turned up 41 VC bodies.

"As soon as we hit them we knew that we were in something big," recalled CPT William Hannah, "B" Troop commander.

"RPGs were a dime a dozen. I still don't see how our casualties were so light."

Also on the 9th "L" Troop ACAVs were ambushed by an enemy force using small arms, automatic weapons, and RPGs. While Blackhorse helicopter gunships kept the enemy from fleeing, "L" Troop overran the enemy position. Twelve enemy bodies and numerous weapons were found.

"F" Troop also got into the act June 9th. The cavalrymen popped an ambush on three enemy soldiers and got all three.

## Top Viet Award VUC Approved

BLACKHORSE—President Nixon has awarded the Presidential Unit Citation to the First Squadron and the attached 1st Platoon of the 919th Engineer Company.

First Squadron was cited for helping frustrate the Viet Cong offensive aimed at the Saigon area during the period May 11-June 3 of last year.

During 22 days the Squadron fought seven major engagements with elements of the 9th Viet Cong Div. As a result the Viet Cong were unable to move its force into Saigon and thus could not carry out a planned offensive.

The entire Regiment is slated to hold formal ceremonies during which the second highest US unit citation, the Valorous Unit Citation, and the highest Vietnamese unit award, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm.

The Valorous Unit Citation covers the Regiment's activities from 31 Jan 68 to 5 Feb 1968. The Cross of Gallantry with Palm covers the period 7 Sep 66 to 10 Aug 68.

In addition the Third Squadron is to receive a Valorous Unit Citation for the period 19 June 67 to 21 Jul 67.

Ceremonies to present the awards have been scheduled several times but have had to be postponed due to the tactical involvement of the Regiment's force.

The awards may be worn by 11th Cav Troopers but must be removed from your uniform should you go to a different unit. The only exception to this are those cavalrymen who were members of the units receiving the award during the time listed in the citation. They may wear the unit citation ribbons no matter what unit that they are assigned to.

At present, paperwork is pending on other Blackhorse unit awards. A Presidential Unit Citation for the 1st Squadron was submitted in July 1967 for actions covering the period 21 November to 2 Dec 66. It was forwarded to Department of the Army on 9 Jul 68 by United States Army Pacific.

Prior to the Valorous Unit Citation 3rd Squadron received a Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 13 Sep 66 to 31 May 67. A Presidential Unit Citation for 3rd Squadron and attached units was initiated on 4 Jul 68 for actions from 30 Jan 68 to 30 June 68.

The 919th Engineers Company has also won the Meritorious Unit Citation.



NEW THIRD SQUADRON COMMANDER—LTC David K. Doyle, of Wilmington, Del., (left photo) addresses his men after becoming commanding officer of Third Squadron. (right photo) Among the people that congratulated LTC Doyle was Major General Orwin C. Talbott, Commanding General of the First Infantry Division.

This is LTC Doyle's second tour with the Blackhorse in Vietnam. He served as Third Squadron S-3 from June, 1967 to July, 1968.

## Tribute To The

The BLACKHORSE will lose some special friends this month by DEROS. They are people who helped make this the best fighting outfit in Vietnam. They are also the people who through their cooperation, information, and advice, helped us to better tell the story to the world about just how good the Blackhorse Regiment really is.

Most are quiet, efficient men that stay in the background. They are people like the S-4, LTC Glen Finkbinder. He's the man who makes sure the Troopers have ammo, equipment to carry out their mission.

There are two men in the TOC that have helped to make ours the finest TOC in this ear. CPT Jerry Rutherford, the Operations Officer, is the constant monitor of the Operations Center.

And the calm, cool, S-3 Major Jim Dozier. He must compile all the information, all the alternative methods, and huddle with the commander to make the plans we follow. His performance here has earned him an assignment in the Operations Center at the Pentagon.

We also want to thank LTC McEnery, former 3rd Squadron CO. He earned the respect and admiration of every man who worked with him.

And we want to say a special thanks and farewell to Chaplain Robert Hawn. This

armor officer knows what a long, lonely ride that Med-evac chopper is. He also knows that no matter how crowded, a hospital can be a lonely place. He knows because he's been there. We have never known this man to miss a day of the hospital rounds. He has a special approach to his religion that makes you want to be a part of it. He doesn't talk TO you, he talks WITH you. The Blackhorse Regiment will miss his prayers, but will always, we're sure, be in them.

To all these men and to all the other Blackhorse Troopers who are due to rotate, our best wishes go with you. When we came to the Regiment you were waiting for us. You taught us to stay alive. We fought along side of you and we learned to love the Blackhorse as you do. It is for this we thank you.

The Blackhorse is privileged for your service. You found the bastards — and you piled on.

ALONS!

# Salaries Raised; Pick Your New Paycheck

OFFICERS														
Pay grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 5	Over 6	Over 7	Over 8	Over 9	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18
O-10	\$1810.20	\$1874.10	\$1938.00	\$1974.10	\$1974.10	\$1945.80	\$1945.80	\$2094.90	\$2094.90	\$2244.90	\$2244.90	\$2394.80	\$2394.80	\$2544.30
O-9	1604.40	1646.40	1688.40	1688.40	1688.40	1724.10	1724.10	1795.80	1795.80	1845.80	1845.80	1945.80	1945.80	2044.90
O-8	1432.20	1466.70	1501.20	1501.20	1501.20	1537.00	1537.00	1646.40	1646.40	1724.10	1724.10	1845.80	1845.80	2044.90
O-7	1207.20	1239.70	1272.20	1272.20	1272.20	1347.00	1347.00	1425.30	1425.30	1486.70	1486.70	1595.80	1595.80	1724.10
O-6	994.80	1024.40	1054.00	1054.00	1054.00	1074.60	1074.60	1074.60	1074.60	1083.30	1083.30	1124.10	1124.10	1164.20
O-5	715.60	740.90	766.20	766.20	766.20	782.20	782.20	782.20	782.20	782.20	782.20	782.20	782.20	782.20
O-4	603.60	624.40	645.20	645.20	645.20	653.70	653.70	653.70	653.70	653.70	653.70	653.70	653.70	653.70
O-3	561.00	577.00	593.00	593.00	593.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00
O-2	446.70	454.00	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30	461.30
O-1	386.40	392.00	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60	397.60

\*While serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, or Commandant of the Marine Corps, basic pay for this grade is \$2,807.10 regardless of cumulative years of service.

\*Does not apply to commissioned officers who have been credited with over 4 years' active service as enlisted members.

OFFICERS CREDITED WITH OVER 4 YEARS' ACTIVE SERVICE AS ENLISTED MEMBERS											
Pay grade	Over 4	Over 5	Over 6	Over 7	Over 8	Over 9	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18
O-3	\$741.60	\$776.70	\$801.90	\$827.10	\$852.30	\$877.50	\$902.70	\$927.90	\$953.10	\$978.30	\$1003.50
O-2	682.70	717.80	752.90	788.00	823.10	858.20	893.30	928.40	963.50	998.60	1033.70
O-1	534.00	570.30	606.60	642.90	679.20	715.50	751.80	788.10	824.40	860.70	897.00

WARRANT OFFICERS														
Pay grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 5	Over 6	Over 7	Over 8	Over 9	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18
W-3	\$571.20	\$612.90	\$654.60	\$696.30	\$738.00	\$779.70	\$821.40	\$863.10	\$904.80	\$946.50	\$988.20	\$1029.90	\$1071.60	\$1113.30
W-2	519.20	560.90	602.60	644.30	686.00	727.70	769.40	811.10	852.80	894.50	936.20	977.90	1019.60	1061.30
W-1	378.90	420.60	462.30	504.00	545.70	587.40	629.10	670.80	712.50	754.20	795.90	837.60	879.30	921.00

ENLISTED MEMBERS														
Pay grade	2 or less	Over 2	Over 3	Over 4	Over 5	Over 6	Over 7	Over 8	Over 9	Over 10	Over 12	Over 14	Over 16	Over 18
E-9	\$410.10	\$425.40	\$440.70	\$456.00	\$471.30	\$486.60	\$501.90	\$517.20	\$532.50	\$547.80	\$563.10	\$578.40	\$593.70	\$609.00
E-8	342.30	357.60	372.90	388.20	403.50	418.80	434.10	449.40	464.70	480.00	495.30	510.60	525.90	541.20
E-7	284.90	299.20	313.50	327.80	342.10	356.40	370.70	385.00	399.30	413.60	427.90	442.20	456.50	470.80
E-6	254.70	269.00	283.30	297.60	311.90	326.20	340.50	354.80	369.10	383.40	397.70	412.00	426.30	440.60
E-5	214.20	228.50	242.80	257.10	271.40	285.70	300.00	314.30	328.60	342.90	357.20	371.50	385.80	400.10
E-4	155.10	169.40	183.70	198.00	212.30	226.60	240.90	255.20	269.50	283.80	298.10	312.40	326.70	341.00
E-3	127.80	142.10	156.40	170.70	185.00	199.30	213.60	227.90	242.20	256.50	270.80	285.10	299.40	313.70
E-2	103.60	117.90	132.20	146.50	160.80	175.10	189.40	203.70	218.00	232.30	246.60	260.90	275.20	289.50
E-1	123.30	137.60	151.90	166.20	180.50	194.80	209.10	223.40	237.70	252.00	266.30	280.60	294.90	309.20
E-1 (under 4 months)	115.20													

\*While serving as Sergeant Major of the Army, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, or Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, basic pay for this grade is \$1016.10 regardless of cumulative years of service computed under section 203 of this title.

## Can't Stop Running

"You learn... you can't stop running."

# ISG Makes Rodeo-Style Jump

CAMP BLACKHORSE (11ACR) — "Hey, D-three-three, you have the oldest tank. Why don't you take the lead? That way there will be no loss if you hit a mine."

When that not too serious challenge came over the horn recently the crewmen on D-33, of the 11th Armored Cavalry's D Company, accepted it in good humor. Had they known what lay ahead they probably would have had second thoughts.

"But we took the lead willingly," said leader SP4 John H. Klinepeter of Duncannon, Pa., "and started down the road from Gia Ray towards Blackhorse."

They hadn't gone far, however, when the challenge proved all too true. D-33 struck what was later evaluated as an 80-

pound mine, blowing off one of the right road wheels.

Tank commander Sgt. Larry E. Hall, Somerset, Ky., was tossed up on the hatch. The driver was completely thrown from the vehicle.

But driver SP4 Roger Gentry, Beattyville, Ky., was more shook than anyone else. Luckily the commo on the sixth month old vehicle was momentarily bad. Thus he had been standing the hatch in order to hear instructions from the TC, and had escaped the worst of the blast.

"The first thing we did was try to shut her down," said Hall. "But everything was jammed tight — it wouldn't steer, so we

couldn't get it out of gear and it wouldn't shut off."

"The second thing that we did was evacuate."

One crew member refused to leave the stricken tank, however. Mounting the gun shield, nose into the wind, third platoon's mascot, a canine named The Dog, continued to ride the tank along its erratic, circular path.

"The vehicle was going around in a big circle, busting jungle on both sides of the road," commented gunner SP4 Edward Slay, Savannah, Ga., "when ISGT Strickland (Joe Strickland of Killeen, Texas) came up along side the stricken tank riding an ACAV, and jump-

ed onto the tank."

After his rodeo-style leap ISG Strickland attempted to stop the runaway machine but he didn't succeed. Finally giving it up, he tossed the dog from his perch and jumped off.

On its third time around the ever-widening circle, the tank stalled and finally came to rest in a small stream.

"It's a good thing she stalled," said Hall. "One more trip around and it would have gone through a small village that was in its path."

After it was all over the crew admitted it had been a pretty rough day.

"But we got a new vehicle out of it," chuckled Klinepeter.

## 'God Is Where You Find Him' Says Cav Chaplain

By Ch. (LTC) R. H. Hawn

By the time the second issue of the Blackhorse newspaper is in your hand I shall have come to my DEROS and will be gone from your midst. Serving you, the men of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, has been the most enjoyable fulfilling ministry that I have ever had. I shall never forget my tour and I promise to keep you and all future Blackhorse troopers in my prayers.

In a war men often ask where they can find God. I can answer them by saying that I have found God in the men of this Regiment, for you see, God is not out there somewhere. He reveals himself where we are, in all activities of our lives. He is there in our loves and hates, our hopes and fears, in good times and bad, in our ACAVs, tanks, and bunkers. God reveals himself through the commonplace

and ordinary things of life, through other people and circumstances.

The problem with us is that we're not alert and thereby ignore his presence. He is in life and He does not expect us to cut ourselves off from the world or to become something we are not. He wants us to be whole persons, enjoying life and his creation to the fullest, while helping that creation by our thoughts, words and actions.

God is indeed in the midst of events in history. The old Testament tells of Israel going to war against a stronger, better-equipped enemy. They were urged to go into battle without fear and without an assurance that victory would be theirs, but in confidence that they were going into battle with the Lord their God. That interpretation of war and life was the way they found meaning in all that happened to them. God protected

them for he was at work right where they were.

Centuries later the Israelites were defeated by Babylonians and taken as captives. Even in this tragic, devastating, defeat they could see God revealing Himself. They discovered God at work, not in victory now, but in defeat. He was right in the midst of their situation.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND GOD? I pray each of you will be alert and recognize him for he is right there where you are. Look around that ACAV, that tank, that bunker, but more importantly look at the men with whom you share the war for it is through our encounters with other persons that our relationship with God is most real and dynamic.

May God bless and be with each of you wherever you may go.

Your Blackhorse Chaplain,  
Chaplain Hawn

# BLACKHORSE

— Find the Bastards — Then Pile On —

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**PROMOTED**—1LT William S. Gould became CPT William S. Gould during a simple ceremony at Binh My village. Doing the insignia honors is the Binh My village chief.

## Cav Officer is Number 1 Dau-uy

To the villagers of Binh My, Captain William S. Gould of White Plains, N. Y. is known as the "Number One Dai-uy (Die-We)". "Dai-uy" is a Vietnamese word meaning "captain" and "Number One" is their way of saying "the best."

The village chief and his people are grateful to Cpt. Gould for the aid given to their village. With the husky young officer's guidance the villagers have just completed a town marketplace, making their village the area's showplace. To celebrate the project's completion Cpt. Gould and his new-found friends celebrated together just as they had worked together, at a village party paid for by Cpt. Gould.

Soon after the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment came into the area last September, it became apparent that the village of Binh My, Vietnam located about forty miles northeast of Saigon, needed help.

"At one time Binh My was a 100 Viet Cong stronghold," explained Cpt. Gould. Nearly eighty per cent of the villagers' rice wound up in VC or NVA stomachs. "Now by working closely with the villagers to give

them a better life we are changing that," said Cpt. Gould.

Following the cavalrymen's good neighbor policy the village slowly began to take on a new look. In addition to the marketplace the villagers, with the aid of the Blackhorse Troopers built a school and offices for the village's officials, the first freely-elected government in the village in eight years.

"The school in Binh My provided me with the most satisfaction," said Cpt. Gould. "Because of the education being provided the children are going to face the future making decisions based on knowledge, not superstitions or half-truths."

Binh My is no longer a Viet Cong stronghold. The villagers no longer anticipate the black-uniformed Viet Cong, but instead look forward to the friendly face of Dai-uy Gould.

## Red Devils Get Awards

The unit catching top honors this month was the 919th Engineers. Awards captured June 2nd included three Silver Stars and three Bronze Stars for Valor.

Most of the awards were earned during fighting at Quan Loi two months ago. At that time hard core NVA sappers broke through the perimeter after knocking out the defensive bunkers with RPGs and satchel charges.

The 919th's Red Devils plugged the break in the wire losing one man during the process.

Cavalrymen awarded were: CPT Bernard J. Reilly, Rutland, Vt., awarded the Silver Star; SSG Henry Gatewood, Lake Charles, La., awarded the Silver Star; SGT Garland Bell, Newman, Cal., awarded the Silver Star; SP4 Juan Guardiola, Laredo, Tex., awarded the Bronze Star for Valor; SGT Bobby Jennings, Detroit, Mich., awarded the Bronze Star for Valor.

## Cav's Top EM

The BLACKHORSE welcomes this month the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's new Command Sergeant Major, CSM Donald E. Horn of Copperas Cove, Texas.

An old hand at the top Blackhorse EM slot, CSM Horn previously served as Regimental Sergeant Major from June, 1967, to June, 1968. During that time he served under four Regimental Commanders — Col. Roy Farley, Col. Jack MacFarlane, Col. Leonard Holder, and Col. Charles Gorder.



An Army career soldier with 24 years service, CSM Horn volunteered for the Blackhorse Regiment.

"To the cavalry soldier this is the finest assignment in the world," he explained. "Once you're a Blackhorse Trooper it gets in your blood and you're always one no matter where you go."

CSM Horn has been awarded the Silver Star, Two Bronze Stars for Valor, a Bronze Star for Service, eight Air Medals, the Meritorious Service Medal, a Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.



Maj. Buechley



CPT Bernard J. Reilly, of Rutland, Vt., smiles as Regimental Commander James H. Leach pins on him the Silver Star. The 919th Engineer Company had a good day for awards June 2nd with three men getting Silver Stars and three men receiving the Bronze Star for Valor.



**NOW IT'S MAJOR TRAGAKIS**—Major Christopher J. Tragakis, Regimental Signal Officer, beams after receiving his gold leaves.

## Huntin' Just Ain't The Same, Says AF-Cav Liaison Officer

"Hunting back in the hills of the Ozarks isn't even this wild," raved Air Force Maj. Jay Buechley of Jacksonville, Ark. "Working in among all the choppers and bullets sure makes for an interesting day."

Maj. Buechley acts as the "eyes" of the 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron in support of 11th Cav operations. A Forward Air Controller (FAC), he has been directing air strikes for eight months.

"We don't get noticed much, but we take a lot of pride in our work," says the major. His work is really noted more than he realized. In addition to marking targets for pre-assault strikes, he often crambles jet fighters to lend close support to Blackhorse elements in enemy contact.

Flying an unarmed O-1 "Bird Dog" plane, Maj. Buechley directs air strikes to as little as 150 meters from the armored Troopers on the ground.

Maj. John C. Bahnsen, First Squadron commander and former commander of the Air Cavalry Troop, has noticed Buechley many times. "When things get tight on the ground, the air above is usually pretty crowded with circling choppers," he said. "But every time, here he comes straight down the middle, diving for hell with that smoke marker. He's a welcome sight to those guys on the ground because they know what's coming next."

Col. James H. Leach, Blackhorse commander, agrees with that assessment. "We've always been glad to have the Air Force folks around," he said. "They're always close at hand and they don't miss."

But Buechley himself is the most avid fan of the 19th TASS. "I just love to watch them roll in on a target," he said. Asked if he gets nervous flying an unarmed aircraft, he mused, "Well, it does get a little hairy sometimes. I suppose you could say it makes the day more interesting."

## HELP

Yes, the BLACKHORSE, your newspaper, needs help. We aren't covering all of the Blackhorse Regiment's news, not that we aren't trying.

If something interesting happens in your unit how about letting the Blackhorse staff know about it? Simply send a note through distribution to:

Editor,  
The BLACKHORSE

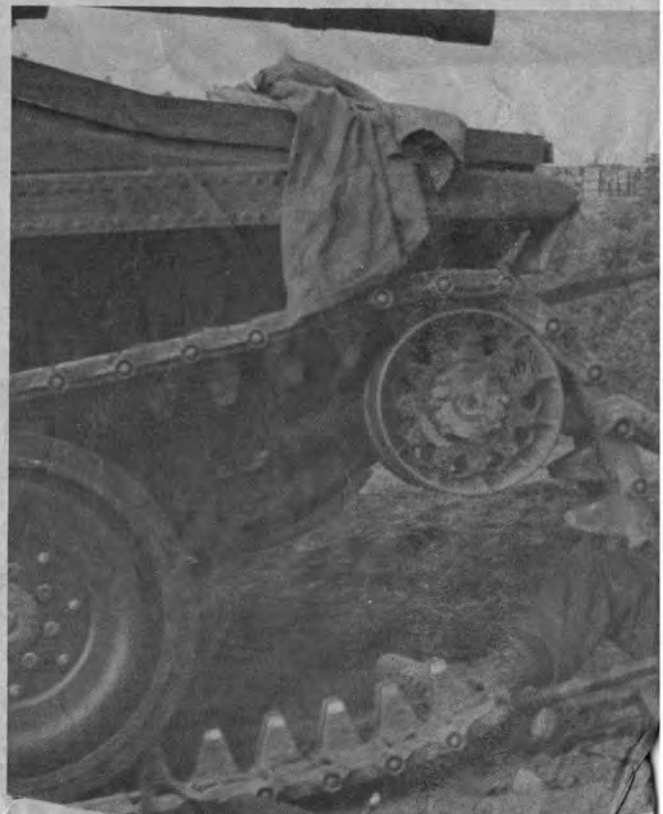
# Sheridans Are Proving



The shape of the Sheridan is known

Photos  
Rex

One of the Sheridan's biggest advantages is its increased firepower



Just a little push and trees go crashing down

...fills the bill.



# Themselves In Vietnam

story by SP4 Philip S. Stern

The M551 Light Reconnaissance Vehicle, commonly called the Sheridan, has been the topic of much controversy during its first four months of combat service in Vietnam, but the officers and men of the First Squadron are loud in their praise of the fighting machine.

A Troop, which has used the vehicle since it was first committed to combat in February, has been getting what Platoon Sergeant Charles Diamond of Columbus, Ga. calls "good results."

"The biggest asset of this tracked vehicle," Diamond says, "is its weapons system. We can lay down a very effective base of fire with our 152mm main gun with its coaxially-mounted 7.62mm machinegun and a .50 caliber machinegun on an electrically-operated cupola."

Sergeant Charles McGee of Van Nuys, Calif., who commands a Sheridan, explains that "a lot of people have labeled the Sheridan a tank, but it's not. It is a light assault and reconnaissance vehicle, and when employed as such it does quite a job."

"Though tankers with the 11th Cav were very happy to see the arrival of the Sheridan in Vietnam, others were skeptical. There was a big feud between us and the ACAV people. But we've pretty well proven our point over here," says McGee.

"With a range of about 350 miles, a top speed of 40 and our tremendous firepower, we make quite a formidable weapons system," he adds.

Sergeant Lawrence Hollyfield of Cleveland,

Ohio, who commands another of A Troop's new Sheridans, admits that the vehicles had a few faults when they first arrived in Vietnam, but says his crew corrected these when they appeared.

Echoing Sgt. McGee, Hollyfield states that "The M551 is a light recon vehicle, not a tank. It weighs only 16 tons and is not the right vehicle for heavy jungle busting. When used for what the Sheridan is designed for, you can't beat it. I was originally trained on an M48 medium tank, but I'd take a Sheridan over it any day."

So would gunner Dave Shapiro of New York City, who says he feels more secure on a Sheridan than an ACAV or M48. "I've been in firefights aboard all three. I know that AK-47 fire can't penetrate our armor and so far RPG fire, which does the main damage to ACAVs, has been pretty good to the Sheridans."

McGee lays the main reason for the Sheridan's resistance to RPGs to the all-steel construction of the steel turret. "The turret is only an inch and a quarter thick, but with the slope it is equivalent to about 16 inches of solid armor."

McGee continued, "One of the problems we had at first was that the tank commander, who mans the .50 caliber, was pretty much unprotected while firing from the cupola. We've taken care of that by adding armor shields taken from ACAVs. News vehicles coming from the States are equipped with similar protective plating," he adds.



to psychologically affect Charley

by SP4  
Gaul



a tiresome job



The gun barrel makes a comfortable footrest during the midday meal.



Miss M-48A3

## 'Mad Minute' Saves Troopers

Today's cavalryman rides a hard-sided, diesel-gulping, steel-shod mount which can take him just about anywhere in the world. But this fire breathing monster needs to be cared for, and there just ain't time to do it always. So we recommend a "mad minute" of maintenance every day in order to keep the Cav rolling.

**EIR's:** You maintenance people have been complaining about rebuilt engines and transmissions, and now you can do something about them. On your next bad item write up an EIR. It doesn't have to be typed, just write it out neatly. If you don't have time to fill out a DA Form 2407 during your "mad minute" send the data to Maintenance Officer, S-4, 11th ACR and I'll fill out the form for you. Don't forget to sign your name and unit so you'll get credit for the report.

**MAINTENANCE REPORTS:** You platoon leaders have one heck of a lot of things to worry about — Charlie, Mission, Charlie, Men, Charlie, supplies, Charlie, maintenance, Cha... hold it right there! Back up to maintenance.

How do you report your maintenance problems? Perhaps your answer is "Well, I tell Sgt. so-and-so."

Did you ever stop to think that Sgt. so-and-so is told a million things a day, and that he just might forget your problems? Write up your maintenance troubles. The Army has even prepared a special form, the DA Form 2404, especially for you. In fact, why not have your TCs fill out one for you, because even you might forget. Don't worry about the format, TM Numbers, etc., but be sure the date, bumper number, and type of vehicle are logged.

**MANUALS:** You Track Commanders are the people in charge of maintenance for those vehicles, so it behooves you to bone up on the inner workings, the guts, of them beasts. **READ THE MANUALS!** There is an old Army saying, "When all else fails, read the instructions". You don't want to waste your time with equipment failures while Charlie is doing a smoke-bringing fire dance around your track. Read the manuals, a "mad minute" a day to keep maintenance problems away.

**AIR FILTERS:** You crew members like to breathe, so make sure that your engines can too. Spend your mad minute cleaning the air filter. Nothing tears up an engine quicker than an RPG through the block, but dirt in the air system can do just as much damage. It only takes the dirt a little longer. Remember, if your vehicle chokes to death on dirty air in the middle of Charlie's basecamp, you'll probably take the next RPG — or the next 5 or 19 RPGs.

**WATER:** It's great to wash with, but it can produce shocking results when mixed with electricity. If your commo gear develops a sudden case of laryngitis during the rainy season, dry out all your connections. If your vehicle gets electrical paralysis, it's probably because December's dust has mixed with Wednesday's rain and has shorted out your system. Why not have a mad minute for electrical preventive maintenance. Remember to clean your system, dry it, and cover it when finished.

It has taken you about two minutes and 43 seconds to read this far, so why not spend the next seven minutes and 17 seconds of your 10 minute break trying out one of these "mad minute" hints.

## Merchant Mentions Mixup

**SAIGON** — The Vietnam Regional Exchange (VRE) continues to receive complaints about merchandise ordered by servicemen in Vietnam from the Pacific Mail Order System, 107 Chatham Road, 3rd Floor, Kowloon, Hong Kong, BCC.

The mail order firm has no affiliation with the Pacific Exchange System (PACEX), which operates in Vietnam through VRE and is not authorized by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service or by the Department of Defense.

## Make Mine Quan Loi

Thinking of a pleasant, quiet vacation away from it all. If you are, plan your next vacation holiday in scenic Quan Loi.

Nested high atop a gentle hill overlooking picturesque rubber plantations this old, former French resort area offers our man in green a variety of pleasures. Dine in one of the many mess tents nestled under the giant rubber trees, or if nightlife is your fancy, try an evening in one of the many bunkers which dot the edges of old Quan Loi.

For the hearty outdoorsman Quan Loi is ideally tailored. Get that rustic feeling as you watch the red dust settle upon your fresh uniform.

The sports-minded will want to be at Quan Loi at noontime or around midnight. According to tradition native Quan Loians spend those hours having spirited low-crawl races to nearby bunkers spurred on by the cheery whistle of 107mm rockets.

If aviation is your bag you may want the thrill of riding in one of the many Caribous or C-130s that fly from Quan Loi International Air Terminal. Frequently the natives are waiting to give the passengers an extra pageant of color as they lay fireworks breathtakingly close to your aircraft.

Big game hunting at Quan Loi is something not to be missed. It's a simple matter to join a big game safari, known to native Quan Loians as an "AP". Thrills of a life time await the adventurous hunter. One word of caution however, experienced big game hunters never trust native Quan Loians as their gun bearers.

For fun in the sun this vacation tell your travel agent to "make mine Quan Loi."

## Troopers Can Get Free Scrapbooks

Free copies of a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment is available to all Blackhorse Troopers upon their Deros.

To get your free copy write to the U.S. Army Command Information Unit, Washington, D.C. 20315.

Be sure to include your full name, rank, service number, former unit, (11th ACR), Stateside address with Zip Code, and inclusive dates of your tour in Vietnam.

# PHOTO TIPS

by SP4 James Klahn

The most interesting aspect of photography is, for most people, the application of their skills as an artist, the creating of a picture that is tastefully composed as well as informative.

Unfortunately, any efforts at artistry are doomed if the photographer does not have an understanding of the technical aspects of his camera.

There have been a number of questions from people in the field dealing with some of the technicalities of photography. We'll pass them on in hopes they will be of some help to you.

### What does F-stop mean and what does it indicate?

The actual meaning of the term "F-stop" is shrouded in mystery—probably thought up for the express purpose of confusing the amateur photographer. It is merely a system of numbers indicating the relative amount of light that is admitted into the lens. The lower the number, the more light is admitted. Check the diaphragm inside your lens. Notice that when the lens is set on F-22 (or the highest number) the opening is very small. Then turn the lens down to the lowest F-stop number and note how the diaphragm slowly opens to its fullest.

### Can you explain shutter speed?

To understand what shutter speed is, put a 1 over the numbers on the shutter speed dial. The fraction you have is the shutter speed in parts of a second. 125 thus becomes 1/125 of a second, 4 becomes 1/4 of a second, and so on. For most work the camera should be set at 125 or 250. However, in poor light conditions you may have to stop down to 30 or lower. For anything below 1/30 of a second a support should be used. Higher speeds, 500 or 1000, can be used for stopping action.

There are F-stop numbers on either side of the distance indicator on my focusing ring. What purpose do they serve?

They indicate the depth of field, or the distance your lens is in focus, for any given F-stop. For example, if your camera is set at F-11 and your focusing (distance) ring is set at 15 feet, the small F-stops on either side of your distance indicator show the distances at which your lens will be in focus. If, on one side, the F-11 mark touches on 9 feet while on the other side (of the distance indicator line or mark) the F-11 mark touches on 40 feet, anything between 9 and 40 feet will be in focus. Notice that with higher F-stops a greater depth of field is possible.

At first the complexities of using a camera can seem very confusing. But through use, and with some degree of experimentation, the problems fall into place and, before long, adjustments for a technically good picture become second nature.

## Red Cross Helps Blackhorse Men

Blackhorse Troopers have their own credit union at basecamp, according to Donald Ducette and David Peake, civilian administrators of the Blackhorse Red Cross Field Office.

"A lot of times emergencies arise at home," Ducette explained. "When this happens the Army, after verification of the emergency from the Red Cross, speeds the soldier to his home town. If a soldier doesn't have enough cash to tide him over during his leave he can come in, see us, and get a quick interest-free loan. When the serviceman returns he can pay us back either all at once or in payments."

"Our only purpose for being here at Blackhorse is to help the 11th Cav Troopers," added Peake. "We do this by speedy arrangement of emergency leaves, emergency loans, and other morale building services."

One of the local Red Cross workers' worst headaches is needlessly checking on Blackhorse Troopers. Families, after not hearing from their son for several weeks, begin to get worried. Thus, the family may go to their local Red Cross chapter and inquire about their son. Hours later the Red Cross's man in Long Giao must find out why their son hasn't written.

"So much of our workload would be lightened if the Regiment's soldiers would remember to write to their parents every week without fail, even if it's just a few lines. Pick a day of the week such as Tuesday and make it a part of your ritual to write to your parents that day. Your parents watch the television news about Vietnam and they

worry about you. I even worry about myself after listening to AFVN and I'm not even doing any fighting."

## Tanker Luggage Makes Ideal Gift

By James Klahn

Tankers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment have discovered the perfect gift for the man who has everything — matching, heavy-duty, waterproof luggage.

The luggage set consists of three pieces — attache case of toilet kit, overnighter and two-suitcase — and comes in a beautiful olive green with yellow appointments.

Tempered steel and spot-weld construction makes the set incredibly strong and durable — ideal for the man who travels to those out-of-the-way places. The simplicity of design and ruggedness of the hinges and carrying handles also adds to the life of this attractive set.

Where were the cavalymen able to find this attractive, yet economically priced set? Nearly anywhere, for the set is made up of cast-off ammo boxes.

The attache case cum toilet kit comes from a 7.62 ammo box, the overnighter from a .50 caliber ammo can, and the two-suitcase from a 1500-round 7.62 minigun ammo container.

The M48 tank crew members spend a lot of time in the field and must carry their personal equipment strapped to the cupola. Therefore, they need containers that will keep their things dry and in good shape.

Their field expedient "luggage" fills the bill.





**A PAINTED SMILE**—SP5 Hurst Rinehart, a medic with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, whispers a secret about his appearance. Rinehart uses every opportunity to entertain orphans. He explains, "My ambition as a clown is to make people forget their problems and enjoy themselves."

## Cavalryman Clowns His Way Into Viet Children's Hearts

Silently the children watched the small stage.

There a tall American soldier sat down and placed a small blue bag at his feet. Smiling, he beckoned to one of the youngsters to come and sit beside him. A small boy jumped up from the bench and went to the soldier.

The 150 Vietnamese orphans watched curiously as the cavalryman turned into none other than their old friend Palfey the Clown.

Palfey came off the stage and shook hands with the children. Everyone wanted to talk with the soldier or at least to have the sad-eyed "thespian" sit at their bench. A few of the children were shy, but as Palfey came near their faces broke out in bright smiles.

Palfey is SP4 Hurst Rinehart, a member of the 37th Medical Company. A veteran clown with 10 years of experience in circuses and carnivals, he considers himself a "total healer."

"I'm really very lucky because I get to heal both people's bodies and their minds," he said. "A clown has the power to

make a person forget his problems and smile. I try to create the magic of happiness."

"As long as I can remember, I've wanted to be a clown," said Rinehart, who is also an accomplished guitarist and amateur camera bug. "There's really no reason to describe why I actually wanted to be one. It's just the good feeling you get when you see someone smile and know that you are the reason they're smiling."

Rinehart's greatest problem when he entertains Vietnamese children is his costume. "I was hunting for a costume before my

first show in Vietnam. I finally solved this problem by purchasing a blue and white Oriental robe and using it in my act."

Oddly enough the communication barrier doesn't subtract from his clowning.

"I was a bit hesitant my first time before those children because I do not speak Vietnamese and very few of the children understand English. But they seemed to enjoy this even more so. Vietnamese children are eager to laugh. I just give them a helping hand," Rinehart said.

"The idea of a clown seems to be new to them. They don't have trouble accepting the idea, however. We all have a good time."

## CIDG Work with Cav

A Special Forces recruited and trained Civilian Irregular Defense Group joined with K Troop and elements of M Company recently to search for the enemy between An Loc and the Cambodian border.

The combined armor and infantry group broke through heavy jungle to prevent NVA forces from mounting an offensive against the provincial capital of An Loc.

The CIDG are locally recruited from the An Loc-Loc Ninh

area and are a rough conglomerate of the tribal extractions found in that area.

The CIDG force has willingly accepted working with armor.

"They like the firepower of the 11th Cav," commented their Special Forces advisor, "as well as the riding."

An ACAV gunner was also impressed by the CIDG.

"They react well under pressure," he said. "And they'll stand and fight when the going gets tough."

## 3 Nations Work Together to Improve Health

By James Klahn

Medical people of three nations are working together at Xuan Loc's provincial hospital to improve the health of the people of Long Khanh Province.

Korean and American medical teams are assisting the Vietnamese in the operation of the largest provincial hospital in Vietnam — and furthering the cause of a free Asia in the process.

The Korean team, working in curative medicine, is made up of two doctors, four nurses, an X-ray technician, a lab technician and an administrator. The American team is volunteers from the 11th Cav's 37th Medical Company, who commute from Blackhorse base camp.

Although the Cav's medics' participation in the program is fraught with problems, they feel they have made a valuable contribution to the hospital effort.

"Naturally, we work for U. S. troops first," said Specialist Four Kenneth B. Campanella of Chelmsford, Mass., "and must sandwich our voluntary hospital work in-between our other duties. But the changes in the hospital have been impressive and we have had a warm welcome."

The medics work principally in the emergency room and ward 3, which consists of surgery, pediatrics and orthopedics.

(bottom, Left) SP5 Kenneth Campanella treats an injured Vietnamese youngster. (right) SP4 Zebedee Young prepares medication while a Vietnamese boy watches his every move.

ies, and work with co-workers on a "teaching level".

"We try to use a 'soft sell' approach as much as possible," said Specialist Five Bob Sauter of San Raphael, Calif. "Our co-workers pick up the idea very quickly and accept our ways more readily if we don't beat

them over the head with them (the ideas)."

The 148-bed hospital offers free medical services to villagers and townspeople who are unable to afford the services of a private doctor. The teams from different countries assist the Vietnamese because of the shortage

of trained medical professionals, as well as the war-stimulated need, in Vietnam. The present Korean team replaced a group from the Philippines last October.

"Our role, in the larger sense," said Choi Hyoung Shik, administrator with the Korean

team, "is to further pacification in the outlying districts and to create good-will among the free eastern nations. To bring that role to the people, to achieve an end result, we serve at the grass-roots level with those who need help most — the sick and injured."



Photos by SP5 Hurst Rinehart



PFC David M. Patrick checks his equipment before working on the helicopter.

## Cav Pointmen Man Tracks

By SP4 Jim Klahn

An ACAV slowly twisted through the jungle, pushing its way around trees too big to knock down. Behind it, other ACAVs slowed along in the newly-constructed trail.

Although the noise of the lead vehicle could be heard for some distance, it was effectively acting the part of scout in the armored column's quest for the enemy.

"Our lead track performs the same function as the pointman for the infantry units," said Staff Sergeant Mike Share, scout section leader for the 2nd platoon, G troop. "Surprisingly, scouts become extremely adept at picking out signs of enemy activity or presence — even from the height of an ACAV."

The four crewmen on the scout vehicle — track commander, driver, and gunners — kept a lookout for signs of recent enemy presence. It is their job to pick out trails, footprints, bunkers and markers left by Charlie, as well as to lead the platoon to its eventual destination.

As scout leader, "instant NCO" Share's track travels behind the lead vehicle, but the men on his vehicle — Track 20 — have spent a number of

months as "pointmen." The gunner, Specialist Four Cyrie "Pancho" Miranda of Santa Ynez, Calif., has spent seven months working in the lead vehicle.

"I don't have to worry about how the others on the track will react in a tight situation," Miranda said. "We've been together so long that we move as one."

Specialist Four Rudolph "Rudy" Churchill is a "newby" to the Regiment, as well as the shortest of the four-man team. He began driving vehicle 20, four months ago after being infused into the 11th Cav from an armor unit on the DMZ.

"It is a different type of war down here," he commented. "Near the DMZ most of our activities took place on open plains or roads, whereas here we spend most of our time jungle-busting. Armor people are more experienced in the 11th for the simple reason that they have had to adapt to what is traditionally a non-armor environment."

Lately much of the lead jungle-busting has been given to the "Big Boys" — M-48 tanks — of Second Squadron's H Company, but the scout ACAVs job remains nearly the same.

"It's nice to have these tanks up front to bust through the

jungle," said Share. "Much of what we have been going through lately would stop an ACAV. But the tankers are so busy busting through the trees and dodging falling limbs that they miss tell-tale enemy signs."

The second platoon, along with the rest of G troop, has been on jungle operations almost continually since last November.

"You learn, after a while, that you can put up with anything the jungle can throw at you — that you can live anywhere," commented Share. "You learn to work with the jungle and, when necessary, against it. Bust it down when it's in the way, use the heavy foliage for cover and camouflage when setting up an ambush."

Miranda is a member of the Shumash Indian Tribe in California and comments, half-joking, "I find myself looking for enemy signs and ways of making life little easier out here, adapting to a situation that my forefathers took for granted."

Lately G troop has been involved in operations in the Quan Loi-Ninh area, meeting with their old and experienced enemies on the Cambodian border.

"We've run into their ambushes up here before," said Churchill. "The NVA up here are nothing to play with. They just don't give up."

"But," smiled Miranda, "they had better make the first shot good. Because they won't have a second."

## Regimental CO, Act Kill 6 VC

Quick action by Regimental Commander COL James H. Leach resulted in six VC dead and two POWs near the Blackhorse basecamp June 2nd.

Colonel Leach was returning to basecamp when he spotted the enemy force.

A nearby Regimental Pink Team, a "Cobra" gunship and a LOH, Light Observation Helicopter, roared in and shot up the area keeping the enemy pinned down until the ARPs reached the area. The helicopter crews reported killing four of the VC. The ARPs killed two more and captured two POWs.

## Sets New Record

# 398th-Cav's Chopper Docs

by SP4 Ralph James

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment's 398th Transportation Detachment set what they feel to be a new record recently, thanks to Charlie's help.

The 398th, a ninety-plus group of helicopter repair experts, were performing one of their many tasks — the recovery of a downed LOH.

When that happens a Huey "H" model helicopter is flown to the scene. The blades are stripped from the chopper and stowed in the H model. Then the LOH is heli-lifted to basecamp where as many parts as possible are salvaged.

The 398ers had just begun working on the downed LOH when enemy fire broke out. Spurned on by Charlie's warm welcome, they finished the job in six minutes, record time for the unit.

Not all of the 398th's work is this exciting, although keeping the Regi-

ment's choppers running can be an awesome task. According to Sergeant First Class James A. Jerrett, shop foreman of the 398th, the repairmen may work on as many as 70 helicopters a month. Split into seven teams, the men specialize in repairing certain parts of choppers.

The bulk of the 398th's work is due to periodic helicopter inspections. After a chopper has logged 24 hours of flying time an intermediate inspection is required by regulations, and following 100 hours of flying time the helicopter must be completely taken apart and inspected. No part is left untouched because even the smallest oversight can mean disaster to a helicopter crew.

"One of the 398th's biggest headaches is patching bullet holes," SFC Jerrett said. "A bullet passing through an aircraft can damage a lot of delicate parts, all of which must be replaced."

## Cav Has Air Power

By SP4 James Klahn

Air support has had much to do with the tactics and deployment of armor in the Vietnam conflict. Indeed, the use of air power has forced vast changes in the practice of armor warfare in the jungles of this war-torn country.

Both air and armor, as presently employed, were virtually untried in an insurgent-type war and Vietnam became their testing and, literally, proving ground.

For the 11th Cav this has meant a double victory, for the regiment in Vietnam has incorporated air into the daily use of armor for finding and suppressing the enemy.

"The Regiment could not operate as it does now without the use of its aviation sections," said Major Edward R. Underwood, the Aviation Officer. "Air, especially the Air Cav Troop, acts as the eyes of the Regiment on scouting missions, provides us with intelligence, provides medevacs, works as a limited resupply vehicle, supplies liaison between units, as well as a number of lesser jobs. We literally have our own little air force."

The air war capabilities of the Cav lies, for the most part, with the men of the Air Cavalry Troop.

"As a light and mobile unit it is our job to find and fix the enemy," said Major James W. Bradin, Commander of the Air Cav. "We should not get involved in full-fledged fire fights, although they are oftentimes unavoidable. We do have the capability to hold an enemy force until larger ground elements arrive to exploit the situation."

That "capability" is personified in the Aero-Rifle Platoon (ARPs), Huey-mounted commandoes that can answer the

call to a troubled area in minutes, and the "pink teams," made up of a Light Observation Helicopter (LOH) and a Cobra gunship.

"The LOHs make excellent scouts," commented Major Bradin, "and although the concept is new, the actual scouting practice reverts back to the days of horse cavalry. We still look for footprints, broken twigs, and trails."

While the bubble-built LOH acts as scout, the Cobra gunship circles above to provide immediate support in case the enemy is sighted. If heavier elements are needed, they are also called in.

Just as the Regiment has its tactical air section, so does it have an administrative air section, in the form of the Aviation Platoon's flying LOHs and Huey "Slicks". The platoon supplies ships to Regiment and squadrons for command purposes, liaison and limited troop lift and resupply. And, when the situation demands, they fly tactical support.

"It is the job of the platoon to give an airborne command and control capability to the commanders," said Major Underwood. "We do the everyday flying of the Regiment as well as provide a back-up capability for elements that need it. Of course, although it's not SOP, we can fly as tactical support as well as administrative."

Air support is not limited to the Regiment. Major resupply comes in the form of Army Chinooks and large fixed-wing aircraft. Medevac ships have hauled wounded Blackhorse troopers to quickly-accessible medical installations. Air Force jets have swooped in and weakened Charlie before tanks and ACAVs moved in to finish the job.

## Mail the Blackhorse Home

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